

Date 08 November 2002

Company Name Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Address Box 938, 5102 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Attention: Louie Azzolini, Environmental Assessment Officer

SUBJECT: Recommended Framework for De Beers' Technical Sessions

For the purpose of an effective and efficient technical session, De Beers Canada Mining Inc. believes that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) should seek to establish a clear intent for the technical sessions and the related operating principles, protocols and format. Below please find a proposed framework highlighting the main details associated with these categories.

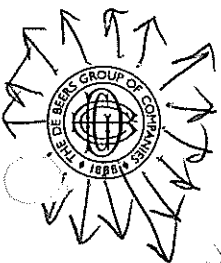
Objectives

There are three main objectives.

- 1) Provide an overview of the specific technical issues.
- 2) Identify and address any outstanding technical issues.
- 3) Reach a consensus on issues that have been addressed.

These sessions are not for:

- Reviewing the EA submission and background reports
- Reviewing the Information Requests (IRs) and De Beers' responses
- Cross-examination of De Beers and their consultants
- Serving as a mini-hearing



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Principles

To ensure that the Board, De Beers and the various interested parties fully benefit from the technical sessions, there are some basic principles that need to be established. The following are proposed.

- 1) The sessions will be held in an atmosphere of openness and cooperation.
- 2) All parties will have equal opportunity to ask questions.
- 3) Anyone asking a question has a right to an answer, and if an answer cannot be provided immediately, De Beers will commit to providing a prompt written response.
- 4) All parties need to be cognizant of the agenda and ask questions that are pertinent to the specific technical specialty that is being reviewed.
- 5) All parties need to respect the allotted timeframe to ensure that each participating interest has an opportunity to raise their priority questions.

Session Protocol

For the sessions to be efficient, there must be an experienced facilitator who will effectively manage the sessions.

The following are specific operating protocol actions.

- 1) Review the objective, principles and operating protocols at the beginning of each session.
- 2) Enforce the principles
- 3) Ensure all participants treat each other with respect.
- 4) Ensure a rotation of questions amongst the participants.
- 5) Keep participants on topic and on time.
- 6) Records of agreement will be documented by the facilitator.
- 7) When session time expires, time is over.

Session Format

The specific organization of the technical sessions should be consistent and include the proposed measures outlined below.

- 1) Issues will be organized according to topic/discipline and assigned a specific pre-determined schedule.
- 2) De Beers will provide a brief (5-10 minute) presentation on the specific technical issue.
- 3) Discussion/response of intervenors and participants.
- 4) Facilitator strives toward consensus on issues.

De Beers believes that following this proposed framework will result in effective and efficient technical sessions that will provide value to intervenors and participants in moving through this environmental assessment process.

Sincerely,
SNAP LAKE DIAMOND PROJECT



Robin Johnstone
Senior Environmental Manager