



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.

May 2012, Vol. 8 No. 5

Lutsel K'e Career Fair - May, 2012

The summer is quickly approaching and to prepare, students in the Mackenzie Valley are frantically preparing for their year-end exams. To take a break from the hustle and bustle of school-life, students at Lutsel K'e Dene School participated in a career fair that took place from May 1st to 3rd. Board and Staff at the Review Board know the value of completing your education and moving on to a fulfilling career.

The Review Board sent a pair of staff members to Lutsel K'e to take part in the career fair. Paul Mercredi, Environmental Assessment Officer and Stacey Menzies, A/Community Liaison Officer were selected to take part in the event.



Pictured above: Stacey Menzies and Paul Mercredi chatting with a Lutsel K'e career fair participant. Photo courtesy of De Beers Canada.

Upon their return, both Paul and Stacey reported the career fair as a huge success! They connected with students who have passion to achieve their high-school diploma and move on to complete their post-secondary education. Students were very interested in the kind of work the Review Board does, particularly in protecting the environment and people in the Mackenzie Valley. Paul assured the students that if they pursue a career as an environmental assessment officer, it would be a choice they would never regret!

The Review Board thanks the staff of Lutsel K'e Dene School for their invitation to join in the event. The Review Board encourages students to complete their education and welcomes the opportunity to participate in career fair events in the future!



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 reviewing developer's response to request for clarification on submitted water quality data

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.

NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

Status: Developer preparing ecological risk assessment and water quality modelling predictions document. Parties preparing second round of information requests.

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. Parties submitted focused second round information requests to Fortune Minerals on April 20. The Review Board has set May 11th as the date for Fortune Minerals to respond to these focused information requests. Technical reports are due from parties on June 15th and a public hearing is planned for July 30th to August 3rd, 2012.

Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003

Status: Review Board expecting remaining information requests from Developer. Parties preparing second round of information requests.

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. The Review Board is expecting responses from the Developer to address remaining information requests. The responses are expected by the end of May 2012.

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

Status: Parties preparing technical reports, due April 16th 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. The developer has told the Review Board that it will not be able to participate in a hearing until mid-May at the earliest. Based on a request from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the due date for technical reports has been extended to July 11th, 2012. The Review Board has issued three additional information requests with a response deadline of June 11th, 2012. The hearing is scheduled for September 10th to 14th, 2012.



Ongoing environmental impact review

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

Status: Panel and parties preparing for technical sessions

The proposed development is a large open-pit diamond mine approximately 180 km northeast of Yellowknife, NT. The Review Board established the Gahcho Kué Panel to evaluate the impacts of this development. De Beers has responded to information requests from parties and a technical session is proposed for May 22nd to 25th, 2012 in Yellowknife.

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.

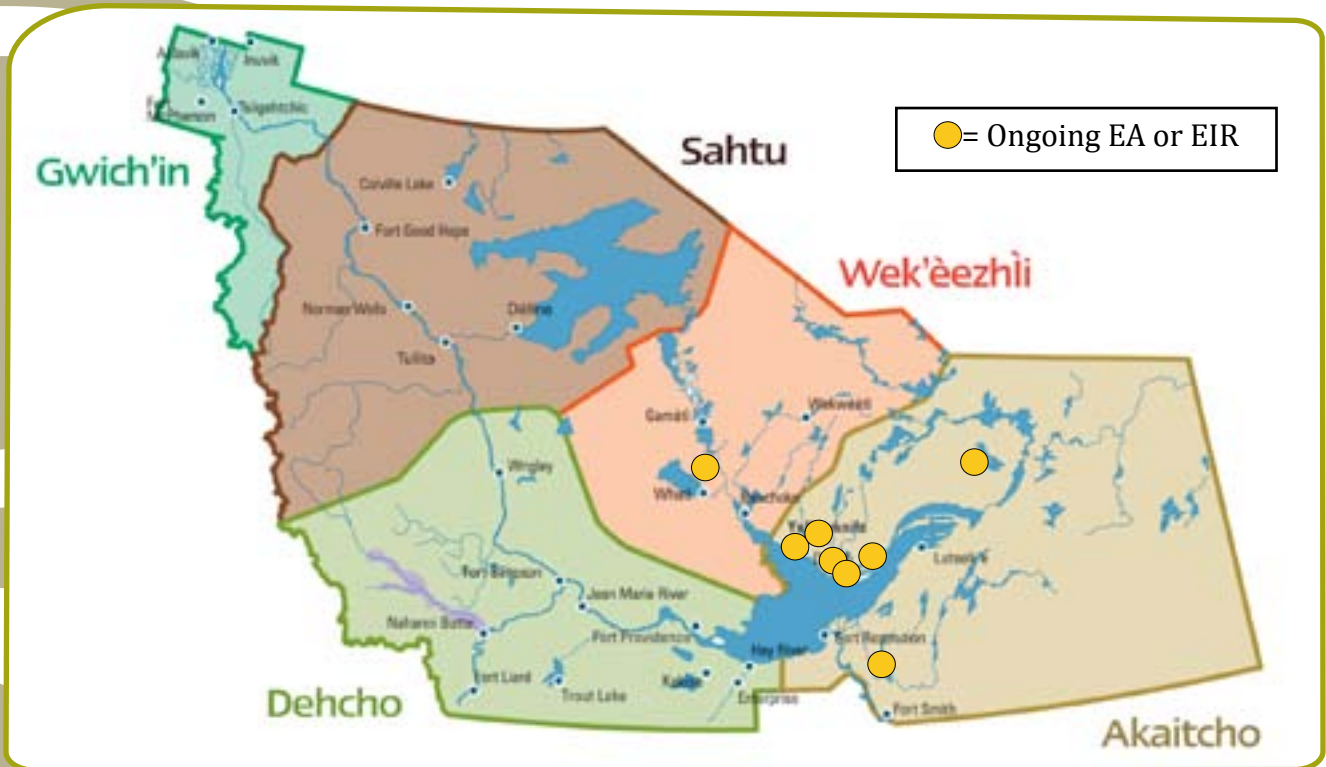


Environmental assessment adjourned

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.



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