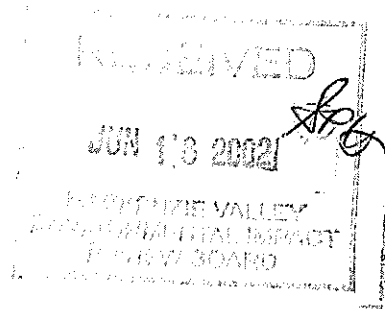


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Date: June 18, 2002
To: Mr. Gordon Wray
A/Chairperson, MVEIRB
Fax: (867) 920-4761
Pages: 2, including cover
Comments:





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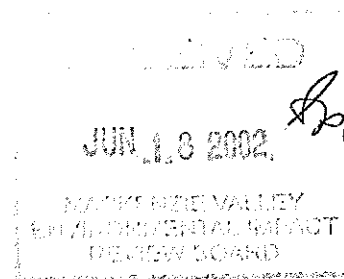
BY FACSIMILE: (867) 920-4761

June 18, 2002

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

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence



Dear Mr. Wray:

Re: **De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Project - Environmental Assessment (EA) Process**

Thank you for providing INAC an opportunity to express its views with regards to the EA process and amended work plan at the May 27th and June 13th meetings. INAC was informed that a revised work plan is to be approved at the Review Board's June 18th meeting. INAC suggests that the Review Board should consider all "directly affected parties" input including Aboriginal groups into the proposed work plan time lines prior to its approval. Pursuant to section 114(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Review Board is to ensure that the concerns of Aboriginal people and the public are taken into account in the EA process. This recommendation is intended to ensure an open and transparent EA process that will result in a completely thorough and defensible EA.

INAC is committed to participate in the EA process in a timely manner; however, we have not had an opportunity to consider the revised time lines prior to reviewing DeBeers' information responses. Without these responses, INAC is unable to determine if the proposed time lines are sufficient in order to submit a comprehensive technical report. We suggest that the work plan not be revised until De Beers submits its last information response, as this will provide all participants certainty with the EA process.

INAC is aware that the Review Board is not planning to meet over the summer months. Once INAC reviews the information responses, its concerns, if any, with the time lines may not be addressed by the Review Board until the end of August.

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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