

EMAB Traditional Knowledge Panel – Fencing
March 16-18, 2004
Recommendations, Summary

SUMMARY

The following is a brief summary of the recommendations further detailed in the rest of this report.

There are three issues regarding fencing:

1. Should have exclusion fencing that prevents animals from entering areas dangerous to them.
2. Should consider diversion fencing that causes herds to change direction, encouraging them to miss the site entirely.
3. A condition currently exists in the solid waste area that endangers wildlife. Should immediately remove the barbed wire from fence in the gully area and fix that fence ASAP.

Exclusion fencing:

1. Use the Colomac model as much as possible including method of post installation, fence fabric (chainlink), ground flaps, escape gates, and general plan, including avoiding “inside corners” which can become traps for caribou.
2. Install this fence some distance from buildings so drifts from buildings do not build up in the fence.
3. Locate it as much as possible in exposed areas where the snow is thin anyway.
4. Leave space inside so fenceline can be plowed if needed.
5. Use NO barbed wire.
6. Deal with gullies correctly (see below).
7. Consult the Tli Cho people at Colomac, especially James Dircks, for information. Suggest those responsible for fencing at Diavik visit Colomac to see that fence.
8. Consider employing members of the fence installation team used at Colomac on this fence as they are already skilled at building it.

Areas to be exclusion fenced, priorities (explanations in main report):

- #1 Solid waste area: remove barbed wire in the gully area immediately and fix low area of fence as soon as possible.
- #2 Open pits (current and future)
- #3 PKC (Processed Kimberlite Containment area)

- #4 Fuel storage areas (tank farm plus any other drum storage areas)
- #5 Explosives storage areas (note questions/details in main report)

Diversiory fencing:

1. In general lack info; panel suggests some elders visit during peak migration.
2. Recommendations varied (from “none, IF other fencing is done right” to “try about 5 km of removable fence”)
3. Removable fence: use bright orange plastic “crowd control” type of fence with large apertures, and use moveable posts that will accept “Electrobraid” fence material. Install fence in July; remove in October to avoid trapping herds in springtime.
4. Install in area north of the airstrip, then running southwest to “shed” herds to the west of the minesite.
5. If this does not work, consider:
 1. Adding “Electrobraid” fencing material to the outside of the existing fence.
 2. Moving the fence to the narrowest part of the peninsula extending from the north shore of Lac de Gras toward the west island, which is a crossing place.

General recommendations:

1. More monitoring, especially this year when decisions need to be made re fencing.
2. Elders (representatives of this panel) inspect exclusion fence once it is installed.
3. TK groups in general need to see more of the area and infrastructure when there is less snow, during peak migration, and with more access to areas of concern.

TK groups to monitor habitat destruction more closely.