

EA1819-01

Lorraine Seale
Director, Securities and Project Assessment
Department of Lands, Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
4923- 52 Street
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9

Via email: Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca

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RE: Participation in EA1819-01

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) is conducting an environmental assessment of Diavik Diamond Mine Incorporated's proposal to deposit and store processed kimberlite in pits and underground mine workings. The Review Board ordered an environmental assessment (EA) of this proposed development under subsection 126(3) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

The scope of assessment for this EA includes topics that directly relate to the mandate and expertise of GNWT departments, in particular the department of Environment and Natural Resources. The expertise of GNWT departments is relevant and important to the Review Board to inform its EA decision and the Board is requesting the GNWT's fulsome participation in this proceeding.

The Review Board has received GNWT's letter regarding participation in this EA (PR#56) which outlines the anticipated role of GNWT departments. The mandate and expertise of GNWT departments relates directly to issues identified in the scope of assessment for EA1819-01, including impacts on water, wildlife, and cultural use of the project area. The Review Board appreciates GNWT's commitment to participate and is requesting the GNWT's assistance in accordance with s. 22 of the MVRMA. Section 22 is not limited by regulatory roles; it enables the Review Board to obtain any information from government departments that the Board requires to perform its functions.

The Review Board is also required to consider impacts on the well-being and way of life of Indigenous people. The Federal and Territorial Governments have encouraged Indigenous Government Organizations to participate in the EA process to help evaluate potential impacts on their s. 35 rights. Given the scope of the EA, GNWT's participation is also relevant to the broader consideration of impacts on Indigenous rights.



The Review Board is part of an integrated resource management system and operates in a coordinated manner with other boards, governments, and regulatory authorities. The Review Board encourages GNWT's full participation in the EA, including the public hearing, and values its knowledge and expertise to help inform the assessment of potential impacts within the scope of this EA. We recognize that GNWT's participation may be coordinated through the department of Lands Project Assessment Branch (PAB).

Please direct questions to Catherine Fairbairn at 867-766-7054 or cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca or Kate Mansfield at 867-766-7062 or kmansfield@reviewboard.ca.

Sincerely,

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director