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Environmental Affairs – Programs
Prairie and Northern Region

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June 21, 2012

Chuck Hubert
Panel Manager
Gahcho Kué Environmental Impact Review Panel

Sent via e-mail to: chubert@reviewboard.ca

Subject: Information Request Guidance. Assessment of Impacts to Navigation, Gahcho Kué Project.

Hello Chuck,

In response to The Gahcho Kué Panel's June 13th letter concerning upcoming information requests for the Gahcho Kué Project, Transport Canada offers the following guidance to DeBeers for the preparation of an assessment of impacts to navigation. In this regard, Transport Canada's second round of information requests will focus on potential impacts to navigation.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Jones directly by phone at (204) 984-4562 or by email at laura.jones@tc.gc.ca.

Thank you,

Douglas A. Soloway
Superintendent, Environmental Affairs North | Surintendant, Affaires Environnementales Nord
Transport Canada, Prairie and Northern Region | Région des Prairies et du Nord

cc. Veronica Chisholm, De Beers
Nathan Schmidt, Golder
Dale Kirkland, TC



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In order to present potential impacts of the combined effects of the Gahcho Kue Project works to navigation, the proponent should provide information related to navigational use in the affected area, likely effects to navigable waterbodies that relate to navigation, project elements that may not affect waterbodies but may affect navigational use and finally, projected impacts to navigation considering all these things and concerns of the public and local aboriginal groups. The following provides additional details to assist in ensuring environmental assessment information needs are met:

1. The current navigational usage of waterbodies/ waterways that will likely be affected by the project.

Current navigational usage includes recreational, commercial and traditional. Examples of recreational, commercial and traditional navigational uses include, but are by no means limited to: sport fishing or back country paddling, fishing and hunting outfitters using waterways as a means of transportation, aboriginal groups navigating traditional routes or navigating as a means of transportation to engage in traditional activities.

The following may help to guide consultation efforts to determine current navigational uses of likely affected waterbodies/ waterways along with potential impacts and mitigation measures:

- Provide the local public and aboriginal groups including any First Nation, Metis or Inuit groups with information about works that will require *NWP Act* applications.
- Provide the local public and aboriginal groups with projected effects to waterbodies/ waterways as a result of those works.
- Record any concerns that the public and/or aboriginal groups may have related to impacts to navigation caused by the works and the projected change to waterbodies/ waterways as a result of the combination of these works. Record suggested mitigation measures and work to address concerns raised.

Record your consultation efforts associated with navigation and provide Transport Canada with details including a list of members of the public, business owners and aboriginal groups you have consulted. In addition, please provide consultation logs or records of the consultations with each group.

Waterbodies/ waterways that will likely be affected by the project include waterbodies/ waterways in the project area, especially those subject to physical works such as dykes and water intakes *and* waterbodies/ waterways whose flow, depth, volume, etc will likely be affected as a result of the combination of project activities associated with water management.

2. The likely effects to waterbodies/ waterways that relate to navigation. Describe projected changes to quantity parameters such as flow, depth and volume in each of the waterbodies/ waterways.

3. Project elements that may not affect waterbodies/ waterways but may affect navigation. For example, increased accessibility to an area could result in increased navigational usage while altered viewsapes and noise impacts could result in decreased usage of an area for navigation.



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4. Projected impacts to navigational use. Describe how the potential to navigate waterbodies/ waterways could be impacted (positively and/ or negatively). If concerns were raised during consultation, identify those concerns and indicate what measures, if any, have been taken to address them.

5. Cumulative effects assessment to navigation. Discuss the potential for impacts to navigation of the Gahcho Kué Project to combine with the impacts of other developments that have happened in the past, are currently happening or are reasonably foreseeable.