

Nunavut Water Board

Review of Tahera Submissions for Water License Application on Jericho Diamond Mine, NU

**Prepared for the December 6-7, 2004
Public Hearing in Kugluktuk, NU**

Acres International Limited

Executive Summary

Acres International Limited (Acres) was retained by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) as an independent consultant to review a number of the technical documents submitted by Tahera Diamond Corporation (Tahera) in connection with a water license application for the Jericho Diamond Mine project.

Acres review was specifically focused on issues which are related to the geotechnical, geo-environmental, hydrological and hydro-geological aspect of the project. This review contains comments which were prepared concerning Tahera's documents on the following subjects:

- The Abandonment and Restoration Plan.
- Operational Monitoring Summary.
- Waste Rock, Overburden, Low Grade Ore and Coarse Processed Kimberlite Management Plan.
- Estimates of Receiving Water Quality.
- Proposed Discharge Limits.
- Design of Processed Kimberlite Containment Area (PKCA).
- Site Water Management.

The 2004 documents submitted by Tahera to the NWB contain a comprehensive plan for the Jericho mine operations. These documents provide some modifications, additional detail designs and further refinements to the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) documents which were submitted to Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) in early 2004 and subject to reviews by both the regulators and the public at hearings held in the communities affected by the proposed mine operation. Additional information was also provided by Tahera in their addendum document submitted to the NWB on October 8, 2004. This addendum addressed some specific issues that were brought forward by the NWB following their conformity analyses.

Based on the technical documents that reviewed by Acres there is, in our opinion, no valid reason that the project could not proceed as Tahera has not only made a commitment to deliver a mining project that would be the first diamond mine in the Nunavut Territory, but also a project that would minimize disturbance to the

natural environment and maximize the social and economic benefits to the people of Nunavut and the mining industry in general.

As the actual mining operation has not yet started, the documents contain a number of contingency plans, alternative schemes and some operation flexibilities to meet with the environment requirements and government regulations. It is therefore important, that once the mining operation starts, Tahera commence with the verification and monitoring of the selected programs, carry out additional trials/studies and complete the final designs, as well as continue with the selection process among the considered alternatives. Some of these activities must be carried out early because of the relatively short duration of the proposed mining operation (9 years).