

DE BEERS

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April 30, 2014

File:L020

Simon Toogood
MVRB
Box 938, #200 Scotia Centre 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N7

Rebecca Chouinard
MVLWB
PO Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT,
X1A 2P6

Attention: Mr. Simon Toogood (Review Board) and Ms. Rebecca Chouinard (MVLWB)

Dear Mr. Toogood and Ms. Chouinard,

Re: De Beers Canada Inc.'s Response to Technical Session Information Requests for the Environmental Assessment, Snap Lake Amendment Project ("Project"), (EA1314-02) and the Water License Amendment (MV2011L2-0004)

De Beers Canada Inc. ("De Beers") provides the following responses to Information Requests (IRs) resulting from the April 15/16th Technical Sessions at the Yellowknife Inn, and to IRs provided on April 22nd in Response to the De Beers Supplemental Filing.

Based on the information provided to date by De Beers, the site specific benchmarks developed for TDS and its constituent ions are both appropriate and protective of the aquatic environment. Parameters for which there are benchmarks and other parameters will continue to be monitored through the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program; the Response Framework would be triggered should a monitored parameter require action.

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De Beers believes that setting effluent quality criteria (EQC) based on site specific testing is appropriate and environmentally protective. De Beers has committed to implementing treatment to protect Snap Lake and downstream water bodies. The treatment options proposed are proven technologies that are currently undergoing feasibility testing to determine the best treatment option applicable to the unique setting of the mine site. Once the optimal system has been approved, a risk assessment will be carried out to assess specific Accident and Malfunction scenarios to this system and its byproducts (i.e., the treatment waste stream). It is expected that discussion regarding the specifics of the risk assessment will be carried out as a component of the permitting and commissioning of the selected treatment system from the MVLWB.

In closing De Beers thanks the Review Board and the MVLWB for this opportunity to respond to the IRs and thus to provide additional supporting evidence to the Boards. We also thank all who attended and participated in the Technical Session for their useful questions and discussion including subsequent IRs.

De Beers appreciates the Review Board's efforts to undertake the review process for this Water Licence Amendment in an efficient and timely manner. Should you have any questions, comments or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (867) 766-7331 or by e-mail at the following address: Erica.Bonhomme@debeersgroup.com.

Sincerely,

DE BEERS CANADA INC.



Erica Bonhomme
Environment Manager
Snap Lake Mine

Attachments