FAX MESSAGE

Environment Canada

FAXED

JUN 18 2002

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

DATE: 2002-06-18

TO: Mr. G. Wray
MVEIRB, Yellowknife

PHONE:

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FROM: Mark Dahl
Contaminants Biologist
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Number of pages including cover: 2

Subject: Letter for consideration at the June 19 - 20 MVEIRB meeting Re Snap Lake timetable.

MESSAGE:

Mr. Wray,
I have attached a letter detailing Environment Canada's concerns about the workplan developed for the Snap Lake Review. Please consider the information presented in this letter during the MVEIRB meeting June 18-20.

Sincerely,

Mark Dahl
Contaminants Biologist,
Environmental Protection Branch
(867)669 4734, mark.dahl@ec.gc.ca

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

ATTACH A

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:

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

Environment Canada has concerns with the workplan developed by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) for the assessment of the Snap Lake Diamond Project. The proponent has put substantial effort into addressing the issues raised during Information Request process. Unfortunately this intensive effort has lead to several delays in the Review that have not been reflected in the workplan. During the next MVEIRB meeting the Board will be reviewing recommendations for alterations to the Snap Lake Review workplan. Environment Canada would like to take this opportunity to recommend the following changes to the approach to, and content of, the workplan.

Environment Canada recommends that the Board consult with all Responsible Ministers, Affected Parties and with the Proponent before setting fixed target dates for review milestones. It is the opinion of Environment Canada that there are currently too many outstanding Information Requests to suggest specific milestone dates. It would be more practical to assign blocks of time to each process step; this should be done only after assessing how much time will be required to review the information received in response to Information Requests. Clearly that assessment can only take place once reviewers have received the IR responses. It would, therefore, be worthwhile to postpone further development of the workplan until all parties have provided input and the Proponent has responded to outstanding information requests.

From a process perspective Environment Canada is of the opinion that it would be useful to have the Technical Sessions precede the preparation and submission of technical reports. During a review the technical report is designed to present the final Departmental perspective on technical issues related to the project using all the information available. Any technical sessions held to facilitate the review process would present an opportunity to exchange information and to clarify issues prior to the release of the technical report.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen Harbicht
Environmental Protection Branch
Environment Canada
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