



NIRB File No.: 00MN059

August 8, 2007

Greg Missal
Tahera Diamond Corporation
Suite 803, 121 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2K1

Delivered via email to missal@tahera.com

Re: Opportunity for Tahera to Respond to Parties Comments on the 2007 Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Plan, Draft #4

Dear Mr. Missal:

On May 15, 2007, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Tahera Diamond Corporation's 2007 *Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Jericho Diamond Project* (WMMP). As you may be aware, the report was provided to interested parties for comment. Comments and/or recommendations were received (see attached documents) from the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (GN-DOE), Environment Canada (EC), and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA). The comments have also been uploaded to NIRB's ftp-site, located at the following address:

http://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb/NIRB_MONITORING/00MN059-JERICH0_MONITORING/02-MONITORING%20AND%20MANAGEMENT%20PLANS/Wildlife%20Mitigation%20&%20Monitoring%20Plan/01-PLAN/01-COMMENTS/

The NIRB recommends that Tahera cooperate with both the GN-DOE and EC to address all the stated recommendations such that a satisfactory final WMMP is developed and implemented. The NIRB is requesting that Tahera copy NIRB on all correspondence between concerned parties (including the results of any meetings held) in this regard.

Please notify NIRB should the situation arise where Tahera feels that specific concerns are unreasonable and can't fulfill them within a reasonable time frame.

In addition, the NIRB recommends that the threshold values for Adaptive Management Triggers (AMTs) be addressed and put into place immediately in the final WMMP. Throughout the WMMP, Tahera states that the threshold values for determining biologically negative effects and the level of adaptive management will be based on discussions between Tahera, affected communities, the KIA and government. The AMTs should be finalized through consultation

with the appropriate wildlife regulators as soon as possible so that adaptive strategies can be implemented, if necessary.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca or 867-983-4606.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho

Technical Advisor

Cc: Bruce Ott, Tahera Diamond Corporation
Cheryl Wray, Jericho Diamond Mine
Jericho Distribution List

Attachments: Appendix 1: July 24, 2007 letter from Helen Yeh, GN-DOE, to Leslie Payette, NIRB re: NIRB File # 00MN059 – Jericho Diamond Project – 2007 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.
Appendix 2: July 26, 2007 letter from Myra Robertson, EC to Leslie Payette, NIRB re: Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Jericho Diamond Project, May 2007.
Appendix 3: July 30, 2007 letter from Kevin Tweedle, KIA to Leslie Payette, NIRB re: Tahera Diamond Corporation – Jericho Project – 2007 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.

Appendix 1

**July 24, 2007 letter Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment to Nunavut
Impact Review Board re: NIRB File # 00MN059 – Jericho Diamond Project – 2007 Wildlife
Mitigation and Monitoring Plan**



July 24, 2007

Leslie Payette
Manager of Environmental Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Via e-mail to: lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca.

**RE: NIRB FILE # 00MN059 – JERICHO DIAMOND PROJECT –
2007 WILDLIFE MITIGATION & MONITORING PLAN**

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment (DOE) has reviewed the May 2007 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) for the Jericho Diamond Project, submitted by Tahera Diamond Corp. Previously on Feb. 24, 2006, the DOE provided detailed comments for the November 2005 WMMP, and some of the issues raised still have not been addressed in the 2007 WMMP. Therefore, the DOE would like to re-iterate our concerns below, and requests that the plan be updated to reflect these concerns.

1. Wolverine Monitoring: Snow-Track Counts

*References: Item No. 10 (DOE Feb. 24, 2006 Letter)
Section 6.2.1(2007 WMMP)*

The DOE recommended on Feb. 24, 2006 that Tahera increases the frequency of snow-track counts from once to three times per year, and uses the average and variation to describe each year's status; however, this has not been addressed. Previously, the DOE stated that "we feel that only one survey of the transects per year runs the risk of inaccurately describing the distribution, abundance, and relative activity of the target species."

2. Caribou & Musk-oxen Monitoring

*References: Item No. 5 (DOE Feb. 24, 2006 Letter)
Section 3 & Section 4 (2007 WMMP)*

The DOE recommended on Feb. 24, 2006 that Tahera reduces the frequency of caribou and muskox aerial surveys, and focuses on ground surveys/behavioural observations, in order to obtain numbers and distribution of these two species within the RSA without creating excessive impact of monitoring on wildlife.

Rationale and methodology was also provided in the letter, but this request has not been incorporated in the 2007 WMMP.

3. Ground-based Observations on Caribou

*References: Item No. 8 (DOE Feb. 24, 2006 Letter)
Section 3.2.2 & 3.4.2 (2007 WMMP)*

The DOE recommended on Feb. 24, 2006 that Tahera revises the ground-based behavioral observation technique (details on sample sizes by treatment types) on caribou to a finer detail, to determine the zone of influence of mine activities. These fine-scale ground-based observations can later be related to the coarser-scale results of the aerial surveys. This issue has not been addressed in the 2007 WMMP.

4. Monitoring Contwoyto Lake Road and Airport Road

*References: Item No. 7 (DOE Feb. 24, 2006 Letter)
Section 3 & Section 4 (2007 WMMP)*

The DOE requested on Feb. 24, 2006 that Tahera revises ground survey methodology used to determine localized effects of the airstrip and the Contwoyto Lake roads on caribou and musk-oxen, but this request has not been addressed. The DOE previously recommended that Tahera “consider the use of a combined parallel transects adjacent to roads (5 km, centred on the road/airstrip), and a statistically suitable sample of perpendicular transects that will assess the ZOI of the road. Reconsider the statistical and biological validity of conducting this survey only once per season.”

5. Monitoring of Dust Impact on Wildlife Habitat

References: Item No. 3 (DOE Feb. 24, 2006 Letter)

The monitoring of wildlife habitat is currently limited to the direct effects of the mine footprint, and a significant amount of habitat potentially affected by settling dust dispersed by mine activities, has not been considered. This issue was raised by the DOE on Feb. 24, 2006, but has not been addressed.

6. Adaptive Management Triggers

*References: Item No. 4 (DOE Feb. 24, 2006 Letter)
Section 2.8 (2007 WMMP)*

The DOE recommended on Feb. 24, 2006 that Tahera “... must state the acceptable change to an increase in the size of the mine footprint, including

measurement error. Quantify the expected measurement error.” This issue has not been resolved.

7. Zone of Influence on Caribou

*References: Item No. 9 (DOE Feb. 24, 2006 Letter)
Section 3.5.1 (2007 WMMP)*

The DOE requested on Feb. 24, 2006 that Tahera provides details on how zones of influence regarding caribou, is determined by “Resources Selection Functions”. This issue has not been addressed.

The DOE thanks NIRB for the opportunity to review the 2007 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Jericho Diamond Project.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Helen Yeh
Coordinator, Environmental Assessment
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Appendix 2

**July 26, 2007 letter from Environment Canada to Nunavut Impact Review Board re:
Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Jericho Diamond Project, May 2007**

Environmental Protection Operations
Qimugjuk Building 969 P.O. Box 1870
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: (867) 975-4631
Fax: (867) 975-4645

July 26, 2007

Leslie Payette
Manager of Environmental Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
Tel: (867) 983-4600
Fax: (867) 983-2594
Email: lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca

Via email

Dear Ms. Payette:

RE: Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Jericho Diamond Project, May 2007

Environment Canada (EC) is in receipt of the document entitled "Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Jericho Diamond Project" dated May 2007. Environment Canada would like to thank the NIRB for the opportunity to provide input on the Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (herein referred to as the "WM&M Plan") for the Jericho Diamond Mine, and offers the following comments for your consideration.

- The WM&M Plan states that a minimum flying altitude of 300 m above ground level for cargo and passenger aircraft outside of the project area will be used (page 17). In order to reduce disturbance to nesting, moulting, and migrating birds, EC recommends that aircraft maintain a higher flight altitude of at least 610 m during cargo and passenger flights, unless safety or cloud ceiling do not permit. This recommendation for a higher minimum flight altitude was also stated in the previous EC letter to NIRB that outlined EC recommendations for the November 2005 version of the WM&M Plan (EC letter of January 13, 2006).
- The proponent states that deterrents will be used to discourage birds from nesting on mine infrastructure (WM&M Plan page 58 and 74). The proponent should also consider the following mitigation measures to prevent birds from nesting and roosting on project infrastructure:
 - Reduce horizontal surfaces for nesting
 - Wedges >45 degrees can deter birds from nesting
 - Horizontal supports should be of minimum possible width
 - Reduce surfaces subject to heat and focus deterrence on heated areas
 - Heat exhaust from incineration or industry activity can be recycled to heat other buildings using glycol in insulated pipes
 - Place anti-nest spikes or angle surfaces near heat sources at >45 degrees
 - Reduce surface complexity of all infrastructure so that small nooks and crannies are reduced
 - Identify and continuously monitor infrastructure for points of compromise (e.g., potential nesting sites)

Please do not hesitate to contact Cindy Parker with any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email at cindy.parker@ec.gc.ca. Alternately, you can contact Myra Robertson, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Canadian Wildlife Service at (867) 669-4763 or by email at myra.robertson@ec.gc.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Myra Robertson
Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Yellowknife

cc: (Cindy Parker, Environmental Assessment Specialist, Iqaluit)
(Carey Ogilvie, Head-EA North, Environment Canada, Yellowknife)
(Mike Fournier, Environmental Assessment Coordinator Environment Canada, Yellowknife)

Appendix 3

**July 30, 2007 letter Kitikmeot Inuit Association to Nunavut Impact Review Board re:
Tahera Diamond Corporation – Jericho Project – 2007 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring
Plan**



Kitikmeot Inuit Association

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July 30, 2007

Ms. Leslie Payette
Manager, Environmental Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
X0C 0C0

By e-mail: lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca

Dear Ms. Payette

Re: Tahera Diamond Corporation – Jericho Project – 2007 Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

In a letter, dated May 28, 2007 the NIRB requested interested parties to comment on the updated Wildlife Monitoring Plan (WMMP) submitted by Tahera Diamond Corp. for the Jericho Diamond Mine. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) has commented on previous drafts including the November 2005 WMMP document, of which had generally satisfied KIA's concerns with earlier drafts. KIA has reviewed this most recent draft and notes further improvements to the WMMP. As for the remaining unresolved concerns raised by the Government of Nunavut and Government of Canada following the November 2005 draft, KIA is confident the aforementioned parties will cover all of their authorities in relation to wildlife monitoring and mitigation and continue to provide constructive comments to NIRB.

Sincerely,

Kevin Tweedle
Environmental Technician
Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Mail: P.O. Box 360,
Kugluktuk, Nunavut, X0B 0E0
Phone: (867) 982-3310
Fax: (867) 982-3311