

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

January 31, 2003

Our File EA01-004

Charlie Catholique – Chair
Wildlife Lands and Environment Committee
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Box 28
Lutsel K'e, NT
X0E 1A0

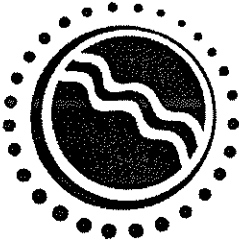
Dear Mr. Catholique:

**Re: Request to hold Workshops in Lutsel K'e, De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Mine
Environmental Assessment**

Thank you for your letter dated January 20, 2003 regarding the above noted matter. Your letter was brought to the attention of the Board on January 23, 2002. At that time, the Board requested more information on your request to hold a series of workshops in the community prior to the technical report deadline of February 14, 2003.

It is our current understanding that you would like to have workshops in the Lutsel K'e to allow for greater community participation. However, we would like to seek further clarification on the following:

- What is the community seeking in terms of greater participation? Is the community seeking a better understanding about the proposed development or more technical information about specific aspects of the project or both? Perhaps the community is seeking a follow up session to the Technical Sessions held in Yellowknife in late November of last year.
- Are there a large number of issues or concerns that the community wishes to present to the Review Board about the proposed development?
- What is the desired format of the workshops? For example, are you requesting:
 - a) A formal public hearing with the Board




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- b) An open house or informal sessions with Board staff and De Beers representatives to listen to community concerns, and to review the results of the technical sessions, or possibly
- c) An open question forum with Board staff, De Beers, technical experts and EA parties, as per the November 25 to December 6, 2002 technical sessions held in Yellowknife?

This clarification for the Board will be helpful in determining how the Board may be able to respond to your request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Glenda Fratton, DeBeers-Snap Lake Environmental Assessment Coordinator.

Yours truly,


For: Vern Christensen
Executive Director

cc John McConnell
De Beers Canada Mining Inc.