



**Main Floor Lahm Ridge Tower
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May 2, 2014

Scott Stewart
Regional Superintendent,
North Slave Regional Office
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest Territories
#16 Yellowknife Airport
Yellowknife NT X1A 3T2

RE: Dedicated Inspector for the Snap Lake Mine

Dear Mr. Stewart,

It has come to our attention that Mr. Patrick Kramers, dedicated inspector for the Snap Lake Mine, has left his position in April. Although we received a courtesy visit by Mr. Kramers a few weeks ago to inform SLEMA of his imminent departure, SLEMA and other interested parties were not officially notified by the GNWT Department of Lands that Mr. Kramers was leaving his post, and what interim measures were in place for the continuation of inspection services until a replacement would be in place.

As the public overseer for the Snap Lake Mine, SLEMA wishes to formally express its concerns regarding the lack of communication with SLEMA and other parties regarding this important development.

We are also concerned that GNWT may not allocate a dedicated inspector for the Snap Lake Mine as it was the case in the past when inspection was the responsibility of the Government of Canada. Not having a dedicated inspector is also particularly alarming at this time of the year close to the spring freshet when possible exceedance for some important parameters may take place. Compliance to the water license is critical at all times, but more so right now when De Beers is going through an environmental assessment for its water license amendment application following exceedance of Chloride levels in effluent in October 2013. We have also received sampling results for March 2014, which show Chloride levels in the Water Treatment Plant effluent (SNP 02-17B) approaching the Monthly Average Limit of 310 mg/l, and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) levels at the end of the mixing zone of Snap Lake (SNP Station 02-20) approaching Water License limit of 350 mg/l.



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We are also very concerned that we have not received any official inspection report since November 2013, even though Mr. Kramers gave our staff two informal briefings in the past six months, in November 2013, and again in February 2014.

Considering there are only a few operating mines in the NWT, SLEMA is of the opinion that each one of these mines must be inspected and monitored by a dedicated inspector, monthly at the very least, and more frequently during critical times of the year.

Inspection reports shall also be furnished to SLEMA and regulators in a timely fashion to ensure proper follow-up actions as required.

We are therefore seeking assurances that communication channels with SLEMA will remain open and transparent as they were in the past. We also would like a confirmation from the Department of Lands that a qualified inspector will be in place without delay, and that monthly inspections and timely reporting will resume quickly.

Because monitoring, inspection and compliance reporting by government and De Beers are essential to SLEMA's work, we are respectfully requesting the Department of Lands to attend SLEMA's next Board meeting on June 10, 2014, at 10:30 am at the SLEMA Office, to present to the Board its proposed inspection and compliance functions specific to the Snap Lake Mine, including measures to improve early disclosure and discussion of problems.

Sincerely

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director