

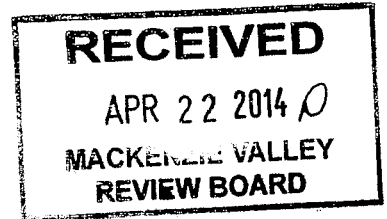


Yellowknives Dene First Nation

P.O. Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

April 22nd, 2014

Simon Toogood
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2N7
Fax: (867) 766-7074



Dear Mr. Toogood:

Re: Snap Lake TDS Response Plan – Moving Transcripts to the Registry

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) would like to request that the relevant evidence from previous EA/Permitting processes be moved onto the current registry. The evidence provided in the technical session and the hearing is particularly relevant.

If there are any questions or if we could provide additional clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the YKDFN Lands and Environment Department at (867) 766-3496.

Sincerely,

Todd Slack



Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2N7
Fax: (867) 766-7074
stoogood@reviewboard.ca

Dear Mr. Toogood:

Re: Snap Lake TDS Environmental Assessment

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) are submitting the attached information request. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact YKDFN Lands and Environment at 766-3496.

Sincerely,

Todd Slack

Copy: Snap Lake EA Parties

YKDFN IR# 1 Socio-Economic and Cultural Impacts

To: Developer

Reference

April 15-16th, 2014 Technical Sessions
MVEIRB Reasons for Decision, p11

Terms of Reference

N/A

Preamble

The developer's submission to the Review Board is not in conformity with the direction it has been provided. Particularly, it fails to meet the requirements set forth by the Review Board in their Reasons for Decision, as found on p.11 within that decision – under "Next Steps":

"The Review Board will require the developer to file information to satisfy ss. 114, 115, and 117 of the MVRMA. These sections require that the developer describe the biophysical, socio-economic and cultural impacts that result from activities associated with the amendments that are within the scope of this assessment. Further, the developer must describe the cumulative impacts; accidents and malfunctions; and alternate means of carrying out these activities".

YKDFN accept that sufficient information has been placed on the record to illustrate *the company's perspective* regarding the bio-physical impacts, but there are no submissions to address the socio-economic or [particularly] cultural impacts. Furthermore, the transcript clearly shows that this was not accomplished through the 'engagement sessions' nor is it elsewhere on the registry as evidence.

This Environmental Assessment is not simply about the cheapest way to achieve 684 mg/L of TDS. It is about the consequences of that decision and the methods employed to get there – matters which we have very little about. It is the Yellowknives who will live with the result – and the long view must be that land and water must be clean enough to be accepted as a functional and productive part of the landbase again. As Dave Putnam stated during lead up of the last licensing phase – De Beers is only "borrowing" the land – it must be returned in a manner that fits the intended use by those who depend on it.

Request

- 1) For the 'active mining' period, describe the socio-economic and cultural impacts that will result from the proposed activities and submit evidence to support their position, including community perception of Snap Lake, the adjacent area and the water quality.
- 2) Following active mining, describe the socio-economic and cultural impacts that will be a consequence of the proposed activities and submit evidence to support their position, with a focus on the perception of Snap Lake, the surrounding area, and the downstream environment
- 3) The alternatives provided are not 'true' alternatives, as they are non-viable. If something is unacceptable, then it is a false choice – parties cannot see the projects trade-offs and the consequential impacts.