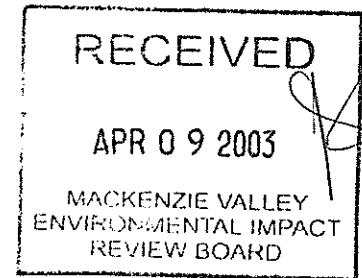


NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE

PO Box 340 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N3



Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave.,
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7



April 9, 2003

Attn: Glenda Fratton,

Re: DeBeers Snap Lake Diamond Project Site Visit

Dear Glenda,

Please accept this letter as notice of the NSMA's objection to the proposed Board site visit to Snap Lake on April 11, 2003.

The NSMA previously raised concerns about a possible site visit. We believed those concerns had been addressed because the Board site visit was not listed in recent versions of the workplan. If the site visit proceeds on the basis you have proposed, it will unfairly prejudice the interests of the NSMA and other Aboriginal groups.

The NSMA is very concerned that all parties to the EA are not invited to attend the site visit. As outlined in your letter, the site visit is reserved for the Board, De Beers and parties who have not been on a previous site visit. Given that NSMA representatives have visited the site, we will not be allowed to attend this site visit and as a result, we will not be able to hear the discussions or presentations that take place with the Board. Moreover, we are very concerned parties not present will be unable to hear, correct or respond to the information communicated to the Board.

If a site visit is going to take place, all parties must agree in advance on a fair procedure for the site visit. This procedure should, at least, set out the manner in which the site visit will be conducted, its route, the information that can be communicated to the Board and the means in which the site visit will be recorded-taped or transcribed. Most importantly, all parties must be allowed to attend. The concept of "first come, first serve" does not provide all parties equal access to the Board and thus, does not satisfy the requirements of procedural fairness.

Furthermore, it is impossible for parties to send a representative on the site visit on such short notice and without the required financial resources. In order to ensure all parties can attend, the Board must consult with all parties about when they would be available to attend a site visit and address any resource issues that could prevent parties from attending. In the NSMA's case, providing notice of this site visit on April 7, 2003 was not sufficient notice to make arrangements for Mr. Turner or myself to attend. We have

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attempted to explain to the Board in the past that the NSMA's resources are extremely limited. Rather than adhering to a process that is sensitive to the needs of Aboriginal communities, the Board seems insensitive and would rather push forward with their agenda.

Without knowing what will be discussed during the site visit, it is impossible to determine whether the assistance of elders, consultants or legal counsel would be necessary. Further, if such assistance were necessary, it would be impossible for the NSMA to secure that assistance without funding.

Under the circumstances, the NSMA is requesting that the Board site visit be cancelled or be rescheduled and conducted in a way that meets the needs of Aboriginal communities and the requirements of procedural fairness.

I look forward to hearing the Board's response.

Yours truly,

Kris Johnson
Land & Resource Coordinator
North Slave Métis Alliance