

February 06, 2013

File: L020

Willard Hagen, Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
PO Box 2130
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2P6

Dear: Mr. Hagen:

**Re: Snap Lake Mine
De Beers Canada Inc
Water License #MV2011L2-0004 – Increased Discharge during Freshet**

Through the winter of 2011 and throughout 2012, significant efforts were made to improve water management at the Snap Lake Mine. Several additional resources and capital investment have been applied to achieve these positive results. These efforts included:

- A dedicated water management team
- 24 hour monitoring of sumps with procedures and response plans
- A multi-tiered approach to reduce water inflows
- Create capacity within the water containment structures
- Increase capacity within the Water Treatment Plant through optimization

In 2012, 8.6 million m³ of water was managed without significant incident. In order to manage this amount of water, De Beers requested an increase for discharge through the freshet period. This was achieved through discharging additional volume through floating discharge line(s) directly above the existing diffuser line.

De Beers has continued to review information, assess risk and update the required management practices. The information indicates that due to the amount of water associated with freshet as well as the current inflows experienced underground, additional discharge is required. As such De Beers is requesting that it be permitted to release treated discharge of up to 60,000 m³ per day (normal is 35,000 m³) for up to a 6 week period during freshet. To achieve this De Beers will utilize the floating discharge lines located directly above the existing diffuser line.




After the peak flows of discharge De Beers will return the flows to the normal operating discharge requirements. To ensure that these changes do not affect the environment De Beers will continue to monitor the discharge water quality and a full monitoring program will be carried throughout this period at the diffuser stations.

It is anticipated that this short duration increased flow will be required for 2013 freshet and 2014 as well. This increased discharge is required while other Water Management and Treatment options are investigated.

De Beers is willing to meet with Board members or staff to review and discuss this request. Should you have any questions, comments or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 767-8646 or e-mail me at the following address: Alexandra.Hood@debeerscanada.com.

Sincerely,

DE BEERS CANADA INC.



Alexandra Hood
Permitting and Environmental Superintendant
Snap Lake Mine

Attachments

Copied to:	M. Casas	MVLWB
	D. White	SLEMA
	P. Kramers	AANDC
	B. Hanna	DFO
	A. Hood	DBCI
	D. Raymond	DBCI
	M. Morapeli	DBCI

