



June 1, 2012

To Distribution:

Clarification of Spill Reporting Expectations to the Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley

The Mackenzie Valley, Gwich'in, Sahtu, and Wek'èezhii Land and Water Boards recently reviewed their roles and responsibilities with respect to spill reporting requirements for surface and underground spills that occur at projects licensed under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

During the review, the Boards considered correspondence from both the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The Boards also took into consideration the MVRMA, the *NWT Waters Act* and their associated regulations, a legal review, and the *Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Spill Reporting Protocol for Mining Operations in the Northwest Territories*.

The Boards have determined that they require proponents to:

- Maintain records for all spills, whether on the surface or within an underground operation;
- Report all spills greater than 100 litres, whether on the surface or within an underground operation, to the 24-Hour Spill Hotline in accordance with instructions contained in the "NT-NU Spill Report" form, the *Spill Reporting Protocol for Mining Operations* (2004), or subsequent versions; and
- Ensure compliance with all land use permit and water licence conditions related to spill reporting and all applicable legislation and regulations.

It is the expectation of the Land and Water Boards that clarification of these requirements will ensure consistency of their application throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Land and Water Board.

Sincerely,



Willard Hagen,
Chair,
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board



Larry Wallace,
Chair,
Sahtu Land and Water Board



Violet Camsell-Blondin,
Chair,
Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board



Paul Sullivan,
Chair,
Gwich'in Land and Water Board