



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
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May 20, 2011

MVEIRB File Number: EA1112-001

Darha Phillpot
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

VIA EMAIL

**Re: Draft Work Plan for Alex Debogorski Diamond Exploration
Environmental Assessment**

Dear Ms. Phillpot:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has reviewed the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's May 10, 2011 draft work plan for the Alex Debogorski Diamond Exploration environmental assessment. INAC will participate as a party to the environmental assessment.

The draft work plan states that the Review Board "will incorporate the public record from these six assessments into the public record for the assessment." In order to keep the volume of information manageable for all participants, INAC suggests that the Review Board transfer only relevant evidence from past environmental assessments of developments in the Drybones Bay area to the public record for this process.

With respect to the inclusion of mitigation measures and suggestions from previous environmental assessments in the general area, INAC has the following comments:

- The Review Board should only consider past measures and suggestions which are relevant to the proposed Debogorski development,
- INAC may be limited in its ability to comment on environmental assessments for which the decision processes are not yet complete, and

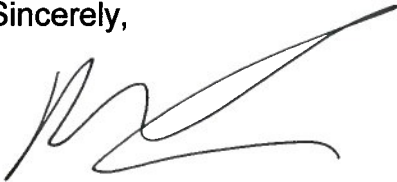
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- All parties should be aware that the Review Board's Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines (2004, section 3.16) describe suggestions as "non-binding suggestions for good environmental management." The Review Board's suggestions are intended for the consideration of the agencies to whom they are directed, and the Responsible Ministers do not adopt or accept suggestions when making environmental assessment decisions pursuant to section 130 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

Finally, we suggest that the work plan identify whether the Review Board will require written submissions prior to the public hearing.

Should you wish to discuss these comments further, please contact Lorraine Seale at Lorraine.Seale@inac-ainc.gc.ca or 669-2590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ML', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marc Lange for
Teresa Joudrie,
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment