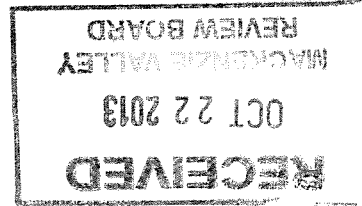


Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

OCT 22 2013



Mr. Darryl Bohnet
Chair
Gahcho Kué Review Panel
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
200 Scotia Centre
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Via Facsimile: 867-766-7074

Dear Mr. Bohnet:

As the Federal Minister under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and on behalf of the other Responsible Ministers with jurisdiction (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories) in relation to the De Beers Canada Incorporated Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine Project Environmental Impact Review (EIR 0607-001), I am writing to convey our decision on the Gahcho Kué Panel's *Report of Environmental Impact Review and Reasons for Decision*, submitted to me on July 19, 2013. In its Report, the Review Panel recommended, pursuant to sub-paragraph 134(2) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, that the Project be approved subject to the measures, developer commitments and follow-up programs described in the Report.

As part of the assessment of the Report, the Northern Project Management Office, on behalf of the Federal Minister and all Responsible Ministers, initiated consultation with Aboriginal parties on July 31, 2013, to request their views on the Report's findings. Letters were sent to all Aboriginal parties to the Environmental Impact Review, namely the Tlicho Government, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, the Deninu Kué First Nation, the North Slave Métis Alliance, the Northwest Territories Métis Nation and the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement Implementation Office.

.../2

Canada

The Responsible Ministers' assessment has therefore included careful consideration of:

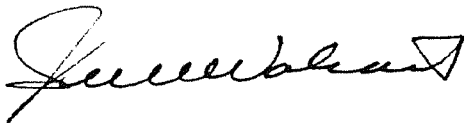
- the July 19, 2013 Report of Environmental Impact Review and Reasons for Decision for the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine Project;
- the August 20, 2013 letters from the Tlicho Government, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and the Deninu Kué First Nation;
- the August 22, 2013 letter from the North Slave Métis Alliance;
- the August 28, 2013 letter from the Northwest Territories Métis Nation; and
- the September 23, 2013 letter from De Beers Canada which includes a response to issues raised by the Aboriginal groups.

The Responsible Ministers have given full and fair consideration to the views expressed by the Aboriginal parties during the Environmental Impact Review and in recent letters. We have concluded that all points raised relating to asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights have been or will be fully addressed through the implementation of measures, developer commitments, and follow-up programs. Any remaining points are expected to be considered, where feasible, during the regulatory process or during project implementation by the appropriate parties. A more detailed response to Aboriginal parties will be concurrently conveyed directly to each group by the Northern Projects Management Office on behalf of all Responsible Ministers.

Pursuant to sub-paragraph 135(1)(a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Responsible Ministers and I have agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Panel that the Project be approved subject to the implementation of the measures, developer commitments and follow-up programs contained in the Report.

I wish to thank the Panel for discharging its duties under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in this matter.

Sincerely,



Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Lisa Raitt, PC, MP
The Honourable Gail Shea, PC, MP
The Honourable Joe Oliver, PC, MP
The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, MLA
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus
Chief Louis Balsillie
Chief Dora Enzoe
Chief Edward Sangris

Chief Ernst Betsina
Mr. Matt Spence
Mr. Garry Bailey
Mr. Bill Enge
Mr. Stephen Ellis
Mr. Vern Christensen
Mr. Zabey Nevitt
Ms. Cathy Bolstad
Ms. Kathryn Bruce
Ms Paula Isaak

