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*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.*

## NICO Project public hearings

The Mackenzie Valley Review Board held community and public hearings into the proposed Fortune Minerals Ltd. NICO mine near Whati on August 27, 29, 30 and 31. These hearings were held in Whati, Yellowknife and Behchoko and were well attended by all parties and members of the public. In Whati there were over 100 participants, in Yellowknife 110 people attended and over 160 participants attended in Behchoko. In an effort to ensure an open and transparent process, the Review Board provided translation in the Tlicho language at all the sessions and broadcasted the Yellowknife hearing via webcast.



*Behchoko public hearing on August 30th and 31st.*

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 members of the public.



*Whati public hearing on August 27th.*

The public hearings were adjourned on August 31st to allow the Tlicho Government to complete and submit a Traditional Knowledge Study. This Study was submitted to the Board on September 15th. Additional hearing days have been scheduled for October 10th and 11th in Behchoko so that the findings of the Traditional Knowledge Study can be presented and for the Board to hear community views and to provide time to hear community views on the proposed NICO project.



## Ongoing environmental assessments

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

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

**Status: Information requests due September 21st, 2012.**

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. On March 2nd, 2012 the developer submitted its remaining responses to the January 2012 information requests. The Review Board reviewed the responses and asked the developer to provide clarification regarding the submitted water quality data. The developer submitted responses on May 18th with chronic toxicity test results to follow in July. During the week of August 14-17, 2012 the Review Board conducted a technical session attended by the developer and the parties. Afterwards, the Board chose to enter a second round of information requests for this environmental assessment. Requests are due September 21st, 2012.

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

**Status: Review conclusion of public hearings October 10-11**

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. The Review Board held public hearings in Whati on August 27th, in Yellowknife on August 29th, and in Behchoko on August 30th and 31st, 2012. The hearings were adjourned to allow Tlicho Government to complete and submit a Traditional Knowledge Study. This Study which was submitted to the Board on September 15. Additional hearing days have been scheduled for October 10-11 in Behchoko so that the findings of the Traditional Knowledge Study can be presented and for the Board to hear community views on the NICO Project.

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

**Status: Developer is expected to respond to parties IRs by September, 2012.**

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 have been submitted to the developer, who has indicated that responses should be completed in September and October, 2012. 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.

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

**Status: Review Board and parties preparing for public hearings.**

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 16 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 are due on September 25th, while closing comments from the developer and other parties are due by 5:00 pm October 5th, 2012.



## Ongoing environmental impact review

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

*Status: Technical Report from parties due October 22.*

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. De Beers responded to focused 2nd round information requests on September 13. The next step is for parties to submit Technical Reports to the Panel by October 22nd. Public hearings are scheduled for early December, 2012. Specific dates to be announced shortly.

## 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.

### **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.



*Behchoko public hearing on August 30th and 31st.*



## 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.

## Welcome Carol Luttmer!

The Review Board welcomes Carol Luttmer as an environmental assessment officer. Carol is an environmental professional with 10 years of work experience in Northern Canada-much of it working with Aboriginal groups in Labrador. She has a Masters of Science degree in Geography and a Bachelors of Science degree in Water Resources Engineering. Carol will be a very good fit with the environmental assessment team.

Welcome to the Review Board team Carol!



*Carol Luttmer*

### Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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