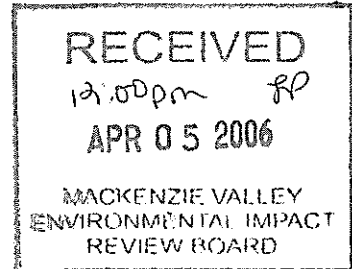




Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

APR 04 2006

Mr. Vern Christensen  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
BOX 938, 5102-50TH AVE  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7



Dear Mr. Christensen:

**DEBEERS CANADA, EA0506-008**  
**Gahcho Kue Project Terms of Reference Issues Scoping**

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) would like to thank the Mackenzie Valley Environmental impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for the opportunity to participate in the scoping for the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the DeBeers Canada Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine project.

The GNWT overall is pleased with the MVEIRB's efforts to refine the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, and involve the parties to the EA in the scoping of the TOR as it gives all parties the ability to exchange ideas. However the GNWT does have a number of concerns regarding the implementation of this scoping process.

As requested, the GNWT's ranking of issues and our list of additional issues is attached. The ranking of issues in this submission is different from the approach requested by the MVEIRB. Although the GNWT understands the MVEIRB's desire for a focused EA, we feel it is important that all critical issues be addressed.

The GNWT is concerned that the process set out by the MVEIRB will overly limit the scope of the EA, and not allow for the full consideration of issues of importance from the GNWT perspective. Given the breadth of the GNWT's mandate and expertise, limiting the number of issues to 15-20, would mean that many issues of key concern to the GNWT would not be addressed.


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Given that the GNWT has identified some 50 issues in each of the biophysical and socio-economic realms the use of 50 points to rank the issues became problematic. To aid the MVEIRB in assigning importance to the GNWT issues, the GNWT has ranked its issues as high, moderate or low using MVEIRB's criteria of potential for significant impacts as a guideline.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Mr. Gavin More, Manager, Environmental Assessment at (867) 873-7244.

Sincerely,

  
R. P. Bailey  
Deputy Minister

Attachments