



Valley Talk

**JAN
2008**
VOL.4, No. 1

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

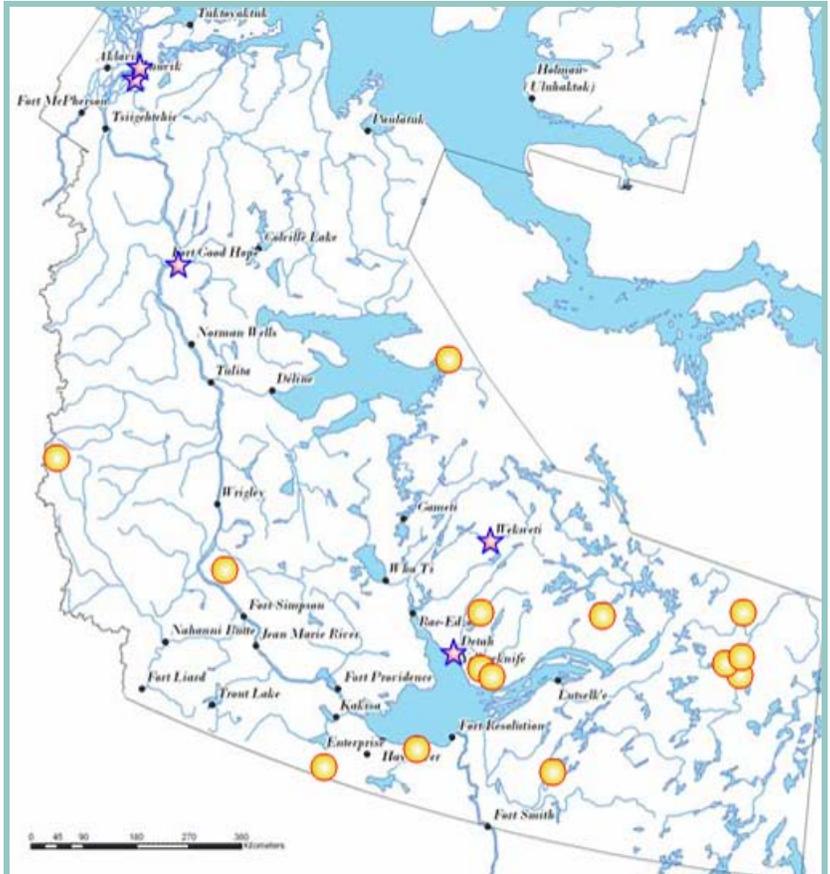
Just Released for Public Comment

The Review Board has just released, for public comment, a draft Reference Bulletin on section 126 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The bulletin describes the process the board will follow when it considers referring, on its own motion, a proposed development from preliminary screening to environmental assessment. Comments will be accepted until January 31st, 2008

To download a copy of the draft bulletin, visit the Review Board's website at mveirb.nt.ca

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● Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review

Want more info?
Visit mveirb.nt.ca and click our **Interactive Map**



Active Environmental Assessments

▶ Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

Status: Issues scoping

This proposed development adds 36 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 has held issue scoping sessions in Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, and Yellowknife. The board is still working with the community of Lutselk'e to hold a scoping session there sometime in January.



A participant at a Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion project issues scoping session looks over the comment cards outlining the issues people wanted to make sure the Review Board considers when drafting the Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment.

▶ Hunter Bay Mineral Exploration

Hunter Bay Minerals Inc. EA0708-006

Status: Comment deadline for draft workplan extended

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the McTavish arm of Great Bear Lake. The Review Board has extended the comment period for the draft workplan. Interested groups now have until January 15, 2008 to submit their comments.

Bayswater Uranium Corporation's Mineral Exploration Programs

Status: Waiting for developer's project description summary; drafting workplan

The Review Board has asked the developer to submit brief project descriptions for the following two proposed mineral exploration programs in the Dubawnt River Watershed of the Thelon River Drainage Basin. The developer expects to submit this in mid-January. The Review Board is currently preparing a draft workplan for public comment

▶ Crab Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp. EA0708-005

▶ E1 Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp. EA0708-004

Uravan Mineral Inc.'s Mineral Exploration Programs

Status: Drafting workplan

The Review Board has received the developer's project description summaries. The Review Board is drafting the workplan for the environmental assessments of the following two proposed mineral exploration programs in the upper Thelon River watershed.

▶ North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

▶ South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-002

Active Environmental Assessments *cont'd*

▶ Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd.

EA0708-001

Status: Terms of Reference released; waiting for Developer's Assessment Report.

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. The Review Board released the draft Terms of Reference in December. The Review Board is now waiting for the developer to complete its Developer's Assessment Report.

▶ Pine Point Pilot Project

Tamerlane Ventures Inc.

EA0607-002

Status: Drafting Report of Environmental Assessment

This is a proposed lead-zinc mine in the South Slave region. The Review Board is carefully considering all the evidence on the public record and is drafting its Report of Environmental Assessment.

▶ Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: Drafting Report of Environmental Assessment

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. The Review Board is carefully considering all the evidence on the public record and is drafting its Report of Environmental Assessment.

▶ Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp.

EA0506-004

Status: Waiting for developer confirmation of a project change; Terms of Reference issued in August 2005

This is a proposed gold mine located approximately 243 km from Yellowknife. The developer has notified the Review Board of a likely change to the project description. The assessment remains on hold until the developer gives more information to the Review Board.

Active Environmental Impact Reviews

▶ Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine

De Beers Canada Inc.

EIR0607-001

Status: Waiting for Environmental Impact Statement since October 2007

This is a proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. The developer expects to submit the Environmental Impact Statement in June 2008.

▶ Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

Status: Public Hearings complete. The Joint Review Panel is drafting its Report of Environmental Impact Review

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. Visit www.ngps.nt.ca for more information

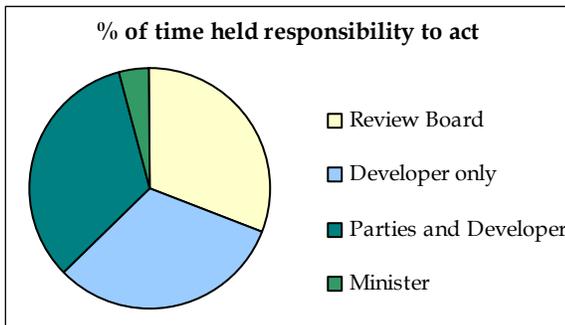
Waiting for Ministerial Approval

▶ Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

*Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval of Report of Environmental Assessment since **November 2007***

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. The Review Board recently recommended that the Minister of INAC allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment.

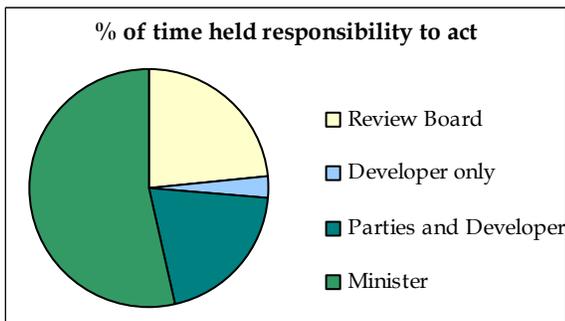


▶ SDL-8 2D Geophysical Program

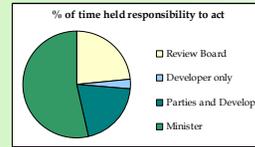
Paramount Resources Ltd. EA0506-007

*Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval of Report of Environmental Assessment since **November 2006***

This is a proposed oil and gas geophysical program in the Cameron Hills area. On November 14th 2006, the Review Board recommended that the Minister of INAC allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment.



New in this issue!



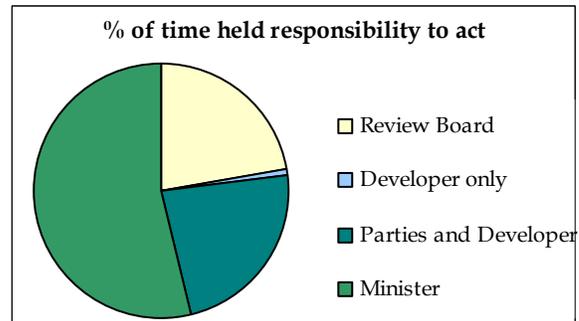
The pie charts show the percentage of **total time to date** different participants have held the responsibility to act or respond during the course of the environmental assessment.

▶ Dehcho Geotechnical Survey

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EA0304-009

*Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval of Report of Environmental Assessment since **February 2005***

This is a proposed oil and gas geotechnical program in the Dehcho region. On February 28th 2005, the Review Board recommended that the Minister of INAC allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment. In June 2005, the Minister of INAC initiated the consult-to-modify process. The Review Board continues to wait for feedback from the responsible ministers.



Attention Students!

Do you want to come and work for us this summer?

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) may hire a summer term Environmental Assessment Assistant to provide support and assistance in coordinating the Review Board's environmental assessment processes.

If filled, this full-time term position will be located in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories during the 2008 summer months.

The Review Board is looking for interested students who are pursuing a college or university degree in environmental sciences, environmental engineering, natural resource management, social/economic studies or a related degree. If you have experience in the natural resources or environmental assessment field, that is a asset.

Preference will be given to qualified residents of the Northwest Territories.

If you are interested in this position and feel you are qualified, please send us your application and a statement of when you will be available during the 2008 summer months.

Your application and statement of availability must be sent to the address below by **4:00 pm MDT, Wednesday January 30, 2008.**

For further information, contact:

Martin Haefele
Manager of Environmental Impact Assessment
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, Suite 200
Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Phone: (867) 766-7053

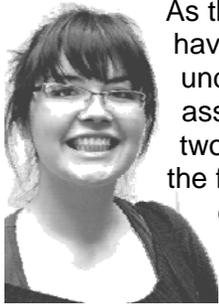
Toll-free: 1-866-912-3472

Email: mhaefele@mveirb.nt.ca

Fax: (867) 766-7074

This is what we do

Developer's Assessment Report



As the Community Liaison Officer, I have been helping people understand the environmental assessment process. In the last two newsletters, I have explained the first two steps typically in an environmental assessment: issues scoping sessions, and the Terms of Reference and Workplan. The third step normally is the Developer's Assessment Report.

The developer writes the Developer's Assessment Report as a response to the issue topics that are identified in the Terms of Reference approved by the Review Board. Essentially the Developer's Assessment Report describes the proposed development and it contains the following:

- ❖ **Development and environment overview:** The developer will give an overview of the proposed project and the biophysical, social, economic and cultural environment they will be working in.
- ❖ **Impacts predictions:** The developer will describe what impacts could happen to the biophysical, social, economic, and cultural environment. The developer will highlight cause and effect relationships and provide its references for these predictions (such as traditional knowledge research, scientific studies or literature reviews).
- ❖ **Significance:** The developer will state their perspective on the significance of the impacts. However, the Review Board makes the final decision of significance at the end of the environmental assessment.

This is what we do *con't*

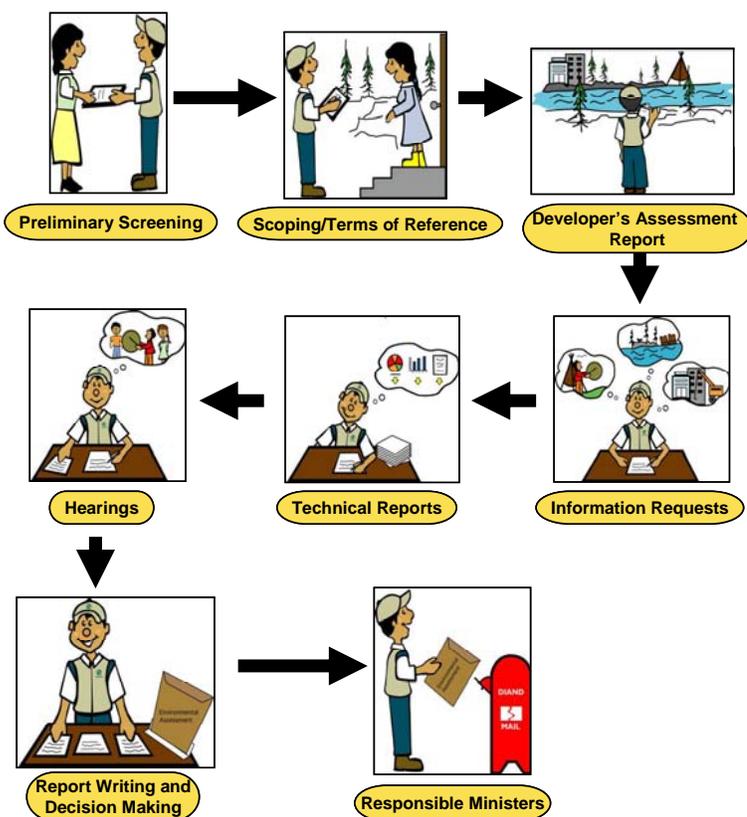
- ❖ **Mitigation measures:** The developer will explain the methods it will use to reduce or avoid the impacts predicted.
- ❖ **Cumulative effects assessment:** The developer will identify other activities in the area, what the combined effect of this project with other activities is on the environment, and the people. The developer will also highlight ways to manage these cumulative effects.

Once the Developer's Assessment Report is complete, the Review Board will do a conformity check. This is when the board will check to see that all of the issue topics outlined in the Terms of Reference are addressed in the Developer's Assessment Report.

After this stage, a technical review is done. Every party to the environmental assessment and any expert that has been hired will make sure that they agree with the analysis, issues, impacts and any mitigation measure that is outlined by the developer. Since technical reviews are an integral part of the environmental assessment process, there will be an in depth discussion about the technical review stage in next month's newsletter.

- *Jessica Simpson*
Community Liaison Officer

Typical environmental assessment process



Each environmental assessment is unique. Some steps conducted in one assessment may not happen in another. Every environmental assessment has its own work plan, which sets out the steps that will be taken during that particular environmental assessment. The workplan is based on the scope of the issues for the proposed development. Thus, the workplan may change accordingly as the environmental assessment proceeds.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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