

Louie Azzolini

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Sent: Friday, November 01, 2002 4:45 PM
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Subject: Preparation for the De Beers Environmental Assessment Technical Sessions—Rationale of Technical Issues

Please find attached an important document for the upcoming pre-technical session conference.

Purpose: Pre-technical session conference -

Location: 7th floor YK. Centre. Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Room

Date: November 8, 2002

Start time: 10:00 a.m.

Parties to the De Beers Snap Lake
 Diamond Project Environmental Assessment

RE: Preparation for the De Beers Environmental Assessment Technical Sessions

On October 25, 2002 you were provided a draft agenda of the upcoming De Beers pre-technical session conference (conference) and a draft list of topics and issues for the technical sessions. To facilitate the conference the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board or Board) is providing you with additional detail about the draft list of technical issues identified by the Board.

As you are aware, the Review Board is organizing a series of technical sessions. The technical sessions are part of the Review Board's efforts to focus the environmental assessment (EA). The focusing process started with Information Requests (IR). The IR process provided everyone an opportunity to identify important technical issues that required more attention. The technical sessions will facilitate a closer examination of the outstanding technical issues. After the technical sessions, technical reports will be prepared by the parties and submitted to the Review Board. The technical reports will summarize the unresolved technical issues by

providing the parties conclusions and recommendations. The Board may take a closer look at those unresolved issues at the De Beers EA Board hearing scheduled for March 2003.

Identifying key technical issues for the upcoming technical sessions is an important part of the EA focusing process. To facilitate the identification of key technical issues the Board had its consultants to identify the key technical issues. The Board instructed the consultants to:

1. Explain what the technical issue is,
2. Explain why it was an issue,
3. Explain how resolution of the issue adds value to the EA, and;
4. Identify who could best respond to the issue.

The attached draft list of topics and technical issues will be discussed at the upcoming conference. The Review Board encourages all parties to the EA to consider the Board's Draft list of technical issues and to consider the four key questions that should be answered by the parties' submissions to the conference. The Review Board will prepare the agenda for the technical sessions after the conference based on your contributions. The better your contribution, the more likely it has of making it onto the technical sessions agenda.

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