



**Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency**  
**Main Floor, Lahm Ridge Tower**  
**4501 Franklin Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 95, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1**  
**Phone: 867-765-0961 FAX: 867-765-0963**  
**Website: [www.slema.ca](http://www.slema.ca)**

Jen Potten  
Regulatory Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor – 4910 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
P.O.Box 2130  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

File: MV2001L2-0002

December 30, 2011

**RE: Starter Cell Spills 10-458 and 11-460**

Dear Ms. Potten,

The Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA) has reviewed the follow-up report for Spill 10-458 and spill report of Spill 11-460, and would like to provide the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) with the following comments.

Spill 10-458 and Spill 11-460 appear to share similarities. Water leaked from the North Pile towards Temporary Sump #4 (TS4), and cross the road towards TS4 access road, beyond the collection sump. Water was contained on the access road before the tundra. Similar mitigative measures were taken. However, those measures were temporary.

The follow-up report for Spill 10-458 identifies one possible longer term solution, i.e. rerouting the access road to increase the continuity of the ditch collection system. The solution appears not to have been implemented. As a result, similar spill reoccurred.

SLEMA believes that De Beers demonstrated a lack of due diligence in regards to Spill 11-460. SLEMA recommends that De Beers re-examine the design of water collection system of the North Pile, correct any defects, and prevent similar spills from occurring.

If you have any questions whatsoever please feel free to contact the undersigned or David White at 867-765-0961 / [dwhite@slema.ca](mailto:dwhite@slema.ca).



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Weyallon", is written on a light grey rectangular background.

Johnny Weyallon  
Chairperson