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Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 938  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

2 May 2019

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips:

**Subject: Anticipated Submission of the Summary Impact Statement and a Request for Clarification on the MVEIRB's Scope Considerations for the Environmental Assessment of the Deposition of Processed Kimberlite to Mine Workings Proposal (MVEIRB File No.: EA1819-01)**

Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc. (DDMI) is writing to notify the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB or the Board) that DDMI anticipates submission of the Summary Impact Statement for the "Processed Kimberlite to Mine Workings Proposal" (IR-1) to the Board on May 16, 2019 to support the Board's Review of the Proposal; however, DDMI plans to submit a response to all the other Board Information Requests on May 9, 2019 in line with the updated Workplan issued by MVEIRB on April 18, 2019.

As part of the "Processed Kimberlite to Mine Workings Proposal", DDMI is seeking the Board's review of the significance of impacts to valued components from the deposit of processed kimberlite (PK), regardless of the source, within the mine workings. To be clear this would include both PK that came directly from the process plant and PK that may be re-mined from the processed kimberlite containment (PKC) facility. Having the ability to deposit any PK in mine workings provides a benefit for the closure of the PKC Facility in that it enables consideration of an additional option – re-mining and disposal in mine workings – that would not be possible without this project.

DDMI has carefully reviewed the Final Scope and Reasons for Decision issued by the MVEIRB on April 18, 2019, and respectfully requests confirmation of DDMI's understanding of the MVEIRB's Scope Considerations for the Review:

- Scope of Development includes:
  - transporting, depositing, and storing processed kimberlite into A418, A154, and/or A21 pits and underground mine workings.
  - closing and reclaiming any mine infrastructure related to the transport, deposition and storage of processed kimberlite in pits and underground mine workings.

- Scope of Development does not include:
  - re-mining of material from the processed kimberlite containment facility.
  - the partial dam raise that Diavik plans to complete to accommodate processed kimberlite storage requirements until processed kimberlite storage in the pits and underground mine workings is possible.
  - activities and infrastructure associated with the approved and existing Diavik Mine that are not affected by or necessary for the transport, deposition, and storage of processed kimberlite in pits and underground mine workings.
  
- Scope of Assessment includes:

Assessment of the effects and impacts of transporting, depositing, and storing processed kimberlite from all sources (including processed kimberlite from the PKC facility) into A418, A154, and/or A21 pits and underground mine workings on the following valued components:

  - water quality and quantity;
  - cultural use of the area;
  - fish and fish habitat; and
  - other wildlife (caribou, aquatic and migratory birds, and species at risk).

Diavik confirms that the water quality modelling and assessment completed to-date includes scenarios that represent all PK sources including processed kimberlite from the PKC Facility.

For clarity, DDMI is requesting confirmation that a positive Environmental Assessment Decision, based on our understanding of the Scope Considerations, would:

- enable DDMI to proceed to permitting that could eventually allow deposition of PK from any source including PK from the PKC.
- enable any future regulatory review of a closure option that includes re-mining of processed kimberlite from the PKC with deposition to mine workings to limit preliminary screening considerations to the potential impacts associated with the PKC re-mining activities not the transport, deposition, and storage of re-mined PK to mine workings.
- consider the benefit of having an additional option available for PKC Facility Closure.

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  
Superintendent, Environment

cc: Catherine Fairbairn, MVEIRB  
Kate Mansfield, MVEIRB