



Environmental Protection Operations
Prairie and Northern
4999-98th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3

January 18th, 2012

EC file: 4780 026
MVEIRB file: EIR0607-001

Veronica Chisholm
Permitting Manager
De Beers Canada Inc.
Suite 300, 5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S8

Attention: Ms. Chisholm

**RE: Environment Canada Information Requests for the DeBeers Canada Inc.
Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine Project (Round 1)**

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and Supporting Documents submitted by DeBeers Canada Inc. (DeBeers) for the above mentioned project. EC's information requests (IRs) are based primarily on EC's mandated responsibilities under the *Fisheries Act*, *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, and *Migratory Bird Convention Act*. Please note that EC has provided joint IRs for both aquatic resources and air quality with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) & the Government of the Northwest Territories respectively given similar mandates and interests. In addition, EC has also provided IRs related to air quality, wildlife, waste management, geochemistry, and closure & reclamation captured under the Department's broader mandate.

Furthermore, it is EC's understanding that DFO is considering the issuance of a 35(2) authorization under the *Fisheries Act* to enable DeBeers to dewater Kennady Lake in order to access the kimberlite ore that is associated with the proposed mine. This authorization could also allow the area to be used for waste management. In view of this, EC has no comments on the alternatives assessment at this time, which is being reviewed in detail by DFO in the context of the possible 35(2) authorization.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Lisa Lowman at 867-669-4721 or via email at lisa.lowman@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



David Ash
A/Regional Director
Environmental Protection Operations
Prairie and Northern Region
Environment Canada

cc: Gahcho Kue Panel
Larry Dow (A/Area Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
Gavin More (Manager EA, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT)
Susanne Forbrich (Manager, EA and Marine Programs Division, EC)
Carey Ogilvie (Head EA-North, EA and Marine Programs Division, EC)
Chris Doiron (Manager, Mining and Processing, EC)
Lisa Lowman (Senior EA Coordinator, EA and Marine Programs Division, EC)
Anne Wilson (Sector Support, Environmental Protection Operations)

