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MVEIRB approves Drybones drilling program

WebPosted Feb 12 2004 12:29 PM CST

YELLOWKNIFE - Two of three companies that want to drill for diamonds near Yellowknife got the go-ahead yesterday from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

The board turned a third company down.

The Review Board said New Shoshoni Ventures hasn't proved it could lessen the environmental impact of its proposed drilling program around Drybones Bay, about 50 kilometers south of the territorial capital.

The program was scheduled to last for up to 10 weeks, and involved a small camp.

But the Board came to a different conclusion for another of the companies planning a four-week exploration program around Drybones Bay.

The Board wants Consolidated Goldwin Ventures to be particularly careful around archeological sites, but it can go ahead.

The need to protect archeological sites is a key recommendation to a third company, North American General Resources, which is planning to drill two holes offshore near Wool Bay.

During public hearings in November, the Yellowknives Dene and the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation emphasized the cultural importance of both Drybones and Wool Bays.

- FROM NOV. 26, 2003 : Dene worried about drilling in sacred territory

The recommendations go to the minister of Indian and Northern Affairs for final approval.

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