

Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



Annual Report 2014-2015



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Our mission

To conduct independent, fair and timely environmental impact assessments in the Mackenzie Valley that protect the environment, including the social, economic, and cultural well-being of its residents.

Our vision

Working together, balancing diverse values and making wise decisions that protect the environment for present and future generations.

Our values

We value:

- relationships based on mutual respect, trust, and honesty;
- acting with integrity, objectivity, and fairness;
- accountability, quality, and efficiency in our work;
- consensus decision-making and teamwork;
- transparency, accessibility, and openness in our processes;
- the diversity of the Mackenzie Valley;
- learning as an organization; and
- continual improvement through innovation and adaptation.

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Message from the Chairperson



JoAnne Deneron,
Chairperson of the Review Board

The 2014/15 fiscal year marked the 16th year of operation for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board). It was another big year for the Review Board.

Consistent with the overall mandate of the Review Board, managing environmental assessments (EAs) was the core work of the Board during the 2014/15 fiscal year. The Review Board managed active EAs of developments proposed for many different areas of the territory: from the Mackenzie Mountains along the Yukon Border, to the central Mackenzie Valley, the Yellowknife area, and the barrenlands. Of the nine active EAs in 2014/15: two reports of EA were adopted by the Minister (Giant Mine and Snap Lake); one was withdrawn by the developer; the Review Board cancelled two outdated EAs at the request of the Minister; and four EAs continued into 2015/16.

In February 2015, the Review Board undertook a review and update of their Strategic Plan. The Board's primary goal is unchanged: "timely, effective, and evidence-based environmental impact assessment." With an internal goal of ongoing improvement, and the need to respond to legislative amendments, the Review Board went beyond our core work to undertake several initiatives to enhance the EA process in the Mackenzie Valley. This ongoing work aligns with a key objective identified in last year's annual report (2013/14): to update the Review Board's processes and guidelines to effectively implement the amended *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). Of the recent MVRMA amendments, the most significant for

the Review Board is the setting of timelines for environmental assessments (EAs) and environmental impact reviews. To address the timelines, we began work on an online tracking tool and began notifying parties when EA milestones are reached. The Review Board also adjusted some of its own process enhancements to ensure they fit well within legislated timelines and address both effectiveness and timeliness. Significant process enhancements initiated by the Review Board during 2014/15 include: instituting "developer's proposed terms of reference"; adopting the Mackenzie Valley land and water Boards' Online Review System; instituting an adequacy check of the developer's assessment report (i.e. going beyond basic conformity); and issuing reasons for decision throughout the EA process. Several other process enhancements and policy initiatives are anticipated for 2015/16.

We have a strong Board with a solid vision and goals for where we need to go as an organization. We welcomed three new Board members during the fiscal year: Kirby Marshall, Yvonne Doolittle, and Bertha Norwegian. None of our Board members terms ended during the fiscal year, but as always, I want to acknowledge the significant contributions of all former Board members and chairpersons. I am honoured to be the Chairperson of the Review Board, and, having completed the first year of my appointment, I look forward to the challenges that lay ahead.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent staff of the Review Board. Their knowledge, dedication, and hard work have been vital to the Review Board's success. Together, the Board and staff are committed to the continued success of the Review Board.

Sincerely,
Joanne Deneron
Chairperson

About the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is a co-management board responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley.

In 1998, the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (the *Act*) established the Review Board as an independent administrative tribunal. Although the federal government enacted this piece of legislation, the *Act* arose from land claim negotiations between Aboriginal groups in the Northwest Territories and the federal and territorial governments. As a result, the *Act* gives Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley a greater say in resource development and management.

The Review Board's vision is: "working together, balancing diverse values and making wise decisions that protect the environment for present and future generations."

Board membership

The Review Board consists of nine members appointed by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The chairperson is typically appointed on the nomination of the Review Board, whereas the eight regular Board members are appointed in equal numbers from nominees submitted by government (federal and territorial) and Aboriginal land claimant organizations. As a result, the Review Board is a co-management board with an equal number of members from Aboriginal land claimant organizations and from both levels of government.

There were three appointments made to the Review Board in the 2014-15 fiscal years:

Kirby Marshall (Yellowknife) was nominated by the territorial government and was appointed to the Review Board in April, 2014.

Yvonne Doolittle (Yellowknife) was nominated by the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and was appointed to the Review Board in May, 2014.

Bertha Norwegian (Fort Simpson) was nominated by the Deh

Cho First Nation and was appointed to the Review Board in October, 2014.

As of March 31 2015, there is one vacant position on the Review Board: the Gwich'in nominated position, vacant since March 2011 after the expiry of Mr. Fred Koe's term.

The Review Board continues to work with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to ensure the Review Board vacancies do not give rise to quorum issues, which could delay board business.

As of March 31, 2015, five of the board members are Aboriginal, and three are long-time northerners.

The members are:

JoAnne Deneron, Chairperson

John Curran, (Federal nominee)

Michael McLeod (Territorial nominee)

Sunny Munroe, (Federal nominee)

James Wah-Shee (Tlicho nominee)

Kirby Marshall (Territorial nominee)

Yvonne Doolittle (Sahtu nominee)

Bertha Norwegian (Deh Cho nominee)

Review Board Staff

In 2014-15, there were a few staffing changes at the Review Board office. Chris Rose was hired as the Environmental Assessment Policy Advisor in February, 2015. Kate Mansfield was hired as an Environmental Assessment Officer in March, 2015.

Review Board Members as of March 31, 2014



John Curran



Chairperson JoAnne Deneron



Yvonne Doolittle



Kirby Marshall



Michael McLeod



Sunny Munroe



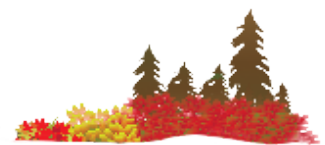
Bertha Norwegian



James Wah-Shee



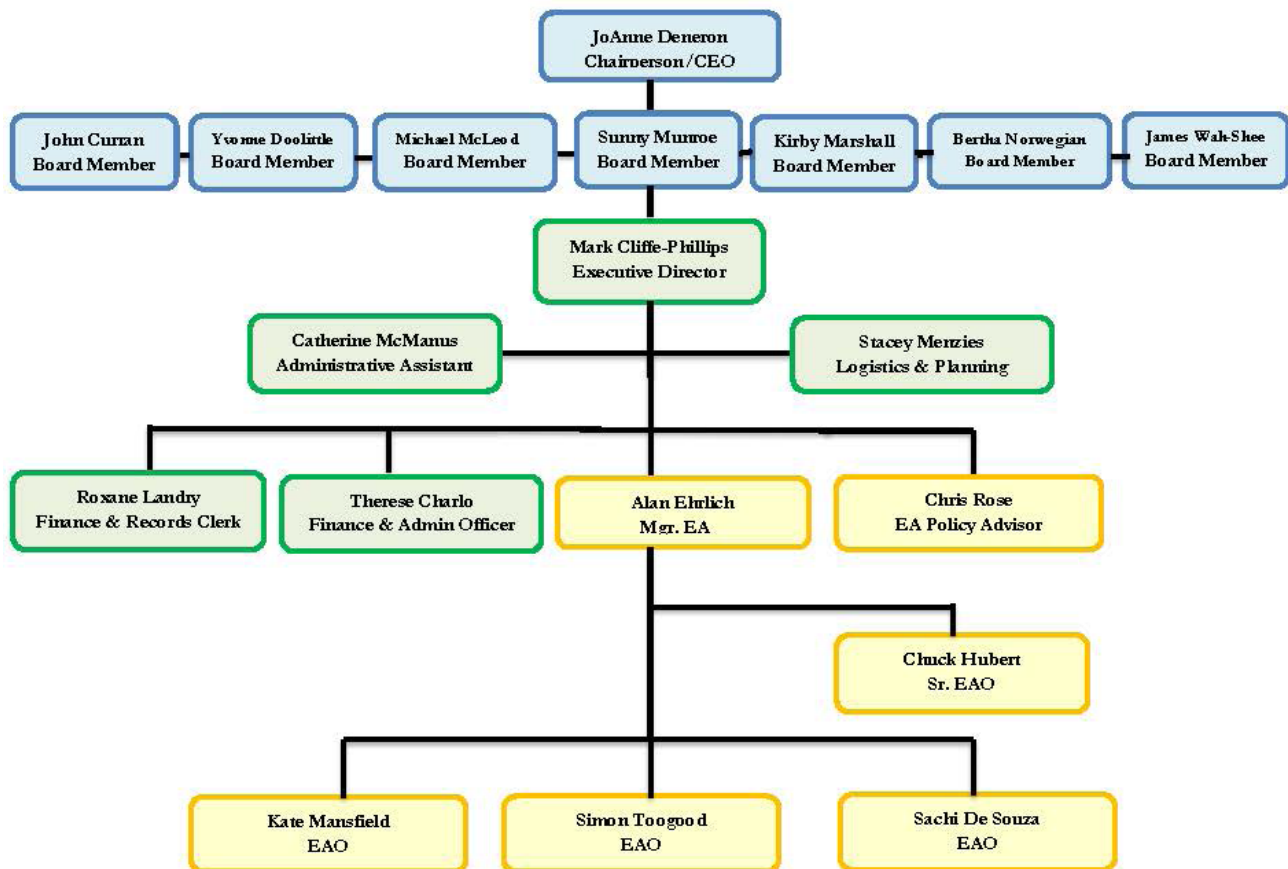
Review Board staff: Back row, L-R Chris Rose, Sachi DeSouza, Simon Toogood, Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Alan Ehrlich, Therese Charlo, Chuck Hubert. Front Row, L-R Kate Mansfield, Stacey Menzies, Catherine McManus, Roxane Landry, Ruari Carthew (Post April 1).



Mackenzie Valley Review Board



Organization Chart



EA= environmental assessment
EAO= Environmental Assessment Officer

Environmental impact assessment and regulatory process

There are three stages in the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley.

1. Preliminary screening

All proposed developments that require a license, permit, or other authorization must apply and go through a preliminary screening. A land and water board, such as the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, a regional panel of the Land and Water Board or other regulating authority, usually runs this process. Preliminary screening is a quick review of a proposed development to decide if it might have significant adverse impacts on the environment, or might cause public concern. If so, the application is referred to the second stage – environmental assessment. If not, then the application can be sent to the regulator for permitting and licensing.

2. Environmental assessment

Only a small number—less than 5%—of proposed developments must go through an environmental assessment, which is a more thorough study of a proposed development to decide if it is likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment, or likely to be a cause of public concern. Upon completion of the environmental assessment, the Review Board sends its Reasons for Decision to the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and other responsible ministers, along with one of the following:

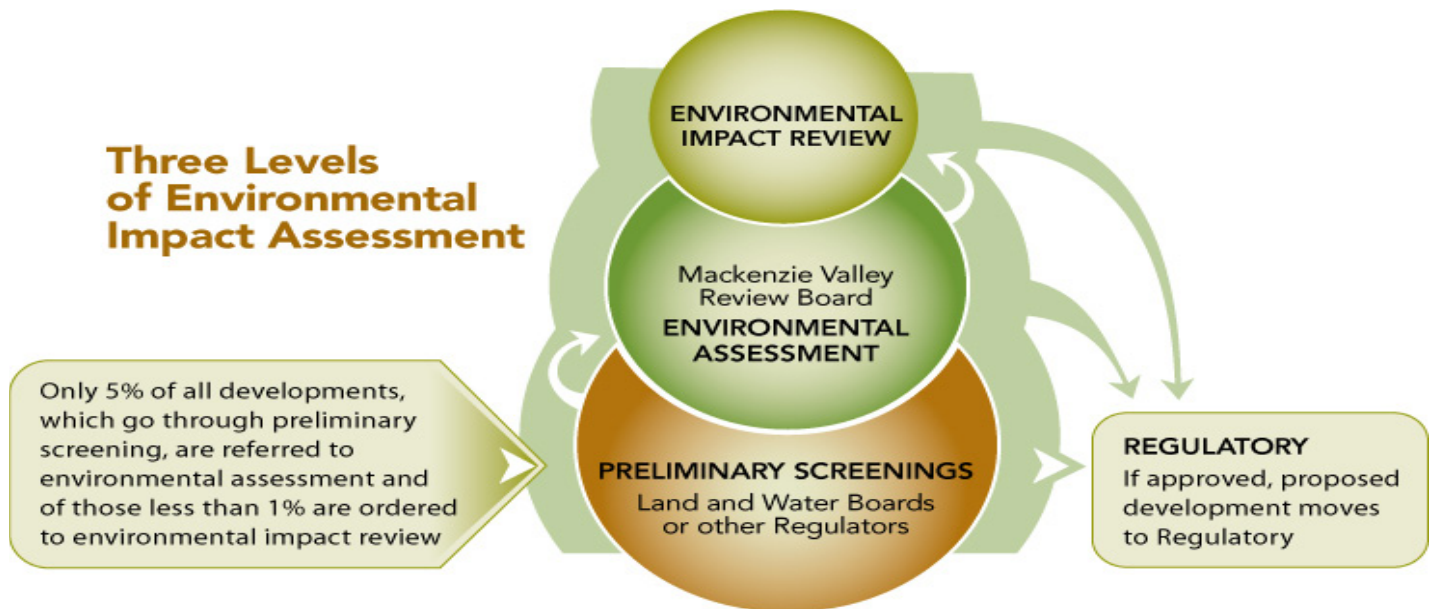
- a) a decision that the project can proceed to regulatory permitting and licensing as is; or
- b) a recommendation that the project proceed to regulatory permitting and licensing provided certain mitigation measures are put in place; or
- c) a recommendation that the project be rejected.

Alternatively, if the Review Board decides, based on the evidence presented during an assessment, that a proposed development is likely to have significant impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern, the Review Board may order an environmental impact review.

3. Environmental impact review

An environmental impact review follows an environmental assessment when the Review Board or the federal and responsible ministers deem a more comprehensive examination of a proposed development is needed. An independent panel runs the impact review. The panel may consist of both Review Board members and non-Review Board members, all appointed by the Review Board. The environmental impact review provides a more rigorous study of the issues raised during the environmental assessment.

Three Levels of Environmental Impact Assessment



Preliminary screenings

The Review Board reviewed 25 preliminary screenings in the 2014-15 operating year. This year saw the lowest number of preliminary screenings since the Review Board was formed in 1999. However, this number does not include developments that did not require a preliminary screening, such as renewals of permits and licenses. There is no major distribution among the various types of projects that include: quarrying, mineral exploration, oil and gas exploration, transportation, remediation, forestry, and communications. As in previous years, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board conducted the majority (50%) of the preliminary screenings. The other land and water boards conducted 32% and Parks Canada accounted for 16%.

Environmental assessments and impact reviews summary

The table below provides an overview of the status of environmental assessments and environmental impact reviews at the beginning and the end of the reporting period.

Environmental assessment	Referred	Status at April 1, 2014	Status at March 31, 2015	Notes
EA1415-02 Huskey Oil Operation Limited Chedabucto Mineral Exploration Project	February 13, 2015		The Review Board issued a Proposed Scoping Document and is awaiting comments.	
EA1314-02 DeBeers Canada Inc Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment	January 22, 2014	Reasons for Decision on scope of assessment issued March 28, 2014	EA completed and file closed..	Review Board issues Report of EA September 5, 2014. Minister of GNWT, Lands adopts the Review Board recommendation to approve subject to implementation of the measures and the developer's commitments contained in the Report of EA.
EA1314-01 Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation Jay Project	November 21, 2013	Board issues Terms of Reference February 21, 2014	Dominion Diamond preparing responses to first round information requests and technical sessions scheduled for April, 2015.	Review Board determines Developer's Assessment Report adequate for review February, 2015. First round of information requests submitted by Review Board and parties February, 2015.
EA1213-002 Department of Transportation- Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (Wrigley to Norman Wells)	February 8, 2013	Board issues original Terms of Reference December 23, 2013.	GNWT preparing Developer's Assessment Report. for revised highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells.	Revised project description submitted August, 2014 altering the scope of development to a highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells. Review Board issues revised Terms of Reference February 13, 2015.
EA1415-01 Canadian Zinc Corporation- Prairie Creek All Season Road and Airstrip	May 22, 2014		Canadian Zinc Corp. preparing Developer's Assessment Report.	Terms of Reference issued September 12, 2014.

Environmental assessment	Referred	Status at April 1, 2014	Status at March 31, 2015	Notes
EA0809-003: Yellowknife Gold Project – Tyhee NWT Corporation	September 2008	Developer preparing updated project description and responses to information requests .	EA suspended until the developer provides the information requested .	Board issued letter July 25, 2013 suspending EA until developer provides requested information Last communication from developer to the Board received August 19, 2013.
EA0809-001: Giant Mine Reclamation and Remediation Project – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	April 2008	Consult to modify process in February, 2014. The Review Board responded to the Minister on modifications on measures.	Minister adopts the Report of EA with modifications to measures as described in correspondence dated August 11, 2014 .	The Board released the Report of EA on June 20, 2013, and participated in the consult-to-modify process in January and February, 2014.
EA0506-005: Mineral Exploration Program – Encore Renaissance Resources Corp. (formerly Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc)	September 2005	On April 1, the Minister advised the Review Board that the project is no longer an eligible application as the mineral claims have lapsed. Minister asks the Review Board to cancel and close this EA.	On June 4, 2014 the Review Board cancelled this EA and closed the file.	Review Board issued Report of EA in November 2007. At the request of the ministers, the Review Board further considered some of its measures, and released a Reasons for Decision in November 2011..
EA0506-006: Mineral Exploration Program – Sidon International Resources Corp.	September 2005	On April 1, the Minister advised the Review Board that the project is no longer an eligible application as the mineral claims have lapsed. Minister asks the Review Board to cancel and close this EA.	On June 4, 2014 the Review Board cancelled this EA and closed the file.	Review Board issued Report of EA in February 2008. In May 2010, the federal and responsible ministers indicated they required more time to review the Review Board's report.

Ongoing environmental assessments

The following environmental assessment status updates are provided as of March 31, 2014.

EA1415-02: Chedabucto Mineral Exploration Project- Husky Oil Operations Limited

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=947

The Chedabucto Mineral Exploration Project was referred by the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board to the Review Board on February 13, 2015. The developer for this project is Husky Oil Operations Limited. The referral was based on public concern. The purpose of the project is to evaluate a potential deposit of high quality silica sand located adjacent to the southwestern shore of the north arm of the Great Slave Lake, approximately 50km west of Yellowknife. The area is known as Whitebeach Point. On March 16, 2015 the Review Board issued a Proposed Scoping Document and asked reviewers to submit information requests.



Scoping sessions take place in Nahanni Butte for the Prairie Creek All-Season Road and Airstrip.

EA1415-01: Prairie Creek All-Season Road and Airstrip- Canadian Zinc

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_d=680

The Prairie Creek All-Season Road and Airstrip was referred to environmental assessment on May 22, 2014. The developer is Canadian Zinc Corporation (CanZinc). CanZinc proposed to develop an all season road to access the Prairie Creek Mine. The Prairie Creek mine is surrounded by the Nahanni National Park Reserve. Approximately half of the proposed road would be within the National Park and the other half on territorial lands. The project also included a proposed airstrip to assist with the construction activities for the all season road and to act as a back-up airstrip for mining operations. The Prairie Creek Mine was assessed in 2008 (EA0809-01) and this environmental assessment included the construction and operation of a winter road to access the mine. The Board conducted its scoping sessions for the project in June and July 2014 and issued a final Terms of Reference on September 12, 2014. Since September, Canadian Zinc has been working on its Developer's Assessment Report.

EA1314--001: Jay- Project – Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation

http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=674

The Jay Project is an expansion of the existing Ekati Diamond Mine and consists of a proposed open pit at Lac du Sauvage. The project was referred to environmental assessment on November 21, 2013. The developer is Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation.

The Board issued its Terms of Reference for the Jay-Cardinal Project on February 21, 2014. In June of 2014, Dominion Diamond revised the scope of development to include only the Jay open pit and remove the Cardinal pit from the project. Accordingly, the Review Board issued a revised Terms of Reference for the Jay Project in July 2014. Dominion Diamond submitted its Developer's Assessment Report on November 6, 2014.

The Review Board conducted an adequacy review of the Developer's Assessment Report to ensure that it met the requirements of the Terms of Reference. On November 28 the Review Board submitted a letter to Dominion Diamond requiring responses to items in Terms of Reference that the Developer's

Assessment Report did adequately answer. Dominion responded to these adequacy review items and the Review Board determines that the Developer's Assessment Report was considered adequate for review on February 13, 2015.

Parties began review of the Developer's Assessment Report in December 2014 and the Review Board and parties submitted first round information requests on February 23, 2015. Dominion Diamond began preparing responses to the information requests and technical sessions were scheduled for April.



Review Board staff facilitating the Jay Project technical sessions in Yellowknife.

EA1213-002: Mackenzie Valley Highway – Government of the Northwest Territories

http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=672

The Mackenzie Valley Highway was referred to environmental assessment in February, 2013. The Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to construct and operate the Mackenzie Valley Highway as an 818 km all-weather road from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway south of Inuvik. The Review Board held issue scoping meetings along the highway route in the communities of Wrigley, Tulita, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Inuvik in September, 2013. The Review Board issued its Terms of Reference for the proposed highway on December 23, 2013.

In August of 2014, the Government of the Northwest Territories submitted a revised project description reducing the length of the proposed highway and altering the scope of development. The revised project proposes an all-weather highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells. The Review Board issued its revised Terms of Reference for the portion of the highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells on February 13, 2015. The developer is preparing its Developer's Assessment Report.

EA0809-003: Tyhee NWT Corp. – Yellowknife Gold Project (2008)

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=71

The Yellowknife Gold Project is a proposed open pit gold mine located 88 kilometers northeast of Yellowknife and is adjacent to the historic Discovery Mine site. In August of 2012, the developer advised the Review Board that changes to the project description were contemplated and indicated that a revised project description and responses to information requests would be submitted.

In June 2013, the developer advised the Review Board that it required additional time to prepare an updated project description and respond to information requests from parties and the Review Board. On July 25, 2013 the Review Board advised the developer that failure to provide the required information within one month would result in suspension of the EA. The developer responded on August 19, 2013 that it was unable to provide the information as requested. The Yellowknife Gold Project is therefore suspended until further notice.

Environmental assessments completed and closed in 2014-15

EA1314-002: Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment – De Beers Canada Inc.

http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=675

This environmental assessment evaluates an amendment to the Snap Lake Mine Water Licence. The amendment includes a request by the developer to increase the level of total dissolved solids that can be discharged from the mine into Snap Lake above the limit set out in measures from the original Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision for the Snap Lake Project, in 2003. The request by the developer to amend the water licence was referred to environmental assessment on January 22, 2014. The developer is De Beers Canada Inc.

The Review Board described a limited scope for this environmental assessment in its draft scoping document on February 24, 2014. The scope of assessment includes only water licence amendments related to total dissolved solids and its constituents because those water licence amendments exceed binding measures from 2003 Report of EA. Technical sessions were held in mid-April, 2014 and a public hearing took place on June 5-6, 2014. The Report of EA was submitted to the GNWT Minister of Lands on September 5, 2014. The Report recommended that the development be allowed to proceed to

the regulatory phase of approvals subject to implementation of the measures described which are necessary to prevent significant impacts on the environment. The Minister agreed to adopt the Review Board recommendation that the development be approved subject to the implementation of the measures and developer's commitments contained in the Report. The measures in the Report of EA are as follows:

Measure 1: To prevent significant impacts from Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), and its constituent ions of concern, from the Snap Lake mine on water quality, traditional uses and the aquatic ecosystem in Snap Lake and downstream, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board will set numerical Site Specific Water Quality Objectives for TDS and constituent ions of concern to apply during mine operations, closure and post closure. The numeric Site Specific Water Quality Objectives will ensure that the following objectives are met:

- a. The aquatic ecosystem is protected so that fish populations and fish species composition are not adversely affected compared to pre-mining conditions;
- b. Water in Snap Lake is safe to drink according to the health-based standards of Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (August 2012 edition);
- c. Fish are safe to eat in Snap Lake and downstream; and,
- d. No Total Dissolved Solids or its constituent ions from the Snap Lake mine effluent will be detectable, relative to the range of natural variability, at the inlet to Mackay Lake, 44 km downstream of Snap Lake.



The Board sits for the Snap Lake Water License Amendment Public Hearing, June 2015.

In implementing this measure the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board will consider the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) 2003 *Guidance on the Site-Specific Application of Water Quality Guidelines in Canada: Procedures for Deriving Numerical Water Quality Objectives, or any update*.

Measure 2: In order to prevent significant adverse impacts, including to traditional uses, in Snap Lake and downstream, De Beers will implement additional water treatment, or other mitigations, to reduce the concentration and loading of TDS and its constituent ions of concern to Snap Lake as approved by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. The mitigation implemented by De Beers will achieve the numerical Site Specific Water Quality Objectives, and associated Effluent Quality Criteria, set by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board which meet the objectives of Measure 1.

The project then proceeded to the regulatory phase.

Completed environmental assessments under further consideration in 2014-15

The following environmental assessment status updates are provided as of March 31, 2015.

EA0809-001: Giant Mine Remediation Directorate, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development – Giant Mine Remediation

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=69

This is a proposed development to remediate the Giant Mine site, located within the City of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground and the remediation of 13.5 million tonnes of contaminated tailings covering an area of 51 hectares. It was referred to the Review Board by the City of Yellowknife.

The majority of this environmental assessment, including the entire analytical and hearing phases, was completed by early October 2012, and the Review Board began its deliberations and drafting the Report of Environmental Assessment. The Review Board re-opened the record in February and March of 2013 for an additional information request regarding water treatment.

On June 20, 2013, the Review Board released the Report of Environmental Assessment. It contained 26 measures. These require that the project proceed as an interim solution for a maximum of 100 years instead of for perpetuity; that there be ongoing funded research into a better permanent solution; that there be an independent monitoring body; improved risk assessment and human health assessment; and, improved water treatment and management.

On December 23, 2013, the federal Minister initiated a consult-to-modify process, to modify certain measures from the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. Following a working meeting with the parties, the parties submitted their comments on the Ministers' suggested modifications to the measures. The Review Board considered comments and submitted its response to the Minister of AANDC on February 12, 2014.

The Minister adopted the Report of EA with the Review Board's modifications to measures as described in correspondence dated August 11, 2014.

EA0506-005: Encore Renaissance Resources Corp. (formerly Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc.) - Mineral Exploration Program

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=5

In September, 2005, the Review Board referred this proposed diamond exploration development to environmental assessment because the proposed development might be a cause of public concern. The Review Board requested a detailed development description and issued information requests to Consolidated Goldwin Ventures rather than require the completion of a Developer's Assessment Report. Consolidated Goldwin Ventures provided responses in November, 2006. The Review Board held a public hearing in Yellowknife April 3-4, 2007.

This is a complex assessment with many difficult issues, largely related to the culturally sensitive location of the proposed activities. The issues include cultural impacts on the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, access issues and cumulative impacts arising in part from the proximity of the City of Yellowknife. After careful deliberation, the Review Board released its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision in late November 2007. The Review Board prescribes measures that included access by helicopter only, no construction of the new winter road proposed by the developer, and planning for the area with the input of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to reflect its values for the area. The Review Board recommended the federal Minister allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase only with these measures to avoid or reduce the predicted impacts.

On April 21, 2010 the federal and responsible ministers referred the development back to the Review Board to further consider the measures. The Review Board sent a letter advising the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that the Review Board no longer had quorum for this particular assessment and a response was received in later 2010. The Review Board then canvassed parties to the assessment to decide on the fairest way to proceed with the assessment using the current Review Board members.

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 original 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 16, 2011.

On April 1, the Minister advised the Review Board that the project is no longer an eligible application as the mineral claims have lapsed. The Minister therefore asked the Review Board to cancel and close this EA. On June 4, 2014 the Review Board cancelled this EA and the file was closed.

EA0506-006: Sidon International Resources Corp. - Mineral Exploration Program

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=22

This diamond exploration program was proposed near Defeat Lake, inland of the north shore of Great Slave Lake. In September 2005, the Review Board referred this proposed diamond exploration development to environmental assessment because the proposed development might be a cause of public concern. The Review Board ran the environmental assessment concurrently with EA0506-005, Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. – Mineral Exploration Program. The Review Board requested a detailed development description and issued information requests to Sidon International Resources Corp. rather than require the completion of a Developer's Assessment Report. Sidon International Resources Corp. provided responses in November 2006. A public hearing was subsequently held in Yellowknife on April 3-4, 2007.

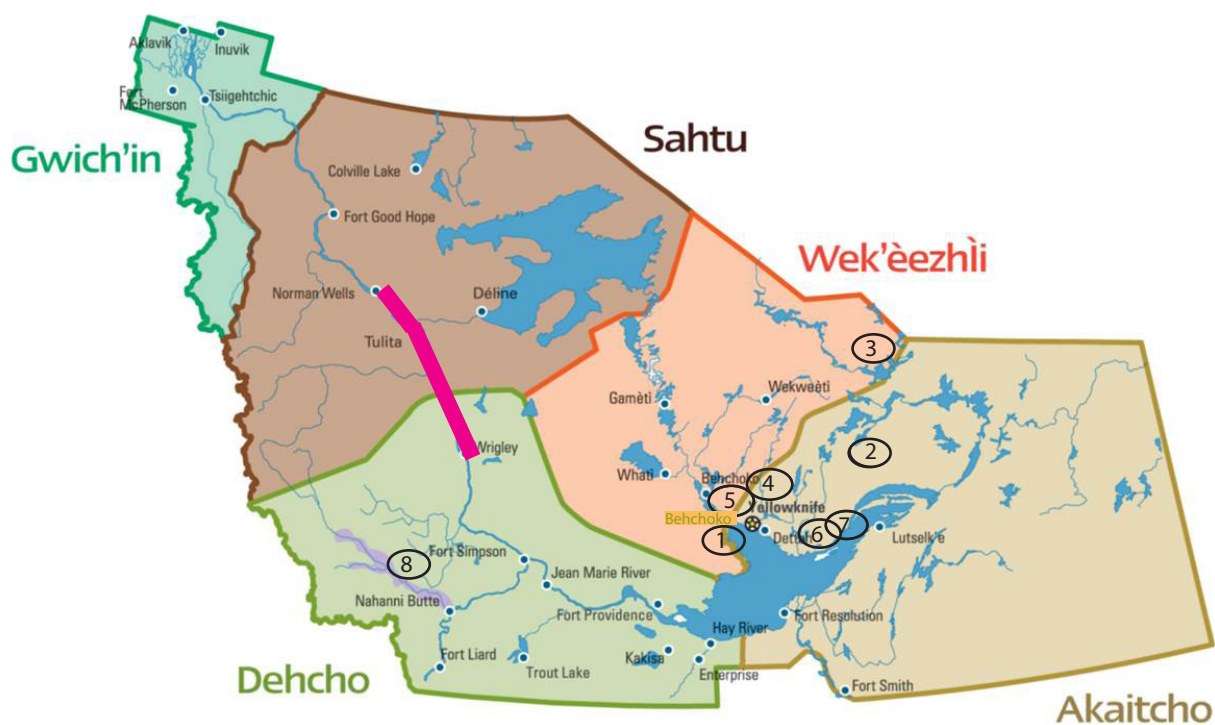
Key issues in this environmental assessment included potential cultural impacts from disturbance to unrecorded heritage sites, disturbance of traditional harvesters, and impacts arising from increased access.

In early February 2008, the Review Board recommended that the federal and responsible ministers allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision. These measures are designed to avoid or reduce the predicted impacts and they require Sidon International Resources Corp. to investigate potential sites with an Aboriginal elder and an archaeologist, to conduct no activities within 100 meters of suspected sites, and to use helicopter access only in order to prevent the creation of new overland access routes. In May 2010, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development advised the Review Board that the federal and responsible ministers needed more time to review the Review Board's report. As of March 31, 2012, the Minister's office was still preparing its response.

On April 1, the Minister advised the Review Board that the project is no longer an eligible application as the mineral claims have lapsed. The Minister therefore asked the Review Board to cancel and close this EA. On June 4, 2014 the Review Board cancelled this EA and the file was closed.

Map of Environmental Assessments 2014-15

- EA 1213-002: Mackenzie Valley Highway Project- GNWT Department of Transportation
- 1 EA 1415-02: Chedabucto Mineral Exploration Project- Huskey Oil Operations Limited
- 2 EA 1314-02: Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment- DeBeers Canada Inc.
- 3 EA 1314-01: Jay Cardinal Project- Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation
- 4 EA 0809-003: Yellowknife Gold Project-Tyhee NWT Corporation
- 5 EA 0809-001: Giant Mine Reclamation and Remediation Project- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- 6 EA 0506-005: Mineral Exploration Program-Encore Renaissance Resources Corp. (formerly Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc)
- 7 EA 0506-006: Mineral Exploration Program- Sidon International Resources Corp.
- 8 EA 1415-01: Prairie Creek All Season Road and Airstrip- Canadian Zinc Corporation



Note: Graphics are not to scale and represent approximate locations.

Funding arrangements

Every year, the Review Board develops a work plan submission for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada which describes the Review Board's plans and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, and identifies the human and financial resources required to carry out those activities. This provides the foundation for the funding agreements that the Review Board reaches with the department.

Fiscal Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-2015
Prior Fiscal Years 1							
Core	2,479,947	2,513,599	2,567,390	2,596,590	2,648,252	2,790,727	2,731,836
Supplementary Funding	500,000	N/A	N/A	559,103	155,000	NA	NA
Deferred Contribution	614,182	750,000	683,896	119,564	263,410	NA	121,536
Total (\$)	3,594,129	3,263,599	3,251,286	3,275,257	3,066,662	2,790,727	2,853,372

Note that the funding levels shown do not include funding provided in support of the Joint Review of the Mackenzie Gas Project, the DeBeers Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine environmental impact review or other "special projects" that arose during the fiscal year that were in addition to the original work plan and expenditure plan for that fiscal year.

Strategic plan summary 2011-14

Mission: To conduct independent, fair and timely environmental impact assessments in the Mackenzie Valley that protect the environment, including the social, economic and cultural well being of its residents.

Vision: Working together, balancing diverse values and making wise decisions that protect the environment for present and future generations.



Review Board Operations

The Review Board is continuing to fulfill its mandate of conducting fair and independent environmental assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley. A priority for the Review Board is to adhere to the timelines for environmental assessments now legislated in the amendments to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. New efficient process steps are being implemented at the front-end. Such changes include earlier determination of the scope of assessment or Terms of Reference for the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR), the application of an adequacy review for the DAR to help ensure substantive information is being presented earlier in the process. The Review Board is also revamping its website and has adopted the Online Review System (ORS)- which the Land and Water Boards currently all use- to be consistent within the regulatory regime.

In the context of government transitions, the Review Board held an Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner's Workshop on February 16 and 17, 2015. It focussed on the roles and responsibilities of the Review Board, in light of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)* amendments that came into force on April 1st 2015, and on current and potential Review Board process improvements. In the context of devolution, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)-Department of Lands and the federal government -specifically the Northern Projects Management Office- gave presentations to relay their responsibilities in the EA process. The GNWT was able to provide funding for participant travel and accommodation from the communities. Overall, of the 119 registered participants; 33% were from the GNWT; 19% percent from communities; 12% each from the federal departments and regulatory boards; and the remainder participants were from consulting agencies and other interested environmental non-government organizations.



Board members and staff engage at a Board meeting in Yellowknife.

The Review Board and the NWT Board Forum

The Board Forum is one mechanism to help coordinate resource management in the Northwest Territories. Member organizations are involved in land use planning, environmental assessment and land and water regulation and resource management. The Forum provides a structured medium so that lines of communication are effective; common issues can be resolved and expertise can be shared.

The Board Forum has several meetings a year and coordinates an outreach working group; a governance group; and a training committee. The Review Board has helped, along with other Boards to facilitate meetings and participate in the working groups.

The Board Forum is comprised of the following boards and government:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
- Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB)
- Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC)
- Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB)
- Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB)
- Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB)
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)

For this fiscal year, the Review Board, along with AANDC, continued to serve as administrator of the Board Forum Training. The Forum has several courses that it offers on a rotational basis, depending on funding from AANDC: Administrative Law; Board Orientation; Public Hearing Course; and Renewable Resource Management. The Review Board was able to facilitate the administering of the Administrative Law course in March, 2015. There were a total of 25 participants from the following boards: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board; Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board; Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board; Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board; Gwich'in Land and Water Board; Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board; and the Sahtu Land and Water Board.

- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)
- National Energy Board (NEB)
- Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO)
- Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB)
- Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB)
- Sahtu Renewable Resource Board (SRRB)
- Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB)
- Wek'èezhii Renewable Resource Board (WRRB)
- Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB)



Members attend a NWT Board Forum meeting in February, 2015 in Yellowknife.

Financial Statements





Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



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