

INAC's Closing Statement for Jericho Final Environmental Impact Assessment Hearings

Thank-you Madame Chair for the opportunity to provide some closing remarks to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (herein NIRB).

As mentioned in our presentation and demonstrated by our commitment to the meetings this week and our written submissions to the Board, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (herein INAC) is committed to providing our best advice to NIRB.

INAC's review has determined that the adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with this mine proposal appear to be manageable. Though there are still details to confirm in terms of design and management, data synthesis, contingency plans, mitigation measures, monitoring, and closure planning details: these can be addressed during the regulatory stage.

INAC is of the opinion that the Jericho Diamond Project should proceed to the regulatory approval phase. In our written submission, INAC has provided 41 recommendations for the Boards consideration. We would like to add one more. "To clarify models discussed in Cambridge Bay, we recommend that for the benefit of the regulatory phase of application, that Tahera update tables submitted by Dr. Ott within the Supplemental Information entitled *Water Quality Impacts from Jericho Mine Discharges*. This update should incorporate revised discharge estimates, un-ionized ammonia and total ammonia, chlorides, along with further parameters covered in the September 30, 2003 submission. Calculations of expected concentrations should also be made at the outlet of Carat Lake and in Lake C3 adjacent to the spray irrigation area should its use be required. Calculations should be made for critical years during the life of the mine and after the pit begins discharge to Carat Lake some twenty (20) years following closure for permitting purposes.

Several areas of discussions have taken place and we commend all for participating. Some topics we want to bring up at this time are the socio-economic management strategy (SEMS), socio-economic agreement management plan, and management plans.

In addition, we would remind Tahera of their commitment to providing additional information for determining reclamation bonding and the need to work with the Department to provide an application, or amend an application, for the area which is to be used for spray irrigation.

The Department and all other regulators need to work cooperatively over the coming months on information exchanges as have been discussed over the last five (5) days. The Department is willing to work with Tahera and all regulators to continually improve the project.

As mentioned in our opening comments, it is an historic milestone as it is the first mine to move this far in the Nunavut regulatory process and the Department, if not everyone, has learned from the experience. I want to thank the communities for their hospitality.

I would like to take this special opportunity to thank my staff and the consultants for preparing the department's review and recommendations for your consideration. Thanks also to our

federal colleagues.

In closing, the Department commends the Board and their staff for all their hard work this week. The Department wishes the Board well in their deliberations over the coming weeks.

*Stephen Traynor, Director of Operations and Acting Regional Director General for INAC's
Nunavut Regional Office*

Closing Statement as stated on January 9, 2004.