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Environment and Natural Resources

March 13, 2014

File: MV20112-0004
EA1314-002

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre; 5102-50th Ave
Box 938, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

**Re: De Beers Canada Incorporated (DBCI) Snap Lake Mine Request to
Re-schedule Technical Sessions**

On February 28, 2014, De Beers Canada Incorporated (DBCI) advised the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) that Dr. Peter Chapman, their technical lead for the application, will be unable to appear at the technical session currently scheduled for April 10, 2014. As such, DBCI requested that the Board consider rescheduling the technical session to Monday, April 7.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) have been requested to provide comments on the proposed date change and note any concerns. Both AANDC and the GNWT concur that Dr. Chapman's presence at the technical session would be beneficial as he will be representing aspects of the application related to aquatic effects and toxicity, as noted in the request from DBCI.

However, AANDC and the GNWT are concerned with the revised date as proposed by DBCI. As the Board is aware, on April 1, 2014, the GNWT will become the primary land and water manager in the Northwest Territories. This transition period will place additional requirements on staff affected by the devolution transfer. Accordingly, advancing the date of the technical sessions presents issues for ensuring that the appropriate level of internal coordination and preparation is conducted before the session.

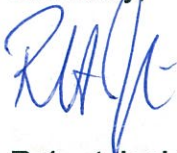
Further, and more importantly, the proposed date of April 7 conflicts directly with the date set by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for submission of technical interventions regarding the Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine water licence application. This presents an issue in the availability of technical staff on the proposed date.

As such, AANDC and the GNWT request the technical sessions be re-scheduled to a date after the currently scheduled date of April 10 when Dr. Chapman is available. Both parties believe this rescheduling is justifiable and would also ensure Dr. Chapman's participation.

AANDC and the GNWT would also like to take this opportunity to identify its concern with the amount of time proposed for the technical sessions. As the technical session is intended to cover both environmental assessment and regulatory amendment processes, one day will likely be insufficient to adequately discuss the proposed changes and amendments. Additional dates should be added to ensure complete review and technical discussion of these proposed regulatory amendments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the undersigned Mr. Robert Jenkins at 669-2574 or Robert.Jenkins@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca or Ms. Mary Tapsell at 920-8675 or Mary.Tapsell@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Robert Jenkins
Director,
Renewable Resources
and Environment
Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada



For Mary Tapsell
Director,
Land and Water
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories