



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Eastern Arctic Area
P.O. Box 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Secteur de l'Arctique de l'est
Boîte postale 358
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

October 4, 2004

Mr. Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Your file *Votre référence*
NWB1JER

Our file *Notre référence*
NU-00-0068

Via electronic mail to:
exec@nwb.nunavut.ca

Dear Mr. di Pizzo:

Subject: Jericho Diamond Project - NWB Technical, Pre-Hearing and Final Hearing meetings

As a follow-up to your letter, dated September 28, 2004, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) would like to summarize our position with respect to the proposed dates, venue and other logistical concerns associated with the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) hearings for the Jericho Diamond Project. The NWB has scheduled all meetings to be in Kugluktuk, with the Technical meeting occurring on October 28, 2004, the Pre-Hearing Conference on October 29, 2004, and the Final Hearings on December 6 and 7, 2004.

Although DFO empathizes with the difficulties in hosting a meeting in a small community for a project of this scale, we agree that Kugluktuk does provide the most appropriate location for the NWB Final Hearings, as it will allow participation by the community most affected. However, due to the logistics of travel associated with these hearings, it appears a significant commitment in terms of time and/or cost will be necessary to ensure participation by DFO. Furthermore, we are still presented with the challenge of finding reasonable accommodations for the duration of the Technical sessions and Final hearings. While we appreciate the offer of the Hamlet to solicit a list of billets and would certainly be grateful to the offer of any local resident to provide shelter, we feel the preparation time and late evenings required of these meetings may inconvenience even the most flexible and patient host. Therefore, we would like to suggest, for your consideration, that at least one room at one of the Inns be set aside for each Interested Party to ensure participation by all agencies in the technical sessions and final hearings. Although, DFO will continue to review the Jericho Diamond project under our mandate, our participation in the NWB process may be restricted to the submission of written comments should a reasonable alternative not be identified.

We would like to thank the NWB for providing an opportunity to participate in the hearing process for the Jericho Diamond Project and look forward to working with NWB to resolve this issue. Should alternatives be identified, I can be contacted directly by telephone at (867) 979-8011 or by fax at (867) 979-8039.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by:

Derrick Moggy
Habitat Management Biologist
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Eastern Arctic Area

Copy: Michelle Wheatley – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Canada