

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



April 8, 2026

by email

Nathalie Oldfield
Manager, Environmental Impact Assessment
Environment and Climate Change
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9

Re: Response to Minister's Consultation on Diavik's proposed EMAB Wind-Down under section 18.3 of the Diavik Environmental Agreement

Dear Nathalie

The Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for the opportunity to respond to Diavik's request to the Minister to wind down EMAB under section 18.3 of the Environmental Agreement for the Diavik Diamond Project (EA).

Consultation process

EMAB had expected that ECC would undertake a more in-depth and meaningful consultation with the Parties to the EA, particularly the Indigenous Parties, on this critical decision. We believe in-person consultation with each Party would be more effective and insightful than a request for a written response, and we recommend that ECC re-consider its consultation process in this light.

In EMAB's view there should be a consensus among all the Parties before any changes are made to the EA, including a wind-down schedule for EMAB.

EMAB requests

EMAB also requests the opportunity to present our response to the Minister, and that the Minister provide copies of all Parties' responses to each of the Parties. We also request an opportunity to make a closing submission to the Minister, to be taken into consideration before any final decision is made.

Need for dialogue between EMAB, Diavik, ECC and the Parties

Diavik has not engaged in dialogue with EMAB on our role during the transition to closure. We strongly believe that such a dialogue should have taken place before any proposals to wind down EMAB were made. Under separate cover we have sent an invitation to Diavik to have this dialogue, with assistance from ECC, and ideally involving the other Parties to the EA.

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EMAB's response to Diavik's request

In EMAB's view Diavik's request is premature and reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of the EA, and the decisions that led to the Agreement being required in order for the Diavik project to proceed.

EMAB's response is attached, along with seven supporting attachments. We include a listing of work EMAB anticipates it will need to undertake during the transitional year to closure (2026-27), the closure phase (2027 to approximately 2029) and the post-closure monitoring and maintenance phase (approximately 2029 until all Diavik closure objectives are met and the mine is relinquished to GNWT). We also include a preliminary draft budget for the 2027-2029 budget period. In addition we include three letters of support from Parties to the EA, for EMAB to continue throughout closure.

If you have any questions please contact John McCullum at the EMAB office.

Sincerely,

Charlie Catholique
Chair

Cc EMAB members and alternates (by email)
 Parties to the Environmental Agreement (by email)
 Hon. Jay Macdonald, Minister, Environment and Climate Change (by email)
 Robert Jenkins, Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change (by email)
 Matt Breen, COO, Diavik Diamond Mine (by email)