



Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans

Fish Habitat Management
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Yellowknife, Northwest
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Your file / *Votre référence*

Our file / *Notre référence*

SC00163

August 3, 2001

Gordon Lennie, Chairperson,
Box 138, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

RE: Terms of Reference (TOR) for the De Beers Canada Mining Inc. Snap Lake Diamond Project

Dear Mr. Lennie:

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fish Habitat Management – Western Arctic Area (DFO) offers the following comments toward the DeBeers TOR.

All sections – as a point of clarification, all parameter estimates (e.g. water balance) reported by DeBeers should include tractable 1) the source of information (either estimates or empirical), 2) assumptions built into the data, and 3) data reporting that includes ranges and confidence estimate for parameters.

Section 5.6.5 on *Aquatic Habitat* should specifically address the impacts of underground blasting on fish and fish habitat on local aquatic systems.

Section 5.6.5, II. It is important to note that impacts should be assessed on all water bodies likely to be impacted by the proponent's activities, not just lakes and not just water bodies with fishery resources. It is important to note that the *Fisheries Act* applies to fish and fish habitat, the latter which is defined as "*spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes*". Secondly, the *Fisheries Act* does not restrict the conservation of fish and fish habitat only to fisheries. Instead, the *Fisheries Act* applies to all waters of Canada where fish or habitats are present.

If you have any questions concerning this letter please contact me at (867) 669-4912, FAX (867) 669-4940, or Julie Dahl at (867) 669-4911.

Marc Lange
Area Habitat Biologist
Fish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans- Western Arctic Area

Copy: Julie Dahl, Area Chief, Habitat – DFO