

DENE NATION
DENENDEH NATIONAL OFFICE

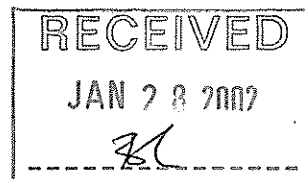
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Dirkelt'e Dir
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January 28, 2002

Luciano Azzolini
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938 200 Scotia Centre 5102-50th Avenue Yellowknife, NT Z1A 2N7
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Dear Louie,

In my role with Dene Nation as Manager of Environment and Lands I am responding to your letter of January 22, 2002; RE: Determination of Standing in the De Beers Environmental Assessment.

As you should know Dene Nation is primarily engaged in research and education about contaminants (heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, and radionuclides) as they relate to the health of traditional foods harvested and consumed by Dene. We are also engaged in research and communication about the health of ecosystems and impacts on them from climate change and development (both source and point-source). On occasion, Dene Nation has been called on by the Dene Leadership to play an active role in determining the social and ecological impacts of proposed development projects, such as was the case with BHP and Diavik. While small, we have an important role to play in better understanding and improving the environmental assessment process in Denendeh. In this regard I would like to notify your board that Dene Nation is specifying our role as Intervener in the Snap Lake EA.

I was somewhat surprised during our telephone conversation on January 28, 2002 to hear that MVEIRB would expect Intervener to distribute material to others, perhaps I misunderstood the nature of and role of Intervener status. In conversation with management at DIAND I asked about funding in the process and not surprisingly at this point of the EA there is no specific funds available. It is somewhat confusing as to the nature of MVEIRB with regards to communications and clearing-house functions. Let me reiterate that Dene Nation sees MVEIRB well placed to act as the central vehicle for active communications among Directly affected parties, Intervener, and the general public. Regardless of the specific nature of these issues I raise, Dene Nation is confident that MVEIRB supports our participation in the De Beers EA, and we look forward to your reply to our notification in the near future.

Best regards,

Chris Paci
Chris Paci, Ph.D.
Manager, Environment and Lands

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