



March 30, 2012

File: S110-01-08

Chuck Hubert
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Hubert:

Parks Canada - Information Request Responses
Gahcho Kué Project Environmental Impact Review

De Beers is pleased to provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board with responses to Information Requests submitted by Parks Canada.

Sincerely,

Veronica Chisholm
Permitting Manager

Attachment

c: K. Cumming, A/Manager, Resource Conservation, Parks Canada



GAHCHO KUÉ PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSES

Information Request Number: PC - 01

Source: Parks Canada

Subject: Aircraft use

Preamble

In Table 12.7-17 a minimum flying altitude of 300m above ground level is identified. The "TP 14371 - Transport Canada Aeronautical Information Manual (TC AIM)" states "To preserve the natural environment of parks, reserves and refuges and to minimize the disturbance to the natural habitat, overflights should not be conducted below 2000 feet AGL. "

(<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/publications/tp14371-rac-1-0-474.htm>)

Request

1. What is the likely flight path of aircraft after take-off with respect to the proposed national park on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake?
2. Will a 2000ft minimum altitude be followed?

Response

1. Flight paths will be developed in conjunction with charter aircraft providers. GPS approach and take off patterns for landings and takeoff in both directions (ENE and WSW) will be developed in accordance to industry practices. Most flights will originate/terminate in Yellowknife and as such the flight paths will be linear between the mine site and Yellowknife, which may enter air space over the proposed national park.
2. Other than approach and takeoff patterns, the 2,000 ft minimum altitude will be followed.

GAHCHO KUÉ PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSES

Information Request Number: PC - 02

Source: Parks Canada

Subject: Visual aesthetics

Preamble

In section 12.7.4.3.2, the EIS states “Permanent changes to the landscape...visible up to 30 km from the Project in some distances”.

Request

1. What distance is the project likely to be visible from during operation?

Response

1. The highest landforms created by the operation of the mine will be the waste rock piles which at their highest are designed to rise approximately 70 meters above existing ground elevation. During operations, there will be trucks hauling and dumping rock from the tops of these piles and may be visible, barring intermediate obstructions, from a distance of up to 28 km. Most other operational activities will be carried out either at ground level or below in the open pits.