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Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Suite 200, 5102 – 50th Avenue
P.O. Box 938
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Updated Fish Habitat Compensation (No-Net-Loss) Plan

De Beers is pleased to provide an updated Fish Habitat Compensation (No-Net-Loss) Plan for the Gahcho Kué Project (the Project). This Plan has evolved from what was provided in the 2010 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and a Technical Memorandum submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Public Registry on June 29, 2012. The updates largely stem from ongoing input from visits and workshops with Aboriginal groups and government regulators. De Beers anticipates the plan will be refined further as the Project enters the permitting phase, however, the current plan provides suitable options to demonstrate that no-net-loss can be achieved for fish habitat losses in Kennady Lake.

De Beers is no longer pursuing the raised D-E-N lake option as the primary source of fish habitat compensation as described in 2010 EIS (Section 3, Appendix 3.II). De Beers views this as a viable option given the preference of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to offset like-for-like habitat in proximity to where habitat is lost and the negligible uncertainty about the mobilization of methyl-mercury due to flooding vegetation. Nevertheless, the consensus among Aboriginal groups and DFO has been one of disfavor. Therefore, De Beers is pursuing offsite options for fish habitat compensation. These offsite options include removing barriers to fish movement.

Another addition to the habitat compensation plan is research initiatives that will account for the loss of fish habitat while portions of Kennady Lake are dewatered. Through a series of community visits, site workshops and a dedicated Fish Habitat Compensation Workshop (September 20, 2012), De Beers has gathered ideas for additional habitat compensation options that are currently being pursued with guidance from DFO. These include concerns about fisheries and fish habitat nearby respective communities.





De Beers anticipates that further refinement will occur to the plan as the Project enters the regulatory phase and additional community ideas are brought forward.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Craig Blackie
Superintendent, Aquatic Permitting

Attachment

c: Larry Dow, A/District Manager, Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Sarah Olivier, Senior Environmental Assessment Analyst, Fisheries & Oceans Canada