

Jay Project Environmental Assessment - EA1314-10

DDMI Presentation – Caribou

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DDMI Issue - Caribou

- The movement of caribou into the Diavik Mine area is affected by the Jay Project.
- Caribou occurrence and use of the reclaimed Diavik mine site is expected to be a key regulatory and community closure performance measure of DDMI.
- The Proponent has not assessed the impacts to Diavik of changes to caribou movement that would result from development of the Jay Project

Evidence - Caribou

DDC Assessment:

“Closure of the Diavik and Ekati (without Jay Project) mines is predicted to reverse the effect of the mines on caribou movement from the West to East Islands and the eastern shoreline of Lac de Gras.

Following closure of the Diavik Mine in 2023, reclaimed and undisturbed habitat on the East Island should become available for caribou.

With the Jay Project However, the ZOI from the Jay Project could delay the reversibility of the effect to caribou movement across the West to East Islands and Lac de Gras and result in a the relative abundance (occurrence) of caribou along this route compared to reference conditions.”

Conclusion

It is DDMI's position that the proposed Jay Project will likely cause changes to the environment that are predicted to extend spatially to include the area surrounding the Diavik Mine.

These environmental changes may adversely affect DDMI as the operator of the Diavik Mine.

It will be difficult for DDMI to demonstrate an increase in caribou use of the reclaimed mine areas if the Jay Project continues to affects caribou movement.

Consequently it will be difficult to demonstrate closure performance, manage closure activities and successfully relinquish financial security.

Recommendations

DDMI recommends:

1. That the MVEIRB confirm, through this Environmental Assessment process, DDMI's position that the Jay Project is likely to cause adverse effects to DDMI as the operator of the Diavik Mine.
2. That the MVEIRB require that the Proponent engage with DDMI to develop mutually acceptable monitoring and mitigation to effectively eliminate these effects to DDMI.
3. That the MVEIRB specify that that monitoring and mitigation, specific to effect on Diavik, be included within the regulatory phase.

Recommendations continued

4. That the Proponent commit to advancing these monitoring and mitigation measures, with any necessary revisions, for review and acceptance by the Land and Water Board.
5. That the Proponent commit to advancing these monitoring and mitigation measures, with any necessary revisions, for review and acceptance by the Parties to the Environmental Agreement.
6. That the Government of the Northwest Territories commit to fully recognize the impact of the Jay Project as monitored and mitigated by the Proponent, on Diavik's closure performance when evaluating relinquishment of DDML's closure security.