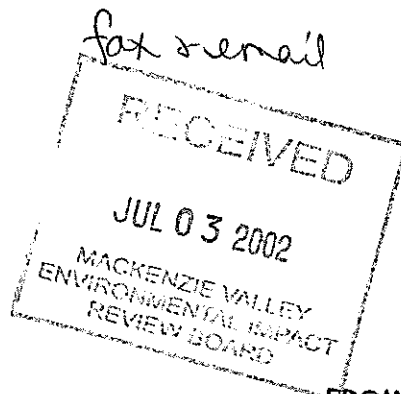


FAX MESSAGE

**Environment
Canada**

Prairie and Northern Region
Environmental Protection Branch
Suite 301, 5204 - 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

DATE: 2002-07-03

FROM: Mark Dahl

TO: Mr. G. Wray

Contaminants Biologist

MVEIRB, Yellowknife

Suite 301, 5204 50th Ave.,

PHONE:

Yellowknife, NT, X1A 1E2

PHONE: (867) 669-4734

FAX: 920-4761

FAX: (867) 873-8185

Number of pages including cover: 2

Subject: Environment Canada Comments on the amended Snap Lake EA Workplan

MESSAGE:

Mr. Wray,

I have attached a letter detailing Environment Canada's comments on the amended Workplan for the Snap Lake Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

Mark Dahl

Contaminants Biologist,

Environmental Protection Branch

(867)669 4734, mark.dahl@ec.gc.ca

Please contact (867) 669-4710 if this facsimile is not complete.



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Mr. Gordon Wray
Chair, DeBeers Snap Lake Diamond Project Review
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Wray:

July 03, 2002

Re: Amended Workplan for DeBeer's Snap Lake Diamond Project Environmental Assessment

On June 24, 2002 the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) circulated an amended Snap Lake EA Workplan for comment. Environment Canada would like to make the following comments and suggestions regarding the amended Workplan.

Environment Canada notes that the amended Workplan still employs milestone dates to guide the progress of the EA. Given that the Proponent has consistently missed the milestone dates laid out in the Workplan it is impractical to base the amended Workplan on specified dates. It would be more practical to allocate a block of time for each process step with the Proponent submitting all of the required information before the next step begins. This approach would help to make the process more efficient and accountable by eliminating unnecessary coordination and by making it clear that delays in the process are not due lack of effort on behalf of the Crown.

It is the opinion of Environment Canada that insufficient time has been allocated in the amended Workplan for the preparation and submission of Technical Reports. Given the number and complexity of the information requests submitted to DeBeers it is the opinion of Environment Canada that four to six weeks would be sufficient for submission of Technical Reports.

Environment Canada would like to restate it's opinion that the review process would be more efficient if the Technical Sessions preceded the preparation and submission of Technical Reports. This procedural change would allow the incorporation of any issues raised or resolved during the Technical Sessions into Technical Reports rather than necessitating the submission of a second wrap up document to address the outcome of the Technical Sessions.

It should be noted that the amended Workplan as presented does not allow any time for Affected Parties or Interveners to prepare submissions assessing the outcome of the Technical Sessions. If the Board decides not to have Technical Sessions precede the submission of Technical Reports Environment Canada suggests that some time should be allocated in the Workplan for the preparation of documents assessing the outcome of the Technical Sessions.

I hope that these suggestions will be considered during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Stephen Harbicht
Environmental Protection Branch
Environment Canada
Tel (867) 669 4733, Fax (867) 873 8185
Stephen.harbicht@ec.gc.ca