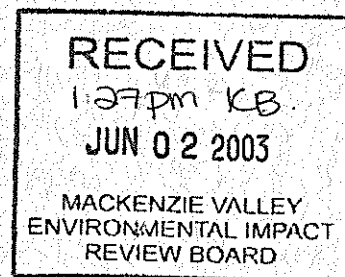




Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Box 2514, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2P8

Dettah Ph.: (867) 873-4307
(867) 873-8951
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May 13, 2003

Gordon Wray
Chair of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue),
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N7
Fax: 766-7074

Re: De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Project – closing statements attachment

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention some concerns which may not have been fully discussed during the recent Public Hearings for the Snap Lake Diamond Project. These concerns form part of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's list of environmental and social concerns about the proposed project.

1. Monitoring Programs:

I believe that Yellowknives Dene participation in monitoring programs is necessary every year and all year-round, not simply on an "as-needed" basis by De Beers. It is a shame that the knowledge of experienced on the land people, like our elder Alfred Baillargeon, seems to be used only when De Beers needs it. This gives us the feeling that our Elders' expertise is ignored or even discarded when the company feels it no longer serves the company's interests

De Beers should not rely solely on the hiring of young people who have no trapping, fishing or hunting experience to participate in monitoring. De Beers' future monitoring programs can be improved only with the earnest use of our elders' experience. Better gathering of Traditional Knowledge will also improve environmental management of this mine.

2. Traditional Knowledge:

Site visits by a handful of Elders is not sufficient gathering of our First Nation's knowledge. Information exchanges by talking with someone from a community during a mine site visit or tour is not Traditional Knowledge. Neither is interviewing only one or two people in our communities. The accuracy of any Traditional Knowledge that De Beers uses must be verified by our communities.

We believe that De Beers needs to establish methods to:

- (a) verify the accuracy of De Beers' interpretation of our Traditional Knowledge,
- (b) seek the knowledge of a larger cross-section of people in our communities.

If done properly, De Beers can obtain useful information from our people in both mine site visits and community meetings.

3. Agreements:

We want our Impact Benefit Agreement, Social and Economic Agreement as well as an Environmental Agreement, to be finalized before mine construction begins. We wouldn't want to have the mine being built without a firm idea in mind of what types of things will be monitored and regulated.

4. Disposal of Surplus Materials

We would encourage De Beers to reuse materials that can't be recycled during construction, mine operation and at closure. That is, our communities may be able to use much of the materials no longer needed by the mine.

Items that could be re-used are:

- ❖ Scrap metal
- ❖ Lumber
- ❖ Insulation
- ❖ Kitchen appliances and cookware
- ❖ Office furniture
- ❖ Computers, fax/printer/copier machines

All of the above materials are listed by De Beers as items to be buried at the mine. Our homes, cabins, offices and schools could easily get good use out of these.

Rather than burying these materials in the landfill or in the underground mineshafts, these could be sent back to Yellowknife on trucks that would normally be returning empty. Once in Yellowknife, the material could be redistributed to Dettah, Ndilo or any other community that could get use out of it.

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation Land & Environment committee office is open for discussions regarding the items listed for disposal and how to distribute the materials from Yellowknife to Ndilo or Dettah.

I trust that you will keep these concerns in mind as you deliberate on the potential for impacts of the De Beers mine on the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Sincerely,


Chief Richard Edjericon

**c.c. Chief Darrell Beaulieu, Ndilo, NT
David Kravitz, CEO at Dettah, NT**