



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.

Dec. 2008 Vol. 4 No. 12

Working together



The Review Board recently revised its vision statement to: *“ Excellence in environmental impact assessment within a co-management system that balances diverse values to protect the Mackenzie*

Valley for present and future generations.” This vision requires collaboration between the various groups involved in Mackenzie Valley resource management and our neighbouring jurisdictions.

This past fall, I met with Alberta Environment and other resource management partners in Alberta to discuss creating a memorandum of understanding with our neighbours to the south. The Review Board is striving for a coordinated approach with

Alberta in assessing proposed developments that may have transboundary impacts. The goal is to ensure potentially affected people and groups can have their concerns heard on both sides of the border. An MOU with Alberta, like those we have with Nunavut, Yukon and Inuvialuit region, would ensure cooperation happens when reviewing projects with transboundary issues.

At the end of November, I also attended the biannual NWT Board Forum meeting in Inuvik. At this gathering of all the NWT resource management boards, the Review Board reported on its current activities, including its work on cultural impact assessment guidelines. I also heard from the other boards and from the government about their various initiatives in resource management. The next NWT Board Forum meeting is scheduled for May 2009.

As you can see it has been a busy fall for us. However, feel free to stop by our office any time if you have questions. I wish you and your family a safe holiday season.

*-Richard Edjericon,
Chairperson*

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Want more info?

Visit reviewboard.ca and click our **Interactive Map**



Active environmental assessments

► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0809-003

Status: Drafting Terms of Reference

This is a proposed open pit gold mine, located 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the old Discovery mine site. The Review Board is drafting the Terms of Reference for this environmental assessment.

► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002

Status: Analyzing scoping evidence

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 reviewing the evidence from the scoping exercises to decide how the environmental assessment should proceed.

► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0809-001

Status: Analyzing scoping evidence

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 sometime in January.

► Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd. EA0708-001

Status: Second round of information requests

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. The Review Board is waiting for the responses to the second round of information requests.





Active environmental impact review



► 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



▶ 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 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*.

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 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*.

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 14, 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 28, 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.



You're invited to our Open House!



Please join us at our

Holiday Open House

on Wednesday, December 17th, 2008
from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm
in the Mackenzie Valley Review Board boardroom
#200 Scotia Centre, Yellowknife, NT

Call 867-766-7050 for more information

This is what we do: EIA Toolkit



Over the years, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has been making sure that the environmental assessment process is as transparent, efficient and understandable as possible.

In doing so, the Review Board has developed several helpful tools for staying up to date on environmental assessments, having effective presentations at hearings, and for better understanding the environmental assessment process.

To keep up to date information on environmental assessments, the Review Board offers these tools on the website:

Public Registry: To keep a transparent environmental impact assessment process the Review Board keeps an online public registry. Once a new environmental impact assessment file is started, a public registry file and a distribution list are opened immediately. Here is where we place relevant information about the file, such as presentations, notes from scoping sessions, exchanges between parties, and preliminary screening files. This is updated regularly for people to reference throughout the assessment.

E-mail Subscriptions: You can sign up for a subscription to specific files on the public registry, or for the monthly newsletter Valley Talk. You can select the environmental assessment or environmental impact review that you would like to subscribe to.



This is what we do cont'd

RSS Feed: Although there is a small amount of set-up required, Really Simple Syndication allows you to receive really simple notifications. You can get updates about our website and the public registry through a 'feed reader' rather than through your e-mail.

To know more about the environmental assessment process, the Review Board offers the following tools:

Translated Glossary of Terms: These are available in the five Dene languages. These glossaries provide a plain language description and the Dene translation of technical terms that are commonly used in environmental assessment.

Guidelines: The three guidelines that the Review Board has produced are Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines, Guidelines for Incorporating Traditional Knowledge in Environmental Impact Assessment and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Guidelines. Right now, the Review Board is in the beginning stages of developing guidelines for doing good cultural impact assessment. All of these guidelines provide more clarity for practitioners, parties and the general public.

Practitioner's Toolbox for Hearing Preparation: Although this area of the website's Reference Library is still under development, there are some helpful tools available. In this section of the Reference Library, there are forms for parties to environmental assessments, tips for how to make effective hearing presentations and tips for community participation.

Reference CD: This is a really great tool. This has nearly everything that is on the website (except the public registry), such as the legislation, regulations, guidelines, rules of procedure, reference bulletins, the annual report, and all of the decisions since the Review Board inception in March 1998.

Another invaluable resource is the Review Board staff. If you have a question, comment or concern, please drop us a line, stop by our office or call us. We even have a toll free number that can be used anywhere in the three territories: 1-866-912-3472.

- *Jessica Simpson*
Community Liaison Officer

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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