

DIAVIK DIAMOND MINES ACCOMMODATION COMPLEX

Project	Diavik Diamond Mines Accommodations Complex
Location	Lac De Gras, NWT, Canada
Service	Pre-Feasibility and Feasibility Studies, Design, and Construction Documents
Process	EPCM
Value	Undisclosed
Status	Completed

The Diavik Mine is located on a 20 square kilometre island on Lac de Gras, approximately 300 kilometres by air northeast of Yellowknife, capital of Canada’s Northwest Territories. Rolling tundra surrounds the mine site; the area includes numerous lakes, bedrock outcrops and glacial deposits of boulders, till, and eskers with disrupted, mixed, or broken permafrost within 1-2 metres of the surface. Access to the site is predominately by ice road during the winter months, which are harsh with constant wind, cold (-40degC) temperatures and the long northern nights. During the short cool summer the long days melt the vast lakes and permafrost making travel impossible except by air.

The design team developed permanent accommodations to reflect DDMI’s commitment to provide a superior living and working environment that respected the workforce and the site. Mine accommodations have generally been regarded as a camp, a temporary place

to sleep while away from home. The reality is that the accommodations at Diavik are really part of a community, a place where people live, work and interact for a large percentage of their lives. Within this context, the Accommodations Complex was designed to commercial/residential standards in opposition to compliance with site wide industrial standards.

Designed in a rough diamond shape with accommodations wings; the central gathering areas create a town centre for dining, socializing and recreational activities. There are 264 rooms in total, and each accommodation wing is complete with lounge areas on each floor. A full service kitchen capable of providing for the entire mine staff, movie and games rooms, a full gymnasium, racquet courts, commercial laundry, and house keeping all provide for the day-to-day requirements of the workers. In addition an integral clinic provides for their health and welfare in the event of illness or injury.

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