

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Releases Policy and Guideline Papers



The Chair of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) is pleased to announce the release of two policy and guideline papers produced by the Standard Procedure and Consistency Working Groups (WG). At the MVLWB's Full Board meeting in early December, Board Members approved both the *Water and Effluent Quality Management Policy* and the *Guidelines for Developing a Waste Management Plan*.

The *Policy* and the *Guidelines* are the respective products of the Water/Effluent Quality Guidelines WG and the Plan Review Process and Guidelines WG. They were approved by the MVLWB on December 8, 2010 and are available at [www.mvlwb.ca](http://www.mvlwb.ca).

Since the approval of these two papers, the WGs have been preparing staff from the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, the Sahtu Land and Water Board, the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board to implement the policy and guidelines, which are effective March 31, 2011.

"This is a watershed moment in the history of the Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley" said MVLWB Chair, Willard Hagen. "The implementation of these products by all of the Land and Water Boards in the Mackenzie Valley will help provide the consistency and clarity we want for proponents, governments, communities, and all stakeholders," he explained.

Dr. Kathy Racher, Chair of the Water/Effluent Quality Guidelines WG, explained that the *Water and Effluent Quality Management Policy* describes the Boards' approach to managing the deposit of waste into the receiving environment through enforceable terms and conditions set in water licences. The Policy is necessary to ensure that Board decisions are clear, timely, consistent, and transparent. The Policy will enable proponents, stakeholders, and other interested parties to make more informed

submissions to the Boards which will, in turn, lead to more efficient and effective Board processes and decisions.

The *Guidelines for Developing a Waste Management Plan* outline the expectations of the Boards for waste management plans for projects requiring land use permits and/or water licences. The Guidelines include a template that will help proponents to write a waste management plan. Ryan Fequet, Chair of the Plan Review Process and Guidelines WG, noted that the guidelines provide reviewers with a benchmark to evaluate a proponent's plan. This ensures that waste management plans are submitted and reviewed in a consistent way. The MVLWB Full Board has previously approved recommendations from Mr. Fequet's Working Group that the MVLWB and the Regional Panels officially adopt Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's *Spill Contingency Guidelines*.

The Policy and the Guidelines address concerns raised in *Road to Improvement: the Review of the Regulatory Systems Across the North* (the McCrank Report), the 2005 *NWT Environmental Audit*, and the 2005 *Auditor General's Report*.

In January 2008, the MVLWB struck six Standard Procedure and Consistency Working Groups (WGs) tasked with creating policy, procedures, and guidelines that can be applied consistently by the Land and Water Boards, while taking into account regional concerns and issues.

The MVLWB operates under the authority of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* of 1998. The MVLWB and the Regional Panels review development applications and issue land use permits and water licences throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

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