

GNWT Enhances Environmental Assessment Team

YELLOWKNIFE (July 11, 2003) - A new Environmental Assessment Unit has been formed within the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) to co-ordinate the thorough environmental evaluation of all proposed resource developments in the Northwest Territories.

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says the new unit will assess the potential impact of proposed developments on residents of the Northwest Territories and work to ensure that development continues in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and beneficial.

“The growth of the non-renewable resource sector, particularly the diamond and oil and natural gas industries, continues to drive the economy of the Northwest Territories,” he said. “As a government, it is our responsibility to protect, not only the natural environment of the NWT but, the social, cultural and economic well-being of its residents as well.”

The need for an expanded environmental assessment capability within RWED has become a major priority because of the unique role the territorial government plays in environmental and regulatory processes.

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