

Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Prairie & Northern Region
5019 52nd Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2310
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

ECCC File: 6100 000 036/004
NWB File: 2BE-CHI1823



April 3, 2023

via email at: licensing@nwb-oen.ca

Robert Hunter
Licensing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Dear Robert Hunter:

RE: 2BE-CHI1823 – DeBeers – Chidliak Diamond Mine – Type B Water Licence Renewal Amendment

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the information submitted to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) regarding the above-mentioned Type B Water Licence Renewal Amendment.

ECCC provides expert information and knowledge to project assessments on subjects within the department's mandate, including climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity, environmental preparedness, and emergencies. This work includes reviewing proponent characterization of environmental effects and mitigation measures and providing advice to decision makers on activities needed to mitigate these environmental effects. Any comments received from ECCC in this context does not relieve the proponent of its obligations to respect all applicable federal legislation.

The following comments are provided:

1. Update Regulatory Contact

Reference(s)

- Chidliak Exploration Project Waste Management Plan Rev.1.0; Section 3, Table 3-1 (DeBeers; December 2022)

Comment

In the case of a spill or emergency, the 24 Hour Northwest Territories/Nunavut Spill Report Line should be contacted first by the Proponent, who will then involve ECCC Emergencies when



appropriate. The proponent has correctly listed the spill line but has attributed the wrong agency as the contact.

ECCC Recommendation(s)

Please update the external contact for the 24h spill line to the Government of Nunavut.

2. Water Testing

Reference(s)

- Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan – Chidliak Exploration Project (DeBeers; March 2023)

Comment

Sections 2.1 (Trenching) and 2.2.2 (Cuttings Disposal) of the plan indicate that any water present at trench locations will be tested in the summer season following completion of trenching activities. However, no details were given on sampling, analysis, and disposal of trench water. Additional information should be provided to support a better understanding of water testing and water management.

ECCC Recommendation(s)

ECCC recommends that the Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan be updated to provide details (e.g., sampling and analysis) regarding the planned water testing which is mentioned in Sections 2.1 (Trenching) and 2.2.2 (Cuttings Disposal) of the plan. The plan should also describe water management, including options to manage any water that does not meet water licence discharge requirements.

3. Waste Rock

Reference(s)

- Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan – Chidliak Exploration Project (DeBeers; March 2023)

Comment

Part D (Conditions Applying to Waste Disposal), Item 10 of the water licence requires testing be conducted to confirm that bulk sampling waste rock is free of contaminants and is non-acid generating and non-metal leaching, prior to disposal. Relevant testing information should be provided in the Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan.

ECCC Recommendation(s)

ECCC recommends that the Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan be updated to describe how bulk sampling waste rock is tested to determine whether it is free of contaminants and is non-acid generating and non-metal leaching, in alignment with Part D (Conditions Applying to Waste Disposal), Item 10 of the water licence. The plan should also discuss options to manage any waste rock that does not meet the requirements of Part D, Item 10.

4. Mitigation Measures

Reference(s)

- Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan – Chidliak Exploration Project (DeBeers; March 2023)

Comment

The Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan does not include any descriptions of the mitigation measures that will be used to protect the aquatic environment during Bulk Sampling. Mitigation measures should be included and described in the plan to guide employees and contractors while carrying out sampling activities.

ECCC Recommendation(s)

ECCC recommends that the Bulk Sample Monitoring Plan provide information regarding mitigation measures that will be used to prevent the transport of sediments, blasting residuals and other contaminants from trench areas to nearby waterbodies.

If you need more information, please contact Eva Walker at (867) 444-0394 or Eva.Walker@ec.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Walker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eva Walker
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

cc: Melissa Pinto, Acting Head, Environmental Assessment North (NT and NU)