



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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et du Nord Canada

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Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

January 31, 2011

MVEIRB/GKEIRP File Number: EIR 0607-001

Darryl Bohnet
Chair
Gahcho Kué Environmental Impact Review Panel
PO Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P1

VIA E-MAIL

**Re: Participant Funding for Environmental Impact Review of De Beers Canada
Incorporated's Proposed Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine**

Dear Mr. Bohnet,

I am writing to follow up on Minister Strahl's September 5, 2008 letter to Richard Edjericon, Chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, concerning participant funding for environmental impact assessment processes in the Mackenzie Valley. At that time, Minister Strahl indicated that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) had provided funds to some participants during the initial stages of the Gahcho Kué environmental impact review and that it was the Department's intention to provide additional funds once the technical review of the project was initiated. Now that De Beers Canada has filed its Environmental Impact Statement with the Gahcho Kué Environmental Impact Review Panel, I am pleased to confirm INAC's plans to move forward with this commitment.

It is my understanding that the Panel is preparing a revised work plan for the environmental impact review which it will likely distribute to all parties sometime in March 2011. Since this is the first environmental impact review in the Mackenzie Valley, INAC wishes to review the revised work plan before initiating the participant funding process. This will assist INAC in tailoring the funding guide and application form to the specific steps of the Panel's process.

When the revised work plan becomes available, INAC will formally announce the availability of funding and will initiate the process to solicit and evaluate applications. At that time we will issue a public notice for broad distribution and placement on the public registry, and we will provide the Panel and parties to the environmental impact review



with copies of the *Participant Funding Guide and Application Form for the Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine Environmental Impact Review*.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to the Panel as it contemplates the next steps in this review and revisions to the work plan. As noted in Minister Strahl's September 2008 letter, INAC would welcome the opportunity to work co-operatively with the Panel in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department should you have any questions about the timing or other aspects of the participant funding process.

Please note that all correspondence on this matter should be directed to me at (867) 669-2647 or Teresa.Joudrie@inac-ainc.gc.ca or to Lionel Marcinkoski at (867) 669-2591 or Lionel.marcinkoski@inac-ainc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Teresa Joudrie
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

cc. Public Registry, Gahcho Kué Environmental Impact Review