



# Valley Talk

July 2008

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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.*

## Improving the referral process

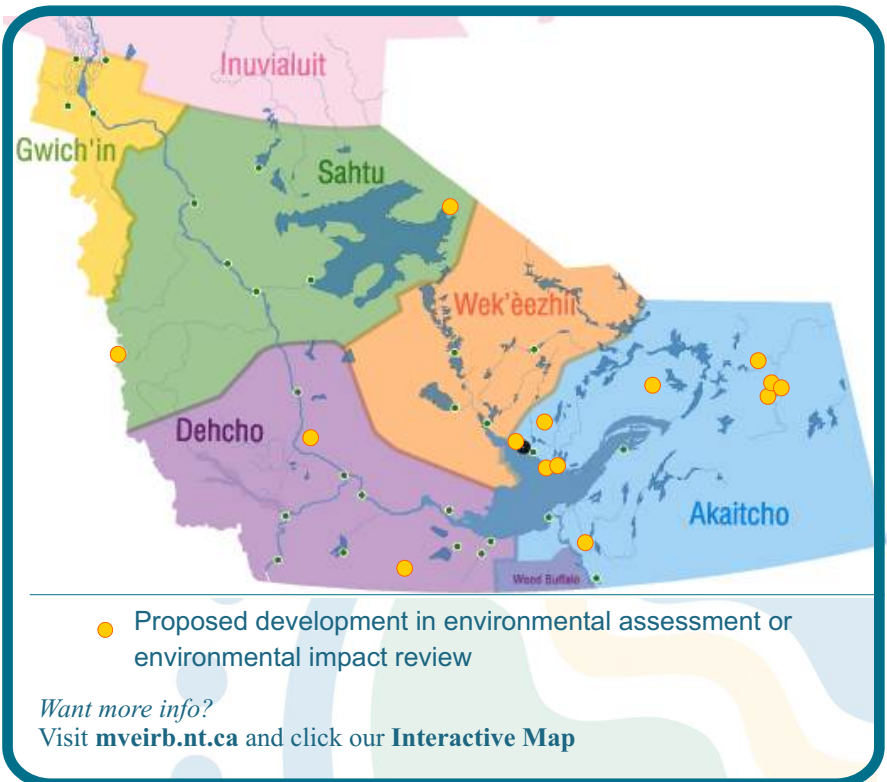
The Review Board recently co-hosted with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board a workshop that allowed various referral organizations and preliminary screeners to gain more clarity on the referral process outlined in S.126 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. There was great discussion on the various roles, responsibilities and information needs that organizations have when deciding whether or not to exercise their authority to refer a development to environmental assessment.

### INSIDE

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*The start of a facilitated brainstorming session during the recent S.126 workshop aimed at improving the referral process.*



## Active Environmental Assessments

### ► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0708-007

Status: Scoping and public hearing

This is a proposed development to reclaim the Giant Mine site, located 5km north of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground. The Review Board has scheduled a public issues scoping hearing for July 22 and 23rd, 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. On June 26th, 2008, the Review Board conducted a site visit to the Taltson Twin Gorges hydroelectric plant. 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.



An ariel shot of the Taltson Twin Gorges hydroelectric plant.

Board and staff tour the ground site of the existing hydroelectric plant.



## 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; Conducting conformity check*

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 conducting a conformity check of the report and will be inviting comments and information requests from parties once the conformity check is complete.

### ► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0506-004

Status: *Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report; Terms of Reference were issued in August 2005*

This is a proposed gold mine located approximately 88 km from Yellowknife. The Review Board issued the Terms of Reference in August 2005. The developer has informed the Review Board it intends on updating its project description in the fall of 2008.

## 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. 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](http://www.ngps.nt.ca) for more information.



# Waiting for Ministerial Approval

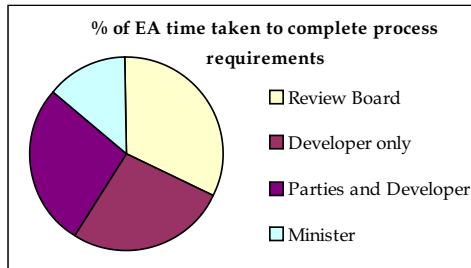
## Reports submitted in 2008

### ► 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*.



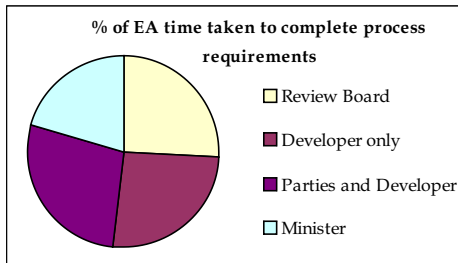
## Reports submitted in 2007

### ► 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

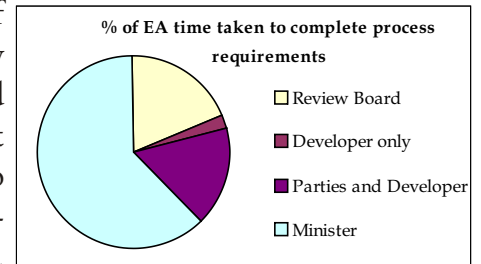
### ► SDL-8 2D Geophysical Program

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*.



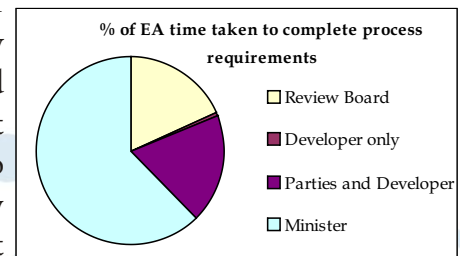
## Reports submitted in 2005

### ► 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.



The pie charts show the percentage of total time in the EA process that different participants have taken to fulfill their process requirements

## A remarkable gift

This year saw many changes of personnel at the Review Board. We are fortunate to have the skills and experience that the new board and staff have brought to the organization. We had wanted to express our respect and appreciation to our long time Elder Charlie Snowshoe. With the help of an exceptional craftsman in Whitehorse, we were able to present Charlie with a beautiful hand crafted hunting knife. George Roberts of Bandit Blades ([www.banditblades.com](http://www.banditblades.com)) was the artist who assisted



us with this project. The remarkable part of the story is Mr. Roberts generously donated a considerable amount of his time and material, as a token of his respect for the many years of work Charlie has spend dedicated to environmental protection. Although Mr. Roberts had never met Charlie, he wanted Charlie to have a hunting knife to say thank you. And, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Roberts for his kind generosity.

## ***This is what we do: Deliberating and preparing the Report of Environmental Assessment***



Once the Review Board has sufficient evidence to begin their recommendation to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and other responsible ministers for approval, the Review Board closes the public record and moves into the next phase: deliberating and preparing the Report of Environmental Assessment.

Deliberating happens while the Review Board carefully considers all of the evidence that has been gathered throughout the environmental assessment. The evidence typically includes the Developer's Assessment Report (which is based on the Terms of Reference that was issued after the scoping session) and all the information that was gathered during the technical sessions, rounds of information requests, and anything else that has been posted on the public registry ([mveirb.nt.ca](http://mveirb.nt.ca)).

While deliberating, the Review Board must decide

whether or not the project is likely to cause significant adverse impacts or significant public concern. The Review Board will look at the evidence provided from all parties, including the developer. Throughout the environmental assessment, the onus is on the developer to show that the development will not likely cause significant adverse impacts. The Review Board can issue supplementary information requests if something is unclear. If there is insufficient evidence that identified impacts will be adequately mitigated, the Review Board can conclude that there will likely be significant adverse impacts.

The Review Board will make a recommendation about whether the development should proceed, and if so, with what sort of mitigation measures. Mitigation measures are actions that are meant to reduce the adverse impacts that will likely occur. These measures can include programs for follow-up monitoring, analysis and management of the proposed project. The Review Board does not always create mitigation measures for the developer. The Review Board can also create mitigation measures for

## This is what we do cont'd

other organizations, like a governing body that manages cumulative effects. The Review Board may also reject the project without further assessment. If the development will likely be a cause of significant public concern, or significant adverse impact, an environmental impact review may be required.

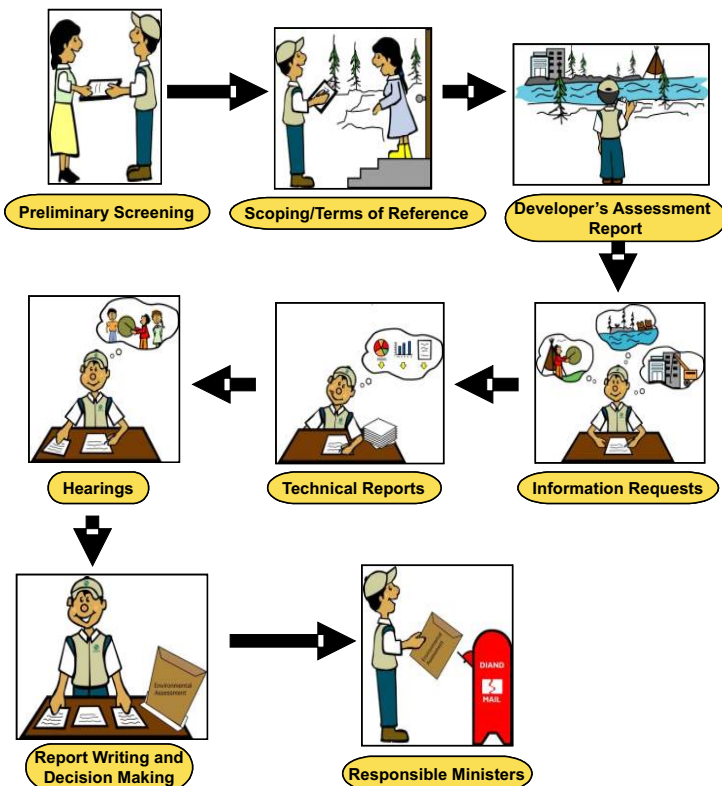
Once the Review Board reaches a decision, usually by consensus, the Report of Environmental Assessment is written, which explains the Review Board's recommendation. All reports of environmental assessment are accompanied by a non-technical description of what is in the report. This report is sent to the Minister of Indian and

Northern Affairs, the developer, the preliminary screener, the referral bodies, and in some cases, to the National Energy Board. This report is placed on the public registry for public viewing. The final decision is actually made by the Minister of INAC and other responsible ministers.

Next month, we will review what the four possible decisions the federal and responsible ministers can make.

- *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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