



Technical Session, March 3, 2020
Diavik – A21 Underground Water Licence Amendment
(W2015L2-0001)

Location:

Explorer Hotel, Katimavik D and E Boardroom, Yellowknife

For those joining via teleconference, please contact Board staff for call-in details.

Expert CVs:

We anticipate that some, if not all, parties are planning on having technical experts participate in the Technical Session. Please submit CVs for all technical experts in advance of the Technical Session.

Purpose:

This one-day Technical Session is meant to provide a forum where parties can discuss their questions and concerns directly with the proponent and its consultants about the Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc. (DDMI) Water Licence (W2015L2-001) Amendment Application to allow for underground mining at the A21 kimberlite pipe.

It is the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board's (WLWB or Board) hope that such a discussion, as facilitated by Board staff, will increase each party's understanding of the issues, as well as of the perspectives of others. In our experience, technical sessions can be useful both in focussing the content of parties' subsequent interventions to the public hearing and in reducing the number of outstanding issues between parties. Although it would be helpful if some issues are resolved during the session, there is no requirement to do so; Board staff will guide questions and discussions to ensure parties have sufficient information to submit evidence that the Board can use to assess the Application and inform the preliminary screening determination. Discussions at the Technical Session may reveal the need for further information requests of the proponent or other parties. The work plan¹ for this review process includes time for parties to fulfill information requests, if required, prior to the deadline for public hearing interventions.

Approach:

During the Technical Session, Board staff will facilitate a discussion of comments made during the public review periods² grouped by the topics identified in the agenda below. Parties are requested to review the Proponent's response to each of their questions and come prepared to: (1) indicate whether their concern has been

¹ See WLWB Online Registry (www.wlwb.ca) for [Diavik - WL Amendment Application - A21 Underground – Updated Work Plan - Feb 12 20](#)

² Public Reviews: [A21 Underground Amendment Application](#)



adequately addressed and if not, what additional information would be required to address it, (2) take the opportunity to follow up on issues raised during the public review period, and (3) ask any additional questions. Coffee and cold drinks will be provided.

Please note that the Technical Session is not a public hearing, as such, Board members and their legal counsel will not be participating. The Technical Session will not be transcribed but will be recorded so the audio file can be made available to any Party who requests it. It is the Board's wish that the technical session be as informal as possible in order to promote discussion. Final recommendations for the Water Licence should be made in the formal written interventions submitted to the Board prior to the public hearing.



Agenda:

The order of topics is subject to change. All parties and their support staff are requested to be available for the entire day. DDMI will provide short introductory presentations for many of the topics to help initiate discussion.

Day 1 – Tuesday March 3, 2020 (8:30 am arrival for 8:45am start)
<p>Round-Table Introductions and Opening Comments (Board Staff)</p>
<p>Application Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDMI Presentation • General Questions
<p>Waste Rock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDMI presentation • Volumes of Waste Rock (WLWB comments 1 and 8) • Characterization of the Waste Rock (EMAB comment 3; WLWB staff comment 3) • Waste Rock Storage (WLWB comment 7) • Geochemical verification and monitoring (EMAB comment 3; WLWB comment 4) • General Questions
<p>Water Quality Predictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDMI Presentation • Changes in mine effluent water quality (ECCC comment 1; GNWT-ENR comment 2; WLWB staff comments 23 and 25) • Groundwater quality predictions (ECCC comments 2 and 3; EMAB comments 5 and 6; GNWT-ENR comment 1; WLWB staff comments 2, 19, and 20) • Consideration of other parameters (WLWB staff comments 6, 17, 18) • General Questions
<p>Water Management and Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDMI presentation • Water Balance (WLWB staff comment 9) • Water Management Strategies (EMAB comment 4; WLWB staff comments 14 and 16) • Freshwater use (WLWB staff comment 15)



- SNP stations (WLWB staff comment 5)
- General Questions

Other Topics

- Updates to Management Plans (GNWT-ENR comment 3; WLWB staff comments 11 and 12)
- Closure (EMAB comments 1 and 2)
- Additional Infrastructure for the Project (WLWB staff comment 10)
- General Questions

Description of Proceeding Going Forward (Board staff)