



Terminology Workshops

The Review Board's Terminology Workshops are now underway again. Since 2002, the Review Board has held terminology workshops to translate technical terms that are often used in environmental assessments, but these glossaries now require updating.

This year, the focus of the workshops is not to translate new terms, but to edit the existing glossaries to make sure the terms are up to date and every word has an acceptable and understandable definition and translation.

Terminology workshops are a good opportunity for people to learn not only new things about environmental assessment, but also about the land and their language.

Workshops have so far been conducted in the Tlicho (including the Weledeh dialect), Gwich'in, Chipewyan and Sahtu languages. The Dehcho workshop will take place this month.

If you are a certified interpreter or translator and would like to take part in future workshops, please call Jessica at 867-766-7060, toll free at 1-866-912-3472 or email jsimpson@reviewboard.ca before March 15, 2012.



*Participants at the 2011-12 Gwich'in Terminology Workshop
Standing L-R: William Firth, Annie Smith, Karen Mitchell, Eleanor Firth, Jessica Simpson
Sitting L-R: Mary Teya, Bertha Francis, Sarah Jerome*



Ongoing environmental assessments

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

Status: Developer preparing remaining responses to the January 2012 information requests

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. In mid-January 2012, parties submitted their information requests. Avalon Rare Metals has provided some of its information request responses. The developer has indicated its remaining responses will be submitted by early March.

NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

Status: Review Board considering request for second round of information requests

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. The developer has responded to the undertakings arising from the February technical meetings. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the Tlicho Government have requested that the Review Board carry out a second round of information requests to further address some remaining issues related to some key lines of inquiry in the assessment. The Review Board is considering the request and will issue a decision in mid March 2012.

Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003

Status: Developer preparing remaining responses to the August 2011 information requests

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. Tyhee has submitted some of its information request responses. The developer has indicated its remaining responses will be submitted by the end of March 2012.

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

Status: Parties preparing technical reports, due March 16th 2012

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. The Review Board received all the information request responses from the developer and applicable parties. Technical reports are due from the parties by March 16th, 2012.



Ongoing environmental impact review

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

Status: Developer preparing responses to January 2012 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. Information requests were submitted to the developer in mid-January 2012. De Beers is preparing responses to the requests with a projected submission date of March 31, 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.

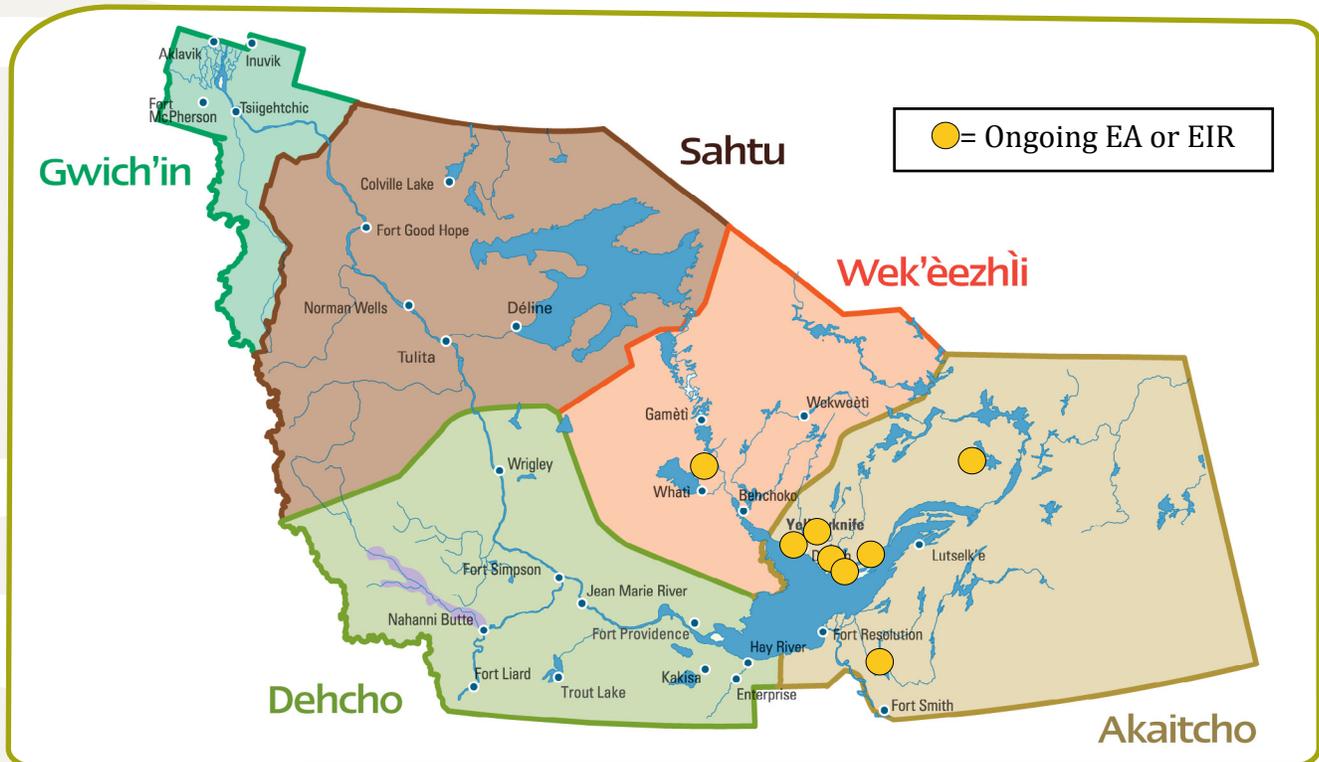


Environmental assessment adjourned

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 has requested the developer provide an update 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 .



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