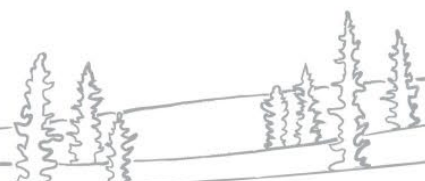




Mackenzie Valley Highway Project

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Community Sessions

October 2024



Government of
Northwest Territories

Mackenzie Valley Highway

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is the DEVELOPER

- Improve inter-community mobility and accessibility by establishing a reliable transportation corridor in the Mackenzie Valley
- Protect supply chains and stabilize cost of living through climate-resilient infrastructure
- Boost the local economy and create new jobs during the project construction, operation, and maintenance phases
- Diversify the NWT economy through resource development, remediation, and tourism sectors
- Provide a crucial lifeline for residents during emergencies through all-season road access



Project Overview

- New two-lane gravel road from Wrigley to Tulita and Norman Wells to replace the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road
- The MVH will mostly follow the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road and connect to existing bridges, within 1 km corridor

Construction Schedule

- 3 construction segments
- 10 years to construct over ~20 years



Project Overview

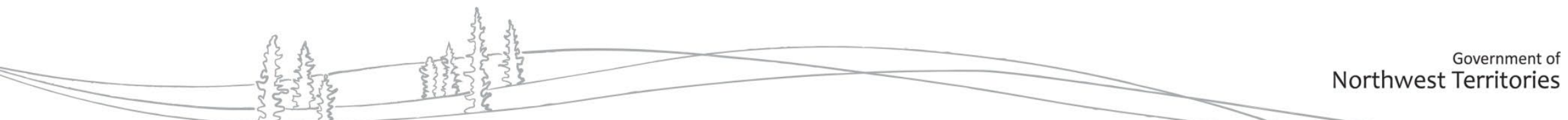
Project Activities

- Mobilization and Staging of Equipment, Fuel and Materials
- Establishment of Construction Camps
- Clearing/Widening of Right-of-Way
- Development of Borrow Sources/Quarries
- Use water for camp use, construction and dust control
- Road Construction / Material Placement
- Additional watercourse crossing structures (culverts)
- Construct permanent maintenance yards



Project Activities

- Once open, GNWT anticipates traffic of 50 vehicles per day
- Highway maintenance will require ongoing quarry operations (9 sources)
- Highway maintenance will require water use for dust control (sources to be determined)



Engagement and Traditional Knowledge



2010-2012 - Project Description Reports

2018-2020 - Project Updates

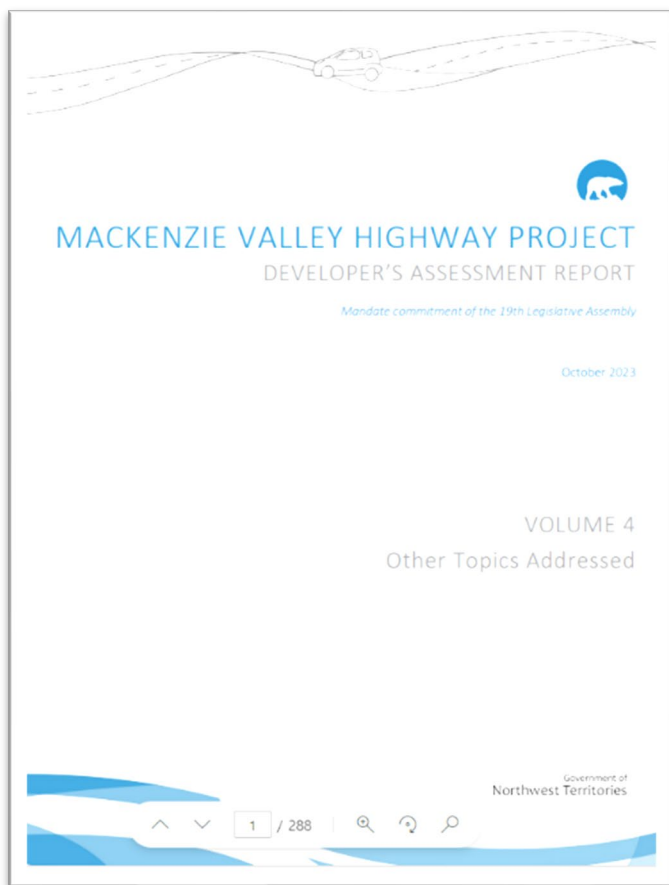
2021-2023 – Developer’s Assessment Report

- Project description and construction activities
- Potential project interactions and effects
- Mitigation and monitoring

Traditional Knowledge Studies:

- Tulita Renewable Resources Council
- Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council

Developer's Assessment Report (DAR)



Presents detailed information required to evaluate the project through the Environmental Assessment process

- Potential interactions between the Project and the environment that could lead to changes (potential effects)
- Proposed mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects
- Predicting the effects on the environment after mitigation actions are taken (residual effects)
- Summarized in Non-technical Summary

Notable Findings of the Assessment

- General sentiment is positive
- Many positive socio-economic effects
- Communities want to be prepared
- Most socio-economic effects are not significant when mitigation measures are applied
- Significant adverse socio-economic effects
 - Increased availability of drugs and alcohol
 - Public safety (road incidents)
- New and ongoing collaborative monitoring and management of these effects will be required.



Notable Findings of the Assessment

- Mitigation measures are expected to be effective at preventing significant effects to air quality, noise, soils and permafrost, vegetation, most wildlife, birds and water.
- The Project will improve access to harvesting and traditional land use areas.
- The Project will reduce boreal caribou habitat, and the amount of existing disturbance is already significant.
- The Project will make it easier to harvest fish and may lead to overfishing (conservatively significant)



Review Board Process

Currently in Analytical Phase of EA

Since submission of the DAR:

- GNWT has responded to questions:
 - 141 comments from the Public Review
 - 158 Information Requests (IRs)
- Review Board has carried out public engagement in the Dehcho Region and Sahtu Regions

MVEIRB DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Analytical Phase

- Public Review of DAR – Jan – Feb 29, 2024
- Round 1 Information Requests (IRs) from Review Board – March 2024
- Developers Response to Public Comment (ORS) – April 19, 2024
- Developers Response to Review Board and Party IRs – September 27, 2024
- **Community Sessions – October 2024**
- **Technical Sessions – November 2024**
- **IRs Round 2 – Late 2024**
- Developers Response to Round 2 IRs – Early 2025
- **DAR Addendums Submitted to Review Board – Spring 2025**

Hearings – Early-Mid 2025

- Prehearing Conference
- **Interventions**
- Developer Response to Interventions
- **Public Hearings**
- Hearing Undertakings
- Closing Arguments from Parties
- Closing Arguments from Developer
- **Closure of the Public Record**

Decisions

- Review Board evidence analysis, deliberation, report drafting & legal and editorial reviews
- **Review Board issues Report of Environmental Assessment**
- **Minister(s) response to Report of Environmental Assessment**

Themes of IRs Received

Construction schedule and duration

- Alternative construction schedule proposed and qualitatively assessed

Engineering and design

- Detailed design will be completed after the environmental assessment

Traditional Knowledge

- Traditional Knowledge has and will continue to guide and inform the project



Themes of IRs Received

Potential biophysical and socio-economic effects related to the project

- The GNWT will continue to engage on the Community Readiness Strategy and the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan

Prediction certainty in a changing climate

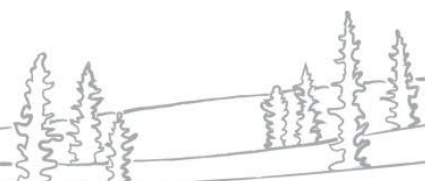
- Collaborative and adaptive management and monitoring allows flexibility

Mitigation related concerns

- Timing and logistics of socio-economic mitigations, and community readiness
- Community participation in monitoring



Next Steps



Socio-Economic Mitigation Related Engagement

- Engagement on Community Readiness Strategy began May 2024 and is ongoing
- Objectives include:
 - Introducing proposed Community Readiness Strategy, including MVH Corridor Working Group, Sub-Working Groups and Plans
 - Gathering feedback and comments on potential changes
 - Identifying any additional measures to address potential socio-economic effects
- Engagement to date indicates:
 - Community Readiness Strategy addresses right issues
 - General support for MVH Corridor Working Group and Sub-Working Groups
 - More time needed to prepare and develop (sooner than '1 year prior to construction')
 - Community voices (youth, elders) need to be reflected
 - Need to work with communities to determine representatives and focus



Questions?



Email:

MVH@gov.nt.ca

Project Website:

www.inf.gov.nt.ca/en/MVH

Mackenzie Valley Highway EA:

<https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02>

