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Staff Report

Company: De Beers Canada Inc.	
Location: Snap Lake Mine	Application: MV2001L2-0002
Date Prepared: June 19, 2009	Meeting Date: July 16, 2009
Subject: Amendment to the Surveillance Network Program for Type A Water Licence MV2001L2-0002	

1. Purpose/Report Summary

The purpose of this Staff Report is to obtain the Board's approval regarding De Beers Canada Inc.'s (De Beers) request to amend the Surveillance Network Program (SNP) at Snap Lake Mine for Water Licence (WL) MV2001L2-0002.

2. Background

- June 4, 2004 – WL issued for a period of eight years, expiring on April 14, 2012;
- May 8, 2009 – De Beers informs Board that due to the economic downturn, the mine will shut down for a period of ten weeks in 2009, at which point flights into the mine will be reduced.
- May 29, 2009 – Board staff and De Beers meet to discuss which supplemental information Board staff required regarding the change to the SNP;
- June 2, 2009 – De Beers provides supplemental information; and
- June 5, 2009 – Board staff distributes De Beers' request for review.

3. Discussion

Due to the economic downturn, De Beers has made the decision to shut down operations at the Snap Lake mine between July 15 and September 2 and between December 2 and December 30. During the shut down, the mine site will operate with a skeleton crew of 50 personnel. The number of flights into the mine will be reduced from three per week to one, and the number of operated sewage plants will be reduced from three to one.

SNP Part B, Condition 9b states:

During construction and operations, effluent at Station Number 02-16i shall be sampled for the following parameters during discharge every six (6) days and analyzed for the following:

- Nutrients
- BOD
- Total Oil and Grease
- E. Coli / Faecal Coliforms
- TSS

During the specified shut down time, De Beers has requested that it be allowed to sample Station 02-16i every seven days rather than every six days.

4. Reviewer Comments

Anne Wilson, Environment Canada, had no objections regarding the request.

Tracy Covey, Inspector, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, supported the request.

5. Security

n/a

6. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve De Beers' request to amend the sampling frequency of SNP Part B, condition 9b from every six days to every seven days during the specified shut down periods.

7. Attachments

- Draft letter to De Beers

Respectfully submitted,



For:

Jason Ash
Regulatory Officer