

## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our File: EA0506-004

May 18, 2005

Tyhee NWT Corp - Yellowknife Gold Project Distribution List

Re: Notice for an Issues Scoping Session for the Environmental Assessment – Tyhee NWT Corp – Yellowknife Gold Project

On May 17, 2005, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB or the "Review Board") met to discuss the recent referral of Tyhee NWT Corp's proposed Yellowknife Gold Project (YGP or the "Development") to environmental assessment (EA). To assist the Review Board in the preparation of its *Terms of Reference and Work Plan* (ToR) for the EA, the Review Board has called for an *Issues Scoping Session* in Yellowknife.

#### Purpose of Scoping Session

The purpose of the scoping session is to offer interested parties an opportunity to identify, discuss and focus the key issues, as presented in the company's Yellowknife Gold Project — Project Description Report, that should be further considered in the Review Board's ToR. The Review Board intends to review the results of the scoping session, as compiled by MVEIRB staff, and will determine which matters should be brought forward in the EA process. A draft Terms of Reference for the EA will be issued shortly thereafter and interested parties will be offered another opportunity to comment before its finalization.

In preparation for the scoping session, the Review Board requests that interested parties carefully examine the *Project Description Report* in order to compile issues, identify information gaps and offer constructive suggestions. The Review Board requests that the interested parties attempt to answer the following question through their examination of the report:

- 1. What issues, in the opinion of the interested parties, are crucial to this environmental assessment?
- 2. Are there issues that may be of secondary importance, or which could be more suitably addressed at a regulatory permitting stage?
- 3. Does Tyhee NWT Corp's Project Description (Section 2.0 of the *Project Description Report*) provide sufficient information regarding the proposed mining activities and mining-support activities to conduct the environment assessment? If no, then what specific information is required to carry out the EA?
- 4. Does Tyhee NWT Corp's Description of the Environment (Section 3.0 of *Project Description Report*) provide sufficient information regarding the receiving environment to accurately assess the Development's potential impacts on the environment? If no, then what specific information is required to carry out the EA?

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- 5. Does Tyhee NWT Corp's Project Description adequately define the geographic and temporal scope in relation to the identified valued components?
- 6. Is there adequate consideration of impacts on the environment that may result from malfunctions or accidents or resulting from cumulative impacts?
- 7. Are there any other significant areas in the *Project Description Report* that the parties believe to be omitted or under-examined, which could play a crucial role in the EA?

### **Proposed Scoping Session Format**

The scoping session format is still tentative; however, the Review Board proposes the following procedure and topic areas.

Following introductions, the scoping session will commence with representatives of Tyhee NWT Corp giving a brief overview of the proposed Development. Following the presentation, the scoping session will be divided into the following environmental component categories:

- I. Air quality/Noise
- 2. Water Quality
- 3. Fish and Fish Habitat
- 4. Wildlife
- 5. Vegetation
- 6. Socio-Economic Issues
- 7. Archeological/Cultural/Heritage Resources
- 8. Other Issues (interested parties to identify)

For each component listed, representatives of Tyhee NWT Corp will be invited to briefly present the aspects of the Development that they have identified as potentially impacting the environmental component in question. The discussion will also require Tyhee NWT Corp representatives to describe, in general terms, the baseline work that has been, or will be conducted.

Following each of the presentations, all attendees will have an opportunity to state concerns, identify information gaps and ask questions. The Review Board wishes to promote an open and positive dialogue so that it can obtain the best possible information from the scoping sessions in order to develop its ToR. The Review Board encourages suggestions from interested parties regarding its proposed procedure and will attempt to use them where possible.

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### **Scoping Session Logistics**

It is anticipated the scoping session will require one day. The scoping session will be open to all interested persons and parties who intend to participate in the EA. The scoping session will be facilitated by MVEIRB staff; Review Board members will not be present. While meeting notes will be taken by MVEIRB staff, participants are welcome and encouraged to submit written comments on specific areas of concern at the time of scoping session, or shortly thereafter.

The Review Board proposes that the scoping session be held in Yellowknife on either the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> of June. **Interested parties are requested to contact Patrick Duxbury by May 26<sup>th</sup> as to their preference.** In the event that there are significant issues with interested parties being able to participate at this time, then the Review Board will consider rescheduling. A specific location has not yet been established, but interested parties will informed via the YGP EA distribution list.

Correspondence related to this environmental assessment should be directed to:

Patrick Duxbury, Environmental Assessment Officer,

phone: (867)-766-7062,

Fax: (867) 766-7074

Email: pduxbury@mveirb.nt.ca.

The MVEIRB office can also provide electronic copies of the *Project Description Report* on request.

Yours truly

Mary Tapsell

Manager, Environmental Assessment