

1. Resource Development Policy

In 1982 the Executive Council approved the GNWT Resource Development Policy. The policy identifies nine principles used in the evaluation of resource development projects. The policy was a preliminary step to increase the GNWT role in development project reviews.

The Government of the Northwest Territories will approve a resource development project when its overall economic, social and environmental implications are judged to result in net benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories.

The Resource Development Policy is based on the following principles:

- a) Opportunities for jobs, training, and business development shall be maximized to ensure economic benefits.
- b) The NWT shall derive energy benefits and secure energy supply from energy producing projects to help offset the loss of resources and to contribute to achieving energy self sufficiency.
- c) The environment and renewable resource activities shall be protected.
- d) Northern lifestyles and cultural heritage will be protected.
- e) Local communities and interest groups will participate in consultation programs to ensure that resource projects are responsive to public concerns.
- f) The interests of native groups shall be recognized.
- g) Social and economic disruption shall be identified and monitored, and corrective measures developed and assigned to industry and appropriate levels of government.
- h) Expansion of existing communities to support resource development shall occur in an orderly manner in keeping with the wishes of residents, and when this expansion is uneconomic or undesirable, new single-resource communities may be established.
- i) An equitable share of resource revenues should accrue to the NWT.

The Resource Development Policy also involves the designation of Development Impact Zones and the formation of Zone Groups. Development Impact Zone (DIZ) groups represent the public interests of the zone and are formed largely from existing bodies such as municipal, band and regional councils as well as from native organizations. The DIZ groups' role is to identify local and regional issues associated with impacts related to resource development proposals. As well DIZ groups recommend mitigative measures. DIZ groups are accountable directly to and advise the GNWT Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.