

# ***NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE***

***PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7***



September 20, 2019

Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Review Board  
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200 Scotia Centre, 5102-50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7  
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Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips:

## **Re: NSMA Undertaking for the Diavik EA1819-01**

During the Diavik Environmental Assessment (1819-01) Public Hearings from September 5-6, 2019, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board ("Review Board") asked the North Slave Metis Alliance ("NSMA") the following question, which was issued as an official undertaking:

*"Would NSMA still approve of in-pit disposal if water quality was safe for aquatic life and wildlife, even if it does not return to pre-development conditions?"*

Through its Technical Report (Aug 7, 2019) and presentation during the Public Hearings, NSMA presented its members' concerns and priorities regarding the proposed deposit of Processed Kimberlite ("PK"). NSMA considered current data respecting water quality in the pit lakes, and safety for people and wildlife. In addition, NSMA, during its intervenor presentation, stated that its members would like to see the environment at the Diavik site remediated to a pre-operational state. However, NSMA members understand that the likelihood of Diavik being able to remediate the Diavik site back to its pre-operational state is highly unlikely.

With the above in mind, NSMA does not expect nor insist that Diavik remediate the pit lake water back to pre-operational values, prior to breaching the dikes.

On another note, NSMA would like to take this opportunity to restate its recommendations on the proposed PK Deposit plan:

- Although NSMA does not expect water quality of the pit lakes be remediated to pre-operational levels, we continue to urge the Board to impose more conservative water quality thresholds, so that pit lake water concentrations are

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the same as Lac de Gras' water - rather than to Canadian Water Quality Guidelines ("CWQG"). The dikes between the pit lakes and Lac de Gras should not therefore be breached until the water quality thresholds of the pit lakes and Lac de Gras are the same;

- NSMA recognizes that should the Review Board require DDMI to have the quality of the pit water to be the same as Lac de Gras' water then the timeline of DDMI's mine closure plan will have to be amended as the particulates in the pit water will need time to settle;
- Should the Review Board require DDMI to have the quality of the pit water to be the same as Lac de Gras' water, NSMA requests that DDMI provide all affected parties with a copy of their amended proposed water quality plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bill Enge'.

William (Bill) A. Enge  
President

CC: Kate Mansfield – Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, Mackenzie Valley Review Board  
Catherine Fairbairn – Environmental Assessment Officer, Mackenzie Valley Review Board