



Valley Talk

**March
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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.

Recently Released! Review Board's decision on Tamerlane Ventures

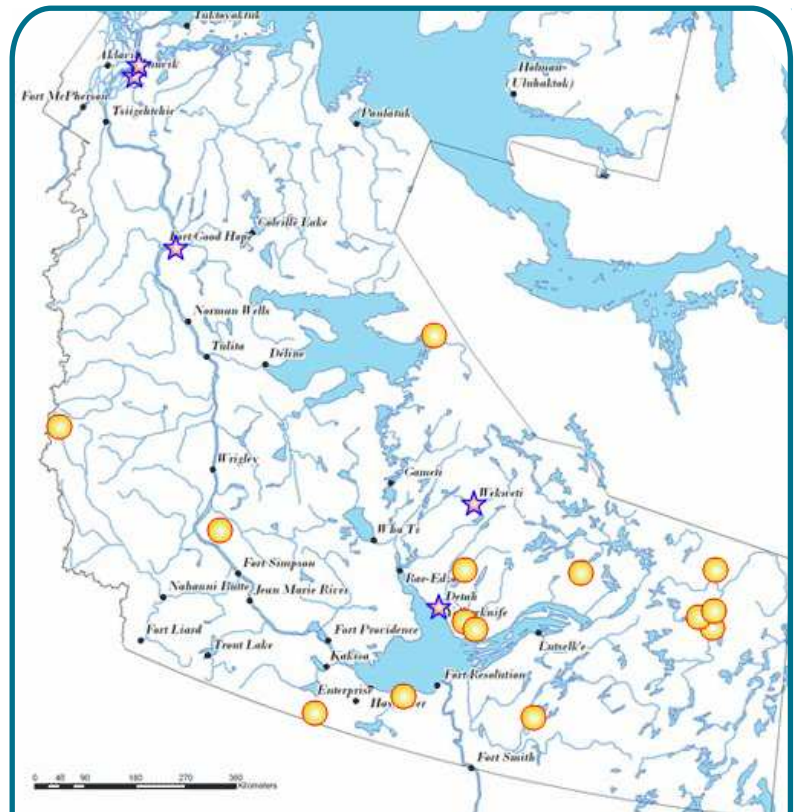
On February 22nd, 2008 the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board determined that the Tamerlane Ventures' proposed test mine (called the Pine Point Pilot Project) should be approved. You can download the *Report of Environmental Assessment* from the online public registry for Tamerlane's EA0607-002 at mveirb.nt.ca

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Jessica Simpson (middle right) facilitates a discussion around consultation in environmental assessments during the 2008 EIA Practitioners' Workshop hosted by the Review Board on February 26th and 27th, 2008.



 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: Draft Terms of Reference released

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 draft Terms of Reference have been released for this environmental assessment. The deadline for comments is March 12th, 2008.

► Hunter Bay Mineral Exploration

Hunter Bay Minerals Inc. EA0708-006

Status: Waiting for developer's response to request for additional information

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the McTavish arm of Great Bear Lake. The Review Board is waiting for the developer's response to the Review Board's request for additional information about the proposed development.

Bayswater Uranium Corporation's Mineral Exploration Programs

Status: Transfer/scoping questionnaire will be distributed to interested groups; Review Board is reviewing workplan comments

The following two mineral exploration programs are being proposed in the Dubawnt River Watershed of the Thelon River Drainage Basin. The Review Board will be distributing an evidence transfer/scoping questionnaire to interested groups.

► 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: Transfer/scoping questionnaire will be distributed to interested groups; Review Board is reviewing workplan comments

The following two mineral exploration programs are being proposed in the upper Thelon River watershed. The Review Board will be distributing an evidence transfer/scoping questionnaire to interested groups.

► North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

► South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-002

► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd. EA0708-001

Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report.

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. The Review Board has released the final Terms of Reference and 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 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; Terms of Reference were issued in 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

Reports submitted in 2008

► Pine Point Project

Tamerlane Ventures Inc. EA0607-002

Status: *Report of Environmental Assessment released in February 2008. EA completed.*

This is a proposed lead-zinc mine in the South Slave region. On February 22nd, 2008, the Review Board found the proposed development is not likely to cause significant adverse impacts on the environment or cause public concern. The Review Board has determined that this proposed development should proceed to the regulatory phase. INAC has since written the Land and Water Board requesting that the regulatory process for this proposed

development not start until the responsible ministers make a decision on whether or not there is a need for an environmental impact review. The responsible ministers expect to make a decision by April 14th, 2008.

► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: *Waiting for Ministerial approval. Report of Environmental Assessment submitted in February 2008.*

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

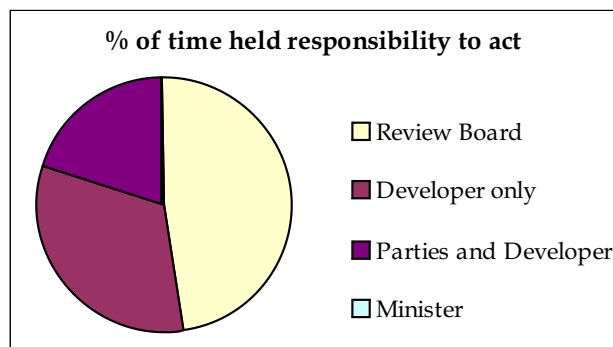
Reports submitted in 2007

► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

Status: *Waiting for Ministerial approval. Report of Environmental Assessment submitted in November 2007*

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30th, 2007, the Review Board recommended that the Minister of INAC allow the proposed development to proceed to the



The pie chart above shows the percentage of total time different participants held the responsibility to act or respond during the course of the environmental assessment for Tamerlane Ventures' proposed Pine Point Project.

Waiting for Ministerial Approval cont'd

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. Report of Environmental Assessment submitted in **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.

Reports submitted in 2005

► Dehcho Geotechnical Survey

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EA0304-009

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval. Report of Environmental Assessment submitted in **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.

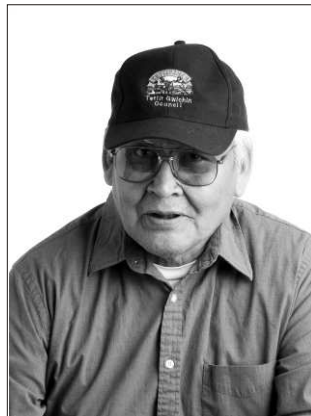
Saying goodbye, saying hello again!

This month, the Review Board had to say farewell to its longest serving board member, Mr. Charlie Snowshoe, whose term ended this March.

Since his appointment to the Review Board in September 1998, Mr. Snowshoe has sat on the board as the Gwich'in Tribal Council's nominee for nearly ten years.

The Review Board will sincerely miss Mr. Snowshoe's passion for protecting the environment and the social, economic and cultural well being of the residents of the Mackenzie Valley and all Canadians.

Best of luck Charlie on your new adventures!



The Review Board is pleased to welcome back Percy Hardisty to the Review Board as a Dehcho nominee.

On March 7th, 2008, Mr. Hardisty was reappointed to the Review Board. Mr. Hardisty previously served on the Review Board from November 2003 until August 2004, at which time, he took a leave of absence to sit on the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project. Mr. Hardisty will continue to sit as a Joint Review Panel member while sitting as a board member on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

Welcome back Percy! The Review Board members and staff look forward to working with you again.

Highlights from the EIA Practitioners' Workshop!



The Review Board hosted its fifth annual EIA Practitioners' Workshop in Yellowknife, NT on February 26th and 27th, 2008.

This year's theme for the workshop was "Close the loop". Topics included: a recap on previous workshops, consultation in EIA, using online tools to stay in the loop, environmental assessment referral procedures, following up on mitigation measures, species at risk guidelines, tips for presenting at hearings, and Review Board updates. A workshop report will be posted on the Review Board's website at mveirb.nt.ca in a few weeks.



Review Board members, staff and Gahcho Kue Panel members congratulate Charlie Snowshoe on his lifetime achievement award he received from the Western and Northern Canada Affiliate of the International Association for Impact Assessment during the EIA Practitioners' Workshop.

This is what we do: Information Requests



In case you have been wondering about information requests and how they work, please read on.

Information requests, essentially, are written questions exchanged between the developer and other parties during the course of an environmental assessment or environmental impact review.

As you may remember, last month when we discussed technical reviews, we mentioned that information requests are often issued either before or after technical sessions but this varies depending on the assessment.

So, the purpose of information requests is to answer questions that may arise throughout the environmental assessment process, so long as the question is:

- related to the issues that were scoped into the assessment;
- appropriate;
- relevant to the assessment; and
- not repetitive or redundant.

Although information requests are issued by the Review Board, some rounds allow parties to suggest the information requests to the Review Board for approval. Only registered parties are allowed to suggest information requests. So if your organization wants to be involved in this process, you need to apply for "party" status.

However, quite often questions can be answered informally by communicating to each other outside of the environmental assessment process, and the Review Board encourages parties to do so. In these cases, the Review Board simply asks for meeting notes to be put onto the public registry so that we can all have a record of the discussion. But for more significant questions, like when the Review Board requires technical facts or opinions to help them understand the proposed development better, the Review Board will formally issue information requests. These can happen at anytime throughout the assessment.

As we try to emphasize, work plans are meant to clarify the environmental assessment process because it describes the roles of the people and

This is what we do cont'd

groups that are involved, as well as estimating how long each step will take and in what order. In regards to information requests, the work plan will identify the dates for submissions of information requests and response deadlines.

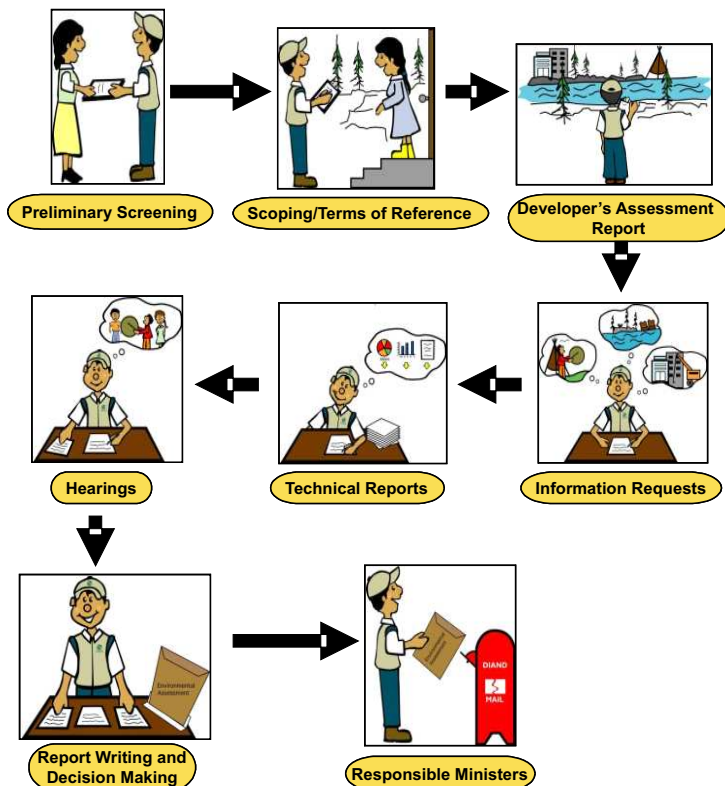
Once the technical review is complete and there are no more rounds of information requests, the Review Board will move on to the public hearings stage of environmental assessment. This is when developers and parties present their final conclusions to the Review Board, but I'll leave that information for next month.

- *Jessica Simpson*

Community Liaison Officer

If you have any questions about the environmental impact assessment process, feel free to call our office at 867-766-7050 or toll free: 1-866-912-3472 if you are in the NWT, NU or Yukon.

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

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