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Prairie Creek Mine public hearings

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board held community and public hearings for Canadian Zinc's proposed Prairie Creek Mine in Nahanni Butte and Fort Simpson June 22, 23 and 24. These hearings were well attended by all parties and members of the public. In Nahanni Butte there were over 60 participants and in Fort Simpson nearly 100 people attended. In an effort to ensure an open and transparent process, the Review Board provided translation in the Dene language at both sessions and broadcasted the Fort Simpson hearing via webcast. A webcast is a feature on the Review Board's website that gives the public the opportunity to listen live to Review Board public hearings as they happen.



Nahanni Butte public hearing on June 22nd, 2011

The parties that presented at these hearings were Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada), Dehcho First Nation, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, Liidlii Kue First Nation, Nahanni Butte Dene Band (Naha Dehe Dene Band), and Natural Resources Canada. The Review Board also heard from the members of the public in both Nahanni Butte and Fort Simpson.

As an outcome of the hearings, the Review Board has requested submissions from the parties on an approach for a water quality objectives committee to ensure changes to water quality from the mine do not harm fish and aquatic life. The Review Board is also awaiting responses to various undertakings issued to the parties at the hearing. The responses to the undertakings are due July 8th, 2011. Next steps will be announced after the Review Board has considered all of the responses received.



Fort Simpson public hearing on June 23rd, 2011

The Review Board would like to thank the translators, Celine Betsaka, Mary Jane Cazon and Betty Hardisty, and the caterers, Bernice Konisenta, and Allison Anderson for a job well done. Mahsi cho.



Ongoing environmental assessments

Click headings to visit the Review Board's public registry for that particular assessment

Diamond Exploration - Alex Debogorski EA1112-001

Status: Preparing for community information session on July 20th.

This diamond drilling exploration project is being proposed southeast of Burnt Island on Great Slave Lake, NT in the Drybones Bay area. The Review Board met on June 16th, 2011 to consider the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's Request for Ruling that the Review Board make a summary decision to reject the proposal without an environmental impact review. The Review Board denied the request stating such a decision would be premature at this stage in the assessment. On June 20th, 2011, the developer submitted its information request response containing an updated project description. The next step is a community information session in Dettah on July 20th, 2011.

Thor Lake Rare Earth Elements Project - Avalon Rare Metals Inc. EA1011-001

Status: Review Board is conducting a conformity review.

This proposed rare earth element mining project is at Thor Lake, 100 kilometres southeast of Yellowknife on the north side of Great Slave Lake. The development includes a hydro-metallurgical facility at the former Pine Point mine site on the south side of the lake. The Review Board is conducting a conformity review of the Developer's Assessment Report to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Terms of Reference.

NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

Status: Review Board is conducting a conformity review.

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. On June 2nd, 2011, an NWT Supreme Court Judge dismissed the Tlicho Government's application for a judicial review of the Review Board's decision not to postpone this environmental assessment. On June 30th, 2011, the Tlicho Government filed a notice of appeal. The Review Board is continuing its conformity review of the Developer's Assessment Report to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Terms of Reference.

Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003

Status: Review Board is conducting a conformity review.

This is a proposed open pit gold mine 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery Mine site. The Review Board is conducting a conformity review of the Developer's Assessment Report to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Terms of Reference.

Prairie Creek Mine - Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002

Status: Post-hearing follow-up on outstanding issues .

This is a proposed underground lead-zinc mine in the Mackenzie Mountains within the South Nahanni River watershed, and the Nahanni National Park. The Review Board is reviewing submissions from parties on possible ways to resolve differences in deciding water quality objectives. The Review Board is also awaiting responses to various undertakings issued to the parties at the hearing. The responses to the undertakings are due July 8th, 2011. Next steps will be announced after the Review Board has considered all of the responses received.



Ongoing environmental assessments

Giant Mine Reclamation and Remediation Project - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada EA0809-001

Status: Preparing for technical sessions.

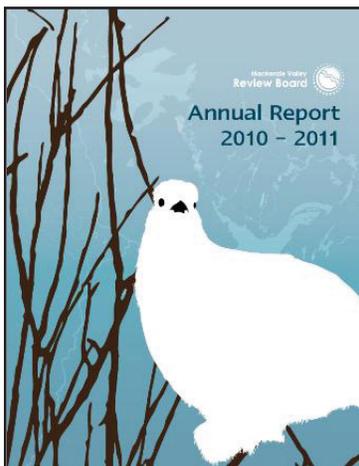
The Contaminants and Remediation Directorate of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly INAC) is proposing to remediate and reclaim the Giant Mine site within the City of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground. The developer submitted the remainder of its information request responses on June 17th, 2011. The Review Board will announce dates for technical sessions shortly.

Mineral Exploration Program - Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

Status: Report of EA issued in November 2007. Ministers referred the decision back to the Review Board for further consideration in April 2010. Planning for public hearing.

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. In November 2007, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow the development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures outlined in the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. In April 2010, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, on behalf of responsible ministers, referred the Report of Environmental Assessment back to the Review Board for further consideration.

In response to a Request for Ruling from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Review Board has decided to hold a two day public hearing as part of the "further consideration" proceeding. The Review Board will set a date for the public hearing shortly.



The Review Board is pleased to announce that it has released its 2010-11 Annual Report. Inside the report, you can read about all the assessments, impact reviews and strategic initiatives the Review Board worked on over the past fiscal year.

As part of our commitment to reduce our paper use, this document is only available in electronic format. You can download a copy from www.reviewboard.ca in the Reference Library -> Corporate documents -> Annual reports and strategic planning.



Ongoing environmental impact review

Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine - De Beers Canada Inc. EIR0607-001

Status: De Beers is preparing response to deficiency statement.

The proposed development is a large open-pit diamond mine approximately 180 km northeast of Yellowknife, NT. The Review Board established the Gahcho Kué Review Panel to evaluate the impacts of this development. On March 17th, 2011 the Panel issued a deficiency statement for De Beers Canada's Environmental Impact Statement. De Beers has submitted a portion of its deficiency response. The remaining conformity responses are expected by the end of next week.

Ministers preparing response

Mineral Exploration Program - Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: Report of EA issued in February 2008. The federal and responsible ministers preparing response.

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. In February 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 Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision. In May 2010, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs advised the Review Board that the federal and responsible ministers need more time to review the report.

Environmental assessment adjourned

Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project - Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

Status: Report of EA issued March 2010. Ministers referred the decision back to the Review Board for further consideration in December 2010. Temporarily adjourned March 2011 at the request of the developer.

This development is a proposed expansion to add 35 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 approved the development with measures to mitigate environmental and cultural impacts. In December 2010, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, on behalf of responsible ministers, referred the Report of Environmental Assessment back to the Review Board for further consideration. However, in March 2011 the Review Board granted an adjournment at the request of the developer.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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