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Page 1 of/de 3 (including cover)

DATE: July 23, 2003

## TO/A:

Name/ Nom	Sherry Sian
Organization/Company Organisation/Compagnie	EA Officer, MVEIRB
Telephone Number/ Numéro de téléphone	
Facsimile Number/ Numéro de téléphone	766-7074

## MESSAGE:

<p>RECEIVED 3:08pm KB JUL 23 2003 MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD</p>
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## FROM/DE:

Name Nom	Elaine Blais, Area Habitat Biologist
Telephone Number Numéro de téléphone	(867) 669-4912
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Suite 101, 5204-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, Northwest  
Territories  
X1A 1E2Your file *Votre référence*Our file *Notre référence*  
SC03031

July 23, 2003

Sherry Sian  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue),  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N7**RE: Draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan for Environmental Assessment  
Snowfield Development Corp.'s Diamond Exploration at Drybones Bay  
File EA-03-006/MV 2003C0016.**

Dear Ms. Sian:

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management (DFO) has reviewed the *Draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the Environmental Assessment* for the Project as listed above. DFO offers the following comments:

- **Principle Development:** Should describe where the drilling is being proposed – is it to occur on ice and/or on land. Is the drilling to occur in the open water and/or on ice?
- Section C-2 should also consider whether the developer can use existing camp infrastructure and facilities already available rather than each company constructing its own separate camp. The developer should also be required to clearly delineate and provide a rationale for how it developed its access route(s) and camp location. If precise drilling locations cannot be ascertained at the time of the EA, DFO will require the developer to provide the precise locations before drilling commences to ensure the harmful alternation, disruption and destruction of fish and fish habitat (HADD) does not occur.
- A description of fish habitat (if applicable), the impacts of drilling and mitigative techniques to reduce a HADD of fish habitat or fish should also be required and could be included in Section J *Fish and Wildlife Resources*.
- The descriptions indicated in both C-4 *Waste Management* or C-5 *Water Use* should also describe in detail the anticipated quantities of water and waste that will be attributed to each of its proposed activities e.g. domestic water use, winter road development or drilling activities.
- Once again, DFO believes that there is insufficient time allotted in the workplan for participants to review and meaningfully comment on documents prepared for this environmental assessment review. DFO notes that these draft terms of reference were provided at the end of the day on July 18, 2003 and comments are due today! Even for small scale developments (although this proposal plans to operate for a

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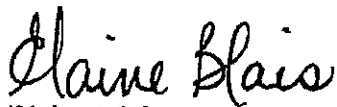
number of years), the timelines allotted by the Review Board are not reasonable or fair given our existing workloads and commitments to other developers who have approved projects and are waiting for feedback. As such, DFO recommends that separate from this project, the Review Board consult with participants and establish minimum timelines for various stages within an EA review regardless of the scale of the project.

- EA Workplan Schedule: The date the development was initially referred to the Review Board is incorrect (in all the terms of reference for these developments).

DFO would like to remain on the distribution list. Copies of correspondence can be faxed to (867) 669-4940. Emailed materials should be sent to Elaine Blais at [blaise@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:blaise@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) and also copied to Dave Balint at [balintd@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:balintd@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 669-4912 or Dave Balint at 669-4926.

Sincerely,



Elaine Blais  
Area Habitat Biologist  
Fish Habitat Management  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans- NWT Area

DB/EB

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