

August 27, 2008

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
Attention: Jason Ash  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 4910 – 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 1R6

*via email*

Dear Mr. Ash

**RE: Access to mine infrastructure off land lease areas**

As you can recall, last Spring DeBeers Canada appealed to the MVLWB for a definitive ruling with regard to access to site infrastructure. In formal discussions between Inspector Tracy Covey (DIAND), Darren Campbell (DeBeers), Gil Lawson (DeBeers) and yourself (MVLWB), the issue of access to Mine Infrastructure off the land leases was tabled. The Inspector was satisfied with the MVLWB Regulatory Officer's decision that access to a Land Lease across the lake included access external to lease boundaries.

The inspector declared that he did not have the authority to authorize travel off site roads because he interpreted site roads as roads on land leases only and could not authorize access to the aforementioned lease under condition 25 of the Land Use Permit MV2001L2-0002. The inspector has recently indicated that he could not authorize access to DeBeers infrastructure in the up coming 2009 winter season without further clarification from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

Therefore DeBeers Canada would like formal clarification from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and is seeking an official ruling on the definition of "Site Roads" as referenced in Part A. condition 1 (v) to include roads, lines, trails external to the leases where access across crown land is necessary to access mine infrastructure or to construct mine infrastructure (on land lease lands).

Without access to mine infrastructure, critical elements of the mines operation can not exist.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact Darren Campbell at 867- 766-7334 or email [Darren.Campbell@ca.debeersgroup.com](mailto:Darren.Campbell@ca.debeersgroup.com). We look forward to your feedback and comments.

Yours very truly,



John Bartlett  
Environmental Superintendent  
Snap Lake Mine

