



NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION

February 15, 2020

Katie Rozestraten
Project Assessment Analyst
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
4923 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife NT

Attention: Katie Rozestraten email: Katie_rozenstraten@gov.nt.ca

Dear Ms. Rozestraten:

Re: Northwest Territory Métis Nation Closing Remarks for Diavik EA1819-01 – Processed Kimberlite in Mine Workings (the “Proposed Project”)

In early January 2020, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board submitted its report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision (“REA”) and stated that the Proposed Project would result in significant adverse impact on the environment, including water, fish, wildlife, and cultural use of the area.

Potential for Adverse Effects

Indigenous Métis of the NWTMN have a right to hunt, fish, trap and gather throughout the traditional territory of the NWTMN which includes the Lac de Gras area. As noted above, Indigenous Métis have been harvesting in the NWTMN traditional territory for generations.

The NWTMN is concerned about the potential significant adverse effects of depositing and storing processed kimberlite in mined out pit lake(s) and possibly reconnect pit lake(s) containing processed kimberlite to the greater ecosystem. Although the proposed project will take place within an area that has traditionally been used by the NWTMN, Diavik has not consulted nor accommodated the NWTMN.

Requirement for a Participation Agreement

The NWTMN would like Government to require Diavik to enter into a Participation Agreement with the NWTMN. The Participation Agreement may provide

opportunities for Indigenous Métis businesses and to employment opportunities for Indigenous Métis members of the NWTMN, throughout the duration of the life of the Proposed Project. Many of the Indigenous Métis Members of the NWTMN are skilled and knowledgeable about environmental monitoring and northern contracting which is a great benefit to Diavik.

The participation agreement for the Proposed Project should also include resource revenue sharing. This will provide the opportunity to benefit from the resources that are extracted by Diavik from our lands.

Funding for Studies

The NWTMN seeks to be fully involved in the environmental monitoring of the Proposed Project. The NWTMN requests to be provided with funding to conduct on-site environmental monitoring, desk-top technical reviews and traditional knowledge monitoring. The NWTMN expects to receive funding to:

- develop water quality standards; and
- develop and conduct monitoring of the pit lake, including water quality, fish health and movements, wildlife monitoring around the pits, and water quality monitoring in Lac de Gras.

Having Indigenous Métis Members involved in setting the environmental standards and monitoring will provide the NWTMN with confidence in environmental monitoring of the Proposed Project.

Next Steps

We look forward to working with Diavik on a collaborative basis to maximize opportunities for our membership through a participation agreement, while taking steps to mitigate the impact of the Proposed Project on our way of life. The NWTMN will require financial capacity to fully engage with Diavik in respect to the Proposed Project. The NWTMN looks forward the Government requiring Diavik to reach an agreement to address the accommodation of the interests of the NWTMN prior to issuing the permits required for the Proposed Project.

The NWTMN appreciates the opportunity to provide further submissions regarding this Proposed Project.

For further information please contact:

Tim Heron
Interim Measures Agreement Coordinator

tim.heron@nwtmetis.ca

Dr. Ronald Yaworsky, Ph.D, P.Eng.
Technical Advisor

ron@northraven.ca

Sincerely,
NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Garry Bailey,
President