



The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's mission is to conduct quality and timely 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.

Joint Review Panel completes MGP environmental review

The Joint Review Panel has completed and published its full report of the environmental and socio-economic review of the Mackenzie Gas Project.

The report, which took more than two years to write, following three years devoted to intervenor requests for information and community hearings, was delivered electronically to the Review Board, the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency on December 30, 2009, in accordance with the amended Joint Review Panel Agreement. The full report is posted at http://www.ngps.nt.ca/registryDetail_e.asp The Review Board congratulates the JRP for completing the report.

Review Board Chair sends best wishes for a Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board members and staff, I'd like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year in 2010!

Last year was very busy, ending with the long-awaited Joint Review Panel report of the review of the Mackenzie Gas Project. I would like to acknowledge the work done by the Panel to finish this long, difficult and complex task.

I would also like to thank executive director Vern Christensen and his staff at the Review Board, without whom we could not do the work we are mandated to do. Their dedication, hard work and attention to detail helps us do our work in a timely and thorough manner. We look forward to a continued satisfying working relationship in 2010. Mahsi Cho!



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Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review.
Visit reviewboard.ca and click our **Interactive Map** for more information



Ongoing environmental assessments

► NICO Project

Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

Status: Final Terms of Reference and Work Plan

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 km NNE of Whati. The Review Board issued the final Work Plan and Terms of Reference on November 30, 2009. Both can be found on our website at www.reviewboard.ca.

► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0809-003

Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report

A proposed open pit gold mine, this project is located 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery mine site. The Review Board is waiting for Tyhee's Developer's Assessment Report, expected January 2010.

► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002

Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report

The developer proposes an 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 waiting for the Developer's Assessment Report from Canadian Zinc..

► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0809-001

Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report

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 waiting for INAC's Developer's Assessment Report, expected February 2010.

► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

Status: Technical sessions completed

An expansion proposal to add 36 megawatts of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant, the project includes a 690-kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines. The Review Board will hold public hearings in Yellowknife, January 14-15, 2010.

Happy New Year!



Above- L to R: Peter Bannon, Darryl Bohnet, Richard Edjericon at the Dene Cultural Institute, Katl'odeeche First Nation, in September, 2009.



Completed. Waiting ministerial approval

► Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision



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. The Joint Review Panel released its report to the responsible federal ministers on December 30, 2009. Go to http://www.ngps.nt.ca/registryDetail_e.asp for the full report.

► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. On February 6, 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*.

► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

Status: Completed. Waiting for ministerial decision

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30, 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*.

Ongoing 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. On November 20, 2009, De Beers informed the Panel it will complete the feasibility study in August 2010 and will file its Environmental Impact Statement in Q4 of 2010.

Special Announcement

The Review Board congratulates Renita and Robert Jenkins on the birth of their first baby, Finley. Renita, Review Board Communications Manager, gave birth to Baby Finley on December 4, 2009.

Finley entered the world at a healthy 10 pounds, 2 ounces, putting paid to the notion that good things only come in small packages. He is rumoured to have his father's hair, which could make things difficult for him when trying to find dates during his teenage years. However, since he is blessed with loving, kind and intelligent parents, Finley should ultimately find success in any endeavor as he grows up, including dating. Mother, Father and Baby are all doing well and settling in to a life of familial negotiations.



This is what we do: Our year in review - 2009



As we start the New Year, it is helpful to look back on 2009 to see what will have an impact on our work in 2010. Our priorities are always to conduct quality and timely environmental assessments, and we completed the work for some and started new files

on others. We have also seen some changes in Review Board members and staff during the year. But what else have we done at the Review Board over the course of the past year?

As I have mentioned before in this column, we have been working on Cultural Impact Assessment Guidelines which will assist the Review Board in determining impacts on communities affected by proposed developments. The Review Board has conducted several interviews and focus groups, and the information gained formed the basis for the Status and Information Circular published earlier in 2009 for comment. A first draft of these guidelines will be available for public comment in 2010.

We held translator workshops in several communities in 2009 including Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, Dettah, Behchoko and Yellowknife, with a focus on commonly used cultural impact assessment terminology. While in these communities, I was also able to make some presentations to schools, and in some cases, the workshop became a school assignment. All of the students involved learned about both cultural impact assessment and the Dene language. The Review Board has completed translator workshops in all five regions of the Mackenzie Valley, and in 2010, we will concentrate on South Slavey and Chipewyan languages.

In September, the Review Board members and staff participated in a Dene Awareness workshop hosted by the Yamozha Kue Society/Dene Cultural

Institute at the Katl'odeeche First Nation. All who attended gained a new perspective and several ideas on how to create a more open and sensitive environmental assessment process. And it was not all work - we had a chance to eat some fresh fish, make some dry fish, pick cranberries, participate in a drum dance, and host a delicious community feast.

We said hello to a new Board member as well as to some new staff members in 2009, and goodbye to others. Peter Bannon joined the Review Board during the summer, bringing with him 30 years of territorial and federal government experience, including working on the development of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Chuck Hubert joined us from Whitehorse as an environmental assessment officer, replacing the office comic Alistair MacDonald (aka "All-Star"). Renita Jenkins, Communications Manager, gave birth to a baby boy in December and is on maternity leave until November 2010. Sunny Munroe is filling in while Renita is at home with Baby Finley. Coming to us in January is Travis Schindler from Inuvik. He will be the Review Board's first executive coordinator.

2009 has been a great year with plenty to do and 2010 is sure to bring the Review Board new and exciting projects - so stay tuned!

Jessica Simpson, Community Liaison Officer
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