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Site visit to Drybones Bay

During an environmental assessment, the Review Board members and staff often visit the site of proposed developments undergoing environmental assessment to gain a better understanding of the environmental context of the development.

On July 13 2011, Review Board members and staff took a boat to visit the project area for Alex Debogorski's proposed diamond exploration project. During this site visit, the developer highlighted the extent of his claim block and the proposed location for the two initial drill holes. He also showed the Review Board where water will be drawn from and where drill cuttings will be disposed. Review Board members and staff viewed the drill that is currently on site and will be used for the project, and the Snowfield camp facilities that may be used by Debogorski for the camp facilities throughout the duration of this proposed project.



Alex Debogorski explaining possible drill sites to board members

For more information on the site visit: http://reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/1311288642_Note_to_File_-_July_13_Site_Visit.PDF

Do you want an e-copy of all the Review Board publications? Don't want to download them all from the Reference Library? Then you need the Review Board's 2011 Reference CD!



--On the CD, you will find:--

- * reports of environmental assessments from all of the board's completed assessments since 1999;
- * guidelines, reference bulletins and workshop reports;
- * memorandums of understandings and cooperation agreements;
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You can email Renita Jenkins, Head of Communications at rjenkins@reviewboard.ca or call 867-766-7051 to request your copy of the Reference CD.



Ongoing environmental assessments

Click headings to visit the Review Board's public registry for that particular assessment

Diamond Exploration - Alex Debogorski EA1112-001

Status: *Preparing for the community hearing on September 14-15, 2011.*

This diamond drilling exploration project is being proposed southeast of Burnt Island on Great Slave Lake, NT in the Drybones Bay area. A community hearing has been scheduled for September 14th and 15th, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or longer if necessary. The hearing will be held in the Yellowknife area and out of town parties will be provided with support to travel to Yellowknife to participate in the hearing.

Thor Lake Rare Earth Elements Project - Avalon Rare Metals Inc. EA1011-001

Status: *Review Board is conducting a conformity review.*

This proposed rare earth element mining project is at Thor Lake, 100 kilometres southeast of Yellowknife on the north side of Great Slave Lake. The development includes a hydro-metallurgical facility at the former Pine Point mine site on the south side of the lake. The Review Board is conducting a conformity review of the Developer's Assessment Report to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Terms of Reference.

NICO Project - Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

Status: *Parties preparing proposed information requests. Due October 7th, 2011.*

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is approximately 50 kilometres northeast of Whati. On July 15, 2011, the Review Board found the Developer's Assessment Report was in conformity with the requirements of the Terms of Reference. The analytical phase of the EA is underway and an updated Work Plan has been issued. Parties are preparing their proposed information requests, which are due October 7, 2011.

Yellowknife Gold Project - Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003

Status: *Review Board is preparing information requests.*

This is a proposed open pit gold mine 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery Mine site. The Review Board is preparing information requests and is expected to issue them by late August.

Prairie Creek Mine - Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002

Status: *Post-hearing follow-up on outstanding issues.*

This is a proposed underground lead-zinc mine in the Mackenzie Mountains within the South Nahanni River watershed, and the Nahanni National Park Reserve. Public hearings took place in June and the Review Board has requested that parties and the developer work together to resolve the issue of water quality objectives. Final submissions from parties are due September 6th 2011 and from the developer, September 9th, 2011.



Ongoing environmental assessments

Giant Mine Reclamation and Remediation Project - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada EA0809-001

Status: Preparing for technical sessions to be held in mid October.

The Contaminants and Remediation Directorate of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly INAC) is proposing to remediate and reclaim the Giant Mine site within the City of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground and 16 million tonnes of contaminated surface tailings. Technical sessions are being planned for mid October.

Mineral Exploration Program - Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

Status: Report of EA issued in November 2007. Ministers referred the decision back to the Review Board for further consideration in April 2010. Preparing for public hearing on September 12-13th, 2011.

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. In November 2007, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow the development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures outlined in the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. In April 2010, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, on behalf of responsible ministers, referred the Report of Environmental Assessment back to the Review Board for further consideration.

In response to a Request for Ruling from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Review Board has decided to hold a two day public hearing as part of the "further consideration" proceeding. The hearing will be held on September 12th and 13th, 2011.

Meeting with Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board



The Mackenzie Valley Review Board recently met with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) in Yellowknife, July 14, 2011. The Yukon board has a similar role as the Review Board for conducting environmental assessments within its jurisdiction. Like the Review Board, YESAB must consider the environmental and socio-economic effects of a proposed developments that it is reviewing.

At the July 14th, 2011 meeting, the Review Board and the YESAB reacquainted themselves with their respective processes and discussed coordination that may be required for potential transboundary projects. A memorandum of understanding already exists between the two boards and will help guide future cooperation.



Ongoing environmental impact review

Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine - De Beers Canada Inc. EIR0607-001

Status: Panel has issued workplan.

The proposed development is a large open-pit diamond mine approximately 180 km northeast of Yellowknife, NT. The Review Board established the Gahcho Kué Panel to evaluate the impacts of this development. The Panel deemed Environmental Impact Statement submitted by DeBeers in conformity with the Terms of Reference and the Panel issued the workplan for the remainder of the impact review.

Ministers preparing response

Mineral Exploration Program - Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

Status: Report of EA issued in February 2008. The federal and responsible ministers preparing response.

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. In February 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures in the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision. In May 2010, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs advised the Review Board that the federal and responsible ministers need more time to review the report.

Environmental assessment adjourned

Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project - Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

Status: Report of EA issued March 2010. Ministers referred the decision back to the Review Board for further consideration in December 2010. Temporarily adjourned March 2011 at the request of the developer.

This development is a proposed expansion to add 35 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 approved the development with measures to mitigate environmental and cultural impacts. In December 2010, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, on behalf of responsible ministers, referred the Report of Environmental Assessment back to the Review Board for further consideration. However, in March 2011 the Review Board granted an adjournment at the request of the developer.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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