

GNWT Encouraged by Mackenzie Delta Producers' Filing for Mackenzie Gas Project

YELLOWKNIFE (October 7, 2004) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is encouraged by the announcement today that the Mackenzie Delta Producers' Group and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group have filed the environmental impact statement and detailed federal applications for the Mackenzie Gas Project. This filing represents major progress toward the construction of the Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline and associated gas field facilities in the Mackenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories.

The Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development said today, "The GNWT supports the development of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The challenges and opportunities presented by the Mackenzie Gas Project are unprecedented and we have complete confidence that the regulatory process provides the assurance required to uphold Northwest Territories' interests."

Premier Handley added, "We congratulate the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group for taking the next step in moving this project forward. The GNWT remains committed to the fundamental principles that resource development projects in the NWT must be environmentally and economically sustainable and that the benefits of northern development must accrue to northern residents".

Minister Bell also reaffirmed the government's support for a continental approach to North American energy issues. "The Northwest Territories is ready to be part of the continental energy solution," Minister Bell said. "Managing energy for a brighter future will require a united and co-operative effort."

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