



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.

Scoping sessions for Avalon project held in communities

The Review Board's environmental assessment process for large proposed projects includes a public component for involvement of stakeholders, interested parties and residents in communities.

For the environmental assessment for Avalon Rare Metal's proposed Nechalacho Rare Earth Element project, the Review Board held scoping sessions in four communities, hearing from a variety of interested parties and community residents.

The Chief Drygeese Conference Centre in Dettah saw a two-day community scoping session August 16-17. Another two-day scoping session was held at the Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall at Fort Resolution, August 24-25.

In September, Review Board staff held two more

scoping sessions, back-to-back, but in different communities. Community scoping sessions were held at the Zah Lockhart Hall and Council Chambers in Lutsel K'e, September 7-8.

Technical sessions took place at the Tree of Peace in Yellowknife, September 9-10. Combined attendance for



all communities was more than 100 people for the scoping and technical sessions.

A preliminary scan of the issues raised during all sessions show that the environment, water quality, and employment are among the concerns suggested for inclusion in the assessment. The Review Board will consider all issues raised at the scoping sessions before releasing the draft Terms of Reference.

The final scoping session is planned for the K'atłodeeche Reserve, October 25-26.



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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 Review Board is holding technical meetings in Dettah, October 6-8, 2010 for the parties to the EIA.

► 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. Waiting for the Developer's Assessment Report, expected in late 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. The final issues scoping sessions will be held at K'atlodeeche Reserve Oct. 25-26. Draft terms of reference for the Developer's Assessment Report are being developed.

► 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 will be held during October and the draft work plan is being revised. A public hearing is scheduled for November 19th, 2010.



Determining public concern - a discussion paper

The Review Board's discussion paper - "Determining Public Concern" is available for review and comments.

We'd love to hear from you. Please send your comments to **Martin Haefele** at mhaefele@reviewboard.ca.

For a copy of the discussion paper, please go to our website at <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 about this process, 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 7 to 5. The Panel will convene when De Beers files the EIS.



This is what we do: tailoring the EIA process



For every environmental impact assessment (EIA), the Review Board has the option to tailor the process according to the size and scope of the project being assessed.

Typically, for a larger project such as a proposed mine, the Review Board solicits input from stakeholders at nearly every stage of the assessment – during the EIA start-up, setting up a distribution list of interested parties, during the community and technical scoping sessions where issues are raised that should be examined during the assessment, and when the draft terms of reference and work plan are developed after consultation with interested parties. Stakeholder and public input continues during the information request stage, and carries on through the technical sessions to the final public hearing.

When assessing a smaller project, such as one for mineral exploration, the Review Board recognizes that not every stage of the process used for a larger and more complex project will necessarily apply. The Board can change the process to ensure that valuable time and resources – not just those of the Board's, but the resources available in communities, in various federal and territorial government departments as well as those of the proponent - are not taken up with steps unnecessary for the assessment of a project that is small in size and scope.

For any assessment, large or small, all documents received at any stage are posted to the Public Registry, all of which the Board reviews before writing the Report of Environmental Assessment, including the reasons for decision and the recommendations for mitigating any potential impacts.

There is still a public component in the shorter assessment process. For example, in the case of the TNR Gold Moose Property exploration project, there will be information meetings in October open for input from all stakeholders - the public, interested parties and community residents - followed by a Public Hearing on November 19, 2010.

The Review Board operates under the *Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act*, which was itself developed as a result of settled land claims in the Mackenzie Valley. As such, the Board values public input during any environmental assessment, whatever the size the project may be. Public meetings ensure the process is open and accessible to anyone interested in the project and its potential impacts.

The Board strives for fairness, efficiency and timeliness in all assessments, and will adjust the environmental impact assessment process to meet the requirements of the projects being assessed.

Mahsi!

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Environmental Impact Review Board

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