

DE BEERS

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December 19, 2013

File: S110-04

Rebecca Chouinard
Regulatory Manager
Mackenzie Valley Land & Water Board
Box 2130
7th Floor, 4922 – 48th Street
Yellowknife NT X1A 2P6

Dear Ms. Chouinard:

**January 6, 2014 Gahcho Kué Information Session
on Fish Habitat Offsets Meeting & February 10 AEMP Workshop**

Information Session on Fish Habitat Offsets Meeting (Jan. 6, 2014 10AM-12PM)

De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) will be hosting a Gahcho Kué Information Session on Fish Habitat Offsets on January 6, 2014 from 10AM to 12PM. This session is a follow-up to the September 20, 2012 Fish Habitat Compensation Workshop and will precede the meeting hosted by the De Beers Snap Lake team. The session will be hosted from the De Beers Yellowknife Office (Main Boardroom) with conference call/web based access availability (see attached Agenda with meeting instructions).

The purpose of this session is to provide a general update on the Gahcho Kué Project with a focus on the No-Net Loss Plan and will include a presentation by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on current policies and regulations with respect to fish offsets.

Since the September 20, 2012 Fish Habitat Compensation Workshops, Parties have shared their ideas with De Beers on potential fish offset options for inclusion in the Gahcho Kué No Net Loss Plan. Maintaining our commitment to an open and transparent process, De Beers request that Parties also share this information openly with other Parties including DFO decision makers. It is our expectation that DFO will be able to provide clarification on how fish offsets are assessed in the context of the current policy. This information session will then be used to guide and finalize the Gahcho Kué No-Net Loss Plan.

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AEMP Workshop (February 10, 2014)

De Beers is proposing to host an Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Workshop in Yellowknife on February 10, 2014. This workshop is a follow-up to the March 25 & 26, 2013 AEMP workshop. The focus of the workshop will be on response framework, however De Beers would invite parties to provide suggestions on agenda topics. De Beers is proposing that this workshop precede the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) Gahcho Kué Technical Sessions, as noted in the draft work plan posted to the MVLWB public registry (<http://www.mvlwb.ca/Boards/mv/Registry/2005/MV2005C0032/MV2005C0032%20and%20MV2005L2-0015%20-%20De%20Beers%20Gahcho%20Kue%20-%20Work%20Plan%20-%20Dec10-13.pdf>), which is currently scheduled for February 10-12, 2014. De Beers is requesting that the MVLWB consider re-scheduling the Technical Sessions to February 11-13, 2014 to accommodate this workshop.

Consistent with De Beers' engagement policy, capacity funding will be provided to Aboriginal Parties to assist with elder and youth participation in this workshop.

A follow-up letter on the February 10, 2014 AEMP Workshop will be sent to regulators and Aboriginal Parties in mid-January, 2014, confirming the date, venue and agenda.

Should you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,



Veronica Chisholm
Permitting Manager

Attachment

c: Zabey Nevitt, Executive Director, MVLWB
Tyree Mullaney, Regulatory Officer, MVLWB