

From: Martin Haefele
Sent: July 10, 2007 1:15 PM
To: 'Chris Heron'
Subject: EIR0607-001 Gahcho Kue - Response to Message of June 28, 2007
Dear Chris:

As you probably found out, I was out of the office (the country in fact) and so I can only today respond to your fax of June 28 in which you raise questions about consultation between DeBeers and the Fort Resolution Metis Council.

The Review Board has in the past pointed out that it encourages parties to engage with each other outside the actual EA process. The same is true for the Gahcho Kue Panel. I mentioned this during the work planning meetings we had in June and it is confirmed in the panel's draft work plan for the EIR. The draft Terms of Reference for the environmental impact statement require the developer to provide summaries of public and community consultation efforts for various issues. For example on the issue of community cohesion the draft terms of reference states: "The analysis must address [...] how each community was involved in the assessment of impacts [...]". The term community is defined in the terms of reference to include Metis groups and the geographical scope includes all T'licho and Akaitcho communities.

The panel will evaluate community engagement by the developer once it receives the environmental impact statement. All parties, including the NWT Metis Nation will, of course, be invited to provide their own view. In the meantime I can only re-iterate that the Panel strongly encourages the developer and other parties to engage with each other while the EIR process is going on. If you would like to initiate a consultation process with the developer, I suggest you contact the developer directly. The panel or panel staff cannot be part of discussions between two parties.

Regards
Martin Haefele

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