

Louie Azzolini

From: Ramsey, John [jramsey@NRCan.gc.ca]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2001 1:28 PM
To: Louie Azzolini (E-mail)
Cc: Tamara Hamilton (E-mail); Paula Pacholek (E-mail); DahlJ (E-mail); Burgess, Margo; Hogan, Charlene; Kasemets, Juri; Johnstone, Rob; Clausen, Scott; Bourgon, Michel; Kellerman, Joanne; Brett Hudson (E-mail)
Subject: De Beers Snap Lake Terms of Reference -- Allocation of Government Expert Reviewers to the EA



De Beers
spreadsheet Work copy

Hi Louie:

As requested in your e-mail of October 15th, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has examined the Terms of Reference (see attached Excel spreadsheet) where government departments have been assigned a "division of labour", including that of "lead reviewer" on a line by line basis. NRCan does not agree with the term "lead reviewer" and has removed it from the spreadsheet. In our view, it is not up to NRCan to ensure that comments from other Responsible Ministers are compiled and accurately presented to the Review Board. This is the Review Board's responsibility. If this document is retained at all, the lead reviewer heading should be replaced with "Government Reviewers with Expertise/Advice" (or something similar). This will allow departments to provide expertise within their mandates without assuming control of that topic. Nevertheless, we have inserted our comments on your 'take' regarding the assignments. Other issues/concerns that have emerged in this latest exercise, are discussed below.

The "assigning" of expert reviewer roles, however, also concerns NRCan. NRCan is unaware of any provisions in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act which empower the Review Board (or its staff) to assign such roles. As well, more pragmatically, creating a line by line division of labour risks ignoring, as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has already pointed out, the linkages among the sections. Reviewers should be at liberty to examine and comment on other sections as well. We also agree with DFO's comment that there is a forced separation and loss of connectivity by assigning reviewers to each line and identifying many different leads.

We trust that these matters can be resolved. We are committed to ensuring that the spirit of cooperation which has operated during past Mackenzie Valley reviews continues to prevail through this and succeeding EAs.

If you wish to discuss these comments and/or those made on the spreadsheet, please call me at (613) 947-1591.

Regards,