



***Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency***

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Ms. Claudine Lee, M.Sc. P. Geol.  
Superintendent - Environment Operations  
Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation  
1102 4920 52nd Street,  
Yellowknife NT, X1A3T1

**RE: Letter of Support for the Towards Sustainable Mining Environment Excellence Awards – Waste Management Program**

We are providing this letter in support of the Ekati Diamond Mine submission for the Towards Sustainable Mining Environment Excellence Awards for work on its Waste Management Program.

The Agency is pleased to note that Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp (DDEC), has shown leadership in developing a waste management plan that upholds the 4 R's of waste management: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover.

Their Waste Management Plan focuses on waste streams, which include collecting recycling and waste batching to determine optimal incinerator operations to reduce the amount of plastics and organic waste being sent to the incinerator. In October 2015, DDEC commissioned an in-vessel composter as an environmentally-friendly alternative to organic waste incineration. To date, DDEC has composted nearly 30,000 kilograms of organic material. By diverting this waste from the incinerator, DDEC has saved an estimated 26,400 liters of diesel which would have released 90 tonnes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

The Ekati Mine site has discontinued using plastic disposable “clam shell” food containers and all plastic utensils in favour of more environmentally friendly or biodegradable products constructed from bamboo, sugarcane, and palm pulp fibers. In addition, they now use a semi-transparent “corn based” biodegradable garbage bag that is used to hold incinerator waste. These products are much more suitable for incineration as they do not produce the same amount of volatile emissions as plastics. The Agency commends DDEC for such measures to utilize more environmentally friendly products.

In summary, the Agency has been pleased with DDEC's efforts to ensure that the potential adverse effects to the environment are minimized through sound waste management practices.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaida Ohokannoak", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jaida Ohokannoak  
Chairperson