In giving evidence to the panel today in Yellowknife, CARC representatives told the panel that the pipeline developers have done a woeful job of predicting the cumulative effects of the pipeline. “The developers are planning a pipeline that can carry more gas than they have yet discovered,” says Chuck Birchall, chair of CARC. “Despite this fact, they are not making any real attempt at describing the massive effects of exploring for and developing additional gas deposits. If there is to be a hope of adequately planning for those effects, the proponent must do a better job of trying to anticipate them.”

CARC presented its own mapping work to the panel, mapping that shows certain development scenarios will likely have negative impacts on large animals such as caribou. CARC’s work shows that in the Mackenzie delta, the amount of disturbance from development is already approaching the level at which there is concern for the future. The loss of habitat could be catastrophic for northern peoples who traditionally rely heavily on hunting for subsistence.

The panel is set to wrap up its public hearings this fall. “We hope the panel will direct the proponents of this project to go back to the drawing board, and make a much better attempt to describe the cumulative effects of this project,” adds Birchall. “Without that information, we really do not see how the panel can make an informed decision.”

CARC’s official submission to the review panel (5MB PDF)

Press Release as a Word Doc

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