



## Environmental Assessments on the go

The Review Board maintains a Public Registry in its office in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Key documentation may also be available electronically through its website at [www.mveirb.nt.ca](http://www.mveirb.nt.ca)

### **EA03-004 Drybones Bay Mineral Exploration, New Shoshoni Ventures**

*Status: Completed & Awaiting Ministerial Approval*

### **EA03-009 Deh Cho Geotechnical Survey, Imperial Oil Ventures Ltd.**

*Status: Completed & Awaiting Ministerial Approval*

This environmental assessment is in the "Consult to Modify" process with the Responsible Ministers, whom have jurisdiction over this development.

### **EA0405-002 Prairie Creek Phase III Exploration, Canadian Zinc Corporation**

*Status: Completed and Accepted*

The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, on behalf of the Responsible Ministers with jurisdiction for this development, accepted the Review Board's recommendations in the Report of Environmental Assessment. This project may proceed to permitting.

### **EA0506-004 Yellowknife Gold Project, Tyhee NWT Corporation**

*Status: Pending Developer's Assessment Report*

The Review Board is waiting for the developer to submit its Developer's Assessment Report. This is now anticipated to occur in the 3rd quarter of 2006.

### **EA0506-005 Drybones Bay Exploratory Drilling, Consolidated Goldwin Ventures**

*Status: Awaiting adequate Information Request Responses*

On February 1, 2006, the Review Board received the second of two rounds of responses from the developer to Information Requests issued in October 2005. The Review Board has advised the developer that these responses remain inadequate.

### **EA0506-006 Exploratory Drilling at Defeat Lake, Sidon International Resources Corp.**

*Status: Awaiting adequate Information Request Responses*

On February 1, 2006, the Review Board received the second of two rounds of responses from the developer to Information Requests issued in October 2005. The Review Board has advised the developer that these responses remain inadequate.

### **EA0506-007 SDL8 2D Geophysical Program, Paramount Resources Ltd.**

*Status: Community Scoping Hearing*

The Review Board will hold an informal community hearing to scope the issues for this environmental assessment on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in the Hay River Community Hall. The meeting starts at 10:00 am.

### **EA0506-008 Gahcho Kué Project, DeBeers Canada Inc.**

*Status: Finalizing Work Plan*

The Review Board released the draft work plan for this environmental assessment in January. The Review Board considered the comments received on the draft work plan and it will release the final work plan shortly.

## New Documents

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has prepared a draft reference bulletin to describe how it has interpreted selected key terms in the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The draft document is available for public comment on the Review Board's website [www.mveirb.nt.ca](http://www.mveirb.nt.ca) under "News and Events". Comments must be submitted in writing by Feb. 21, 2006.

*To be added to the distribution list for future Valley Talk newsletters, please send your email address to [rschuh@mveirb.nt.ca](mailto:rschuh@mveirb.nt.ca).*

## Participant Funding

The Review Board is concerned that there is a lack of capacity in some community organizations to participate in the Review Board's environmental assessment process in a timely and effective manner.

Last month, the Review Board met with officials from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in Ottawa. During this meeting, the Review Board requested funding to assist participants in an environmental assessment process. The Review Board would like to initiate a participant funding program and the Review Board seeks support from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in this endeavor. The Review Board feels a participant funding program is critical to a progressive environmental assessment process because it supports the ability of the public to directly engage with decision makers. Participant funding programs can, among other things, provide financial assistance for the public to hire consultants, subsidize travel costs or purchase information materials.

In its presentation to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Review Board emphasized that the residents of the Mackenzie Valley are at a disadvantage compared to other Canadians because there are no participant funding provisions for environmental assessments under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Developments being assessed in the Mackenzie Valley, such as the Yellowknife Gold Project, or the Gahcho Kué Project would have had participant funding available, if they had been proposed in the parts of Canada covered by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Parties to the Review Board's environmental assessments, particularly aboriginal organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations, have regularly expressed their concerns about their ability to participate meaningfully in environmental assessments.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is expected to respond to the Review Board's request to start a "made in the Mackenzie Valley" participant funding program in the coming weeks.



Violet Mackenzie, Dogrib translator, during the Interpreter/Translator Workshop held by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Protected Areas Secretariat.

### Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Suite 200, Scotia Centre, 5102 - 50th Ave,  
Box 938, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7  
Phone: (867) 766-7050  
Fax: (867) 766-7074

[www.mveirb.nt.ca](http://www.mveirb.nt.ca)