



Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact
Review Board



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GAHCHO KUÉ Panel

News Release

July 11, 2008

Review Board appoints Elder Jim Villeneuve to Gahcho Kue Panel

YELLOWKNIFE, NT – On June 25th 2008, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board appointed Mr. Jim Villeneuve, a respected Elder and community leader from Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories to sit as a member of the Gahcho Kue Panel in place of Mr. Richard Edjericon. Mr. Edjericon stepped down as a panel member to dedicate additional time to his role as chairperson of the Review Board.

Mr. Villeneuve is a former Chief of the Deninu Kue First Nation in Fort Resolution and a former Settlement Manager for the Government of the Northwest Territories in a number of Akaitcho communities. He has a diverse background having lived and worked in Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Pine Point, Lutselk'e, Hay River and Fort Resolution. Mr. Villeneuve has been a small business owner, and over the years he has worked for many of the territorial, local and aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories. He has also served on a number of boards and agencies such as the NWT Seniors Society, the Association of Municipalities, the NWT Business Loan Board and the Dene/Métis Land Use Planning Board.

"The Panel is delighted to welcome Mr. Villeneuve to the team. He brings a great deal of knowledge to our Panel, as an Elder who is familiar with the Akaitcho region in the Northwest Territories," says Ms. Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott, the Chairperson of the Gahcho Kue Panel. "The Panel looks forward to working with Mr. Villeneuve while reviewing DeBeers' proposed Gahcho Kue diamond mine."

In May 2007, the Review Board established the independent Gahcho Kue Panel and appointed seven members to the Panel for the period of the environmental impact review. Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott is the appointed Chairperson of the Gahcho Kue Panel. Other Gahcho Kue Panel members appointed include Review Board members, Nora Doig, John Ondrack, and John Stevenson, as well as panel members external to the Review Board, Darryl Bohnet, Lesley Allen and now Jim Villeneuve.

The Panel is currently waiting for De Beers Canada Inc. to submit its environmental impact statement, which will describe the proposed mine and its potential impacts on the environment in detail. De Beers Canada Inc. has deferred its submission until the fall of 2008. The public registry for the impact review of the Gahcho Kue diamond mine is available online at mveirb.nt.ca

Background information

An environmental impact review follows an environmental assessment when the Review Board deems a more comprehensive examination of a proposed development is needed. The environmental impact review provides a more focused study of the issues raised during the environmental assessment. It is the highest level of environmental impact assessment in the Mackenzie Valley.

About the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) in 1998 as an independent administrative tribunal responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. As a co-management board, aboriginal land claim organizations nominate half of the board members, and the federal and territorial governments nominate the other half of the board members. The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs appoints all the members to the Review Board.

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