



January 24, 2003

Glenda Fratton
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Dear Ms. Fratton;

Re: MVEIRB Technical Session Summary Notes for the De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Project

De Beers Canada Mining Inc. (De Beers) appreciates the opportunity to review the above referenced notes, as distributed by e-mail from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board). Firstly, De Beers would like to note that these notes should in no way be considered final. We would respectfully request any information the Board has with regards to a completion date for the official transcripts from the Technical Sessions. De Beers specific comments on the above referenced notes are outlined below.

Day 2, page 2: De Beers' comments do not include the statement made by Robin Johnstone recognizing that there is radial groundwater flow from Snap Lake but that the focus of the discussion on the North Lakes is because the groundwater that would flow in this direction will have passed through the former mine.

Day 2, pages 9-12: There are four instances where either the Water Management Pond or the Water Treatment Plant are instead referred to as the "waste" management pond or treatment plant. Please ensure that the word "waste" is changed to read "water".

Day 4, page 17: Summary of resolution regarding the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's (DFO) concerns states, "Further encourage modeling of oxygen and how many holes are affected." This should read, "...and *if deep holes would be affected.*"



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DE BEERS

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

Day 4, page 2: The Commitment/Conclusion provided with regards to No Net Loss (NNL) is incorrect. In an exchange between Julie Dahl, DFO and John McConnell, De Beers, it was determined that De Beers concern was habitat compensation under the Terms of Reference, while DFO was interested in the baseline data used in the decision making process in order to ensure the information needed to fulfill requirements under the Fisheries Act was available. This is the information De Beers committed to providing DFO.

Additionally, De Beers would like to note that the agreement reached between the Board and DFO (Day 2, page 2), which was forwarded to De Beers after the Technical Sessions, was to apply to future Environmental Assessments. This agreement was reached after issuance of the final Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Snap Lake Diamond Project, and no change in NNL information requirements were communicated to De Beers staff or incorporated into the revised TOR issued February 22, 2002.

If you have any question or would like our comments further clarified, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

DE BEERS CANADA MINING INC.



Robin Johnstone
Senior Environmental Manager