



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

Review Board visits Avalon's proposed Nechalacho project

On September 22, the Review Board and staff members made a site visit to the Nechalacho Rare Earth Element project site at Thor Lake, proposed by Avalon Rare Metals Inc.

A site visit to a proposed development is essential to the Review Board's understanding of any project undergoing an environmental assessment.

David Swisher, Avalon's vice-president of operations, hosted the Review Board at the camp. He started with a presentation describing Avalon's mine development plans for the Nechalacho project. He explained what rare earth elements are, how they are used in the high-technology industry for computer screens and for batteries in cell phones

and hybrid cars, and how the Nechalacho deposit could be important to the global supply of these elements.

After the presentation the group was treated to a hot lunch of chili, tea and date squares at the Avalon camp site dining tent.



This was followed by a discussion of the geology of the Nechalacho deposit and then a tour of the entire property to show where physical features of the development, such as the tailings pond, the decline and the barge landing site would be situated.

Many thanks to David Swisher and all of the Avalon camp staff including the cooks, and Thor, the camp dog, who diligently monitors all cook tent activities and supervises the camp pup.



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Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review.



Ongoing environmental assessments

► NICO Project

Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA 0809-004
Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. The Tli Cho Government's application to the NWT Supreme Court for judicial review of the Review Board's decision not to postpone this EIA has been adjourned until December 3, 2010. There has been no change to the schedule for this EIA arising from the application for judicial review.

► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA 0809-003
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. Waiting for Tyhee's Developer's Assessment Report, expected at the end of 2010.

► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation EA 0809-002
Status: Technical Sessions

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 second round of information requests is underway.

► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA 0809-001
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 Developer's Assessment Report was received October 27, 2010.

► Nechalacho REE Project

Avalon Rare Metals Inc. EA 1011-001
Status: Community scoping sessions

This proposed rare earth element mining project is located at Thor Lake, 100 kilometres southeast of Yellowknife on the north side of Great Slave Lake, and includes a hydro-metallurgical facility at the former Pine Point mine site on the south side. Community scoping sessions completed. Draft terms of reference for the Developer's Assessment Report to be completed in November.

► Moose Property Exploration Project

TNR Gold Corp. EA 1011-002
Status: Information session and public hearing

The developer proposes an exploration project for pegmatite containing lithium and tantalum, 115 kilometres southeast of Yellowknife on the north shore of Great Slave Lake. Community information sessions are complete and the draft work plan is being revised. A public hearing will be held November 19th, 2010.



The Avalon camp pup, inspecting core samples at the Nechalacho project site, Sept. 22, 2010.

The comment period for our discussion paper

"Determining public concern"

closes November 30, 2010. Please email your comments to **Martin Haefele** at mhaefele@reviewboard.ca. Go to <http://www.reviewboard.ca/news/#254> and click on "Determining Public Concern" in the blue box.



Completed. Waiting ministerial approval



► Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR 0405-001
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. For more information, check the NEB's website at <http://www.neb.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rcmmn/hm-eng.html>.

► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA 0506-006
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 in the *Report of Environmental Assessment*. In May, 2010, the INAC Minister advised the Review Board that the Responsible Ministers need more time to review the *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA 0506-005
Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On April 21, 2010, the minister referred the development back to the Review Board for further consideration. This process is now underway.

► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA 0708-007
Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision

A proposed expansion to add 35 megawatts of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant, this project includes a 690-kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines. The Review Board approved the project with measures to mitigate environmental and cultural impacts. The Report of Environmental Assessment was sent to the Minister for INAC on August 6, 2010.

Ongoing environmental impact reviews

► Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine

De Beers Canada Inc. EIR 0607-001
Status: Waiting for Environmental Impact Statement; Terms of Reference were issued in October 2007



The Review Board established the Gahcho Kué Review Panel to review this proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. In accordance with the MVRMA and in advance of receiving De Beers' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), expected in late 2010, the Review Board has replaced Panel members and reduced the number from seven to five. The Panel will convene when De Beers files the EIS.



Parliamentary secretary visits Board chairs

Shelly Glover, recently appointed Parliamentary secretary to new Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Duncan, met with Richard Edjericon, chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, and Willard Hagen, chair of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, during her familiarization trip to Yellowknife, October 15, 2010.

The discussion included several issues, among them the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative, which started three years ago with the McCrank report and recommendations. INAC recently announced that an action plan has been developed to initiate changes.



Review Board chair Richard Edjericon talked about the upcoming external review of the Review Board's EIA process which will focus on the need for efficiency and timeliness.

Amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act were also on the agenda. The Review Board recommends amendments that would provide clarity to the Board when looking at social, economic or cultural impacts from a proposed development.

Ms. Glover is the Member of Parliament for Saint Boniface in Winnipeg, Manitoba and became Parliamentary Secretary for Indian and Northern Affairs in September, 2010.

RFP: Review of EA process and operations

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is requesting proposals from qualified persons or firms for the provisions of the services to critically examine the environmental assessment process and Review Board operations in order to identify modifications and alternatives to completing environmental impact assessments in a more timely manner.

The examination will focus on the Review Board's top strategic goal: "a timely environmental assessment process". The Review Board will require the consultant to discuss the methods that should be used for this work. Further, the consultant is expected to meet with Review Board staff on several occasions to discuss methods, information sources, presentation of information, etc., taking into account the considerations found in the RFP document. Proposals will be evaluated according to the criteria listed in the RFP.

The full RFP document is posted on the Review

Board's website at: www.reviewboard.ca.

Proposals shall be sent by mail, facsimile or email to Vern Christensen, Executive Director, to the mailing address or fax number below, or to vchristensen@reviewboard.ca.

Proposals will be accepted until 5:00 (MST) pm on November 8, 2010. Proposals received after the exact time and date noted above will be rejected.

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