



## **EMAB Meeting Summary – February 18-19, 2025**

Meeting held in-person and by teleconference/videoconference

### **Minutes/Action Item Follow-Up**

- Complete and circulate minutes from Jan 10-17'25 conference call on Traditional Knowledge (TK) Monitoring.
- Follow up with DDMI re: results of internal investigation into Jan'24 Mine Air Heater fuel spill.

### **Finance**

- Board approves '25-'26 budget and meeting schedule, and revised '24-'25 budget.

### **Inspector's Update**

- Inspector not available to provide update; Board reviewed inspection report.
- DDMI-appointed Director provides latest update on Dec '24 Pond 7 dam fuel spill.

### **Diavik Water Licence Renewal Application**

- Consultants presented technical review findings.
- Board approves comments and recommendations on DDMI's water licence renewal application for submission to Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB).

### **TK Monitoring Plan Discussion**

- Board would like regular updates on Diavik's progress developing TK Monitoring Plan (TKMP).
- EMAB's Executive Director (ED) to draft a letter to Diavik responding to rejection of EMAB's proposed Terms of Reference for TKMP and requesting EMAB staff member attend upcoming TKMP workshops in April and July.

### **Diavik Working Relationship Follow-Up**

- EMAB to send EMAB's draft comments on DDMI's water licence renewal application to DDMI before submitting to the WLWB.
- DDMI to give final report to WLWB on DDMI/EMAB working relationship at end of March.

### **Specific Effects Study (SES) (Discharge plume from collection ponds)**

- Board approved comments on SES V1.1 for submission to WLWB regarding sampling after rainfall where there is discharge from collection ponds.

### **ED Evaluation**

- Board approved ED performance evaluation for previous year.



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### **Two-Year Budget Update**

- Chair and ED met with Diavik and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) on Feb 10; followed up with letter to Diavik and ECC.
- Diavik unwilling to give assurance to provide additional funds for review of Water Licence Renewal and Final Closure Plan if needed.

### **EAQMP Investigation Update**

- ECC and Diavik finalizing revisions to Diavik Air Quality Monitoring Program following Minister's review.
- Approve comments on 2023 Air Quality Monitoring Report and send to Diavik and ECC.

### **Winter Road Effects on Caribou**

- GNWT-ECC wildlife staff Pete Cott and Greg Look discussed current caribou management on winter road to diamond mines (e.g., mobile no-hunting zone for Bathurst herd), new potential mitigations, and answer questions.
- Some communities want to restrict hunting and/or traffic access to winter road. The authorizations for the winter road does not allow for restricted public access.
- There are options to prevent access, such as a lease at the start of the road or new legislation. This would require extensive consultation. All Indigenous governments would have to agree; potential infringement of section 35 constitutional right to harvest would be an issue. A Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan might be another possible tool to address harvest concerns.
- EMAB to draft letter to GNWT-ECC requesting information on tools available to restrict harvesting off winter road, barriers to implementation, and current mitigation/enforcement practices. Also request GNWT bring Parties together to discuss.

### **Board Member Update and Community Concerns**

- Board members provided community updates.
- Concerns about financial effects of mine closure on communities. Interest in possibility of acquiring surplus Diavik assets.
- Concerns about caribou population and harvesting, especially related to winter road.