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Katie Rozestraten  
Securities and Project Assessment  
Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Lands  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

27 February 2020

Dear Katie Rozestraten:

**Subject: DDMI Response to Post-EA Engagement Submissions for Processed Kimberlite to Mine Workings Proposal (MVEIRB File: EA1819-01)**

Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc. (DDMI) appreciates the opportunity to provide the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada with DDMI's response to Indigenous Government Organizations' (IGO) submissions as part of the territorial and federal governments' Aboriginal consultation on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB or Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision for the Processed Kimberlite to Mine Workings (PKMW) Project Proposal (Report of EA). DDMI also appreciates that the MVEIRB commended DDMI for recommending measures that the Board was able to build on and wishes to express its general agreement with the MVEIRB's recommended measures in the Report of EA.

As noted in the GNWT's February 20, 2020 email correspondence to DDMI, to date, the federal and territorial governments have received submissions from the following IGOs:

- Deninu Kue First Nation
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation

IGOs have expressed concerns about uncertainties in water quality predictions and the potential for impacts to water quality and cultural use of the Lac de Gras area from the PKMW Project. DDMI reiterates its commitment to meaningful engagement with the Diavik Mine Participation Agreement groups, including the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and the other potentially impacted Indigenous groups (Deninu Kue First Nation and Northwest

Territory Métis Nation) during all subsequent stages/phases of project development, including the following:

- Development of culturally acceptable criteria for reconnection of mined-out pits to Lac de Gras.
- Updating modelling periodically to show whether predictions of water quality in the pits and Lac de Gras will meet the water quality objectives at the following three (3) stage gates to ensure that water in the external receiving environment will be safe for people, aquatic life, and wildlife:
  - Before processed kimberlite deposition in mined-out pits;
  - Before filling of mined-out pits with water from Lac de Gras; and
  - Before reconnection of mined-out pits to Lac de Gras.
- Establishment of an independent technical panel to review DDMI's updates to water quality modelling for the PKMW Project.
- Updates to monitoring programs for construction, operation, closure and post-closure phases of the PKMW Project.

We agree with IGO recommendations that some water quality modelling updates be completed during the Water Licence Amendment process for the PKMW Project to reduce project uncertainties and to inform subsequent stages of project development and implementation. Hence, DDMI recommends the completion of water quality update requirements for the first stage (Before processed kimberlite deposition in mined-out pits) during the Water Licence Amendment process; including the independent water quality modelling review. DDMI also recommends that culturally acceptable criteria for reconnection of mined-out pits to Lac de Gras be established during the Water Licence Amendment process as these criteria are necessary to determine the acceptability of the water quality modelling results. DDMI facilitated a workshop for the Diavik Traditional Knowledge (TK) Panel in September 2019 to discuss TK-based criteria for assessing the environmental performance of the PKMW Project. DDMI's intent for this workshop was to begin engagement with a focused group of Indigenous community members to develop culturally acceptable closure criteria for the PKMW Project. We will use outcomes from the TK Panel workshop as a basis to inform engagement with a broader group of stakeholders during the Water License Amendment process.

DDMI also supports IGOs' recommendation for the extension of federal participant funding to the regulatory phase of the PKMW approval process. IGO participation in the MVEIRB process was significant largely due to the federal participant funding. Active IGO involvement in Water Licence Proceedings is equally important.

Finally, DDMI appreciates the need for socio-economic benefits to Indigenous groups that may be impacted by proposed project developments. DDMI is committed to continued involvement of Indigenous groups in employment and contracting opportunities for the existing Diavik Mine operations in general and the PKMW Project specifically.

Overall, DDMI shares general views expressed by IGOs that the uncertainties with the PKMW Project can be mitigated through the implementation of the MVEIRB's recommended measures during the applicable regulatory process. We appreciate this opportunity to provide input to inform the federal and territorial governments' engagement process for the PKMW Project and request to be given the option to respond to any

additional stakeholder submissions during the current ministerial decision-making phase. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or Kofi Boa-Antwi (867 447 3001 or [kofi.boa-antwi@riotinto.com](mailto:kofi.boa-antwi@riotinto.com)) if you have any questions related to this submission.

Sincerely,



Sean Sinclair  
Principal Advisor, Environment and Closure Readiness

cc: Melissa Pink, GNWT  
Alex Power, Government of Canada