



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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June 17, 2016

Violet Camsell-Blondin
Chair, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board
#1-4905 48th St, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 3S3

Dear Ms. Camsell-Blondin,

Re: Agency Comments on the Community Composition Response Plan

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency) has reviewed the Community Composition Response Plan (Response Plan) and generally supports the proposed responses to the low action level exceedance described in the plan. In particular, the Agency is pleased to see links being drawn between the Nitrogen and Phosphate Responses plans and the Community Composition Response Plan.

The Agency does not support defining a medium action level until we have a better understanding of what factors are driving changes to the plankton community. Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation is completing the Aquatic Ecology Synthesis to determine what other abiotic and biotic factors are driving these changes. The Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Re-evaluation is also assessing what factors are driving change in the plankton community. Therefore, the Agency feels it is premature to set medium action levels before the results of these studies can be used to determine the most appropriate action levels.

Recommendation: The Agency does not support the setting of a medium action level until reports outlined in the Response Plan have been submitted and considered.

Should you have any questions concerning these comments, the Agency would be pleased to discuss these at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jaida Ohokannoak
Chairperson

Cc: DDEC – April Hayward

Tlicho Government - Sjoerd van der Wielen
Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Alex Power
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation – Lauren King
North Slave Metis Alliance – Shin Shiga
Kitikmeot Inuit Association – Jared Ottenhof
Government of the Northwest Territories – Laurie McGregor
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada – Jennifer O'Neil