

June 18, 2019

Machel A. Thomas  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
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**Re: Review Board response to YKDFN extension request – Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.  
Processed Kimberlite to Pits and Underground Mine Workings**

On June 6, 2019, the Review Board received a letter from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) requesting a four week extension to respond to information requests issued by the Review Board ([PR#62](#)). The YKDFN made this request saying that “tangible confirmation” of participant funding for this EA was only obtained very recently.

**The Review Board has considered YKDFN’s request and decided not to grant an extension.**

The Review Board issued information requests to Indigenous governments and organizations on April 29, 2019 ([PR#43](#)). Participant funding through the Northern Participant Funding Program<sup>1</sup> was announced on May 10 ([PR#50](#)). The Review Board recently granted a two-week extension for parties to submit information requests to Diavik and to respond to the Review Board’s April 29 information requests ([PR#60](#)). As a result, responses to the Review Board’s information requests are due July 4<sup>th</sup>, approximately 9.5 weeks after the information requests were issued and 8 weeks after the participant funding allocations were announced. The Review Board views this as a reasonable amount of time for YKDFN and other parties to respond to information requests.

The information requests issued to parties will help the Review Board to understand the cultural value and use of the project area in relation to the activities being proposed in this environmental assessment. The Review Board highly values the contributions it receives from YKDFN and all parties to this environmental assessment on this topic. Responding to information requests is not the only opportunity for parties to submit evidence to the Board on this topic. Parties can include additional information in their public hearing interventions and present a summary of their intervention at the public hearing. Additionally, members of the public, including YKDFN members, can provide oral testimony directly to the Review Board during the public hearings.

Please respond to the Review Board’s information requests to the best of your ability by the July 4<sup>th</sup> due date. Supplemental information may be included in the YKDFN’s hearing intervention. An updated workplan containing submission dates for interventions and public hearing dates will be released soon.

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<sup>1</sup> Administered by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada



If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Senior Environmental Assessment Officer Kate Mansfield or Environmental Assessment Officer Catherine Fairbairn at [kmansfield@reviewboard.ca](mailto:kmansfield@reviewboard.ca) or [cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca](mailto:cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca), respectively.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Deneron  
Chairperson

