

January 6, 2012

**Sent By Email**

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
7th Floor, 4910-50th Avenue  
P.O. Box 2130  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2P6

Attention: Jen Potten and Marc Casas  
Regulatory Officers

Dear Ms. Potten and Mr. Casas:

**Re: MV2011L2-0002 - De Beers Canada Inc. ("De Beers") Response to Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency ("SLEMA") Letter of January 4, 2012**

We acknowledge receipt of SLEMA's letter to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, dated January 4, 2012, regarding chronic toxicity testing reports of treated mine effluent samples.

The issue of toxicity testing was discussed in detail during the course of the recent water license renewal hearing for the Snap Lake Mine and De Beers continues to support its response to Information Request #6 submitted in that proceeding. As reflected on the record, the chronic toxicity data are being closely monitored by De Beers. As new data are obtained, such as the testing results from 2011, they will be evaluated against previous data to determine whether any trends are occurring. They will also be evaluated against related chemistry data to attempt to determine any correlations that could provide information for investigative studies.<sup>1</sup>

De Beers has also agreed to conduct additional toxicity testing in the form of a 30-day rainbow trout egg/alvin test at the edge of the mixing zone, pursuant to Environment Canada Method EPS/1/RM/28. Environment Canada agreed that this is a reasonable test to begin with. Depending on the results, further investigations may be warranted.<sup>2</sup>

The results and evaluations of chronic toxicity tests will be made available to stakeholders and regulators for review and comment as per the requirements of the water license. Stakeholders and regulators are, of course, entitled to undertake their own examinations of the toxicity testing results as they consider appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> De Beers' Response to Information Request No. 18.

<sup>2</sup> Transcript of Water License Renewal Public Hearing, December 15, 2011, pages 119-120 and 130-131.





We believe that this approach is responsive to the recommendations made by SLEMA in its letter. Should you have any questions or concerns with respect to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,  
**DE BEERS CANADA INC.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Hood".

Alexandra Hood  
**Permitting and Environmental Superintendant**  
Snap Lake Mine

cc.	D. Putnam	De Beers
	M. Morapeli	De Beers
	M. Robinson	Golder
	P. Chapman	Golder
	M. Ignasiak	Oslers
	K. Murphy	Oslers
	D. White	SLEMA
	Z. Liu	SLEMA

