

# DE BEERS

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April 22, 2015

File: L020

Jen Potten and Marc Casas  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
PO Box 2130  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 2P6

Dear Ms. Potten and Mr. Casas:

**Re: Water Licence #MV2011L2-0004 Snap Lake Mine De Beers Canada Inc. Drinking Water Aesthetic Objective Guideline Chloride Low Action Level Triggered**

Please accept this letter as notice that the chloride concentrations at SNP 02-20e and SNP 02-20f were above 75 % of the Health Canada aesthetic objective (i.e. 250 mg/L) based upon samples collected in March 2015. Therefore, the low action level in the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan related to drinking water was triggered (Table 1).

**Table 1: Chloride Concentration at 02-20 (March 22, 2015)**

Station	Calculated chloride (mg/L)
SNP 02-20d	184
SNP 02-20e	192
SNP 02-20f	191
SNP 02-20g	182

The proposed action as per the response framework is to notify stakeholders. As noted by De Beers in the February 25, 2015 letter regarding the exceedance of 75% of the aesthetic objective for TDS no further action is recommended at this time. De Beers has completed an environmental assessment and is undergoing a regulatory review of its application to remove the current water licence limit for whole-lake TDS, and replace with a higher, end-of-pipe TDS limit, as supported by studies of the effects of TDS on aquatic life in Snap Lake which conclude that higher TDS levels in Snap Lake will not result in harmful effects to the aquatic environment. This TDS EQC will regulate chloride. This course of action was agreed to by the Government of the Northwest Territories in

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their response to the February 25, 2015 letter, noting: *"ENR recommends that no action is required at this time. Action levels related to TDS within the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan will require confirmation or re-evaluation pending the outcome of the current regulatory process."*

Results of all monitoring conducted in March under the SNP will be submitted as required, by April 30, 2015.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by phone at (867) 766-7308 or by email at [Alexandra.Hood@debeersgroup.com](mailto:Alexandra.Hood@debeersgroup.com).

Sincerely,  
**DE BEERS CANADA INC.**



Alexandra Hood  
**Environment and Permitting Superintendent**  
Snap Lake Mine

cc	T. Bradbury, E. Bonhomme, M. Peters	DBCI
	M. Sanderson, J. Steele, R. Walbourne, P. Green	GNWT
	A. Plautz, L. Cymbalisty, Z. Nevitt	MVLWB
	M. D'Aguiar	DFO
	S. Lacey-MacMillan	EC
	P. di Pizzo, Z. Liu	SLEMA
	T. Slack	YKDFN
	S. Shiga	NSMA
	S. Van der Wielen	Tlcho
	P. Unger	LKDFN
	C. Heron	NWTMN
	R. Bjornson	DKFN