



May 29, 2009

Chantal Lavoie
Senior Vice President - Operations
De Beers Canada Inc.
Suite 300, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S8

RE: Delay in Issuance of Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Lavoie:

The Gahcho Kue Environmental Impact Review Panel (Review Panel) received your notification of December 8, 2008, providing an update on progress by De Beers Canada (De Beers) on its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gahcho Kue diamond mine development. In that letter, you indicated both that it would likely take some additional time to review the project in light of the global economy, that this delay was linked to the delay in finalization of the EIS, and that De Beers would report back to the Review Panel by late 2009 with a further update.

The Review Panel met on April 16, 2009, to discuss your letter and progress on this matter in general.

The Review Panel notes the following:

- The Final Terms of Reference for the EIS were issued on October 5, 2007
- Correspondence from De Beers of December 11, 2007, suggested the EIS would be submitted in June 2008
- Correspondence from De Beers of May 9, 2008, indicated that the expected filing date had been deferred to late fall of 2008
- This was followed by the notification of additional delay and overall project re-evaluation of December 8, 2008, as noted above

Given the delays occasioned to date, the Review Panel wishes to ensure that the parties to this proceeding are regularly informed of the status of the EIS and that they have advance notice of any changes to De Beers plans. The Review Panel therefore requests the following information from De Beers:

1. An update filed with the Review Panel by June 30, 2009, identifying progress toward the completion of the EIS and a planned filing date.
2. A further update on August 20th, 2009 and every three months after until the submission of the EIS.



3. Identification of any significant alterations to the proposed development from that outlined in De Beers' Application Report of November 2005 as early as possible.

If you require additional information about these requirements, contact the Review Board's Executive Director, Mr. Vern Christensen, at vchristensen@reviewboard.ca or by phone at (867) 766-7055.

Regards,

Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
Chairperson
Gahcho Kue Review Panel