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Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

September 17th, 2012

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board
#200 Scotia Center
5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Via e-mail to:
chubert@reviewboard.ca

**RE: Fisheries and Oceans Canada Response to Tlicho Government Second Round of Information
Request #6 (TG-6)**

Please find attached Fisheries and Oceans Canada's response to the Tlicho Government Information
Request (TG-06).

If there are any questions, please contact Sarah Olivier at sarah.olivier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or by phone at (867)
669-4919.

Regards,

Larry Dow
A/Area Director
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc. Bev Ross, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Julie Dahl, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pete Cott, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kelly Burke, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Second Round IR Number: TG-6

Source: Tlicho Government

To: Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

Subject: Reduction of Duplication

Preamble:

Under the Snap Lake Environmental Agreement, the Snap Lake Environmental Agency was formed to ensure the environmental integrity of the Snap Lake area. This agency has responsibilities for:

- s) Reviewing and commenting on the design of monitoring and management plans and their results of these activities;
- t) Monitoring and encouraging the integration of traditional knowledge of the nearby Aboriginal peoples in the mine's environmental plans;
- u) Acting as an intervener in regulatory processes directly related to environmental matters involving the Snap Lake Project and its cumulative effects;
- v) Bringing concerns of the Aboriginal peoples and general public to De Beers Canada Mining Inc. and government;
- w) Keeping Aboriginal peoples and the public informed about Agency activities and findings, and
- x) Writing an Annual Report with recommendations that require the response of De Beers Canada Mining Inc. and/ or government.

The Snap Lake mine and the proposed mine, operated both by De Beers, are very close together. Some consideration has gone into the creation of environmental monitoring through technical sessions.

Request:

1. Can DFO provide insight into how the mechanisms of environmental monitoring can be implemented without duplication or replication?
2. What are DFO's thoughts on a multi-project environmental monitoring agency?

DFO Response:

Request #1: Can DFO provide insight into how the mechanisms of environmental monitoring can be implemented without duplication or replication?

Should it be recommended that the project proceed following the environmental review process, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (LWB) through its Land Use Permit and Water Licence process will lead on the development of monitoring plans associated with a specific Water License and/or Land Use permit for a project. DFO works collectively with other interested parties and regulators, through the LWB process, to ensure the coordination and adequacy of project-specific monitoring requirements. For instance, DFO reviews Aquatic Effects Monitoring plans to ensure it is complimentary to, or can include, DFO's regulatory monitoring requirements. DFO often requires monitoring related to verifying predictions, mitigation effectiveness and success of habitat compensation efforts, specific to fish and fish habitat impacts, through conditions prescribed within a *Fisheries Act* Authorization.

Request #2: What are DFO's thoughts on a multi-project environmental monitoring agency?

DFO was not a signatory to the Snap Lake Environmental Agreement, and therefore does not have a position to provide as it relates to the development of a single or multi-project environmental monitoring agency for this project. DFO will defer to the other parties to the Environmental Impact Review for the Gahcho Kue project as well as the Review Board Panel's recommendations to determine whether a monitoring agency would be required. If the other parties to the Environmental Impact Review or Review Board Panel recommend a multi-project monitoring agency, DFO is willing to participate as it relates to our mandate, and is supportive of efforts to reduce duplication and replication.