

WHAT IS EMAB?

EMAB is the independent environmental watchdog for the Diavik Diamond Mine. EMAB makes recommendations to Diavik and the Regulators about water, aquatic life, wildlife, air quality, and mine closure plans. EMAB also makes sure that Diavik uses Traditional Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (TK/IQ) in their environmental monitoring programs.

EMAB Board members are appointed by the following Parties:

- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN)
- North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA)
- Łutselk'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN)
- Tłıchq̓ Government (TG)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Government of Canada
- Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- Diavik Diamond Mines Inc (DDMI).

Our 2024-25 Annual Report provides more information on Diavik's environmental monitoring programs and EMAB recommendations. Go to emab.ca or contact us for a hard copy.

MONITORING THE REGULATORS

How well did the regulators engage in oversight at Diavik and respond to EMAB recommendations this year?

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

- ECCC commented on all of Diavik's reports.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

- DFO commented on one Diavik report.
- DFO has not responded to EMAB's March 2024 letter asking them to provide comments on reports and management plans where fish could be affected.

Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

- GNWT-ECC commented on all of Diavik's water licence reports, and fully participated in Diavik's Water Licence Renewal.
- ECC took over a year to follow up on completion of Diavik's required Wildlife Monitoring Plan revisions and has still not given a final decision.
- ECC commented on Diavik's 2023 EAQMP report. ECC directed Diavik to improve its air quality monitoring program, and has approved Diavik's revised EAQMP.

Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB):

- The WLWB consistently provides detailed reviews of all documents submitted by Diavik under the water licence.

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HOW TO CONTACT US

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE DIAVIK MINE

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ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

2024
2025

Working with
the People *for the*
Environment

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE DIAVIK MINE

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AQUATIC EFFECTS MONITORING PROGRAM (AEMP)

Diavik monitors water, fish, and other aquatic life through the AEMP.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality around Diavik is within the limits of the Water Licence set by the WLWB. Key water quality concerns in 2024-25 include:

- 56% of the lake was affected by nutrient enrichment, down from 100% last year.
 - › The mine deposits nutrients like nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) in the water around the mine.
 - › More P and N in the water make algae grow and decrease oxygen in the lake.
- Diavik's water licence was updated to allow breaching of Ponds 2 and 7.
 - › The discharge from these ponds is regulated by legally-binding effluent quality criteria (EQC).
 - › The runoff from Ponds 2 & 7 exceeded Surface Water Action Level Framework triggers for both ponds during freshet; Pond 2 had ongoing exceedances from July to freeze-up. There was no acute or chronic toxicity to aquatic life.
 - › Diavik sampled to find out the size of the Pond 2 & 7 mixing zones. Reporting will be in 2026.
- Processed kimberlite is being deposited in the A418 pit instead of the PKC. After closure, Diavik plans to fill the pit with water, and re-connect to Lac de Gras (LdG) once water quality is safe.



FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE

Monitoring results for fish and aquatic life are within WLWB licence limits and predictions. Key concerns in 2024-25 include:

- There are larger amounts and varieties of plankton (tiny plants and animals) and benthic invertebrates (little bugs that live on the lake floor) near the mine compared to far away, showing how Diavik's discharge has changed the lake near the mine.
- EMAB continues to follow up Elders' concerns about fish health and the number of parasites seen at the Traditional Knowledge Fish Camps in 2021 and 2024.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PROGRAM (WMMP)

Diavik's WMMP looks at the effects of the mine on caribou, grizzly bear, wolverine, raptors, and the plants the animals eat. Key concerns in 2024-25 include:

- Diavik has proposed to drop zone-of-influence (ZOI) monitoring from the WMMP.
- Plant communities around the mine are different from those on the natural tundra.

ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM (EAQMP)

The EAQMP monitors air emissions and dustfall on the mine site, and a large area surrounding the mine. Key concerns in 2024-25 include:

- The GNWT-ECC investigated the adequacy of Diavik's existing EAQMP as EMAB had requested, and decided it was not good enough. Diavik revised the EAQMP, and the Minister approved it in March 2025, with monitoring under the revised plan starting in 2025.
- Diavik is now required to start monitoring Total Suspended Particulates in 2025. They are not investigating the yellow haze that blankets the mine on very cold days.

WATER LICENCE RENEWAL APPLICATION

- Diavik's water licence was set to expire at the end of 2025. The company submitted a renewal application in January 2025. A hearing took place in June and the WLWB issued a recommended licence to the Minister in mid-October for his approval.

- EMAB raised many issues including:
 - › Collection pond discharges must be regulated by EQC's.
 - › Need for detailed monitoring of water and discharges from the mine.
 - › Water at the mine must be safe for drinking after the mine closes.
 - › North Inlet must be safe for fish and for drinking.
 - › Cultural Use Criteria are needed for the entire mine site.

FINAL CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN (FCRP)

- Diavik held two closure workshops in late 2024, and submitted its revised FCRP in May 2025. EMAB found many concerns that need to be addressed:
 - › Need to ensure TK Monitoring is controlled by communities. Diavik's proposed approach to TK monitoring needs improvement. Need to develop Cultural Use Criteria for the entire mine.
 - › Several inadequate closure criteria, including protection of water quality for fish, wildlife and people on the site and in LdG.
 - › Revegetation not up to industry standards; need to cover much more area, use more local species, especially shrubs, and monitor longer for success.
 - › Uncertainties with some designs that rely on structures to stay frozen.
 - › Plan to bury contaminated soils on site.
 - › Some parts of the mine need to be monitored for much longer than the 5 years proposed by Diavik.
 - › Did not adequately address effects of climate change on closure performance.

