

# News Release

## January 6, 2020



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### The Review Board releases its Report of Environmental Assessment for Diavik's proposal to deposit processed kimberlite into pit(s) and underground at Diavik mine

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has completed an environmental assessment of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.'s proposal to deposit processed kimberlite into pit(s) and underground at the Diavik mine, in Lac de Gras, approximately 300 km northwest of Yellowknife.

**Proposed Project:** Diavik currently puts all the processed kimberlite (a mine waste) it produces into its processed kimberlite containment facility. Diavik has proposed to put some of the processed kimberlite into the pit(s) and underground at the mine instead (the Project). Diavik wants to put 5 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> of processed kimberlite into one or two of the pits it has mined, and underground beneath those pits.

**Environmental Assessment Report:** The Review Board released the *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* (the Report) for the Project on January 6, 2019. The Report describes the Review Board's findings and is available online in the public registry [here](#).

**Environmental Assessment Decision:** After careful consideration, the Review Board recommends, under subparagraph 128(1)(b)(ii) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, to the Government of the Northwest Territories Minister of Lands (GNWT) that the Project be approved subject to the implementation of measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment. The Review Board prescribes the following suite of measures to mitigate impacts so they are no longer significant:

- ensure that water in the pit lake(s) meets new water quality objectives
- collaboratively develop criteria for judging if water will be good for cultural use
- update its water quality modelling
- establish an independent review panel to improve updated modelling
- conduct additional and more effective engagement with potentially affected Indigenous communities

The Review Board also recommends a measure to the GNWT to develop community-specific indicators of cultural well-being and adaptively manage project-specific and cumulative impacts on cultural use of the Lac de Gras area.

The Review Board requires a follow-up program, including annual reporting from Diavik, the GNWT, and regulatory authorities on the implementation of the measures

**Process and Timeline:** The Report has been sent to the Minister of Lands for consideration. Once the Report is accepted by the Minister, the Project can move to the permitting and licensing phase. The Review Board completed this environmental assessment using 7.5 months of Review Board time, well

within the legislated timeline of 16 months for an environmental assessment allowed by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

**For further information, please contact:**

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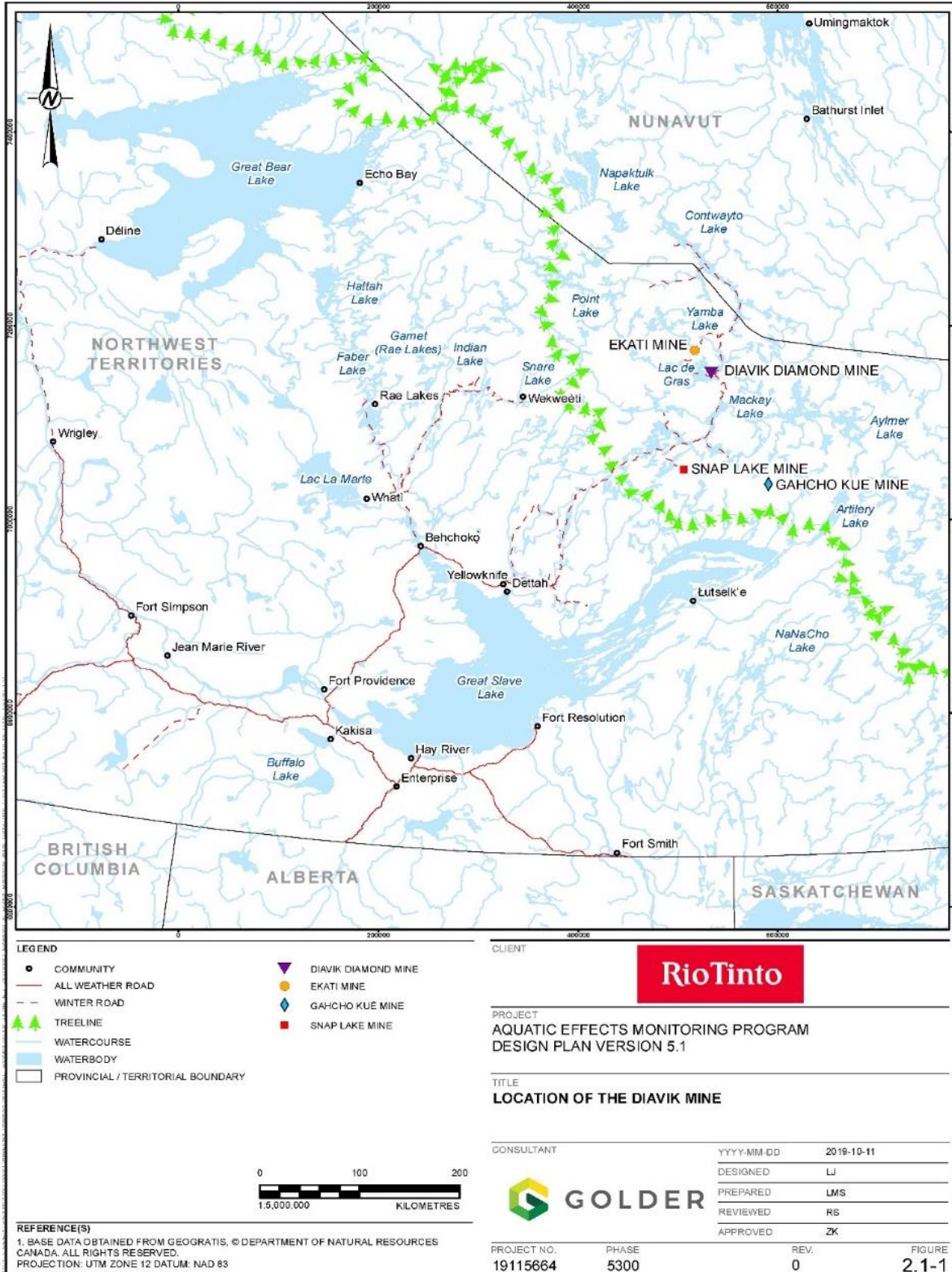
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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### **About the Review Board**

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in 1998 as an independent administrative tribunal responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. As a co-management board, Aboriginal land claim organizations nominate half of the board members, and the federal and territorial governments nominate the other half of the board members. The Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada appoints all members to the Review Board including the Chairperson.



Location of the Diavik mine and the Project