

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JUN 07 2004

Mr. Albert Ehaloak
Acting Chair
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 2379
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0

Dear Mr. Ehaloak:

I am writing to convey my decision on the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) Final Hearing Report for the Jericho Diamond Project (Report), officially released on February 27, 2004. This decision was taken after considering:

- the NIRB's Report of environmental assessment (EA);
- the mitigation measures committed to by the proponent in the Environmental Impact Statement for the project, and during the public hearings held in January 2004; and
- discussions and an exchange of additional project information/data between the proponent and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (F&O).

In accordance with section 12.5.7(a) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), I accept the Board's Report recommending that the Tahera Jericho Diamond Project proposal be approved. The other federal departments, with jurisdictional responsibility in relation to the proposal, F&O and Natural Resources Canada concur with this decision.

Section 12.5.12 requires the NIRB to issue a project certificate including terms and conditions which have been accepted by the Ministers. Since several items anticipated for completion in the EA are being advanced to the regulatory stage, and before finalizing the project certificate, I ask the Board to consult with those departments and agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the project to make sure the terms and conditions reflect their needs and meet the primary objectives of section 12.2.5 of the NLCA.

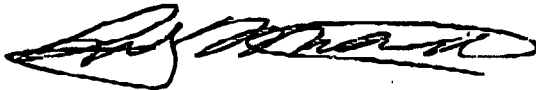
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As Nunavut's first diamond mine, the Jericho Project will bring many benefits to the people of Nunavut. The expertise gained by the NIRB and its staff will be important to the conduct of future reviews under Part 5 of the NLCA. On behalf of myself and my colleagues, I would like to thank the Board for its work in carrying out the review of this project proposal.

Sincerely,



Andy Mitchell

c.c.: The Honourable Geoff Regan, PC, MP
The Honourable John Efford, PC, MP