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Consultation continues for off-road vehicle regulation on public land

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon today announced the continuation of its off-road vehicle consultation, with a 60-day public review beginning the week of April 20.

"Building on the valuable information received from First Nations, we are looking forward to engaging with the public and off-road vehicle users to work towards developing a made-in-Yukon policy," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said.

Development of off-road vehicle (ORV) regulations for public land is a response to the recommendations brought forward by the Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles (March 2011), which outlined the need for effective regulation and enforcement to protect the environment from damage caused by ORVs.

A discussion paper will be mailed to First Nations, industry and interest groups and will also be available on the Energy, Mines and Resources website the week of April 20. Dialogue has also been initiated with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and regional renewable resource councils to discuss their potential involvement in the regulation process.

"I am confident that we can develop regulations and management tools that will serve to protect the Yukon environment and the rights of ORV users for generations to come," Minister of Environment Wade Istchenko said.

Work on the new regulations will begin once the consultation is complete and an analysis of the results is conducted. It is anticipated that the review of the draft regulations will be completed in the fall of this year.

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