



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.

Draft wildlife at risk guidelines ready for comments

A new draft of the Species at Risk guidelines is now available on the Review Board website for review and comment. This is the second draft, produced in close co-operation with the writing committee made up of staff members from the Review Board, Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Energy and Natural Resources from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The guidelines are a step-by-step process intended to help a developer determine how to report and use information about wildlife at risk in an environmental assessment, and are not a listing

of which species are actually at risk or in danger of becoming at risk.

The second draft simplified the text and incorporated many constructive comments from various government departments. Industry representatives also reviewed the first draft and offered their comments to help clarify or simplify the guidelines for ease of use and understanding.



Although still at the draft stage, the guidelines have already been used by Deze Energy for the environmental assessment now under way for Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project.

The second draft will be available for comment until the end of July, 2010. The final version will be published as a booklet and will also be available on the Review Board's website at www.reviewboard.ca.



INSIDE

- Wildlife at risk guidelines
- This is what we do - Information Requests
- The intern is harbinger of summer
- 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. The Tlicho government has filed a Request for Ruling to adjourn the EA until all essential components of the Proposal are included in applications accepted as complete by the Weke'ezi Land and Water Board.

► 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 by the end of this year.

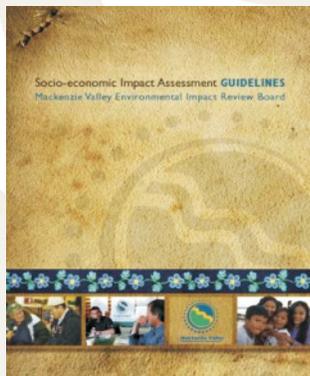
► Prairie Creek Mine

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 determined the Developer's Assessment Report is in conformity. The Information Request process will commence shortly.



Left: Guidelines for Socio-economic Impact Assessment, available on the Review Board's website or by calling the office at 867-766-7050.

► Yellowknife Gold 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 June 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 now closed for the proposed alternative route and all other aspects of the project. The Review Board is analyzing all information and writing the report of environmental assessment.



Above: Hand games at the Tlicho Assembly in Gameti, 2006. Review Board members will be attending Annual Assemblies in each region this summer.



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 expects to issue its Reasons for Decision in the Fall of 2010. For more information about this process, check the NEB's 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 in the *Report of Environmental Assessment*. In May, 2010, the INAC Minister advised the Review Board that the Responsible Ministers need more time to review the 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 April 21, 2010, the Review Board received the Minister's instructions to review and modify some of the measures in the *Report of Environmental Assessment*, first filed in November 2007. This process is now underway.

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. In May 2010, De Beers was advised that the EIR proceeding has been adjourned, pending receipt of the Environmental Impact Statement, expected in late 2010. The Panel will reconvene when De Beers files the EIS.

Our intern is here, and so is summer!



Moses Hernandez, the Review Board's student intern, has started work just in time for summer. Born and raised in Yellowknife, Moses is a competitive cross-country skier and all-round fitness enthusiast. He holds an honors degree in Political Science and has just finished the first year of a Master of Arts in Polar Law, specializing in indigenous rights in the circumpolar region. Moses cycles to work after canoeing to shore from his houseboat in Yellowknife Bay, where he plans to write his thesis this fall. Welcome to the Review Board, Moses!



This is what we do: Information Requests

After a Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) is accepted by the Review Board as conforming with the Terms of Reference, a notice stating this is sent to all parties to the assessment. The parties can then review the DAR to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

If the parties feel they need more information or clarification of some sections in the DAR, they can request additional information from the developer, or from another party to the assessment, as the case may be. These "Information Requests" or IRs, are formal, written questions that parties recommend to the Review Board for a response from the developer or from another party to the assessment. The Board first screens the recommended questions using criteria that will insure that all are pertinent to the assessment, are helpful to the Board's understanding of the project and are not irrelevant or otherwise inappropriate.

Any party submitting the suggestions for questions must have party status to the assessment. The Review Board accepts requests for party status for the environmental assessment early in the EA process. Any individual or organization can apply, and most are granted status.

All parties must have a clear understanding of what is in the DAR in order to determine the significance of any impacts - bio-physical, socio-economic, or cultural - that the proposed project may have. Each will look for significant, adverse effects in the section of the DAR concerned with its own area of interest or concern. For example, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Fisheries and Oceans will pay particular attention to issues to do with water, so they will ask questions to get clarification about water use, tailings ponds, in the

case of a mine, or waste water disposal, to name some likely topics.

If a question is directed from one party to the developer or to another party to the assessment, the Review Board will suggest they meet informally to resolve the issues raised by the question. The Board

encourages informal, face-to-face meetings between parties which can usually result in clarification or resolution of an issue faster than through the formal Information Request process. The parties summarize the results of the informal session and send a written report to the Review Board to be included on the Public Record of the assessment.

After screening, the Review Board sends all of the questions out at the same time. Typically, two weeks are allowed for parties to submit draft IRs. Once the screening is completed, another three weeks is provided for the developers and parties to prepare their response. If another round is needed, the Review Board again screens the requests received and sends them to the developer or other party, a process that takes about the same length of time.

For more information about IRs, please read the *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines* on our website or call the phone number below.



**Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact Review Board
Suite #200, Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Avenue
Box 938, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7**

**Telephone: (867) 766-7050
Facsimile: (867) 766-7074
Toll-free: 1-866-912-3472
Web: reviewboard.ca**

Subscribe to this newsletter on our website or email Sunny Munroe, Acting Manager of Communications at smunroe@reviewboard.ca