



## Happy New Year!

The Mackenzie Valley Review Board would like to wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous new year! We are entering 2012 with much anticipation and optimism. As an organization, the Review Board will continue to pursue its vision of “working together, balancing diverse values and making wise decisions that protect the environment for present and future generations”.

This year, we will continue focusing our efforts on four main goals. These are as follows:

1. A timely environmental assessment process: The Review Board has established a quality process, but now must reduce the length of time an environmental assessment takes. A timely process is the top priority of the Review Board.
2. Effective and efficient board operations: The Review Board will continue to strive to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations within its capacity and funding.
3. Meeting public and stakeholder needs: The Review Board will be implementing tasks that improve its communication with stakeholders and the public.
4. Achieving an effective role within an integrated resource management system: The Review Board believes that by clarifying the roles and responsibilities with respect to Aboriginal consultation, process uncertainty and stakeholder frustration will be significantly reduced.

We are looking forward to working together with our stakeholders to continue making wise decisions which will support quality and timely environmental assessments. I would like to wish you the very best in the New Year!

Sincerely,

-Richard Edjericon, Chairperson



*Richard Edjericon, Chairperson*



## 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: Parties' proposed information requests due January 13th 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. Avalon responded to the Review Board's November 2011 information requests on December 21st, 2011. The deadline for parties' information requests was extended to January 13th, 2012.

### **NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004**

**Status: Review Board preparing for technical sessions February 7 - 9th, 2011.**

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. On December 13th, 2011, Fortune Minerals submitted its responses to the October 2011 information requests. The Review Board is now preparing for technical sessions planned for February 7th-9th, 2011 in Yellowknife.

### **Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003**

**Status: Developer preparing remaining responses to information requests.**

This is a proposed open pit gold mine 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery Mine site. On August 23rd, 2011 the Review Board issued a number of information requests to the developer related to water quality. Tyhee has submitted some information request responses and is preparing the remaining responses.

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

**Status: Developer and applicable parties preparing responses to information requests**

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. In December 2011, the Review Board issued the second round of information requests to the developer and applicable parties. The developer is now preparing its responses.



*Participants at an October 2011 technical session for the Giant Mine Reclamation and Remediation Project working together*



## Recently completed environmental assessments

### **Diamond Exploration - Alex Debogorski EA1112-001**

**Status:** *Report of Environmental Assessment released. Proposed development approved.*

This diamond drilling exploration project is being proposed southeast of Burnt Island on Great Slave Lake, NT in the Drybones Bay area. On January 6th, 2011, the Review Board concluded, pursuant to paragraph 128 (1) (a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, that the proposed development as described in the Report of Environmental Assessment is not likely to have any significant adverse impact on the environment or to be a cause of significant public concern.

### **Prairie Creek Mine - Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002**

**Status:** *Report of Environmental Assessment released. Proposed development approved.*

This is a proposed underground lead-zinc mine in the Mackenzie Mountains within the South Nahanni River watershed, and surrounded by the Nahanni National Park Reserve. On December 8th, 2011, the Review Board concluded, pursuant to paragraph 128 (1) (a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, that the proposed development as described in the Report of Environmental Assessment, including the list of commitments made by the developer during the proceedings, is not likely to have any significant adverse impact on the environment or to be a cause of significant public concern.

## Ongoing environmental impact review

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

**Status:** *Parties preparing proposed information requests*

The proposed development is a large open-pit diamond mine approximately 180 km northeast of Yellowknife, NT. The Review Board established the Gahcho Kué Panel to evaluate the impacts of this development. Parties are now preparing their proposed information requests, which are due January 18th, 2011.

### **Website improvements**

Over the coming months, you will begin to notice changes being made to our website. A recent upgrade already rolled out allows our public registry visitors to view all the documents at once, in chronological order, for a particular assessment without using the search engine.

Now you can simply click the assessment name on the public registry page and then click “see all” next to the total document count at the bottom of the document summary stage list.

Keep visiting our site to see new features, and please let us know what you think. You can email your comments or suggestions to Renita Jenkins: [rjenkins@reviewboard.ca](mailto:rjenkins@reviewboard.ca)



## 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, 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 outlined measures has been resubmitted to the federal and responsible ministers for acceptance.

### **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 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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