



Review Board announces Panel Members for the DeBeers Gahcho Kué Environmental Impact Review

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YELLOWKNIFE—The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) is pleased to announce that it has appointed seven people to the Review Panel for the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) of De Beers Canada's proposed Gahcho Kué diamond mine.

The EIR Panel includes the following members of the Review Board:

- Chairperson Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
- John Stevenson
- Nora Doig
- Richard Edjericon
- John Ondrack

In addition to those appointees, the Review Board appointed long-time northerners Darryl Bohnet and Lesley Allen to serve on the EIR panel.

A Métis from the South Slave, Mr. Bohnet retired recently from Diavik Diamond Mines where he served as the Vice-President, Community Affairs from 2000 to 2007. Before joining Diavik, Mr. Bohnet had a long and distinguished career with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Ms. Allen is a long-time northerner who's dedicated her career to improving educational and training opportunities for northerners. Currently, Ms. Allen is pursuing a PhD in education. Before this, she was the Assistant Deputy Minister for the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

"The Review Board and the new Environmental Impact Review Panel are anxious to begin the EIR of Gahcho Kué diamond mine," says Chairperson Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott. "The Review Panel has a lot of work to do over the next two years."

The Review Board considered the following important when deciding on the composition of the Panel:

- A core group of Panel members experienced in conducting environmental impact assessments
- At least one appointee drawn from each of the potentially affected aboriginal groups including the Akaitcho Treaty Eight First Nations, the Tlicho and the Métis
- An EIR Panel composition reflecting the existing co-management structure of the Review Board
- At least one member with expertise related to social impact assessment

The Review Board ordered De Beers' proposed Gahcho Kué diamond mine to an EIR in June 2006 after concluding that the proposed development was likely to cause significant public concern. The Judicial Review in the NWT Supreme Court rendered its decision on April 2, 2007 and upheld the Review Board's decision to order this proposed development to an EIR.

EIR is the highest level of environmental impact assessment in the Mackenzie Valley. An EIR is a comprehensive examination of a proposed development: an EIR provides for a more focused study of issues that were raised during the environmental assessment.

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