

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This volume includes environmental plans and programs that Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited, the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, ConocoPhillips Canada (North) Limited, ExxonMobil Canada Properties and Shell Canada Limited (the proponents) will implement during design, construction and operations (including decommissioning and abandonment) of the Mackenzie Gas Project (the project). Figure 1-1 is an overview map showing the main components of the project.

In an ancillary project, NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL) plans to:

- construct an interconnect facility in northwestern Alberta
- extend its existing pipeline north to the interconnect facility. This extension is referred to as the NGTL Northwest Mainline (Dickins Lake Section).
- loop the existing NGTL Northwest Mainline north of the Thunder Creek compressor, referred to as the Vardie River Section

NGTL intends to apply to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) for approval of its project. In that application, NGTL will address their project's potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.

For the purpose of the environmental impact assessment, the project has been scoped to include certain facilities that will connect the southern terminus of the project's gas pipeline to NGTL's Northwest Mainline (Dickins Lake Section), in Alberta.

This volume also includes potential mitigation and protection measures. The assessment of effects (see Volume 5, Biophysical Impact Assessment) is based on the assumption that the mitigation and protection measures described in this volume will be incorporated in the project.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

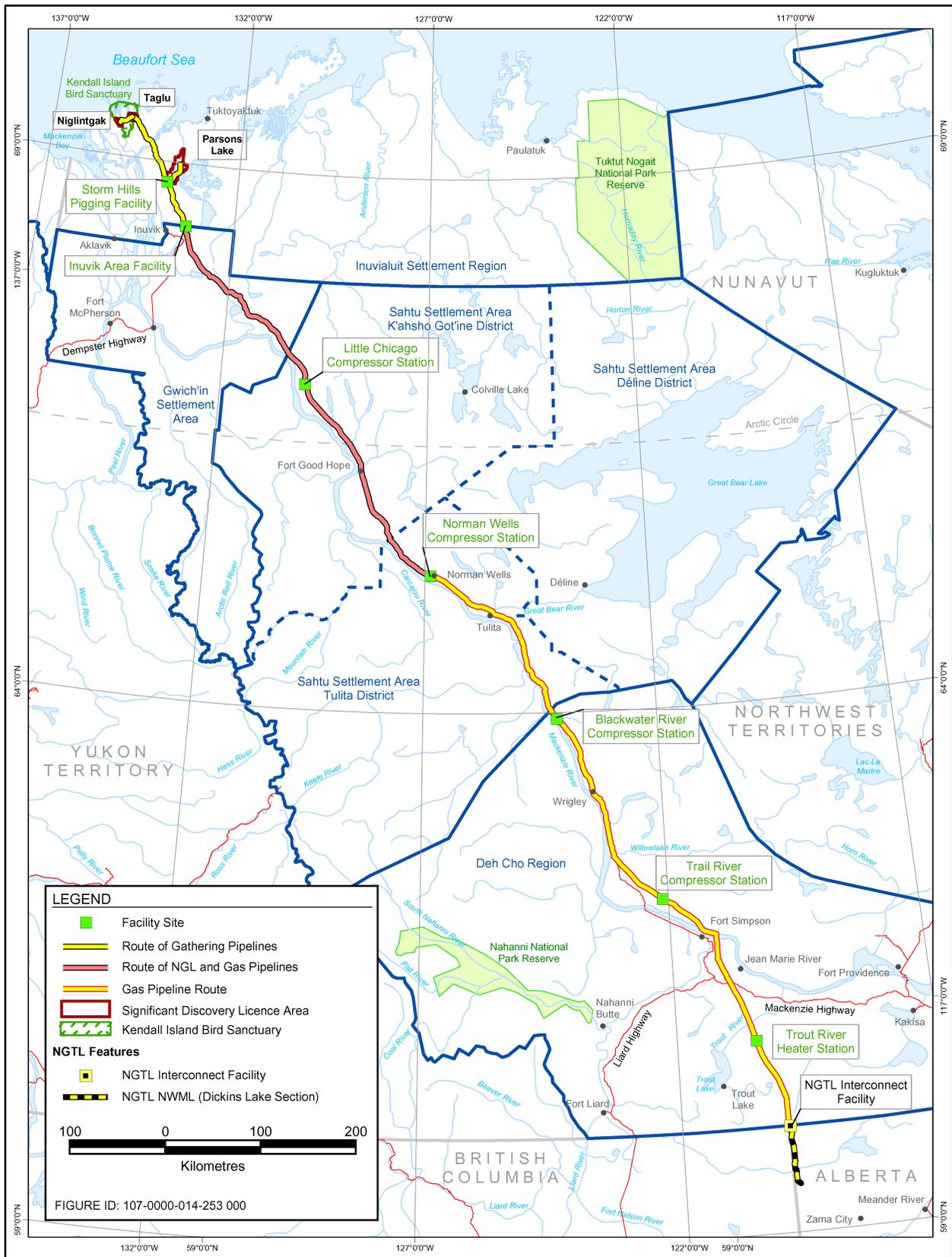


Figure 1-1: Regional Overview Map

The environmental management plans presented in this volume are broad and conceptual. Most of the information is tailored to the design and construction phases because of the number of project-related impacts that could occur during these phases. Before construction and drilling begins, the proponents and their contractors will prepare detailed, functional plans that will incorporate feedback obtained through the regulatory review process. Similarly, leading up to production facilities and pipeline commissioning and start-up, detailed operations plans will be prepared and submitted. Detailed plans for decommissioning and abandonment will be developed closer to the shutting in of gas wells and decommissioning of production facilities and pipelines.

As the project advances through conceptual, preliminary and detailed engineering and preconstruction planning, and with input received through community consultations and the regulatory hearings process, the plans discussed in this volume will be revised and updated to meet the:

- needs of the proponents and their contractors
- requirements of the regulators
- expectations of the public and northern residents

1.2 Plans

Plans that have been developed for this volume include:

- environmental management plans
- an environmental protection plan
- contingency plans
- an environmental compliance and effects monitoring plan

Environmental management plans address project-wide issues. Management plans have been developed for activities that will occur throughout the project area and during all project phases. They have been prepared and included in this volume to cover expected environmental or socio-economic impacts. Management plans were developed to:

- address areas of concern for northern residents e.g., wildlife and reclamation
- meet regulatory requirements, e.g., waste management

An environmental protection plan provides directions, methods or measures for construction, drilling and reclamation activities that are specifically designed to protect or conserve environmentally sensitive features or natural resources.

Contingency plans describe procedures to be implemented if unforeseen events that could have environmental or socio-economic impacts occur during construction and drilling or operations. Contingency plans were developed to address community concerns and regulatory requirements.

The environmental compliance and effects monitoring plan describes the policies and procedures to be implemented during construction and drilling and the first few years of operations. The plan will ensure that the project activities are conducted according to applicable legislation and the conditions of all approvals.

The proponents will be responsible for ensuring that the contractors and key staff apply and maintain the principles and procedures outlined in the management, protection, contingency, and compliance and effects monitoring plans during construction and operations.

1.3 Environmental Management System

Each proponent will develop an environmental management system, including an environmental organizational structure, for its specific operating component of the project. The environmental management systems will be based on:

- management systems already in place for the proponents' existing operations and developments
- principles outlined in the environmental management plans in this volume

The environmental management systems will be developed before construction.

NGTL has an environmental management system in place for its proposed Alberta system.