

# EMAB Traditional Knowledge/ Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Panel Interim Report

## Closure/Reclamation and Landscape History

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Champagne Room, 5006 Franklin Ave, Yellowknife, NT  
February 19-22, 2013

### Facilitation

Joanne Barnaby, Joanne Barnaby Consulting  
Deborah Simmons, SENES Consultants Ltd.

### Participants

Kitikmeot Inuit Association	John Ivarluk, Bobby Algona and Mark Taletok, Mona Tiktaluk
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation	George Marlowe, August Enzoë, Alfred Lockhart, Terri Enzoë
North Slave Métis Alliance	Ed Jones, Wayne Langenhan
Tłı̄chǫ Nation	Pierre Beaverho (Whati), Louis Zoe (Gamèti), Jonas Lafferty (interpreter), James Rabesca (interpreter)
Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Fred Sangris, Phillip Sangris, Jonas Sangris

### Observers/Presenters

EMAB	Michèle LeTourneau
Diavik Diamond Mine Inc.	Gord Macdonald, Seth Bohnet
Thorpe Consulting Services	Natasha Thorpe
Other Resource people (Cross-Cultural Learning Session)	Tee Lim, Pembina Institute Karen Hamre, Avens Consulting Suzanne Carrière, NWT Environment and Natural Resources Alicia Legat, Gagos Social Analysts

### Background and Purpose

The EMAB TK/IQ Panel is mandated to work with local communities and assist EMAB in facilitating appropriate and meaningful accommodation of Traditional Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (TK/IQ) in the planning and review of environmental monitoring at Diavik Diamond Mine.

This expanded Session, the fourth in the series that took place during 2012-2013, included an update on Diavik and EMAB responses to previous TK/IQ Panel recommendations, review of the report on the previous session, a Cross-Cultural Learning session on closure, an informal meeting with EMAB, and a session for developing new recommendations.

## Cross-Cultural Learning Approach

The TK Panel is developing an approach to fulfilling its mandate that combines indigenous ways of knowing and learning about results of scientific research. This cross-cultural learning approach provides the Panel with tools that are needed to make traditional knowledge relevant and meaningful when dealing with major changes on the land, like the diamond mine.

The process involved a combination of presentations, semi-structured discussions, and more formal Talking Circles. This allowed for a balance of learning, self-direction and consensus-building among Panel members. Diavik was invited to present

The proceedings were audio-recorded – including recordings of interpretations in English for aboriginal language contributions. Detailed notes were taken, and key messages were posted on flip-charts and Post-It notes.

Full transcription of the proceedings has been completed, and the proposal is that the procedure for developing the full report follow the approach suggested in the *TK/IQ Panel Manual* developed in collaboration with the Panel (Technical Report Volume II, October 23-25, 2012 TK/IQ Panel Session), as follows:

Full reports are structured like Talking Circles. There's a common thread that is reflected in the main text, but the issues are also expressed through quotes from different Panel members. This brings the points to life, and shows a bit of the complexity and diversity of perspectives in the Panel.

Reports should be written in culturally appropriate plain language that is accessible for TK/IQ Panel members and possible readers from their communities. As well, the TK/IQ Panel hopes to include more Aboriginal language terms and concepts in reports – for example, we would like to try including Aboriginal language report titles. Photos and other visuals are used to illustrate who the sources for the report have been, and to help readers better understand what we're driving at.

Recommendations, action items and concluding remarks are very important parts of the reports, since they are the means by which knowledge is interpreted in relation to present reality and planning for the future.

## Agenda

This four day TK/IQ Panel Session was structured in six parts, as follows:

1. Joint meeting with Diavik (Diavik progress report on EMAB recommendations to Diavik based on TK/IQ Panel recommendations)
2. Cross-Cultural learning session on mine closure (presentations and activities with Tee Lim, Suzanne Carrière, Karen Hamre, and Natasha Thorpe).
3. Review, approval and release of reports from previous Sessions: *Checking Nets: Reflecting on Progress in 2012*; *Renewing Our Landscape: Envisioning Mine Closure and Reclamation of the North Country Rock Pile*; *Working Together: TK/IQ Panel Manual*.
4. Overview of landscape history at ?eka Du (review of previous TK/IQ studies)
5. Recommendations for closure planning
6. Planning for future TK/IQ Panel sessions

EMAB Board Members also joined the TK/IQ Panel for informal discussion during lunch on Days 1 and 2, and attended presentations during the Cross-Cultural Learning Session in the afternoon of Day 1.

## Proceedings

### 1. Joint Meeting with Diavik

Gord Macdonald presented a tracking sheet patterned on the comments form provided by the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board listing TK/IQ Panel recommendations and Diavik responses in relation two categories: Wildlife Monitoring and Closure.

Seth Bohnet shared a presentation about revegetation research at the Diavik mine site.

### 2. Cross-Cultural Learning Session on Mine Closure

This session included presentations, discussions and activities led by four resource people, as follows:

- a. A Story of Closure: Nanisivik, Canada's First High Arctic Mine (Tee Lim)
- b. Planning for Biodiversity – the NWT's Biodiversity Strategy (Suzanne Carrière)
- c. Shaping a Mine Landscape with Aboriginal Values in Mind (Karen Hamre)
- d. Literature Review of TEK Related to the Resource Sector (Natasha Thorpe)

### 3. Review, Approval and Release of Reports from Previous Sessions

The report from the October 2012 TK/IQ Panel Session, *Checking Nets: Reflecting on Progress in 2012*, was reviewed and approved for general release. Part II of the report, *Working Together: TK/IQ Panel Manual*, was approved for limited release, pending further review prior to the next Panel Session.

The report previously approved for limited release, *Renewing Our Landscape: Envisioning Mine Closure and Reclamation of the North Country Rock Pile*, was approved for general release.

#### 4. Overview of Landscape History at ?eka Du

Deborah Simmons provided an overview of TK/IQ Studies conducted during and since the Environmental Assessment, and each Panel delegation had an opportunity to discuss this research in small groups before presenting their assessments of the research to the Panel as a whole.

#### 5. Recommendations for Closure Planning

Recommendations were developed, reviewed and approved by consensus based on discussions during the Cross-Cultural Learning session.

#### 6. Planning for future TK/IQ Panel sessions

This was an opportunity for the Panel to identify their priority issues/topics to be addressed at future Sessions, based on issues that had arisen at this and previous Sessions.

### Recommendations and Questions

#### 1. Closure and Reclamation Recommendations

##### 1.1 Rock Pile Height

**Option 1** (preferred): Is it possible to lower the height of the rock pile? This is our preferred option, if scientifically feasible.

**Option 2:** If required by terms of water license, we recommend keeping the height as low as possible. Do what you need to do to contain the contaminants in the Type III and II rock.

##### *Questions for Diavik*

- We request accurate GPS information at established waypoints about the height and size of the pile.
- Why is the rock pile so high now? Did Aboriginal people have input into the rock pile design?

##### 1.2 Rock Pile Shape

The rock pile should look as natural as possible, with varying levels of steepness, imitating the historic effects of glaciers and prevailing easterly winds in the surrounding landscape – just like an esker. The north slope should be more gradual for wildlife and people to access. People and caribou may want to use the hill to get away from bugs in the summer.

##### 1.3 Rock Pile Capping

- Cap the rock pile with the best materials for biodiversity based on traditional knowledge and scientific experiments. Use nearby natural hills as a “reference condition.”

##### 1.4 Pathway for Caribou

- There should be some soft material on the rock pile that’s good for the caribou feet.

### *Question for Diavik*

Can Processed Kimberlite be used for animal paths, or will it create dust or harm wildlife?

## 1.5 Rock Pile and Water

Experiment with different kinds of natural wetlands for filtering at the base of the rock pile where water collects. This should be combined with the current purification system for any remaining contaminants. There should also be long term monitoring involving trained Aboriginal people.

### *Questions for Diavik*

- What will eventually be the impact of erosion on water flow?
- We're concerned that there may be cracks in the Type I and II protective layers. How can we know that Type III rock will always be kept isolated from the rest of the environment? How do we know that the runoff from the Rock Pile is clean after closure?
- How does Diavik treat the water?
- What has Diavik been learning about water drainage from the test pile? What would be the pros and cons of creating channels for water?
- How might climate change, permafrost melt or increased precipitation affect water drainage?

## 1.6 Infrastructure

- Keep the **airstrip**, but take away some boulders. Smooth slopes similar to an esker.
- The sides of the airstrip and roads at ground level should be **landscaped** with vegetation to filter runoff.
- Keep all **roads** leading to pits and airstrip to facilitate monitoring. Smooth slopes like eskers.
- **Scarify surfaces** at camp, plant site, and laydowns (not surfaces that haven't been disturbed).
- Leave **two good buildings close to the airstrip** for an emergency shelter.

### *Question for Diavik*

If you scarify the surfaces, do they need to be flat (ie. option B, height question)?

## 1.7 Waste Disposal

- **Remove** all equipment, unused buildings, pipes, and toxic and non-biodegradable materials.
- **Distribute buildings, equipment and materials** as requested by Aboriginal communities.

### *Question for Diavik*

What's already been buried on site, and where?

## 1.8 Areas for Revegetation

- Do not revegetate airstrip or roads.
- Revegetate everything else in a way that supports maximum biodiversity (Tıch'adii, Atogominatok), including culturally valued species.
- Conduct research on revegetation at historical sites and on wildlife trails

### ***Question for Diavik***

What measures are being taken to prevent invasive species from taking hold at the site?

#### **1.9 Some Opportunities for Aboriginal Participation**

- Detailed design processes with technical people
- Experiments
- Landscaping with heavy equipment
- Planting
- Ceremony – healing and reconciliation with the land
- Train youth to assist in building and monitoring a site that meets our cultural landscape objectives

#### **1.10 General Question**

How has climate change been incorporated into Diavik’s closure planning? How will it be incorporated?

##### **1. TK/IQ Use in Planning**

- Diavik should provide information about how they have followed up on best practices identified in the Golder literature review.
- Diavik should do a review of documentation related to previous elder site visits and resulting actions.
- Diavik should carry out and make public a review of its use of the TK/IQ studies carried out by the five Aboriginal Parties in its environmental plans and programs. This review should document the successes and lessons learned from TK/IQ studies, and what changes or improvements in adaptive management can be attributed to TK/IQ.

##### **2. Diavik’s Tracking System**

- The TK/IQ Panel supports ongoing verbal reports by Diavik regarding their follow-up on recommendations.
- The TK/IQ Panel will develop the topics and topical framework for responding to our recommendations.

##### **3. Recommendation Regarding Caribou SoP**

- Diavik should involve at least two individuals designated by the TK/IQ Panel to guide provision of input on more behaviours and categories for herd composition as previously recommended.

##### **4. Site Visits**

Diavik should advise the TK/IQ Panel of planned elder site visits and topics to be discussed, seeking input on how elders can well prepared and briefed to make full use of those visits. Discussions during site visits should be fully documented for review by the TK/IQ Panel. The TK/IQ Panel should develop guidelines for such visits, including “elder care.”

## **5. Expertise Needed on Session Topics**

We are an expert panel, and when engaged in cross-cultural learning sessions, we need to work with scientific/technical experts in the fields that we're discussing in order to make progress; we seek full cooperation from Diavik in providing the required Diavik experts (staff and consultants) to assist in our processes.

## **6. WISH LIST – 2013-2015 Session Topics**

*Note – to be considered by EMAB in relation to regulatory timelines.*

- Caribou TK/IQ (already approved)
- TK/IQ values and principles (to support recommendations)
- Opportunities for Aboriginal participation in closure
- Guidelines for working with TK/IQ Holders
- Cultural landscapes
- Air quality
- Pits