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Northern Division
Environmental Protection Branch
Prairie and Northern Region
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Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board

File

MAY 25 2001

Application # MV2001L2-0006
MV2001F0032
Copied To ms/LB/Reg

May 25, 2001

Our File: 4780 005 002

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

By E-mail: laurie@mvlwb.com

Attention: Laurie Bruno

Re: BHP Diamonds Inc. - Sable Road Construction, Ekati Minesite - Water Licence
Application MV2001L2 and Land Use Permit Application MV2001F0032

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the documents relating to these applications (the Sable Haul Road Preliminary Design, and application materials). The following comments are offered for your consideration pursuant to Section 22 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*

The main concerns identified by EC which may be associated with construction of the road include stream crossings and the potential for generation of acidic drainage from the construction materials.

In their application and design document BHP has discussed mitigation measures for ensuring that stream crossings are installed such that sedimentation entering the stream channels is minimized. However, there is no discussion of monitoring. It is recommended that field turbidity meters be used to take measurements in areas downstream of construction, and that mitigation measures are readily available for use as necessary. With respect to determining which stream crossing locations are culverted, EC supports ground validation of the presence/absence of fish shortly after freshet (particularly SR5) before making final design decisions.

Run of mine rock is proposed for use for road construction. With respect to the potential for acid generation, the design report states that only rock which is considered benign will be used. Care will need to be taken to use only granite rock, avoiding kimberlite inclusion.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 669-4735 with any questions or comments regarding the foregoing.

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Yours truly,

m.a. Wilson

Anne Wilson
Water Pollution Specialist

cc: Steve Harbicht (Head, Assessment & Monitoring, EPB)
Paula Pacholek (Coordinator, A&M, EPB)