

Meeting Notes Work Plan Meeting of Parties
DeBeers Gahcho Kue Diamond Project Environmental Impact Review
June 25, 2007

Notes: Martin Haefele (MH)

The meeting started at 09:03 hrs.

Overview

The meeting served the same purpose as the meeting on June 11, 2007 on the same subject. That is to present the draft terms of reference for the environmental impact statement and the draft work plan and to give parties the opportunity to seek clarification on both documents.

Draft Work Plan

MH provided a brief overview of the work plan.

- Work plan is a separate document as it pertains to all parties and is subject to occasional updates whereas the EIS terms of reference only affects the developer.
- The contents of the work plan are not fundamentally different from those in previous environmental assessments.
- The panel plays the role the board would normally play, while the board appointed the panel, provided it with a terms of reference and will be responsible for replacing panel members if the need should arise. Replacements are no longer possible after the hearings started.
- MVEIRB staff is board staff, administratively this process will be like any other EA, just a bit bigger.
- No scoping phase included as scoping was already done in EA.
- Process steps very similar to regular EA with a few exceptions, e.g. a gap analysis to identify additional information needs early on.

Draft EIS ToR

MH provided a brief overview of the draft terms of reference. Highlights included:

- Major departure from previous ToR is the introduction of 'key lines of inquiry' and 'subjects of note' and the resulting need for double reporting by the developer.
- Basic scope of development is that described in DeBeers' application report to the MVLWB. Use of the Tibbit to Contqoyto road as well as any alternative contemplated by the developer are part of the scope.

- Scope if the EIR is informed by requirements of the MVRMA and the outcomes of the EA. MVRMA requires a few additional things not necessarily included in EA, e.g. alternatives, follow-up program, and sustainability of resources for future generations.
- Description of environment largely left to developer.
- Significance determination has added criterion “nature of the impact”.

Brief discussions developed on the following issues:

- *Learning from experience*: while it was generally acknowledged that requiring the developer to include lessons learned from previous diamond mines, the danger exists that this may be used as an excuse to address only the same issues rather than look beyond what has been done previously. The intent is for the developer to learn from the past and improve on it. This may have to be made more clear in the ToR.
- *Environmental Agreements*: There appears to be consensus that environmental agreements, as well as IBA, are a good vehicle to address issues but are creating problems for the impact review at the same time. It is a “chicken and egg problem” in that content of the agreement is based on the EIR results while the EIR needs to consider the contents of the agreement.
- *Regulatory Process*: Separating regulatory from EIR/EA issues continues to be a problem. The idea to form a regulatory working group as in the MGP process was raised. This working group working in parallel to the EIR could address regulatory issues and take them off the EIR table.

Parties were reminded that the comment deadline is July 11, 2007 and that the panel encourages parties to discuss any issues they may have outside the EIR process.

The meeting closed at approximately 10:45 hrs.

Participants

Steven Matthews	ENR, G.W.T.
Heather Funnell	De Beers
Paul Cobben	De Beers
Ed Huebert	De Beers
Lisa Hurley	Golden
SEV'S GULLS	TRADY #8 TRIBAL CORP.
MAXWELL MORAPELE.	De Beers.
Raymond Bourget	E.N.R., G.W.T. N. SLAVE
SARAH TRUÉ	ENR, G.W.T. South Slave, by phone
Tricia Melander-Ford.	INAC Communications
Aiyana Lajeunesse	INAC Environmental Assessment (EAC)
Mike Palmer	INAC Water Resources.
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
Bertha Rabasca-Zoe	Tlicho Government
Dan O'Neill	Regional Director, G.W.T.
Shaw Ellis	Truck & Corp
Chris Heron	NWT Metis
Stony Corvus	NSMA
Sarahs ?	G.W.T.

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