

# **INTERIM MEASURES FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

## **Establishment of Project Management Teams for Level II Environmental Assessment**

### **Objective**

To establish tri-partite Project Management Teams to coordinate the review of relevant Level II projects being assessed pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). The intent is to be consistent with the spirit of the DAP chapter for increased First Nation participation in the review process and to keep within the existing framework of law and regulatory responsibilities. A first Project Management Team (PMT) will be established as a pilot project in April 1996. Following the preliminary evaluation of the PMT approach for the pilot project in May 1996, new projects entering the environmental assessment process may be considered for the establishment of a PMT under this framework agreement. A specific PMT agreement with the individual First Nation in whose traditional territory the activity is proposed will be required for each project and must be consistent with this Framework Agreement.

### **Principles**

- DIAND is the responsible authority for project screening
- DIAND will have lead for producing written reports on behalf of the PMT
- DIAND will ensure all CEAA factors are met during the project assessment
- DIAND will ensure that all other legal requirements within its mandate are met during the assessment process
- DIAND will continue to be the "one window" point of contact for the proponent
- There will be no changes in regulatory authorities
- There will be no changes to the existing DIAND review steps for level II environmental assessment as shown in the attached chart
- There will be no changes to agencies involved (There is flexibility to alter membership on the Regional Environmental Review Committee (RERC) depending on the subject nature of the review)
- The PMT is not a forum for policy reviews or changes
- The overall timing of the level II assessment process will not change as a result of the team approach to project management. Project reviews will continue even if one of the PMT members withdraws or is unable to meet timelines.
- No information is to be requested that goes beyond that required under CEAA
- The program management team receives its technical advice from the RERC

### Resourcing

- YTG will pay for its own costs to participate on the PMT
- Funding for First Nation participation on the PMT will be project specific and will be identified in the "Specific PMT Agreement" for the project as agreed to between DIAND and the First Nation in whose traditional territory the activity is proposed
- Funding arrangement for FN participation on the PMT will be by way of the specific PMT contribution agreement between DIAND and the First Nation in whose traditional territory the activity is proposed
- PMT participation funding obtained as outlined above does not prejudice a First Nation from applying for separate funding for its participation in other aspects of a specific project review. It is understood that DIAND will not be contributing further funds for the PMT representative through other funding sources

### Membership and Reporting Relationships

The PMT will consist of three members, one from DIAND, one from YTG and one from the First Nation in whose traditional territory the activity is proposed. All three members of the PMT will report to the Chair, RERC with regards to the review of their specific project

### Evaluation

- Preliminary evaluation of the PMT approach will be conducted by the three parties to this agreement within 6 weeks of the startup of the pilot project with a view to identify and resolve any problems and to determine if the approach should be extended for new projects entering the environmental assessment process
- A final evaluation is to be completed at the end of each project review for which a PMT has been established

### Approved

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