

## Review Board revises measures in its Reasons for Decision for the Encore Renaissance Resources' proposed mineral exploration program

**Yellowknife, NT.** – The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) has released its decision for Encore Renaissance Resources' (formerly Consolidated Goldwin Ventures) proposed mineral exploration program. This is an 8-24 drill hole diamond exploration project in the general area of Drybones Bay. NT.

The Review Board has further considered the measures submitted in its 2007 Report of Environmental Assessment and revised most of its measures in its Reasons for Decision for this proposed development. The revisions clarify the responsibilities of government for implementing the measures, as well as the intent and desired outcomes of the measures. The Reasons for Decision document describes in detail the rationale and changes to the measures that have resulted from this further consideration.

The Review Board's recommendation to approve the project with the revised outlined measures has been resubmitted to the federal and responsible minister's for acceptance.

### Summary of revisions made to measures

**Measure #1:** In addition to the requirement to identify drill targets using geophysical activities that do not require a land use permit, the Review Board clarified that the developer must not use cut lines when identifying drill sites. The Review Board also clarified in the measure that it requires the developer to do a reconnaissance study (a broad study to identify possible archaeological sites) in the area where it proposes to work, and conduct an archaeological impact assessment on any sites identified by the study, before starting its work drill program.

**Measure #2:** This measure was not under further consideration and remains as written.

**Measures #3 and #4:** The Review Board reaffirmed its decision that these two measures address the cumulative impact concerns raised by the communities and the measure was necessary regardless of the development's small scale.

However, the Review Board did revise the measure #3 to clarify that the plan for the Shoreline Zone's intent is to identify the vision, objectives and management goals based on the resource and cultural values of the area, and to specifically address future development in the Shoreline Zone. The federal government must develop the plan with the input of Aboriginal parties familiar with the area, but the Review Board removed the reference to having the territorial government participate and also eliminated the timelines it has placed on the plan's development.

The Review Board clarified that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board must consider the plan before making preliminary screening decisions on new applications in the Shoreline Zone.

The Review Board also added to measure #3 that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada must offer relief from fulfilling requirements under the mining regulations to the mineral claim and lease holders in the area.

In measure #4, the Review Board reaffirmed that a long-term monitoring program was needed to track and evaluate the cumulative change to the Shoreline Zone. The measure outlines the requirements of the monitoring program. The Review Board clarified this plan was the responsibility of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. The Review Board suggested that the monitoring under this plan could be part of the NWT's cumulative impact monitoring program already in place.

#### **Measure #5**

The Review Board is of the opinion that measure #5's requirements for a heritage resource assessment were no longer necessary given the changes to measures #1 and #4. The Review Board removed the entire measure from its decision.

#### **Measure #6**

To address the issue of camps not being permitted on ice, the Review Board removed the reference to frozen water bodies. Given the revisions to measure #1, the Review Board is of the opinion that the camps can be placed inland without impacts to heritage resources. Also, the Review Board removed the reference to requiring YKDFN, in consultation with the developer, to select camp sites, along with the dispute mechanism, as described in the original measure.

A list of the revised the measures and suggestions are provided in the Reasons for Decision document.

Please see the following page for background information on the proceedings for this particular environmental assessment. If you have any further questions regarding this decision, please contact the Review Board.

#### **Media contact:**

Renita Jenkins  
Head of Communications  
867-766-7051 or  
rjenkins@reviewboard.ca  
**reviewboard.ca**

## **Background on the Consolidated Goldwin Ventures environmental assessment**

The Review Board issued its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. Mineral Exploration Program EA0506-005 on November 30, 2007.

The report can be downloaded here:

[http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project\\_detail.php?project\\_id=5&doc\\_stage=11](http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project_detail.php?project_id=5&doc_stage=11)

On April 21, 2010 the Minister referred the development back to the Review Board for further consideration of measures #1, #3, #4, #5 and #6 in the Review Board's report.

The ministers' letter can be downloaded here:

[http://reviewboard.ca/upload/project\\_document/EA0506-005\\_Letter\\_from\\_Minister\\_Strahl\\_1296500229.PDF](http://reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA0506-005_Letter_from_Minister_Strahl_1296500229.PDF)

Due to the changes in the Review Board's composition between 2007 and 2010, an issue regarding quorum arose and was discussed between the Review Board, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (now called Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) and the other parties to the environmental assessment. Normally, to fulfill quorum requirements, at least five Board members are required to have heard all of the oral evidence presented during the environmental assessment. By April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010, there were no longer five members on the Board that had participated in the earlier stages of EA0506-005.

To address this issue, current members of the Review Board reviewed the record in its entirety and, after receiving a request from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Review Board convened a public hearing and heard directly from the parties to complete the further consideration proceedings. The Review Board canvassed the parties and outlined its proposed procedure. Only the developer expressed concern and that was regarding the time required for these additional steps. No other party expressed concern about quorum.

The Review Board held a two-day public hearing in N'Dilo, NT, to hear from the parties regarding the further consideration of the measures in question. Certain parties submitted undertakings following the hearing. All document filed on the public registry since the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment issuance, including final submissions can be downloaded here:

[http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project\\_detail.php?project\\_id=5&doc\\_stage=12](http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project_detail.php?project_id=5&doc_stage=12)

The parties who participated in the further consideration proceedings include:

- Encore Renaissance Corporation
- Akaitcho Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre
- Government of the Northwest Territories