



Coordinating federal participation in the Environmental Assessment Process: Northern Projects Management Office

Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

**Building Relationships with Potential in the Regulatory Process
Nunavut Mining Symposium**



Northern Projects Management Office

Established in 2010 with mandate to support communities and industry in advancing northern resource development



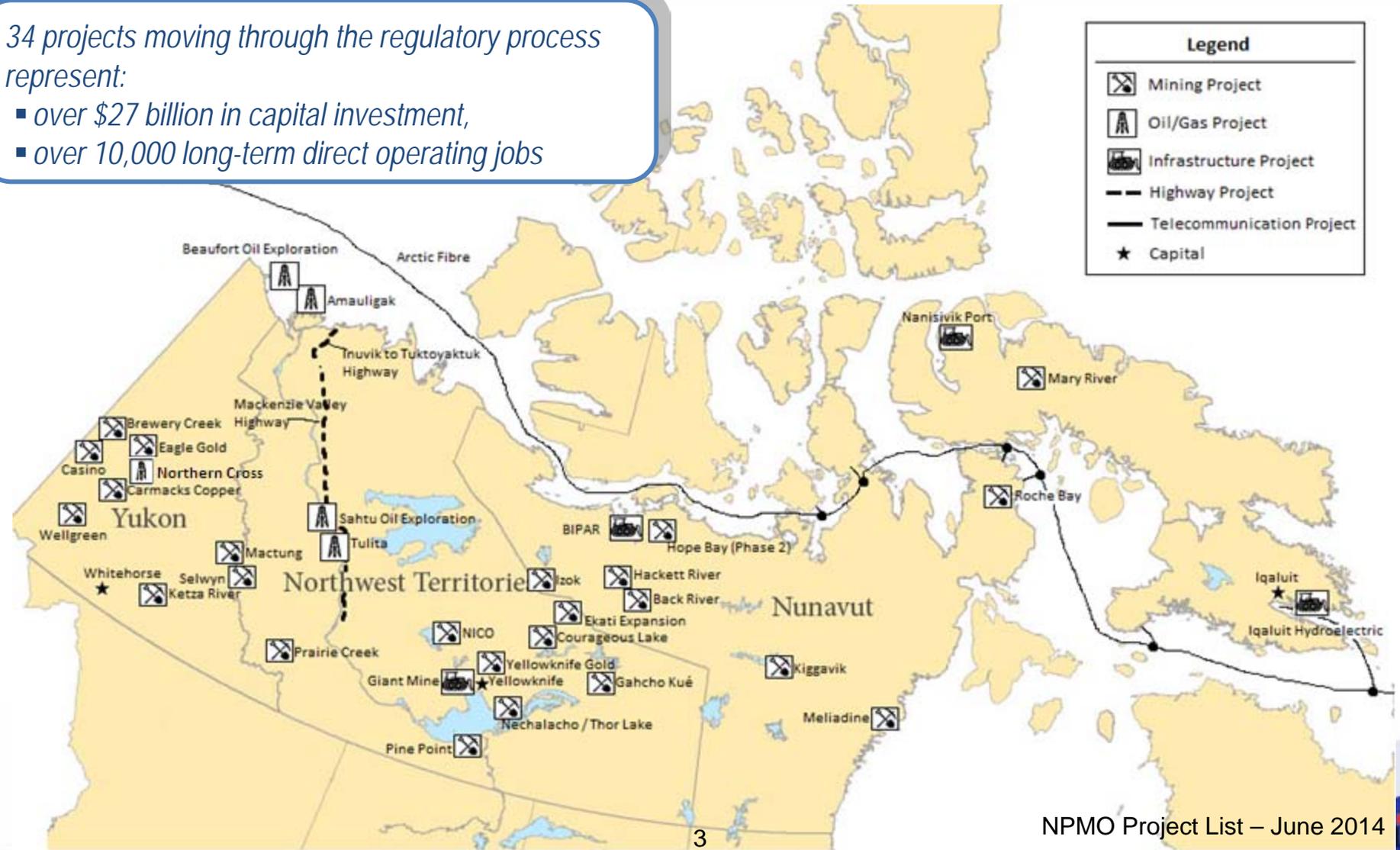
- Promotes northern interests both within and outside government
- Brings a northern lens to national policies and strategies
- Working with partners, NPMO serves as a centre of expertise on resource development in Canada's North



Major Projects in Various Regulatory Phases

34 projects moving through the regulatory process represent:

- over \$27 billion in capital investment,
- over 10,000 long-term direct operating jobs



Some NPMO activities over the last year...

Pathfinding and issue resolution for industry

- Working with over 50 companies operating in the North
- Tracking regulatory timelines (5 projects completed EA)
- 14 Resource Development Advisory Group meetings held

Coordinating federal regulators

- Project agreements: compendium format being introduced
- Territorial Project Committees: topical, quarterly meetings
- Project-specific working groups

NPMO

Overseeing Crown consultations

- Crown consultation coordinator: increasing staff complement to gather more on-the-ground information
- Engaging before, during and after hearings

Working with Aboriginal communities

- MOUs signed and / or being negotiated to coordinate EAs and community readiness
- Project issues management for organizations
- Working with co-management boards

Nunavut Specific Activities

Information Sharing

- Coordinated seven resource development advisory group (RDAG) meetings between 2013 – 2015

Engagement

- Currently working with 12 clients with projects and / or proposed projects in the territory
- Held over 140 meetings with industry in past two years

Coordination

- Discussing an MOU with the Government of Nunavut on project coordination
 - supporting major projects through cooperation and respectful engagement
 - facilitating effective and transparent regulatory processes
 - optimizing respective opportunities to advance economic development for the people and communities related to major projects

Project Management

- Currently overseeing 11 advanced projects (Pre-EA, EA and Regulatory)

Approvals

- Worked closely with AANDC to move projects through ministerial approvals:
 - Recent approvals: Meliadine, Mary River ERP

NPMO also focusing on a series of key variables...

- Effective regulatory system
- Infrastructure
- Labour market
- Access to capital
- Aboriginal support and community readiness/
managing socio-economic risks



Goal to raise the level of certainty in these areas, setting the conditions for proponents to advance projects.

What is the Community Readiness Initiative?

A **strategic, collaborative** and **opportunity-driven** socio-economic assessment of community readiness in relation to major projects

Goal:

Empower communities to maximize benefits associated with major resource development activity through participation, planning and active community-based management of development

Active Nunavut CRI PILOT
Communities: Pond Inlet,
Grise Fiord, Cambridge Bay,
Kugluktuk



Key Functions of the NPMO Consultation Model

1

A **Crown Consultation Coordinator (CCC)** coordinates all federal regulatory and EA activities on projects consistent with its mandate and provides a **‘one project, one window’ approach**

2

The **Crown** (federal and territorial) **relies**, to the extent possible, **on the consultative processes of the Board**

3

The **Model** is premised on a ‘whole of government’ approach that **vests greater responsibility for consultation with departmental program staff**

4

NPMO, with the input of Decision Bodies, **will coordinate additional consultation activities** to respond to unaddressed Aboriginal concerns

Challenges are being dealt with at 3 levels...



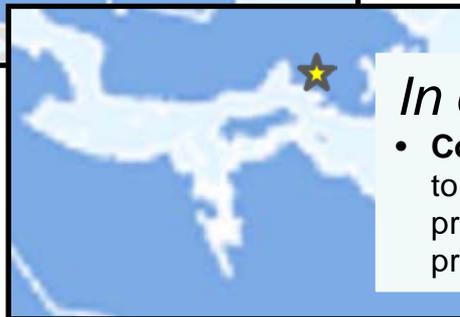
Across the North

- **Pan-Northern:** such as infrastructure, labour market and financing



In high potential regions

- **Regional:** geoscience, land use planning, and baseline environmental data.



In communities near projects

- **Community Readiness:** community-based planning to maximize positive socio-economic impacts of the projects, and support the environmental assessment process.

Continue to work with the regulatory boards

- To seek alignment of Crown Consultation obligations and proponent engagement efforts
- To improve collaboration in the following areas:
 - Communication and engagement with other regulatory boards across the north
 - Issues management and communications protocol(s)
 - Socio-economic matters





Thank you

Merçi

Qujannamiik