

**COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS
EVIDENTIARY HEARING TIMETABLE**

March 30, 2006

- BEFORE WE BEGIN TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME REMARKS REGARDING THE TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETING THE EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS, WHICH IS IN KEEPING WITH MY STATED OBJECTIVE OF COMPLETING MY REPORT THIS YEAR.

- I UNDERSTAND THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTIES AND WITH COMMISSION COUNSEL REGARDING CROSS-EXAMINATION AND THE NEED FOR COMPLETING THESE HEARINGS. WE'VE SEEN SOME EVIDENCE OF THIS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS AND IT IS VERY ENCOURAGING.

- I APPRECIATE THE CONTINUED EFFORT TO WORK TOGETHER CO-OPERATIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY. ALL PARTIES TO THESE PROCEEDINGS HAVE DEMONSTRATED A RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO BALANCE THE COMPETING OBJECTIVES OF THOROUGHNESS AND ECONOMY.

- AS YOU KNOW, HEARING DATES HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED UNTIL THE END OF MAY TO CALL EVIDENCE FROM THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED, FROM LOCAL COTTAGERS AND FROM WITNESSES WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS.

- IF WE DON'T FINISH BY THE END OF MAY, AND IT BECOMES NECESSARY, I AM PREPARED TO EXTEND OUR HEARING SCHEDULE INTO JUNE. IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR, WE WILL BE SITTING EVERY WEEK DAY IN JUNE, EXCEPT FOR JUNE 22 WHEN KIMBALL HALL IS UNAVAILABLE AND THE HEARINGS WILL CONCLUDE ON JUNE 28.
- COMMISSION COUNSEL IS WORKING TO ENSURE THAT THE REQUIRED WITNESSES ARE HEARD FROM IN THE TIME REMAINING, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT COUNSEL FOR THE PARTIES WILL APPROACH CROSS-EXAMINATION IN THE NEXT 3 MONTHS, WITH THE JUNE 28 COMPLETION DATE IN MIND. AS I'VE SAID, WE'VE ALREADY SEEN SOME EVIDENCE OF THIS, THIS WEEK.
- TO MAXIMIZE THE TIME REMAINING, A NUMBER OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE HEARING WEEK SCHEDULE IS NECESSARY.
- AS WE DID THIS WEEK, THE FIRST DAY OF A HEARING WEEK – USUALLY MONDAY - WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 AM RATHER THAN 10:30 AM AND WE WILL ADJOURN THAT DAY AT 5:30 PM RATHER THAN AT 5:00 PM.
- FOR THE REMAINING DAYS OF A HEARING WEEK, WE WILL CONTINUE TO START AT 9:00 AM AND ADJOURN AT 5:00 PM, OR EVEN LATER, RATHER THAN AT 4:30 PM.
- FINALLY, THE LUNCH PERIOD WILL BE SHORTENED BY 15 MINUTES, TO 1 HOUR.
- THESE FEW MODIFICATIONS WILL ADD CONSIDERABLE HEARING TIME BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 29.

- I FULLY APPRECIATE THAT ADDING THIS TIME TO THE HEARING SCHEDULE WILL ALSO ADD TO THE PRESSURE EVERYONE IS ALREADY EXPERIENCING, BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF THE REMAINING HEARING DAYS.
- AT THIS TIME, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SET OUT MY EXPECTATIONS REGARDING A TIMETABLE AND A PROCESS FOR CLOSING WRITTEN AND ORAL SUBMISSIONS FOR PART 1.
- PARTIES WILL BE ASKED TO FILE THEIR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS WITH THE COMMISSION, WITH A COPY TO OTHER PART 1 PARTIES, BY JULY 28.
- TIME-LIMITED ORAL SUBMISSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 21. PARTIES MAY LIMIT THEIR ORAL SUBMISSIONS TO THE MAIN POINTS OF THEIR WRITTEN SUBMISSION AND/OR THEY MAY USE THE TIME TO REPLY TO OTHER PARTIES' SUBMISSIONS.
- WE WILL BE COMMUNICATING THE AMOUNT OF TIME TO BE ALLOCATED TO EACH PARTY FOR ORAL SUBMISSIONS IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO. THERE WILL BE NO LIMIT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS, BUT OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO COMPLETE THE ORAL SUBMISSIONS WITHIN ONE WEEK.
- SIMILARLY, IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, I WILL BE ADDRESSING THE INQUIRY SUBMISSION PROCESS, AS IT RELATES TO PART 2.
- IN THE MEANTIME, I TRUST THIS STATEMENT PROVIDES THE PARTIES WITH SUFFICIENT NOTICE AND DIRECTION TO PREPARE AND PLAN OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AND THAT IT WILL ALSO INFORM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND MEDIA WHO ARE FOLLOWING THESE PROCEEDINGS OF OUR ANTICIPATED TIMETABLE.

- AGAIN, YOUR ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING THESE PROCEEDINGS TO A TIMELY CONCLUSION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, ENSURING THAT OUR INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETE, IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.
- THANK YOU.