



#16 Yellowknife Airport  
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2 June, 1999

Your file Votre référence

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 938  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Our file Notre référence  
**N1999C0046**

**ATTENTION: Ms. Heidi Klein**  
**Executive Director**

Dear Ms. Klein:

**Re: Preliminary Screening Report - Land Use Application N1999C0046**  
**BHP Diamonds Inc. - Mineral Exploration - Lac de Gras**

I am enclosing a preliminary screening report regarding the above captioned land use permit application. I am also enclosing a copy of the application, and the consultation responses received, as well as a copy of the notice provided the Board that I was undertaking this preliminary screening.

I intend to issue this permit on Thursday, 10 June, unless I have heard that the Board has chosen, on its own motion, to conduct an environmental assessment of this proposal.

Yours truly,

Edward R. Hornby  
Land Use Administrator  
South Mackenzie District

COE/

## PRELIMINARY SCREENING REPORT FORM

Preliminary Screening Reference / File Number: N1999C0046

Title: Land Use Administrator

Organization: DIAND - South Mackenzie District

EIRB Reference Number: Unknown

Type of Development: (Check all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Development Amend, EIRB Ref. #: Renew, EIRB Ref. #:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requires permit, license or authorization Does not require permit, license or authorization
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Principal Activities (related to scoping)  
(Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning
<input type="checkbox"/> Installation	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial
<input type="checkbox"/> Expansion	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal	<input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camp
<input type="checkbox"/> Repair	<input type="checkbox"/> Linear/Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Research
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewage	<input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Principal Development Components (related to scoping)  
(Check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access Road (winter)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> construction	disposal of hazardous waste
<input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> waste generation
<input type="checkbox"/> modification, eg. widening, straightening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disposal of Sewage

Principal Development Components (*related to scoping*) - cont'd

	Blasting	X	Geo scientific Sampling
	Building		trenching
X	Burning	X	diamond drill/reverse circulation
	Burying		borehole core sampling
	Channelling		Bulk soil sampling
	Cut and Fill		Gravel
	Cutting of Trees/Removal of Vegetation		Hydrological Testing
	Dams and Impoundments	X	Site Restoration
	construction	X	fertilization
	abandonment/removal		grubbing
	modification	X	planting/seeding
	Ditch Construction		reforestation
	Drainage Alteration		scarify
	Drilling other than Geo scientific		spraying
	Ecological Surveys		re contouring
	Excavation		Slashing and removal of vegetation
	Explosive Storage		Soil Testing
X	Fuel Storage		Stream Crossing/Bridging
	Topsoil, Overburden or Soil		Tunnelling/Underground
	fill		Other:
	removal		
	disposal		
	storage		

**NTS Topographic Map Sheet Numbers:**  
(List all that Apply)

**NTS Map Sheet Number(s):** 76 C/12, 76D/9,10,11,14,15,16

**Latitude/Longitude and UTM System:** 64°47' N 110°47W

**Nearest Community:** Snare Lake

**Nearest Waterbody:** Lac de Gras

**Land Status (consultation information)**  
(Check all that apply)

Free Hold / Private

Commissioner's Land

X Federal Crown Land

Municipal Land

**Trans-boundary Implications**  
(Check all that apply - if known and applicable)

British Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Yukon

Nunavut

Wood Buffalo National Park

Inuvialuit Settlement  
Region

**Type of Trans-boundary Implication:**

Impact/Effect

Development

Public Concern:(*describe*)

**PHYSICAL - CHEMICAL EFFECTS**

**1. Ground Water**

water table alteration

water quality changes

infiltration changes

other:

X N/A

**2. Surface Water**

- X low level changes
- X water quality changes
- water quantity changes
- drainage pattern changes
- temperature
- wetland changes/loss
- other:
- N/A

Fuel cache and drill and camp waste have the potential to contaminate local surface waters. Standard operating conditions for fuel storage and sewage and drill waste disposal will eliminate this potential.

**3. Noise**

- X noise increase
- noise in/near water
- other:
- N/A

Noise, sound and emissions may temporarily disturb wildlife. These are however, all low impact, localized and over a short duration. No significant effects would occur.

**4. Land**

- geological structure changes
- soil contamination
- buffer zone loss
- soil compaction and settling
- destabilisation / erosion
- permafrost regime alteration
- other:
- X N/A

**5. Non Renewable Natural Resources**

- resource depletion
- other:
- X N/A

**6. Air / Climate / Atmosphere**

X Other:  
N/A

Use of small generators, vehicles, helicopters and drilling equipment, with appropriate emissions equipment ensure federal air quality standards

**BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**1. Vegetation**

species composition  
species introduction  
toxin / heavy accumulation  
other:

X N/A

**2. Wildlife and Fish**

effects on rare, threatened  
or endangered species  
fish population changes  
waterfowl population changes  
breeding disturbance  
population reduction  
species diversity change  
health changes (identify)

X behavioural changes  
habitat changes / effects  
game species effects  
toxins / heavy metals  
forestry changes  
agricultural changes  
other:  
N/A

Domestic waste could attract wildlife resulting in their destruction. Standard operating conditions for incineration and removal will reduce this potential impact.

## **INTERACTING ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. Habitat and Communities**

predator-prey  
wildlife habitat/ecosystem  
composition changes  
reduction / removal of  
keystone or endangered  
species  
removal of wildlife corridor  
or buffer zone  
other:

X N/A

### **2. Social and Economic**

planning / zoning changes  
or conflicts  
increase in urban facilities  
or service use  
rental house  
airport operations / capacity  
changes  
human health hazard  
impair the recreational use  
of water or aesthetic quality  
affect water use for other  
purposes  
affect other land use  
operations  
quality of life changes  
public concern  
other:

X N/A

**3. Cultural and Heritage**

affects to historic property  
increased economic  
pressure on historic  
properties  
change to or loss of historic  
resources  
change to or loss of  
archaeological resources  
increased pressure on  
archaeological sites  
change to or loss of  
aesthetically important site  
affects to aboriginal lifestyle  
other:

X N/A

**Notes:**



**PRELIMINARY SCREENER / REFERRING BODY INFORMATION**  
 (Check all that apply)

<b>Federal</b>	<b>RA or DRA</b>	<b>ADVICE</b>	<b>PERMIT REQUIRED</b>
Atomic Energy Control Board			
Canadian Heritage			
Canadian Transportation Agency			
Environment Canada		X	
Fisheries and Oceans		X	
Indian Affairs and Northern Development	X		X
Industry Canada			
National Defense			
National Energy Board			
Natural Resources			
Public Works and Government Services			
Transport Canada			
Mining Lands		X	
Water Resources		X	
<b>Territorial</b>			
Municipal and Community Affairs			
Public Works and Government Services			
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development		X	
Transportation			
Health Board			
PWNHC		X	
<b>Boards</b>			
Gwich'in Land and Water Board			
Sahtu Land and Water Board			

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board			
Renewable Resource Boards			
Local Health Board			
<b>Aboriginal / First Nation</b>			
Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, North Slave Metis Alliance, Dene Nation, Metis Association, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Yellowknife HTA			
<b>Local Government</b>			
<b>Communities</b>			

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

(List all reasons and supporting rationales for preliminary screening decision)

#### **The Project:**

This project is for ongoing mineral exploration utilizing both helicopter support and winter road access on the claim block in the Lac de Gras / Exeter Lake areas. Two existing camps are utilized to support the exploration activities. Norm's camp is located on Exeter Lake (64°47' , 110°47W). It is a 30 man tent camp and Boxcar camp is located near Dutchess Lake at 64°44.5' , 110° 07'W. This camp is a 34 man trailer camp which was established in winter of 1999 and was in support of reverse circulation drilling. Fuel cache to support the operations is by drums (205 litre) and a 76,000 litre self bermed fuel tank. Mineral exploration includes ground geophysics, diamond drilling and bulk sample drilling utilizing a reverse circulation drill rig. No drill additives are used and drill cutting from the diamond drill rig are separated out of a closed loop drill system through filters and then bagged and disposed of on land in a natural depression. Drill waste from the reverse circulation drill rig go through a filtering system and taken by vacuum truck to an approved land disposal site.

Previously established winter road routes to both camps will be constructed annually. Other activities include the establishment of a temporary rock storage pad for the purpose of completing the all weather road to the Misery pit. An existing small airstrip on an esker located next to Norm's camp is also required to support the operation.

#### **Consultation:**

Comments were received from Environmental Protection. Concerns were for potential impacts to fish, fish habitat from drill wastes, additives and potential spills. Standard practices and mitigation will address these concerns under land use permit conditions.

**Impacts:**

The operation will have an impact on:

Potential waste and/or spills could affect fish or wildlife. Standard industry practices, and permit operating conditions will reduce the potential for spills and reduce the potential impact of any spills that do occur. Impact is considered insignificant.

Camp wastes may attract wildlife. Disposal according to permit conditions will prevent this. Impact is considered insignificant.

The potential impacts from this operation are limited in scope and significance. Standard mitigation as described in operating conditions and accepted industry standard practices will successfully mitigate those potential impacts, rendering the impact of this operation insignificant.

Therefore, I recommend that the regulatory process should proceed.



<b>Preliminary Screening Decision</b>	
	<b>Outside Local Government Boundaries</b> <small>Your file    Votre référence</small>
	The development proposal might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, refer it to the EIRB. <small>Our file    Notre référence</small>
X	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.
	The development proposal might have public concern, refer it to the EIRB.
X	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.
	<b>Wholly within Local Government Boundaries</b>
	The development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on air, water or renewable resources, refer it to the EIRB.
	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.
	The development proposal might have public concern, refer it to the EIRB.
	Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation

Preliminary Screening organization:  
Preliminary Screener:

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs  
Ed Hornby

Signature:

Date: June 2, 1999