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et du Nord Canada

Box 1500  
Yellowknife NT X1A 3T2

Your file Votre référence

May 14, 2001

Our file Notre référence  
N7L2-1735

Mr. Gordon Lennie, Chairperson  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre, 5202 - 50 Avenue  
P.O. Box 938  
Yellowknife NT, X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Lennie

**Water Licence N7L2-1735 - DeBeers Canada Mining Inc.;**  
**Application for a Class "A" Licence - Snap Lake Diamond Project**

We have conducted a preliminary review of the Snap Lake Diamond Project as presented in the application, Scoping Document and the Technical support document.

The responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the *Northwest Territories Waters Act* and the *Northwest Territories Waters Regulations* makes the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development a "Responsible Minister" as defined in section 111 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The DeBeers Snap Lake project is the first large scale development in the Lockhart River drainage basin. Based on the limited information available we are unable to determine the potential effects of the project at this time. The Department requests that the project be referred to an environmental assessment pursuant to section 126(2) (a) of the MVRMA.

We would appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and input to the development of guidelines for the environmental assessment.

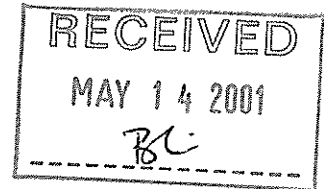
Yours sincerely,

David Livingstone  
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

cc Melody McLeod, Chairperson  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

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Date: May 14, 2001

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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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Pages: 2, including cover

Comments: