

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our File EA01-004

April 8th, 2003

TO: De Beers Canada Mining Inc.
Parties to the Snap Lake Environmental Assessment (EA)

**RE: De Beers Snap Lake Environmental Assessment Hearing -
NSMA Preliminary and Jurisdictional Issues**

On April 3rd, 2003 the North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) wrote to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) advising of two preliminary jurisdictional matters which it proposed to raise at the Snap Lake hearing scheduled to begin on April 28th, 2003. The NSMA letter has been circulated to parties to the EA under separate cover and is posted on the public registry for the Snap Lake project.

The Review Board considered the possibility of dealing with these matters at the outset of the hearing and has decided that the time available is already heavily committed. The Review Board is also of the view that the NSMA concerns are largely matters for legal argument which may adequately be handled in writing. Consequently, the Review Board has issued written direction to the NSMA on the handling of these matters. Those directions are appended for your consideration.

Please review the attachment and advise the Review Board by noon Monday April 14th, 2003 whether your organization intends to participate in the written hearing of these matters. The Review Board will only circulate materials to those parties which indicate their intention to participate. Parties to the EA must be aware that the dates and timelines set out for dealing with these matters are firm. Any failure to adhere to the timelines, may result in additional action by the Review Board.

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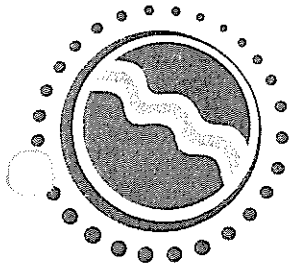
If you have any questions about the process proposed please contact Board Counsel (403-282-6003).

Yours truly,


Gordon Wray
Alternate Chair
MVEIRB

Attach.





Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our File EA01-004

April 8th, 2003

Ms. Kris Johnson
Land and Resource Coordinator
North Slave Metis Alliance
P.O. Box 340
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N3

Dear Ms. Johnson:

**RE: De Beers Snap Lake Environmental Assessment Hearing -
NSMA Preliminary and Jurisdictional Issues**

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is in receipt of the North Slave Metis Alliance's (NSMA) letter of April 3rd, 2003 in which you outline two preliminary jurisdictional matters which the NSMA proposes to raise at the Snap Lake hearing scheduled to begin on April 28th, 2003. The Review Board has considered the nature of the issues raised and the time available at the hearing, and are of the opinion that these issues cannot be effectively dealt with at the hearing. The Review Board has therefore decided to deal with these matters in advance by way of written submissions.

The Review Board hereby directs the NSMA to file any evidence of alleged breaches of procedural fairness or of breaches of the duty to consult by the federal and territorial governments and the developer, De Beers Canada Mining Inc. along with legal argument of no more than 15 pages to support your allegations at the Review Board's office, no later than noon April 16th, 2003. The Review Board will copy and circulate these materials to the other parties to the Snap Lake EA.

The other parties will be given until noon April 23rd, 2003 to file their evidence and argument (the same restrictions on length apply) at the Review Board's office. Copies will be circulated to the parties.

The NSMA may file reply no later than noon April 25th, 2003 at the Review Board's office. The Review Board will issue a ruling on the NSMA's preliminary issues at the outset of the public hearings on April 28th, 2003

If you have any questions about the procedure set out herein please contact Board Counsel (403-282-6003).

Yours truly,



Gordon Wray
Alternate Chair
MVEIRB

cc. Parties to the Snap Lake EA

