

Newsletter of the Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley

MAY 2012 VOLUME II, ISSUE 2



Wek'èezhì
Land and Water Board

Photo :Crystal Thomas, SLWB

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“Sharing responsibility—working together to make the best decisions for the land, water, and people.”

De Beers Snap Lake Water Licence Renewal

New Water and Effluent Quality Objectives a Key Component of the Renewal Process

Since June of 2011, staff and Board Members of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) have been working towards the renewal of De Beers Canada Inc.'s Snap Lake Type A Water Licence (WL) MV2011L2-0004. The De Beers Snap Lake diamond mine, located 220 km northeast of Yellowknife, was issued its first WL (MV2001L2-0002) by the MVLWB in 2004; it will expire on June 13, 2012.



*Snap Lake Mine, Snap Lake, NWT
Photo courtesy of De Beers Canada*

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De Beers Licence Renewal Continued

The renewal of the Snap Lake Water Licence was carried out in one year, a milestone for the renewal of a type A WL of this size. The Board looked at the existing Licence's water quality objectives (WQOs) and the setting of associated effluent quality criteria (EQC) against the MVLWB's new water and effluent quality criteria policy, which the Board approved in March 2011. EQCs refer to the limits on the quality or quantity of the waste deposited into the receiving environment. This means that the effluent that flows out of a development must meet standards set by the Board. WQOs describe the acceptable levels of various materials (chemical or otherwise) in the effluent at certain distances from the point of discharge.

The Board heard evidence and arguments from interveners and the company at a public hearing held in Yellowknife, December 13–15, 2011, on what changes might be required to the WL. Some of the issues raised at the public hearing included:

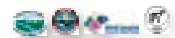
- Security;
- EQC; and
- Term (duration in years) of the WL.

On Feb. 6, the Board distributed a draft of the WL to a long list of reviewers and to the proponent. On April 4, the Board approved the Water Licence, then sent it to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable John Duncan. On May 23, the Minister signed the Water Licence as recommended by the Board.

More information

All material concerning the renewal Water Licence, MV2011L2-0004, including transcripts of the public hearing, is available in hard copy at the MVLWB Public Registry in Yellowknife and online at:

www.mvlwb.ca/mv/registry.aspx.



Day 3 of the De Beers Snap Lake Water Licence public hearing, Yellowknife.

Land and Water Boards Discuss Their Draft Engagement Policy and Draft Engagement Guidelines With Interested Parties

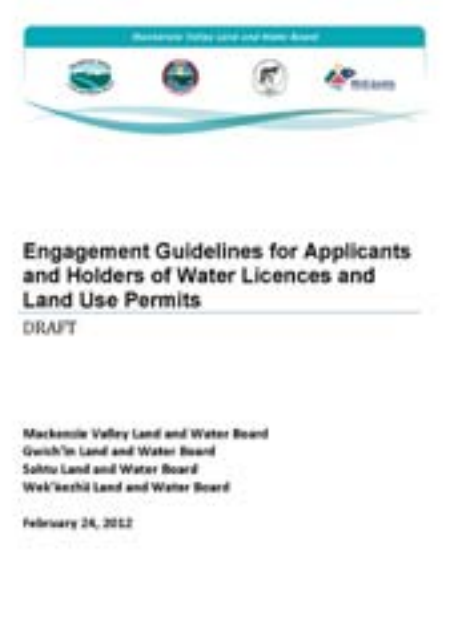
Engagement is the communication and outreach activities a proponent is required to undertake with affected parties prior to and during the operation of a project. It is a critical and key component of a proponent's relationship-building with the affected parties, including Aboriginal organizations/governments.

In late February, the Land and Water Boards released their much anticipated **Draft Engagement Policy** and **Draft Engagement Guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water Licences and Land Use Permits** for public review. The comment deadline date was April 16.¹

Staff met with representatives of various departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Akaitcho Territory Government, the NWT Chamber of Mines, and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to discuss the draft policy and guidelines. The results of these sessions and comments received during the public comment period will help the Board refine the drafts into final products.

The engagement documents can be accessed through any of the Board's websites - see 'Policy and Guidelines' in the Resources section.

¹ By the close of the public comment period, the Working Group had received comments from the GNWT's Department of Transportation (DOT) and Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), Paramount Resources, MGM, The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), CanZinc, BHP Billiton and the community of Behchoko. The Working Group is anticipating additional comments from parties that approached the Board for and were granted extensions.



Land and Water Boards Release Geographic Information System (GIS) and Document Submission Standards

The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley receive over 1000 documents each year related to land use permit and water licences. These documents (including applications, management plans, and reports) are in turn filed, posted to our online registries, and often redistributed for review. To improve the efficiency of this considerable information flow, the MVLWB created the Data Standards and Sharing Working Group whose mandate is to develop consistent practices for application-related issues. In March 2012, the group released two sets of standards: one for geographical information systems (GIS) and one for document submissions.

Standards for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Submissions provides direction about which types of GIS data are necessary and the Boards' preferred formats and requirements for metadata documentation. *Document Submission Standards* outlines the formats, specifications, and copy requirements for all material submitted to the Boards by proponents.

The GIS and document submission standards will improve the consistency and efficiency of the submis-

sion and review process and contribute to regulatory improvement as addressed in *Road to Improvement: the Review of the Regulatory Systems Across the North* (the McCrank Report), the 2005 Auditor General's Report, and the 2005 and 2010 NWT environmental audits conducted under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

You can find the *Standards for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Submissions* and *Document Submission Standards* through any of the Board's [websites](#) in the Resources section.



The **ICE ROAD REGULATORS**, comprised of staff from the Mackenzie Valley and Wek'èezhii Land and Water Boards and the Mackenzie Valley Review Board, competed in the Decathlon Corporate Challenge at the Long John Jamboree on March 23. The event was hosted by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce. About 12 groups took part in the friendly competition with the **REGULATORS** winning the Best Overall team award. Participants ran relays with steel drums, eggs, firewood, and wood pellet bags, and they filleted fish and pushed sleds.



From l-r: Vern Christenson (MVEIRB), Paul Mercredi (MVEIRB), Kathleen Graham (MVLWB), Miki Ehrlich (MVLWB), Shannon Hayden (MVEIRB), Jonathan Churcher (MVLWB), Alan Ehrlich (MVEIRB), Sarah Elsasser (WLWB), Simon Toogood (MVEIRB)

Sahtu Land and Water Board Reaches Out to Communities



Every year the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) gives a training workshop that guides members of Sahtu organizations, the public, and industry through the regulatory system in the North and the roles and processes of the SLWB. In previous years, the workshop was held in only one Sahtu community with approximately 20 attendees. This year, the SLWB wanted to give all Sahtu residents the opportunity to learn about the regulatory process, so for its 12th annual workshop, the Board condensed the material and brought it to the Sahtu communities and high schools of Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tulita, and Deline. By bringing the workshop to each community, the SLWB was able to reach over 100 residents.

The workshop materials emphasized where and how community members can be involved in the regulatory process. The residents were passionate concerning the importance of learning about and being actively involved in the regulatory system. During the school visits, the Board encouraged students to take an active role by attending proponent's community engagement meetings. Staff also outlined the various career and education paths available in the Sahtu and in the broader regulatory field.



SLWB Regulatory Specialist Crystal Thomas speaks during the Board's recent community tour.

Visits to the schools were a positive experience for both the students and SLWB staff. The young people were very aware of the projects going on in the Sahtu but unsure of the community and SLWB roles in those projects. The Board's goal is to ensure that students understand they can have a voice in the regulatory process and are aware of the many opportunities available to them. The high schools will be a permanent addition to the SLWB's yearly workshops.

A copy of the presentation can be found under the Resources section of the SLWB website at www.slwb.com.



Paul Dixon, Executive Director and Regulatory Specialists Tony Morris and Crystal Thomas discussing the SLWB regulatory process with attendees in Norman Wells

Sahtu residents were passionate concerning the importance of learning about and being actively involved in the regulatory system.



External Initiatives Update

A summary of important events that stabilize, define, clarify, and enhance our relationships with major players in the regulatory regime of the Mackenzie Valley.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between the MVLWB and Parks Canada for Nahanni National Park

On March 27, 2012 the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (the Board) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Parks Canada which outlines how the two agencies will work together to increase certainty and ensure efficiencies in regulatory decision-making for projects that overlap both jurisdictions. The MOU specifically aims to minimize duplication and to provide for an effective and timely review of applications.

The Board and Parks Canada are currently coordinating on two projects that overlap the Nahanni National Park and the Mackenzie Valley - the access road to Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek Mine and another access road to properties held by Selwyn-Chihong Resources. These access roads are regulated outside of Nahanni by the MVLWB and within the park by Parks Canada.

For more information, please contact Angela Plautz: aplautz@mvlwb.com 867-766-7468

Standard Procedures and Consistency Working Groups

-Update-

Working Group 1: Public Engagement and Consultation

- Distributed the Draft Engagement Policy and the Draft Engagement Guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water Licences and Land Use Permits for public comment.

Working Group 2: Plan Review Process and Guidelines

- With Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), is incorporating public comments on the Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the Northwest Territories.
- Working with AANDC on an issues paper related to permit and licence security deposits.

Working Group 3: Water and Effluent Quality Guidelines

- The group continues to work on tasks related to the development of water quality and effluent guidelines.

Working Group 4: Terms and Conditions

- Has completed a draft list (now under legal review) of standard terms and conditions for land use permits.
- Hosted the first meeting of the Land and Water Board (LWB) Wildlife Conditions Working Group, comprised of staff from the LWBs and external organizations.

Working Group 5: Data Standards and Sharing

- Working Group 5 finalized the *Standards for Geographical Information Systems (GIS)* and the *Document Submission Standards*.

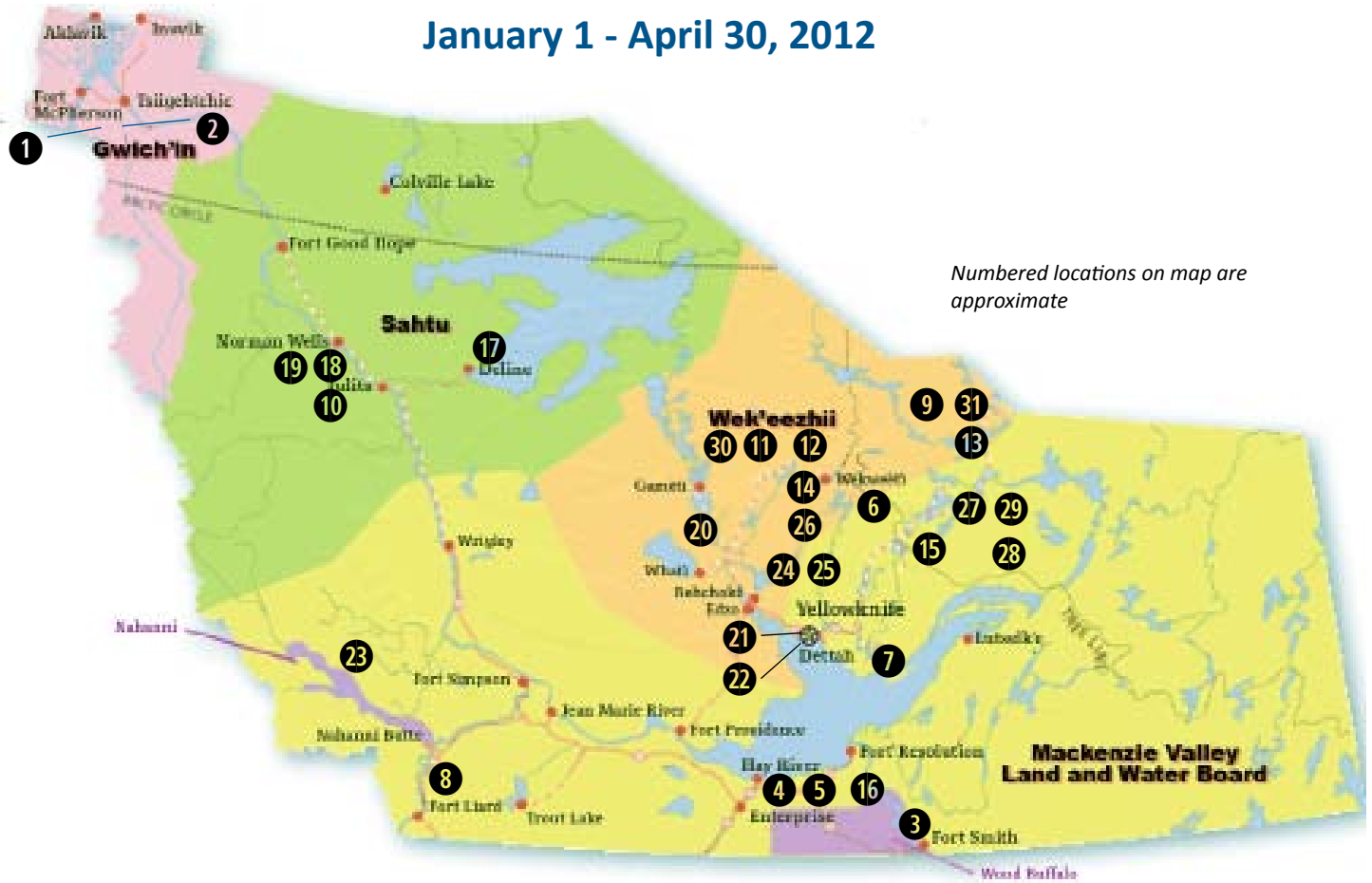
Working Group 6: Application Processes

- Distributed the *Draft Guide to Land Use Permitting Process* for public comment.

For more information, contact Standard Procedures and Consistency Working Groups Coordinator Patty Ewaschuk: pewaschuk@wlwb.ca 905-852-1516

Approved Land Use Permits, Water Licences, Plans, and Reports

January 1 - April 30, 2012



Key	LW Board	Land Use Permit	Company	Project
1	GLWB	12X001	Tetlit Gwich'in Council Fort McPherson	Move cabins from Tl'oondih to Fort McPherson
2	GLWB	12Q002	Community of Tsiigehtchic	Quarry, Frog Creek
3	MVLWB	MV2012Q0003	Locust Mowing	Quarry
4	MVLWB	MV2011Q0018	Carter Industries	Quarry, Highway 5
5	MVLWB	MV2011C0015	Tamerlane Ventures Inc.	Pine Point Pilot Project
6	MVLWB	MV2012F0004	Deton Cho	Tibbett-Contwoyto winter road
7	MVLWB	MV2012G0005	Avalon Rare Metals	Extend current airstrip
8	MVLWB	MV2011E0004	Beaver Enterprises Ltd.	Road reclamation, seeding
9	MVLWB	MV2011C0005	Peregrine Diamonds Ltd.	Exploration activities
10	SLWB	S11B-005	Husky Oil Operations Limited	Seismic, Tulita District
11	WLWB	W2012C0002	Merc International Minerals	Mineral exploration, Damoti Lake and Colomac

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Key	LW Board	Land Use Permit	Company	Project
12	WLWB	W2012X0003	Merc International Minerals	Remediation, Chalco lake, and Spider Lake
13	WLWB	W2012T0001	Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.	Fish Habitat Compensation Work, West Island
Water Licences				
14	WLWB	W2011L2002	Community Gov. of Wekweètì	Bridge installation, Wekweètì
15	MVLWB	MV2011L20004	De Beers Canada Inc.	Snap Lake Mine
16	MVLWB	MV2006L20003	Tamerlane Ventures Inc.	Lead and zinc mining pilot project
17	SLWB	S11L1-0004	Imperial Oil Resources	Industrial, Tulita District
18	SLWB	S11L1-0005	Husky Oil Operations	Seismic, Tulita District
19	SLWB	S11L8-0006	Imperial Oil Resources	Miscellaneous, Goose Island Bunker
20	WLWB	W2011L20002	Fortune Minerals Limited	Advanced mineral exploration (care and maintenance)
Major Plans and Reports				
21	MVLWB	MV2009L30007	City of Yellowknife	Biotreatment Operations and Maintenance Plan
22	MVLWB	MV2009L30007	City of Yellowknife.	Landfill Operations and Maintenance Plan
23	MVLWB	MV2002L20019	North American Tungsten Corp. Ltd.	Groundwater Pumping Contingency Plan
24	MVLWB	MV2009L40004	NTPC	Dam Design
25	MVLWB	MV2009L40004	NTPC	Geotechnical Engineering Report
26	MVLWB	MV2002L20017	Tyhee NWT Corp.	Minewater Contingency Plan
27	MVLWB	MV2009L80008	INAC-CARD	Tundra Mine. Erosion, Sediment, Drainage Control Plan.
28	MVLWB	MV2009L80008	INAC-CARD	Tundra Mine. Waste Disposal Management Plan
29	MVLWB	MV2009L80008	INAC-CARD	Tundra Mine. Sewage Disposal Facility Design Report.
30	WLWB	W2012C0002	Merc International Minerals	Updated Spill Contingency Plan
31	WLWB	W2009L20001	BHP Billiton	AEMP Fish Sampling Plan

Other Land and Water Board Licence and Permit Activities January 1 - April 30, 2012

	MVLWB	GLWB	SLWB	WLWB
New applications received	16	1	2	3
Referrals to environmental assessment	0	0	0	0
Extensions*	8	0	0	0
Amendments*	1	0	0	0
All plans and reports*	8	0	0	2
Final clearances*	12	1	1	1

*Approved

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