



Valley Talk

Oct. 2008

Vol. 4 No. 10

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.

New environmental assessment: Tyhee NWT Corp's Yellowknife Gold Project

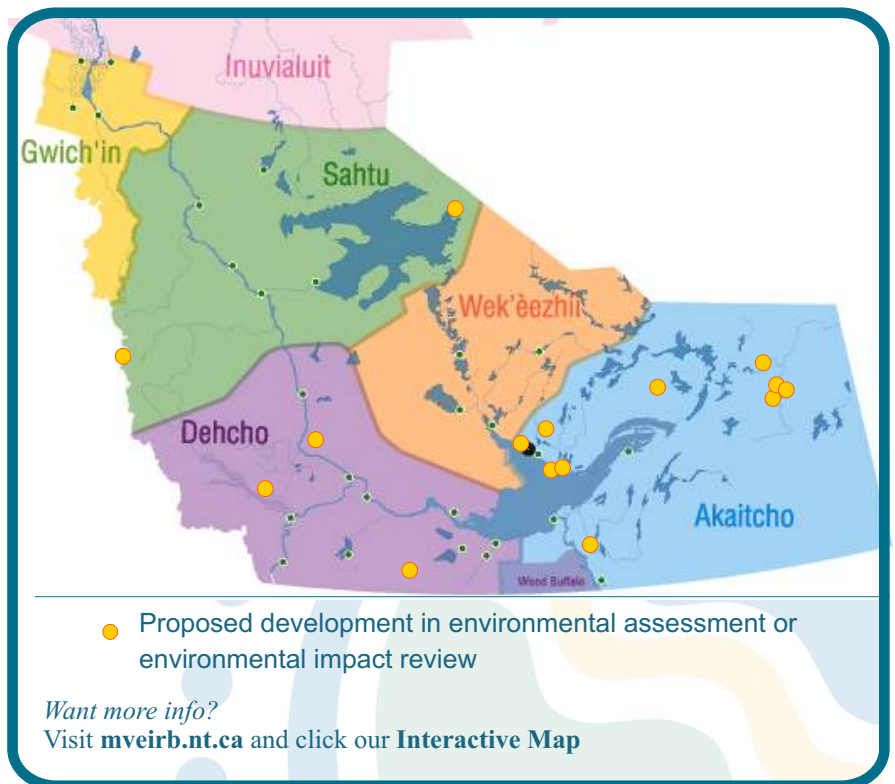
On August 27th, 2008, Environment Canada referred Tyhee NWT Corp's application for the proposed redesigned Yellowknife Gold Project mine to environmental assessment. Environment Canada is of the opinion that the proposed development might have significant adverse impacts on the environment. More information about the referral is available at mveirb.nt.ca

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Alistair MacDonald, Environmental Assessment Officer showcases the results from the Nahanni Butte issues scoping session held for the environmental assessment of the proposed Canadian Zinc Prairie Creek Mine.



Active environmental assessments

► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0809-003

Status: EA startup and scoping

This is a proposed open pit gold mine, located 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the old Discovery mine site. The Review Board is beginning to scope the key issues for consideration in the assessment. In mid-October, the Review Board staff will be holding issues scoping sessions in Yellowknife.

► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002

Status: Scoping

This is a proposed underground lead-zinc mine, located in the Mackenzie Mountains within the South Nahanni River watershed, and in proximity to the Nahanni National Park Reserve. The Review Board is scoping the key issues for consideration in the assessment. The Review Board staff held issues scoping sessions in a number of Dehcho communities at the end of September and in early October and has a technical issues scoping session planned for October 9th, 2008.

► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0809-001

Status: Deliberating next steps

This is a proposed development to reclaim the Giant Mine site, located within the City of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground. The Review Board is reviewing the evidence from the scoping exercises to decide how the environmental assessment should proceed.

► 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. The Review Board anticipates this report by the end of November at the earliest.

► 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. The inspection report should confirm whether any development that happened before the environmental assessment started has been appropriately remediated.

► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd. EA0708-001

Status: Information requests and party status

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. In September, the Review Board asked for party status applications and information requests from participants in the assessment. The Review Board will be considering submissions later this month.

Questions? Call the Review Board toll-free at 1-866-912-3472

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, anticipated in the late fall of 2008.

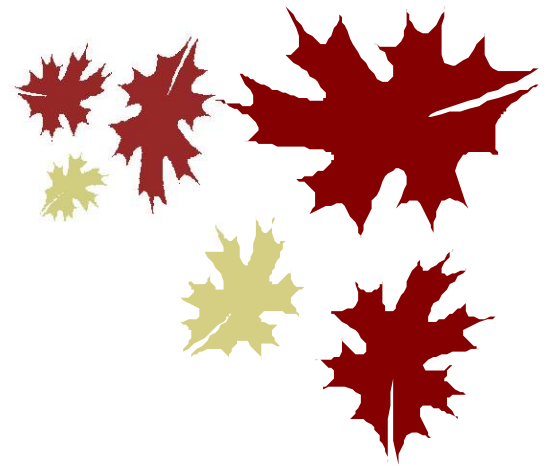


► Mackenzie Gas Project

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.



Waiting for ministerial approval

Reports submitted in 2008

► Crab Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp.

EA0708-005

Status: *Waiting for ministerial approval*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the Dubawnt River Watershed. On September 12, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

► EL Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp.

EA0708-004

Status: *Waiting for ministerial approval*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. On September 12, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers reject this proposed development without ordering an environmental impact review. The Review Board is of the opinion the proposed development will cause significant adverse cultural impacts on Aboriginal people by impacting an area of very high spiritual importance.

Waiting for ministerial approval cont'd

Reports submitted in 2008 cont'd

▶ North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

Status: *Waiting for ministerial approval*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. On September 12, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers reject this proposed development without ordering an environmental impact review. The Review Board is of the opinion the proposed development will cause significant adverse cultural impacts on Aboriginal people by impacting an area of very high spiritual importance.

▶ South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-002

Status: *Waiting for ministerial approval*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. On September 12, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers reject this proposed development without ordering an environmental impact review. The Review Board is of the opinion the proposed development will cause significant adverse cultural impacts on Aboriginal people by impacting an area of very high spiritual importance.

▶ 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 federal and responsible ministers 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 federal and responsible ministers 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 federal and responsible ministers 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 federal and responsible ministers 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 ministers.

Current Board Members



John Ondrack -
GWNT nominee



Nora Doig - Tliche
nominee



Danny Bayha - Sahtu
nominee



Richard Edjericon -
Chairperson



Percy Hardisty -
nominee supported
by Dehcho



Jerry Loomis-
GNWT nominee



Fred Koe - Gwich'in
nominee

There are currently two vacancies on the board, both federal nominees. To have quorum at board meetings, the Review Board requires at least two aboriginal nominees and two government nominees in attendance, plus the Chairperson.

This is what we do: Cultural Impact Assessment



The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board strives to conduct quality environmental impact assessments in the Mackenzie Valley. One of the ways the Review Board does this is by improving the resources that are available to stakeholders.

An example is the Review Board's *Cultural Impact Assessment Guidelines* development, which is in the initial stages.

The Review Board has created other guidelines that have proved to be invaluable reference

tools for not only environmental impact assessment practitioners, but also for community leadership and those that are interested in environmental impact assessment. These other guidelines address traditional knowledge, socio-economic impact assessment, and the environmental impact assessment process.

The new *Cultural Impact Assessment Guidelines* will outline expectations for how impacts on culture need to be considered during environmental impact assessments in the Mackenzie Valley. Developers and other parties will use these guidelines as a reference tool. The guidelines could prove invaluable in making people think about what pro-

This is what we do cont'd

grams or strategies to implement to maximize positive impacts and minimize any adverse impacts from development.

The Review Board will be conducting a community tour throughout October and November 2008 to gain input and perspective from communities on cultural impact assessment. The communities that the Review Board intends to visit are Deline, Wha Ti, Gameti, Behchoko, Colville Lake, Fort Smith, and Hay River Reserve. These communities were chosen based on the number of development projects that are occurring now or are likely to be proposed in the near future. On these tours, the Review Board staff and board members will meet with leadership, lands protection workers, renew-

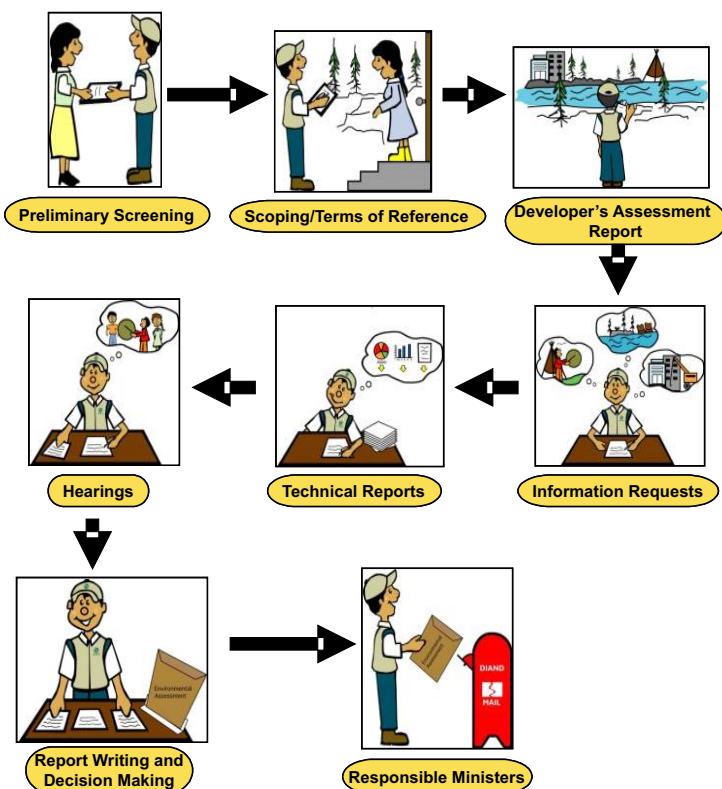
able resource workers and any others who would like to participate. The information gathered during these visits will provide the Review Board with a community context that will assist with drafting the guidelines.

Review Board staff on this community tour are myself, the Community Liaison Officer, and Alistair MacDonald, Environmental Assessment Officer. We look forward to meeting with the community members, leaders and organizations to discuss the ways to properly assess the potential impacts on culture that developments may create. For more details, call the Review Board at 867-766-7050, or toll free at 1-866-912-3472.

- *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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