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Our File: 51163 - JLH

TELECOPIER COVER SHEET

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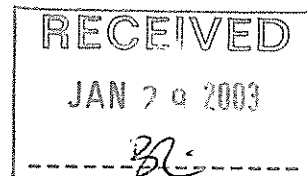
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FROM: JANET L. HUTCHISON

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2003

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 INCLUDING COVER PAGE
(If you do not receive all pages, please call 780-423-661 as soon as possible)

RE: DEBEERS SNAP LAKE DIAMOND PROJECT - COMMENTS ON TECHNICAL SESSION NOTES



Attached is a copy of e-mail to L. Azzolini dated January 23, 2003.

*Denotes Professional Corporation
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From: <jhutchison@nucleus.com>
To: "Louie Azzolini" <lazzolini@mvelrb.nt.ca>
Cc: "Terry DeMarco" <tdemarco@sympatico.ca>
Sent: January 23, 2003 2:57 PM
Subject: Comments on Technical session notes- 51163

Hello Louie,

No Action Required

I have received Mr. Christenson's email that tomorrow is a deadline for comments. As you know, we had asked you when those comments were due and were advised that as long as they were received by Feb. 14 (or in the technical reports) that would be fine. While we can meet that deadline, it will not be possible for to review and comment on all the notes by Jan 24th. If the NSMA has any comments they will be provided as part of the Feb. 14 technical reports or in a separate document before that date- in accordance with the timelines we were originally given.

Done

On a further matter, you may recall that on the last day of the hearings, I noted that the NSMA had yet to receive a decision regarding the release of internal / staff reports. I was particularly concerned that this decision was not provided before the technical sessions started. It has now be over four months since that decision was requested. Prior to me taking more formal steps, could you advise as to when that decision is expected?

~~scribble~~

In addition, on the last day of the technical sessions, I had expressed concerns about the inadequate amount of time that has been set aside for the public hearings and asked the Board to reconsider that aspect of their workplan. Could you advise as to when the Board will be responding on that point? If this is a situation where the Board will not respond unless I submit a formal request, in writing, for a ruling on that point, I would appreciate that information.

John to do.

On one final point, on receipt of the minutes for the meeting to discuss the format of the technical reports, I noted that there did not appear to be any participants for the Aboriginal organizations who are participating in this process and who have technical experts assisting them. Could you please advise if the Aboriginal groups, including my client, were notified of / invited to this meeting? If they were not, I would appreciate an explanation as to why they were excluded from that meeting.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

Janet Hutchison

23/01/03