

News Release

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The Review Board releases its Terms of Reference for the Pine Point Mine Project

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) has released its Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment of the proposed Pine Point Mine Project, located at the old Pine Point mine site near Fort Resolution, Katl’odeeche First Nation Reserve and Hay River. The Terms of Reference tells the developer (Pine Point Mining Limited) what information it must provide in its Developer’s Assessment Report to predict the project’s impacts on people and the environment. The developer will be required describe its plans to avoid or reduce the predicted impacts. This environmental assessment will focus on **three key lines of inquiry**:

- **keeping water safe and clean**
- **lasting well-being of people, and**
- **sustainable boreal caribou: protection and harvest**

The Terms of Reference reflects what the Review Board heard from communities and other parties. The Board considered how the developer proposed assessing the impacts, as well as information provided by communities, Indigenous governments and organizations, and federal and territorial government departments. Technical and community meetings are usually a key part of how the Review Board identifies and prioritizes the issues for the environmental assessment. Due to COVID-19 the Review Board experienced challenges meeting with communities and other parties in person. After several attempts to meet in person the Review Board shifted to virtual meetings. The Review Board appreciates the efforts of all the communities, the developer and the other parties to adapt to this new approach.

Proposed Project: The Pine Point Mine Project is a major mine that includes open pit and underground mining of zinc and lead deposits along a 70 km stretch of land on the south side of Great Slave Lake. The mine property is 42 km east of Katl’odeeche First Nation Reserve, and Hay River, and 53 km southwest of Fort Resolution.

Contents of the Terms of Reference: The developer will look at impacts on parts of the environment individually and the relationships between them when assessing the Project’s impacts. This is especially important for assessing impacts on three key lines of inquiry (above).

The Terms of Reference describes how impacts will be assessed. The developer will:

- assess impacts in all areas that may be affected by the Project
- consider impacts caused throughout the life of the Project
- consider cumulative effects

The developer must:

- use Traditional Knowledge in its assessment
- consider cumulative effects including the legacy of past mining
- consider climate change, including impacts of the Project on climate change and the risks of climate change to the Project

The Terms of Reference can be found online in the Review Board [public registry](#).

For further information, please contact:

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About the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in 1998. It is an independent court-like tribunal responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. As a co-management board, Indigenous land claim organizations nominate half of the Board members, and the federal and territorial governments nominate the other half of the Board members. The Minister of Northern Affairs appoints all members to the Review Board including the Chairperson.

Location of Pine Point Mine Project

