



Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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Staff Report

Applicant: De Beers Canada Inc.	
Location: Snap Lake, NT	Application: MV2011L2-004
Date Prepared: February 9, 2018	Meeting Date: February 13, 2018
Subject: Modification to the Main Water Treatment Plant	

1. Purpose/Report Summary

The purpose of this Report is to present to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB/the Board) a notification from De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) to carry out a Modification to their Main Water Treatment Plant at the Snap Lake Project.

2. Background

- December 22, 2017 – Notification submitted to the Board;
- February 1, 2018 – Notification to commence work submitted to the Board;
- February 5, 2018 – Review commenced;
- February 7, 2018 – Letter of Authorization from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Inspector;
- February 12, 2018 – Reviewer comments and recommendations due and received; and
- **February 13, 2018 – Notification presented to the Board for acknowledgment.**

3. Discussion

On December 22, 2017, De Beers submitted a letter to the Board (attached) notifying of its plan to begin removing redundant infrastructure to prepare for the installation of a new reverse osmosis (RO) water treatment train. This new treatment system is designed to treat on-site surface water to meet the Effluent Quality Criteria (EQC) requirements in Water Licence (Licence) MV2011L2-0004. It is to be constructed within the existing footprint and adjacent to the current main water treatment plant and is anticipated to arrive at site and be installed by April 2018 in preparation for freshet 2018.

Modifications for Licence MV2011L2-0004 are not for Board approval if they satisfy Part J, condition 1, which states the following:

The Licensee may, without written approval from the Board, carry out Modifications to the Water supply and Waste disposal facilities provided that such Modifications are consistent with the terms of this Licence and the following requirements are met:

- a) *The Licensee has notified the Board and an Inspector in writing of such proposed Modifications at least sixty (60) days prior to beginning the Modifications;*
- b) *The Board has not, during the sixty (60) days following notification of the proposed Modifications, informed the Licensee that review of the proposal will require more than sixty (60) days;*
- c) *The Board has not rejected the proposed Modifications; and*
- d) *An Inspector has authorized the proposed Modifications and provided a letter of notification to the Board.*

Based on De Beers' submission date for this modification (December 22, 2017), the 60-day timeline referred to in the above condition leads to February 20, 2018. However, on February 1, 2018, De Beers submitted a subsequent letter to the Board (attached) notifying of its plan to commence the activities involved in this modification on February 21, 2018.

On February 7, 2018, the GNWT Inspector submitted a letter to the Board authorizing the proposed modification (attached). This notification letter satisfies Part J, condition 1(d) of Licence MV2011L2-0004.

4. Comments

Modifications are distributed for public review on a case by case basis. As questions regarding the newly proposed treatment plant arose during the recent review of the Extended Care and Maintenance Plan (Version 2), Board staff distributed this notification for a quick review.

5. Reviewer Comments

By February 12, 2018, comments and recommendations on the Modification notification were received from Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA). The Review Summary and Attachments (attached) presents the questions identified through the review.

6. Security

The GNWT currently holds \$39,066,247.00 in reclamation security for the Snap Lake Mine under Licence MV2011L2-0004, and \$21,335,671.00 under Permits MV2010D0053 and MV2014D0010, which Board staff understands is to be transferred and held under Permit MV2017D0032, which the Board issued October 12, 2017.

7. Conclusion

Board staff conclude that the notification can be considered a Modification as defined in Licence MV2011L2-0004, there are no outstanding concerns, and that Part J, item 1 has been satisfied.

8. Recommendation

Board staff recommend the Board acknowledge and accept the proposed Modification to the main water treatment plant at Snap Lake Mine.

A draft letter is attached for the Board's consideration.

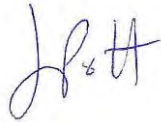
9. Attachments

- [Notification of Modification – December 22, 2017](#)
- [Notification to commence work on Modification – February 1, 2018](#)
- [Authorization Letter from the GNWT Inspector – February 7, 2018](#)
- Review Summary and Attachments
- Draft Acknowledgement Letter from the Board

Respectfully submitted,



Kierney Leach
Technical Regulatory Specialist



Jen Potten
Regulatory Coordinator

Review Comment Table

Board:	MVLWB
Review Item:	De Beers Canada Inc. - Notification of Main Water Treatment Plant Modification (MV2011L2-0004)
File(s):	MV2011L2-0004
Proponent:	De Beers Canada Inc. - Snap Lake
Document(s):	Notification of Water Treatment Plant Upgrade (0.4MB) Notification for Commencement of Work (0.1MB) Authorization Letter from the GNWT-Lands Inspector (0.4MB)
Item For Review Distributed On:	Feb 5 at 10:48 Distribution List
Reviewer Comments Due By:	Feb 12, 2018
Proponent Responses Due By:	Feb 16, 2018
Item Description:	<p>On December 22, 2017, De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) Snap Lake submitted a Notification Letter to the Board indicating that early modification work will begin to its Main Water Treatment Plant to prepare for the installation of a new water treatment train prior to freshet 2018. This notification is required as per Part J, item 1a of Licence MV2011L2-0004. Please note that if Part J, item 1 is satisfied, Modifications do not require Board approval.</p> <p>Reviewers are invited to submit any questions they may have on the Notificaiton by Monday February 12, 2018 at 5pm MST. The review has been set for a 1-week period, rather than the standard 3-week review period, due to the minimal content of this review item.</p> <p>All documents that have been uploaded to this review are also available on our public registry. If you have any questions or comments regarding this submission or using the Online Review System, please contact Kierney Leach at 867-766-7470 or kleach@mvlwb.com.</p>
General Reviewer Information:	<p>In addition to the email distribution list, the following organizations received review materials by fax:</p> <p>Fort Resolution Métis Council - Trudy King (867) 394-3322</p> <p>Hay River Metis Council - Trevor Beck, President (867) 874-4472</p> <p>NWT Metis Nation - Tim Heron, NWTMN IMA Coordinator (867) 872-3586</p>

Contact Information:	Jacqueline Ho 867-766-7465 Jen Potten 867-766-7468 Kierney Leach 867-766-7470
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Comment Summary

GNWT - ENR: Central Email GNWT				
ID	Topic	Reviewer Comment/Recommendation	Proponent Response	Board Staff Response
1	General File	Comment (doc) ENR Letter - No Comment or Recommendations at this time. Recommendation		No analysis required.
Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency - SLEMA: Zhong Liu				
ID	Topic	Reviewer Comment/Recommendation	Proponent Response	Board Staff Response
1	Comments from SLEMA	Comment No concerns are raised. The cautionary note of the Inspector in his Authorization about the Brine by-product is supported. Recommendation The installation of the Reverse Osmosis system is supported.		No analysis required.



February 13, 2018

Jen Potten
Regulatory Officer
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor – 4910 50th Avenue
P.O. Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P6

Dear Ms. Potten,

**Re: DeBeers – Snap Lake
Water Licence – MV2011L2-0004
Notification of Main Water Treatment Plant Modification
Request for Comment**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories has reviewed the notification at reference based on its mandated responsibilities under the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Forest Management Act*, the *Forest Protection Act*, the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, the *Waters Act* and the *Wildlife Act* and has no comments or recommendations for the consideration of the Board at this time.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Clancy, Environmental Regulatory Analyst at (867) 767-9233 Ext: 53096 or email patrick.clancy@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Patrick Clancy
Environmental Regulatory Analyst
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Section
Conservation, Assessment and Monitoring Division
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories