



The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's mission is to conduct fair and timely environmental impact assessments in the Mackenzie Valley that protect the environment, including the social, economic and cultural well-being of its residents.

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Welcome John Curran

The Review Board is pleased to welcome new board member Mr. John Curran!

Mr. Curran was nominated to the Review Board by the federal government and was recently appointed by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Chairperson Richard Edjericon would like to congratulate Mr. Curran on his appointment and looks forward to working with him during his term.

John Curran is originally from Ontario where he earned a Journalism diploma from Loyalist College in Bellville. He has enjoyed a career as an award-winning journalist and has held diverse positions in the media industry. John moved to the north in 2003 and served as the Executive Director for the NWT Chamber of Commerce, later becoming the Northern Services Marketing Manager for Discovery Air. He has also served as a director on the Yellowknife Direct Charge Co-operative Board of Directors, including two years as the Vice President of the Board

John has most recently focused his talents on operating his own consulting business in Yellowknife, Curran and Associates, which specializes in organizational support and governance solutions for businesses.

Welcome to the team John!



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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Ongoing environmental assessments

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

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

Status: Technical session scheduled for August 14-17, 2012.

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. On March 2nd, 2012 the developer submitted its remaining responses to the January 2012 information requests. The Review Board reviewed the responses and asked the developer to provide clarification regarding the submitted water quality data. The developer submitted adequate responses on May 18th. The Review Board has scheduled a technical session for the week of August 14-17, 2012.

NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

Status: Review Board and parties preparing for public hearings

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. The information request phase of the environmental assessment is complete. Technical reports were submitted by parties on June 15th. The developer is expected to submit responses to the Review Board's questions by August 20th. The Review Board will hold public hearings in Whati on August 27th, in Yellowknife on August 29th, and in Behchoko on August 30th and 31st, 2012.

Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003

Status: Developer is expected to respond to parties IRs by late-August, 2012.

This is a proposed open pit gold mine 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery Mine site. In late August 2011, the Review Board issued a number of information requests to the developer related to water quality. IRs have been received. The developer is expected to respond to these IRs by late-August. An updated Project Description is also expected to be submitted in preparation for the future technical meeting.

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

Status: Review Board and parties preparing for public hearings.

The Contaminants and Remediation Directorate of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada 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 and 16 million tonnes of contaminated surface tailings. Parties have submitted their technical reports. Parties will submit hearing presentations by August 22nd, 2012. The public hearing will be held in Yellowknife at the Tree of Peace building September 10th to 14th, 2012. An evening community hearing will take place in Dettah September 11th. Shuttle buses to and from Dettah will be provided. The public hearing's draft agenda is available on the Review Board's website.



Ongoing environmental impact review

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

Status: Developer is responding to the 2nd round of IRs.

The proposed development is a large open-pit diamond mine approximately 280 km northeast of Yellowknife, NT. The Review Board established the Gahcho Kué Panel to evaluate the impacts of this development. De Beers submitted the required technical follow-up reports at the end of June. Parties submitted 2nd round IRs on July 16th, 2012. The due date for De Beers to respond is September 13th, 2012.

Ministers preparing response

Mineral Exploration Program - Encore Renaissance Resources. EA0506-005

Status: Report of EA issued in November 2007. Ministers referred the decision back for further consideration in April 2010. Review Board released Reasons for Decision with modifications to measures in November 2011.

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

Following a public hearing in September 2011, the Review Board further considered the evidence and revised most of its measures. The revisions clarify the responsibilities of government for implementing the measures, as well as the intent and desired outcomes of the measures. The Review Board's recommendation to approve the project with the revised measures was resubmitted to the federal and responsible ministers for acceptance on November 16th, 2011.

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 proposed development 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 federal Minister 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 federal Minister, 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 developer's request. The Review Board is waiting for an update from the developer on the status of the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion project and its best predictions for when the developer will ask the Review Board to resume the environmental assessment.

Changes in Review Board Staff

In July, Nicole Spencer, one of the Review Board's Environmental Assessment Officers, announced she will be taking a new job, but will remain in Yellowknife. Nicole has been with the Review Board for over 4 years. She has been a respected team player within the Review Board's environmental assessment team. Her wonderful smile and presence in the office will be missed by the Review Board members and her colleagues alike. The Review Board wishes Nicole all the best in her new position!



Nicole Spencer



(L-R) Jacey Firth-Hagen, Cailin Maki, and Roxanne Landry.

The Review Board welcomes Roxanne Landry as the permanent Finance and Records Clerk. Roxanne joins the Board with a broad financial background that will complement her new role. We are also pleased to appoint Jacey Firth-Hagen as the temporary Board Secretary. Jacey has recently completed a Social Work Access Certificate and looks forward to the challenges in her position. Cailin Maki has been hired as the Review Board's 2012 Summer Student. Cailin will be working with the EA team until October. She will be convocating from Lakehead University with a Bachelor of Science in December 2012. Welcome to the Review Board team!