

February 1st, 2013

EA1011-001

Thor Lake Rare Earth Element Project

Hearing Directive

Re: Procedures for public and community hearings, dates for the filing of materials and other hearing matters

To parties and members of the public:

This hearing directive provides guidance and information to parties and members of the public on upcoming dates and expectations of the Review Board.

1. Public Hearings

The Review Board holds public hearings in order to hear parties' arguments concerning the project. These hearings are more formal and technical in nature than community hearings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may submit comments in writing to the Review Board up until the public record is closed.

The final agenda for the public hearings is provided under separate cover. An overview of the process during the hearings is as follows:

1.1. Yellowknife Public Hearings – February 18th – 20th (formal)

- Parties make a 3-minute opening statement to the Review Board
- The developer will introduce their representatives, and present their position on potential impacts of the proposed project on the biophysical environment, including on cultural, social and economic environmental components
- Presentations by parties are a summary of technical reports (or as discussed in the pre-hearing conference)
- The opportunity for questioning after presentations is granted to all parties, the developer, Review Board staff, and Review Board members
- Questioning after presentations occurs within the timelines described on the agenda.

1.2. Opening statements

The Review Board requests that all parties provide an opening statement at the beginning of the public hearing. **Each party is provided a three minute time slot for this purpose.** Parties that are not presenting should still introduce themselves so that the Review Board knows they are present at the hearing. The intent of the opening statement is for each party to give the Review Board a brief **verbal** (no Powerpoint) introduction including:

- an introduction of representatives participating on behalf of the party
- a **short** description of the mandate of the party.



The parties include, in the order of questioning:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Akaitcho Treaty#8 Tribal Corporation
- Blachford Lake Lodge
- Deninu Kue First Nation
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Fort Resolution Metis Council
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- K'atlo'deeche First Nation
- Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Northwest Territory Metis Nation
- Tlicho Government
- Transport Canada
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Avalon Rare Metals Inc.

1.3. Presentations

Parties that will be presenting at the hearing are:

- Blachford Lake Lodge
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Environment Canada
- Lutsel K'e First Nation
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Deninu Kue First Nation
- Northwest Territory Metis Nation.
- Transport Canada
- Avalon Rare Metals Inc.

Presentations from parties are due on February 4th, 2013. Presentations from the developer are due on February 12th, 2013. Presentations are a summary of material already submitted to the Review Board and in technical reports, or otherwise as discussed in the pre-hearing conference.

Presentations should identify only the points and recommendations that parties feel will assist the Review Board in making environmental assessment decisions on the proposed project.

The Review Board strongly encourages party presentations to be brief and focused in order to allow sufficient time for questioning of each party.



2. Community Hearings

The Review Board holds community hearings in order to hear directly from members of the community about their views on the proposed project. Community hearings are informal.

Please note only some parties to the environmental assessment may be present at the community hearing and if so, are available to answer questions from community members. There will be no questions and answers between the developer and parties.

The final agenda for the community hearings is provided separately. An overview of the process during the hearings is as follows:

2.1. Fort Resolution Community Hearing – February 22nd, 2013 (informal)

- Opening statement from Chief of community
- The developer will briefly describe the project
- Community members have the opportunity to ask questions of the developer or make statements to the Review Board regarding the proposed project.

3. Other Matters

3.1. Filing of material and due dates

February 4th, 2013 – Submission deadline for parties' presentations

February 12th, 2013 – Submission deadline for developer's presentations.

3.2. Closure of the Public Record

The public record will be temporarily closed between February 13th, 2013 and February 17th, 2013 (inclusive) to ensure that no new information is submitted prior to the hearings.

The public record will be re-opened for post-hearing filings after the hearings are complete. Date of final closure of the public record will be determined after the hearings and will be made public in a Note to File.

3.3. Translation, webcast and teleconference

The hearings will have simultaneous translation available and will be transcribed. The hearing dates in Yellowknife will have teleconference capability. Parties may request access to the teleconference. The Yellowknife hearings will also be webcast at <http://reviewboard.ca/webcast.php>.

3.4. Tips for Public Hearings

A document titled *Tips for Public Hearings* can be found on the Review Board website: http://reviewboard.ca/upload/ref_library/Public_hearing_tipsguide_1240350117.pdf



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