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June 14, 2018

Your files Votre référence
MV2005L2-0015

Our file Notre référence
03-HCAA-CA6-00057

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Attention: Angela Love

7th Floor, 4922 48th St.

P.O. Box 2130

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

Dear Angela Love,

Subject: De Beers Gahcho Kue - May 2018 Amendment Application - Camp Water Use (MV2005L2-0015) (MVLWB)

The Fisheries Protection Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO-FPP) would like to thank the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) for the opportunity to provide comments on De Beers' (the Proponent) May 2018 Amendment Application for the Gahcho Kue Project. As outlined in the draft work plan provided on the Online Review System, reviewers are invited to submit final interventions for the May 2017 amendment applications to the MVLWB by June 14, 2018.

As stated on the MVLWB Online Review System: "On May 2, 2018 De Beers submitted a second amendment application for Water Licence (Licence) MV2005L2-0015, to increase water use. Specifically, De Beers is requesting to amend Schedule 3, Part D, condition 1b from 27,000 m³ to 35,000 m³." DFO-FPP notes that this (second) amendment is for a temporary increase in water allowance as stated in De Beers' letter to the MVLWB 'Request for Bridging Amendment for Temporary Increase in Water Allowance – Schedule 3 Water License (MV2005L2-0015): "De Beers is requesting a temporary amendment which would apply only until the permanent amendment is issued by the Board." DFO-FPP also notes that under Schedule 3, Part D, condition 1a of Water Licence MV2005L2-0015, De Beers was permitted to withdraw 60,000 (sixty thousand) cubic meters (m³) annually, during the operational phase of Construction.

DFO-FPP has reviewed De Beers' proposal in regards to its mandate to maintain the sustainability and ongoing productivity of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries and has no comments at this time with respect to the May 2018 Amendment Application for temporary increased water use. However, DFO-FPP notes that any comments regarding the longer-term water use will be incorporated in DFO's interventions for the March 2018 Water Licence amendment applications due to the Board on June 25, 2018.

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If you or any other parties have any questions, please contact Laura Watkinson at 867-669-4920, or by email at Laura.Watkinson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark D'Aguiar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mark D'Aguiar
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Copy: Laura Watkinson, DFO