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Willard Hagen
Chair – Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board

File _____

JUN 25 2014

Application # MV2005L3-0015
Copied To HLR

June 24, 2014

**Re: Closing Arguments on the De Beers Gahcho Kue Project - Draft Water License v.2
(MV2005L3-0015)**

Dear Mr. Hagen,

The Deninu Kue First Nation (DKFN) is pleased to provide the following closing arguments with respect to the Water License for the Gahcho Kue Project. The DKFN continues to remain supportive of mining and development projects within our traditional territory, but we want to be clear that adverse environmental, economic, spiritual and cultural impacts to our members and traditional territory must be monitored and mitigated. For this to happen, the DKFN must be involved in the follow-up monitoring and management programs De Beers is required to conduct as part of the conditions of this license.

Throughout the environmental review and permitting processes we have acted in good faith that our concerns will be addressed and that our inherent right to hunt, fish, trap and gather in co-existence in our traditional territory will not be affected. We fully expect De Beers to support our involvement in Ni Hadi Yati and any other working groups (e.g., AEMP Working Group) that are formed to move the follow-up monitoring aspects of the project along. While our involvement is not specifically linked to a condition in the water license, the commitment to having the oversight group of Ni Hadi Yati in place was documented in the Report of the Environmental Assessment and it is our expectation that this be carried forth into the permitting stage.

Finally, the 20 year timeframe that De Beers is recommending for the water license term is too long. While this may be consistent with the MVRMA regulations, in reality it does not allow for the formal review of potential compliance issues that may arise during the term of the license. Based on lessons learned from compliance issues documented at the proponent's Snap Lake operation, it is clear that De Beers requires a higher level of scrutiny until it can demonstrate a proven track record in environmental compliance. A water license term of 5 to 8 years will allow for this level of scrutiny to occur.

We thank the MVLWB for the opportunity to be part of this permitting process and we look forward to our continual involvement in the Gahcho Kue Project.

Sincerely,



Chief Louis Balsillie

cc. Linda Vanden Berg, LVB Strategic Negotiations and Research _____
Marc d'Entremont, LGL Limited



Deninu K'ue First Nation

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: WILARD HAGEN FROM: CHIEF LOUIS BALSILLIE
COMPANY: MULWB DATE: JUNE 25, 2019
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RE: ~~RE:~~ GAM CHO KUE

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