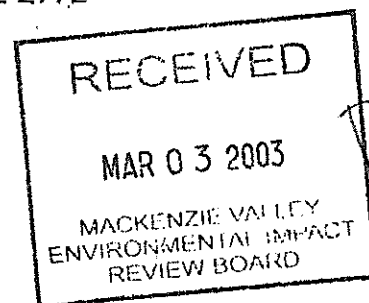




Northwest Territory Metis Nation

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To: Glenda Frattton – MVEIRB

From: Jason E. Lepine – IMA Coordinator

Fax: 887-766-7074

Pages: 1 + fax cover

Phone:

Date: March 3, 2003

Re: Snap Lake Diamond Project

CC:

☐ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

◆ **Comments:** Letter attached for your review

NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION.

March 3, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

John McConnell
Vice President, NWT Projects
De Beers Canada Mining Inc.
Yellowknife, NT

Dear Mr. McConnell,

Snap Lake Diamond Project

The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) would like to make the following suggestion as it pertains to your Snap Lake Diamond Project.

As you are aware the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) has recently granted the NWTMN *directly affected party status* in the remainder of the Snap Lake EA process. The NWTMN is pleased that the actions of the MVEIRB acknowledge the potential for affects on the lands within our traditional territory and lands within the Interim Measures Agreement area.

The NWTMN would encourage De Beers to make every effort to follow the example of the MVEIRB and conclude that the NWTMN is a directly affected party. In addition, the NWTMN would encourage De Beers to open a dialogue with us similar to those dialogues currently enjoyed by other directly affected parties. More precisely, the NWTMN would encourage De Beers to commence a dialogue regarding an Impact Benefits Agreement (IBA). We would welcome an IBA based upon a dual focus of mitigation of potential impacts and fostering a mutually beneficial arrangement between our organizations.

An IBA will yield many opportunities for both the NWTMN and De Beers. With increased resources the NWTMN could contribute directly and indirectly to your Snap Lake Diamond project. The following is a short list of only a few of the potential benefits for both our organizations.

- Continued collection and analysis of Traditional Métis Knowledge of the land and animals of the Snap Lake area. These are lands we have shared alongside our Dene relatives for centuries. This accumulated knowledge can assist in the management and operation of the Snap Lake property.

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- The three South Slave Métis communities can contribute to the skilled workforce required to construct and operate your Snap Lake Diamond mine. The current contribution of skilled workers by our communities to other mining projects is notable.
- Increased access to education funding can permit more Métis students to pursue careers associated with diamond mining. This would help create a skilled northern aboriginal labour pool for De Beers to draw upon.
- With additional resources Métis business can be provided additional capital to expand and prepare to compete for providing goods or services to your project. This would help contribute to the growing economy of the NWT and our northern aboriginal communities.

The mutual benefits are clear from the short list above. The possibility for additional benefits can be extensive. The only limitation to the mutual benefits would be to what extent both our organizations agree to cooperate and work collaboratively.

In the absence of a future dialogue regarding an IBA the NWTMN would like to make the following official request for information.

The NWTMN would like to review all research and study materials used by De Beers to conclude that South Slave Métis interests would not be affected by activities on your Snap Lake property (Letter – J. McConnell to R. Tordiff, Aug 15/02).

It is the intention of the NWTMN to review these materials and pursue our concerns of being directly affected through the current EA process. And should it be necessary, to pursue our concerns of being directly affected through alternative channels.

I would welcome any opportunity to further discuss this matter with you or your representatives. Should you also desire such an opportunity please feel free to contact me to make the needed arrangements.

Sincerely,



Jason E. Lepine
IMA Coordinator

c.c NWTMN Executive
All Métis Councils
NWTMN Negotiations Secretariat
Glenda Fratton, MVEIRB