



**Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board**  
**7th Floor - 4922 48th Street**  
**P.O. Box 2130**  
**YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P6**  
**Phone (867) 669-0506**  
**FAX (867) 873-6610**

February 1, 2018

File: MV2005L2-0015

Ms. Alex Hood, Regulatory Specialist  
De Beers Canada Inc.  
Suite 300, 5120 – 49<sup>th</sup> Street,  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 1P8

Email: Alexandra.Hood@debeersgroup.com

Dear Ms. Hood:

### **Re N11 Discharge Toxicity Test Results**

On January 29, 2018<sup>1</sup>, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (the Board) was notified of De Beers Gahcho Kue Mine N11 discharge toxicity test results for SNP 20 in pursuant of Water Licence MV2005L2-0015. The toxicity tests results of SNP 20 indicated that an adverse effect was observed on fathead minnows. Board staff notes De Beers' reference to Licence MV2005L2-0015 Part G, condition 33 in its January 29, 2018 letter:

Water or Waste from the Project that enters the Receiving Environment, including Discharges from SNP station 02 and 04, shall not be acutely toxic as determined by the acute toxicity tests described in Part B of the attached Surveillance Network Program.

Board Staff note that toxicity testing requirements are described in Licence MV2005L2-0015 Annex A, Part B of the Surveillance Network Program (SNP), footnote (g).

Board staff understand that in order to determine whether the adverse effect is caused by sporadic morality phenomenon, De Beers has proposed to include an additional treatment by adding 20 µg/L of copper (Cu). Board staff notes the effectiveness of the proposed additional test on Fathead Minnow is pending, and that De Beers will be reporting the toxicity test results in the Monthly SNP. Board staff note MV2005L2-0015, Part B, conditions:

5. The Licensee shall comply with the Schedules, which are annexed to and form part of this Licence, and any amendments to the Schedules as may made from time to time by the Board.
6. The Licensee shall implement the Surveillance Network Program, which is annexed to and forms part of this Licence, and any amendment to the Surveillance Network Program as may be made from time to time by the Board.

<sup>1</sup> MVLWB Public Registry ([www.mvlwb.com](http://www.mvlwb.com)). [N11 Discharge Toxicity Test Notification – Jan 29 18](#).

7. The Schedules, the Surveillance Network Program, and any compliance dates specified in this Licence may be amended at the discretion of the Board. If any compliance dates for the submission of a plan, report, or program falls on a weekend or holiday, the plan, report, or program shall be submitted on the following business day.

If De Beers is proposing to change the requirements of toxicity testing as described in the SNP (Annex A, Part B, footnote (g)), any proposed changes to the SNP must be submitted to the Board for approval.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angela Love at (867) 766-456 or e-mail [angela.love@mvlwb.com](mailto:angela.love@mvlwb.com) or Jacqueline Ho at (867) 766-7465 or e-mail [jho@mvlwb.com](mailto:jho@mvlwb.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Ho', written over a horizontal line.

Jacqueline Ho  
Regulatory Specialist  
MVLWB

Copied to: Joe Heron, Resource Management Officer, GNWT – Lands