



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

June 13, 2006

The Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister, Indian Affairs and Northern Development
10 Wellington St. North Tower
Hull, P.Q. K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Prentice:

**Re: MVEIRB Environmental Assessment Decision on the Proposed DeBeers Canada
Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine**

I am pleased, on behalf of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), to convey our decision in the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the DeBeers Canada Gahcho Kue project.

The MVEIRB held technical and community scoping workshops in Yellowknife, Dettah, Lutsel K'e, Fort Resolution and Behchoko, as well as technical and community scoping hearings in Yellowknife in order to form its opinion in this matter. We heard from a wide spectrum of residents of the Mackenzie Valley including aboriginal leaders and elders, and representatives from various government agencies. Based on the information gathered at the workshops and hearings, as well as written submissions, the MVEIRB concluded that the proposed Gahcho Kue diamond mine is likely to be cause of significant public concern.

During its meeting of June 8, 2006 the MVEIRB exercised its statutory authority under paragraph 128(1)(c) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and issued an order for an Environmental Impact Review of the Gahcho Kue diamond mine project. The order is attached to this letter. The MVEIRB's reasons for decision and report of environmental assessment will follow shortly under separate cover.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott".

Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott

Chairperson

Encl.



Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact
Review Board

- In the Matter of:** **A Land Use Permit Application
MV2005C0032 and a type A Water
Licence Application MV2005L2-0015
made by DeBeers Canada in support
of the proposed Gahcho Kue
development;**
- And in the Matter of:** **An Environmental Assessment
conducted in relation to these
applications and the proposed
Gahcho Kue development;**
- And in the Matter of:** **A decision made under section
128(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley
Resource Management Act.***

ORDER

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, pursuant to its authority under section 128(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, having formed the opinion that the Gahcho Kue development is likely to be a cause of significant public concern hereby orders that an environmental impact review be conducted of the proposed Gahcho Kue development.

For the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board:

Handwritten signature of Gabrielle Mackenzie Scott in blue ink.

Gabrielle Mackenzie Scott, Chairperson

Dated: the 12th of June, 2006.