



October 2012, Vol. 8 No. 10

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

## Giant Remediation Project public hearing

The Mackenzie Valley Review Board held community and public hearings into the proposed Giant Remediation Project near Yellowknife on September 10-14. These hearings were held in Yellowknife and Dettah and were well attended by all parties and members of the public. In an effort to ensure an open and transparent process, the Review Board provided translation in the Tlicho language at all the sessions and also broadcasted the hearings via webcast.



*Giant public hearing on September 10th.*

The parties that presented at these hearings were Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories, City of Yellowknife, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Alternatives North, North Slave Metis Alliance, Environment Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Review Board also heard from several members of the public; including residents of the city of Yellowknife and Yellowknife Dettah First Nation in Dettah. The Review Board is now entering careful deliberations regarding its decision and anticipates releasing its decision in the first quarter of 2013.



*Review Board members-Giant public hearing.*





## Ongoing environmental assessments

*Click headings to visit the Review Board's public registry for that particular assessment*

### **East MacKay/Sahtu Unconventional Oil Project – MGM Energy Corp. EA1213-001**

**Status:** *Scoping sessions scheduled for late November, 2012.*

This is a proposed unconventional oil exploration, drilling, completion and testing program located 7-15 kilometres south of Tulita. The SLWB referred this application to environmental assessment on October 4, 2012. Scoping sessions will be held in Yellowknife on November 20th, Norman Wells on November 26th, and Tulita on November 27th. The purpose of scoping sessions is to develop an understanding of the proposed project and the priority issues and concerns that should be examined during the EA.

### **Thor Lake Rare Earth Elements Project - Avalon Rare Metals Inc. EA1011-001**

**Status:** *Technical Reports due November 29th*

This proposed rare earth element mining project is at Thor Lake, 100 kilometres southeast of Yellowknife on the north side of Great Slave Lake. The development includes a hydro-metallurgical facility at the former Pine Point mine site on the south side of the lake. The developer responded to Review Board information requests on October 5th. The Review Board requested clarification from the developer on specific key responses on October 26th. Technical Reports from parties are due November 29 and the public hearings are scheduled for February 2013.

### **NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004**

**Status:** *Review Board preparing Report of Environmental Assessment*

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. The Tlicho Government's Traditional Knowledge Study was submitted to the Board on September 15. Additional hearing days were held October 10-11 in Behchoko. Final written statements were submitted by parties on October 17 and by the developer on October 22 and the public record was then closed. The Review Board is preparing its report of environmental assessment with a target completion date for the end of January 2013.

### **Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003**

**Status:** *Awaiting IR responses from the developer.*

This is a proposed open pit gold mine 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery Mine site. Information requests from the Review Board and parties were submitted to the developer in June. The developer is required to respond to the information requests and submit an updated project description to the Review Board before technical sessions can be scheduled.



## Ongoing environmental assessments cont...

### **Giant Mine Remediation Project - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada EA0809-001**

*Status: Under Board deliberation*

The Contaminants and Remediation Directorate of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is proposing to remediate and reclaim the Giant Mine site in Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground and 13 million tonnes of contaminated surface tailings. The public hearing was held in Yellowknife from September 10th to 14th, 2012 with an evening community hearing in Dettah on September 11th. Undertakings and closing statements from parties have been received, and the public record closed on October 5, 2012. The Review Board is currently deliberating on the evidence. A decision is expected in the first quarter of 2013.

## Ongoing environmental impact review

### **Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine - De Beers Canada Inc. EIR0607-001**

*Status: Preparing for hearings Nov 30 - December 8*

The proposed development is a large open-pit diamond mine approximately 280 km northeast of Yellowknife, NT. The Review Board established the Gahcho Kué Panel to evaluate the impacts of this development on people and the environment. Parties submitted Technical Reports to the Panel on October 22nd. Public hearings will take place November 30 in Dettah, December 3 in Lutsel K'e and in Yellowknife from December 5-8.

## Ministers preparing response

### **Mineral Exploration Program - Encore Renaissance Resources. EA0506-005**

*Status: Report of EA issued in November 2007. Ministers referred the decision back for further consideration in April 2010. Review Board released Reasons for Decision with modifications to measures in November 2011.*

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. In November 2007, the Review Board recommended the development proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures outlined in the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. In April 2010, the federal Minister, on behalf of responsible ministers, referred the Report of Environmental Assessment back for further consideration.

Following a public hearing in September 2011, the Review Board further considered the evidence and revised most of its measures. The revisions clarify the responsibilities of government for implementing the measures, as well as the intent and desired outcomes of the measures. The Review Board's recommendation to approve the project with the revised measures was resubmitted to the federal and responsible ministers for acceptance on November 16th, 2011.



## Ministers preparing response cont...

### **Mineral Exploration Program - Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006**

*Status: Report of EA issued in February 2008. The federal and responsible ministers preparing response.*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. In February 2008, the Review Board recommended the proposed development proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures in the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision. In May 2010, the federal Minister advised the Review Board that the federal and responsible ministers need more time to review the report.

## Environmental assessment adjourned

### **Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project - Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007**

*Status: Report of EA issued March 2010. Ministers referred the decision back to the Review Board for further consideration in December 2010. Temporarily adjourned March 2011 at the request of the developer.*

This development is a proposed expansion to add 35 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 approved the development with measures to mitigate environmental and cultural impacts. In December 2010, the federal Minister, on behalf of responsible ministers, referred the Report of Environmental Assessment back to the Review Board for further consideration. However, in March 2011 the Review Board granted an adjournment at the developer's request. The Review Board is waiting for an update from the developer on the status of the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion project and its best predictions for when the developer will ask the Review Board to resume the environmental assessment.

### **Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board**

Box 938, Suite #200 Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Ave. Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Phone: (867) 766-7050 Fax: (867) 766-7074 Toll-free: 1-866-912-3472 (NT, YT, NU only)

Web: [reviewboard.ca](http://reviewboard.ca)