



APR 23 1999

EA 99-004

WATER REGISTER: N7-2-1736

April 16, 1999

Ms. Heidi Klein
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board
P.O. Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Ms. Klein:

**Referral of the Proposed Development of Beartooth, Pigeon and
Sable Kimberlite Pipes – BHP Diamonds Inc.**

The above referenced project has undergone a Preliminary Screening pursuant to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, Sections 124 and 125, by DIAND/Water Resources Division as per Section 124(3) with advice from DIAND/Land Administration, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Department of Environment.

As the Regulatory Authority under the *MVRMA* for the "B" Licence application, the Board is referring this project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for Environmental Assessment (EA). This referral is based on the attached letter from DIAND to the Water Board and the Preliminary Screening Report.

Attached please find:

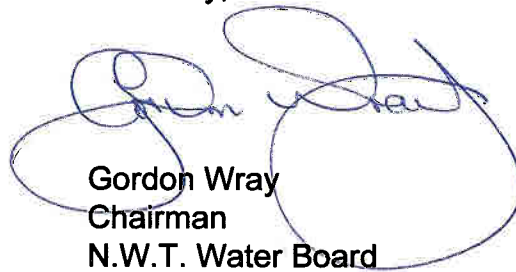
1. the name and address of the proponent;
2. the joint Preliminary Screening Report Form and reasons for decision;
3. the applications for a Water Licence and land leases;
4. the proponent's project description; and
5. the proponent's large format maps of the area of the proposed activity.

It is understood that the MVEIRB has the Project Description and the Environmental Baseline Assessments for Beartooth and Sable Lakes.

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If you require further information or clarification regarding this referral, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. David Milburn at 669-2650 or Ms. Laura Hawke of the Water Resources Division at 669-2649 or hawkel@inac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon Wray", is written over the printed name and title. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Gordon Wray
Chairman
N.W.T. Water Board