



NIRB File No.: 22MN025

October 17, 2023

Sarah McLean, Environment and Permitting Manager  
De Beers Canada Inc.  
1601 Airport Road NE Suite 300  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 6Z8

Sent via email: [Sarah.McLean@debeersgroup.com](mailto:Sarah.McLean@debeersgroup.com)

**Re: Final Impact Statement Guidelines and Scope List for De Beers Canada Inc.'s Preparation of an Impact Statement for the "Chidliak Diamond Mine" Project**

Dear Sarah McLean:

As part of its Review of the "Chidliak Diamond Mine" project proposed by De Beers Canada Inc. (De Beers), NIRB File No. 22MN025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is required to determine the scope of the project<sup>1</sup> (the Scope List) and issue guidelines for the preparation of an Impact Statement<sup>2</sup> (the Impact Statement Guidelines) to facilitate the public Review process.

On August 28-29, 2023, the Board held an in-person workshop in Iqaluit with regulators and interested parties to build on written comments previously provided on the Draft Impact Statement Guidelines. The Board also discussed the Revised Scope List prior to it being finalized by the Board owing to interest expressed by parties. The NIRB used feedback provided at that workshop and associated discussions to finalize the enclosed Scope List and the Impact Statement Guidelines; a summary of the final edits is provided below for ease of reference.

**Scope List**

- Project: description of marine shipping activities includes scale and locations being considered for barge offload sites.
- Regulators: Hunters and Trappers Organizations are acknowledged, and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is included should De Beers proceed with the consideration of nuclear power generation for the site; and

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Section 99 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*)

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 101(1) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*)

- Valued Ecosystem Components: species list includes wolverine, fox and hare recognizing their importance to the communities or associated special designation for the species (i.e., species at risk or species of concern).

### Impact Statement Guidelines

The Impact Statement Guidelines serve as the basis for the NIRB’s Review of the Project, enabling the Board and interested parties to understand and assess the potential for Project-related ecosystemic and socio-economic effects. Based on parties’ feedback, the following changes were incorporated by the Board.

- Description of well-being has been updated and specifies engagement with the Inuit Organizations even if the proposal is not located on Inuit Owned Land; text included in sections 4, 5, 6 and 8 to provide links to expected engagement.
- References remain as Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit as the Board appreciates this reference starts from the term Inuit Knowledge used in the *Nunavut Agreement*, but also incorporates the additional expectations and definitions received from parties on collection, use, and incorporation of the knowledge into the impact assessment process. The terminology in Section 1.1 of the guidelines defines Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit to align with other Board work.
- Specific descriptions in Section 8 were updated to outline information requirements more specific to updated federal legislation as well as be comprehensive given the board scope of project alternatives within the scope of proposal.

Finally, De Beers requested that a conformity table be provided with the Impact Statement Guidelines so it understands what will be necessary or required content in its Impact Statement. Appendix A of the Draft Guidelines provided a shortened example of a conformity table, with standard examples only being available while the document was still undergoing development. As the Impact Statement Guidelines are now being issued in final form, NIRB staff will develop more comprehensive conformity table to guide De Beers’ future submission.

### Next Steps

The NIRB requests that De Beers review the enclosed guidelines and supply the Board with an anticipated date for the submission of a Draft Impact Statement at your earliest convenience. Please be advised that the NIRB will require hard copies of the Proponent’s future Draft Impact Statement submission to be sent to the following address:

Print copies sent to:  Attn: Technical Services Dept. Nunavut Impact Review Board P.O. Box 1360 Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0	<i>2 print copies of the Impact Statement with all appendices;</i>
	<i>9 copies of the Impact Statement only</i>
	<i>5 electronic copies (1 uploaded to the NIRB’s online Public Registry system in files of 25 megabytes or less). Please contact NIRB staff prior to submission to ensure it is being uploaded to the correct project dashboard.</i>

Please be advised that it is the Proponent's responsibility to also supply authorities responsible for potentially authorizing this proposed Project with sufficient hard copies of the future Draft Impact Statement submission for review purposes. The NIRB will distribute correspondence to its public distribution list requesting that all parties which might require a hard copy of the future Draft Impact Statement supply the NIRB with mailing addresses and the required number of copies, which the NIRB will then forward to the Proponent.

Finally, the Board would like to thank the parties involved throughout this process for their contributions and their patience while the Board finalized the Impact Statement Guidelines for the "Chidliak Diamond Mine" proposal. The Board had initially committed to completing these guidelines by the end of September, however, due to other ongoing NIRB assessments and associated scheduling requirements, it was unable to complete this work earlier.

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the enclosed documents or the NIRB's Review process, please contact Tara Arko, Director of Technical Services directly at [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca) or (867) 983-4611.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
*Interim* Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: The Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Chidliak Diamond Mine Distribution List

Enclosed: *Final* Guidelines for the Preparation of an Impact Statement for DeBeers Canada Inc's Chidliak Project, October 17, 2023 – NIRB File 22MN025  
*Final Scope List* for DeBeers Canada Inc's Chidliak Project, October 17, 2023 – NIRB File 22MN025