



The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's mission is to conduct quality and timely 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.

Review Board attends Arctic Gas conference and PDAC

Besides visiting Northern communities to explain what the environmental process is, the Review Board also takes the same messages to resource companies wishing to develop projects in the Mackenzie Valley.

Board Chair Richard Edjericon spoke at the Arctic Gas Symposium, held in Calgary March 2-3, 2010, as part of a panel devoted to the Northern regulatory process. Mr. Edjericon said the Review Board has responsibility for the environmental impact assessment of resource development projects in the Mackenzie Valley. This role is different from that of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, which screens new development

proposals for potential impacts, and, as the regulator for the Mackenzie Valley, issues permits and licenses for land and water use. (Please see page 3 for excerpts from the speech.)

Review Board members and staff attended the annual Prospectors and Developer's Association of Canada convention in Toronto, March 7-10, 2010. The mood at the convention was optimistic when compared with last year's, and a few companies planning work in the NWT visited the Review Board's booth to talk about the assessment process. Several northerners also visited, giving the booth a "back home" ambience. PDAC attendees came from all over the world, including China, Peru, Chile, Argentina, United States, England, and Afghanistan.

PDAC sponsored an aboriginal engagement workshop to discuss the issues surrounding conflict that can occur between aboriginal groups and exploration companies during the exploration phase. The federal government is not obligated to consult during exploration so industry has taken this on. PDAC calls this initiative "free prior informed consent" which industry hopes will minimize conflict. For more information, please see the PDAC website.



INSIDE

- Arctic Gas Conference and PDAC
- This is what we do - Speech to Arctic Gas
- Updates on environmental assessments and reviews

Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review.



Ongoing environmental assessments

► NICO Project

Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004
Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 km NNE of Whati. Waiting for Fortune Minerals' Developer's Assessment Report, expected in June 2010.

► Yellowknife Gold Project

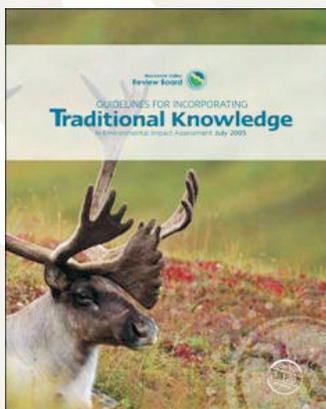
Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0809-003
Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report

A proposed open pit gold mine, this project is located 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery mine site. Waiting for Tyhee's Developer's Assessment Report, expected in the second quarter, 2010.

► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002
Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report

The developer proposes an 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 has received the Developer's Assessment Report and will now conduct a conformity check to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Terms of Reference."



Left: Guidelines for Incorporating Traditional Knowledge, available on our website or by calling our office at 867-766-7050.

► 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. Waiting for INAC's Developer's Assessment Report, expected in April 2010.

► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007
Status: Public Hearings completed

A proposed expansion to add 35 megawatts of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant, this project includes a 690-kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines. The Public Record is open only to documents pertaining to the proposed alternative route. It closes May 10th to the public and May 12th for the developer. The Review Board is analyzing all other documents received for the rest of the project.



Above: Board staff members Paul Mercredi, Jessica Simpson and Alan Ehrlich at Gameti for the NICO project scoping session, 2009.



Completed. Waiting ministerial approval



► Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision

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. The Responsible Ministers and the NEB are now considering the Joint Review's Panel's recommendations. The NEB will hold public hearings in Yellowknife April 12-17, and in Inuvik April 20-24. For more information about these hearings, check the NEB website at <http://www.neb.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rcmmn/hm-eng.html>.

► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: Completed. Waiting for 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 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*.

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 Kué Review Panel to review this proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. On November 20, 2009, De Beers informed the Panel it will complete the feasibility study in August 2010 and will file its Environmental Impact Statement in Q4 of 2010.

This is what we do: How we differ from the MVLWB



The Review Board is one part of the environmental impact assessment and regulatory system that was set up under the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act, and the only environmental impact assessment body under the MVRMA in the

Mackenzie Valley. We take an objective look at exploration and development projects to see if there will be any significant impacts as a result of the activity. Each project is assessed in four main areas of impact – biophysical, social, economic and cultural. Unique to our process, the Review Board also assesses the degree of public concern regarding a proposed development. Using scientific



This is what we do: How we differ from the MVLWB

Continued from page 3: data, traditional knowledge, personal statements of potential impact, socio-economic and cultural impact studies, the Board does as thorough an assessment as possible, as is our mandate under the MVRMA. If a decision is made to allow the development to proceed, the Board makes recommendations to mitigate development impacts so a project can proceed with as little impact as possible.

Because our names are very similar, we often get referred to as the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. We both derive our mandates from the MVRMA and both are co-management boards, but the responsibilities of each are quite different.

The MVLWB screens projects and issues permits and licenses; the Review Board does not issue permits or licenses, and refers completed environmental impact assessments to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and other Responsible Ministers for approval. The MVLWB is the regulator for land and water usage in the Mackenzie Valley in areas where land claims have yet to be settled; the Review Board handles the environmental impact assessments in all areas of the Mackenzie Valley except in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The MVLWB has regional panels, such as the Sahtu Land and Water Board, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board and the Weke'e'zhii Land and Water Board that also screen projects and issue permits and licenses for their respective regions. The MVLWB screens trans-boundary projects and sets the standards for screening and permitting to ensure consistency throughout the Mackenzie Valley. There are no other panels of the Review Board.

Environmental impact reviews also fall under the purview of the Review Board. This is a more comprehensive and focused examination of a proposed development likely to have very significant impacts, as determined during an initial assessment by the Review Board or by decision of

the responsible ministers. The review is done by an independent panel consisting of both Review Board members and non-members, all appointed by the Review Board.

Both the Review Board and the MVLWB refer projects for environmental assessment, although the Review Board rarely does this. Most projects are referred to us by the MVLWB or one of the regional panels after a preliminary screening shows that the project in question could cause significant impact or public concern. Other referring organizations, as defined by Section 26 of the MVRMA, can be any department or agency of the federal government such as INAC, Environment Canada or others; the National Energy Board; any department or agency of the territorial government or any local government created under Northwest Territories law. Despite the large number of referring organizations, less than 5 percent of all projects that have been screened in the 10 years since the MVRMA came into law have been referred for an assessment.

Our process is timely, objective, thorough, fair and public. All of the documents the Review Board uses for an assessment are filed on the Public Record and can be found on our website under the heading "Public Registry."

Mahsi!

Richard Edjericon, Board Chair

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