



Valley Talk

May 2008

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The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's mission is to conduct quality environmental impact assessments that protect the environment and the social, economic, and cultural well being of the residents of the Mackenzie Valley and all Canadians.

Environmental Assessment of Giant Mine Remediation Project Begins

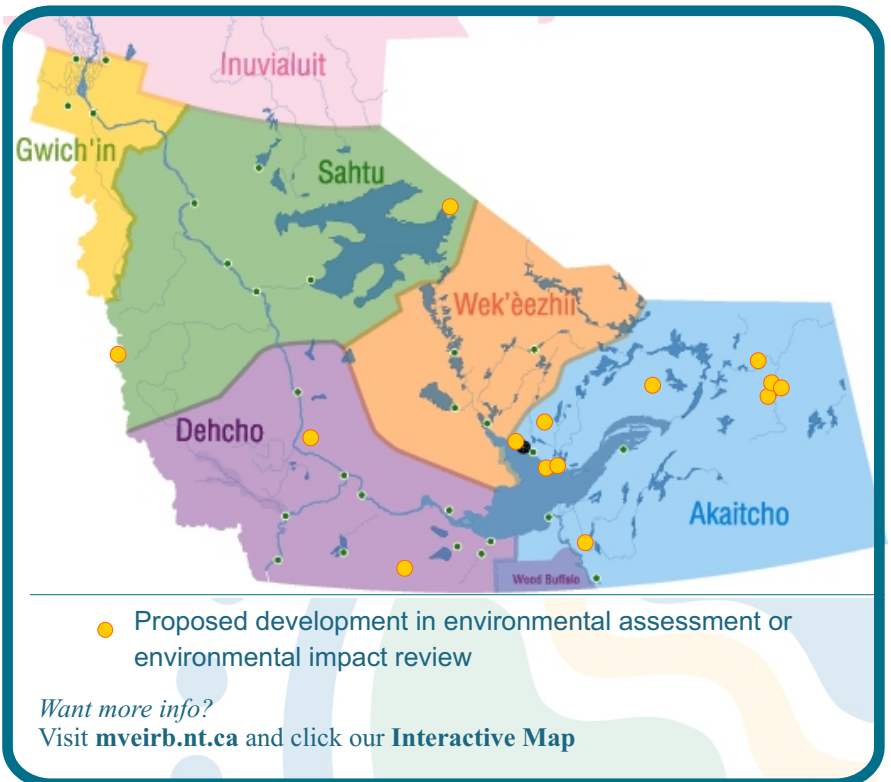
To be included on the distribution list and receive email updates about the assessment, members of the public or other interested groups can visit the Review Board's website at mveirb.nt.ca and click **Subscriptions**. Please contact Tawanis Testart, Environmental Assessment Officer, (867)766-7066 with any questions.

INSIDE

- Active Environmental Assessments
- Active Environmental Impact Reviews
- EAs/EIRs waiting for Ministerial Approval
- EIA Practitioners' Workshop Report Available
- This is what we do: Public Hearings



The Review Board has reformatted its Glossary of Terms to create a booklet for each of the languages, Chipewyan, Gwich'in, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tlcho. Visit mveirb.nt.ca to download a copy.



● Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review

Want more info?
Visit mveirb.nt.ca and click our **Interactive Map**

Active Environmental Assessments

► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0708-007

Status: EA start-up; Drafting workplan

This is a proposed development to reclaim the Giant Mine site, located 5km north of Yellowknife. The development includes the containment of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide dust currently stored underground. The City of Yellowknife referred this project for an environmental assessment on the basis of potentially adverse environmental impacts within municipal boundaries. The Review Board is asking interested members of the public and organizations to sign up for the assessment's email distribution list online at mveirb.nt.ca

► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report; Terms of Reference were issued in March 2008

This proposed development adds 36 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 is waiting for Deze Energy Corp to submit its Developer's Assessment Report.

► Hunter Bay Mineral Exploration

Hunter Bay Minerals Inc. EA0708-006

Status: Waiting for developer's response to request for additional information since January 2008

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the McTavish arm of Great Bear Lake. The Review Board is waiting for the developer's response to the Review Board's request for additional information about the proposed development.

► Crab Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp. EA0708-005

Status: Waiting for parties' final submissions

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the Dubawnt River Watershed. The Review Board has transferred evidence from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board is now entering the decision making phase and has requested parties to make their final submissions by May 23rd, 2008. The developer has until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

► EL Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp. EA0708-004

Status: Waiting for parties' final submissions

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The Review Board has transferred evidence from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board is now entering the decision making phase and has requested parties to make their final submissions by May 23rd, 2008. The developer has until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

► North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

Status: Waiting for parties' final submissions

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The Review Board has transferred evidence from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board is now entering the decision making phase and has requested parties to make their final submissions by May 23rd, 2008. The developer has until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

Active Environmental Assessments cont'd

► South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc.

EA0708-002

Status: Waiting for parties' final submissions

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The Review Board has transferred evidence from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board is now entering the decision making phase and has requested parties to make their final submissions by May 23rd, 2008. The developer has until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd.

EA0708-001

Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report; Terms of Reference were issued in **January 2008**

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. The Review Board is now waiting for the developer to complete its Developer's Assessment Report.

► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp.

EA0506-004

Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report; Terms of Reference issued in **August 2005**

This is a proposed gold mine located approximately 88 km from Yellowknife. The Review Board has requested Tyhee submit its Developer's Assessment Report or provide indications of its intention for the project by May 19th, 2008.

Active Environmental Impact Reviews

► Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine



De Beers Canada Inc.

EIR0607-001

Status: Waiting for Environmental Impact Statement; Terms of Reference were issued in **October 2007**

The Review Board established the independent Gahcho Kue Review Panel to review this proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. The Panel is waiting for De Beers to submit its Environmental Impact Statement.

► Mackenzie Gas Project



Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

Status: The Joint Review Panel is drafting its Report of Environmental Impact Review

The Review Board, the federal Minister of Environment and the Inuvialuit Game Council jointly established the Joint Review Panel to independently review this proposed gas pipeline. Visit www.ngps.nt.ca for more information.

2008 EIA Practitioners' Workshop Report Available

The Review Board has released its 2008 EIA Practitioners' Workshop Report. The electronic workshop report summarizes each workshop session and provides links to the presentations. The report is available in the **Reference Library** on the Review Board's website at mveirb.nt.ca



Waiting for Ministerial Approval

Reports submitted in 2008

► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. On February 6th, 2008, the Review Board recommended the Minister of INAC allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

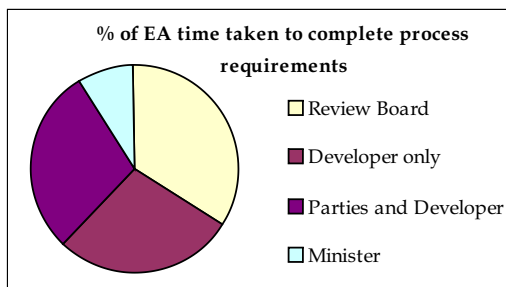


Fig. 1 As of May 1, 2008 - EA0506-006 timeliness chart

Reports submitted in 2007

► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30th, 2007, the Review Board recommended the Minister of INAC allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

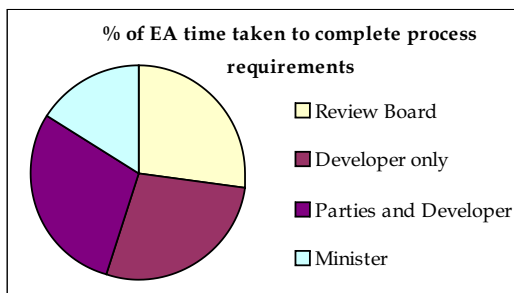


Fig. 2 As of May 1, 2008 - EA0506-005 timeliness chart

The pie charts show the percentage of total time in the EA process that different participants have taken to fulfill their process requirements

Reports submitted in 2006

► SDL-8 2D Geophysical Program

Paramount Resources Ltd.

EA0506-007

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed oil and gas geophysical program in the Cameron Hills area. On November 14th 2006, the Review Board recommended the Minister of INAC allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

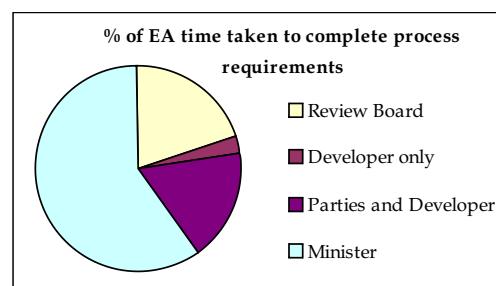


Fig. 3 As of May 1, 2008 - EA0506-007 timeliness chart

Reports submitted in 2005

► Dehcho Geotechnical Survey

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EA0304-009

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed oil and gas geotechnical program in the Dehcho region. On February 28th 2005, the Review Board recommended the Minister of INAC allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*. In June 2005, the Minister of INAC initiated the consult-to-modify process. The Review Board continues to wait for feedback from the responsible ministers.

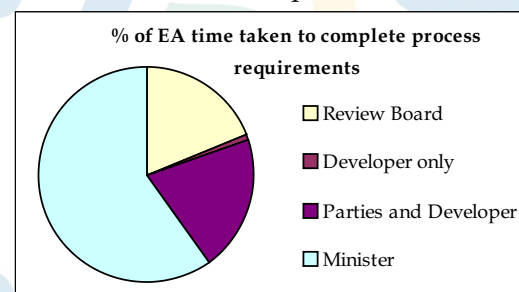


Fig. 4 As of May 1, 2008 - EA0304-009 timeliness chart

This is what we do: Public Hearings



Public hearings in environmental assessments are important ways for the public to interact with the Review Board. So this month, I will explain what public hearings are, how they are conducted and how you can find out when they are happening.

Public hearings are for the developer and other parties to present relevant information and concerns directly to the Review Board members. The difference between a hearing versus a public meeting or session is that the board members who will be making the final decision are present at hearings, whereas at a meeting or session it is only the staff present, who report back the proceedings to the board members afterwards. A summary of a meeting or session is always placed on the public registry to ensure the people not at the meeting are aware of what was discussed.

Often, the Review Board chooses to hold a public hearing once the technical review is complete and there are no more rounds of information requests. However, since environmental assessment workplans are developed on a case-by-case basis, public hearings can be held at any time throughout the environmental assessment, including during the initial scoping phase.

At a hearing, you can present to the Review Board during the public comment portion of the agenda. However, if you wish to have a particular amount of time on the agenda to present and if you want to be able to ask questions of the other groups presenting, you need to register as a party.

If you want to register, you need to do so early on in the environmental assessment, usually as soon as the Developer's Assessment Report is received. You can contact the Review Board to get an application form. Once you have submitted your application, the Review Board will consider your request and if

approved, you will be officially recognized as a party to that environmental assessment. If you have party status, you can actively participate during all the stages of the assessment.

As a party, you are obligated to participate as much as possible. You should participate in the technical sessions, ask and respond to information requests, make presentations at hearings, and submit evidence for the Review Board to consider.

Keep in mind, if you don't want that much involvement in the environmental assessment, you do not need to apply for party status to be involved. Instead, you can participate as a member of the public during public meetings and hearings and you can submit letters of comment. However, either way you should subscribe to RSS feeds (a new web feature that monitors our website for updates and lets you know when there is something new posted) or subscribe to our email update service. Visit mveirb.nt.ca to set either of these options up!

There are three different ways the Review Board may hold a hearing. The Review Board can hold a hearing in person, through written submissions, or through a combination of both written and in person hearings. During written hearings, which the Review Board does not hold very often, the Review Board asks the parties to submit their final comments and statements in writing. Whereas during in person hearings, the Review Board allows the parties to present their final submissions orally, with or without visual aids, directly to the Review Board.

Public hearings can either be formal hearings or informal community hearings. Formal hearings are very structured and the agenda sets out a strict order of presentations. In community hearings, the agenda, although still to be followed, is a bit more flexible to allow for more discussion between parties and the community members present.

This is what we do cont'd

The Review Boards allows everyone a chance to prepare for hearings. The Review Board usually gives 45 days public notice that a hearing will take place. To make sure that people know about the hearing, the Review Board makes efforts to put up posters, radio ads and send out public service announcements. The staff will also post notices on the website and send out an email to the subscription list.

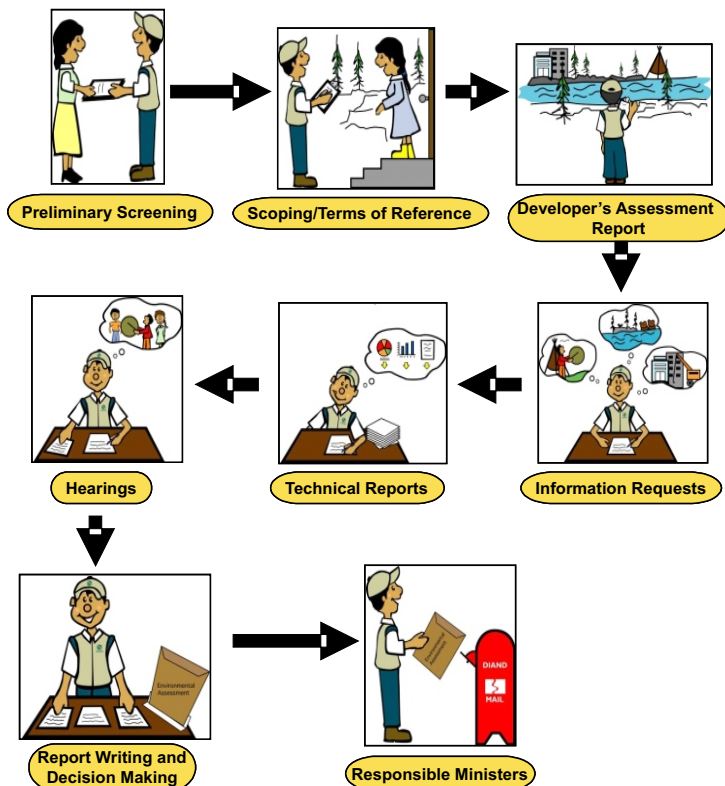
The Review Board will ask parties to let it know if they wish to present during the hearing. The Review Board will also ask parties to participate in the pre-hearing conference to review the logistics of the hearing. There will be a deadline for parties to submit their presentations before the hearing so

that everyone will have a fair opportunity to review everyone else's presentations ahead of time.

If you have any questions about an upcoming hearing, contact the environmental assessment officer for that assessment. We also have some hints and tips on how to prepare for a hearing on our website at mveirb.nt.ca in our **Reference Library** under **Practitioners' Toolbox**.

- *Jessica Simpson*
Community Liaison Officer

Typical Environmental Assessment Process



Each environmental assessment is unique. Some steps conducted in one assessment may not happen in another. Every environmental assessment has its own workplan, which sets out the steps that will be taken during that particular environmental assessment. The workplan is based on the scope of the issues for the proposed development. Therefore, the workplan may change accordingly as the environmental assessment proceeds.

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