

July 16, 2012

VIA EMAIL

Chuck Hubert, Panel Manager  
Gahcho Kué Environmental Impact Review Panel  
Ph – 867-766-7052  
Fx - 867-766-7074  
chubert@reviewboard.ca

Dear Mr. Hubert,

**Re: EIR0607-001 (2006), De Beers Canada Inc., Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine Project – Information Request (Round 2)**

Dear Mr. Hubert,

Please find attached a Round 2 information request directed to De Beers regarding the proposed Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine Project. We will be taking the opportunity to work through any remaining questions or concerns we have regarding the Adaptive Management Advisory Committee and Environmental Monitoring and Management Framework directly through the Wildlife Monitoring Plan Working Group that has been initiated by De Beers as well as any other future correspondence directly with De Beers (which would be provided to the Review Board for posting to the Public Registry).

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the attached submission.

Sincerely,



Loretta Ransom  
Environmental Assessment Analyst  
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring  
Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT  
loretta\_ransom@gov.nt.ca  
Phone #: 867-873-7905

| cc. Veronica Chisholm, Permitting manager, DBCI (via email)

**IR Number: GNWT 2-1**

**Source:** *Government of the Northwest Territories*

**To:** *DeBeers Canada Inc., Gahcho Kue Project*

**Subject:** *Environmental Monitoring and Management Framework (EMMF) & Conservation Education*

**Preamble:**

*As a result of increased pressures on the northern environment (human & biophysical) on barren-ground caribou, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has committed to numerous co-management opportunities. This includes an ENR/TG (Tlicho Government) Joint Proposal that was submitted to the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) in May 2010 and development of an Interim Agreement with the Yellowknives Dene First Nations (YKDFN) in October 2010. A large component within these partnerships has been relationship building, conservation education and community based monitoring.*

*Several other recent actions show support for or identify a need for a more comprehensive and adaptive methods of environmental management in the north.*

1. *ENR has developed a Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy for the Northwest Territories 2011-2015 "Caribou Forever – Our Heritage, Our Responsibility". After a public review priority actions were identified for under the strategy:*
  - *Complete management plans and inter-jurisdictional agreements.*
  - *Increase capacity for involvement by Aboriginal governments.*
  - *Monitor effects of predators and harvest.*
  - *Monitor cumulative effects and develop industry best practices.*
  - *Manage habitat in relation to forest fires and land use activities.*
  - *Promote traditional practices and hunter education.*
  
2. *The MVEIRB issued Terms of Reference for the Gahcho Kue project stating:*
  - *"For situations where the proposed development is predicted to be only one of many sources of impacts, direct or indirect, that combine in a cumulative manner, the EIS should outline what contributions this development can make to addressing a cumulative problem. For potential impacts on caribou the geographical scope includes the potentially affected portion of the range of any herd that may be affected, including but not restricted to the vicinity of the mine site, the access road from Mackay Lake, and the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Road up to the start of the access road at Mackay Lake. Research and monitoring activities must be included for the Tibbitt to Contwoyto winter road corridor."*

3. *DeBeers provided a response to GNWT IR#1*

- *“DeBeers is developing a Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan that is a component of the broader Gahcho Kue Project Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework. The Framework provides the proposed structure of site-specific monitoring and mitigation plans, and the approach to broader regional monitoring for caribou, wolverine, wolves, grizzly bears, raptors and species at risk. DeBeers expects that engagement and feedback from government and communities will be an important element of completing the Framework, and the associated Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan.”*

*ENR understands that the draft Environmental Monitoring and Management Framework EMMF objectives include “describing monitoring components, the interaction among components, and the process that links these to adaptive management” and the Wildlife Monitoring Plan (WMP) represents one of those monitoring components within the EMMF. During the May technical session, DeBeers had made a commitment to use a collaborative approach with both communities and regulatory agencies with regards to developing a WMP.*

**Request:**

Conservation and public education is essential to the full success of adaptive management and monitoring programs; therefore, how will the Gahcho Kue Project incorporate conservation and public education into the EMMF and/or monitoring plans? Please be specific.