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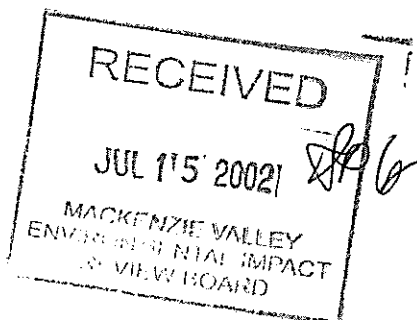
**BY FACSIMILE: (867) 766-7074**

July 15, 2002

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

Mr. Vern Christensen  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact  
Review Board  
Box 938  
200 Scotia Centre  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N7



Dear Mr. Christensen:

**Re: De Beers Snap Lake Diamond Project Environmental Assessment (EA) -  
Request for Ruling**

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) requests that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board), pursuant to section 50 of the Rules of Procedure for the above-noted project, modify the February 22, 2002 work plan.

INAC requests the Review Board consider changing the EA process as outlined in the work plan, so that the technical sessions precede the preparation and submission of the technical reports. This change would provide an opportunity for directly affected parties and interveners to consider all information and to resolve many of the technical issues before the technical reports are submitted.

It would also provide certainty to the Review Board as to what technical issues are resolvable and to focus on the more complex technical issues during the public hearings. The technical reports would then concentrate on any unresolved issues from the technical sessions. This modified process would be more efficient for resolving issues, reduce the need for future information requests and reduce any uncertainties in the development of technical reports. We would support technical sessions that are inclusive and iterative.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 669-2647.

Sincerely,

David Livingstone  
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment

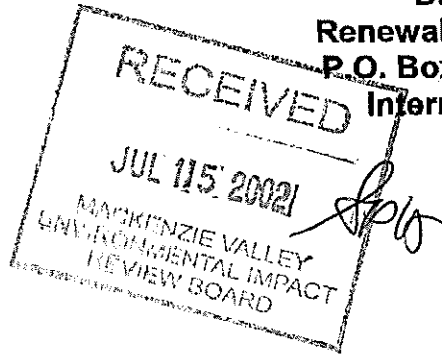
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**DIAND**

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**Date:** July 15, 2002

**To:** Mr. Vern Christensen  
Executive Director, MVEIRB

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**Pages:** 2, including cover

**Comments:**