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Date

July 3, 2002

FROM - DE

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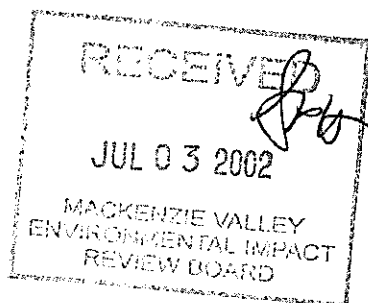
Mr. Gordon Wray
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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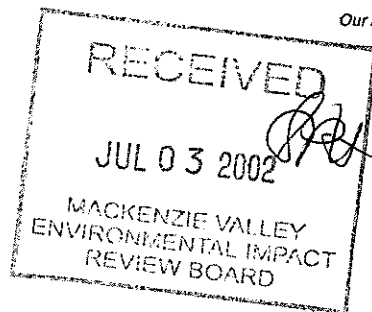
BY FACSIMILE: (867) 920-4761

July 3, 2002

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

Mr. Gordon Wray
A/Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board
Box 938
200 Scotia Centre
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N7



Dear Mr. Wray:

Re: Amended Workplan for the De Beers' Snap Lake Diamond Project Review

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) would like to take this opportunity to provide comments on the June 24, 2002, amended work plan proposed by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for the De Beers' Snap Lake Diamond Project.

At the July 2, 2002 debriefing meeting, Mr. Azzolini suggested that the work plan not be amended and approved by the Review Board until De Beers submits all responses to the information requests (IR) as well as conformity. Once the above-noted requirements are completed, the Review Board would then adjust the time lines accordingly. We recommend that the Review Board forward an official notice to the directly affected parties and interveners stating that all the information requests have been received by the Review Board. For INAC to participate in the next EA stage, we require all IR responses before continuing our technical review. INAC suggests that the Review Board provide the directly affected parties an opportunity to comment on the amended work plan similar to the June 24, 2002 review. INAC supports the proposed approach as outlined by Mr. Azzolini to amend the work plan in the future.

Given the complexity and number of information requests submitted to date, INAC recommends that the technical reports be submitted 45 days following the receipt of all IR responses from De Beers. We also suggest the work plan be revised to reflect established time periods for each stage rather than defined dates. INAC requires approximately two weeks (which is included in the 45 days) to participate in technical meetings with De Beers and other interested parties.

Please consider these comments and suggestions during your deliberations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 669-2647.

Sincerely,

David Livingstone
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

Canada

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