



Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement
économique du Nord



Northwest
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

MAR 25 2014

VIA EMAIL

Chief Edward Sangris
Chief Ernest Betsina
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
PO Box 2514
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

Dear Chiefs:

**RE: Participation in DeBeers Canada Inc. – Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment,
Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes (EA1314-02)**

As you are aware, De Beers Canada Inc. (the “Developer”) has filed application for amendments to the water licence (MV2011L2-0004) for its Snap Lake Diamond Mine Project. The application was referred by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (“MVLWB”) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“Review Board”) for environmental assessment (“EA”) as a result of jurisdictional issues and concerns regarding proposed amendments that exceed a limit for one water quality parameter (total dissolved solids or “TDS”), which the Review Board had specified in its measures (#51 and #102) originally approved in 2003 by the federal Minister and responsible ministers in the Snap Lake EA.

The location of the proposed Project is within the asserted traditional territory of the Akaitcho Dene First Nations, as described in the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (“YKDFN”) to participate in the joint work plan processes of the Review Board and MVLWB, as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

Since the focus of this EA is confined to the TDS issue and related parameters, it is understood that comments will also be focused on these parameters or related aspects of the workplan.

During these joint processes and subsequent EA and regulatory phases, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Aboriginal groups to communicate related concerns to the Review Board, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the YKDFN is encouraged to:

Canada 

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on YKDFN established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,
- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the MVLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for consulting potentially affected Aboriginal groups.

It is recognized that engaging in EA and regulatory processes may impact your group's human and financial resources. As you are aware, funding from AANDC's Interim Resource Management Assistance program (to be devolved to the Government of the Northwest Territories) can be utilized (in accordance with program guidelines) for projects such as this one, as it is intended to strengthen the ability of Aboriginal communities in areas of the Northwest Territories without modern treaties to participate in land and resource management activities.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency ("CanNor") will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory decision making in relation to the Project. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the YKDFN actively participating in the EA and regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office,
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency



Ray Case
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate & Strategic Planning,
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, Government of the Northwest
Territories

cc: Akaitcho AIMO / Akaitcho Treaty 8 Corp
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Canada
Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David McNabb, Director, Sustainable Mining and Materials Policy Division, Natural
Resources Canada
Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport
Canada
Jim Lothrop, A/Director General, Stewardship and Sustainable Transportation Programs,
Transport Canada
Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Review Board
Zabey Nevitt, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Erica Bonhomme, Manager, Environment - DeBeers Canada Inc. Snap Lake Mine



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MAR 25 2014

VIA EMAIL

Chief Dora Enzoe
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
PO Box 28
Lutsel K'e, NT X0E 0H

Dear Chief Enzoe:

**RE: Participation in DeBeers Canada Inc. – Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment,
Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes (EA1314-02)**

As you are aware, De Beers Canada Inc. (the “Developer”) has filed application for amendments to the water licence (MV2011L2-0004) for its Snap Lake Diamond Mine Project. The application was referred by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (“MVLWB”) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“Review Board”) for environmental assessment (“EA”) as a result of jurisdictional issues and concerns regarding proposed amendments that exceed a limit for one water quality parameter (total dissolved solids or “TDS”), which the Review Board had specified in its measures (#51 and #102) originally approved in 2003 by the federal Minister and responsible ministers in the Snap Lake EA.

The location of the proposed Project is within the asserted traditional territory of the Akaitcho Dene First Nations, as described in the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (“LKDFN”) to participate in the joint work plan processes of the Review Board and MVLWB as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

Since the focus of this EA is confined to the TDS issue and related parameters, it is understood that comments will also be focused on these parameters or related aspects of the workplan.

During these joint processes and subsequent EA and regulatory phases, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Aboriginal groups to communicate any concerns to the Review Board, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the LKDFN is encouraged to:

Canada

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on LKDFN established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,
- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the MVLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for consulting potentially affected Aboriginal groups.

It is recognized that engaging in EA and regulatory processes may impact your group's human and financial resources. As you are aware, funding from AANDC's Interim Resource Management Assistance program (to be devolved to the Government of the Northwest Territories) can be utilized (in accordance with program guidelines) for projects such as this one, as it is intended to strengthen the ability of Aboriginal communities in areas of the Northwest Territories without modern treaties to participate in land and resource management activities.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency ("CanNor") will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory decision making in relation to the Project. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the LKDFN actively participating in the EA and regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office,
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency



Ray Case
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate & Strategic Planning,
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, Government of the Northwest
Territories

cc: Akaitcho AIMO / Akaitcho Treaty 8 Corp
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Canada
Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David McNabb, Director, Sustainable Mining and Materials Policy Division, Natural
Resources Canada
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MAR 25 2014

VIA EMAIL

Chief Louis Balsillie
Deninu Kue First Nation
PO Box 1899
Fort Resolution, NT X0E 0M0

Dear Chief Balsillie:

**RE: Participation in DeBeers Canada Inc. – Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment,
Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes (EA1314-02)**

As you are aware, De Beers Canada Inc. (the “Developer”) has filed application for amendments to the water licence (MV2011L2-0004) for its Snap Lake Diamond Mine Project. The application was referred by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (“MVLWB”) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“Review Board”) for environmental assessment (“EA”) as a result of jurisdictional issues and concerns regarding proposed amendments that exceed a limit for one water quality parameter (total dissolved solids or “TDS”), which the Review Board had specified in its measures (#51 and #102) originally approved in 2003 by the federal Minister and responsible ministers in the Snap Lake EA.

The location of the proposed Project is within the asserted traditional territory of the Akaitcho Dene First Nations, as described in the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the Deninu Kue First Nation (“DKFN”) to participate in the joint work plan processes of the Review Board and MVLWB, as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

Since the focus of this EA is confined to the TDS issue and related parameters, it is understood that comments will also be focused on these parameters or related aspects of the workplan.

During these joint processes and subsequent EA and regulatory phases, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Aboriginal groups to communicate any concerns to the Review Board, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the DKFN is encouraged to:

Canada 

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on DKFN established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,
- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

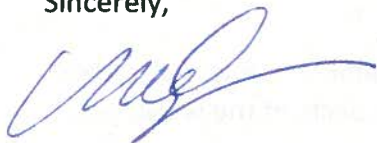
For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the MVLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for consulting potentially affected Aboriginal groups.

It is recognized that engaging in EA and regulatory processes may impact your group's human and financial resources. As you are aware, funding from AANDC's Interim Resource Management Assistance program (to be devolved to the Government of the Northwest Territories) can be utilized (in accordance with program guidelines) for projects such as this one, as it is intended to strengthen the ability of Aboriginal communities in areas of the Northwest Territories without modern treaties to participate in land and resource management activities.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency ("CanNor") will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory decision making in relation to the Project. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the DKFN actively participating in the EA and regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office,
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency



Ray Case
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate & Strategic Planning,
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, Government of the Northwest
Territories

cc: **Akaiicho AIMO / Akaiicho Treaty 8 Corp**
Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David McNabb, Director, Sustainable Mining and Materials Policy Division, Natural Resources Canada
Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada
Jim Lothrop, A/Director General, Stewardship and Sustainable Transportation Programs, Transport Canada
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MAR 25 2014

VIA EMAIL

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus
Tlicho Government
PO Box 412
Bechoko, NT X0E 0Y0

Dear Grand Chief Erasmus:

**RE: Participation in DeBeers Canada Inc. – Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment,
Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes (EA1314-02)**

As you are aware, De Beers Canada Inc. (the “Developer”) has filed application for amendments to the water licence (MV2011L2-0004) for its Snap Lake Diamond Mine Project. The application was referred by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (“MVLWB”) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“Review Board”) for environmental assessment (“EA”) as a result of jurisdictional issues and concerns regarding proposed amendments that exceed a limit for one water quality parameter (total dissolved solids or “TDS”), which the Review Board had specified in its measures (#51 and #102) originally approved in 2003 by the federal Minister and responsible ministers in the Snap Lake EA.

The location of the proposed Project is within the boundaries of the Mowhi Gogha De Niitlee. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the Tlicho Government to participate in the joint work plan processes of the Review Board and MVLWB, as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

Since the focus of this EA is confined to the TDS issue and related parameters, it is understood that comments will also be focused on these parameters or related aspects of the workplan.

During these joint processes and subsequent EA and regulatory phases, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Aboriginal groups to communicate any concerns to the Review Board, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the Tlicho Government is encouraged to:

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on Tlicho rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,

Canada

- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the MVLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for consulting potentially affected Aboriginal groups.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency ("CanNor") will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory decision making in relation to the Project. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the Tlicho Government actively participating in the EA and regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office,
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency



Ray Case
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate & Strategic Planning,
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, Government of the Northwest
Territories

cc: Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David McNabb, Director, Sustainable Mining and Materials Policy Division, Natural Resources Canada
Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada

**Jim Lothrop, A/Director General, Stewardship and Sustainable Transportation Programs,
Transport Canada**

Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Zabey Nevitt, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Erica Bonhomme, Manager, Environment - DeBeers Canada Inc. Snap Lake Mine



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Territories Environment and Natural Resources

MAR 25 2014

VIA EMAIL

Garry Bailey, President
Northwest Territory Métis Nation
PO Box 720
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

Dear Mr. Bailey:

**RE: Participation in DeBeers Canada Inc. – Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment,
Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes (EA1314-02)**

As you are aware, De Beers Canada Inc. (the “Developer”) has filed application for amendments to the water licence (MV2011L2-0004) for its Snap Lake Diamond Mine Project. The application was referred by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (“MVLWB”) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“Review Board”) for environmental assessment (“EA”) as a result of jurisdictional issues and concerns regarding proposed amendments that exceed a limit for one water quality parameter (total dissolved solids or “TDS”), which the Review Board had specified in its measures (#51 and #102) originally approved in 2003 by the federal Minister and responsible ministers in the Snap Lake EA.

The location of the proposed Project is within the area described within your group’s Interim Measures Agreement. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (“NWTMN”) to participate in the joint work plan processes of the Review Board and MVLWB as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

Since the focus of this EA is confined to the TDS issue and related parameters, it is understood that comments will also be focused on these parameters or related aspects of the workplan.

During these joint processes and subsequent EA and regulatory phases, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Aboriginal groups to communicate any concerns to the Review Board, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the NWTMN is encouraged to:

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on NWTMN established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,

Canada

- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

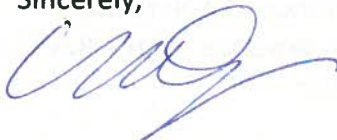
For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the MVLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for consulting potentially affected Aboriginal groups.

It is recognized that engaging in EA and regulatory processes may impact your group's human and financial resources. As you are aware, funding from AANDC's Interim Resource Management Assistance program (to be devolved to the Government of the Northwest Territories) can be utilized (in accordance with program guidelines) for projects such as this one, as it is intended to strengthen the ability of Aboriginal communities in areas of the Northwest Territories without modern treaties to participate in land and resource management activities.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency ("CanNor") will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory decision making in relation to the Project. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the NWTMN actively participating in the EA and regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office,
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency



Ray Case
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate & Strategic Planning,
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, Government of the Northwest
Territories

cc: Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
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Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Zabey Nevitt, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Erica Bonhomme, Manager, Environment - DeBeers Canada Inc. Snap Lake Mine
