

Environmental Protection Operations
Prairie and Northern
5019 52nd St, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

June 5th, 2012

EC file: 4780 026
MVEIRB file: EIR0607-001

Chuck Hubert
Panel Manager, Gahcho Kue Environmental Impact Review Board
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
5102-50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Attention: Mr. Hubert

**RE: Information Requests, Round 2 – Parties to Suggest Topics
DeBeers Canada Inc., Gahcho Kue Project**

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the letter, dated May 28th, 2012 from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) requesting parties to identify topics for a second round of information requests for the Gahcho Kue Project.

As such, EC has provided a brief list of topics/issues (below) that require further information from DeBeers Canada Inc. (DeBeers) which, for the most part, has been committed to in upcoming submissions:

- Area 7 Dewatering: (to be addressed in the Alternatives Assessment report mid-June).
- Water quality objectives and EQCs: It is understood that DeBeers will derive an initial set in September. EC requested that these include closure discharge objectives, including TSS and other contaminants of concern.
- Sediment quality objectives: It is understood that DeBeers will derive an initial set in September.
- TSS at closure: EC seeks clarification from DeBeers as to whether there will there be high turbidity during and following refilling, and if so, how will that be mitigated? Golder indicated that 8 years refilling would allow under-ice settling times, but there may be re-suspension due to wind and wave action.
- Pit Areas: EC seeks clarification from DeBeers as to whether the pit areas in the refilled lake will act as nutrient sinks? This may be offset by increased

productivity associated with the project, but sediment focusing may occur with a flux of nutrients to the chemocline.

- Water Management Pond: EC is seeking commitment from DeBeers to ensure there is sufficient holding capacity to allow time to investigate, ship, and install the appropriate system, if the need is warranted.
- Water Treatment Plant: EC is requesting that DeBeers provide WQ predictions with and without a WTP.
- Nesting: EC (CWS) has outstanding concerns related to nest establishment & flooding following dyke construction (refer to previous Round 1 EC IR #3).

In addition, please note that following a review of any outstanding reports submitted by DeBeers, including the updated Alternatives Assessment report, EC may have additional information requests and/or require further clarification from the Proponent.

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 669-4721 or via email at lisa.lowman@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Lisa Lowman
Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Environmental Protection Operations
Prairie and Northern Region
Environment Canada

cc: Carey Ogilvie (Head EA-North, EA and Marine Programs Division, EC)
Anne Wilson (Sector Support, EA and Marine Programs Division, EC)
Paul Rochon (Program Engineer, ESB - PRSD - Mining and Processing, EC)
Jane Fitzgerald (EA Coordinator, EA and Marine Programs Division, EC)