

WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



August 18-19, 2020 Meeting Summary

Meeting held in-person and by teleconference/videoconference. Videoconference was for presentations only.

Finance

- Revised budget to reallocate funds for workshops, due to COVID

Draft Two-year Budget

- Some minor changes made since last review; re-allocated funds from workshops to review of closure plans

TK Water Quality Criteria

- Diavik presents proposed process for including TK in decision on whether to reconnect pits with PK in them to Lac de Gras
- Diavik has had phone/Zoom meetings with all Affected Communities and presented TK Panel Recommendations; plan to hold workshops with Affected Communities to discuss further
- EMAB will not comment until communities have given their input.

Wildlife Monitoring Program Description

- Diavik presents proposed WMP; provided a table showing how it meets Wildlife Act regulations and Environmental Agreement commitments.
- Diavik built TK into WMP from the beginning; no separate programs
- Included most EMAB recommendations; more discussion needed on:
 - Caribou behaviour
 - Changes in caribou migration around mine
 - Zone of Influence monitoring
- GNWT plans to have a meeting of ZOI Technical Group in the fall
- Will review TK component at next meeting

ICRP 4.1 Review

- Update on meetings to discuss Diavik's responses to Randy Knapp and Bill Slater's draft comments on ICRP 4.1
 - Some changes made to comments to account for additional information from Diavik
- Noted that Diavik will submit reports on PKC Closure Design, Revegetation Design and South Waste Rock Pile in March/April 2021. These will be important reviews.
- Key Issues identified are: Mixing Zones, PKC, Revegetation, Contaminated Soil, and TK Monitoring
- Comments being added based on staff review of outstanding comments from previous ICRP
 - Diavik will review and provide any missing information once staff comments are complete
 - Discussion on contaminated soil
 - Ekati has treated contaminated soil to CCME Agricultural Standard
 - EMAB has said it wants soil at Diavik treated to Agricultural Standard or shipped offsite.
 - Diavik won't use treated soil for revegetation, even if it meets the Agricultural Standard; they will bury it in permafrost.
 - Communities have said they don't want contaminated material buried

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- Vegetation palatability for wildlife – proposed monitoring is not adequate
- Discussion on Key Issues
 - Mixing Zones – is proposed size of mixing zones acceptable
 - Diavik notes the only alternative is water treatment which would require a plant onsite with staff forever
 - Is there no other way to reduce the size of the mixing zones?
 - Noted water in mixing zones will not be acutely toxic.
 - Revegetation
 - Diavik asks what Board thoughts are on revegetating PKC
 - Agreed to postpone further discussion until next meeting when recommendations table is finished

Environmental Agreement Amendment Update

- Waiting on review of French translation; likely not ready by September EMAB AGM
- Discussion on whether 45 days will be a long enough review period

Annual Report Text

- Extend review period to August 21.
- Staff hoping to have Annual Report finalized by AGM
- Report card seems harsh, especially on closure plan
- Question about fact-checking; staff do this, not consultants

Next Meeting

- September 9-10'20