



EA 99-004

MAY 12 1999

BHP Diamonds Inc.

May 11, 1999

Ms. Heidi Klein
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102-50th Ave.
P.O. Box 938
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Re: Request for MVEIRB Guidelines for Consultation

Dear Ms. Klein:

I am writing to inquire if the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has developed guidelines related to community consultation? We want to make sure that BHP's consultation with the Aboriginal groups and the general public concerning the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth extension meets your needs for the forth coming assessment.

BHP has a regular consultation process established with the Aboriginal groups through the Impact and Benefit Agreements and the general public under the terms of the Environmental Agreement BHP signed with the Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories. BHP is seeking your guidelines, as we propose to incorporate presentations and discussion on the new extension into our upcoming semiannual socio-economic and environmental reviews with the communities in June.

At our meeting last week you mentioned that the Board would like to visit the site. Would it be convenient to schedule this tour around your meeting in early June?

Do you anticipate that the Board will set a schedule for the assessment process at this meeting? As we stated in our May 4th letter, BHP hopes that it will be possible for the Board to complete the assessment of this project over the next 6 or 7 months.

Thank you, for your consideration of our inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

Scott Williams
Manager, Environment and Resource Development

cc. Jim Excell, Graham Nicholls