



Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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June 19, 2018

File: MV2005C0032
MV2005L2-0015

Ms. Sarah McLean
Environment and Permitting Manager
De Beers Canada Inc.
Suite 300 – 1601 Airport Road NE
Airport Corporate Center
Calgary, AB T2E 6Z8

Email: Sarah.McLean@debeersgroup.com

Dear Ms. McLean:

Information Request Responses – Outstanding Information
Gahcho Kué Project – Kennady Lake, NT

On June 14, 2018, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB or Board) staff received De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) responses to the Information Requests (IR) recorded at the May 30 and 31, 2018 Technical Sessions regarding the March Amendment Applications for the Gahcho Kué Project. Board staff have determined that further clarification on the responses is required before the Board can continue with the regulatory process. Please note that no new information is being requested. The follow outlines the outstanding questions to the response to IRs:

IR 1:

De Beers will endeavor to evaluate and propose Effluent Quality Criteria for the water licence amendment, for the discharge of Area 7 to Area 8 when a certain percentage (to be described in the evaluation) of Water Management Pond water is stored in Area 7 as a water storage contingency.

Further clarification requested:

- 1) Tables 1-8 and 1-9 are slightly different. What are the EQCs that De Beers is proposing to be discharged from Area 7 to Area 8 to be considered by the Board?
- 2) The EQCs in Tables 1-8 and 1-9 are equal to or below the site-specific water quality objective, with the exception of Nitrate. Please clarify.
- 3) Is De Beers proposing to have this new set of EQCs for all discharges from Area 7 to Area 8 under all circumstances? Or are these EQCs specific to the contingency option as described? In any case, is there a problem with having an EQC for all the parameters for discharge of water from Area 7 to Area 8 instead of just copper (as originally proposed)?

- 4) Are the values in Tables 1-6 and 1-7 based on 100% water transferred from the Water Management Pond to Area 7 under the contingency option as described? Does this consider the worst-case scenarios for Water Management Pond water quality?
- 5) In the title of the figures 1-1 to 1-8, it references discharge from the Water Management Pond; however, the graphs appear to illustrate water discharged from Area 7 to Area 8. Please clarify.
- 6) The dates on the x-axis of figures 1-1 to 1-8 reference discharge dates that are a year different than in the narrative response. Please clarify.

IR 3:

De Beers will endeavor to confirm that (1) the Effluent Quality Criteria proposed for discharge to Lake N11 will be achievable in Year 5, and (2) that under the Year 5 discharge conditions, the modeled predictions in Lake N11 will be within the Site- Specific Water Quality Objectives.

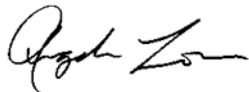
Further clarification requested:

- 1) Was the accumulation of contaminants over time in Lake N11 accounted for in the graphs presented in figures 3-1 to 3-10?

Please submit the outstanding information to the Board, as outlined above, by **June 20, 2018**. In order to allow parties sufficient time to review this information for consideration as part of their interventions, the current deadline to submit interventions will be extended from June 25, 2018 to **June 27, 2018**. The proponent responses to interventions deadline will also be extended from July 3, 2018 to **July 5, 2018**. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered as part of this proceeding or may result in delays to the regulatory process if De Beers or reviewers request, and the Board decides, the information is necessary for the hearing process.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact me at (867) 766-7456 or email angela.love@mvlwb.com.

Sincerely,



Angela Love
Regulatory Specialist

Copied to: Distribution List

Attachment: Work Plan V.5