



Environmental and Socio-Economic Impact Assessments

Mackenzie Gas Project is working to identify potential environmental and social/economic impacts that may result from its activities and measures that can be taken to deal with these impacts. This information is required during the regulatory review of the proposed Project.

Mackenzie Gas Project continues to engage community members to help identify and scope issues that need to be considered to understand the Project's potential impacts. Social and economic issues that show how the Project's activities could affect traditional lifestyles, employment opportunities or a community's well-being are called socio-economic impact assessments (SEIA). Environmental issues that show how the Project's activities could affect the plants, animals, fish, water, soil or air are called environmental impact assessments (EIA).

This information is now being used to better understand the possible impacts the Project could have. Impacts may be positive, negative or neutral. Ways to lessen the negative effects and increase the benefits are now being prepared for review.

Thirty communities are part of the study. They were chosen because they:

- are within 200 kilometres of the proposed major facilities and have a direct historic, cultural or economic link to the Project area;
- have areas used for traditional activities, such as hunting or trapping, that could be affected by the Project facilities or operations;
- have populations that could provide many employees for construction or operation jobs;
- might experience an increase in traffic from construction-related vehicles; and
- might service the construction or operations phase of the Project.

The following communities are currently in the study program:

Inuvialuit Settlement Region:

- Sachs Harbour
- Paulatuk (Paulatuq)
- Holman (Olokhaktomuit)
- Aklavik
- Tuktoyaktuk
- Inuvik

Gwich'in Settlement Area:

- Fort McPherson (Tetlit Gwich'in)
- Tsiigehtchic (Gwichya Gwich'in)
- Aklavik (Ehdiitat Gwich'in)
- Inuvik (Nihtat Gwich'in)

Sahtu Settlement Area:

- Norman Wells
- Fort Good Hope
- Déline
- Tulita
- Colville Lake

Deh Cho Region:

- Fort Simpson
- Fort Providence
- Fort Liard
- Wrigley
- Nahanni Butte
- Jean Marie River
- Trout Lake
- Kakisa
- Hay River Reserve
- West Point Reserve
- Enterprise

Industrial, Commercial and Government Centres:

- Yellowknife
- Hay River

Alberta Communities:

- Dene Tha' First Nation Communities - Chateh, Bushe River, Meander River
- High Level

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community participation gives the Project important information that helps Project planners deal with the potential effects of change and development. It also provides information on individual community needs and desires. We consider information from the communities when planning activities to manage and track Project impacts.

Mackenzie Gas Project works with communities in a variety of ways. This includes meeting with community groups such as hunter and trapper committees, renewable resource councils, elders and youth groups, hamlets, and band councils. These meetings help Project planners talk directly with local people about their particular activities and interests to learn what they think needs to be considered in the impact assessment. Future meetings of this type will discuss specific effects and how they can be managed.

Community open houses, community presentations and regional workshops provide opportunities for Project planners, community members and other groups, such as non-government organizations, to discuss issues that are of interest to many communities and regions. These meetings have been helpful to verify community interests and identify issues that are shared throughout a region. Future meetings of this type will help to define regional impacts and the appropriate ways to manage them.

These meetings are organized by representatives of Mackenzie Gas Project who work in the local communities and the regions. They are run by members of Mackenzie Gas Project's consulting team who are assessing the potential impacts of the pipeline.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT / SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Between 2002 and 2003 the Project:

- Collected information that describes current:
 - environmental conditions such as existing plants, animals, animal movements, landscape and water bodies;
 - socio-economic conditions in the communities potentially affected by the proposed pipeline
- Carried out the first round of community issues identification sessions in the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu and Deh Cho regions.

- Conducted regional issues scoping workshops in the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu and Deh Cho regions. Summaries of these workshops were distributed to all those invited.

Between 2003 and 2004 the Project will:

- Collect Traditional Knowledge of regions affected by the Project that is passed by word of mouth among community members and developed over centuries of experience in living off the land.

- Review this information with affected communities and other interested organizations to ensure its accuracy and to determine which environmental and socio-economic features are significant to specific communities. This will take place through second and third round community engagement sessions, scheduled for 2004.
- Develop an understanding of why particular socio-economic and environmental features are important to people within an individual community or region.
- Define, with information from the community, possible environmental and socio-economic effects of the proposed Project and develop ways to lessen the negative effects. For example, some of the effects of pipeline construction on an area can be managed by planting vegetation after the pipeline is completed and then monitoring its growth.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION

Mackenzie Gas Project's contractors have hired local people to carry out some of the environmental field studies required to collect baseline information.

The Project will continue to hire local experts to carry out further environmental field studies and develop Traditional Knowledge reports, including verifying information about each community.



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