



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Date: Monday, October 28, 2002
From: Joe Acorn, Environmental Assessment Officer
Pages: 7 including these 2 cover pages
File: EA01-004 De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Project
Subject: Technical Sessions Preparations

Please see the attached letter from the Review Board to the Parties for the De Beers EA.

John McConnell, Robin Johnstone, De Beers™	766-7347
Bob Turner, NSMA	669-7442
Rachel Crapeau, YDFN, Dettah and N'dilo	873-5969
Steve Ellis, Lutselk'e Dene Council	(867) 370-3010
Cecil Lafferty, Fort Resolution Metis Council	(867) 394-3322
Maurice Boucher, Deninu Ku'e Envir. Working Committee	(867) 394-5122
Akaitcho Territory Government, Maurice Boucher	(867) 394-3413
Jolene Koyina, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council	766-3441
Steve Conway, Dogrib Rae First Nation	(867) 392-6150
Ted Blondin, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council	(867) 392-6389 (604) 943-4621
Yellowknife Metis Local #66	873-4097
Garth Walbridge, Rae-Edzo Metis Nation Local #64	920-7389
J. Michael Thoms	(604) 414-0267
Laura Duncan, Wha Ti First Nation	(867) 573-3222
Lana Paulson, Gameti First Nation	(867) 997-3411
Jennifer Keith, Dechi Laot'i First Nation	(867) 713-2030
Chris Paci Dene Nation	920-2254
City Clerk, City of Yellowknife	920-5649
Mike Richards, Hamlet of Rae-Edzo	(867) 392-6139
Tom Matus, Charter Community of Wha Ti	(867) 573-3018

FAXED
28/10/02

If you are a Directly Affected Party or an Intervener putting larger (hundreds or pages) reports, colour maps or other material that cannot be easily duplicated please make sure you provide the Board 17 copies. The Review Board puts a copy on the public registry, distributes 15 to all the other Interveners and Directly Affected Parties, and one copy is provided to the Chair.

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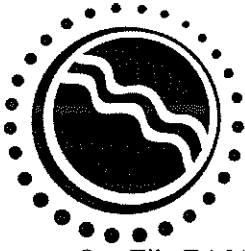
From Louie Azzolini
MVEIRB
P.O. Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
Phone (867) 766-7053
Fax (867) 766-7074

<i>Jane McMullen, GNWT</i>	873-0114 and 873-0293
Mark Dahl, Environment Canada	873-8185
Julie Dahl, Marc Lange DFO	669-4940
John Ramsey, NRCan	(613) 995-5719
Bob Wooley Executive Director, MVLWB	873-6610
Tamara Hamilton, INAC	669-2701
Kevin O'Reilly, CARC	920-2685
Alexandra Borowiecka, Ecology North	920-2986
Bill Carpenter, WWF™, Canada	920-4999
Tony Iacobelli, M.Sc., WWF™, Canada	416-489-3611
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce	920-4640
Town of Hay River	(867) 874-3237
Murray Swyripa Diavik™ Diamond Mines Ltd.	669-9058
Derek Chubb Ekati™ BHP Mines Diamond Mine Inc.	669-9293
NWT Chamber of Mines	920-2145
NWT Chamber of Commerce	873-4174
<i>Pape & Salter Barristers and Solicitors</i>	<i>(604) 681-3050</i>
<i>Chamberlain Hutchison</i>	<i>(780) 426-1293</i>

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Fax (867) 766-7074



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our File EA01-004

October 28, 2002

To: Registered Parties in the De Beers Snap Lake Environmental Assessment:

De Beers Canada Mining Inc.
Indian and North Affairs Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Environment Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Government of the Northwest Territories
Dene Nation
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
North Slave Metis Alliance
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Dogrib Treaty 11 Council
Rae-Edzo Metis Local #64
World Wildlife Fund
Canadian Arctic Resources Committee
NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines

Re: **Preparations for the De Beers Environmental Assessment Technical Sessions**

Dear Parties:

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is organizing a series of technical sessions (i.e. workshops) to give parties in the De Beers Snap Lake Environmental Assessment (EA) proceeding the opportunity to explore and discuss environmental, social and economic issues that are related to the proposed development.

Review Board staff will be discussing the structure, approach and management of the technical sessions with the parties to the EA at a "pre-technical session conference" (conference) to be held in the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board boardroom on November 8th 2002, starting at 10:00 a.m. You are welcome to attend the conference to help Review Board staff to organize and plan for the technical sessions. A draft agenda for the conference is attached. Those parties that cannot participate in person may participate by telephone. Those parties should contact the Review Board for instructions on getting connected to the meeting.

The technical sessions will be held in late November and early December in Yellowknife at a location yet to be determined. Following is an outline of the Review Board's proposed approach to the organization and management of these sessions. Comments on the proposed approach are welcome.

The purpose of these technical sessions will be threefold. First, the sessions will provide the opportunity for parties to the EA to enhance and test their understanding of the evidence already on the public record in this proceeding. Second, they will enable parties to outline their views on the issues in the EA and



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

possibly to resolve some of their concerns about the development. Finally, the sessions will enable Review Board staff to identify those issues that might need further attention in the context of a public hearing.

The technical sessions will be conducted on an informal basis, without prejudice to the positions that parties might choose to put before the Review Board in a public hearing. Notice of the sessions will be published and the public will also be welcome to participate in the sessions.

A transcript will be kept of the discussions in the technical sessions and any points of agreement will be recorded. For example, if a consensus emerges that a particular issue has been adequately addressed and resolved in the work conducted to date by the developer, this will be recorded. The transcript and points of agreement (if any) will be filed on the public record in the EA.

The technical sessions will be organized around a series of topics under which specific issues will be discussed. Review Board staff will either chair the sessions or an independent moderator will be provided. Review Board consultants with relevant expertise might attend the sessions to participate in the discussion.

A draft list of the Review Board's topics and issues is attached for your review. The rationale for including each topic and issue will be provided to you prior to the conference. Any comments on these topics and issues can be raised prior to or during the conference.

Please contact Louie Azzolini, Review Board Environmental Assessment Officer, at (867) 766-7053 or lazzolini@mveirb.nt.ca if you have any questions or comments.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vern Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vern Christensen
Executive Director

DRAFT AGENDA FOR PRE-TECHNICAL SESSION CONFERENCE

TIME: 10:00 a.m. November 8th 2002
LOCATION: Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Boardroom
7th Floor Yellowknife Centre

1. **Introductions and Opening Comments**
Vern Christensen
2. **Purpose of the pre-technical session conference**
Vern Christensen/Louie Azzolini
3. **Procedure for the pre-technical session conference**
John Donihee/Louie Azzolini
4. **Questions/Discussion (all)**
5. **Discussion of the Technical Sessions**
Louie Azzolini/John Donihee
 - **purpose of technical sessions**
 - **management of sessions**
 - **organization of sessions**
 - **outcomes/product of sessions**

Questions/ Discussion (all)
6. **Discussion of Topics and Issues for Technical Sessions**
Louie Azzolini
 - **review of draft Review Board topics and issues**
 - **other topics/issues (from all parties)**
 - **develop revised list of topics/issues**
7. **Questions/Discussion about Plans for Technical Sessions (all)**
8. **Close Meeting**

Review Board's Draft List of Topics and Issues for the De Beers Environmental Assessment Technical Sessions

1. Environmental Impacts

1.1 Water Quality/Quantity

- Water Treatment Plant
 - ⇒ Operation/Capacity
 - ⇒ Discharge ponds
- Groundwater
 - ⇒ Impacts on lakes (quantity/quality)
 - ⇒ Inflows to mine and pumping system
- Increase in total dissolved solids (TDS) in Snap Lake
- Treatment of Drinking Water
- Accuracy of Phosphorus Model

1.2 Aquatic Habitat

- Impact on lake sediments
- Lake level fluctuations (effects on fish habitat)
- Inadequate baseline information on lake drained by stream S-27

1.3 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

- Study designs
- Lack of baseline data
- On site wildlife management
- Waste management
- Training

2. Geotechnical

- North Pile
 - ⇒ Residual Fe/ARD
 - ⇒ Geothermal stability/seepage
 - ⇒ Slope stability
 - Timing/rate of freeze back
 - Contingency for elevated pore pressures
 - ⇒ Effects of dust
- Mine design
 - ⇒ Cement type/content in the paste backfill

3. Social, Economic and Cultural Components

3.1 Cultural Resources/Land and Resource Use

- Accommodating cultural practices
- Interaction between wage and traditional economies
- Adequacy of mitigation

3.2 Economy

- Prediction of and commitment to northern benefits
- Adequacy of data (statistical information)

3.3 Government (municipal/territorial/federal/first nations)

- Adequacy of mitigation measures
 - ⇒ Multi-stakeholder planning
 - ⇒ Capacity for effective programming
- Cost to government
- Regional infrastructure (highways, education, hospitals)
- Community infrastructure (adequacy/effects on)
- Health issues

3.4 Community

- Adequacy of mitigation measures
 - ⇒ Continued consultation/liaison
 - ⇒ Fly-in/fly-out, directly to communities

4. Scope of Development

- Confirmation of production rates

5. Abandonment and Restoration

- Reclamation/Closure Planning
- Revegetation

6. Cumulative Impacts

- Methodology (all areas)
- Loss of language and culture

7. Biodiversity

- Methodology