



**INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY**

P.O. Box 1192, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8 ▪ Phone (867) 669-9141 ▪ Fax (867) 669-9145

Website: [www.monitoringagency.net](http://www.monitoringagency.net) ▪ Email: [monitor1@monitoringagency.net](mailto:monitor1@monitoringagency.net)

January 13, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Camsell-Blondin,

**Re: Sable and Two-Rock Lake Withdrawal Limits Amendment Application**

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency) has reviewed the Sable and Two-Rock Lake Withdrawal Limits Amendment Application (Amendment Application) and submits the following comment for your consideration. Overall, the Agency does not oppose the request to increase the withdrawal limits from Sable and Two-Rock Lake.

**Dewatering Plans**

Although the Agency does not oppose the Amendment Application, we are disappointed that Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation (DDEC) did not include the updated Dewatering Plans as part of the application. As a result, it is difficult to assess the potential impacts of the requested increases.

The Two-Rock Lake Drawdown Plan Version 1.0 considered the impacts of dewatering 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> and concluded that "*There are no predicted hydrological or water quality impacts to the downstream water body (Horseshoe Lake) based on ... the small volume of water to be pumped to Horseshoe Lake...*". The current application is requesting to dewater 466,000 m<sup>3</sup> and does not comment on any potential impacts of the requested increase. In addition, the currently approved Two Rock Lake Drawdown Plan Version 1.1 only considers a withdrawal limit of 143,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

The Amendment Application also fails to include any comment on the potential impacts to the receiving lake (expected to be Ulu Lake) resulting from the increased withdrawal limits for Sable Lake.

Recommendation: DDEC provide detailed comments on the potential impacts to the receiving lakes from the drawdown of Two-Rock and Sable Lakes prior to further consideration of the

Amendment Application by the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board. If these impacts are determined to be acceptable and the Licence Amendment is granted, DDEC submit an updated Drawdown Plan for Two Rock Lake and a Drawdown and De-watering Plan for Sable Lake to the Board for approval prior to the commencement of pumping.

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

Sincerely,



Jaida Ohokannoak  
Chairperson

Cc: DDEC – April Hayward  
Tlicho Government - Sjoerd van der Wielen  
Yellowknife 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