

# **Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency**



**GENERAL COMMENTS  
SLEMA TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PANEL**

**February 2007**

These comments were made by the Traditional Knowledge Panel during a wildlife workshop held on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007. These comments range from general comments regarding the development of Wildlife Monitoring Methodology, to comments on Dust control and Traditional Knowledge involvement in monitoring wildlife.

### **Comments from the SLEMA Traditional Knowledge Panel**

**Comment 1:** This comment was made by and agreed upon by a number of elders namely; Eddie Camille, Joe Michel and Alfred Baillieragon (See appendix 2 for membership)

“Animals no longer seem to be scared of people. Bears will approach camps and will not be scared off. Caribou no longer seem to run away from people. Fox’s no longer seem to be afraid of people or dogs. “

**Note:** It is recognized that De Beers policy is using non-invasive techniques when dealing with problem wildlife. It is also recognized That De Beers makes every effort to avoid attracting animals and causing habituation of wildlife. It is also recognized that the Snap Lake mine does not have significant issues with problem wildlife. This concern is one of general acclimatization of wildlife across the Northwest Territories. This problem may be multi factorial, and beyond the capacity of De Beers to mitigate. During future SLEMA workshops, elders could be consulted into techniques regarding problem wildlife management and potential deterrent techniques.

**Comment 2:** This comment was made by Grant Beck (TK panel NSMA).

“De Beers should look into using the dust suppressor DL-10. This suppressor is environmentally friendly and made with tree sap. “

**Note:** Accordingly the Government of the Northwest Territories has only three products approved on its roads. This includes Calcium Chloride, Bunker C (Oil) and DL-10. DL-10 may also have been used at the Ekati mine site, for dust suppression, so this may be a good resource to explore.

The following is a section out of a Background Report on the community of Norman Wells from October 2004 made by Dillon Consulting Ltd.

“The existing road system is maintained on an on-going basis. This program has resulted in improved road surfaces through the application of a dust suppressant (DL-10-SP). This chemical combines with the road surface gravel to form a surface similar in durability and road feel to chip seal. This is a much improved surface over that of gravel, which can be dusty and provide for a rough traveling surface.”

**Comment 3:** This comment was made by Alfred Baillieragon (TK Panel Yellowknives Dene).

“ elders should be involved in collecting wildlife data for wildlife programs “.

**Note:** elders should be consulted in the current design and future planed wildlife management projects to ensure that traditional knowledge is incorporated in to the methodology of these

projects. This could easily be done by holding similar workshops as the one that was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007. To best utilize traditional knowledge it may be appropriate for DeBeers and Golder Inc staff to come to the workshops with specific questions already formulated. This will aid the elders in giving specific answers and advice to outstanding questions on methodology.

**Comment 4:** This comment was made by George Mandeville.

“ De Beers should consider doing caribou aerial surveys with the transects going from east to west rather than north to south. This would then be in line with the migration patterns of the caribou. “

**Note:** This comment was made in regards to information presented by Damien Panayi which showed a map of the transects flown within the Snap Lake 31km radius impact area, which showed transects that were flown only north and south. Later in Mr. Panayi presentation it showed caribou migration corridors that had a definite east west trend.

**Comments 5:** This comment was made by Eddie Camille.

“ Native people should be involved in designing surveys as they know the movement of the caribou. “

**Note:** Again workshops are the best environment to utilize Elders knowledge. SLEMA supports increased consultation with elders and community involvement in the design and implementation of any of the many monitoring programs at Snap Lake.