

# **Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency**



**GENERAL COMMENTS  
SLEMA BOARD MEMBERS**

**February 2007**

## **General Comments Board Members**

### **Comment by Greg Empson SLEMA board member**

#### **Comment 1:**

“ I believe Anne Gunn has adequately set out her concerns over the Wildlife Management Plan. I, as like Anne am uncertain as to why they amended the name of the plan to read a Wildlife Safety plan rather than a Wildlife Management Plan. Wildlife Safety is too restrictive and while it is important, it is only one element of Wildlife Management. The terms of their license, requires that they prepare a wildlife management plan which incorporates Wildlife safety issues. They should be required to prepare and submit an appropriate Wildlife Management Plan. “

#### **Comment 2:**

“DeBeers should be advised that their introduction and safety program is of little or no use to individuals who generally are not on the site working as Contractors or regular visitors to the site. Similarly the safety program should be geared to the individuals whom it seeks to ensure the safety of. As I indicated to DeBeers, in my view none of the safety briefing would have made any impression on the Elders nor would the Elders have been able to understand what DeBeers was trying to convey. Plain language and a much simpler approach would, in my opinion, be of much more benefit. DeBeers may wish to consider some form of one page Hand Out that sets out the safety procedures and one that can be translated and made available to the Elders so that they understand the safety issues in their own language. “

#### **Comment 3:**

“Unfortunately the transportation that we used to view the winter road was not adequate for the purpose that we were there for. The individuals other than those that were seated immediately at the front of the bus, had a great deal of difficulty in observing any portion of the winter road, excepting for the short periods of time that we got off the bus and were able to make some limited observations. “

### **Comments by Rachel Crapeau SLEMA Board member**

#### **Comment 1:**

“.....our concern here is to look at the protection of the caribou, and the protection of other animals. I think the elders are thinking that we should do something more in this area. And that I'm also thinking more, that I am hearing we're heading to the days of where the animals are changing and creating concerns for themselves, and also humans. And the interactions will have consequences, so we'll have to look at the cumulative effects.”

### **Con't Comments by Rachel Crapeau SLEMA Board member**

#### **Comment 2:**

“.....experience from the community standpoint is that contractors who were hired by mining companies don't often use Dene people to help monitor, and to record information. And at one wildlife workshop at the Explorer Hotel, we heard that this esker was just being monitored, they flew it over with the helicopter, they were looking for the animals. they never saw the animals, after checking for their denning areas and stuff. And Angus

Martin, said that it was because you guys made so much noise around it, they all took off. Of course you can find no animals. He said that's not how you look for animals, and report on where they are. Two different methods here. Why scare them away with a helicopter, when you can just look around and see what's going on."