



Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency
Main Floor, Lahm Ridge Tower
4501 Franklin Avenue
P.O. Box 95, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1
Phone: 867-765-0961 FAX: 867-765-0963
Website: www.slema.ca

Jason Ash
Regulatory Officer
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor – 4910 50th Avenue
P.O.Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

File: Water Licence MV2001L2-0002

May 28, 2009

**RE: De Beers Snap Lake Mine – North Pile Starter Cell Phase III
Embankment and Development Detailed Design**

Dear Mr. Ash,

Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA) has reviewed the **North Pile Starter Cell Phase III Embankment and Development Detailed Design**.

Comments are presented as follows.

SLEMA prefers smaller footprint of the “North Pile” to keep the facility further from Snap Lake, as discussed in the SLEMA letter to Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board dated March 5, 2009.

Although SLEMA prefers a smaller footprint of the “North Pile” SLEMA also have concerns that need to be addressed regarding the increased height. The Elders from SLEMA’s Traditional Knowledge Panel are concerned with increased presence on the landscape and increase in the amount of dust that may result from increasing the height further. There are issues with the increase in water, beyond initial predictions, being pumped into the “North Pile”.



Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency
Main Floor, Lahm Ridge Tower
4501 Franklin Avenue
P.O. Box 95, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N1
Phone: 867-765-0961 FAX: 867-765-0963
Website: www.slema.ca

SLEMA is scheduled to make a site visit in June and would like to address these concerns with De Beers at this time. A SLEMA visit to the mine will allow De Beers to describe the plans as well as allow a visual reference possible by SLEMA's presence at the mine.

As a result of these concerns SLEMA is unable, at this time, to recommend the approval of these plans.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Rachel Crapeau
Vice Chairperson

cc: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Environmental Canada
De Beers Canada Inc.