**March 9-11, 2021 EMAB Meeting Summary**

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

**Action Item Follow-up:**

* EMAB will send letter to Government of Canada requesting EMAB appointees/directors and note required response within 60 days.
* EMAB will write letter to GNWT recommending they provide timeline for EAQMP Minister’s review.
* EMAB will send letter of support for Diavik’s proposed Frame Lake Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Project.

**Finance**

* Community engagement budgets have not been used due to COVID.
	+ Executive Director will draft a policy allowing for board members to access community engagement budget through proposals to the Board.
	+ Aboriginal members can make proposals to use 2020-21 community update funds.
* EMAB will request some funds for technical review be rolled over from 2020-21 to next year.

**Mixing Zones Discussion**

* EMAB consultants presented reviews on Diavik’s mixing zones paper.
	+ Many details are missing about possible ways to reduce contamination in runoff after closure and effect on the size of mixing zones
	+ Support for Diavik’s idea to do research on effects of runoff on aquatic life, but need to review detailed proposal
	+ Diavik’s proposed discharge criteria would impact aquatic life; noted these only apply to mixing zones
* Timeline to submit comments is rushed. EMAB requested an extension from the WLWB, which has been granted.
* Concern that Arcadis consulting did not have all the relevant information needed for their review. Diavik provided a document.
* Arcadis will review new document and revise comments and EMAB will plan a conference call to discuss on the week of March 22.

**Inspectors Report**

* The Inspector is concerned new conditions in new draft water licence will affect inspector’s ability to make emergency decisions in the field. Inspectors need some flexibility. Diavik also has some concerns with this review requirement.

**Draft Conflict of Interest Policy**

* Lawyer Ed Gullberg drafted a policy to clarify conflict of interest issues discussed last year. Balancing independence with representing general interest of their Party.
	+ Focus on financial interest of employer seems like it can exclude Diavik representative from any vote or discussion.
	+ Board members must put EMAB’s interests above others.
	+ Noted that the point is for EMAB to be democratic; sometimes Diavik will vote differently.
	+ Draft policy may be too strict; draft will be revised for Board’s consideration and later discussion.

**Update on GNWT Long Term Responsibility for Mine Closure**

* GNWT updated the Board on legislation and policy development.
* Guidelines for closure and reclamation cost estimates are being updated with input from WLWB, ENR, Lands, CIRNAC, GTC, TG.
* There will be a public review, likely in summer 2021.
* GNWT will update the board when the draft guidelines are released.
* Public Lands Act Regulations are being developed; will include security for mine closure

**Mercury in Lake Trout Review:**

* North South consultants provided update on review
	+ Still hoping to get remaining data from Diavik; can do the review without it.
* Noted that Barry Zajdlik put out a paper showing that there is mercury in Diavik’s effluent.

**Air Quality and Yellow Haze**

* Board is concerned the issue of yellow haze should be taken more seriously by Diavik.
* Arcadis consulting will put together a detailed proposal for Diavik with recommendations for sampling methods and associated costs.

**ENR WMP Workshop**

* MSES presents their thoughts on ENR’s WMP workshop, which was held from Feb 2-3 2021.
* Most of MSES’s recommendations on the WMMP will not change based on workshop results. Concerns are on how to monitor mine zone of influence on caribou, and need for mitigation.
	+ Updated MSES recommendations will be sent to Board for review and approval to submit to Diavik and ENR
* ENR requested comments on the ZOI draft guidance document. MSES’s comments approved by Board to be sent to ENR.

**EMAB Merchandise to Communities**

* With no community engagement there have been no opportunities to give out EMAB merchandise.
* Staff will send packages of EMAB merchandise to board members for them to distribute in communities.

**IEMA Update**

* Effect of Ekati/DDEC insolvency on monitoring at the mine
* Closure plan workshop in a couple of weeks. Questions about differences in processed kimberlite containment at Ekati and Diavik, and possible effects on wildlife
* Did analysis of satellite collar data on effects of mine on caribou movement
* Expecting a proposal for a new pit at Point Lake (on point between Lac du Sauvage and Lac de Gras)
* Some concerns about potassium in Long Lake Containment facility; also seeing some elevated selenium in whitefish and mercury in fish in Kodiak Lake. Ekati should explain.
* EMAB should continue to get regular updates from IEMA

**Next Meeting**

* Tentatively scheduled for April 20-22; if not needed then May 26-27.