



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

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Your file *Votre référence*  
EIR0607-001

Our file *Notre référence*  
09-HCAA-CA-00014

May 2, 2012

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Cheryl Baraniecki  
Regional Director  
Environmental Protection Operations  
Prairie and Northern Region  
Environment Canada

**RE: Fisheries and Oceans Canada review of DeBeers' Gahcho Kue Project (Project) proposal**

Following the submission of Environment Canada's Information Request on January 18, 2012, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) would like to clarify that DFO is participating in the environmental assessment for the Project to determine the extent of potential impacts to fish and fish habitat, and the mitigation measures to put in place. This review will enable DFO to inform the Panel on potential impacts to fish and fish habitat and whether it might be necessary to issue subsection 35(2) authorizations pursuant to the *Fisheries Act* for impacts resulting from the dewatering of Kennady Lake or any other impacts to fish habitat resulting from the Project. DFO will be in a position to issue required authorizations, as appropriate, once the environmental assessment is concluded.

DeBeers Canada has committed to providing a more thorough alternatives assessment and flow mitigation plan, which are required as part of the current environmental assessment phase of the Project. DFO will work with EC in the review of these documents during the environmental assessment, given their expertise related to water quality and hydrology and to inform any regulatory decisions that DFO might consider following the environmental assessment.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Sarah Olivier at (867) 669-4919 or e-mail ([sarah.olivier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.olivier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)).

Sincerely,

Larry Dow  
A/Area Director  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc Kelly Burke, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Bev Ross, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Julie Dahl, Fisheries and Oceans Canada