

November 9, 2001

Mr. Louie Azzolini
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board
BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Azzolini:

**Assignment of Expert Reviewer Roles for the DeBeers Snap Lake
Environmental Assessment**

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has reviewed the expert review roles suggested by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) on October 18, 2001. I am writing, in accordance with the instruction provided with that document, to indicate those areas where the GNWT is not able to offer expert advice to the Board. The following items are listed next to the section of the Terms of Reference under which they appear.

s. 2.2.1 Public Consultation

The GNWT is not able to provide expert advice on the soundness of the proponent's policies respecting consultation methods, objectives, programs, and activities. The usefulness of a proponent's consultation program is best evaluated by those who were consulted, and must be judged by the Board, in the final analysis.

s.2.2.2 Traditional Knowledge

The GNWT is not able to provide a technical review of "where and how traditional knowledge was used and the effect that it had on predicting impacts and determining mitigation". Those who provided their knowledge to the proponent are most able to evaluate the use of traditional knowledge in the environmental assessment.

s.2.5.2 Description of the Existing Environment

The GNWT will not provide comment on the accuracy of the proponent's description of the existing environment with respect to migratory birds. The GNWT does not monitor migratory bird populations, with the exception of some species of raptors.

s. 2.6.2. Terrain

The GNWT is unable to provide expert advice on the interaction of the variety of constituents that are proposed to be deposited on the North Pile.

s.2.6.3 Vegetation and Plant Communities

The GNWT's comments on impacts to vegetation and plant communities (as vegetation cover types) will be limited to a review of the possible impacts of predicted changes to vegetation on wildlife species.

s.1.1.1 Water Quality

The GNWT will not provide expert advice on the impact of treated sewage flows to associated wetlands and downstream waters.

s. 2.6.6 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

The GNWT is unable to provide expert advice on the impacts of the proposed development on migratory birds.

s.1.2.2 Land and Resources Use

The GNWT is unable to provide expert advice on the impacts of the proposed project on traditionally significant areas and seasonal camps. These are not monitored or recorded by the GNWT.

s.2.7.8 Visual and Aesthetic Resources

The GNWT will not be able to provide comments on impacts to visual or aesthetic resources.

The GNWT will be providing a technical review pertaining to all areas of the Terms of Reference for which the Board has identified us as an expert reviewer that are not listed above. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me at 920-6392. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brett Hudson
Environmental Assessment
Analyst
Policy, Legislation, and
Communications
RWED