Northern Route Gas Pipeline Corporation

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2002

Questions & Answers

How do members (aboriginal landowners) of NRGPC benefit from this northern route pipeline?

- will be 100% ownership with no financial risk.
- Aboriginals will be able to control matters relating to the pipeline such as access to lands and environment.
- There would be substantial economic benefits.
- Royalties would enable a better life for our families.
- All weather roads would connect Northern communities.

How will the pipeline be financed without risk?

- 100% debt financing is possible due to the solid Alaska reserves, producer throughput agreements and revenue bonds.

How do we protect our land and animals?

- As we still own the land we will be responsible for managing our land and environment.

What about future development?

- Through the existing partnership, NRGPC will be able to extend its mandate to maintain control over future pipeline corridor development.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:
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Photo courtesy of Northwest Territories Government

Northern Route Gas Pipeline Corporation

James Firth, President NRGPC

For more than 25 years the aboriginal people of the NWT have considered a pipeline stretching across our vast lands. Today, the majority of aboriginal people along the pipeline route are supportive of a pipeline that brings maximum benefits to our communities, our businesses and our people while being protective of our land, animals and environment.

Our leadership has a responsibility to our people to ensure that we do what is in their best interests. Therefore, we must review, analyze, negotiate and ultimately end up with a business arrangement that will mean jobs, training and major financial benefit to our communities for now and for future generations.

As the new president of NRGPC, I would be honored to come to your community and meet with you to discuss any concerns or questions you may have. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent investigating the NRGPC/ArctiGas pipeline proposal. We will soon be sending an information package to all of the leaders in the valley and providing the findings of our consultations to date for review. We will then come to each community along the pipeline route to meet and discuss with you the potential of our pipeline proposal.

With the help and unity of our leaders, our elders and our people, our ultimate goal is to work together to establish the best deal for everyone involved and affected by the Northern Route gas pipeline.

New Regional NRGPC Office Opens in Inuvik

NRGPC is establishing an office in Inuvik in the Alex Moses Greenland Building on Distributor Street to provide better communication links to the region. “We want to make sure there is convenient access to information about the pipeline route option we are pursuing,” says James Firth. Plans are underway to open other regional offices in the Mackenzie Valley as well. Up until now, the only NRGPC office was in Norman Wells.
It is the intention of NRGPC and ArctiGas to consult with the Aboriginal landowners on all corridor/pipeline routing refinement concerns, especially as they are affected by the traditional use within the proposed corridor.

NRGPC will develop its work plans such that negative impacts associated with construction activity, and the effect they have on northern communities, are minimized.

Every affected community shall be consulted and asked for advice regarding the location of base camps. For the most part, these camps will be self-sufficient, with aboriginal businesses and individuals providing many of the goods and services.

Pipeline contractors will work out of barges or land-based camps. For the most part, these camps will be wholly self-sufficient.

The contractors’ personnel will be directed to stay out of the local towns for any purposes other than business.

NRGPC has prepared a list of activities and work packages suited to existing and future northern corporations, joint ventures and individuals.

The protection of the rights of Aboriginals and Aboriginal businesses, as it pertains to this project, are included in the Benefits Agreement.

The local roads used by the contractors will be maintained by the contractors on an ongoing basis during the four construction phases.

A construction road is planned from Wrigley to Inuvik to support the construction activities. This road would be left in good repair after the pipeline construction is completed and the contractors have moved out. As part of a permanent infrastructure requirement, the road could be converted to an all-weather permanent road. Further discussions will be held regarding the future of this road.

The northern companies will be able to pursue all the long-term follow-up activities after the NGPP is constructed and the gas gathering systems and energy corridor are being developed.

The lowest tolls possible for the NGPP will encourage all aspects of energy development along the NGPP energy corridor.

If the Northern Gas Pipeline Project is completed, the Aboriginal landowners stand to earn a significant amount of money as land access fees. The money to aboriginal people is estimated to be approximately US$70 million per year and more if gas prices and volumes go up. It is our intention that these monies reach the communities.

Having a dependable flow of money coming to Aboriginal landowners also creates another opportunity. Aboriginal landowners might want to consider projects that are designed to help improve the area for their members. For example, these projects might include road improvements, new houses, social and recreational facilities, gas heating, etc. Our goal is for aboriginal people to become self-sufficient.

ArctiGas says that the bonds that will be sold to investors to finance the pipeline will be “investment grade” bonds – in other words, the bonds will be high quality bonds and not junk bonds. Because the amount of money each Aboriginal landowner should receive each year is about the same every year, this money can also be seen as “investment grade”.

A pipeline through the Mackenzie Valley must not only bring training, jobs and business opportunities. It must bring money, so that communities can decide on their own priorities and invest in their own communities.

NRGPC Logo Contest

The Northern Route Gas Pipeline Corporation (NRGPC) is developing a communications strategy and is inviting local artists and creative individuals to design a logo for the corporation.

NRGPC is an aboriginal owned pipeline company created to protect the interests of our people, land and wildlife while ensuring the best economic opportunities for aboriginal people along the pipeline route.

Design entries can be full color but must also work in black and white reproductions. Artwork should be as large as possible but no larger than 8 1/2” X 11”.

The contest winner will receive a $500.00 cash prize. Three runners-up will receive $100.00 each.

For further information, please contact Loretta at (867) 587-4406.

Deadline is August 15th, 2002.

For more information about NRGPC, visit www nrsgp com.