



Note to File

EA 0809-003

Tyhee NWT Corporation, Yellowknife Gold Project

Re: EA Update – October 8, 2008

In preparation for the scoping sessions for Tyhee NWT Corp.'s Yellowknife Gold Project, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board presents the following recap of the environmental assessment thus far.

Background

In March 2005 Tyhee NWT Corp. (“Tyhee” or the “developer”) applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) for approval to develop an underground gold mine and milling operation at the historic Discovery Mine site. The MVLWB subsequently referred the Yellowknife Gold Project (YGP or the “development”) to environmental assessment by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the “Review Board”). This original application called for underground workings with surface infrastructure. Upon further analysis, Tyhee opted to change the project design from a primarily underground operation to accommodate a transitional open pit/underground mine plan. As a result, in July 2008 Tyhee withdrew their original application, which concluded the accompanying environmental assessment (EA), and submitted a new application to the MVLWB that encompassed the project design changes. As part of the new application, Tyhee produced a 2008 YGP Project Description Report (PDR) that outlines Tyhee’s plans for the development, and also communicates Tyhee’s initial interpretation of how the project will impact the environment.

On August 27, 2008, Environment Canada referred the new YGP to EA, citing a concern that the development might have potential to adversely impact the environment. Thus far, the 2008 YGP EA is in the scoping phase, with issues scoping sessions scheduled for October 16th (community) from 6pm to 10pm, and October 17th (technical), from 9am to 5pm. Both sessions will be held in the Copper Room of the Yellowknife Inn (lower level).

2008 EA Scoping Phase

All interested parties are invited to scoping sessions in order to identify issues they feel need to be examined closer during the EA. The general format for a scoping session sees

the developer give a presentation to the audience, after which Review Board staff moderate and list questions from the audience as well as constructive discussion of any major issues of concern. The scoping phase serves to identify the types of questions to ask, to broaden or narrow the number of issues that the Review Board will consider in their EA deliberations. The end result of scoping phases is typically a document called the Terms of Reference (ToR), which provides the developer with specific instructions on what questions it needs to answer in the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR).

The 2005 EA had finished the scoping phase, which produced the 2005 YGP Terms of Reference. In creating the 2005 YGP ToR, the Review Board considered the concerns from interested parties including but not limited to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and various departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). This 2005 ToR remains a valuable scoping resource in 2008 as there are aspects from the original project design that are unchanged. In order to utilize the useful information in the 2005 ToR, the Review Board asked Tyhee to provide two documents:

- a document that indicates what project aspects have changed between 2005 and 2008, and what aspects remain the same, and;
- a document that indicates what sections in the 2008 PDR may deal with concerns from the 2005 ToR.

The Review Board has posted these files (*2005 Tyhee YGP EA ToR* and *YGP Comparative Summaries from Tyhee*) on the MVEIRB public registry (PR) at <http://mveirb.nt.ca/registry/index.php>.

Other Public Registry Documents

To best prepare for and expedite the scoping process, the Review Board encourages the public as well as interested and affected parties to review the 2008 YGP EA files on the public registry. These files include Preliminary Screening comments from various parties about the 2008 YGP, as well as the presentation (*Tyhee NWT Corp 2008 YGP Scoping Presentation*) that the developer will give at the beginning of the scoping sessions.

The following is a comprehensive list of the documents that are available on the registry:

- **Environment Canada EA Referral Letter for Tyhee NWT Corp YGP 2008**
- **MVLWB Letter Referring YGP to EA**
- **YGP Preliminary Screening Comments - Compilation**
- **Tyhee NWT Corp Yellowknife Gold Project Executive Summary**
- **Notice of Environmental Assessment for Tyhee NWT Corp Yellowknife Gold Project**
- **Tyhee Development Corp. Yellowknife Gold Project Description Report**
- **Letter to Tyhee Development Corporation re: Notification of EA**
- **Tyhee YGP Note to File - 001**
- **2005 Tyhee YGP EA ToR**

- **YGP Comparative Summaries from Tyhee**
- **YGP Scoping Sessions Scheduling Letter**
- **YKDFN Scoping Scheduling Letter**
- **YGP Scoping Scheduling Letter**
- **MVEIRB Letter to YKDFN Regarding Scheduling**
- **Project - Distribution List**
- **Tyhee NWT Corp 2008 YGP Scoping Presentation**

The document *YGP Scoping Scheduling Letter* contains both an agenda and an outline of the major discussion points that Review Board staff hopes interested parties will address at the scoping sessions, but the sessions also give parties an opportunity to raise other concerns where relevant.

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The Review Board office can also provide electronic copies of the *Project Description Report* on request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Mercredi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Mercredi
Environmental Assessment Assistant
Mackenzie Valley Review Board