

# Guide to The Mackenzie Valley

## Land and Water Board



**Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board**  
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*The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is a forum for regional decision making, ensuring effective participation of residents in the use, protection, and benefits of the lands and waters of the Mackenzie Valley.*

**September 24, 2004**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

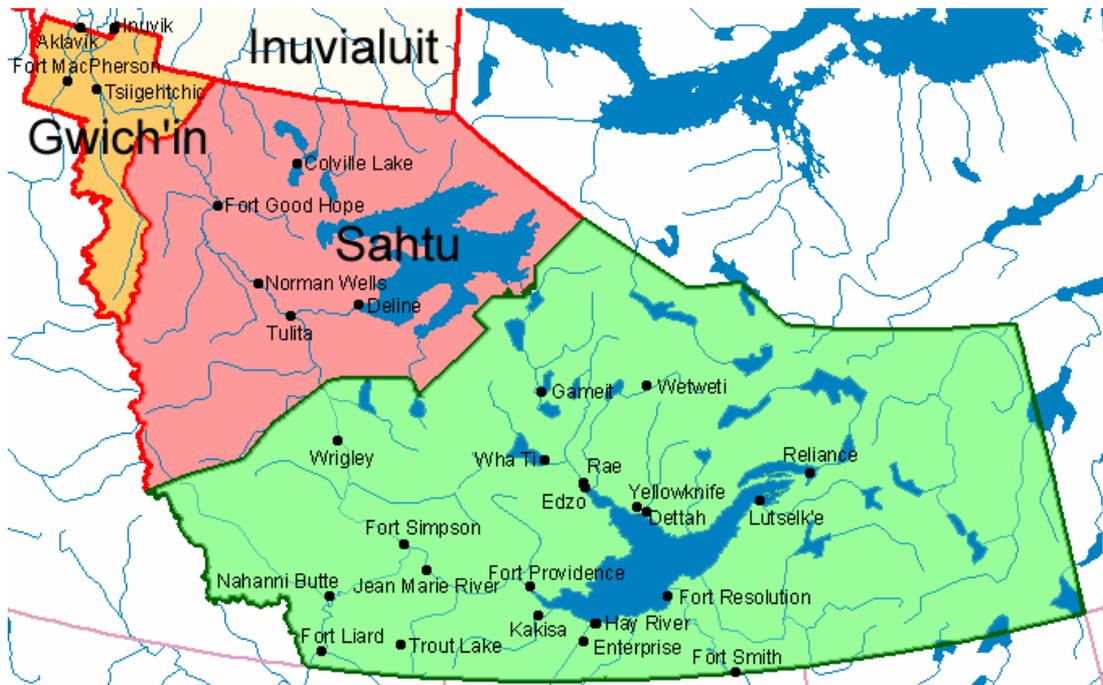
In 1998, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) came into being to fulfill obligations which arose from the Gwich'in and Sahtu Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements and to create an integrated co-management regime for land and waters in the Mackenzie Valley. The Act established Boards for both the Gwich'in and Sahtu settlement areas and it established the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB).

The MVLWB consists of:

- a) Two permanent, five-member regional panels, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB);
- b) Six additional members - three nominated by First Nations, one nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and two others; and
- c) A chairperson appointed by the federal Minister nominated by a majority of the members.

While the GWLB and the SLWB each have jurisdiction over the issuance of land use permits and water licenses in their own settlement area, the MVLWB has three main functions:

1. Issuing land use permits and water licenses in the unsettled claims area until the balance of the land claims are settled in the Mackenzie Valley;
2. Processing transboundary land and water use applications in the Mackenzie Valley; and
3. Ensuring consistency in the application of the legislation throughout the Mackenzie Valley.



## 2.0 BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board</b>		
<b>Appointees from Outside Settled Land Claim Areas</b>	<b>Sahtu Land and Water Board</b>	<b>Gwich'in Land and Water Board</b>
Stephen Nielsen, Interim Chair Jack Van Camp Violet Camsell-Blondin Joy Stewart Eric Menicoche	Larry Wallace, Chair George Barnaby Walter Bayha Violet Doolittle Todd McCauley	Willard Hagen, Chair George John Gerry Kisoun Paul Sullivan Margaret Nazon
Executive Director Bob Wooley MVLWB Box 2130 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6 Phone: (867) 669 – 0506 Fax: (867) 873-6610	Executive Director George Govier SLWB Box 1, Fort Good Hope NT X0E 0H0 Phone: (867) 598-2413 Fax: (867) 598-2325	Executive Director Robert A. Alexie GLWB Box 2018 Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0 Phone: (867) 777-7961 Fax: (867) 777-7970

## 3.0 REQUIREMENT FOR PERMITS OR LICENCES

Most uses of land and water in the Mackenzie Valley require permits or licenses and developers should contact the appropriate Land and Water Board for further information or obtain the necessary documents from the MVLWB web site (www.mvlwb.com):

Activities that **require a Land Use Permit** include but are not limited to:

- Use of >50 kg Explosives
- Use of Vehicles > 5t
- Preparing Lines/Trails/ROWS
- Camp sites for > 200 person days
- Drilling and Hydraulic Prospecting
- Earth Moving and Clearing
- Fuel Storage > 2000 L
- Construction of Buildings > 100 m<sup>2</sup>

Activities that **require a Water License** include but are not limited to:

- Direct water use for most undertakings related to oil and gas exploration, mining and milling, municipalities, power facilities, agriculture, conservation, and recreation.
- Watercourse crossings including pipelines, bridges and roads.
- Flood control, diversions and alterations of flow or storage by means of dams or dikes.
- Deposits of waste.

Examples of specific activities that **do not require** a Land Use Permit are:

- The use of previously cleared land for grazing or agricultural purposes;
- Harvesting and the construction and occupation of cabins and camps for harvesting; or
- Hunting, trapping or fishing.

Examples of specific activities that **do not require** a Water License are:

- A person using water for household requirements, watering of domestic animals and irrigation of a garden adjacent to a dwelling;
- A person using water for the purpose of boating, personal fishing and swimming;
- Water used for extinguishing a fire; or
- Water used in an emergency basis for controlling or preventing a flood.

#### **4.0 APPLICATIONS**

The process of applying for Land Use Permits and Water Licenses for areas outside the settled claims areas is outlined in documents which may be obtained from the MVLWB office or from the website ([www.mvlwb.com](http://www.mvlwb.com)). Applicants should ensure that they read and understand the guidelines before they submit their applications. The time it takes to process an application depends largely on the complexity of the development project and the quality of the application.

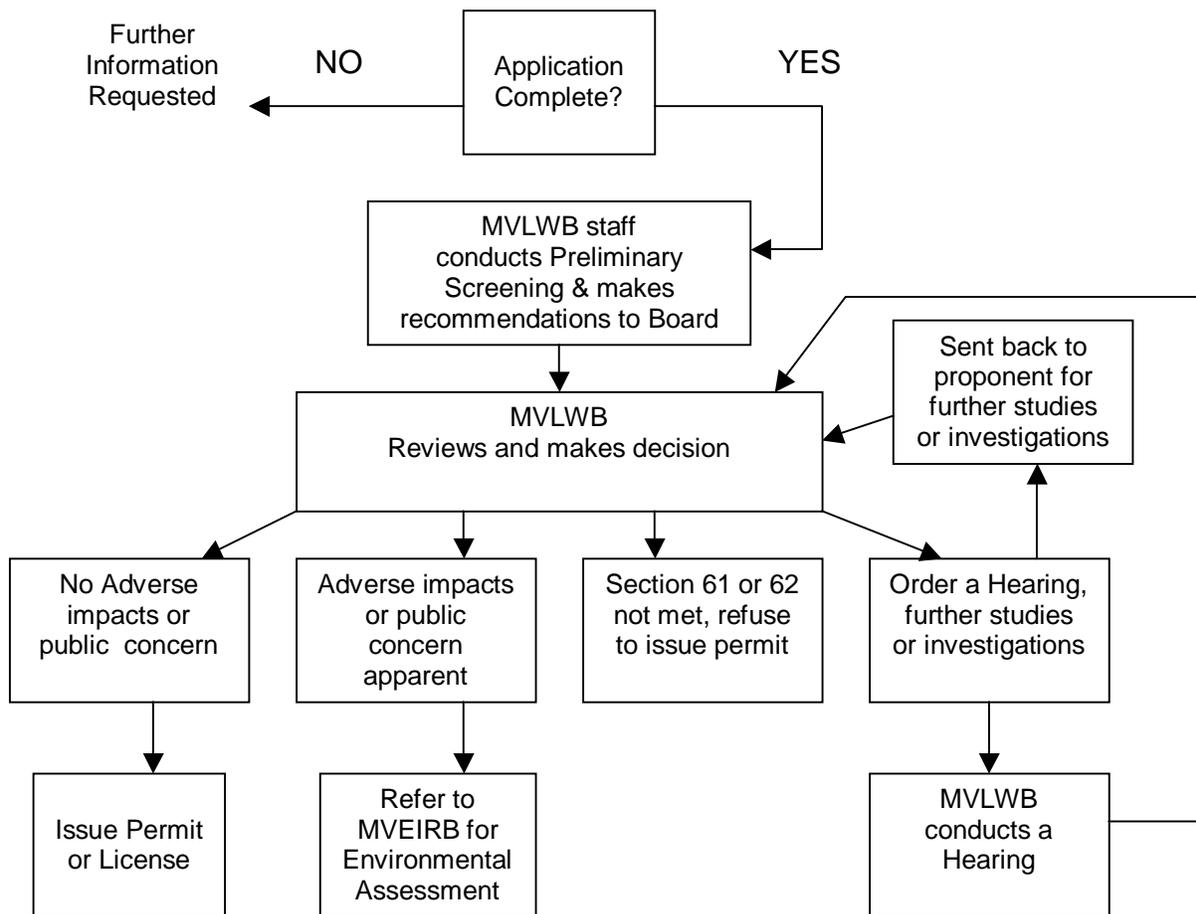
A complete application must have all the information necessary for the MVLWB staff to complete a preliminary screening, including all documentation showing that appropriate consultations have occurred. More specifically, the information submitted with an application must include:

- a project description;
- impacts on the environment and associated mitigations/remediation;
- a description of consultations undertaken, issues raised, resolutions reached and land use permissions;
- archaeological resources; and
- any affiliated new facilities, structures and activities arising or needed as a result of the application.

Information provided with an application will be used for undertaking a preliminary screening and for regulatory review of the application. During the preliminary screening, the information will be used to determine whether the development, as described by the proponent, might have a significant environmental effect or might cause public concern. The proponent has the opportunity and the responsibility to ensure, prior to submitting an application that all reasonable efforts have been made to provide mitigation and/or remediation for all significant environmental impacts that can be identified.

The preliminary screening will determine the next step in the project application process. Specific time frames exist within which the MVLWB must act on a complete application to grant the license or permit, refer the application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for an environmental assessment (EA), or determine that further study or a Public Hearing is necessary. It is in the best interest of proponents, therefore, to ensure that the initial application provides all the information necessary for the MVLWB to complete its process.

**LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS**



**5.0 STAFF**

The MVLWB offers assistance to applicants in understanding the application process and ensuring that applications are complete. The Board encourages all applicants to work closely with the staff to make the application process as smooth as possible.

The Board staff will address all questions on applications submitted for review and before the Board. Examples of the information and who to address it to are:

<b>Type of Question</b>	<b>Examples of questions</b>	<b>Person to Ask</b>
Administrative and Policy Questions	What is the Board's policy on public meetings?	Executive Director
Application Information, Preliminary Screening, and, General Regulatory Review	What information should I include in my application? What is the status of my applications? Who will comment on my application?	Senior Regulatory Officer
Technical Information	What type of design information is needed in the document; who will review the plans for the development?	Senior Regulatory Officer

**Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Staff**

