

June 18, 2021

Note to File

Re: MVEIRB meeting with West Point First Nation

Review Board staff met online with West Point First Nation on June 16, 2021 to discuss the environmental assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley and the Pine Point Mine Project Environmental Assessment.

Topics discussed included the environmental assessment process, the scoping phase, engagement and participation opportunities, and funding opportunities.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Chuck Hubert (Sr. Environmental Assessment Officer) at 867-766-7052 or chubert@reviewboard.ca.

Environmental Assessment of the Pine Point Mine Project

EA2021-01

West Point First Nation

June 16, 2021



Meeting outline

1. Introduction to the Review Board and environmental assessment
2. Environmental assessment start-up phase and scoping phase
 - Describe steps
3. Scoping phase
 - tips on things to think about for the Pine Point Mine EA
4. Engagement and participation
 - How can we best engage with you? How would you like to participate?

Why we are here today

- To discuss the Pine Point Mine environmental assessment
- To engage on how you can participate in the environmental assessment
- To ensure that your voice will be heard in the process



Environmental assessment during COVID-19



The Mackenzie Valley Review Board is:

- committed to **safe and effective engagement** and consultation
- willing to **work with parties** to set engagement and consultation approaches and methods
- recognizes **different approaches** may be needed to protect everyone's health and safety
- **adaptable**, so engagement approaches will be set on a case-by-case basis after discussions with each community or organization



Overview of activities to date



Feb 4: Review Board orders Pine Point Mine Project to environmental assessment

March 5: Review Board EA start-up meeting

March 12: Information session on developer's EA Initiation Package

May 4-5: Technical scoping meeting – online

May 27: Community scoping meeting in Fort Resolution - online



Why did the Review Board order an EA for the Pine Point Mine?

- The Pine Point Mine Project involves a **large-scale** industrial development.
- The **Project may impact traditional use** by several Indigenous groups and is close to several communities
- The Project partially **overlaps and uses the location** of the historic Pine Point Mine, which has **not been fully reclaimed**.
- The potential impacts of the Project may **combine cumulatively** with past, present, and future activities in the area.

Introduction to the Review Board process



Purpose: to assess the impacts of proposed developments in the Mackenzie Valley

a) the protection of the environment

b) the protection of the social, cultural and economic well-being of residents and communities

c) the importance of conservation to the well-being and way of life of the aboriginal peoples of Canada



Review Board Members



What is environmental assessment?



- EA is a **set of steps** to study the **potential significant impacts** of a proposed development, to **reduce or avoid those impacts**.
- The **goal is to produce good decisions** about whether or not a project should proceed, and if so, under what conditions.

A good environmental assessment process with meaningful, effective participation can have the following benefits:

- **improvements to project design**
- additional mitigation and **commitments** to prevent or reduce impacts
- resolve conflicts and **build relationships**
- support **sustainable development**





How is the environmental assessment process different from the licence/permit process?



Regulatory - licencing and permitting

Focus on land and water:

- water quality
- water quantity
- wildlife habitat
- land disturbance



Detail-oriented: discuss specific water quality parameters and detailed conditions for licence/permit

Environmental Assessment

Focus **expands** and include people:

- traditional land use
- culture
- health and well-being
- economy and infrastructure
- wildlife (beyond just habitat)
- Big picture: focus is on determining if there are significant impacts (that is, impacts that matter enough to avoid or reduce)



Requirements

The Review Board is also required to:

- concerns from **Indigenous people and the public** are considered
- incorporate **traditional knowledge**
- carry out its duties in a **timely** manner
- run a **fair** process
- make **decisions based on the evidence**
- operate in a **transparent** manner



SCOPING
**WHAT ARE THE MOST
IMPORTANT ISSUES?**

If you were on the Review Board, what issues
would you focus on when you assess the project?



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

Scoping phase (current EA phase)



What is scoping?

Company describes the project (infrastructure, activities)

The Board identifies and prioritizes the issues

- Using engagement with communities, governments and technical experts, the board will:
 - **identify** how the development may impact the environment and people
 - **prioritize** the issues to focus on

Scoping leads to more focused, efficient, and meaningful environmental assessment

Main questions in scoping for this project



- 1. In what ways could the project affect the environment** (such as wildlife, water)?
- 2. How could the project affect people** (such as traditional harvesting, community structure, culture, economy)?
- 3. What are the most important issues with this project you would focus on** if you were on the Review Board? Do you agree with the issues the developer identified?



Engagement and Participation



How you can participate in the environmental assessment

- attend and **participate during community and technical scoping**
- **submit written and audio comments** during engagement on the draft Terms of Reference
- **attend and participate during community and technical sessions** once Pine Point Mining submits its report
- **attend and participate in public hearings** to inform the Board's final decision



Steps an environmental assessment



- EA Referral
- EA Initiation Package submitted
- Public Notice
- Distribution list

- Community and technical scoping meetings
- Written and audio comments on draft Terms of Reference
- Scope of Assessment
- Terms of Reference

- Developer's Assessment Report
- Information requests
- Technical sessions
- Community sessions

- Technical Reports
- Community and technical hearings
- Closing arguments

- Board deliberation
- Report of EA writing
- Decision to Minister

Public participation
shown in yellow



Proposed next steps

- **June/July** – community scoping meetings
- **July** – public review of draft terms of reference
- **August** – final terms of reference and draft workplan

You can assist the Review Board by telling us:

- the resource person or individual who will interact with Review Board staff on a day-to-day basis
 - receives **all correspondence** and material on the public registry
- the name and contact information of any others (such as Chief or Mayor) who will only receive **key documents** from each step in the process

How would you like to be engaged during this EA?

Different communities and groups will want to be engaged in different ways, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- What engagement approaches are acceptable to your community or organization? Are some approaches preferable?
 - may include online engagement or in-person engagement options
- Are there specific protocols in your community that need to be followed during COVID-19 restrictions?

Board staff commit to following up with you on these questions!



PINE POINT MINE PROJECT - EA2021-01

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Details

Company Pine Point Mining Limited

Type Environmental Assessment - Ongoing

Contact Chuck Hubert



Interactive Timeline & Work Plan

Pine Point Mining Limited is proposing to build a zinc and lead mine 42 km east of Hay River and 53 km southwest of Fort Resolution. Construction will take approximately 1.5 years with a mine life of 10 to 15 years. Zinc and lead will be mined using both open pit and underground mining methods. A process plant, camp and other facilities will be built. Once mining is finished closure and reclamation will take place.

Recent Documents

Agenda - EA start-up meeting March 5, 2021	Mar 1, 2021
Notice of Proceeding - scoping phase	Feb 19, 2021
Reasons for Decision to order an environmental assessment	Feb 12, 2021
Public Notice - Participant funding available from CIRNAC	Feb 11, 2021
Participant Funding Guide, CIRNAC - Pine Point Mine Project	Feb 11, 2021
Letter CIRNAC to MVEIRB re: participant funding	Feb 11, 2021

Document Summary

New	Total	Stage
		Preliminary screening
33		Assessment/review startup (current stage)
		Scoping
		Terms of Reference and workplans
		Developer's Assessment Report/Environmental Impact Statement

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<https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea2021-01>