1. Purpose
The purpose of this Report is to present to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB/the Board) a request to extend the submission deadline for the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan (FCRP) submitted by De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers).

2. Background
- June 14, 2012 – Issuance of Licence MV2011L2-0004 (replacing Licence MV2001L2-0002);
- December 4, 2015 – Snap Lake enters Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM);
- October 12, 2017 – Issuance of Permit MV2017D0032 (replacing Permits MV2010D0053 and MV2014D0010);
- December 14, 2017 – De Beers advises the Board that they will close Snap Lake Mine and requests to not submit an updated Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP) and instead submit a FCRP;
- June 20, 2018 – Permit MV2017D0032 amended to remove the ICRP version 4 requirement; the Board directs De Beers to submit a FCRP by January 30, 2018 in place of ICRP Version 4;
- December 21, 2018 – De Beers requests extension to FCRP submission deadline;
- January 17, 2019 – De Beers extension request presented to the Board for decision;
- January 30, 2019 – Current due date for submission of FCRP;
- March 29, 2019 – Proposed submission date for FCRP, requested by De Beers;
- June 13, 2020 – Expiration of Licence MV2011L2-0004; and
- October 11, 2022 – Expiration of Permit MV2017D0032.

3. Discussion
Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan - Submission History and Regulatory Requirements
Version 3.2 of the ICRP was approved by the Board January 30, 2014, with the next submission due 3 years later (January 30, 2017) (attached). On August 17, 2016, De Beers submitted a request to extend the submission deadline of ICRP Version 4; the Board approved this extension on September 23, 2016 and set a new submission date of January 30, 2018 (attached).
On December 14, 2017, De Beers submitted a letter notifying the Board they are preparing for the final closure of the Snap Lake Mine (attached). In this letter De Beers requested they not file the ICRP (Version 4) and proposed to submit a Final Closure Plan (FCRP) in 2019 instead.

The ICRP is required under Part I, condition 1 of Licence MV2011L2-0004, and Condition 71 of Permit MV2017D0032. Upon Issuance, Condition 71 of Permit MV2017D0032 originally stated the following:

The Permittee shall submit to the Board for approval, by January 30, 2018, an Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan. Revisions to the Plan shall be submitted to the Board, for approval, every 3 years after the date of approval, or as directed by the Board.

This non-standard condition was included in Permit MV2017D0032 so that the next version of the ICRP could be reviewed and considered concurrently under both the Licence MV2011L2-0004 and Permit MV2017D0032 authorizations. On February 22, 2018, the Board deferred its decision on De Beers’ request to not file the ICRP version 4 until De Beers applied to amend Condition 71 of Permit MV2017D0032. The Board amended Condition 71 on June 20, 2018 and concurrently approved the FCRP submission deadline for January 30, 2019 (attached). Condition 71 of Permit MV2017D0032 now states the following:

The Permittee shall adhere to the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan, once approved. Revisions to the Plan shall be submitted to the Board, for approval, every 3 years after the date of approval, or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Final Closure and Reclamation Plan

The FCRP is required by Conditions 72 and 73 of Permit MV2017D0032 (this is also the exact wording in Part I, conditions 3 and 4 of Licence MV2011L2-0004 as well), as follows:

72. The Permittee shall, submit to the Board, a minimum of 24 months prior to the end of operations, for approval, a Final Closure and Reclamation Plan.

73. The Permittee shall act in accordance with the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan, once approved, and shall submit revisions to the Plan as directed by the Board.

Submission Description

In its December 21, 2018 letter (attached) De Beers indicated that they have developed a FCRP including technical aspects such as the final cover and reclamation designs, and engagement with Indigenous partners. However, despite their efforts at finalizing the FCRP for submission on January 30, 2019, De Beers has not yet received the internal review required to ensure proposed expenditures in the FCRP are approved. This internal review of the FCRP is scheduled for January – February 2019. Therefore, De Beers is requesting an extension on the submission deadline for the FCRP of 58 days, until March 29, 2019, to accommodate this internal review.

4. Comments

Board staff have participated in the technical workshops conducted by De Beers in their development of the FCRP and confirm that the FCRP process is well advanced.

5. Public Review

This Request for extension of submission deadline has not undergone public review as this deadline was determined by the Board and does not form part of the Licence or Permit.
6. Security

The status of reclamation security for this Project will not be affected by the Board’s decisions related to the FCRP.

7. Conclusion

As the Snap Lake Mine remains in extended care and maintenance under an approved ECM Plan (Version 3), and associated management plans, there is adequate oversight in effect at Snap Lake until the FCRP is finalized and submitted to the Board for a public review process and ultimate decision.

8. Recommendation

Board staff recommend the Board make a motion to approve the request to extend the submission deadline of the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan for Snap Lake Water Licence MV2011L2-0004 and Land Use Permit MV2017D0032 until **March 29, 2019**.

A draft decision letter is attached.

9. Attachments

- Board decision — ICRP Version 3.2 – Approved – January 30, 2014
- Board decision — Extension to submission of ICRP Version 4 – Approved – September 23, 2016
- De Beers notification of final closure – December 14, 2017
- Board decision – Permit amendment and extension to FCRP deadline – June 20, 2018
- De Beers request to extend FCRP submission deadline – December 21, 2018
- Draft Decision Letter from the Board

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

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