



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 Dissolved Oxygen Response Plan

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency) has reviewed the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Response Plan (Response Plan) and would like to provide the following comments for the Board's consideration.

The Agency agrees with the actions recommended by DDEC namely; continued monitoring to determine the duration and frequency of hypoxic conditions; continued clearing of snow from the ice surface; and a desktop study to investigate whether low DO concentrations are occurring naturally or as a result of mining activities. The Agency also agrees with the Response Plan that medium action levels cannot be determined until the desktop exercise has been completed.

The possible relation between low DO levels and increased fish parasitism in Cujo Lake is a concern. The Agency, however, believes this is more appropriately dealt with in the Fish Response Plan and have therefore reserved their comment regarding DO and parasitism accordingly.

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
Tlcho 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