



FEB 15 2006

Mr. Martin Haefele
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO BOX 938, 5102 - 50TH AVE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Haefele:

**Comments on the Draft Work Plan for the
De Beers Gahcho Kue Diamond Project (EA0506-008)**

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) issued the *Draft Work Plan for the Environmental Assessment of the De Beers Gahcho Kue Diamond Project (EA0506-008)* on January 26, 2006. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has reviewed the Draft Work Plan and provides the following feedback:

1. Does the work plan and related schedule reflect any consultation obligations placed upon the MVEIRB by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*?
2. The GNWT understands that the schedule will be refined as the environmental assessment (EA) progresses. It is hoped that Parties to the EA will have the opportunity to provide comment on the timelines for the stages of the EA as they are refined. There appears to be several areas where additional time may be required, as indicated below.

Scoping Phase

- Terms of Reference comment period – Allow at least 15 days for Parties to review and provide comment on the document.

Analytical Phase

- Allow at least four weeks for Parties to review the Developers Assessment Report prior to issuance of the Round One Information Requests.

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- The schedule should allow time for Parties to prepare Information Request Responses.
 - Technical Reports - Allow at least three months between the posting of Information Request Responses and the submission of Technical Reports. This will provide Parties with the opportunity to develop Expert Witness submissions.
3. In Section 5.3, add the following requirement to the last sentence:
- "The Review Board may request that the Developer provide a written record verifying consultations, including how the consultations have influenced the design of any part of the development or any steps the developer plans to take to address the concern or issue."**

Please call Mr. Gavin More, Manager of Environmental Assessment at (867) 873-7244 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



R. P. Bailey
Deputy Minister