# WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



## EMAB Meeting Summary - March 2-3, 2022

Meeting held in-person and by teleconference/videoconference.

#### Minutes/Action Item Follow-up:

- Send letter regarding extending EMAB after closure to KIA rep to pass on to KIA management.
- Diavik has not responded to EMAB recommendations about qualifications for community members who want to do post-closure monitoring, and for plans for communities to access surplus Diavik assets before and during closure. Diavik will respond by letter.

#### **Finance**

- Predicting a \$67,000 surplus to roll over to 2022-2023.
- Discussion on Business Rules and contribution repayable to Diavik from 2020-2021 tabled. Review outcome of 2011 arbitration.

#### Workplan and Budget for 2022-2023

- Review of draft budget for 2022-2023. Question about whether to cover travel costs from outside NWT/Nunavut. ED to confirm existing EMAB policy.
- Budget and Board calendar for 2022-2023 approved by Board.

# **Water Licence Hearing Update**

- Update on key issues at water licence hearing on progressive reclamation February 22-23.
- Reviewed draft response to Undertaking for EMAB from the public hearing to withdraw Intervention recommendation 4.1. Recommendation revised and approved by the Board.

# Caribou Population Status and Factors (Jan Adamczewski, ENR)

- Barren-Ground caribou are designated as threatened by COSEWIC and NWT SARC.
- Main factors that affect their population include natural cycles, weather, development, harvest and predation
- Development may lead caribou to avoid mines, communities and roads road traffic seems to have the largest effect on caribou movement; caribou seem to avoid crossing roads when there is traffic.

# **Review of 2020 EAQMP Report**

- Presentation of Diavik's 2020 EAQMP Report similar to 2019, TSP monitoring removed, and Ministerial investigation of EAQMP that was requested by EMAB. Staff to assemble recommendations from EMAB and consultant and send to Board for approval.
- Update on Yellow haze investigation.
  - Staff to provide a recommendation on how to check whether yellow haze is present, for review and approval by email motion.

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#### **Air Quality Guideline Update**

- Draft guidelines are in review: comments received from advisory boards and Diavik other mines granted extensions until March 4.
- Next steps: review comments received, and prepare "what we heard" document by end of March -
- final Air Quality Guideline for end of April 2022.

# **EA Amendment Update**

- Amendment still has not been signed by most parties.
- GNWT will send follow-up letter to Parties (no response will indicate a Party is not agreeing to sign).
- If no agreement, the GNWT will stop pursuing for now.

#### Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy

- Review draft list of potential Diavik COI exemptions from recent Board agendas.
- If an item is not primarily financial for Diavik, or with specific financial implications for Diavik then there is no COI.
- Summarize discussion and prepare an email motion for Board approval in consultation with lawyer.

## **MDMER Exemption for Northern Mines** (Bryana Matthews – ENR)

- GNWT have developed an equivalency agreement with ECCC, where MDMER limits under the Fisheries Act would stand down, but still be the minimum standard.
- The agreement will reduce oversight and associated costs, and would provide regulatory clarity for the mines.
- Consultation period ended March 1. GNWT will prepare a "what we heard" document
- Water licences would need to be updated to bring the equivalency agreement into effect.

# **TK Monitoring for Closure**

Diavik is continuing to work on TK monitoring for closure with communities.

# **ED Performance Evaluation**

Evaluation approved by Board

Jack Kaniak provided a report on the TK Fish Camp held at Diavik in August 2021. Concerns noted about fish parasites, water quality and dust at Diavik on calm days.

#### **Diavik Closure Plan Information Session #1**

Diavik presented the first of four half-day information sessions on the final closure plan, due to be submitted at end of 2022. These sessions include community members, regulators, consultants, and other interested organizations, as well as EMAB. Diavik recorded the session and will provide a copy on request.

#### **Next Meeting**

• Tentative dates for next meeting are April 19-21, 2022.