January 24, 2018

Mr. David Wells
P.O. Box 2498, 300-5201, 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

Dear Mr. Wells,

Re: Request to Extend Submission Date of Waste Rock Management Plan Version 8

The Wek’èezhii Land and Water Board (the Board) met on January 24, 2018 to consider a request from Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc. (DDMI) to extend the submission date of Version 8 of the Waste Rock Management Plan (WRMP) from January 26, 2018 to February 22, 2018. DDMI requested this extension because they have reduced staff availability and other reporting obligations. As part of the Board’s decision on the A21 Addendum to the WRMP, DDMI was directed to submit an updated version of the WRMP that included updated information on the geochemical verification program of the A21 Waste Rock. The Board required DDMI to “improve the WRMP to demonstrate that the company can respond to the discovery of [potentially-acid generating] PAG rock in a timely fashion, obtain any necessary approval prior to implementing changes in Waste Rock management, and ultimately prevent unmitigated acid rock drainage and metal leaching”.

In response to the extension request, Board staff sent an email to DDMI asking for additional rationale for the extension request, particularly with respect to the outstanding requirements that were outlined in the Reasons for Decision for the A21 Addendum to the WRMP (e.g., monitoring). DDMI responded that “monitoring of drill hole cuttings and classification of rock” was occurring as described in the A21 Addendum to the WRMP and that “any additional monitoring as described in the [Reasons for Decision]...would not be currently applicable during freezing conditions, i.e., seepage monitoring”.

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1 See WLWB (www.wlwb.ca) Online Registry for Diavik - Waste Rock Management Plan - Version 8 - DDMI Extension Request - Dec 21_17
2 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 See WLWB Online Registry for Diavik - Waste Rock Management Plan - Version 8 - Board staff correspondence following extension request - Dec 22_17
The Board’s impetus for DDMI to submit the updated WRMP with updated information on the geochemical verification monitoring was to ensure that if there was a discovery of biotite schist xenoliths that DDMI would be able to respond in a timely fashion with a more detailed WRMP in place. The Board has approved DDMI’s extension request, however, as a precaution between now and when the next version of the WRMP is approved, the Board requires DDMI to immediately notify the Board if any biotite schist xenoliths are discovered in the A21 rock, quantify the amount discovered, and provide a description of how this discovery changes or does not change the management of the Waste Rock.

Sincerely,

Joseph Mackenzie
Acting Chair, Wek’èezhii Land and Water Board

Copied: Diavik Distribution List