



RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

3-17(5)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Bob Bromley on March 12, 2014

Response by the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

Referral of Hydraulic Fracturing Applications

The GNWT is committed to protecting the health of our environment and creating prosperity for our residents by responsibly and sustainably developing our natural resource potential.

Our commitment to sustainable, responsible development is consistently reflected in our policy framework that includes documents such as the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, the Water Stewardship Strategy and the Sustainable Development Policy. This approach, and our related actions, are further supported by over two years of national and international research into environmental best practices used in other jurisdictions.

The GNWT is confident in its ability to balance economic development while at the same time protect the environment. The government is also confident in the ability of its regulatory partners to responsibly review applications and make decisions regarding potential risks and expected benefits for the people of the NWT.

It is within this context, and as provided for in the relevant sections of the MVRMA, that the GNWT makes its decision about referring a project to environmental assessment. Each project that is proposed must be reviewed on its own merits and must adhere to the principles outlined in these strategic documents and the legislation underpinning them.