

DE BEERS
A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

Rec'd via
e-mail
April 16/03

MEMORANDUM

TO Glenda Fratton, Environmental Assessment
Coordinator

DIVISION Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review
Board (MVEIRB)

FROM Robin Johnstone, De Beers Canada Mining Inc.

DATE 16 April 2003

COPY Conference call participants

File:

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Diffusion Issue

Below please find a summary of the work that is being done to try and address a new issue regarding upward diffusion to Snap Lake raised by Natural Resources Canada in their Technical Report and Addendum. To help address the issue, a conference call discussion was held on Tuesday, 08 April 2003 at 11:00 am MST, with the attached slides having been forwarded to participants prior to the call. Conference call participants included: Alec Desbarats (NRCan), John Ramsey (NRCan), Don Chorley (Golder), Lee Atkinson (HCI), Robin Johnstone (DBCMI) and Colleen English (DBCMI).

Natural Resources Canada explained that they predict the possibility of upward diffusion from the mine in to Snap Lake due to conflicting evidence relating to the downward flow gradient contained on page 9-30 of the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and in Appendix IX.3. NRCan noted that the last of the slides (referenced above) shows several points as close to hydrostatic. A downward groundwater flux beneath Snap Lake has not been demonstrated conclusively. Lee and Don outlined the program done at Snap Lake and provided a summary of the model and data that was used. After discussion, NRCan had more confidence in the data and stated that they would undertake further review of the information provided prior to the Public Hearings.

De Beers later received the attached e-mail from NRCan stating the information they would require to alleviate their concerns relating to upward diffusion. The data outlined has already been collected and provided in the EAR; NRCan is simply requesting a re-analysis that would better demonstrate their issue.

De Beers is working to provide NRCan with this information prior to the Public Hearings.



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Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
SNAP LAKE DIAMOND PROJECT

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robin Johnstone
Senior Environmental Manager

attachment



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