



Yellowknives Dene First Nation

P.O. Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

December 5th, 2013

Laurie McGregor
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3
Email: laurie.mcgregor@aandc.gc.ca

Dear Ms. McGregor:

Re: Comments on the Diavik Environmental Agreement Annual Report

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) has recently reviewed Diavik's submission for the annual report as outlined in Section 12.1 of the Environmental Agreement. YKDFN finds it to be insufficient towards meeting the terms laid out within that agreement.

YKDFN supports the Project's efforts to provide communication materials that are more easily understood by readers. However, the current report goes too far to simplify the information and in doing so, falls short of what YKDFN's perceives as the purpose of the report. Section 12.1 of the Agreement outlines this scope. Subsection (i) states that the Annual Report shall include: "a comprehensive summary of all supporting information, data and results from the Environmental Monitoring Programs and all studies including research". The current report presents data only in written form where YKDFN would find the use of figures, charts and tables more beneficial to a wider audience. In some sections, results or program findings are presented however more attention could be paid to results analysis and focusing on meaningful findings throughout the report as a whole. Finally, the summary should not be considered complete in instances where the reader is forwarded to external sources for "supporting information". YKDFN would prefer that this report were a standalone document for all relevant information.

Section 12.1 (xiii) sets out that this report should serve as a "plain English executive summary" with translations also made available. YKDFN is willing to infer that the brevity of this report was an attempt at making the document more 'reader friendly' for a specific audience, however, as staff, we find its presentation neglects our readership group. We encourage Minister to require the company to revise the report in line with finding a more appropriate middle ground for relaying all important information.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gault
Director, Lands and Environment