

MVOD COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

This communication strategy has been drafted as a result of commitments flowing from the 2020 Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue (MVOD) workshop. It shall remain an iterative document where updates will be made as-needed based on discussions/recommendations from parties. It will remain in effect so long as the MVOD initiative remains in effect, and/or so long as it is deemed useful. This strategy describes the efforts all parties will make towards improved dialogue pertaining to regulatory topics – and more specifically, topics that intersect with mineral development in the Mackenzie Valley, NWT.

Background of the Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue

The Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue (MVOD) is a dialogue-first approach to discussing regulatory topics involving federal/territorial governments, Indigenous Governments and Organizations, industry representatives, and resource co-management boards. It was established in 2020.

It provides an opportunity to learn about the interests/perspectives/expertise of others, identify common challenges/objectives, and collectively work towards improvements on operational issues outside of legislative processes.

It also can provide a feedback mechanism, whereby different organizations can provide updates on regulatory initiatives of interest and seek feedback.

Objective and Goal of MVOD

- Objective:
 - To advance regulatory operations using a dialogue-first approach by seeking to understand issues from various perspectives and collectively building solutions that do not require legislative amendments/change.
 - To create a venue where an array of northern partners can discuss regulatory topics outside of specific projects, provide updates on regulatory initiatives, and seek feedback and recommendations to further common goals.
- Goal: For the regulatory regime in the Mackenzie Valley to be understood, trusted, effective, and efficient for all involved (including Indigenous Governments and Organizations, territorial and federal governments, resource co-management boards, and proponents).

Approach

To advance the objectives and goals of the MVOD, “Light Work Plans” (LWPs) will be developed based up feedback and suggestions received from participants during each workshop. These LWPs will detail the specific scope of projects that have been identified as priorities based on a) discussions held to date, **and** b) the ability for the group to achieve results

relatively quickly. Each LWP will involve participation from those most involved/impacted by the topic under consideration.

Current LWPs, along with their progress, are listed in the MVOD Initiative Tracker described in “Information Tracking” below.

Parties will make efforts to participate in an in-person/hybrid workshop every 12-18 months to:

- Update partners on “Light Work Plans” (LWPs);
- Update partners on regulatory initiatives and seek input/feedback;
- Hold focused discussion on specific regulatory issues/topics as needed; and
- Collaboratively develop/refine LWPs to advance operational regulatory priorities (established together).

An agenda will be established with partner input in advance of each workshop.

Parties will make efforts to participate in a follow-up virtual touchstone meeting every 6-8 months. This meeting will provide an opportunity for LWP leads to give updates, to provide updates on other regulatory initiatives, and for participants to ask questions or provide feedback.

Establishment of an Organizing Committee

An Organizing Committee will meet on a regulatory basis (at least monthly) to coordinate workshops, meetings, and public presentations, and to ensure the LWPs are on track. High level notes of meetings will be taken to track action-items and will be provided upon request.

Any party may have a representative sit on the Organizing Committee, however; attempts shall be made to ensure there is consistency.

The Organizing Committee’s role is of an administrative/logistical nature. The members do not define priorities or make decisions outside of a coordination realm. Funding is not provided for this participation.

Ongoing Communication

The following steps will be taken to keep northern partners apprised of MVOD work to ensure transparency and effectiveness of the initiative.

Informal Dialogue on an As-Needed Basis

The MVOD has a commitment to follow a “dialogue-first” approach which encourages mutual respect and open communication. Partners are encouraged to reach out to the contacts at the end of this document or directly to others when a question or concern arises, especially if it is discreet or time-sensitive, and may request a dialogue session with relevant parties. Partners do not need to wait for scheduled workshops or meetings.

Workshops and Meetings

Participants will be contacted through email each time a workshop or meeting is being organized, to invite attendance. Notifications on upcoming workshops and meetings will also be posted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board website and/or advertised by participating organizations.

In advance of each meeting, participants will receive a link to the updated Initiative Tracker to review LWP progress. Participants will also receive a link to the previous workshop or meeting summary report and an agenda for the upcoming session. Participants will be given an opportunity to review the agenda and suggest topics.

In-person workshops will be held every May in Yellowknife, with a virtual touchstone meeting held every November. The Organizing Committee will aim to schedule the touchstone meeting to coincide with the NWT Geosciences Forum.

If you are interested in attending workshops, meetings, or to be included on LWP teams, please reach out to the contacts at the end of this document.

Information Tracking

All MVOD-related material will be published to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board website, under “External Initiatives.” This will include:

- Workshop reports and presentations
- Touch-base meeting summaries
- MVOD Initiative Tracker
 - Light Work Plan Updates
 - NWT Environmental Audit regulatory recommendations

Workshop and meeting reports will be uploaded to the MVLWB website (under “[External Initiatives](#)”) as soon as available. All other ongoing tracked information will be updated before each workshop by the Organizing Committee.

To view the MVOD Initiative Tracker, visit the MVLWB website under [External Initiatives](#).

Contact:

For more information, please contact:

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