



Our File: EA-03-002
EA-03-003
EA-03-004

July 24, 2003

To: Distribution

Re: Comments on Cumulative Effects Study of Drybones/Wool Bay

The comments from the Parties to Environmental Assessments (EAs) on the Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the study of Drybones/Wool Bay are appreciated. These comments have been considered by the Review Board. These comments have also been forwarded to the Review Board's consultant, Gartner Lee Limited (Gartner Lee). The Final Terms of Reference and Work Plan accompanying this letter will be placed on the Public Registry.

This letter is our response to any inquiries and comments submitted. In general, the comments relate to:

- the focus and content of the Cumulative Effects Study;
- research methods;
- public involvement processes throughout the study;
- processes for including findings of this study in individual EA processes;
- the sharing of information; and,
- the presentation of findings.

The Review Board will remain consistent with the Final Terms of Reference and Work Plans issued for the EAs of developments in Drybones and Wool Bay. The Review Board has determined that, until the Drybones Bay area proves to be diamond-rich, assessments should not include this phase of development. The assessment of diamond mines and land use planning in anticipation of diamond mines are beyond the scope of this technical study and are not within the mandate of the Review Board.

The budget for the project was set at a level suited to early stage exploration. The developer would be expected to bear a greater responsibility for Cumulative Effects Assessment if the nature and scale of their project had been more complex and expansive.

It has come to the attention of the Review Board that this study may be of value to the Parties as much as it is to the developers. In the interest of fairness and for greater clarity of the process, this technical study will provide all Parties with baseline information to help them to prepare evidence. The study is a resource for the EA to be used as much or as little as the Parties choose.



The Review Board is sharing this technical study with all Parties for transparency. The sharing of this study should also help the Parties to respond within the time allotted for these EAs. The Participant Comments period will be used to clarify the content of the study while the Public Hearing will be the focal point for describing, discussing and debating the Cumulative Effects.

That said, the Review Board will:

- Conduct the public hearing in a manner to allow for the discussion of potential development-specific cumulative effects and any shared cumulative effects applicable of all developments;
- Provide a complete copy of the technical study produced by Gartner Lee (along with detailed methods and interview summaries) on August 20, 2003;
- File all data sets and shape files provided and released by those interviewed on the public registry for further analysis by the Parties as part of their evidence to the Review Board, if they so choose;
- Accept evidence from all Parties on potential cumulative effects in the Public Hearing; and,
- Provide reasons for decision for all EAs to describe the Review Board's recommendations and/or suggestions about proposed developments.

Again, to re-emphasize, the Cumulative Effects Study of Drybones/Wool Bay is a technical study. This study and the review of it will promote discussion about the potential cumulative effects in advance of the Public Hearing. Through this process the Review Board will be better able to evaluate the merits of the Cumulative Effects Assessment and the mitigation proposed by the developers at the Public Hearing.

I am available to explain this further. Please call me at 867-766-7063 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Sian".

Sherry Sian

Environmental Assessment Officer