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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

June 30, 06

Richard Dwyer
Licensing Trainee
Nunavut Water Board

via Email to: licensingtrainee@nwb.nunavut.ca

**RE: NWB2BE-BKL - DE BEERS CANADA INC. - DIAMOND EXPLORATION
WATER LICENSE APPLICATION**

Dear Richard:

The Department of Environment (DOE) has reviewed the water license application from De Beers Canada Inc. for conducting diamond exploration near Baker Lake, and has the following comments and recommendations.

1. SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN:

Based on the Government of Nunavut *Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations* and *A Guide to the Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting Regulations*, the DOE has the following comments to make:

- A site map that is intended to illustrate the facility relationship to other areas that may be affected by the spill. The map should be to scale and be large enough to include drill sites, fuel caches, nearby facilities, roads, culverts, drainage patterns, and any nearby bodies of water.
- To prevent spreading in the event of a spill, fuel stored in drums should be located, whenever practical, in a natural depression a minimum distance of 90 feet from all streams, preferably in an area of low permeability. All fuel storage containers should be situated in a manner that allows easy access and removal of containers in the event of leaks or spills. In addition, fuel caches should be inspected regularly.
- Detailed containment and clean-up techniques for the removal of contaminants from the environment in the case of spills should be included. The techniques should include spill scenarios in various environments such as land, ice, snow and water.

- The DOE, Environmental Protection Service (EPS) monitors the movement of hazardous wastes including waste oil, from generators, carriers to receivers, through a tracking document (Waste Manifest). A Waste Manifest must accompany all movements, and all parties must register with the EPS. There is no mention of this procedure in the spill plan.

2. WILDLIFE

Barren-Ground Caribou

The permit area situates at the edge of Qamanirjuak Calving Area, DOE advises the proponent to follow the instructions below when caribou is calving at the area.

During the period of May 15 to July 15 when caribou is calving at the area, proponents are advised to suspend all operations, particularly blasting, overflights by aircrafts at any altitude of less than 300 metres above ground level, and the use of snowmobiles and ATV's (All-Terrain Vehicles) outside the immediate vicinity of the camp. All personnel should remain quietly in camps, and all personnel who are not required for the maintenance and protection of the camp should be removed from the site.

Further details on wildlife issues can be obtained from the contact information below:

DOE Contacts

Manager, Wildlife

-Dan Shewchuck, (867) 857-2828, dshewchuk@gov.nu.ca

Wildlife Officer,

-Joe Niego, (867) 793-2944, jniego2@gov.nu.ca

Biologist, Kivalliq Region, Arviat

- Mitch Campbell, (867) 857-2828, mcampbell@gov.nu.ca

3. THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM

We also are concerned regarding permit areas requested along a Canadian Heritage River, Kazan River. Please note that The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national program for freshwater conservation. The objectives of the program are to give national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and to ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, cultural and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future.

We ask the prospectors to respect the values of the Heritage Rivers (refer to the management plans provided by CHR Board) and not to engage in any activity that would interfere or other wise detract from the experience of tourists and Nunavummiut using the Heritage Rivers now and in the future.

We thank NWB for giving us the opportunity to review and provide comments on the De Beers Canada Inc. water license application. Please contact us if you have any further questions or comments.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

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