



October 20, 2023

Ms. Lisa Tran  
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Dear Ms. Tran:

**Notice Informing De Beers Canada Inc. that the Conditions for Approval of Version 1.2 of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan for the Snap Lake Mine have been Met**

This letter is to notify De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) that the six approval conditions outlined in the Reasons for Decision outlined in a letter dated July 15, 2022 (attached) for De Beers' Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) have been satisfied. A summary of the approval conditions and revisions made by De Beers are attached. Version 1.2 of the WMMP is now considered the final approved WMMP for Snap Lake Mine and will be posted to the Department of Environment and Climate Change's website.

Please contact James Hodson, Manager, Habitat and Environmental Assessment by email at [jame\\_hodson@gov.nt.ca](mailto:jame_hodson@gov.nt.ca) or by phone at (867) 767-9237 extension 53231 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(for) Erin Kelly, Ph.D.  
Deputy Minister  
Environment and Climate Change

Attachment 1 - Reasons for Decision - Approval of the Snap Lake Mine Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan

c: Distribution List

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Georgina Williston  
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Environment and Climate Change Canada

Melissa Pinto  
Senior Environmental Assessment Coordinator  
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Sarah McLean  
Environment and Permitting Manager  
De Beers Canada Inc.

## **Attachment 1 - Reasons for Decision - Approval of the Snap Lake Mine Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan**

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On July 15, 2022, version 1.2 of De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers) Snap Lake Mine Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP), dated May 2, 2022, was approved with six conditions. On August 5, 2022, De Beers submitted an updated copy of version 1.2 of the WMMP to address the six approval conditions.

The six conditions, and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC)'s assessment of whether they have been satisfied, are as follows:

**Condition 1:** *De Beers shall amend the last row of Table 3-1 to add an additional action level such that caribou seen within 500 m triggers site wide notifications, intensified monitoring by environmental staff, minimum flight altitudes, reduced speed limits, and signage on presence of caribou. De Beers shall revise the last row of Table 3-1 such that presence of one or more caribou within 100 m of operations (other than blasting) triggers a suspension of activities. Activities could resume when caribou move further than 100 m away, and intensified monitoring could cease once caribou move further than 500 m away.*

**This condition was adequately addressed.** Additional action level for caribou seen within 500 m was added to Table 3-1. With respect to mitigations triggered when caribou are seen within 100 m, ECC understands the approval condition to mean that a suspension of activities will occur when one or more caribou are within 100 m of the Mine site, airstrip, site service roads, or winter access roads, as per Table 3-1 of the WMMP. The intent of the mitigation is that activities would be suspended in the local area where caribou are present (not a site-wide suspension of activities). ECC notes that the mitigation measures in the last row of Table 3-1 of the WMMP includes this type of measure.

**Condition 2:** *DeBeers shall add an Operating Procedure to Appendix B to clarify who will be responsible for more intensive monitoring when caribou are detected within 500 m, and how this monitoring will be undertaken. A flowchart similar to the one used for bear sightings in OP-006 (page B-19) could be used to clarify which actions are taken when caribou are <500 m but >100 m away, versus when they are <100 m away.*

**This condition was satisfactorily addressed.** De Beers updated OP-006 (page 10-12) of Appendix B for caribou monitoring and a flowchart has also been included.

**Condition 3:** *De Beers shall clarify how it will ensure pilots are made aware of the need to report caribou sightings and of the location of the 31 km limit of the mine RSA.*

**This condition was satisfactorily addressed.** De Beers clarified that observations of caribou within the mine RSA have been communicated to commercial pilots via Snap Lake site personnel, to support the caribou monitoring program. This will continue going forward and Section 3.2.1 has been updated to reflect this.

**Condition 4:** *De Beers shall meet with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) to determine if the current weekly collared caribou maps provided by ENR are at an appropriate scale to easily determine if caribou are inside or outside of the mine RSA.*

**This condition was satisfactorily addressed.** De Beers and ECC met November 7, 2022, to discuss the scaling of the caribou maps and determined a scale that satisfied both parties. Additionally, weekly collared barren-ground caribou maps that display animals in and around their regional study area are distributed by ECC to De Beers.

**Condition 5:** *De Beers shall add its Wildlife Deterrent Report form to OP 078, or if DeBeers does not have such a form readily available, De Beers shall use the bear occurrence checklist and wildlife incident reporting form included in ENR's Sample Procedural Manual and Reporting Templates available on ENR's Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans webpage.*

**This condition was satisfactorily addressed.** OP 078 has been updated to include the bear occurrence checklist and wildlife incident reporting from ECC's Sample Procedural Manual and Reporting Template.

**Condition 6:** *De Beers shall amend Section 6.0 of the WMMP to specify that annual and comprehensive WMMP reports will be sent to the MVLWB, ENR, SLEMA and all other Parties to the Environmental Agreement.*

**This condition was satisfactorily addressed.** Section 6.0 has been amended as requested in Approval Condition #6.