

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

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August 22 2013

Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
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VIA EMAIL

Dear Minister Valcourt:

RE: GAHCHO KUE REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW (EIR0607-001)

The North Slave Métis Alliance ("NSMA") received a letter dated July 30, 2013 from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency inviting the NSMA to provide comments on the Report of Environmental Impact Review ("the Report") on the De Beers Gahcho Kue Project ("the Project").

NSMA members have a strong *prima facie* claim as a Métis community that holds Aboriginal rights protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982¹ in the area north and east of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board ("Review Board") recognizes that the Project is within the traditional land use area of the North Slave Métis people².

The Review Board, while undertaking its regulatory mandate, provided the NSMA with an opportunity to voice its concerns respecting the Project. That being said, the NSMA supports the Review Board's conclusion that De Beers should develop a caribou protection plan and that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada should also

¹Enge v. Mandeville et al, 2013 NWTSC 33.

² EIR0607-001: Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine Project, De Beers Canada Inc. Report of Environmental Impact Review and Reasons for Decision. 1.3 Traditional use of the Gahcho Kué region, p.15.

develop and implement a cumulative effects framework (including wildlife monitoring, aquatics effects monitoring, etc.) With that in mind, the NSMA looks forward to participating in forums that will help minimize and mitigate cumulative environmental, social, political and economic impacts that the Project will have on our people and our traditional land.

In closing, the NSMA is of the view that you and the Responsible Ministers should adopt the Review Board's recommendations as outlined in the Report of Environmental Impact Review on the Gahcho Kue Project.

Yours truly,



William (Bill) A. Enge

President

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