



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

ISSUES SCOPING

for the environmental assessment of

Avalon Rare Metals Inc.'s Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project EA1011-001

Chief LaMalice Complex
Hay River Reserve, Northwest Territories
October 25th/26th 2010

Monday, October 25th

- 10:00 am Prayer and opening remarks
- 10:15 am Introduction to environmental assessment – Review Board staff
- 10:40 am Project outline – Avalon Rare Metals Inc.
- 11:30 am Environmental overview – Avalon Rare Metals Inc.
- 12:00 pm *Lunch (provided)*
- 12:45 pm Environmental overview – Avalon Rare Metals Inc. (continued)
- 1:45 pm General discussion
- 2:30 pm *Break - snacks provided*
- 2:45 pm Continue with discussion
- 5:00 pm *Dinner (provided)*
- 5:45 pm Recap and general discussion
- 8:00 pm *Break - snacks provided*
- 8:15 pm Continue with discussion
- 9:00 pm Closing prayer



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Tuesday, October 26th

- 9:00 am Prayer and opening remarks
- 9:15 am Introduction to environmental assessment – Review Board staff
- 9:30 am Project outline – Avalon Rare Metals Inc.
- 10:30 am *Break - snacks provided*
- 10:45 am Environmental overview – Avalon Rare Metals Inc.
- 11:00 am General discussion
- 12:00 pm *Lunch (provided)*
- 12:45 pm Continue with general discussion
- 2:00 pm *Break - snacks provided*
- 2:15 pm Continue with discussion
- 3:00 pm Closing remarks and prayer
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Cards:

To better understand your concerns, Review Board staff will summarize your main points on a flash card and place the card on a wall under an appropriate category. Participants at the scoping sessions are welcome to write their own concerns on available cards and place the card on the wall. These cards can remain anonymous if desired. Review Board staff will collect and review the cards after the scoping session.

What is an “issues scoping session”?

Scoping is one of the first steps in environmental assessment. During issues scoping sessions, interested groups and members of the public share their views about what issues and outstanding questions the Review Board should learn more about throughout the rest of the environmental assessment.

By knowing early on what the most important issues are, the Review Board can develop a focused *Terms of Reference* and a workplan to make solid environmental impact assessment decisions.



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Throughout the scoping phase, your questions might not be answered right away. Scoping sessions are an opportunity to bring up questions that you think the Review Board should ask the developer during the environmental assessment. The answers may come later in the *Developer's Assessment Report*, the report which describes the developer's predictions of impacts in more detail.

What will happen in this scoping session today?

The Review Board would like to know what you think is important to focus on when examining the potential impacts of Avalon Rare Metals Inc.'s proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project. You can bring up any issue about the mine and the interaction between the following topics that you think is relevant to the environmental assessment, such as:

- ❖ fish and aquatic life;
- ❖ water;
- ❖ wildlife;
- ❖ community wellness;
- ❖ socio-economics of the region;
- ❖ cumulative effects;
- ❖ air quality; and
- ❖ traditional knowledge.

To make sure that everyone is familiar with the environmental assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Review Board staff will briefly describe this process. After, the developer will describe their project. They will describe what already exists at the site, what they propose to do, how they will do that, and what potential impacts might occur. The rest of the time is for interested parties to ask questions that clarify what the developer proposes and to provide comments.

What happens after the scoping session?

Scoping meetings are more about identifying the issues than resolving them. After issues scoping, the Review Board will write a *Terms of Reference*, which specifies what information the developer must provide in its *Developers Assessment Report*. A workplan accompanies each *Terms of Reference* to clarify the environmental assessment process and estimate how long each step will take. These two documents are based on the issues brought up during issues scoping sessions.

Where can I find more information?

For a more thorough description of the environmental assessment process, please see the Review Board tutorial at http://www.reviewboard.ca/review_board_101 and other documents in the Review Board's reference library: http://www.reviewboard.ca/reference_lib/. For more information on the Nechalacho Rare Earth Element Project, please see the Review Board's public registry at: <http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>.

For any questions, please contact **Paul Mercredi**, Environmental Assessment Officer by phone at (867) 766-7063 [toll-free at 1-866-912-3472] or by e-mail at pmercredi@reviewboard.ca.