



Vision

A forum for regional decision making, ensuring participation of residents in the use, protection, and benefits of the lands and waters of the Mackenzie Valley.

Principles

- Making land and water use decisions that are consistent, credible and non-partisan.
- Valuing the input from all parties and incorporating both Traditional Knowledge and science in the decision making process.
- Respecting the land and waters that the Board regulates and the partners and clients to which the Board is accountable.
- Maintaining integrity by regulating the uses of land and water in an efficient, focused and confident manner, and by clearly communicating the MVLWB's roles and actions to partners and clients.

Goals

- Strengthen internal capacity to manage future development and change.
- Clarify the interpretation of the regulatory framework.
- Establish and maintain positive and effective external relations.
- Ensure current and future consistency in Board processes in the Mackenzie Valley.

Introduction

The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) came into being in 1998. It fulfills obligations under the Gwich'in and Sahtu Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements and creates an integrated co-management regime for land and waters in the Mackenzie Valley. The Act established boards for the Gwich'in and Sahtu settlement areas as well as the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB).

While the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) each have jurisdiction over the issuance of permits and licences in their own settlement area, the MVLWB has three main functions:

1. Issuing land use permits and water licences in the remainder of the Mackenzie Valley until the balance of the land claims are settled;
2. Processing transboundary land and water use applications in the Mackenzie Valley;
3. Ensuring consistency in the application of the Act throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

The MVLWB as it exists today was established in March 2000. Since then it has worked diligently to fulfill its legal obligation to enable residents of the Mackenzie Valley to participate in the management of resources, for their own benefit and that of other Canadians.

The First Four Years

Applications for Land Use Permits (LUP) and Water Licences (WL)

	2000 - 01	2001 - 02	2002 - 03	2003 - 04
LUP				
Type A	61	60	74	35
Type B	15	10	7	7
Withdrawn	27	11	13	4
Not Classified*	0	0	3	8
Total LUP	103	81	97	54
WL				
Type A	3	1	1	4
Type B	16	6	20	6
Withdrawn	2	3	2	0
Not Classified*	0	0	0	2
Total WL	21	10	23	12
Total Applications	124	91	120	66

table 1

With the move in 2000 from a working group to a quasi-judicial board functioning under a new regulatory regime came a number of growing pains. However, the Board successfully developed guidelines and procedures to handle the significant quantity of applications it receives and to allow it to continue to evolve as new challenges arise.

Table 1 provides an overview of the applications received by the MVLWB based on the size of the proposed development. Under the MVRMA and the Northwest Territories Waters Act, there are two types of licences/permits: Type A for larger developments and Type B for smaller projects. During the fiscal year 2000/01, the Board received 124 applications for land use permits and water licences. The majority of land use permits are Type A, while the majority of water licences are Type B.

* applications awaiting either Environmental Assessment or further information before final classification



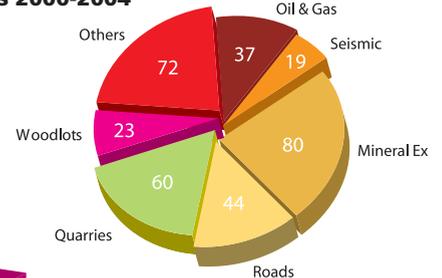
I l e y L a n d a n d

The new process meant a number of proponents made applications that were later withdrawn when it was determined that licences/permits from the MVLWB were not needed. The number of applications has gone down since the first year. This is partially due to economic factors such as a drop in oil and gas exploration in 2003/04, and partially because proponents are more familiar with the system.

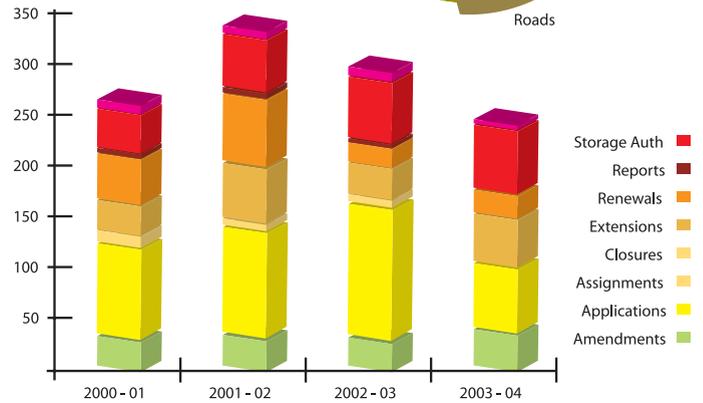
Permits and licences are also classed by type of development or undertaking. From 2000 – 2004, most permits and licences have related to mineral development or to oil and gas exploration.

Besides deciding on new permits and licences, the MVLWB must deal with requests for alterations to existing permits and licences. It also approves reports and plans submitted by permittees and licencees as part of the ongoing due diligence on these authorizations.

Total Land Use Permits 2000-2004



Board Decision Items



Improving Communications

Getting information to the public and interested parties is one of the top priorities for the Board. Here are three communications initiatives that deliver information:

www.mvlwb.com

Our website provides information on current applications, existing permits and licences and guidelines for proponents.

It undergoes regular updates and is reviewed as necessary to make it easier to navigate.

MVLWB Quarterly

A quarterly newsletter is being launched to keep our clients and partners up-to-date on the Board's activities. To present this we will identify graphically the permit and licence applications that are submitted, changed or closed over the period.



W a t e r B o a r d

Looking Forward

Consultation

- Defining the Board's role in ensuring that Section 35 (CA) consultation is carried out by the appropriate authority.
- Educating stakeholders about the MVLWB's role in advising communities of applications.
- Educating of proponents on their obligation to involve communities.

Handling Pipeline Applications

- Coordinating the internal processes for handling and reviewing applications which may impact the entire Mackenzie Valley.
- Structuring joint hearings with the MVEIRB to ensure necessary regulatory information is obtained by the Board

Community Capacity

- Improving the capacity of communities to respond to existing level of applications that require review and hearings that occur.
- Involving communities in other areas the Board would like to seek input on (guidelines, policy, etc.)

Greater Awareness of Process

- Growing awareness of environmental issues and understanding of the EIA process will lead to more referrals to EA.
- Increasing use of legal avenues by First Nations to press their concerns will impact the regulatory and assessment processes.

New Land and Water Boards

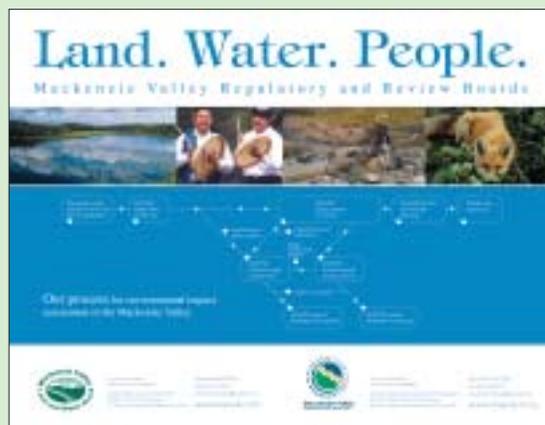
- Assisting new board offices with staff training in office management, application processing, permit and licence preparation and project follow up.
- Assisting new board members to understand their roles as decision makers on a quasi-judicial Board.

Security Deposits

- Refining a means to establish acceptable security deposits for smaller projects in the Mackenzie Valley.
- Balancing the need to protect the environment and limit public liability with the need to ensure development is not discouraged in the NWT.

Joint Projects

At the 2004 Inuvik Petroleum Show, the MVLWB joined with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in an effort to clarify the Environmental Assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley. The joint booth and accompanying information demonstrated what roles the two boards played in the larger process of environmental impact assessment. This joint effort will continue through 2004/05.



Contact Us

For further information, please contact our Policy & Communications Officer, Margot Trembath. We will accept collect calls. **Email: MTrembath@mvlwb.com Tel: (867) 766-7464**



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FSC CERTIFIED FIBERS

- FSC designates fiber from responsibly managed forests
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- Elemental chlorine free