

MEMORANDUM

TO 7.2.14.2
MVEIRB Chrono

PREPARED BY Leslie Green

DATE June 6, 2001

COPY Joe Acorn, MVEIRB

Notes from May 30, 2001 Meeting with Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Staff

EIRB Staff: Vern Christensen, Joe Acorn, Roland Semjanovs

Snap Lake Staff: John McConnell, Robin Johnstone, Hilary Machtans, Leslie Green

Items Discussed

1. Snap Lake Project Description

The Project Description submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is still the current Project Description for the Snap Lake Diamond Project. A covering letter with 12 copies of the document will be forwarded to the MVEIRB.

A letter of notification to De Beers from the Board indicating an EA will be conducted is forthcoming.

2. Terms of Reference

The Snap Lake team has prepared a draft Terms of Reference for the Snap Lake Diamond Project based on the Diavik and BHP reviews, as well as recent Terms of Reference for oil and gas developments. Although it was understood that this was a working draft to provide internal guidance to the Snap Lake EA team, the Board's staff was interested in reviewing it. A hard copy was provided to Joe Acorn and an electronic copy will be forwarded.



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3. EA Schedule

The Board's staff had previously provided a draft generic timeline and schedule for conducting an EA to De Beers spanning just over 300 days. De Beers asked if there were some areas where we could assist in tightening this timeframe. It was explained by the Board's staff that there will be a much better idea during the development of the Workplan for the project. Timelines will depend on feedback from the public and the feelings of the Board members. For instance, the number and location of public meetings will depend on the issues raised, feedback from the public and the feelings of the Board members. For feedback into the draft EA timeline, Leslie Green will contact Louis Azzolini.

4. Staff Site Tour

An offer of a site tour for the staff was made. De Beers would be pleased to conduct this at the earliest convenience. Roland will get back with possible dates.

5. Board Site Tour

It was suggested that it would be very useful to have both Boards have a site tour at the same time. The Board is very keen to see the site in the summer. Roland will get back with possible dates.

6. Weekly Meetings

Weekly update meeting, either phone or in person, between De Beers and the Board's staff is encouraged. When Louie Azzolini is back in the office a time will be picked to begin these.

7. Monthly Meetings with Regulators

The idea of De Beers holding monthly update meetings with regulators and reviewers was discussed. The Board's staff encouraged De Beers to hold these update sessions and felt it would assist the review process.

In addition, the Board's staff felt that the same types of meetings held with NGOs would also be useful.

8. Public Registry

De Beers was urged to make frequent use of the public registry and ensure that everything is picked up. Often the proponent is not copied on correspondence and it is not automatically forwarded by the Board's staff.

If information has been placed on the public registry that De Beers feels is not accurate or does not represent an issue, then a correction or clarification of that information is important to put on the public registry. Only when this is done can the Board be sure they are making decisions based on the correct information.

9. EA Organization

Due to the Minister of DIAND's recent response to the Board's BHP decision, the Board will be re-thinking its approach to developing reasons for decision. This has not yet been sorted out. The Board can only make recommendations for mitigation on those areas where significant environmental impact is found. Therefore, when De Beers provides information in the EA to the Board, the following must be made very clear: what are the impacts; what are the mitigation measures; what are the residual impacts; and the significance of the residual impacts. A full description of the analysis that goes into the assessment of impacts is also necessary. The Responsible Agencies and reviewers will also be required to provide rationale for determination of significance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Green', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Leslie Green
Environmental Manager
Snap Lake Diamond Project