



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our File EA01-004

February 14<sup>th</sup> 2003

Ms. Rachel Crapeau  
Land and Resources Coordinator  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
P.O. Box 2514  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

Dear Ms. Crapeau:

**RE: Role of Gartner Lee Ltd. in DeBeers Snap Lake EA**

During our January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting with parties to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Environmental Assessment (EA) process, you raised several questions with respect to the role of the Review Board's consultants. Review Board staff committed to provide some clarification on these questions.

Gartner Lee Limited (GLL) has been retained by the Review Board as its prime consultant for purposes of the DeBeers Snap Lake EA. In this capacity, GLL experts participated in the Technical Sessions organized by the Review Board and held between November 25 to December 6, 2002. There were no Board members present during these sessions and Review Board staff and GLL staff participated directly along with interested parties and interveners in an attempt to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and to the search for consensus on technical issues.

Gartner Lee staff will continue to assist the Review Board with the explanation of technical matters arising from the evidence in the Snap Lake EA. GLL staff will not play an active role in the hearings in March but they will be present in order to hear and understand the technical evidence presented. If necessary they will then be able to assist the Review Board to understand these issues. In this regard they play a role similar to Review Board staff and counsel. GLL has not and will not play an advocacy role in the Review Board's proceedings.

663

Ms. Glenda Fratton is currently working in our office because of a staff shortage and she will continue to assist the Review Board throughout the EA process.

Once the Board begins its deliberations, it calls on staff or consultants for assistance in locating and organizing materials on the public record or to ensure that draft text for the Environmental Assessment Report is factually and technically accurate. Upon request, staff or consultants may also assist the Review Board by providing analysis or comment regarding materials on the public record. The Review Board's practice in this regard is consistent with the legal authorities.

I trust that this explanation will clarify GLL's role and will satisfy your concerns in that regard.

Yours truly,

  
Vern Christensen  
Executive Director

