

December 30, 2024

Mason Mantla
Chair
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
#1, 4905 – 48th Street
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 3S3

Dear Mr. Mantla:

RE: W2022L2-0001 – Supplement Submission on Request to Defer Pigeon Open Pit and WRSA FCRP Submissions

CONTEXT

Throughout 2024, Burgundy Diamond Mines (Burgundy) has advanced evaluation of its existing resources intended to extend the life of Ekati Diamond Mine (Ekati). Burgundy intends to continue the evaluation work in 2025 and is targeting an updated Life of Mine (LOM) Plan in mid-2025 and expects to develop its progressive reclamation and closure plan based off the updated LOM Plan.

On November 13, 2024, Burgundy submitted a request to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (Board) to defer the submission of the Final Closure and Reclamation Plans to progressively close Pigeon Open Pit and Waste Rock Storage Area (WRSA). This letter is submitted to address the Board's request in the decision letter, dated November 29, 2024.

Burgundy met with the WLWB and staff on December 11, 2024 to ensure clarity regarding the rationale for denying our initial deferral request and to provide a high level update on the status of the reclamation work completed to date and the planned LOM work for 2025 and beyond. During this meeting Burgundy reiterated its commitment to complete progressive reclamation at Ekati and that would include the Pigeon Open Pit and Waste Rock Storage Area (WRSA) and requested additional time to consider a more fulsome assessment of the current and expected future reclamation requirements at Ekati, particularly in light of Burgundy's plans to extend the mine life at Misery Underground along with underground developments at both Sable and Fox ore bodies, and potentially extend the Point Lake mine development.

UPDATED REQUEST TO DEFER PIGEON RECLAMATION WORK

Burgundy's Life of Mine plan considers mining beyond the Year 2030. The current mine expansion projects include Sable Underground Expansion, Fox Low Grade Ore Processing, Fox Underground Expansion, Misery Underground Expansion, Point Lake Open Pit Optimization and extension, and a new Jay Project that would extend mining to beyond 2040. It is expected

the initial engineering studies required to support the mine life extension to 2030 will be complete in Q2-Q3 2026. Burgundy is requesting that the Pigeon Open Pit and WRSA progressive reclamation plan be developed within this context to enable the significant capital investment decisions and timelines to be optimized while executing the LOM extension work scopes.

Burgundy acknowledges the Board's April 12, 2024 Reasons for Decision for the Ekati Mine Closure and Reclamation Plan, Version 3.1 and specifically Decisions 3 and 4 of the RFD outline submissions dates and requirements for the Final Closure and Reclamation Plans (FRCPs) of the Pigeon Open Pit and Waste Rock Storage Area (WRSA).

Burgundy is progressing the technical studies on closure and reclamation at Pigeon Open Pit area between 2025 and 2026. These include:

- Sampling of the current Pigeon Pit water quality using drone(s)
- Continuation of Pigeon pit lake water quality modelling and closure criteria establishment
 - o Burgundy monitoring around Pigeon Pit and WRSA has not see any water quality concerns as per reporting requirements
- Continuation of Pigeon WRSA closure design alternative studies and associated geochemistry modelling
 - o Based on the above described studies, Burgundy will review the conceptual closure design for the Pigeon WRSA and potentially plan to present an alternative design

The technical and engineering studies outlined above support Burgundy's conceptual closure plan.

We appreciate your understanding and consideration of this request to extend Pigeon Pit Closure plan submission in Q1 2027. If you have any questions or concerns related to this request, please contact Sheila Chernys at (403) 613-8417 or sheila.chernys@burgundydiamonds.com.

Sincerely,



Sheila Chernys, P. Eng

Head of Health, Safety, Environment, Communities & Training