

## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

April 2, 2003

Our File EA01-004

TO: De Beers Canada Mining Inc.  
Parties to the Snap Lake Environmental Assessment \*

**RE: Clarification of Snap Lake EA Filing Requirements**

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) held a pre-hearing conference for the De Beers Canada Mining Inc. Snap Lake Environmental Assessment (EA) proceeding on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. At the pre-hearing conference, Review Board staff and consultants encouraged ongoing efforts by the parties to the EA to resolve outstanding issues before the hearing in this matter, scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003. These suggestions resulted in questions about the filing deadlines set by the Review Board.

The Public Registry for this EA closes May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 and the Review Board has instructed De Beers Canada Mining Inc. and other parties to the EA to file their submissions for the hearing on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, respectively. These dates were set with a view to ensuring that parties to the EA had fair notice of the positions which might be advanced at the public hearing.

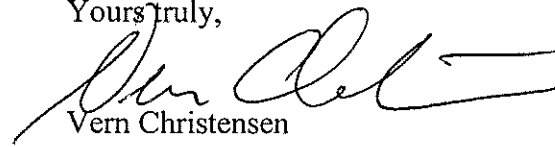
While the Review Board will not allow major new technical reports to be filed without permission, the Review Board is of the view that efforts to resolve issues by refining and analyzing information already on the record are warranted. Consequently, documentation of such efforts or any evidence of new understandings of the issues arrived at by the parties may be filed without Review Board permission being sought. Such information, if any, should be filed by the April 11<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> deadlines set for the developer and parties to the EA, respectively.

The public registry, as noted above, closes on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003. The time period between the end of the public hearing and this closing date is intended for filing of hearing transcripts and specific information as a result of requests or commitments made at the public hearing. The time period is not intended to be an opportunity for the parties to submit additional information to the public registry.

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We trust that this direction will enable the parties to continue their efforts to refine their positions for the hearings.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vern Christensen', written over a horizontal line.

Vern Christensen  
Executive Director  
MVEIRB

