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Canada

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MVEIRB File EIR0607-001

Transport Canada File 7075-70-7-5

May 17, 2012

Ms. Veronica Chisholm  
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Sent via e-mail to: [Veronica.Chisholm@debeerscanada.com](mailto:Veronica.Chisholm@debeerscanada.com)

**Subject: Preparation for Technical Meetings May 22 – 25, 2012 for the De Beers Canada - Gahcho Kué Project. Transport Canada's Response to De Beers Information Request Response.**

Transport Canada would like to thank De Beers for the responses provided to Transport Canada's January 18, 2012 Information Requests. In preparation for the upcoming technical meetings, Transport Canada would like to share with De Beers the following information related to each Information Request Response (see **current status** statements, below). In addition, Transport Canada requests that navigation be considered and evaluated in the following areas of the project assessment:

- Socioeconomic Impact: Transport Canada requests that navigational uses including recreational, commercial and traditional uses of affected waterways be evaluated and potential impacts to those uses considered.
- Cumulative Effects: Transport Canada requests that De Beers consider impacts to navigation and provide a cumulative environmental effects assessment of the impacts to navigation which takes into account influences such as: overall water withdrawals, water diversion, placement of dykes and placement of intakes.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by phone or email. Transport Canada Environmental Affairs and Navigable Waters Protection Program staff look forward to the opportunity to further discuss project and assessment details with you next week.

**Laura Jones**

Environmental Officer | Agent de l'environnement  
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cc. Gahcho Kué Panel  
Navigable Waters Protection Program  
Kate Witherly, NPMO

Canada

## Transport Canada's Information Request

### **Project Title:** De Beers Canada – Gahcho Kué Project

**IR Number:** TC – 01

**Source:** Transport Canada

**To:** De Beers Canada

**Subject:** Winter Access Road

**EIS Section:** Section 1.3.9, Section 3.10.2.7

#### **Preamble:**

De Beers is proposing to use construct a 120 km winter access road from Kennady Lake to the north end of MacKay Lake and will intersect the Tibbitt-to-Contwoyto Winter Road at kilometer 271.

#### **Request:**

Please provide the following details;

- i) Figure 3.10.2 titled "Winter Access Road to Project Site" in the EIS unclear, please provide a map at a higher resolution
- ii) Provide the details with regards to the construction, timing, and operation of the winter access roads.
- iii) If winter crossings are to be constructed across navigable waters that are frozen please provide the location of the crossings, and all materials that will be involved in the construction of the crossing(s).
- iv) If all materials will be removed before the end of the winter season.

**Current Status:** Transport Canada thanks De Beers for providing the requested information. No further information is required. Based on the information provided, the winter access road will not require Approval under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.

**IR Number:** TC – 02  
**Source:** Transport Canada  
**To:** De Beers Canada

**Subject:** Site Access Roads  
**EIS Section:** Section 3.10.2.8

**Preamble:**

*Site access roads will be required for the transport in and around the project site. The development of the site roads may require watercourse crossings and the use of culverts.*

**Request:**

*Please provide the following information;*

- i) A map identifying the crossing locations with the latitude/longitude coordinates.*
- ii) Depth and width of the watercourse and number of culverts (if applicable) associated with those crossings.*
- iii) Also please provide the erosion control measures that may be placed at these locations.*

**Current Status:** Transport Canada thanks De Beers for providing the requested information. Transport Canada has deemed Lake A3 outlet stream to be non-navigable at the crossing location. An application for Approval under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* will not be required.



**IR Number:** TC – 03  
**Source:** Transport Canada  
**To:** De Beers Canada

**Subject:** Transportation – Impacts to Navigation  
**EIS Section:** Section 8, Section 9

**Preamble:**

De Beers is proposing to use Kennady Lake as water management area, which will require dewatering, the construction of dykes, and infilling a portion of Kennady Lake. The diversion of watersheds will also be required in and around the project area. The EIS describes the management of water in the project area; however, the impacts to navigation are not specifically identified.

**Request**

Please provide the following information on any waterbodies or watercourses that may be impacted by the water management processes and mine operation as it relates to navigation;

- i) Higher resolution maps of the works proposed in the water management area (Section 8 and Section 9), as the ones located in the EIS are not clear
- ii) Width and depth of the waterbodies and watercourses
- iii) Conceptual drawings, including location of the dykes, water intake
- iv) More detailed drawings of the diversions, area of infill
- v) Conceptual plan of decommissioning the project; stages of dyke removal and the re-filling of Kennady Lake.

**Current Status:**

- Transport Canada thanks De Beers for providing information and high resolution maps. Transport Canada is currently assessing the information submitted.
- Preamble response) De Beers explains that “other inlets to Kennady Lake that are dyked off to control water ingress into the controlled area are not considered navigable”. Transport Canada requests that De Beers assess these crossings against Transport Canada’s *minor waters* criteria found in the attached Minor Waters User Guide. Dyke work in and around waterbodies that do not meet the *minor waters* criteria require application for Approval under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.
- ii) Transport Canada requests a table listing the widths and depths of waterbodies that may be impacted by the water management process.
- v) Transport Canada inquires: will dyke maintenance programs be implemented?

**IR Number:** TC – 04  
**Source:** Transport Canada  
**To:** De Beers Canada

**Subject:** Transportation - Airstrip  
**EIS Section:** Section 3.10.2.10

**Preamble:**

*The proposed permanent airstrip will be constructed to handle aircraft for the construction operation and decommissioning of the project site.*

**Request**

- i) Please identify if the airstrip will be private, registered or a certified aerodrome.
- ii) A drawing identifying the location of the navigational safety lighting and emergency services.

**Current Status:**

- Transport Canada thanks De Beers for providing the requested information.
- Transport Canada recommends De Beers consult the attached TP 312 Aerodrome Standards and Recommended Practices document for guidance.
- Transport Canada suggests De Beers create airstrip safety and emergency plans.
- Transport Canada requests to know which class(es) of aircraft(s) will be utilizing the airstrip.