

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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May 3, 2001

The Honourable Robert D. Nault, P.C., M.P.,
Minister, Indian Affairs and Northern Development,
10 Wellington St. North Tower,
Hull, PQ, K1A 0H4

RE: Consultation on the BHP Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth Kimberlite Pipes Expansion Project

Dear Minister Nault:

On behalf of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board), I would like to thank you for your letter of April 12, 2001 in which you inform the Review Board of your decision under subparagraph 130(1)(b)(ii) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (Act) to initiate consultation with respect to the recommendations made in the Review Board's February 7, 2001 Report of Environmental Assessment on the above captioned development.

The Review Board will, of course, make itself available in order to complete the required consultation on an expedited basis. In order to contribute to the effectiveness of these efforts, we suggest that senior staff in your Regional Office in Yellowknife be assigned to work with our Executive Director. We will, consistent with the importance of this consultation, contact Mr. Overvold to arrange a meeting to discuss the concerns raised in your letter.

The Review Board appreciates being provided a copy of the March 2, 2001 letter sent to you by Mr. J.D. Excell, the President of Ekati Diamond Mine. It would expedite our consultation with your staff if, when we first meet, they could provide the Review Board with copies of any new information or identify any matters of public concern considered during the course of your decision making, as required by subsection 130(3) of the Act.

We trust that these arrangements will meet with your approval.

Yours truly,



Gordon Lennie, Chairman
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

cc Mr. Robert Overvold, Regional Director General
DIAND, Yellowknife
