



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.

July 2012, Vol. 8 No. 7

Inuvik Petroleum Show - June 18-20, 2012

On June 18th, Review Board representatives attended the 12th Annual Petroleum Show in Inuvik, NT. There were over 500 participants, including delegates and exhibitors from across Canada and beyond.

Some key note speakers were Amanda Lang-CBC's senior business correspondent and Vivian Krause-writer for the Financial Post.

Plenty of discussion took place about the oil and gas activity in the Sahtu and the potential for off-shore drilling in the Beaufort Sea.

Similar to previous years, the event proved to be an excellent networking opportunity to meet with community, industry, and regulator stakeholders. The Review Board's mission of conducting fair and timely environmental assessments was shared with all parties.

The nightly entertainment was very enjoyable and the food offered was delicious. Hats off to the town of Inuvik and all other organizing parties for doing an excellent job putting on this fantastic event!

The Review Board thanks the town of Inuvik for their invitation and looks forward to participating in future Inuvik Petroleum Shows!



Pictured above (L-R): Review Board member-Rachel Crapeau, A/ Head of Communications-Travis Schindel, and Chairperson-Richard Edjericon



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: Review Board scheduling technical session for August 14-17, 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 adequate responses on May 18th, and the Review Board has scheduled a technical session for the week of August 14-17, 2012.

NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

Status: Review Board and parties preparing for public hearings

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. The information request phase of the environmental assessment is complete. Technical reports are due from parties by June 15th. The public hearings originally scheduled for July 30th-August 3rd are postponed. Confirmation of the revised public hearing dates will be issued shortly.

Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003

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

This is a proposed open pit gold mine 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery Mine site. In late August 2011, the Review Board issued a number of information requests to the developer related to water quality. IRs have been received. The developer is expected to respond to these IRs by August. An updated Project Description is also expected to be submitted in preparation for the future technical meeting.

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

Status: Review Board and parties preparing for Pre-hearing conference scheduled for July 26, 2012.

The Contaminants and Remediation Directorate of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is proposing to remediate and reclaim the Giant Mine site within the City of 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. Parties have submitted their technical reports. The pre-hearing conference has been scheduled for July 26, 2012. Parties will submit hearing presentations by August 22nd, 2012. The public hearing will be held in Yellowknife at the Tree of Peace building September 10th to 14th, 2012. Shuttle buses to and from Dettah will be provided.



Ongoing environmental impact review

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

Status: Developer is responding to the 2nd round of IRs.

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. De Beers submitted the required technical follow-up reports at the end of June. Parties submitted 2nd round IRs on July 16th, 2012 and De Beers is preparing response.

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.



Environmental assessment adjourned

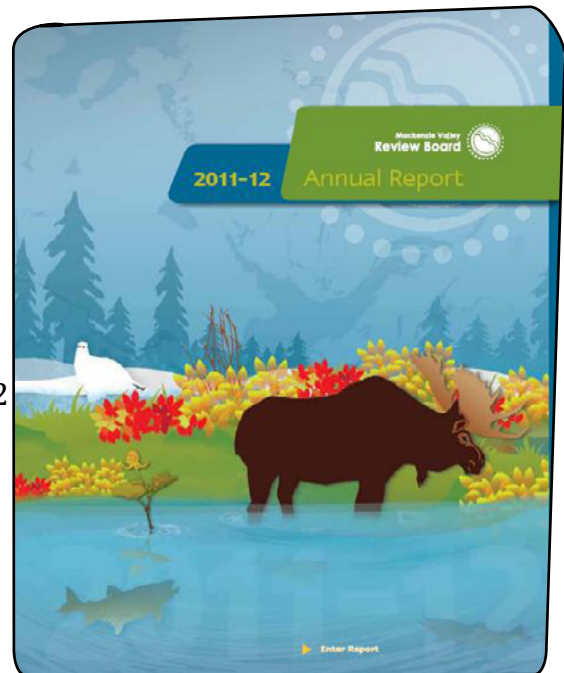
Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project - Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

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.

The Review Board is pleased to announce that it has released its 2011-12 Annual Report. Inside the report, you can read about all the assessments, impact reviews and strategic initiatives the Review Board worked on over the past fiscal year.

As part of our commitment to reduce our paper use, this document is only available in electronic format. You can download a copy from www.reviewboard.ca in the About Us ->Annual reports and strategic plan -> 2011-12 Annual Report.



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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