



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Environment Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
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Ph. (867) 669-4700

Dec. 22, 2005

Our File: 4780 026

Gabrielle Mackenzie Scott,
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 938,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

By Email & Facsimile: 766-7074

Re: Request for Referral to Environmental Assessment: Gahcho Kue Project – Mining and Milling of Diamonds – Type A Land Use Permit (MV2005C0032) and Type A Water Licence (MV2005L2-0015) Applications

Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the materials submitted in support of the above applications by De Beers Canada Inc., in the course of the Preliminary Screening stage of the regulatory process. Our role in this screening is based primarily on EC's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of Section 36 (3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA), the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA). The responsibility for the enforcement of these acts makes the Minister of the Environment a Responsible Minister (RM) under section 111 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.

As an RM contributing to the preliminary screening of the De Beers Canada Gahcho Kue applications, Environment Canada is of the opinion that the above noted project "might have significant adverse impacts on the environment" and, therefore, requests that an environmental assessment of the Gahcho Kue Project proposal be conducted.

Please do not hesitate to contact Anne Wilson at (867) 669-4735 or Mike Fournier at 669-4743 with any questions or comments regarding the foregoing.

Yours truly,

C.A (Chuck) Brumwell
Manager, Northern Division

CC: Peter Blackall (Regional Director, Environment Canada, Edmonton)
Stephen Harbicht (Head, Assessment and Monitoring Section, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)
Mike Fournier (Northern Assessment Co-ordinator, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)
Anne Wilson (Water Pollution Specialist, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)

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