



September 13, 2012

File: S110-01-10

Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Suite 200, 5102 – 50th Avenue
PO Box 938
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Hubert:

**Transport Canada – Round 2 Information Request
Responses - Gahcho Kué Project Environmental Impact Review**

De Beers is pleased to provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board with responses to Round 2 Information Requests submitted by Transport Canada.

Sincerely,

Veronica Chisholm
Permitting Manager

Attachment

c: D. Soloway, Superintendent, Environmental Affairs North, TC



GAHCHO KUÉ PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ROUND 2 INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSES

Round 2 Information Request Number: TC - 01

Source: Transport Canada

Subject: Effects to navigation, works in navigable waterways

Preamble

The proposed Gahcho Kue Project has the potential to affect navigational use of waterways in the area surrounding and including the project. Proposed water management works include placement of dykes and installation of water intakes for water diversion and withdrawal, and de-watering sections of Kennady Lake for mining and tailings containment. Transport Canada has a responsibility to manage the public's right to navigate and has requested that De Beers evaluate, in their project's Environmental Impact Review, potential effects to navigation posed by the Gahcho Kue Project.

Request

In order for Transport Canada to prepare for the evaluation of impacts to navigation, Transport Canada requests the proponent provide to a table listing all works De Beers anticipates will require approval under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* or will interest Transport Canada's Navigable Waters Protection Program. The table should include plans to de-water sections of and deposit tailings in Kennady Lake. Works including water intakes, outfalls, dams, dykes, fish habitat compensation works and any other work in, on, over, under, across or through a navigable water should also be included. The table should present as many of the following details as is possible:

- i) the type of work;
- ii) the location of the work (GPS coordinate in degrees, minutes, seconds);
- iii) the name of the waterway in which work will take place;
- iv) the width and depth of the waterway where work will take place;
- v) details of the work that are currently available and have been finalized . For example, dimensions, materials, construction timing, construction methodology, etc.

GAHCHO KUÉ PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ROUND 2 INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSES

Response

De Beers will provide this information in a separate technical memorandum that will include an assessment of impacts to navigation, which will be submitted to the MVEIRB Public Registry in early October 2012.

GAHCHO KUÉ PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ROUND 2 INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSES

Round 2 Information Request Number: TC - 02

Source: Transport Canada

Subject: Effects to navigation

Preamble

The proposed Gahcho Kue Project has the potential to affect navigation use of waterways in the area surrounding and including the project. Proposed water management works include placement of dykes and installation of water intakes for water diversion and withdrawal, and de-watering sections of Kennady Lake for mining and tailings containment. Transport Canada has a responsibility to manage the public's right to navigate and has requested that De Beers evaluate potential effects to navigation posed by the Gahcho Kue Project.

Request

In order to present potential impacts of the combined effects of the Gahcho Kue Project works to navigation, the proponent should provide information outlined in the guidance document provided by Transport Canada to De Beers June 21, 2012 (available on the public registry). Informational requirements include:

- i) navigational use in the affected area;
- ii) likely effects to navigable waterbodies that relate to navigation;
- iii) project elements that may not affect waterbodies but may affect navigational use;
- iv) concerns of the public and aboriginal groups related to Transport Canada's potential Navigable Water Protection Act approvals and an indication of any measures taken to address these concerns;
- v) projected impacts to navigation considering i), ii), iii) and iv); and
- vi) cumulative effects to navigation of the Gahcho Kue Project in combination with impacts of other developments that have happened in the past, are currently happening or are reasonably foreseeable.

GAHCHO KUÉ PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ROUND 2 INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSES

Response

De Beers will provide this information in a separate technical memorandum that will include an assessment of impacts to navigation, which will be submitted to the MVEIRB Public Registry in early October 2012.