# WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



EMAB Meeting Summary – October 10-12, 2023

Meeting held in-person and by teleconference/videoconference.

## Minutes/Action Item Follow-up

- Follow up request for observer status on Parties' TK Working Group.
- Follow up recommendations for future TK Panels

#### **Finance**

- Review Community Updates budget to make sure it reflects full costs of updates.
- Audit is completed and approved by Board unqualified audit; no concerns from auditor.
- EMAB will participate in Scholarship for Jack Kaniak; also contribute to headstone.
- Good to bring Party delegates to AGM; consider increased budget to provide honorarium.
- Request rollover of 2022-23 funds from Diavik; request Additional Funding from Diavik for Water Licence Amendment review.
- Cover outstanding evacuation expenses for ED.
- Review salary and exit interviews for Environmental Specialist to develop retention strategy.

## Workshop Report - Future Role of EMAB

 Board members to provide comments by end of October; then submit to Environmental Agreement Working Group.

## **Revised PKC Closure Design**

- Diavik has improved the design to reduce risk of PK entering Lac de Gras.
- PK will settle in center of PKC; design addresses this.
- Buttressing bottom of parts of PKC dam to reduce risk of instability during thawing due to climate change.
- Pushing roads towards center where Extra Fine Processed Kimberlite is not strong enough to cover; will
  monitor freezing and cover once frozen.
- There will be a drainage channel to remove any water flow to Pond 3, then Lac de Gras.
- EMAB will do a technical review; request funds from Diavik to do a geotechnical review of stability.

#### **Water Licence Amendment Proceeding Update**

Update Board on changes to submission deadlines.

#### **NWT Water Stewardship Conference**

EMAB will send Sean Erasmus to conference.

# GNWT Air Quality Guideline and Diavik Proposal to Collaborate with EMAB on Revisions to Air Quality Monitoring Plan

- GNWT Air Quality Guideline finalized in April 2023; applies to all diamond mines.
- GNWT compared Diavik Air Quality to Monitoring and determined Diavik's plan is unsatisfactory.
- Now Guideline is approved Diavik is proposing to collaborate with EMAB on changes to the air quality monitoring plan.
- 3 main questions:
  - Where to locate TSP monitor (one station)
  - How much data completeness would satisfy EMAB
  - o How many years of data would give EMAB confidence.
- ED to discuss Diavik proposal with consultants and advise Board on possible next steps re: collaboration.

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## **2022 Wildlife Monitoring Report Review**

- Diavik presented the report. EMAB's consultant, MSES, present their review. No major concerns.
- Need to finalize caribou Zone of Influence (ZOI) analysis methods so Diavik can provide results.
- Need to resolve best ways to monitor caribou behaviour. EMAB doesn't agree that Diavik should only use caribou collar data.
- Consultant comments will be circulated to Board for review and approval, for submission to GNWT.

## **Wildlife Monitoring Plan Status**

- GNWT will circulate comments on ZOI analysis to Diavik for a response.
- GNWT wants to see evidence that Diavik has collaborated with EMAB on developing caribou behaviour monitoring methods. They will convene a meeting on behaviour studies.
- Review of the 2022 WMMP report will be through the Online Review System set up by WLWB.

## **Diavik Solar Farm Project**

- Diavik will install solar panels on part of the PKC cover in 2024. They will operate until closure in 2029.
- This will replace 1 million liters of diesel.
- Panels have a 30 year lifespan; they will be made available to communities once Diavik closes.

## **2022 Air Quality Monitoring Report**

- Diavik presented the report. EMAB's consultant, Arcadis, presented their review. No major concerns.
- Increase in dust since previous year largely due to placing cover on North Country Rock Pile and moving rock on South Country Rock Pile.
- Diavik did a good job on the 2022 EAQMP report. They should provide better documentation of its Greenhouse Gas Emission calculations.
- Board approved recommendations to submit to Diavik.

# **TK Working Group Update**

- Request from Working Group (WG) to EMAB to consider whether TK WG could operate under EMAB as an independent body. Could share resources such as office space, administration, staff.
- TK WG will meet Oct 23-24 to discuss next steps.
- EMAB would like to know what is going on at WG. EMAB request for observer status is still being considered.
- Discussion on need for independence of EMAB and of TK WG. EMAB open to considering a more detailed proposal for working with TK WG.
- ED to prepare a letter summarizing discussion for Board review and approval.

## 2021 TK Fish Camp Follow-up

- Diavik rejected EMAB's proposal for a workshop discussing reasons why Elders refused to eat fish at the 2021 TK Fish Camp and possible explanations. If felt the workshop would duplicate the report from the Fish Camp.
- EMAB is concerned about the health of the fish in Lac de Gras. EMAB will send a letter to Diavik setting out EMAB's expectations for future TK Fish Camps.
- Noted that health of other wildlife should also be monitored.

#### 2023 Site Visit Discussion

- Concern about amount and types of materials going into landfill.
- Noted that all mining at Diavik is now underground; open pit mining is completed.

Next Meeting: December 5-6, 2023