

DE BEERS GROUP

May 7, 2019

File: L020

Malcolm Jaeb
True North Safaris Ltd.

Dear Mr. Jaeb

Re: Snap Lake Mine Closure Plans

On 1 May 2019, Angela Love of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) received an email from you regarding the Snap Lake Mine Closure plans; this email was subsequently forwarded to De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) for comment. De Beers would like to thank you for your interest in the Snap Lake Mine and for the time you took to share your concerns and questions with us. We are pleased to provide some additional information to you on the topics you addressed in your email, namely Snap Lake Mine closure, environmental monitoring, and the potential to work together in the future.

As you know, the Snap Lake Mine (the Mine) is a former underground diamond mine operated by De Beers, located about 220 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. The Snap Lake Mine operated from 2008 to 2015, when De Beers put the Mine into a temporary closure phase called Extended Care and Maintenance (ECM). At the beginning of 2017, with regulatory approvals in place, the underground workings of the Mine were allowed to flood with ground water. In December 2017, De Beers announced the Mine would enter into Final Closure. On 29 March 2019, the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan (FCRP) for the Mine was submitted to the MVLWB. In combination with the FCRP application, De Beers also submitted an application for a renewed Type A water licence to support the planned activities for the closure and post-closure phases outlined and described in the FCRP. Until we receive our updated water licence and approval of the Final Closure Plan, the site will remain in ECM.

Your email mentioned that the lodge might be a good location to use to support our environmental monitoring programs. We thank you for bringing this to our attention and for your hospitable offer to find cost savings by basing crews out of the MacKay Lake Lodge where possible. The Mine site and associated infrastructure (e.g., various buildings, water management structures, water treatment plant, roadways, an airstrip, and fuel storage facilities) are still in place and are used by De Beers to support maintenance of the site during ECM. The site is also fully equipped with a laboratory and equipment appropriate to the nature and scale of our environmental monitoring programs.

For the time being, while we still have the Snap Lake Mine site, we plan to base our monitoring from the Mine Site. This works well as most of our monitoring stations are fairly close to the Mine site. We will however remain open to finding opportunities to work with local operations such as yours in the future. De Beers follows a process to procure services from a variety of

De Beers Canada inc.

1601 Airport Road NE Suite 300 Calgary Alberta T2E 6Z8
Tel + 1 403 930 0991 | www.debeersgroup.com/canada | info.canada@debeersgroup.com
Incorporated in Canada | Registration number 889569596

A member of the Anglo American plc group

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vendors. Please contact Procurement.Canada@debeersgroup.com for further information on the process.

Your email also referred to your observations of changes to caribou populations and fish populations in the area over the years.

De Beers has developed and implemented many environmental monitoring programs including wildlife, aquatic effects, air quality, vegetation, soils, and water quality including the monitoring of Mackay Lake. These programs were developed to address specific measures, commitments, and conditions of our licences and permits, but also to address general stakeholder interests and concerns raised throughout the various regulatory processes and engagement conducted. Reports summarizing the monitoring results from these programs are provided regularly (monthly to annually) for public review and comment and can be found on the MVLWB Public Registry.

Caribou are monitored through the movements of satellite collared animals, observations by employees at the Mine, and with aerial surveys by helicopter when the trigger number of groups within the regional study area is observed. Analysis of data from the satellite collared animals indicated low levels of interaction with the Mine and the caribou. Fish and their aquatic habitat are monitored through surveys of Snap Lake and the downstream environment (to MacKay Lake). Results of the studies have indicated that water quality has changed but that concentrations in MacKay Lake are within the range of natural variability and fish from Snap Lake are in good health.

De Beers continues to be committed to ensuring a high standard in environmental performance at all of our mine sites, whether the mine is in operations, care and maintenance, or closure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact me at (403) 464-2596 or via email at colleen.prather@debeersgroup.com.

Kind regards,



Colleen Prather, Ph.D., P.Biol.
Regulatory Specialist

Cc: Angela Love, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Violet Camsell-Blondin, Tlicho Government
Gary Jaeb, Mackay Lake Lodge
Sarah McLean, De Beers Canada
Michelle Peters, De Beers Canada

Angela Love

From: Prather, Colleen <Colleen.Prather@debeersgroup.com>
Sent: May-07-19 12:56 PM
To: maljaeb@gmail.com
Cc: gary@truenorthsafaris.com; Angela Love; Violet Camsell-Blondin; McLean, Sarah; Peters, Michelle
Subject: RE: Re: True North Safaris / Mackay Lake Lodge
Attachments: 2019-05-07_LET-TrueNorth-MackayLodge_SnapLake.pdf

Hello Malcolm

Angela from the MVLWB forwarded to us your email with concerns and questions on Snap Lake Mine closure, environmental monitoring, and the potential to work together in the future. We thank you for your interest. Attached please find a letter addressing your concerns and questions.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards, Colleen

Colleen Prather, Ph.D., P.Biol.
Regulatory Specialist, De Beers Group
Cell: (403) 464-2596

From: Angela Love <angela.love@mvlwb.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:49 PM
To: Prather, Colleen <Colleen.Prather@debeersgroup.com>
Subject: FW: Re: True North Safaris / Mackay Lake Lodge

Hi Colleen,

Please see the below email that was received from Gary Jaeb of True North Safaris/Mackay Lake Lodge.

Regards,
Angela

Angela Love, EP

Regulatory Specialist
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor, 4922 48th St. | PO Box 2130 | Yellowknife, NT | Canada | X1A 2P6
ph 867.766.7456 | fax 867.873.6610
angela.love@mvlwb.com | www.mvlwb.com

Please note: All correspondence to the Board, including emails, letters, faxes, and attachments are public documents and may be posted to the Public Registry.



From: gary jaeb <gary@truenorthsafaris.com>

Sent: May-01-19 12:23 PM

To: Angela Love <angela.love@mvlwb.com>; violetcamsellblondin@tlichocom; MALCOLM JAEB <maljaeb@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Re: True North Safaris / Mackay Lake Lodge

From; MALCOLM JAEB <maljaeb@gmail.com>

To; Angela Love MVLWB

Snapp Lake Mine closure plans. May 1, 2013

We are asking the MVLWB consider our request to be involved in the monitoring programs and activities and to pass on our request to DeBeers and the consultants and agencies that are developing and delivering these plans.

My name is Malcolm Jaeb and I am the President of True North Safaris. I am a Tlichó citizen and spent my summers and falls on the land with our Tlichó/Dene friends and relatives. I have been guiding and helping manage the Lodge/Outfitter programs since I was a very young teenager. I have a Business Management Certificate from Red Deere College and I am a Nationally Certified Wilderness guide.

Mackay Lake Lodge was started by the Lou Rocher family in 1983 and was acquired by True North Safaris group of companies in 1989

True North Safaris [Ltd.now](http://www.true-north-safaris.com) owns and operates Mackay Lake Lodge, which is located on the south shore, about half way along the 100 mile long lake.

The ice road that services the mines on Lac De Gras and Kennedy Lake/Gah Cho Kwe' passes by the Lodge and from there we could see the lights from the Snapp Lake diamond mine when it was in operation. (during the darkness of winter).

The wildlife and fish have been affected by the mining and trucking and increased aircraft activity around us. We have witnessed the changes in the caribou migrations and summer ranges, and we have caught what appeared to be damaged/poisoned fish in the King River waters.

The Mackay Lake Lodge is about 5 Kilometers down stream from the mouth of the King River which flows into Mackay Lake and carries the run off from the Snapp Lake mine.

Mackay Lake Lodge could be the centre for much of the monitoring activities including water sampling.

Using some of our staff and scheduled flights and lodge accommodations and equipment could be very cost beneficial compared to helicoptering boats and staff

We have in the past used inflatable boats and paddled and portaged into the rivers and lakes to Snapp Lake. Winter snowmobile access from the lodge is facilitated with ice road /driving access from Yellowknife

The lodge has a 3500 foot gravel runway with equipment and repair shop and has accommodations, meals and conference facilities for meetings, workshops and training seminars.

The lodge and our staff have been including Dene culture and the barren land environment and wildlife

in our tourism programs and we have worked with exploration and mining companies in the past

Gary Jaeb is the General Manager and should be copied on any/all correspondence

Truly, Malcolm Jaeb

President, True North Safaris Ltd

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