



*The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's mission is to conduct quality and timely 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.*

## Review Board attends Mineral Exploration Round-up

The Review Board attended Mineral Exploration Round-up in Vancouver, January 18-21. This well-attended event is the annual mining and exploration trade show held by the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia.

Representatives from mining companies, exploration geologists, mining service companies and governments and agencies attended, among many others. Review Board members and staff chatted to many people who stopped at our booth to ask questions about the environmental assessment process in the Northwest Territories, the legislation governing the process and how it compares with that of other jurisdictions.

## Dezé Energy Public Hearings Held in Dettah

As part of the environmental assessment of the Dezé Energy Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion project, the Review Board held public hearings at the Chief Drygrease Conference Centre at Dettah, January 14th and 15th. This project proposes to add 36 - 56 MW of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant and includes a 690-kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines.

More than 100 people heard presentations from Deze Energy, the community of Lutselk'e, the NWT government, Avalon Minerals and others. As a result, Dezé Energy is considering changing the transmission line route from its original proposal.

The general Public Record for comments about this assessment closed January 29. The Review Board will accept comments to the Public Record on the proposed alternate transmission line until 5:00 p.m., February 18th, 2010. The Review Board expects to complete its written report by late spring, 2010.



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Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review.

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## Ongoing environmental assessments

### ► NICO Project

Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004  
**Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report**

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 km NNE of Whati. The Review Board is waiting for Fortune's Developer's Assessment Report, expected in June 2010.

### ► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0809-003  
**Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report**

A proposed open pit gold mine, this project is located 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery mine site. The Review Board is waiting for Tyhee's Developer's Assessment Report, expected in the second quarter, 2010.

### ► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002  
**Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report**

The developer proposes an underground lead-zinc mine located in the Mackenzie Mountains within the South Nahanni River watershed, and in proximity to the Nahanni National Park Reserve. The Review Board is waiting for the Developer's Assessment Report, expected by the end of February, 2010.

### ► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0809-001  
**Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report**

This is a proposed development to reclaim 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. The Review Board is waiting for INAC's Developer's Assessment Report, expected April 2010.

### ► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007  
**Status: Public Hearings completed**

An expansion proposal to add 36 megawatts of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant, the project includes a 690-kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines. The Review Board held public hearings in Dettah, January 14-15, 2010 and expects to complete the assessment and final report in late spring, 2010.



*Dezé Energy Taltson Public Hearings, January 14-15, Chief Drygeese Conference Centre, Dettah.*

*Above: Members of the youth delegation from Lutselk'e making their presentations.*

*Left: Some of the audience members at the new Chief Drygeese Conference Centre, Dettah.*



## Completed. Waiting ministerial approval



### ► Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

**Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision**

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. The Responsible Ministers and the NEB are now considering the Joint Review's Panel's recommendations. Their response to the JRP recommendations is required before the regulatory process can begin. For the full report, go to: [www.ngps.nt.ca/registryDetail\\_e.asp](http://www.ngps.nt.ca/registryDetail_e.asp).

### ► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

**Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision**

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. On February 6, 2008, the Review Board recommended 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*.

### ► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

**Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision**

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30, 2007, the Review Board recommended 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*.

## Ongoing 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 Kué Review Panel to review this proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. On November 20, 2009, De Beers informed the Panel it will complete the feasibility study in August 2010 and will file its Environmental Impact Statement in Q4 of 2010.



## Hello and ...

The Review Board welcomes new staffer **Travis Schindel** as our first Executive Coordinator. Travis, who was an economic development officer with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, will provide executive assistance to the Board, the Executive Director, special Board committees and will coordinate executive level Board initiatives. Committed to basketball, Travis hopes to refine his slam dunk at Yellowknife rec league games.

## Goodbye!

Environmental assessment officer **Tawanis Testart** is moving to Edmonton in February to work for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Tawanis, a Bermuda Triangle Award winner for consistency in her filing system, has worked with us for four years, thereby forever changing the office time/space continuum. The Review Board and staff wish her all the best in her new endeavor. Good Luck, Tawanis!



## ***This is what we do: the Review Board's plans for 2010***



The Review Board is looking forward to a very busy year in 2010.

In addition to our ongoing interpreters' workshops to update our aboriginal language glossaries, we will be involved in a special conference and workshop to learn about rare earth elements and minerals. As some of you may know, Avalon Minerals is proposing to develop a rare earth minerals mine at Thor Lake. There are very few experts in the world with this kind of specialized mineral knowledge, and this workshop is intended to provide an overview to attendees as well as to help translators find suitable terms and phrases in their respective languages. This conference and workshop is planned for the end of March, 2010 with funding provided by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

We will finish our other interpreter workshops this year and hope to have updates to the aboriginal language glossaries later in 2010. These updates will include the rare earth minerals words and phrases mentioned above.

There are several proposed development projects that are presently before the Board, including Fortune Minerals' NICO project, Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek lead/zinc project, Tyhee NWT Corp.'s Yellowknife Gold Project, the Giant Mine Remediation Project managed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Dezé Energy's Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project at the Twin Gorges Plant. In January, the Review Board held public hearings for the Dezé Energy project, and is expecting to finish the assessment and write its final report by late Spring, 2010. The Review Board is waiting for the Developer's Assessment Reports for the other projects before proceeding with the environmental assessments.

De Beers' Gahcho Kué diamond project was referred to a full, independent environmental review in 2008. De Beers has said it will submit the Developer's Assessment Report for this project in late 2010.

As part of our ongoing public communications efforts, the Review Board attends trade shows and conferences throughout the year. Two Board members and two staff persons attended Mineral Exploration Round-up in January in Vancouver. Plans are in place to attend the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference in Toronto in March, and the Inuvik Petroleum Show in June. This summer will see Board Members and some staffers at the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tlicho, Dehcho and Akaitcho Annual General Assemblies, all of which promise to be interesting, informative and fun.

Later this year, we will have our Cultural Impact Assessment guidelines completed and published. Upon completion, the guidelines will be available on our website along with our other guidelines for environmental assessment, socio-economic assessment and use of traditional knowledge.

I look forward to seeing you all throughout the upcoming year!

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