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December 14, 2001

**De Beers Canada Mining
Snap Lake Diamond Project
Invitation to Water Quality/Water Quantity Technical Discussion Session 3
January 10, 2002**

Distribution List

Affiliation	Name
DIAND, Water Resources	David Milburn, Francis Jackson, Sevn Bohnet, Peri Mehling, Don MacDonald, Eugene Yuremko
DFO	Marc Lange, Julie Dahl
Environment Canada	Steve Harbicht, Anne Wilson, Mark Dahl, Chris Spence
RWED	Lionel Marcinkoski
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MVLWB	Karl Lauten, Laurie Cordell

Introduction

On the 15th and 16th of November 2001, De Beers hosted a second Water Quality Technical Session to discuss water quality and quantity issues relating to the Snap Lake Diamond Project. De Beers approach to environmental impact assessment of these issues was presented, and valuable technical feedback on the issues and approach to mitigation of potential issues was solicited.

Feedback provided by the group in attendance to De Beers clearly indicated a strong rationale for adjustment to two key components of the water quality assessment, specifically

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1. The method being used by the assessment team to develop site-specific water quality objectives based on the USEPA guidelines was not the preferred approach; and,
2. The recommendation that the approach used to interpret the initial significance of spatial extent of increases in chemical concentrations required revision; i.e. the assumed 60m "mixing zone" concept.

De Beers has deliberated on the feedback provided and concurs with technical session participants that adjusting the EA would further strengthen the robustness of the impact assessment. For this reason, De Beers has decided to make the necessary adjustments to the environmental assessment. In response to feedback, the revised approach will be based on a thorough, rigorous application of current methods for developing site-specific criteria. Briefly, these methods involve a complete review of toxicological data for each chemical of concern, a matching of the toxicological data with data relevant to the species resident in Snap Lake, and a derivation of a water quality objective based upon the protection of populations and communities of the four main VEC groupings in Snap Lake (phytoplankton, zooplankton, benthic invertebrates and fish). The work also includes an analysis of the ecological significance of the spatial extent of increases in chemicals of concern (metals and TDS/major ions). This analysis will be based upon population and community ecological principles.

Extra time will be needed to incorporate the recommended adjustments to the EA, so submission of the EA will not occur in December 2001 as anticipated.

De Beers would like to take one final opportunity prior to EA submission, to gain technical feedback on the revised impact assessment approach used. For this reason, De Beers invites you to a third Water Quality technical on January 10th, 2002. The EA will be submitted as soon as it can be finalized based on the feedback gained at this technical session.

A revised format to the session has been adopted to ensure that sufficient time allows in-depth discussion and details to be discussed. Three "breakout" sessions will run concurrently, allowing individuals to pursue their interests with Snap Lake EA team members in small focused groups. In comparison with previous sessions, this will ensure that participants can get down to details in "hands-on" sessions. Also, in response to interest expressed at the previous sessions, we have arranged to have GoldSim computer modeling demonstrations available so that participants can gain further insight into this assessment tool and its' sensitivities.

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Location: De Beers Canada Mining Inc. offices, 3rd Floor Scotia Center

Date: January 10th, 2002

Refreshments: Light refreshments will be provided and lunch will be served at 1200.

Agenda:

Time	Item
0830	Introduction
0930-1600	Concurrent Session I Site-specific Water Quality Objective development
0930-1600	Concurrent Session II Goldsim modeling
0930-1600	Concurrent Session III Water balance and hydrological modeling
1600-1700	Round-up & Conclusions

R.S.V.P.: Please confirm your attendance at this meeting by responding to Kevin LeDrew, De Beers Canada Mining Inc. at 867-766-7300, or at kledrew@debeerscanada.com by December 20th, 2001.

Sincerely,

SNAP LAKE DIAMOND PROJECT



pro Robin Johnstone, PhD
Senior Environmental Manager

RJ/hb