

**EA0607-002: Tamerlane Ventures' Pine Point Pilot Project
Environmental Assessment**

Notes from the Pre-Technical Sessions Meeting and Teleconference
Wednesday June 27, 2:00 pm MST
MVEIRB Boardroom, 2nd Floor, Scotia Centre, Yellowknife
Hosted by Staff of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

ATTENDEES (refer to attached sign in sheet)

KEY ACTION ITEMS

- 1. June 28, 2007 – MVEIRB staff to release minutes of Pre-Technical Sessions Meeting**
- 2. July 3, 2007 (noon) – deadline for parties to comment on proposed Technical Sessions format, general topics, specific questions, and identify proposed # of attendees**
- 3. July 4, 2007 – MVEIRB staff to release final Technical Sessions agenda, general topics and specific questions the developer and parties need to be prepared to address**
- 4. July 6, 2007 (noon) – deadline for parties to identify any new reference material they feel the developer and other parties should be aware of in regards to water issues on this file**
- 5. July 6, 2007 – MVEIRB staff to release final list of reference material for consideration by parties and the developer at the Technical Sessions**

MEETING MINUTES

1. 2:10 PM: Call to order and introduction of participants.
2. Agenda Review; discussion of reasons for having a Pre-Technical Sessions Meeting. The following points were made:
 - This is not a formal hearing; it is an information session only. Comments provided here today will be considered by the Review Board as it develops the final agenda and format for the Technical Sessions.*
 - We would like to provide you with a little background on why we are here today. The Review Board met on June 19, 2007, to discuss the Tamerlane*

Pine Point Pilot Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and whether, on the basis of the evidence on file and parties' submissions, Technical Sessions were required on this file. The items considered were:

- the Developer's Assessment Report,*
 - all First Round Information Request Responses,*
 - comments received from the three parties who proposed Technical Session topics (the Government of the Northwest Territories, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and Environment Canada), and*
 - responses to those proposed Technical Session topics from Tamerlane Ventures Inc. (dated June 19, 2007).*
- In addition, the Review Board received input from its technical advisory team from SENES/SRK.*
 - The Review Board determined that Technical Sessions are required to address specific water issues only. The Board further listed four main categories where it wanted to see the meetings focused towards. .*
 - The Review Board requested that the Parties who have asked for Technical Sessions to be held (Environment Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories) refine their proposed questions to fit the focused subject areas.*
 - It was intended that the parties planning to attend this Pre-Technical Sessions Meeting be prepared to provide a list of very specific questions their organization wants to have addressed on the four topics.*
 - In addition, Parties planning on attending were also requested to tell us at the Pre-Technical Sessions Meeting how many technical specialists, or other representatives, will be attending the Technical Sessions in Hay River.*
3. Review Board staff explained the role of the Technical Sessions in the EA process; proposed timing and location and provided opportunity for comments and questions. The following points were made:
- Technical Sessions have been scheduled for Hay River on July 17-18, 2007, from 8:30am to approximately 5pm daily. The sessions are being held at the Ptarmigan Inn in a small meeting room; appropriate signage will be made available in the Ptarmigan.*
 - We need to stress that the purpose of these Technical Sessions is to allow technical specialists an opportunity to discuss and contrast their respective analyses to recognize specific areas of agreement and disagreement regarding focused technical subjects related to hydrology and water chemistry issues.*
 - The results of these sessions will be released in formats appropriate for review by all parties. Parties without specialized expertise in hydrology and water chemistry are encouraged to review these results.*

- *It must be noted that Technical Sessions are not formal Review Board hearings. No Board Members will be present. Review Board staff will facilitate the Technical Sessions and the agenda will be structured so that the technical specialists have time to elaborate on the outstanding technical issues pertaining to hydrology and water chemistry.*
- *The Technical Sessions will hopefully serve to address the following areas of concern that the Board has recognizes need further work:*
 1. Reviewing confidence in the prediction of quality characteristics of discharge to receiving bodies;
 2. Consideration of the potential impacts of individual and combined components such as salts, ammonia, nitrates, metals on the immediate infiltration basin and surrounding receiving bodies;
 3. Analysis of different scenarios of inflows to the mine, and what potential increases in water quantity might mean for impacts on the receiving bodies; and
 4. Water quality management planning, including potential discussions on treatment, containment, monitoring and Best Available Technologies, and how they apply to direct release of discharge into an infiltration basin.
- *The Review Board issued a list of GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS and SPECIFIC QUESTIONS behind these topics on Monday, June 25, to the Public Record.*

4. Review Board staff explained the proposed format of Technical Sessions, and provided opportunity for comments and questions; **Review Board will also consider all written comments received by July 3, 2007, in finalizing format of Technical Sessions by July 4, 2007.** The other following points were made:

- *As mentioned, the Board wishes to sponsor meetings which are focused, reasonably informal and conducive to problem-solving in a participatory manner.*
- *The meetings will be facilitated and if necessary, moderated by (Alistair MacDonald); two other MVEIRB staff will be present to assist him and take notes. In addition, the MVEIRB will have Bruce Halbert from SENES and Christoph Wels from SRK Consulting acting as expert advisors.*
- *We have a proposed format for the sessions that we going to introduce to you here, however, this format isn't finalized yet, we are looking for input. The final format will take your suggestions into consideration and it should be available on July 4.*

LOGISTICS

- *Please be advised we have a small meeting room, not a large one. Space is at a premium; please send the most relevant technical people to the sessions.*

- *There will be snacks provided, and a brown bag style lunch is to provided on July 17, but people are on their own for lunch on July 18.*
- *The developer has stated that as long as all parties have their own transportation, they would be willing to host a site visit on the 17th. **It was determined by a consensus of the group that a 12-2pm, July 17 (first day) site visit will be undertaken. Parties are responsible for their own transportation; location details will be provided at the Technical Sessions.***

SUGGESTED TECHNICAL SESSIONS FORMAT

- *Meetings will be digitally recorded, and a copy of the recordings placed onto the public record, but no verbatim transcripts will be issued. The Review Board will issue a draft Meeting Report to attendees, focusing on points of consensus, commitments, and areas where additional information was called for (as well as any **UNDERTAKINGS** by any parties), and allow a couple days for parties to make comments on the Draft Meeting Report before placing it on the Public Record.*
- *General rules will be Chatham House Rules (where key comments are put in writing but not attributed to anyone). Speakers will not be asked to identify themselves each time they speak. If commitments are made by any party, these will be attributed. Chatham House Rules tends to make the discussion more open. The floor was opened for comments on proposed attribution format. **No comments were identified and the Chatham House Rules adopted for the Technical Sessions.***
- *The suggested format we have identified is one where the developer will be first to speak to each of the four key topics, (e.g., confidence in water quality characteristics), and then the floor will be open for technical experts to present their views, critique or agree with the developer's findings, pose questions, make suggestions, etc. This will be relatively informal, although Alistair will act as a facilitator as necessary.*
- *If any parties attempt to address issues that are outside the scope of the Technical Sessions, they will be asked how their comment refers to the topics being discussed and will be reminded of other venues in the EA process they can use, where the Review Board can listen to their concerns.*
- *In terms of order, the developer has requested that we place Topic #3, Analysis of different scenarios of inflows to the mine, as the first topic of discussion, as their experts from Layne Christensen, the freezewayall contractor, will only be available on July 17.*
- *After that, the Review Board would propose that we look at each of the following in turn (recognizing that there will be overlap of the topics):*
 2. Reviewing confidence in the prediction of quality characteristics of discharge to receiving bodies;
 3. Consideration of the potential impacts of individual and combined components; and

4. Water quality management planning.

- *We will seek consensus from the Parties as much as is possible on the topics of discussion. If it is merited, commitments by the Developer (or any other Party if it appropriate) would be a preferred outcome.*
- *Given the focused nature of these meetings, we are not anticipating the need for breakout sessions. However, if it is of use, we encourage experts to talk over breaks or after hours and report back. That said the bulk of the discussion should occur with the main group.*
- *It should be also noted that the operative word in “technical sessions” is “technical”. While the sessions are public, like everything the Board organizes, they are not really intended for a lay audience, but instead for an expert audience. If they are not already knowledgeable on the material in question, participants should familiarize themselves with the technical concepts prior to attending. We will have no time to bring people up to speed. What the Board has committed to, however, is to report back to the public the results of the session in a format that is more appropriate to the public-at-large.*
- *If other issues mentioned as potential Technical Session Topics are still a concern (i.e wildlife, reclamation), the Review Board suggests that the individual parties who pose them meet with the developer to discuss them, provided that that a summary of those meetings and any outcomes, including any commitments, are submitted for the EA Public Registry.*
- *Further to that... all parties to the EA will have additional opportunities to present any other concerns they have in relation to this proposed development prior to the completion of the EA. Those opportunities include issuing Technical Reports and submitting Information Requests, for example. Additional details on these opportunities for further input will be highlighted well in advance by the Review Board as the EA proceeds.*
- ***The floor was opened for questions or comments on the proposed format. No verbal comments were raised, but the MVEIRB offered to allow people to provide comments to us in writing, with a deadline of noon, on Tuesday, July 3, 2007.***

5. Technical Session participants were then invited to identify two things:

- *key issues they feel should be discussed in the Technical Sessions, and any issues that they have previously proposed as topics that they no longer feel need to be pursued (Review Board will consider all comments in finalizing agenda for Technical Sessions); and*

- *the number of participants they would like to bring to the Technical Sessions. Responses are listed below. If other parties are planning to attend the Technical Sessions, please let the MVEIRB know by noon of July 3, 2007, and let us know how many attendees you are proposing to bring.*

PARTY	TECHNICAL SESSIONS TOPICS*	# OF PROPOSED ATTENDEES
<i>MVEIRB (not a party)</i>	<i>Identified on Public Registry on June 25, 2007</i>	<i>5 (3 staff, 2 expert advisors)</i>
<i>Developer</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Environment Canada</i>	<i>Greater emphasis on water elements of closure and reclamation</i>	<i>1 in person, 1 possibly via teleconference</i>
<i>INAC</i>	<i>Greater emphasis on water elements of closure and reclamation</i>	<i>5-6</i>
<i>GNWT</i>	<i>Awaiting information</i>	<i>Awaiting information</i>
<i>Fort Resolution Metis Council (FRMC)</i>	<i>No new ones; water a key issue</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>North West Territory Metis Nation</i>	<i>Supported adding water elements of closure issues</i>	<i>1 (providing technical advice to FRMC)</i>

**NOTE: Parties only identified any topics related to water issues that they felt had not been captured in the Review Board's June 25 list of proposed Technical Session Topics and Specific Questions. SEE "ADDITIONAL NOTES" BELOW FOR MORE ATTENDEE DETAILS.*

6. Summary of Pre-Technical Session Meeting and Next Steps

- *The Review Board will issue, by July 4, 2007, the following:*
 - 1. A final format for the Technical Sessions*
 - 2. A final list of topics and specific questions for the Technical Sessions*
 - 3. A list of all the relevant documentation on the Public Record pertaining to water issues*
- *MVEIRB is compiling a list of all reference material relating to water issues on this file and will make it available to everyone by end of day July 6.*
- *Parties are invited to provide additional citations of government reports or academic sources they believe are relevant to the Review Board by noon of July the 6th for inclusion on the above-mentioned reference list. These resources need to be publicly available. Any references should include specific reference to the relevant page numbers and what Technical Session topic they refer to.*

7. Meeting adjournment (approximately 3:15 pm).

Additional Notes from the Pre-Technical session hearing

Environment Canada is largely in agreement with the listing of questions that have been provided by the MVEIRB. They will be working to review the material internally and may include some further questions. Jess Jasper will represent EC at the hearings – he is the EC hydrologist. Anne Wilson will be in Alberta, but may attend by teleconference or may fly up for the meeting. They don't have a groundwater expert on staff.

INAC listed topics of interest to include the Infiltration Basin, the freeze curtain, and reclamation and closure. INAC will likely be represented by Nathan Richea, Lorraine Seale or Lionel Marcinkoski (or both), Wayne Starling and one or two technical experts. INAC wanted to include reclamation issues, at least those directly linked to water included in the sessions. **Alistair advised both INAC and EC to identify in writing what their specific concerns were by noon of Tuesday, July 3.**

No representation from the GNWT, but Alistair will follow up with them regarding their questions and people who will attend.

The Ft. Resolution Metis Council proposed to bring 4 people. They mentioned concerns about the infiltration basin and groundwater, but also said that the MVEIRB questions cover much of the ground they are interested in.

Northwest Territory Metis Nation will be represented by Chris Heron, who is providing technical assistance to the FRMC on water issues. He supported having reclamation issues, at least those pertaining to water included.

Tamerlane is to be represented by David Swisher, Rick Hoos, Godfrey Macdonald, Joseph Sopko, & Catherine Lewis.

MVEIRB is compiling information on water and will make it available to everyone. Alistair requested that any additional reports or other information be provided to the Review Board by July 6th. Lorraine Seale mentioned a large file that is in the record but not on the website. She asked if that could be made available. **MVEIRB staff undertook to look into ways to distribute larger documents or relevant portions to Technical Session attendees.**

The SRK expert advisory team asked that underground cross sectional diagrams be brought including lithography stratification. Alistair asked that maps be provided. **The developer undertook to bring relevant visual materials.**

Other notes:

Ronald McKay (sp?) of the FRMC asked how to get concerns address regarding Woodland Bison. Alistair gave him suggestions. David Swisher invited him to call.

Tamerlane Venture is participating in a videoconference with government parties on July 5th.

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Attendance Sheet for:

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	Name	Organization
	1. Catherine Mallet	INAC, Water Resources
	2. Nathan Richea	" "
	3. Louisa Seale	" Environment + Conservation.
	4. Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
	5. Jesse Jasper	" "
T	6. Chris Heron	Northwest Territory Métis Nation
T	7. Kara King	Ft. Resolution Métis Council
T	8. David Swisher	Tamerlane Ventures
T	9. Michael Royle	SRK Consulting *
T	10. Michel Noël	SRK Consulting *
T	11. Bruce Halbert	SEVES Consulting *
T	12. Christophe Wels	SRK Consulting *
	13. Pat Duxbury	MVEIRB
	14. Alistair MacDonald	MVEIRB
T	15. Ronald McKay	Fort Resolution Métis

* Consultants for the Review Board.

T = Via teleconference