

Diavik Project Update

YELLOWKNIFE, NT, Sept. 9, 2002 -- Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. (DDMI) is pleased to report that construction of the Diavik Diamond Mine at Lac de Gras, Northwest Territories continues to progress on schedule and within budget.

Construction of the water diversion structure surrounding the A154 mining area was completed and DDMI commenced water removal from the A154 pool in late July. During the initial de-watering phase, approximately 4 million cubic metres of clear water were returned directly into Lac de Gras by mid August. Thereafter, waters containing naturally occurring lakebed sediments were directed to land-based storage ponds to await clarification through DDMI's Water Treatment Plant and subsequent return to Lac de Gras.

The A154 water diversion dike has performed to specification and by end August, approximately 80% of the A154 pool waters had been removed with the remaining waters were distributed among a number of lower lying areas. De-watering of the A154 pool is expected to be substantially complete by end September as planned.

Construction has commenced on the main access road ramp into the A154 mining area and removal of higher elevation overburden has commenced as planned. The current plan calls for removal of lakebed sediments and overburden to take place over the next four months with kimberlite ore becoming accessible for initial mining, stockpiling and processing for diamond recovery during the first quarter of 2003. As diamonds are recovered, they will be forwarded to the Diavik Production Splitting Facility in Yellowknife for cleaning, division, and royalty evaluation. The first production of Diavik diamonds is expected to become available to the joint venture participants, DDMI and Aber, by April 2003.

Construction and commissioning of the Diavik diamond processing and recovery plants are proceeding well and are expected to be on standby by November as planned. Depending upon the nature of the lake bed sediments as they are progressively exposed, DDMI plans to evaluate the possibility of preferentially removing portions of the overburden directly overlaying the A154 ore-body. Any potential change this approach may make to production start-up will be closely monitored as the drainage of the A154 pool is completed and the nature of the lakebed overburden and its removal is assessed.

Project costs continue to be within the budgeted C\$1.3 billion capital cost.

The Diavik Diamonds Project is an unincorporated joint venture between DDMI (60%) and Aber Diamond Mines Ltd. (40%). Both companies are headquartered in Yellowknife. DDMI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto plc of London, England, and Aber Diamond Mines Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aber Diamond Corporation of Toronto, Ontario.

For further information

visit the DDMI website at www.diavik.ca, and/or contact Tom Hoefler, Manager of Public & Government Affairs at Telephone: (867) 669-6500

Source: Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.