

DeBeers Canada Inc. (the proponent) is developing a diamond mine approximately 90 km. west of Attawapiskat First Nation, north west of Fort Albany First Nation and Kasheshawan First Nation and north of Moose Cree First Nation. Kimberlite boulders were discovered along the Attawapiskat River in 1987, 16 kimberlite pipes were drilled in 1989, and subsequent drilling in 1997 identified the Victor kimberlite deposits. Advanced exploration was carried out in 2000 and 2001 involving an 80-person camp, sample processing plant and winter airstrip. In 2003, DeBeers determined that the Victor kimberlite deposits were minable.

The Victor Diamond Mine will be open pit and include an on-site ore processing facility with a throughput of 2.5 million tonnes per year, based on production 24-hours/day. The mine has been under construction since 2006 with a completion date of summer 2008 expected. Major project components include: aggregate mines, waste stockpiles, water management facilities, accommodations, onsite roads, air strip, pipelines, transportation corridor, and facilities in Attawapiskat and Moosenee, power line corridor, new winter road from Attawapiskat to the mine and expanded winter road from Moosenee passing Fort Albany First Nation and Kasheshawan First Nation to Attawapiskat First Nation (DeBeers, 2004).

To acquire the appropriate federal and provincial government permits, DeBeers retained AMEC consulting to initiate an environmental assessment of the proposed mine pursuant to the Canadian

Environmental Assessment Act. As a key part of the environmental assessment process, a public consultation process has to be developed. In accordance with federal Supreme Court decisions and the Crown's duty to consult, as well as provisions in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and Ontario's Mining Act, local First Nations communities must be consulted.

Your perspective and purpose:

As representatives of AMEC and DeBeers your goal is to ensure that this potentially profitable mine provides a return on the investment by ensuring that the requirements of the regulatory processes are met as quickly and inexpensively as possible. The longer and more complicated the environmental assessment process is, the more costs will increase and profitability be reduced. The stated purpose of the Victor Diamond Mine is *"to mine and process diamond-bearing kimberlite ore of sufficient tonnage, grade, and throughput to provide a competitive return on investment to DeBeers, and to carry out these functions in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner."* (DeBeers, 2004:1-4). The mine construction costs will be approximately \$800 million and the *"... value of the diamonds is predicted to be one of the highest in the world"* (NRC, 2008).

You want to ensure that the study area (mine site) and regional study area boundary (transportation corridors) is clear and not too large in order to avoid over-complicating (and therefore increasing time and costs of) the process and to consider this over the life of the mine, i.e. exploration to decommissioning.