

**Lutsel K'e Dene Band**

Post Office Box 28  
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Archie Catholique  
Chief  
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

Our File(s): 11.1.12.17  
Your File(s): 75M/10-1-1, 1-2, 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Mr. Edward R. Hornby  
Land Use Administrator, South Mackenzie District, INAC  
#16 Airport Road, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 3T2  
Ph: (867) 669:2761; Fax: (867) 69:2720;

Dear Mr. Hornby,

**Subject: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board,  
(MVEIRB) Hearing Regarding the De Beers Canada Mining Inc.  
Applications at Snap Lake**

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation wishes to comment on the applications made by De Beers Canada Mining Inc. at Snap Lake. We refer you to the letter sent to you on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2003, which outlined some of our concerns.

Our concerns are relatively straightforward:

1. Our language is Chipewyan, or Dene Yati. As one of the official languages of the Northwest Territories, we request a clear one-page summary of each concern raised and the proposed answer to it in our language, for our consideration.
2. We request a Department of Indian and Northern Development, (DIAND), representative to attend with us at the time of explanation by the applicant, (De Beers Canada Mining Inc.), as Canada retains fiduciary responsibility should there be any variance in what is understood to be taking place on our lands.

3. We request an ample period of time after the explanations have been made to deliberate and come back to the government with our consent, concerns or refusal of the activity taking place with or without modifications.
4. We wish to have our Wildlife, Lands and Environment Committee present during the proposed hearing and the teleconference linked to our Community Hall in Lutsel K'e, where translators will translate the proceedings to our community members in attendance there
5. We also request transcriptions of the questions and answers in Chipewyan, (Dene Yati), as soon as possible after the proceedings and before any final decision is made.

The deficiency that has not been addressed to date to the Lutsel K'e Peoples is one of not understanding the potential impacts and the proposed solutions being offered by the applicant. While this process has continued for several months, we have, as of yet, not been participatory, because we still do not understand in our language the basic questions and answers being made.

We ask for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Chief Archie Catholique

Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

Cc: Hon. Robert D. Nault, PC, MP, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
Mr. John McConnell, Vice-President NWT Projects, De Beers Canada Mining Inc.  
Latisha Heilman, Regulatory Officer, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board