

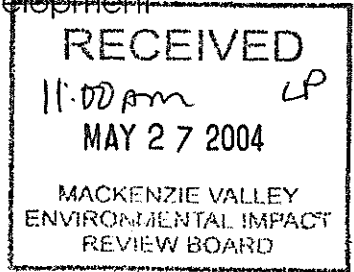


Northwest  
Territories

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

Please file

MAY 20 2004



The Honourable Andrew Mitchell, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
10 WELLINGTON STREET NORTH TOWER  
GATINEAU QC K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Mitchell:

**De Beers Socio-Economic and Environmental Agreements**

The Socio-Economic and Environmental Agreements with De Beers were signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) on May 18, 2004.

Both Agreements provide certainty with regard to the commitments De Beers made during the permitting process of the Snap Lake Diamond Project. They also provide for adaptive management of socio-economic and environmental effects arising from the development. The GNWT feels comfortable that the Agreements adequately address current regulatory gaps in areas of GNWT mandate.

Within the framework of the socio-economic arrangements with the GNWT, De Beers has also agreed to support the secondary diamond industry in a number of areas, which fully honour the commitments previously made. One of these commitments is to confidentiality of the commercial terms involved.

The GNWT feels that De Beers has now fulfilled its commitments under recommendations R28 and R37 of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision on the De Beers Canada Mining Inc. Snap Lake Diamond Project*.

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The GNWT looks forward to making this development a successful partnership and encourages the issuance of a Production Water Licence for the Snap Lake Diamond Project.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by  
BRENDAN BELL

Brendan Bell

- c. The Honourable Ethel Blondin Andrew, P.C., M.P.  
Secretary of State (Children and Youth)

Mr. Todd Burlingame, Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Ms. Melody McLeod, Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Mr. John McConnell, Vice President  
DeBeers Canada Mining Inc.