



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Our File: EA01-004

May 22nd, 2003

Ms. Kris Johnson
Land and Resource Coordinator
North Slave Metis Alliance
P.O. Box 340
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N3

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Re: Closing Date of Public Registry – De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Project

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is in receipt of a letter from the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA), dated May 6, 2003. In that letter the NSMA suggested that “perhaps it would be more appropriate to extend the closure of the public registry” in consideration of the Elder’s Caribou Workshop, which took place after the public hearing (May 12-15, 2003).

In considering this matter, the Review Board decided that the closing date of the public registry would not be extended. As stated at the public hearing on May 7th, 2003, the Review Board believes that the workshop is an important opportunity for the proponent, Aboriginal groups and GNWT to work together on resolving concerns about the effects of the proposed mine on caribou. However, the workshop is independent of the Board’s process. Consequently, the suggestion that the results of the workshop, whatever their form, be filed on the public record of this proceeding is problematic, both legally and from a fairness and procedural standpoint.

Furthermore the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council’s letter of April 30th, 2003 is clear that they object to filing the results of the workshop on the public registry after the public hearing. The Northwest Territory Métis Nation also expressed concern over the filing of the results of the workshop.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Glenda Fratton at 766-7052.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vern Christensen".

Vern Christensen
Executive Director