

## Kassandra DeFrancis

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**From:** Boa-Antwi, Kofi (DDMI) <Kofi.Boa-Antwi@riotinto.com>  
**Sent:** July 26, 2019 6:57 PM  
**To:** jamie\_steele@gov.nt.ca  
**Cc:** Anneli Jokela; Lyon, Eileen (G&I); Sinclair, Sean (DDMI)  
**Subject:** RE: Summary of Exploration Program\_Fall 2019\_Diavik  
**Attachments:** Diavik2019\_Summary\_Exploration Program\_26July2019.pdf

Hi Jamie,

Rio Tinto Exploration Canada Inc. plans to continue with its exploration program near the Diavik Diamond Mine in the Fall of 2019 under the existing Land Use Permit (W2017C0002) issued by the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board.

A summary of the planned exploration activities is attached for your reference. The summary has also been distributed to the following stakeholders:

- Tłıchq Government
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Wek'èezhii Renewable Resource Board
- GNWT – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
- GNWT – Department of Lands
- GNWT – Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

We plan to adhere the terms and conditions in the Land Use Permit in executing the exploration program. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns about the planned work.

Regards,  
Kofi

**Kofi Boa-Antwi, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.**  
**Regulatory Advisor - Environment**  
**Rio Tinto**  
Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc.

Suite 300, 5201-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8 Canada  
T: +1 (867) 669 6500 x6508 M: +1 (867) 447 3001  
[kofi.boa-antwi@riotinto.com](mailto:kofi.boa-antwi@riotinto.com) [www.riotinto.com](http://www.riotinto.com) [www.diavik.ca](http://www.diavik.ca)

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Rio Tinto Exploration Canada Inc.  
1300 Walsh Street  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7E 4X4  
Canada  
T +1 (8) 9999 9999

26 July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Notice of Exploration Activities Under Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board Land Use Permit W2017C0002**

In September and October of 2019 Rio Tinto Exploration Canada Inc. (Rio Tinto) will be conducting a small drill program for exploration purposes near the Diavik Diamond Mine (“the mine”). This exploration program is a continuation of exploration activities as approved in the Land Use Permit (W2017C0002) issued by the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board to Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc. (DDMI) in May 2017. This Land Use Permit expires in May 2022.

As you are most likely aware, mineral exploration activities under various land use permits have been ongoing in the region for quite some time. Since approximately 1992, the result of such continued work has resulted in the discovery and development of Diavik, a world class diamond mine. That mine, however, is nearing the end of its life with the expected closure occurring by 2025 if another mine-grade kimberlite (the rock that contains the diamonds) is not found. Rio Tinto has been recently tasked with finding another mine-grade kimberlite in the region, with its first priority being one in close proximity to the mine site.

The included map (Figure 1) outlines the nominated area for the planned exploration this fall, which is within the scope the current Land Use Permit. Specifically, the shape of this area follows the tenement boundaries while also stays within the immediate vicinity of the mine infrastructure. The drilling equipment and materials to be used in this program will be moved by helicopter to ensure minimal ground disturbance. Rio Tinto has also been in contact with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in order to determine whether any proposed drill locations should be moved or eliminated due to proximity to any sensitive site(s). Under guidance from the Land Use Permit and from communication with the Heritage Centre, an archaeological overview study will be conducted in the next month with a report being prepared prior to any drilling activities.

It is trusted that the foregoing is satisfactory as an overview of the planned activities. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Kofi Boa-Antwi  
Regulatory Advisor – Environment



Figure 1: Red polygon outlining the area of planned drilling activities to commence in September and continue into October 2019. Note the satellite view clearly shows the current Diavik diamond mine site and infrastructure.