

Environmental Protection Operations
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June 4, 2007

RE: De Beers Canada Inc. 2006 Annual Report and Spill Contingency Plan – 2BE-KIK0608/TR/B2

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the information submitted with the above-mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

De Beer Canada Inc has submitted their 2006 annual report and Spill Contingency Plan as required under Part B, Item 2 of NWB license NWB 2BE-KIK0608. The report outlines activities at the Knife Lake Project.

Environment Canada is pleased to see the development of A Spill Contingency Plan (SCP) for exploration activities at Knife Lake. Environment Canada recommends that the SCP be amended to include the following:

- The Spill Contingency Plan fails to include a skimmer as part of the contents. Since spills on muskeg and water may require the use of a skimmer the proponent should ensure that a skimmer be included as part of the spill kit and available to personnel at all times. Vehicles used in transporting fuel and chemicals should also be equipped with portable spill kits.
- Spills are to be documented and reported to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130. EC recommends that all releases of harmful substances, regardless of quantity, are immediately reportable where the release:
 - is near or into a water body;
 - is near or into a designated sensitive environment or sensitive wildlife habitat;
 - poses an imminent threat to human health or safety; or
 - poses an imminent threat to a listed species at risk or its critical habitat.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at cindy.parker@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Cindy Parker
Environmental Assessment Specialist

cc: (Carey Ogilvie, Manager Environment Canada, Yellowknife, NWT)