



TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 47 - - 89 (1) TABLED ON FEB 28 1989
47-89(1) December, 1988

Terms of Reference
Environmental Assessment Panel Review of the Proposed
Kiggavik Uranium Mine, Northwest Territories

Government Library

MAR 02 1989

Government of N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Introduction

At the request of the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, an Environmental Assessment Panel has been appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment to conduct a public review of the environmental and socio-economic effects of the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine project near Baker Lake in the Northwest Territories.

These Terms of Reference are being issued by the Minister of the Environment and were developed through consultation with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

For purposes of this review, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is the review initiator and Urangesellschaft Canada Ltd. is the project proponent.

Mandate of the Panel

The Mandate of the Panel is to review and assess the short and long term environmental and socio-economic effects, within the Northwest Territories, of the Kiggavik uranium mining project including effects associated with: the mining operations; milling operations; transportation of mine products; tailings and waste water management; site infrastructure including camp, roads, powerhouse and air strip; and regional infrastructure including access roads and port facilities. Within the basic mandate of examining the environmental and socio-economic effects of the project, the Panel's review shall include

consideration of issues relating to community health, worker safety and regulatory procedures. The review shall also include an examination of mine closure and abandonment activities with particular emphasis on the long-term effects of the mine tailings.

The Panel shall consider and report on the environmental and socio-economic acceptability of the project. If the Panel concludes that the project is acceptable, it may recommend terms and conditions under which the project could proceed, including arrangements for monitoring the project implementation and abandonment and subsequent environmental and socio-economic effects. If the Panel concludes that the project is unacceptable, it shall provide its rationale for this recommendation.

The Panel shall focus primarily on local and regional issues but shall not deal with the subject of land claims policy. However, issues relating to land use by native people are within the scope of the review. The energy policies of Canada and the GWT and the role of uranium mining with these policies should not be included in this review, nor should issues relating to the end uses of uranium.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Panel shall provide full opportunities for public review and input.

Review Procedures

Detailed written procedures for the conduct of the review shall be established by the Panel and made available to the public.

Technical Specialists

The Panel may secure the services of independent technical specialists to provide information on and help interpret complex technical issues.

These technical specialists will be resource people to the review and will be available to assist review participants as well as the Panel.

Panel Review Steps

The main steps in the Panel review process shall be as follows:

1. Review of existing project documentation, including the Beak Consultants' March, 1988 Project Description and the results of the Regional Environmental Review Committee's Technical Evaluation, to confirm what studies have been undertaken and what information is available.
2. Public scoping exercise to be conducted by the Panel to identify the priority issues to be addressed during the review. These priority issues will become the focus for much of the Panel's review and assessment.
3. Panel preparation of Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These EIS Guidelines will be issued to the project proponent. The project proponent, Urangesellschaft Canada Ltd., will be responsible for preparing the EIS. The EIS Guidelines will be made publicly available. The Panel may also direct specific information requests to federal and territorial government agencies if deemed appropriate.
4. Upon receipt of the completed EIS and any responses to government information requests, this information will be made public.
5. Public review of EIS. If the Panel feels the EIS is deficient, it can request additional information.