

FEB 05 2015

Ms. Erica Bonhomme, Environment Manager  
Snap Lake Diamond Project  
De Beers Canada Inc.  
300, 5120 49<sup>th</sup> STREET  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1P8

Dear Ms. Bonhomme:

**De Beers Canada Inc. 2013 Snap Lake Environmental Agreement Annual Report**

On October 14, 2014 De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) distributed copies of the 2013 Snap Lake Environmental Agreement Annual Report (Annual Report) directly to Parties of the Environmental Agreement and the Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (Monitoring Agency) as per section 10.1(a) of the Snap Lake Environmental Agreement (the Agreement). A revised version was distributed by De Beers on October 30, 2014.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has received comments on the Annual Report from the Monitoring Agency (Annex 1) and Environment Canada (EC) (Annex 2), which are attached for your consideration. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) confirmed via email that they had no concerns with the report.

The GNWT acknowledges that De Beers responded to the comments and questions raised by the Monitoring Agency and EC (Annex 1 and 2) on December 10, 2014. The GNWT also acknowledges that on January 22, 2015 De Beers provided the GNWT with an updated summary of 2012 activities at Snap Lake, which fulfilled the requirement to provide a summary of operational activities during the preceding year (Article 10.1(c)(iii)).

The Annual Report can be deemed satisfactory once De Beers addresses the issues raised by the GNWT outlined below. The GNWT directs De Beers to provide a revised Annual Report or an addendum that:

- More comprehensively compares the results predicted in the environmental assessment to the actual performance of the Project for all environmental components. A more thorough rolling summary and analysis of environmental effects data over the life of the Project is needed to illustrate trends as required under Article 10.1(b) of the EA;

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- Provides a determination of effectiveness of mitigation measures, as required under Article 10.1(c)(viii). A list of mitigation measures is included in the Annual Report (Section 7) but an evaluation of effectiveness is also required.
- Provides a more comprehensive summary of public concerns and responses to public concerns, as required under Article 10.1(c)(x).
- Provides a comprehensive summary of the new technologies investigated, as required under Article 10.1(c)(xi). A list of new technologies being researched is included in the Annual Report (Section 10) but a summary of the technology and the outcome of the research are also required.
- Includes the Minister's comments on the previous Annual Report as required under Article 10.1(c)(xii). Section 1.2 of the Annual Report submitted by De Beers should describe how De Beers' responded to comments from the GNWT and Yellowknives Dene First Nation and reference the satisfactory determination from the Minister.

Annex 3 includes additional comments on the Annual Report that the GNWT would like De Beers to address.

Please provide a revised Annual Report or an addendum that addresses the issues noted above, by correspondence addressed to all Parties of the Agreement, within sixty days of receiving this letter.

If you have any questions about this process, including the deadlines, please contact Ms. Laurie McGregor at (867)873-7905 or [laurie.mcgregor@gov.nt.ca](mailto:laurie.mcgregor@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely,



Ernie Campbell  
Deputy Minister

Enclosure

ANNEX 1 - Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency comments on the 2013 Annual Report

ANNEX 2 – Environment Canada comments on the 2013 Annual Report

ANNEX 3 – GNWT comments on the 2013 Annual Report

c.: Grand Chief Edward Erasmus, Tlicho Government

Chief Felix Lockhart, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

Chief Edward Sangris (Dettah), Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Chief Ernest Betsina (N'dilo), Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Mr. Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance

Mr. Mohan Denetto, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Ms. Alexandra Hood, Environment and Permitting and Superintendent, Snap Lake Mine

Mr. Philippe di Pizzo, Executive Director, Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency

Ms. Loretta Ransom, A/Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada