



Territories Environmental Audit | 2015



HOW OFTEN IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT CONDUCTED?

An environmental audit must be done every five years in the NWT, as required by legislation and land claims. Previous audits were done in 2005 and 2010. Recommendations from these audits have helped to improve the regulatory system.



WHO CONDUCTED THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT?

The 2015 NWT Environmental Audit was conducted by an independent auditor under contract to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The auditor collected information and views from a wide range of sources, including organizations and people involved in regulatory processes and the public. The auditor was selected and guided by a committee of Aboriginal, federal and territorial government representatives.

For more information or a copy of the 2015 NWT Environmental Audit report, visit www.nwtcimp.ca



Northwest Territories Environmental Audit



WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT?

An environmental audit checks to see if a system is working to protect the environment. It can identify successes and challenges. It can also recommend actions to address weaknesses in the system. Recommendations can improve how the environment is managed.



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2015 NWT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT KEY FINDINGS

The 2015 Northwest Territories (NWT) Environmental Audit report was released in June 2016.

In general, the 2015 audit found the NWT regulatory system has continued to improve since the previous audit, and is effectively protecting the environment.

Examples of improvement include:

- Completed land use plans (Sahtú, Tłı̨chǫ)
- Since Devolution in 2014, the GNWT has taken steps to address challenges related to wildlife, air quality, securities and land use planning
- Implementation of the Land and Water Boards' Engagement and Consultation Policy



The auditor found a number of core challenges that continue from previous audits:

- Completing unsettled land claims
- Completing land use plans
- Resources and capacity lacking for Aboriginal governments and others to fully participate in the regulatory system
- Clarity on federal Crown consultation
- Better integration of socio-economics (especially community wellness) into decision-making

2015 NWT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2015 NWT Environmental Audit resulted in 24 recommendations to address these and other challenges. Recommendations were directed to various parties with decision-making roles in the regulatory system. Responses to recommendations from the various parties are included within the report for greater public accountability.

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT?

In the NWT, the environmental audit is part of a system of integrated land and water management. The main purpose of the NWT Environmental Audit is to check that the regulatory system is protecting the environment and make suggestions for improvement.

The audit has four key areas:

1. Look at the effectiveness of environmental regulation.
2. Find information gaps and assess information used to make decisions.
3. Evaluate the monitoring of cumulative impacts.
4. Report on actions related to recommendations from previous audits.

