



Canadian Northern Economic  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement  
économique du Nord



VIA EMAIL

Bill Enge, President  
North Slave Métis Alliance  
PO Box 2301  
32 Melville Drive

Dear Mr. Enge:

**RE: Participation in De Beers Canada Inc. – Snap Lake Water Licence Amendment  
Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes (EA1314-02)**

---

As you are aware, De Beers Canada Inc. (the “Developer”) has filed application for amendments to the water licence (MV2011L2-0004) for its Snap Lake Diamond Mine Project (the “Project”). The application was referred by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (“MVLWB”) to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“Review Board”) for environmental assessment (“EA”) as a result of jurisdictional issues and concerns regarding proposed amendments that exceed a limit for one water quality parameter (total dissolved solids or “TDS”), which the Review Board had specified in its measures (#51 and #102) originally approved in 2003 by the federal Minister and responsible ministers in the Snap Lake EA.

The location of the proposed Project is within the area that the North Slave Métis Alliance (“NSMA”) has previously asserted Aboriginal rights. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the NSMA to participate in the joint work plan processes of the Review Board and MVLWB, as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

Since the focus of this EA is confined to the TDS issue and related parameters, it is understood that comments will also be focused on these parameters or related aspects of the workplan.

During these joint processes and subsequent EA and regulatory phases, a variety of opportunities are available for the NSMA to communicate related concerns to the Review Board and the MVLWB, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the NSMA is encouraged to:

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on NSMA asserted Aboriginal rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,

Canada 

- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the MVLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for discharging any of their potential consultation obligations.

It is recognized that engaging in EA and regulatory processes may impact NSMA human and financial resources. As you are aware, funding from the GNWT Interim Resource Management Assistance program (previously administered by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada prior to devolution) can be utilized (in accordance with program guidelines) for projects such as this one, as the program is intended to strengthen the ability of Aboriginal communities in areas of the Northwest Territories without modern treaties to participate in land and resource management activities.

The Northern Projects Management Office of CanNor will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory decision making in relation to the Project. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the NSMA actively participating in the EA, regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence  
Director General  
Northern Projects Management Office,  
Canadian Northern Economic Development  
Agency



Kate Hearn  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Planning and Coordination,  
Department of Lands,  
Government of the Northwest Territories

cc: Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Catherine Conrad, Director, Environment and Renewable Resources Directorate, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada

Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

David McNabb, Director, Sustainable Mining and Materials Policy Division, Natural Resources Canada

Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada

Jim Lothrop, A/Director General, Stewardship and Sustainable Transportation Programs, Transport Canada

Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Zabey Nevitt, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Erica Bonhomme, Manager, Environment – De Beers Canada Inc. Snap Lake Mine