

# Valley Talk

Mackenzie Valley  
Review Board



*The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's mission is to conduct quality environmental impact assessments that protect the environment and the social, economic, and cultural well being of the residents of the Mackenzie Valley and all Canadians.*

**August 2009 Vol. 5 No.8**

## Welcome to the team Chuck!

The Review Board is pleased to welcome Chuck Hubert to the team. Chuck is the newest Environmental Assessment Officer on staff. For 16 years Chuck worked as an Environmental Assessment Analyst with the Yukon Government, Department of Environment. Prior to that he spent three years with Curragh Resources at the Faro, Yukon mine site and at



exploration sites employed as an environmental/geology technician.

He graduated from Yukon College with a Northern Environmental Studies Diploma in 1993 and completed a degree in Environment and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo in 1995. He enjoys travel and snowmobiling during his time off and is enthusiastic about joining the Review Board staff.

In his new role as an Environmental Assessment Officer, Chuck will be responsible for working closely with Review Board stakeholders in planning, facilitating and completing environmental assessments of proposed developments.

If you need to reach him, his email is [chubert@reviewboard.ca](mailto:chubert@reviewboard.ca) and his phone number is 867-766-7072. Welcome to the team Chuck!



- Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review

Visit [reviewboard.ca](http://reviewboard.ca) and click our **Interactive Map** for more information

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## Ongoing environmental assessments

### ► Nico Project

Fortune Minerals Ltd.

EA0809-004

*Status: Scoping. Waiting for developer response.*

This is an open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine, located approximately 50 km north-north-east of Whati. The Review Board has asked the developer to identify the proposed transportation route. The developer must respond before the Review Board can conclude the scoping stage.

### ► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp.

EA0809-003

*Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report*

This is a proposed open pit gold mine, located 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the old Discovery mine site. The Review Board is waiting for Tyhee to produce its Developer's Assessment Report.

### ► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation

EA0809-002

*Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report*

This is a proposed underground lead-zinc mine, located in the Mackenzie Mountains within the South Nahanni River watershed, and in proximity to the Nahanni National Park Reserve. The Review Board released the final Terms of Reference and workplan for public comment in late June. The Review Board is now waiting for Canadian Zinc to produce its Developer's Assessment Report.

### ► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0809-001

*Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report*

This is a proposed development to reclaim the Giant Mine site, located within the City of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground. The Review Board is waiting for the developer to produce its Developer's Assessment Report.

### ► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd.

EA0708-007

*Status: Reviewing information request submissions*

This proposed development adds 36 megawatts of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant and includes a 690 kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines. The Review Board is in the process of finalizing information requests .



*Review Board members recently participated on a site tour of the Canadian Zinc proposed mine site.*



## Ongoing environmental impact reviews



### ► Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine

De Beers Canada Inc.

EIR0607-001

**Status:** Waiting for Environmental Impact Statement; Terms of Reference were issued in October 2007

The Review Board established the independent Gahcho Kue Review Panel to review this proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. De Beers has informed the Panel that it will advise further on a completion date for its Environmental Impact Statement in Oct. 2009.



### ► Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

**Status:** The Joint Review Panel is drafting its Report of Environmental Impact Review

The Review Board, the federal Minister of Environment and the Inuvialuit Game Council jointly established the Joint Review Panel to independently review this proposed gas pipeline. Visit [www.ngps.nt.ca](http://www.ngps.nt.ca) for more information.

## Recently completed and finalized

### ► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd.

EA0708-001

**Status:** Completed and finalized.



This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. On July 3rd, 2009, the Review Board submitted its *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for decision* to the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Review Board found that the proposed project is not likely to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment or be a cause of public concern, as long as Selwyn Resources implements all of the commitments it made during the environmental assessment. This development application may now move onto the regulatory stage.

## See you at the assemblies

This summer you might meet up with Review Board members while attending the annual First Nation general assemblies. The Review Board members are planning on attending assemblies where possible so that they can gather feedback on the Review Board's processes. In addition, the Review Board members hope to be able to report back about the Review Board past year's achievements and help people better understand the Review Board's roles and responsibilities. Hope to see you out there!



## Completed and waiting for a ministerial decision

### ► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

*Status: Completed. Waiting for a ministerial decision*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. On February 6, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

### ► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

*Status: Completed. Waiting for a ministerial decision*

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30, 2007, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

### ► SDL-8 2D Geophysical Program

Paramount Resources Ltd. EA0506-007

*Status: Completed. Waiting for a ministerial decision*

This is a proposed oil and gas geophysical program in the Cameron Hills area. On November 14, 2006, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

### ► Dehcho Geotechnical Survey

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EA0304-009

*Status: Completed. Waiting for a ministerial decision*

This is a proposed oil and gas geotechnical program in the Dehcho region. On February 28, 2005, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*. In June 2005, the Minister of INAC initiated the consult-to-modify process. The Review Board continues to wait for feedback from the ministers.

## 2009 Reference CD

Do you want an e-copy of all the Review Board publications? Don't want to download them all from the Reference Library? Then you need the Review Board's 2009 Reference CD!

--On the CD, you will find:--

- reports of environmental assessments from all of the board's completed assessments since 1999;
- guidelines, reference bulletins and workshop reports;
- memorandums of understandings and cooperation agreements;
- and more!

You can email Renita Jenkins, Manager of Communications at [rjenkins@reviewboard](mailto:rjenkins@reviewboard) or call her at 867-766-7051 to request your copy of the Reference CD.





## Recently closed. Application withdrawn

### ► Crab Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp.

EA0708-005

**Status: Closed. Developer withdrew application**

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the Dubawnt River Watershed. On September 12, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*. On July 3rd, the developer withdrew its land use permit application. As a result, the Review Board closed the environmental assessment.

### ► EL Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp.

EA0708-004

**Status: Closed. Developer withdrew application**

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. On September 12, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers reject this proposed development without ordering an environmental impact review. The Review Board is of the opinion the proposed development will cause significant adverse cultural impacts on Aboriginal people by impacting an area of very high spiritual importance. On July 3rd, the developer withdrew its land use permit application. As a result, the Review Board closed the environmental assessment.

## This is what we do: Principles of co-management



Last month, we talked about how the Dene-Métis Comprehensive Land Claim agreement in principle initiated an integrated system of land and water management

through a series of “co-management” boards. But, what exactly is “co-management” and what does it look like?

Co-management is the sharing of decision-making powers between Aboriginal groups and the territorial and federal governments. The Review Board practices it in various ways, like the nomination and appointment of board members,

consultation with communities, and the incorporation of traditional knowledge into the environmental impact assessment process.

On the Review Board, there are shared decision-making powers between land claim organizations and the territorial and federal government. Nominations for half of the board members are by land claim organizations, such as the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, or the Tlicho Government. The territorial or federal governments make nominations for the other half of the Review Board.

Once all of the members are appointed, they together will nominate the chairperson, as outlined in the *Mackenzie Valley Resource*



## This is what we do: Principles of co-management

*Management Act.* Before the land claim settlements began, few, if any indigenous people held important decision-making positions.

In order for the board to be able to make decisions and do other business, they must have “quorum”. Quorum is the number of members of a group or organization required to be present to transact business legally. For the Review Board, this means that five members must be present, and at least two of the five members must either be Gwich'in, Sahtu or Tlicho nominees and at least two must be government nominees.

The extensive level of consultation that the Review Board requires developers to have with people and communities affected by potential development also upholds the principle of co-management. Consultations and community engagement is required by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Before developers submit their applications, they have to engage with communities about what they are proposing because in their applications, developers have to show how much and what kind of community engagement occurred. They also have to show how their project proposal has changed to accommodate the community's concerns.

Because the Review Board has representation from Aboriginal groups, it is able to consider traditional knowledge more strongly when it makes a decision about a proposed development. Traditional knowledge includes the perspectives of Aboriginal peoples of the Mackenzie Valley, and it can often identify the

links between what may seem like two unrelated components of the environment.

The Review Board encourages developers and traditional knowledge holders to work together before submitting an application. The Review Board can make arrangements at any point in the process to hear from traditional knowledge holders. This makes the process more accessible to more communities and people and hopefully encourages them to participate.

Co-management, as you can see, is a principle, as well as a practice. The intention is to be inclusive of all residents of the Mackenzie Valley as that will help the Review Board to make better environmental assessment decisions.

Masi Cho,

- *Jessica Simpson*

Community Liaison Officer

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