



Valley Talk

June 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 Process

The Review Board is evaluating its current environmental impact assessment processes to make sure environmental protection and the residents of the Mackenzie Valley continue to be the Review Board's primary concern while running an efficient process.

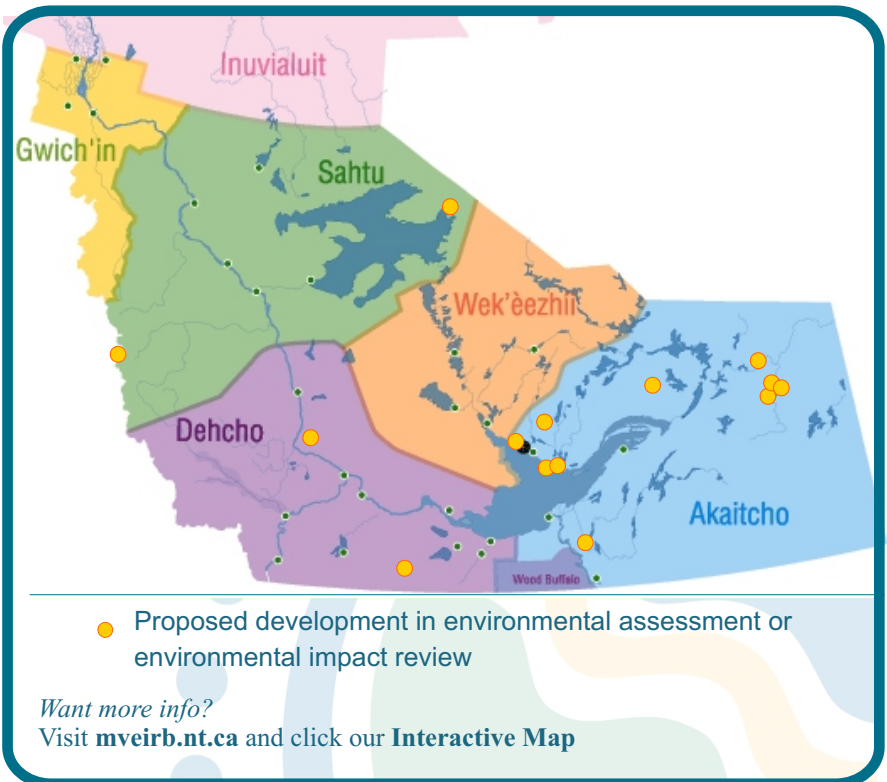
This work will provide the basis for a public review and revision of the Review Board's *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines*, slated to begin next fiscal year.

INSIDE

- Active Environmental Assessments
- Active Environmental Impact Reviews
- EAs/EIRs waiting for Ministerial Approval
- Summer 2008 Annual General Assemblies
- This is what we do: Final Submissions



L-R: Vern Christensen (Executive Director), and Environmental Assessment Officers - Tawanis Testart, Alistair Macdonald and Patrick Duxbury - demonstrate the team work and collaboration that went into the Review Board's internal EIA Process Improvement Workshop held last month.



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.



On May 23rd, 2008, the Review Board attended a site visit of the abandoned mine site. The Review Board staff will be

hosting a public hearing preparation and issues scoping session on June 17th, 2008. 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. 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: *Waiting for developer's final submission*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the Dubawnt River Watershed. The Review Board has transferred documents from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment's public registry into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board requested parties to make their final submissions by the end of May. The developer had until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

► EL Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp. EA0708-004

Status: *Waiting for developer's final submission*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The Review Board has transferred documents from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment's public registry into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board requested parties to make their final submissions by the end of May. The developer had until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

► North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

Status: *Waiting for developer's final submission*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The Review Board has transferred documents from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment's public registry into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board requested parties to make their final submissions by the end of May. The developer had until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

Active Environmental Assessments cont'd

► South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc.

EA0708-002

Status: Waiting for developer's final submission

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The Review Board has transferred documents from the 2006-07 UR Energy Ltd. environmental assessment's public registry into this assessment and it has approved party standing for the groups who applied. The Review Board requested parties to make their final submissions by the end of May. The developer had until June 9th, 2008 to make its final submissions.

► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd.

EA0708-001

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

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

► 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 developer 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 for more information.



L-R: During a recent internal workshop, Richard Edjericon (Chairperson), Jerry Loomis (Board Member), Fred Koe (Board Member) and Patrick Duxbury (Environmental Assessment Officer) contemplate options for improving the EIA process.

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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.

Review Board members and staff recently attended a "Positive Media Relations" workshop in Yellowknife to improve their understanding of the media and enhance their communication with the public.



Vern Christensen, Executive Director and Richard Edjericon, Chairperson participate in mock interviews



Summer 2008 Annual General Assemblies

The Review Board is sending representatives from the board and staff to the following annual general assemblies this year:

Dehcho First Nation Assembly in Kakisa Lake
June 23-27, 2008

Dene National Assembly in Fort McPherson
July 7-11, 2008

Tlicho Gathering in Whati
August 5-7, 2008

Dates to be announced for:

SSI Assembly in Norman Wells

Gwich'in Assembly in Fort McPherson

Akaitcho Assembly in Salt River

If you will be at any of the assemblies this summer, be sure to track down one of the Review Board's representatives. They welcome discussing any comments, questions and concerns you may have about environmental impact assessment in the Mackenzie Valley.

This is what we do: Final Submissions



Just as its title indicates, a "final submission" is the final piece that parties submit to the Review Board and they are presented at the public hearing. Final submissions are to be submitted in advance. A deadline will be announced when the date of the hearing is set. For those of you who do not have party status, like

members of the public, but wish to have your own final remarks, you can always submit a letter of comment. In either case, because this is the final piece that you will be submitting, here are some tips on how to make your final submission outstanding and useful to the Review Board!

Any members of the public or organization from the community wishing to make a presentation should advise the Executive Director or the designated staff person on the day of the hearing or earlier. Oral presentations and written submissions will be accepted.

It is always a good to start by giving an introduction of yourself. Let us know who you are and what it is that you or your organization does. However, beware to not give too many details like a review of

your legal mandate or historical documentary because there may be a time limit.

Try to be specific about the impacts that you are concerned about. For instance, focus on three main points about those impacts that you would like to make. For each point, describe to the Review Board:

- 1) What is the impact, why you believe the impact will happen and how significant it is;
- 2) What part of the development you think the impact is linked to;
- 3) Any actions that can be taken to reduce that impact and how those actions will do that.

If you disagree with the developer's predictions, please say which prediction, why you think it is wrong and feel free to recommend what you would do if you were on the Review Board. For example, you can explain what measures you would require and what decision you would reach. If you happen to be raising issues for the first time at the hearing, describe why you haven't raised them earlier.

In case you are planning to use an overhead or a PowerPoint, be mindful of who might be watching. Try having a few short points per slide, a big enough font for people to read, using easy to read colours and perhaps a graphic to illustrate your

This is what we do cont'd

idea.

The Review Board encourages folks to be emotionally honest. There are many ways to communicate concern. Be comfortable in front of the Review Board, they are there to hear what you have to say.

The Review Board may require additional information from any party to a proceeding at any time during a proceeding. So, sometimes at the hearing, the Review Board will ask you questions. If you cannot provide the answers there, the Review Board will issue an "undertaking." An undertaking is when an organization, developer, or government undertakes the task, or responsibility

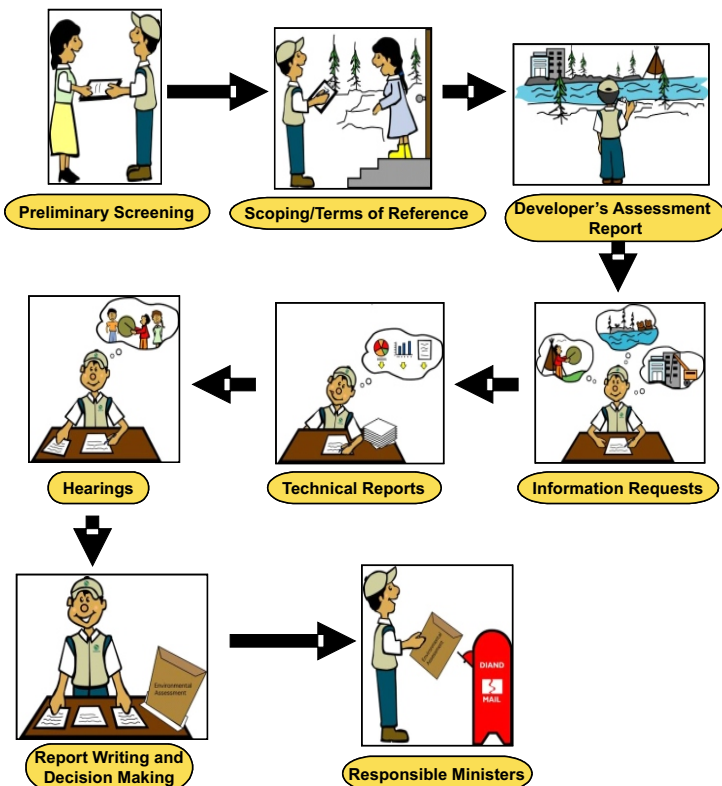
of providing additional information that was asked for during the hearings. Once this information is submitted, it is distributed to all parties.

For next month's newsletter, we will explore what happens when the Review Board feels that they have sufficient evidence, close the public record and move onto deliberating and preparing the Report of Environmental Assessment!

For additional tips on hearing presentations visit mveirb.nt.ca in the **Reference Library** and click on **Practitioners' Toolbox**.

- *Jessica Simpson*

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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