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YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2R3

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Mr. Johnny Weyallon  
Chairperson  
Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency  
P.O. Box 95  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 3C9

Dear Mr. Weyallon:

Thank you for your letter dated July 20, 2012 regarding a dedicated Inspector for the Snap Lake Mine Project (Project), and the decline in the frequency of inspections for this Project.

The Inspector who was dedicated to the Project requested a re-assignment from this file to the Diavik Diamond Mine Project and staffing efforts have been underway for some time to fill the void that was created.

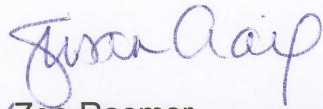
The Manager responsible has been seeking a properly qualified and motivated individual to replace the individual previously assigned to the Project. While the federal public service staffing process can at times seem slow, I am sure you will agree that it is very important to attract and select the best possible candidate for such an important position.

In the meantime, I agree that the matter has become more pressing with the recent water management issues. I wish to assure you that AANDC takes its responsibilities for the northern environment very seriously, and is committed to ensuring all activities take place in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Although there may be a decline in the number of inspections conducted at various stages of an operation, we ensure each operation is monitored in a careful and considered manner using a risk assessment process that has been developed over a number of years. This assessment process is used in a consistent manner to manage our inspection functions, and ensures due diligence has been followed. The number of inspections done for any given operation is determined by this process which we will continue to apply in a manner that ensures protection of the environment.

I continue to place great emphasis on the importance of maintaining an inspection presence at Snap Lake, and my staff is proceeding with the recruitment and selection process. We hope to conclude this process in the near future, and will ensure our new staff is introduced to your office when they take up their new duties.

Sincerely,



 Zoe Raemer  
A/ Regional Director General  
NT Region

cc: Annette Hopkins, Director, Operations