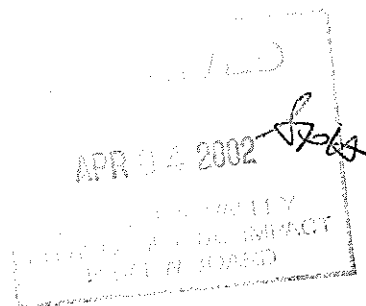




April 3, 2002



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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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**Extension of Information Request Period
De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Project**

As a registered interested party to these proceedings, we must question the one week delay granted to DIAND to prepare its information request.

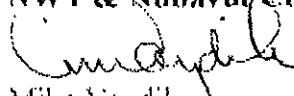
In the determination of the timelines governing the EA process, there was ample time for responsible authorities to comment on the time allowed for response to submissions. One assumes that DIAND had the opportunity to comment at that stage.

Now we have a time slippage of one week requested by one of the lead agencies involved in the review. That this has occurred only 5 weeks after the beginning of the EA throws the whole issue of timeliness into question.

As you are no doubt aware, timeliness is an issue of critical importance to proponents of a development. Investment decisions are made with a definite timeline in view. To have such slippage at such an early stage is of great concern to the mining industry. This is one way to make the NWT a less attractive place to invest and has a direct bearing on the ability of our industry to bring benefits to northerners such as jobs, training and business opportunities.

We would appreciate receiving the board's position on the granting of extensions.

Yours truly,
NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines


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