



June 20, 2014

Simon Toogood
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7
VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Toogood:

**Re: EA 1314-002 De Beers Canada Inc. Snap Lake Mine
Response to Additional Information**

During the June 5-6, 2014 public hearings, an issue was raised by parties in regards to the introduction of new evidence, specifically recent toxicity studies conducted by De Beers related to copepods and *Daphnia magna*. Subsequently, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) provided direction in this regard and cited that, in the interest of a fair process, an additional review period would be allotted to allow parties to review this information as well as to provide De Beers an opportunity to respond to these comments.

The information submitted will be valuable during future discussions regarding the ultimate determination of appropriate numerical Site Specific Water Quality Objectives (SSWQOs) and corresponding Effluent Quality Criteria (EQCs) for the Snap Lake Project. These discussions will be the focus of the anticipated Type "A" Water Licence amendment process to be administered by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

In the context of the current environmental assessment process being conducted by the Review Board, the provided information does not result in any revisions to the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT's) recommendations as presented within its technical report. Concerns raised by the GNWT during the Environmental Assessment hearing related to the methodology used by De Beers in deriving SSWQOs are not fully addressed by the additional studies. The GNWT will provide additional comments and rationale on this overall issue as part of our closing comments on July 4, 2014.

Sincerely,

Terry Hall
Director, Land Use and Sustainability