

Nahendeh Gondi News of Our Land



Message from the Executive Director

As Executive Director, it is my job to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Board. I carry out the directives of the Chairperson and board members and provide them with any information they may require about the work we are doing. I am dependent on the staff to take care of the multitude of duties and tasks that keeps things running as they should. On any given day, the office can usually continue to run properly, at least temporarily, if one or a few staff members are absent. However, one individual whose presence is central to everything we do is Rob Dobson, our Information Technology Specialist. When we are having a bad computer day and we find ourselves parked on the shoulder of the information highway, the IT's absence can turn minutes into hours. In recognition of the key role he plays in our workplace, we have chosen Rob Dobson as our featured employee for this edition of Nahendeh Gondi. Happy holidays to all.

Wanda Anderson

In This Issue

Nahendi Ghondi (Our Land) is the newsletter of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB). In this edition, we have included information about permitting and licencing under *Activity Review* and an example of how the Board processes an application in *The MVLWB Regulatory Process*.

Employee Profile describes the work and background of the MVLWB's Information Technology (IT) Specialist, Rob Dobson. One of our Regulatory Officers, Anne Umpleby, also works for the NWT Water Board and in *Visit to Uluhaktok* she writes about her trip during which she examined a water treatment facility. *Getting the Word Out* explains our community outreach activities.

You can find updates on a few major projects in the *Public Hearings* article. We have also provided a link to the federal government's report on the northern regulatory system in *McCrank Report*.

Employee Profile

Rob Dobson→
Featured interview with IT specialist, Rob Dobson, on page 5. Find out what he does and why he loves it.



MVLWB Public Hearings



*Tamerlane Ventures public hearing
at Fort Resolution, September 2008.*



*North American Tungsten public hearing
at Nahanni Butte, October 2008*



*North American Tungsten public hearing
at Fort Liard, October 2008*

Tamerlane Ventures Pine Point Pilot Project

The Board hosted a Type A Water Licence public hearing in Fort Resolution on September 15th and 16th for the Tamerlane Ventures Inc.'s Pine Point Pilot Project. Tamerlane has applied for a Type A Water Licence to perform a lead/zinc bulk sample test mine of the R190 mineral deposit. The Pine Point Pilot Project is located 42 km east of the town of Hay River.

At the Fort Resolution public hearing, the Board listened to evidence from Tamerlane Ventures Inc. The registered interveners were Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Environment Canada, Fort Resolution Metis Corporation, and the Deninu K'ue First Nation.

The draft Type A Water Licence was out for public review until November 3rd. Board staff then reviewed and compiled all comments on the draft Water Licence for presentation to the Board. The Board approved the application and sent it to Chuck Strahl, Minister of INAC, for his approval.

North American Tungsten

The Board held public hearings in Nahanni Butte and Fort Liard in October to consider North American Tungsten's application for renewal of a water licence. The following were the registered interveners at this hearing: North American Tungsten Corporation, Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, INAC, GNWT Environment and Natural Resources, Parks Canada, Dehcho First Nations, Liidlii Kue First Nations, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. The Board approved the renewal and sent the file to Minister Strahl for his approval.

Public hearing transcripts and all related documents are available on the Public Registry at the MVLWB Yellowknife office and online at www.mvlwb.com.



MVLWB Display Booth

Getting the Word Out

The MVLWB strives to keep the public informed about its activities and processes. To accomplish this, the MVLWB has created various information packages both in hard copy and in electronic format. Our Power Point presentations concentrate on diverse aspects of the Board's work. MVLWB representatives use them when they visit communities or participate in conventions and forums. Please contact us for information about upcoming presentations or if you wish someone from the Board to speak to your organization.

In early December the Communications/Consultation Liaison Officer spoke to Natural Resources Technology students at Aurora College in Inuvik. Topics of this presentation included permitting and licencing application processes and public participation opportunities during the regulatory process.

In the past few months and as part of its outreach program, the MVLWB attended the Dene National Assembly in Fort McPherson, the "Start Your Engines" trade fair in Hay River, the Impact Assessment convention in Calgary, and the GeoScience Forum in Yellowknife. At these events, the Board sets up a display booth where members of the public can talk with a board representative and read literature about our work.

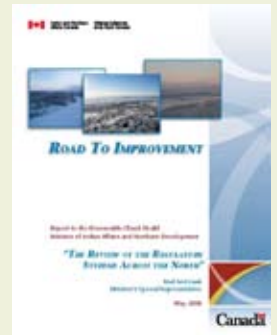
Information about the MVLWB and details about its current and past permit and licence applications are available on the Public Registry at the Board's office in Yellowknife and online at www.mvlwb.com.

McCrank Report

In the previous issue of Nahendi Gondi, Chair Willard Hagen anticipated the release of the McCrank Report. The federal government

released the report, titled *Road To Improvement - The Review of the Regulatory Systems Across the North*, on July 17, 2008 in Yellowknife. The report contains recommendations based on more than 100 meetings with representatives of industry, Aboriginal groups, governments and stakeholders in the Yukon, Nunavut and NWT.

You can find the report at:
<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/prsm-a2008/ri08-eng.asp>



Release of the McCrank Report, Yellowknife, July 2008.

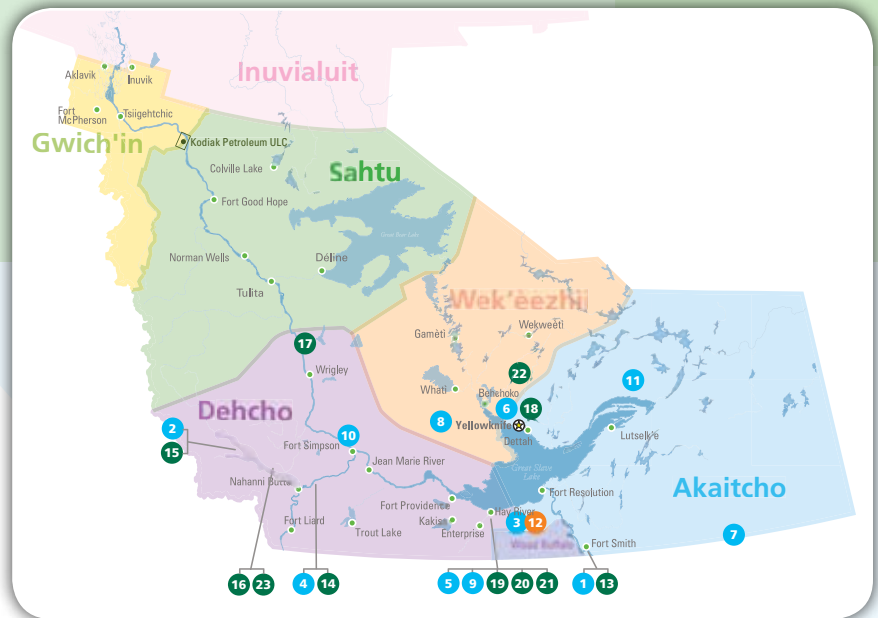
Activity Review April – December 2008

New Applications Received

- The Board received 28 Land Use Permit Applications and three Water Licence Applications. The Board issued 11 Land Use Permits; one Water Licence is awaiting ministerial approval.
- The MVLWB referred six applications to environmental assessment.

Land Use Permit and Water Licence Activities

	Q1	Q2	Q3
Applications Received	11	9	8
Land Use Permits Issued	–	8	3
Water Licences Issued	–	–	1*
Amendments (renewals, extensions, storage auth.)	4	11	10
Referrals to Environmental Assessment by MVLWB	–	6	–
Closures	9	13	11
Report and Plan Approvals	2	6	1



LAND USE PERMITS

- 1 MV2008J0005 Aboriginal Counseling & Healing Services Camp, Fort Smith
- 2 MV2008Q0011 NATCL Quarrying, CanTung Mine
- 3 MV2006C0014 Tamerlane Ventures Inc. Mineral Exploration, Pine Point Pilot Project
- 4 MV2008C0006 Stornoway Diamond Corp. Mineral Exploration, Blackstone Project
- 5 MV2008Q0017 Rowe's Construction Quarrying, Hay River
- 6 MV2008E0010 Raymond Jones Private Road, Hwy 3
- 7 MV2008C0015 Strongbow Exploration Inc. Mineral Exploration, Selwyn Lake
- 8 MV2005W0029 Patterson Sawmill Ltd. Logging, Axe Point
- 9 MV2008Q0016 Rowe's Construction Quarrying, Hay River
- 10 MV2008Q0019 W. Burrill & Sons Ltd Quarrying, Hwy 1
- 11 MV2008C0021 GGL Diamond Corp. Mineral Exploration, Doyle Claims

WATER LICENCES

- 12 MV2006L2-0003 Tamerlane Mineral Exploration, Pine Point Pilot Project. Awaiting ministerial approval.

AMENDMENTS EXTENSIONS /RENEWALS

- 13 MV2003Q0046 Glenn Freund Extension, Quarry, Bell Rock
- 14 MV2003X0031 GNWT-DOT Extension, Road Work, Hwy1
- 15 MV2002L2-0019 NATCL Extension and Renewal, CanTung Mine. Awaiting ministerial approval.
- 16 MV2001C0023 Canadian Zinc Corp. Extension, Prairie Creek Mine
- 17 MV2004X0047
MV2004L8-0004 GNWT-DOT Extension and Amendment, Bridge work, Blackwater River
- 18 MV2003J0021 Aurora World Corp. Extension, Camp, Yellowknife
- 19 MV2003Q0043 Rowe's Construction Extension, Quarry
- 20 MV2003Q0037 Les Norn Contracting Extension, Quarry
- 21 MV2003W0026 Marc LeBlanc Extension
- 22 MV2002L2-0017 Tyhee NWT Corp. Renewal, Mining and Milling, Giaque Lake
- 23 MV2001L2-0003 Canadian Zinc Corp. Renewal, Prairie Creek Mine

AMENDMENTS

- MV2004Q0009 Fort Smith Construction NT Ltd. Amendment, Quarry, Salt Mountain
- MV2003L8-0008 INAC-CARD Amendment, Discovery Mine Remediation
- MV2002E0060 GNWT-DOT Amendment, Hwy #3

STORAGE AUTHORIZATIONS

- MV2001C0029 Solid Resources Ltd. Storage Authorization, Sunrise Lake
- MV2003C0006 Shear Minerals Storage Authorization, Aylmer Lake
- MV2001C0016 Almaden Minerals Storage Authorization
- MV2001L3-0012 GNWT-DOT Storage Authorization
- MV2001C0065 DeBeers Storage authorization



Employee Profile

Rob Dobson

Information Technology Specialist

The person in charge of maintaining the technology in a modern office is a crucial member of the work team. Virtually all of our information retrieval, storage, and transmission is computer-based. It is impossible to do our jobs when the technology breaks down. Information Technologists, like MVLWB's Rob Dobson, are essential to the smooth and accurate flow of ideas and data upon which our work depends.

Rob Dobson has been the IT Specialist for the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for three and a half years. In the following interview he outlines his background and his work with the Board.

Nahendeh Gondi: What brought you to Yellowknife and to the MVLWB?

Rob Dobson: The path was basically this: BSc. Biology leads to Applied Information Technology Diploma leads to Microsoft Technical Support position in Nova Scotia leads to Programmer/Analyst position in Toronto leads to moving to Yellowknife and the Board

at the recommendation of some friends - it's worked out so far. I've taken back the three hours per day I used to spend commuting.

NG: What is your role within the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board?

RD: I take care of our computer systems, network, Geophysical Information Systems, databases, and other Information Technology projects – all of the electronic systems that support the Board and its staff. I also deal with information collection and sharing for the Board including our email systems, websites and the online public registry

NG: What are the challenges of the job?

RD: It's a one-person operation most of the time so there's not much of a support network. I spend a lot of time searching Google for solutions and keeping up with outside IT developments. However, the biggest challenges aren't usually technical; they're dealing with the processes and personalities at the Board.



Visit To Ulukhaktok

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) and the Northwest Territories Water Board (NWTWB) recently signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to share technical and administrative resources. The agreement facilitates cooperation between the boards in a manner that respects the legally mandated roles, duties, and responsibilities of each board.

MVLWB's Anne Umpleby assisting the NWTWB with water licence renewals for Inuvialuit Settlement Region municipalities. In anticipation of the renewals, Anne accompanied Jan Davies, INAC Water Resource Officer and Catherine Mallet, INAC Regulatory and Science Officer to Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour in September 2008. Ulukhaktok is on the west coast of Victoria Island and Sachs Harbour is on Banks Island.

The NWTWB regulates these community municipal facilities and it is important for the board staff to observe firsthand how operators are adhering to the terms and conditions of their water licence. As Anne said, "By visiting a work site, I make valuable links between the office work and what is actually happening at the places where the licences are in effect."

Photo (L-R): Catherine Mallet, INAC Regulatory and Science Advisor, Jan Davies, INAC Water Resource Officer and Anne Umpleby, Regulatory Officer, with NWTWB and MVLWB.

Who We Are

The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act established the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, Sahtu Land and Water Board, the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board, and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB).

Four members and a chairperson sit on the regional boards; each is a member of the MVLWB.

A Chairperson is the chief executive officer of the MVLWB or regional board as the case may be. The Executive Director (ED) manages the day-to-day affairs of the Board or a regional board.

Employee Profile con't...

NG: You mentioned keeping up with the outside world. How do you stay up-to-date with the advances in your field?

RD: I mentioned Google already. I also use online community groups, technical subscriptions, and I register for a couple of training courses each year (in Microsoft technologies or GIS or IT Project Management for instance). The tools you learn in class are usually obsolete before the course is over, so the learning process is more important than what is actually learned.

NG: What are some of the major tasks you've completed with the Board?

RD: Since being here, I've been involved in setting up our online registry (10, 000 documents strong now) and two major overhauls of our MVLWB website. I supported the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board when it was first established and I've worked hard on information sharing between the boards and the integration of our multiple websites and registries. I've also

been involved in some outside IT projects like the Mackenzie Gas Project, Regulatory and Monitoring Information Management Systems and a land use mapping website.

NG: What do you see coming along in the near future?

RD: For the Board I see lots of opportunity for making our websites more interactive - allowing for online submission of applications and plans, the encouragement of online reviews, map sharing and discussion boards. We will also work towards making the tons of data we collect each year more accessible not only at the MVLWB but at all of the land and water boards - through subscription services, online databases, and the merging of our websites.

NG: Any final comments?

RD: Just that what keeps me here and happy is being able to work for a small and agile organization where I can go beyond the purely technical and take part in the decision making and planning. I much prefer it to working in a larger organization.



The MVLWB Regulatory Process

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB or the Board) is one of the agencies in the regulatory structure of the Northwest Territories. When a proponent wishes to proceed with a development in the Mackenzie Valley, it is the MVLWB that issues Land Use Permits and Water Licences for the project.

The Board carefully reviews comments about the application from a variety of sources before authorizing a project. The Board strives to eliminate or reduce the potential harmful effects of a project. Each licence or permit issued by the Board outlines terms and conditions that the proponent must follow. Although each case is different, the following is a typical example of how the Board handles a file.

The Regulatory Officer (RO) received an application from a company that wished to mine gravel. The application was deemed incomplete because it was missing a Quarry Permit from another agency

and because the developer had not conducted enough engagement and consultation with the local community. Proof of meaningful public engagement is a vital component of every application and, in this case, it was insufficient.

After the issuance of the Quarry Permit and the proper engagement with the community, the RO deemed the application complete. She then circulated the application to a number of regulatory agencies for review. The feedback the RO received included concerns regarding wildlife, spill response, brush disposal, water quality and restoration plan.

Preliminary screening was the next phase in this process. It identified possible adverse environmental and social impacts. Guided by all information collected so far, the RO drafted terms and conditions for the Land Use Permit to cover the potential concerns associated with the quarry operation.

continued on next page

Information Materials Available to the Public

- Land Use Permits Explained
- Water Licences Explained
- MVLWB Brochure
- Desktop calendar for 2009
- Newsletters
- DVD – a recently produced twelve-minute overview of the MVLWB
- Annual Activity Report for 2007-2008 fiscal year



THE NWT: Our region

The Northwest Territories

Size:
1,346,110 sq km

Population:
43,283

Official Languages:
Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, English,
French, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun,
Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun,
North Slavey, South Slavey

Economic Activity:
Mining – over 50% in 2004.

Lakes and Rivers
Great Bear Lake (31,328 km²),
is the eighth largest lake in the world.

Great Slave Lake (28,568 km²)
is the tenth largest lake in the world.

Mackenzie River - Canada's longest
river flows 4,241 km from Great Slave
Lake to the Beaufort Sea.

Regulatory Process con't...

The Board, which makes final approval decisions, reviewed the file and questioned the staff member on the terms and conditions of the permit. The Board agreed with the staff member's recommendations and issued the permit.

The reasons for detailed scrutiny by multiple agencies are three fold:

- 1) To ensure that the affected people are directly contacted and given ample opportunity to voice their concerns, if any, about a project;
- 2) To anticipate adverse effects to the natural and cultural environments; and
- 3) To find the best ways to eliminate or reduce any such harm.

The regulatory process is designed to strike a balance between the environment, the people and development. By adhering to established protocols and guidelines, the MVLWB does its part to preserve what is best for future generations.



Sharing Responsibility –
*Working together to make the best decisions
for the land, water and people.*

For more information please contact the MVLWB:

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Thank you to all the photographers who contributed to this newsletter.