



No intervener funding limits public participation in NEB process

(Yellowknife) Lack of intervener funding means that Alternatives North and many other registered interveners have limited ability to participate in NEB hearings. Alternatives North plans to participate when the NEB panel comes to Yellowknife in the summer, although lack of funding still limits our ability to most effectively intervene.

“We appreciate that the NEB attempted to schedule its hearings and topics to accommodate interveners, considering it offers no participant funding. It’s still a challenge to prepare for and participate in their formal process, which operates like a court and is dominated by lawyers,” said Shelagh Montgomery of Alternatives North.

“The NEB panel has the ability to impose any terms and conditions on the Mackenzie Gas Project that it decides are in the public interest. We don't expect governments to do much to protect the public interest, so it is very important that NGOs play a meaningful role, to the extent possible without any participant funding,” stated Kevin O'Reilly, on behalf of Alternatives North.

“As interveners, Alternatives North will push the NEB to look carefully at the evidence related to the true costs and true benefits of the Mackenzie Gas Project for northerners,” he added.


Alternatives North intends to raise the following issues before the NEB:

- To protect Canadian interests in a secure energy supply;
- To consider the end use of Mackenzie gas, in terms of Canada’s Kyoto and other international obligations;
- To ensure a fair return to the public purse, to northerners, and to the private sector;
- To provide northern communities access to Mackenzie gas at a fair price, that reflects the cost of production and transport;
- To fully account for all of the benefits and costs of the project; and
- To independently monitor the social, economic, and environmental commitments made by governments, producers, and operators.

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