



The Review Board determines Tamerlane Ventures' proposed Pine Point test mine should be approved

YELLOWKNIFE – On February 22nd, 2008 the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) determined that the Tamerlane Ventures' proposed test mine (called the Pine Point Pilot Project) should be approved. The Review Board's *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* document for Tamerlane Ventures Inc.'s EA0607-002 is available online in the public registry at mveirb.nt.ca

Tamerlane Ventures wants to build the mine on one of its deposits, called R-190, located approximately 42km east of Hay River, Northwest Territories. The proposed development involves building an underground test mine, extracting one million tonnes of lead/zinc ore, concentrating and separating the lead and zinc ores, and then transporting it using trucks on Highway 5 to an ore transfer facility south of the Town of Hay River where it will be shipped on a train to southern Canada.

The mine will include a vertical mine shaft, a freezeway in the ground around the mine to prevent water from entering the mine, a deep well for disposing any mine and process water, and a process plant to concentrate the ore and make it ready for shipping.

During the environmental assessment, Tamerlane Ventures made 140 commitments, which reduced the overall impact of the development and made it a better project. In addition, the company adopted a new water management system which is more environmentally sound than the original project's design. These improvements and developer commitments for the project were important factors in the Review Board's decision.

To make its decision in this environmental assessment, the Review Board considered all the information that was placed on the public record. Throughout the environmental assessment, the Review Board heard from Aboriginal groups, government and members of the public.

The Review Board found that the proposed project is not likely to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment or be a cause of public concern, as long as Tamerlane Ventures implements all of the commitments it made during the environmental assessment. If the Minister does not object within ten days of the Review Board's decision, the project can proceed to the regulatory phase run by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board,

In its *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision*, the Review Board also made the following suggestions to improve the monitoring and management of this development's potential impacts:

- The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board require additional minimum water quality and quantity monitoring requirements in the licenses and permits.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories set up a monitoring system to assess the impacts of the project on individuals, families and communities.
- The developer adopts an air quality management plan to improve overall air quality management.
- The developer conducts specific monitoring on dust contamination at the R-190 site and ore transfer facility.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories set up dust fall and metal content monitoring systems along Highway 5 west of the R-190 site.
- The developer report to the public annually about how it has implemented its mitigation commitments.

In addition, the Review Board believes the following suggestions will assist environmental management at future developments:

- The federal governments should investigate other groundwater discharge wells and provide guidance on best practices, using the Pine Point Pilot Project as an active research site.
- Government should finalize enforceable air quality guidelines or standards for industrial development in the Mackenzie Valley
- The Government of the Northwest Territories, in co-operation with affected communities, should undertake a comprehensive study the socio-economic impacts of this pilot project.
- Health Canada and South Slave aboriginal groups should start a public dialogue about health concerns related to lead-zinc mining and water quality in the Great Slave Lake watershed.
- The NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program should develop a better understanding of cumulative impacts of the historic Pine Point Mine on the lands and waters east of the Buffalo River.

About the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) in 1998 as an independent administrative tribunal

responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. As a co-management board, aboriginal land claim organizations nominate half of the board members, and the federal and territorial governments nominate the other half of the board members. The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs appoints all members to the Review Board.

For further information, please call:

Vern Christensen,
Executive Director
vchristensen@mveirb.nt.ca
(867) 766-7055

Renita Jenkins
Manager, Communications
rjenkins@mveirb.nt.ca
(867) 766-7051