



Valley Talk

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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.

“Road to Improvement”

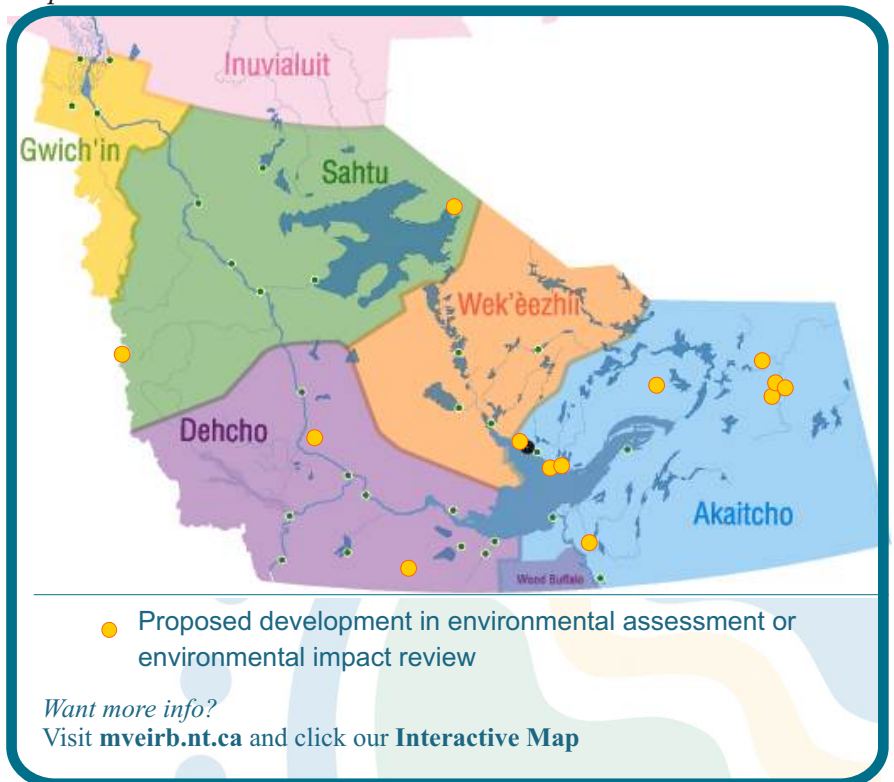
On July 17th, 2008 Neil McCrank publicly released his report called “Road to Improvement”, which outlines his recommendations to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs on how to improve the northern regulatory system. While many of his recommendations touched on issues the Review Board raised with Mr. McCrank earlier, participant funding and stable and adequate funding for the Review Board were not mentioned. The Review Board will need to continue working with INAC separately to address these issues.

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Mr. Neil McCrank (centre right) providing an overview of his report to representatives from a variety of organizations who participated in the public engagement process for the Northern Regulatory Improvements Initiative.



Active Environmental Assessments

► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0708-007

Status: *Deliberating next steps*

This is a proposed development to reclaim the Giant Mine site, located in the City of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground. On July 22 and 23, 2008, the Review Board held a public issues scoping hearing in Yellowknife. The Review Board is now reviewing the evidence parties and the developer provided during the scoping exercises to decide how the environmental assessment should proceed.



Parties and members of the public attended the Review Board's public hearing on July 22 and 23, 2008 in Yellowknife

► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

Status: *Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report; Terms of Reference were issued in March 2008*

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 is waiting for Deze Energy Corp to submit its Developer's Assessment Report.

► Hunter Bay Mineral Exploration

Hunter Bay Minerals Inc.

EA0708-006

Status: *Anticipating Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Inspection Report*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the McTavish arm of Great Bear Lake. The Review Board is anticipating an inspection report, which should confirm whether any development that occurred prior to the start of the environmental assessment has been appropriately remediated.

► Crab Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp.

EA0708-005

Status: *Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the Dubawnt River Watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on all the evidence available on this environmental assessment's public record.

► EL Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp.

EA0708-004

Status: *Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on all the evidence available on this environmental assessment's public record.

Active Environmental Assessments cont'd

► North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

Status: Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on all the evidence available on this environmental assessment's public record.

► South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-002

Status: Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on all the evidence available on this environmental assessment's public record.

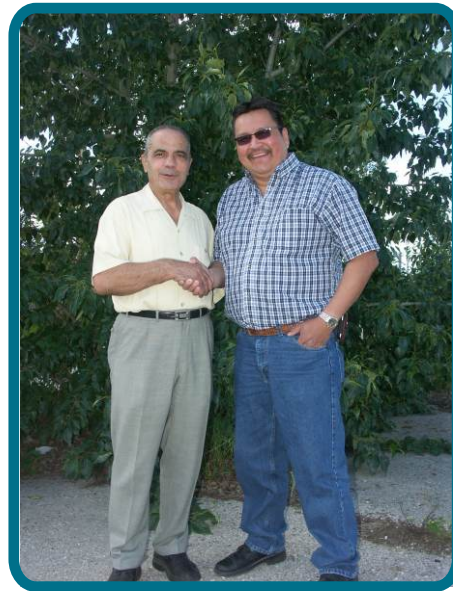
► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd.

EA0708-001

Status: Received Developer's Assessment Report

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. The developer has submitted its Developer's Assessment Report to the Review Board. The Review Board is reviewing the report and will be inviting comments and suggestions for potential information requests from parties.



Fort Smith Mayor Peter Martselos (left) welcomed Chairperson Richard Edjericon (right) and the Review Board to Fort Smith during the board's recent meeting in Fort Smith.

Recently Cancelled Environmental Assessments

► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0506-004

Status: Public record closed and EA terminated

This was a proposed underground gold mine located approximately 88km north of Yellowknife. On July 26th, 2008, Tyhee notified the Review Board that it had withdrawn its existing water license and land use permit applications. As a result, the Review Board closed the public record and has terminated the

environmental assessment. Tyhee has reapplied to the Land and Water Board with a revised project, which changes the planned underground mine to an open pit mine. The new application is currently going through the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board's preliminary screening process.

Active Environmental Impact Reviews



► Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine

De Beers Canada Inc.

EIR0607-001

Status: Waiting for Environmental Impact Statement; Terms of Reference were issued in October 2007

The Review Board established the independent Gahcho Kue Review Panel to review this proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. Elder Jim Villeneuve has been appointed to the Panel. The Panel is waiting for De Beers to submit its Environmental Impact Statement.



► Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

Status: 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

Reports submitted in 2008

► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. On February 6th, 2008, the Review Board recommended 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*.

Reports submitted in 2007

► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30th, 2007, the Review Board recommended 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*.

Reports submitted in 2006

► SDL-8 2D Geophysical Program

Paramount Resources Ltd.

EA0506-007

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed oil and gas geophysical program in the Cameron Hills area. On November 14th 2006, the Review Board recommended 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*.

Reports submitted in 2005

► Dehcho Geotechnical Survey

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EA0304-009

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval

This is a proposed oil and gas geotechnical program in the Dehcho region. On February 28th 2005, the Review Board recommended 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.

Goodbye, please to meet ya and hello again!

The Review Board staff had to say farewell to a couple of its team members this past month. After 3 years at the Review Board, Patrick Duxbury and his family are moving to Ontario. In addition, Alison MacKinnon, will be leaving the north to move to British Columbia with her family. The Review Board and staff will greatly miss their presence and wish them and their families the best of luck in their new endeavors.

To ease their absence, the Review Board has welcomed Nicole Spencer and Paul Mercredi, as Environmental Assessment Assistants. The Review Board is also welcoming back Board Secretary veteran, Linda Piwowar.



Left to Right: Linda Piwowar, Nicole Spencer and Paul Mercredi have joined the Review Board staff's team this summer.

This is what we do: Ministers' decision and completing the environmental assessment



Finally, we have reached the final step in an environmental assessment. Each month since November, "This is what we do" has uncovered and demystified the environmental assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley. This month's article will explore the possible outcomes of the federal and responsible ministers' decision and how an environmental assessment is completed.

Last month it was mentioned that once the Report of Environmental Assessment is written and released, it is sent to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the developer, the preliminary screener, the referral bodies, and in some cases, to the National Energy Board, and it is placed on the public registry for public viewing.

When the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs receives the Report of Environmental Assessment

from the Review Board, the Minister forwards it to other ministers that are also responsible for regulating that project. All the ministers then consider the report and decide the outcome. There are four possible decisions they can make:

1. Adopt the Review Board's recommendation
2. Send it back to the Review Board for further consideration
3. Consult with the Review Board and then adopt the recommendation with modifications
4. Consult the Review Board and then reject the reasons for decision and order an environmental impact review

The third and fourth options, called a "consult to modify", is run by the federal Minister and typically results in the Review Board and federal and responsible ministers meeting to find ways to modify the recommendations for a more satisfactory outcome. The environmental assessment is completely finished when the Minister of Indian and

This is what we do cont'd

Northern Affairs informs the Review Board that federal and responsible ministers accept the Review Board's recommendation, with or without certain modifications, or that the ministers have referred the proposed development to environmental impact review.

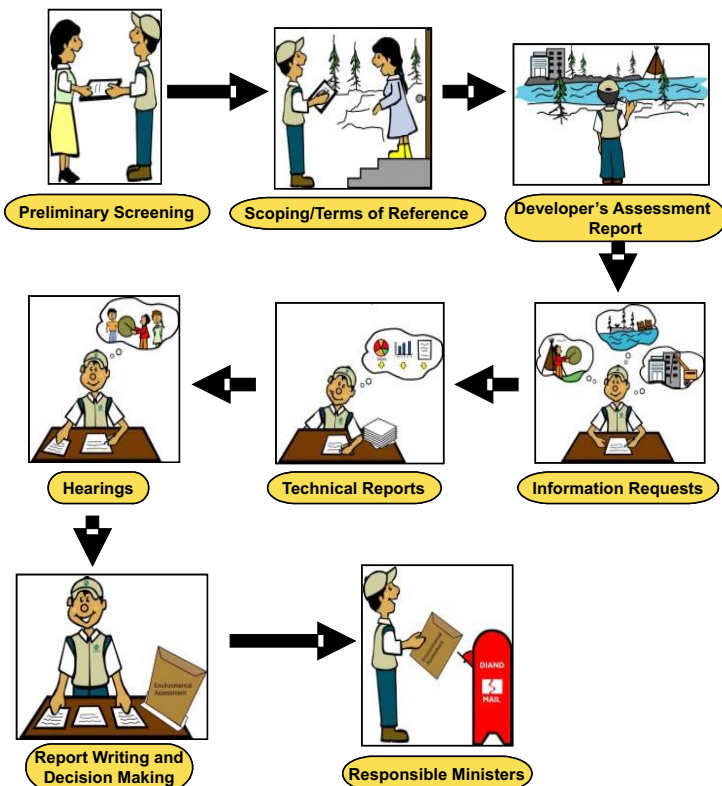
The main goal of an environmental assessment is to support sustainable development and choose methods that will help to safeguard the well-being of the environment and people of the Mackenzie Valley. The Review Board does this by recommending measures to prevent unacceptable methods of development that are ecologically, socially or economically harmful. These measures improve the method of design and environmental

management of the proposed project.

The steps in an environmental assessment strive to provide a timely and efficient assessment process that is open and fair. After all, 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

- *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 workplan, 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. Therefore, the workplan may change accordingly as the environmental assessment proceeds.

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