

MINERAL RIGHTS ADJUDICATION BOARD

Performance-Based Plan April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2014

June 10, 2011

Honourable Shawn Skinner
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Skinner:

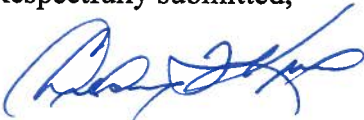
I am pleased to submit a Performance-Based Plan for the Mineral Rights Adjudication Board. This Plan covers the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board recognizes the vision and mission of the Department of Natural Resources and is committed to its supporting role to ensure that mineral exploration and development companies who have been aggrieved by the application of the *Mining Act* or the *Mineral Act*, have recourse to an appeal.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board has reviewed all Strategic Directions from the Minister of Natural Resources. The Board has a role to work toward increased natural resource exploration and development through efficient and effective adjudication of mineral rights disputes.

My signature below is on behalf of the Mineral Rights Adjudication Board and indicative of the Board's accountability for the preparation of this Plan and achievement of its objective.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory F. Kirby
Chairperson

Overview

Section 37 of the *Mineral Act* provides for the appointment of a Mineral Rights Adjudication Board. The Board is to be appointed by the Minister with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The members serve for a three year period, and they are eligible for reappointment. The Board consists of three persons, at least one of whom is a barrister, who shall be chairperson, and one of whom is experienced in mining.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board now consists of: Mr. Gregory F. Kirby (lawyer, Chair), appointed March 26, 2010, Dr. Hugh Miller, appointed February 28, 2009 and Mr. Samir El-Gohary, appointed April 30, 2009.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board receives extensive operational support from the Department of Nature Resources. Employees of the Department perform many day to day administrative functions. Budgetary support for operations is provided through the Department, as well.

Mandate

It is the function of the Board and the Board has exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine a question, dispute or matter arising out of the application of the *Mineral Act* or the *Mining Act* and applicable regulations, including hearing and determining on:

- the rights of persons to the issuing of licences, certificates and leases, including extensions of licences and leases;
- the suspension and reinstatement of a person's rights to stake out claims;
- a decision by the minister to withhold approval of a transfer, assignment, mortgage, pledge or conveyance of a licence;
- disputes or questions arising between a person and the minister or recorder, or between competing claimants, respecting the boundaries of areas physically staked or the manner and time of staking;
- questions of priority for the right to obtain licences;
- all matters respecting the cancellation of licences and leases, including allegations of default of the conditions of licences and leases, and whether a misrepresentation by applicants for licences or leases is material;
- the right of persons to certificates;

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- a question pertaining to security deposits required to be made by applicants for licences, including rights to refund and forfeitures to the Crown and amounts of refunds and forfeiture; and
- other matters pertaining to the rights, privileges, obligations or duties of persons claiming or holding licences or leases conferred or imposed under the applicable legislation.

Values

Professionalism	Each individual will demonstrate high professional standards and positive attitudes, and deliver quality service in an objective, timely and responsive manner.
Innovation	Each individual will demonstrate initiative, creativity and flexibility in responding to challenges and change.
Safety	Each individual views the personal safety of themselves and co-workers in the highest regard and will promote workplace safety at all times.
Diversity	Each individual encourages open exchange about ideas and decisions, and welcomes the varied opinions that contribute to new creative ideas and the development of comprehensive programs and services.
Leadership	Each individual takes all opportunity to successfully integrate and maximize available resources within the department for the attainment of organizational goals.
Collaboration	Each individual is open to sharing their knowledge with others and actively seeking the opinions and ideas of others to achieve the desired results.

Primary Clients

The clients of the Mineral Rights Adjudication Board are mineral exploration and development companies who have rights under either the *Mineral Act* or mineral developments subject to the *Mining Act*.

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Vision

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources by ensuring that the land tenure rights and development requirements of mineral development companies are fairly administered and thereby supports fair benefits maximization.

Vision of the Department of Natural Resources

“The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a province that realizes the full benefits from the sustainable development of its natural resources.”

Mission

The mission statement is the priority focus area of a public body over its planning cycle. It represents the key longer term result that the public body and the responsible minister will work towards to achieve a component of government’s strategic directions. The statement also identifies the measures and indicators that will assist a public body and the public in monitoring and evaluating success.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board has determined that the creation of a Mission statement would be unduly repetitive of its mandate. Thus, it has opted to forgo development of a mission statement at this time.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board considered the Board’s role in assisting the Mines and Energy Branches of the Department of Natural Resources in achieving its mission for the planning period. The Board has a role to ensure that mineral exploration and development companies who have been aggrieved by the application of the *Mining Act* or the *Mineral Act*, have recourse to an appeal; thereby, it helps to optimize benefits from resource development.

The Mission Statement of the Department of Natural Resources is: “By March 31st, 2017, The Department of Natural Resources will have supported the growth of the energy and mineral resource industries in a sustainable manner for the benefit of future generations.”

The Board has determined that it has no material impact on achievement of measures and indicators of the department’s mission statement. The complete mission statement of the Department of Natural Resources is included in its 2011-14 Strategic Plan which can be found on the Publications section of the department’s web site (www.nr.gov.nl.ca).

Objective

A person affected and aggrieved by a matter falling within the Mandate of the Mineral Rights Adjudication Board, may apply to the Board to have the matter adjudicated.

Upon receipt of notice of grievance, the Mineral Rights Adjudication Board shall hear the grievance, decide the matter of the grievance and record its decision not later than ninety (90) days from the date of the receipt of the notice of grievance unless the minister extends the period of time.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board, comprising all of its members, shall hear the grievance on a day appointed by it for the purpose, and shall decide the matter of the grievance, record its decision in writing, disclosing in that record whether the decision is unanimous or by majority, and transmit copies of the decision to the grievor, other persons affected by the appeal and the minister.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board may, before deciding the matter of the grievance, refer a question of law raised at the hearing of the grievance for the opinion of a judge of the Trial Division, and the Rules of Court made under the *Judicature Act* relating to a special case apply to a reference made under this subsection as if that reference were made by the parties to the grievance.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board may award costs in an adjudication under this section for or against a party to the grievance, or the Crown, and fix the amount of the costs.

The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board considered the Strategic Directions of the Minister of Natural Resources for the Mines and Energy Branches and has determined that it has a role in working toward increased natural resource development and diversification through efficient and effective management of the adjudication of mineral rights. The following area has been identified as the key priority of the Board for the three year period of April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014. The objective below applies to each year covered by this Plan and will be reported on in relevant annual reports.

Issue 1: Mineral Rights Adjudication

Objective: The Mineral Rights Adjudication Board will have reviewed all notices of grievances under the *Act and Regulations* and will have issued decisions pursuant to same.

Measure: Reviewed all notices of grievances and issued decisions.

Indicators:

- Adjudicated all grievances in a timely manner
- Issued decisions within ninety (90) days

A summary of the Board's role in the Minister's Strategic Direction is outlined in Appendix "A".

Appendix A Strategic Directions

A strategic direction is the articulation of a desired physical, social, or economic outcome that would normally require action by, or involvement of, more than one government entity. They are normally communicated through White Papers, or other major platform documents.

Title: Resource Exploration and Development

Outcome: Increased exploration and development of mining and energy resources

This outcome supports the policy direction of government and will require focus in the following areas:

Strategic Direction	Focus Areas of the Strategic Direction	Addressed in the Board's activity plan	Not applicable
Increased exploration and development of mining and energy resources	Acquisition and promotion of geoscience data		*
	Increased exploration and development activity	*	
	Enhanced marketing and promotion of our natural resources		*