



Media Release

De Beers Canada Welcomes Exciting Step Forward for Gahcho Kué Project

YELLOWKNIFE (August 2, 2011) – De Beers Canada welcomes the decision by the Gahcho Kué Environmental Impact Review Panel (the Panel) that the Gahcho Kué Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) conforms to the rigorous Terms of Reference, established by the Panel. The conformity statement, issued by the Panel, came on July 26, 2011, the same day the Panel announced the work plan for the panel review process.

“This is exciting news for De Beers Canada and our joint venture partner, Mountain Province Diamonds,” said De Beers Canada President and CEO, Tony Guthrie. “The Gahcho Kué Project team has worked very hard to produce an EIS that demonstrates Northern Canada’s next diamond mine can be built and operated sustainably and with respect for the land, water and communities nearby.”

The 11,000-page EIS was filed with the Panel on December 23, 2010 and De Beers Canada provided the final information required to the Panel on July 15, 2011. This positive step forward comes less than a month after the definitive feasibility study was approved by the Joint Venture partners.

Under the work plan and schedule issued by the Panel, the Environmental Impact Review process is expected to be completed by July 2013.

“The Gahcho Kué Project offers new opportunities for economic growth in the NWT and will ensure Canada continues to play an important part in the world diamond market,” said Guthrie. “We look forward to advancing our proposed mine through the EIR process and to working with regulators and participants in the process.”

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The Gahcho Kué Project is located at Kennady Lake, about 280 km northeast of Yellowknife and 90 km southeast of De Beers Canada's wholly owned Snap Lake Mine. The proposed mine plan calls for recovery of 4.5 million carats annually. Three kimberlite pipes, 5034, Hearne and Tuzo, would be mined via an open pit mining method over an 11 year mine life.

When approved, the proposed Gahcho Kué Mine will be De Beers Canada's second mine in the Northwest Territories and third operating mine in Canada.

The Gahcho Kué Project is a joint venture between De Beers Canada Inc. (51%) and Mountain Province Diamonds (49%).

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About De Beers:

De Beers, established in 1888, is the world's leading rough diamond company with unrivalled expertise in the exploration, mining and marketing of diamonds. De Beers, and its joint venture partners, operate in more than 20 countries across five continents employing more than 13,000 people. From its mining operations across Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Canada, De Beers produces and markets 35-40% of the world's supply of rough diamonds. As part of the company's operating philosophy, the people of De Beers are committed to *Living up to Diamonds* by making a lasting contribution to the communities in which they live and work. In the countries in which we have mining operations, this means carrying out profitable business, whilst at the same time helping Governments achieve their aspirations of turning natural resources into shared national wealth. De Beers encourages sustainable working to ensure long-term positive development for Africa, and returns more than US\$2.0 billion to the continent every year. For further information about De Beers visit www.debeersgroup.com



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