

# Environmental Assessment Revitalization Indigenous Implementation Committee Teleconference Meeting November 14, 2019 – 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

## Topics for Discussion

- Indigenous knowledge guidance and principles
- Agenda for McKenzie Valley Review Board meeting

## IK Guidance Materials

- EAO updated the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) principles based on the feedback received from the November 4 IIC meeting. The EAO provided an overview of the document and key updates. This primarily consisted of reformatting the background information regarding IK and the IK principles. EAO will update detailed components of IK in late November but the goal was to initially ensure the principles were sound before moving forward.
- IIC member suggested that story telling could be conveyed by using a graphic.
  - EAO responded that a graphic could be used if that was the desire of the committee.
- IIC member agreed with majority of changes but requested it be made clearer that IK is a required component of an environmental assessment, not just an “add-on”
  - EAO agreed with this statement and will edit the document accordingly.
- IIC member requested that a sentence in the IK document regarding when IK would be unable to be validated correctly be changed to a positive context such as “must be validated in the correct manner”.
  - EAO agreed with change – **ACTION ITEM**
- IIC member asked to clarify what was meant by the term “equally” valid in the document and if this was considered the same as “equity”.
  - EAO will consider this question and requested further thoughts from other IIC members – **ACTION ITEM**
- IIC member communicated that in terms of transparency, the proponent learning about community and nation side history can make a significant difference. The history is important to Indigenous nations and proponents should be aware of this. While all nations have it clearly recorded depending on their practise it should be clear in the IK guidance that proponents are required to learn about and apply IK that is provided by nations, even if this information is not available in a standard format (e.g., documents).
  - EAO this will be considered in terms of how it can be integrated into the document – **ACTION ITEM**
- IIC member identified the lack of a requirement that proponent must (even if the proponent already has legal claim to land in a nation’s territory) be aware of a Nation’s unique history.
  - EAO – we can look to put that in there and look to how best incorporate.
- IIC member noted that they understand that principle regarding flexibility was removed based on previous discussions. However, building a foundation for the concept of flexible could still be useful. Currently a nation can have sufficient resiliency and internal support to manage workload; however, there is a risk the new EA process may add to this workload with respect to

incorporation of IK specifically. There may be an opportunity to reflect concern within the IK document, providing an understanding for all EA participants (e.g., proponents, EAO, etc.) that certain unique factors need to be considered (e.g., seasonal rounds, funerals).

- EAO will consider how to integrate these concepts into the document – **ACTION ITEM**
- IIC this concept is already partly there in terms of a note in the document that some components may take time, but Indigenous-specific timeline considerations should be more clearly identified (e.g., seasonal rounds, community events).
- EAO plans to circulate another draft of IK guidance document prior to next IIC meeting (by Nov 19), and further discussion regarding will occur at the Dec. 10 meeting – **ACTION ITEM**

#### Agenda for MVRB Workshop

- IIC member requested that the “role and function of MVRB” be circulated pre-meeting to ensure everyone is sufficiently prepared.
  - EAO – can follow up with MVRB about a one-pager
    - IIC – this would be in addition to intro at meeting, it can help clarify/shorten things up
- IIC member commented that they wanted to ensure the meeting had two-way dialogue and discussion.