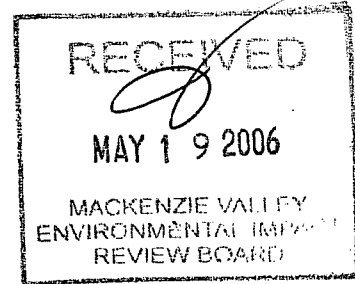


19 May 2006

Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7



Dear Ms. Mackenzie-Scott:

Re: Gahcho Kué Project Environmental Assessment

We refer to the Board's Work Plan dated February 22, 2006, and in particular the statement that the Board "reserves the option to evaluate, following scoping in phase two, whether there is evidence of significant adverse environmental impacts or of public concern sufficient to order an Environmental Impact Review according to MVRMA s. 128(1)(b)(i) or s. 128(1)(c)." We also refer to the May 8, 2006 letter to the Board from the Director, Renewable Resources and Environment, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Our review and consideration of the process to date reinforces the concern we expressed at the closing of the Community Scoping Hearing that, in conformance with the terms of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Gahcho Kue project is required to be the subject of a complete environmental assessment. In our respectful submission, referral to environmental impact review after the scoping phase of environmental assessment would not conform to the *MVRMA* requirement stated for example in subs 128(1) that the Board "complete" an environmental assessment, which in turn is required to include "consideration" of all factors listed in subs 117(2).

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,


Dr. Robin Johnstone
Manager, Environmental Affairs- NWT Projects
De Beers Canada Inc.

