

RioTinto



February 2, 2009

Susan Fleck
Director
Wildlife & Fisheries Division
Environment & Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, Canada
X1A 2L9

Attention: Susan Fleck

Re: Wolverine DNA Sampling in April 2009

Dear Ms. Fleck:

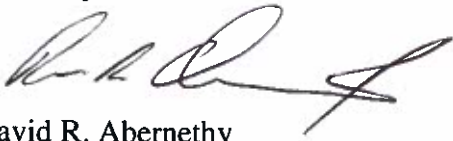
By way of this letter, BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc., DIAVIK Diamonds Inc. and De Beers Canada Inc. Snap Lake Diamond Mine regretfully inform you that we will not be able to participate in the 2009 wolverine DNA sampling study.

Due to funds having not been secured to support this project for the 2009 year, the three Diamond Mines party to this letter will not be able to successfully administer the project this year. While we are unable to participate this coming April, 2009, we will reconsider our involvement for the spring of 2010.

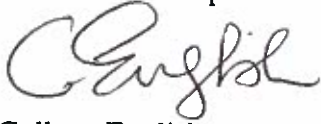
We would like to request a meeting with yourself and Robert Mulders to discuss how we can implement a plan going forward to address planning and logistics matters well in advance of March 2010. It would be ideal to hold this meeting before October 2009 so that our budgeting considerations can be properly reviewed and acknowledged.

Should you have any concerns or questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

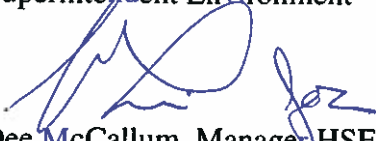
Sincerely,



David R. Abernethy
Environment Superintendent – Operations



Colleen English
Superintendent Environment



Dee McCallum, Manager HSE, Snap Lake Mine
Manager HSE, Snap Lake Mine

- cc. Laura Tyler, Manager ECCP, BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
Benn Armstrong, Manager HSE, DIAVIK Diamonds Mine Inc.
Darren Campbell, Permitting Coordinator, Snap Lake Mine
Dave White, SLEMA
Bill Ross, IEMA
Doug Crosslet, EMAB