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July 22, 2020

File: MV2005L2-0015

William Liu
Regulatory Specialist
De Beers Canada Inc.
Suite 300 – 1601 Airport Road NE
Airport Corporate Centre
CALGARY, AB T2E 6Z8

Sent via E-mail

Dear William Liu:

Re: De Beers Gahcho Kue Mine AEMP Re-evaluation Report and AEMP Design Plan Version 6 – AEMP Technical Workshop

On December 13, 2019, De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) submitted an Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Re-evaluation Report and updated AEMP Design Plan, Version 6, (AEMP submissions) for the Gahcho Kue Mine to fulfill Part I, condition 4 and 5 of Water Licence (Licence) MV2005L2-0015. The AEMP submissions were distributed for review on December 18, 2019. Reviewer comments were submitted by February 5, 2020, and proponent responses were submitted by April 4, 2020. De Beers has proposed a substantial number of changes through the AEMP submissions, including modifying the baseline data, adjusting the normal range calculations, updating Action Levels, as well as identifying the need for updated EIS predictions.

On March 19, 2020, De Beers submitted an application to amend Licence MV2005L2-0015. The 2020 amendment application includes proposed changes to Effluent Quality Criteria and site-specific water quality objectives, which could have implications for AEMP benchmarks in the AEMP Design Plan. A Technical Session was held from July 7, 2020 to July 9, 2020 for the 2020 amendment application.

Upon assessing reviewer comments and proponent responses on the AEMP submissions and discussions during the July 7-9, 2020 Technical Session for the 2020 amendment application, Board staff have determined that further discussion is required regarding the AEMP submissions. As per the *MVLWB/GNWT Guidelines for Aquatic Effects Monitoring Programs*, the review process may include technical workshops, in addition to normal written comments and recommendations from parties, to resolve outstanding concerns of the AEMP submissions. Board staff have identified the following main topics that require further discussion:

- Including 2015 and 2016 monitoring data as baseline data;
- Proposed changes to action levels;
- Updated EIS predictions including qualitative predictions for Raised Lakes D2/D3; and
- Implications of 2020 amendment application on AEMP Design Plan.

Board staff are proposing a virtual technical workshop, consisting of three half-days, to discuss the main topics identified above. The options for dates are as follows:

- Option 1: October 27-29, 2020
- Option 2: November 3-5, 2020
- Option 3: November 17-19, 2020

Please respond with De Beers' availability for the AEMP Technical Workshop by **August 7, 2020**. If you have any questions regarding the AEMP Technical Workshop, please feel free to contact Angela Love at (867) 766-7456 or email at angela.love@mvlwb.com or Jacqueline Ho at (867) 766- 7455 or email at jho@mvlwb.com.

Sincerely,



Chris Hotson
Regulatory Manager

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