

June 15, 2012

File: S110

Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Hubert:

Gahcho Kue Project Wildlife Monitoring Plan Working Group

As you are aware from the Technical Sessions held May 22 to 25, 2012, a Wildlife Monitoring Plan Working Group (Working Group) is to be established to meet Commitment #11 made by De Beers Canada Inc (De Beers):

De Beers to commit to forming a working group – with the communities and regulators – to develop a management framework for the WEMP, and hosting a workshop – mid to late September.

As a precursor to the Working Group, parties including De Beers, Aboriginal representatives, Government of the Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and Panel Advisor met immediately following the wildlife technical discussions (May 25, 2012) to continue the conversation regarding a collaborative opportunity to develop a Wildlife Monitoring Plan (WMP) for the Gahcho Kué Project. The outcome of that meeting was recorded and posted to the Public Registry by the Panel on June 4, 2012.

The May 25, 2012 meeting was the beginning of productive discussions on wildlife monitoring perspectives, particularly in the key area of caribou. To further advance those discussions in a timely manner during the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) process, De Beers recommends that the participants of the May 25, 2012 meeting form a focused and effective Working Group that is representative of the various interests, and meets the intent of Commitment #11.

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It is therefore recommended that the Working Group be comprised of the following representatives:

- Jan Adamczewski (ENR)
- Mike Tollis (LKDFN Wildlife)
- Kim Poole (YKDFN Consultant)
- John Nishi (Tlicho Government Consultant)
- Anne Gunn (MVEIRB Panel Consultant)
- Boyan Tracz (AANDC, CIMP)
- Stephen Lines (De Beers)
- John Virgl (Golder Associates)

In addition to the above participants, should interest be expressed, De Beers is open to including a representative on the Working Group from the Deninu Kue First Nation, North Slave Metis Alliance, and NWT Metis Nation.

The primary objective of the Working Group is to meet collaboratively to advance the objectives and approaches for the WMP. The efforts undertaken by the Working Group will be used to facilitate a workshop on wildlife monitoring to be hosted by De Beers in September 2012. The workshop will provide a broader audience, including additional Aboriginal representation, the opportunity to provide input on the WMP. This workshop would also provide the opportunity for Traditional Knowledge holders to better inform the WMP, as well as provide input on how best to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into the monitoring plan. De Beers will provide a summary of the Working Group's activities and workshop outcomes to the Panel prior to the submission of technical reports.

It is anticipated that both the Working Group and workshop will support De Beers' initiative to address wildlife monitoring in a pro-active manner, to the extent possible, during the EIR. We look forward to your response regarding participating in the Working Group. With the goal of holding a Working Group meeting this July, a response **by June 27, 2012** would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Veronica Chisholm, Permitting Manager.

Yours truly,

Stephen Lines
Superintendent, EA & Permitting