



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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Brett Wheeler
Executive Director
Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board
#1-4905 48th Street
Yellowknife NT X1A 3S3

Dear Brett

Re: Agency Comments on the Ekati Nitrogen Response Plan

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency has reviewed the Ekati Nitrogen Response Plan. The Agency recognizes that there has been an overall improvement in blasting practices from 2008 to 2013. However, there are still areas where improvements can be made as noted in our comments.

The Nitrogen Response Plan tends to focus on the use-protection approach where current nitrogen levels are deemed to have no significant adverse environmental effects. The Agency supports a more balanced approach of pollution prevention and waste minimization as found in the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Policy on Water and Effluent Quality. The Agency is of the view that the Nitrogen Response Plan should more explicitly deal with opportunities for waste minimization and have a more detailed implementation plan that includes performance monitoring and public reporting.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and we would be happy to discuss them with you and others at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members

Veronique, D'Amour-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans
Sarah-Lacey MacMillan, Environment Canada