



Valley Talk

Sept. 2008

Vol. 4 No. 9

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: Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek Mine

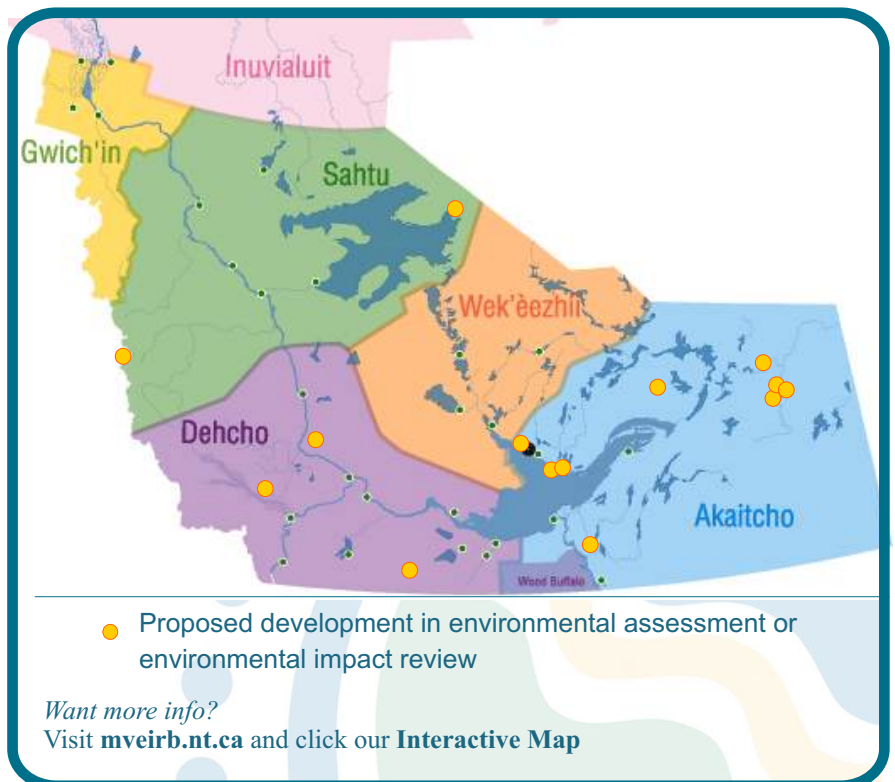
On August 8th, 2008, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada referred Canadian Zinc Corp.'s application for the proposed Prairie Creek mine to environmental assessment. INAC referred the development on its own behalf and at the request of the Nahanni Butte Dene Band. The letter is available on the Review Board's website at mveirb.nt.ca

INSIDE

- Active environmental assessments
- Active environmental impact reviews
- EAs/EIRs waiting for ministerial approval
- Improving the EA process: phase II
- This is what we do: report back at First Nation assemblies



(Above) Dehcho members and leaders met in Kakisa during the Dehcho Annual Assembly held June 23-27th, 2008. Representatives from the Review Board attended all the First Nation assemblies held this past summer.



Active environmental assessments

► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation

EA0809-002

Status: EA Startup

This is a proposed 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 currently developing the distribution list and starting the environmental assessment process. If people want to be included on the distribution list, they may contact Alistair MacDonald, A/Senior Environmental Assessment Officer at 867-766-7052 or they can use the online subscription service available at mveirb.nt.ca

► 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 October.

► 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: Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the Dubawnt River Watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on the public record for this environmental assessment.

► EL Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp.

EA0708-004

Status: Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on the public record for this environmental assessment.

Active environmental assessments cont'd

► North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

Status: *Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on the public record for this environmental assessment.

► South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-002

Status: *Deliberating and drafting Report of Environmental Assessment*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the upper Thelon River watershed. The public record for this environmental assessment has been closed. The Review Board is in deliberations for this environmental assessment. The Review Board is making its decision based on the public record for this environmental assessment.

► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd. EA0708-001

Status: *Information requests issued*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. The Review Board has issued information requests to Selwyn Resources to further clarify information inside the Developer's Assessment Report. The developer's responses are due September 15, 2008.



Chairperson Richard Edjericon (centre) participating in an evening round dance at the Dene National Assembly in Fort McPherson

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.



Waiting for ministerial approval

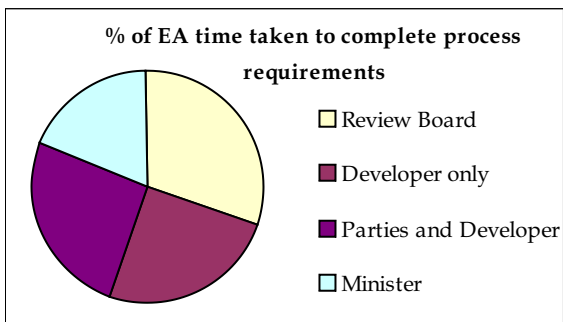
Reports submitted in 2008

► 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*.



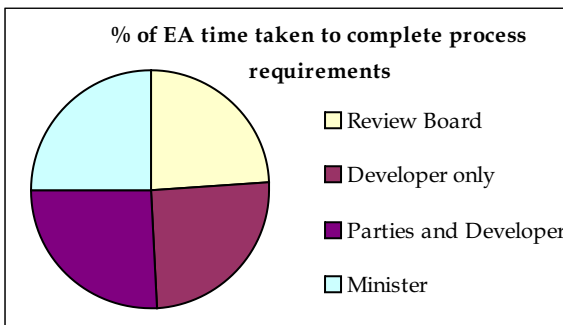
Reports submitted in 2007

► 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

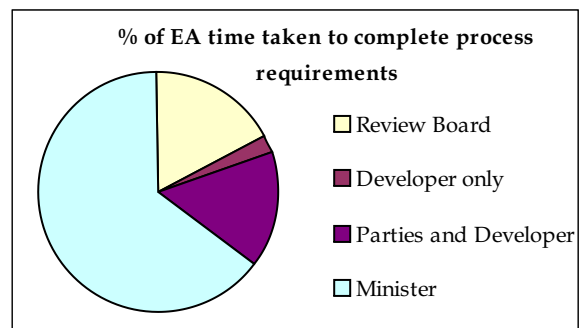
► SDL-8 2D Geophysical Program

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*.



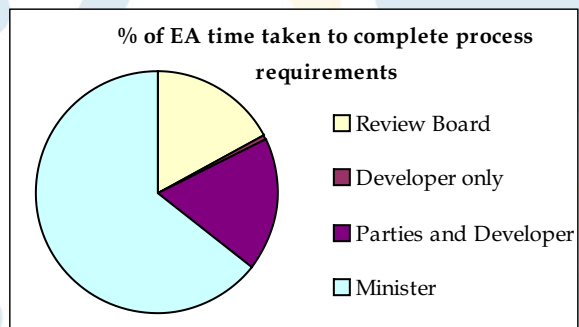
Reports submitted in 2005

► 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.



Improving the EA process: phase II

The Review Board held a follow-up internal workshop to its May workshop, "Improving the EA process". The objective was to continue the redesign of its current environmental assessment process. The Review Board's values of accountability, quality and efficiency in its work and transparency, accessibility and openness in its processes motivated much of the discussion during the workshop.

During this internal workshop, the board and staff discussed challenges with and solutions to existing public and internal phases of the environmental assessment process. Particular focus

was put on the front end of the process, known as scoping and on the tail end during the decision making phase.

The ideas and discussions at the workshop will provide the basis for updating the Review Board's *Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines*, slated to begin next fiscal year.

This is what we do: report back at First Nation assemblies



Throughout the summer in the Mackenzie Valley, communities are busy attending gatherings, such as spiritual pilgrimages, fish camps, and assemblies. These are great opportunities to travel and meet people. This summer, myself and Review Board members

have been attending First Nations assemblies.

As some of you may know, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established in 1998 under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), which arose out of the Dene-Metis Comprehensive Land Claim negotiations in the Mackenzie Valley. Negotiations for the land claims began in the early

1980's, and argued for ownership of certain lands and for the right to be involved in resource management throughout the valley.

As a result of the co-management system set up in the subsequent legislation, the Review Board was established and represents the interests of all Mackenzie Valley residents and so it is important the Review Board report back to its constituents.

The purpose of going to the assemblies is to become familiar with the issues that concern Mackenzie Valley residents and to raise awareness about the Review Board, its responsibilities and the environmental impact assessment process.

Some of the things that we noticed and learned while at the assemblies was how people have become aware and concerned about water quality in the Mackenzie Valley watershed. This is a key issue for many of the leaders, and an issue that motivated the large



Jessica (centre) round dancing at the Dene National Assembly

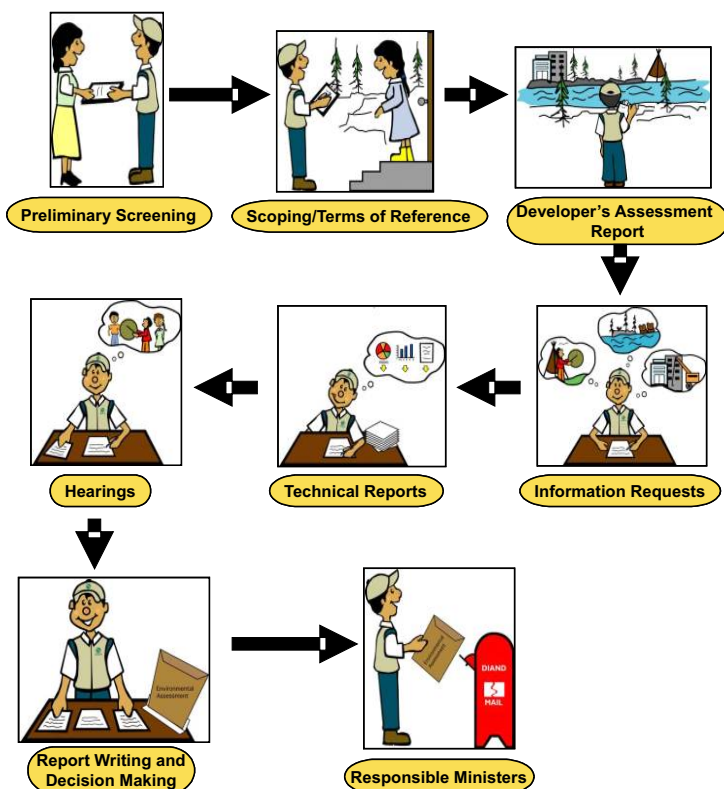
This is what we do cont'd

attendance at the 3rd annual "Keepers of the Water" conference in Fort Chipewyan. While at the assemblies, the Review Board also raised awareness of its current initiatives such as the production of a separate Glossary of Terms for five major aboriginal languages and French, translation of the EIA Overview document, its involvement in the NWT Board Forum and in the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative. The most current initiative, which is in its formative stage right now, is the drafting of a set guidelines for Cultural Impact Assessment. These guidelines are intended to be used by developers and others to conduct a higher quality cultural impact assessment.

We intend on going out to visit communities to discuss the development of the guidelines later this fall. I look forward to meeting up with community members, leaders and organizations to discuss the ways to properly assess the potential impacts on culture that developments may create. I will explain more about this upcoming community tour in next month's newsletter.

- *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.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Suite #200, Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Avenue
Box 938, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Telephone: (867) 766-7050

Facsimile: (867) 766-7074

Toll-free: 1-866-912-3472

Web: mveirb.nt.ca