

Luciano Azzolini  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Azzolini,

Please find below Natural Resources Canada's response to the Information Requests 1.1.69 and 1.1.70 by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) on the DeBeers Snap Lake Project.

#### 1.1.69: Consultation with affected First Nations

Because the Snap Lake Project is currently undergoing environmental assessment (EA) by the MVEIRB, the regulatory phase of the project review has not yet commenced. Accordingly, NRCan, on behalf of the federal Crown, has not undertaken consultations with First Nations or Métis groups whose rights may be infringed by approvals related to the proposed development. Upon receipt of the MVEIRB's recommendations after completion of the EA review, NRCan will, in cooperation with other federal departments ensure that any consultation necessary to comply with the fiduciary duty of the Crown is undertaken.

#### 1.1.70: Post Approvals Monitoring

Although in their infancy, the monitoring provisions established through the environmental agreements for the BHP and Diavik projects have been useful vehicles for a number of concerns related to both projects. Among others, these include reconciliation of conflict, public involvement in monitoring/follow-up, information transfer and various issues that may not have been adequately addressed by the EA or regulatory approvals phases for the projects. Monitoring provisions also ensure that project proponents remain accountable to their stated commitments and mitigation measures, while giving transparency to other issues related to mine development. For this reason, environmental monitoring provisions would be a valuable component of any diamond project in the Slave Geological Province. At this time, however, Natural Resources Canada has not formed an opinion on the extent to which these monitoring provisions should mirror the ones already established for other projects in the region.

In light of the growing number of resource developments being proposed in the Northwest Territories, a regional monitoring board or system may prove to be a more appropriate vehicle to address such issues as post-approvals monitoring and cumulative or transboundary effects. It is therefore important that further research and work be done to evaluate the feasibility and usefulness of an overarching mechanism to coordinate these issues.

Yours Sincerely,

John Ramsey  
Senior EA Officer  
Office of Environmental Affairs  
Natural Resources Canada  
Tel: (613) 947-1591  
Fax: (613) 995-5719  
E-mail: [jramsey@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:jramsey@nrcan.gc.ca)

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Scott Clausen  
Advisor, Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development  
Mineral and Metal Policy Branch  
Natural Resources Canada  
Tel: (613) 995-5067  
Fax: (613) 992-8263  
E-mail: [sclausen@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:sclausen@nrcan.gc.ca)