



April 29, 2005

Greg Missal
Vice-President, Nunavut Affairs
Tahera Diamond Corporation
Suite 803, 121 Richmond St. W
Toronto, ON M5H 2K1

RE: Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

Mr. Missal,

As you are aware, the NIRB sent out Tahera's Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) for comment to the Jericho distribution list. In addition to the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment, comments (as relayed in March 18, 2005 letter) additional comments were forwarded to NIRB Environment Canada's Environmental Protection Branch relating to migratory birds and species at risk.

The NIRB is requesting that the following specific issues be addressed in the Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (please see the Environment Canada letter dated March 23, 2005 for details):

- "Jericho Diamond Mine – Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan" document, as prepared by Tahera Diamond Corporation:
 - Section 4.3 Monitoring During Construction, Page 8: Monitoring of nesting birds procedures requires more detail.
 - Section 5.2 Monitoring During Operations, Page 9 and Section 6.2 Monitoring During Closure, Page 10: Lack of information on annual surveys, and in general, a lack of information on monitoring activities such that regulatory authorities would not have sufficient information to determine the quality or quantity of mitigation and monitoring activities and thus assess impact predictions.
- "Wildlife Mitigation Plan – Jericho Diamond Project" document, prepared by Bearwise:
 - Section 5 Mitigation/Contingency Procedure: Traffic Management: More detail is required on the implementation of how air traffic will avoid bird nests.

Additional comments, made by Environment Canada, stemmed from previous concerns that include:

- Additional surveys be conducted looking at wildlife distributions and habitat use of the region at different times of the year be monitored.
- A recommendation that a buffer zone, beyond the definition of the mine footprint, that is 500 m within the project area, be extended for birds to account for mine disturbances during construction and operation were not addressed.
- Scientifically incomplete and insufficient data were used to make statements indicating that the project area does not consist of key habitat sites, that there are no areas of special significance, and that no waterfowl staging areas are located within 10's of kilometers and to make such statements would be inaccurate.

We agree with Environment Canada, and others, that this document should be prepared by a professional biologist.

The NIRB looks forward to receiving your plan shortly. Please call me if you have any questions at (867) 983-4606.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Jennifer Bishop
Monitoring Officer