

The EKATI MONITOR

Newsletter of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Issue 16, November 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Agency Site Visit	1
2015-16 Annual Report	1
AEMP Re-evaluation	2
Culture Camp at Ekati	2
Jay Project: Water Licence	3
EIR Update	3
Director Profile: Doug Doan	4

Agency Site Visit June 2016



Agency Directors at the Leslie Lake effluent discharge point .

June 2016, the Agency conducted an annual site visit to the Ekati Diamond Mine. We visited the following areas:

- Leslie Lake
 - Beartooth Pit
- The Agency also discussed a number of issues with DDEC staff, including:
- Dust monitoring at the mine, including the new dust suppressant Enviro-Kleen.
 - Traditional Knowledge and how it is incorporated into Ekati's monitoring programs.

Agency staff and Directors had a good site visit.



LLCF Cell B Revegetation

2015-2016 Annual Report

In September 2015, the Agency completed the annual reports and distributed them to the Society Members and other interested people and organizations. The annual report is where you can find the Agency's formal recommendations to DDEC, the Agency's assessment of DDEC and regulators, and the work the Agency has been involved in over the past year.

The annual report is available in technical and plain language versions. It can also be viewed online at www.monitoringagency.net.



Happy Christmas!

IEMA, EMAB and SLEMA will be hosting their annual Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 7 from 4—6pm in the Agency's board room.

AEMP Re-Evaluation

The Agency submitted comments on the Aquatic Effect Monitoring Program (AEMP) Re-Evaluation to the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) in September. According to the water licence, a re-evaluation of the AEMP needs to occur every 3 years, but in this case, it was delayed a year to coincide with fish monitoring data.

The AEMP carries out a number of programs and studies to determine if changes in the lakes and streams downstream of Ekati mine operations are occurring as a result of mining activities.

To help the Agency put together effective comments, Michael Patterson, a water ecologist at IISD-Experimental Lakes Area, was contracted. Michael has a very good understanding of whole-lake interactions and was therefore able to make several suggestions for how the AEMP could be improved for better water and aquatic biota monitoring.

The Agency has suggested to the WLWB that there be an AEMP Re-evaluation workshop to give parties an opportunity to discuss comments from each of the parties and any changes to the monitoring program.

For more information: www.monitoringagency.net

An On the Land Camp at Ekati!

DDEC purchased a camp with sturdy, heated sleeping tents that accommodate 20 people, a kitchen, and a separate change area with sinks and showers. The facility is for community members to use as a cultural camp at the Ekati mine site. The camp is staffed with a cook and a camp manager.



During the summer of 2016, the camp was set up between Sable Lake and Two Rock Lake in order to allow community members to participate in the fish salvage. The fish salvage teams lived at the camp over the course of 40 days on a two-week rotation.

The camp has now been removed from the Sable Lake area and DDEC is in discussions with the communities regarding the future use of the cultural camp. The company plans to set up the camp next summer around the Jay Project area, and is engaging with the communities, including Elders, regarding the best location for the camp near Lac du Sauvage.

AGM

The Agency will be hosting its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday December 7 from 9 am to 2 pm.

The Agency will also host a meeting for the Society Members in the afternoon.

Jay Project— Water Licence Environmental Impact Report

On May 19, 2016 the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources agreed to adopt the Review Board's recommendations, and so the project could proceed. The Jay Project is now in the regulatory process to obtain a water licence from the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB). In this process, terms and conditions of the licence are set, and DDEC must comply with these so that significant impacts are mitigated.

The WLWB held a technical session October 4-6 in Behchoko and a public hearing is set for December 13-15. After the public hearing, the water licence will be submitted to the responsible Minister, who is expected to reach a decision by July 2017.

Some of the main issues are:

- Sediment Monitoring Program and Licence Monitoring Sites;
- TSS limits during construction;
- How adaptive management will be incorporated into the management plans;
- Effluent discharge mixing zones;
- Waste rock seepage.

Based on the Tłı̄ch̄ Government concerns on the amendment to the main licence application, DDEC withdrew their application to extend the term of the water licence. Therefore, the water licence will continue expire in 2021.



WLWB water licence technical session for DDEC's Jay Project in Behchoko, October, 2016.

In January 2016, DDEC held a meeting to review the content and process for this year's Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

DDEC also hosted technical sessions in July and public workshops in September. The EIR was to be submitted to the Minister of ENR, November 3, 2016.

The Plain Language Summary Report was submitted in September. The GNWT has granted reviewers until January 3, 2017 to provide comments on whether the EIR is satisfactory as outlined in the Environmental Agreement. Pending approval from the Minister of Lands, a final Close Out Report will be submitted by DDEC.

The Agency's main concern continues to be how Traditional Knowledge is recorded and incorporated into the management plans and mine operations.

The Agency is, also, disappointed in how information was distributed to reviewers. The EIR was received by the Agency and other parties (including communities) the day before the EIR public workshop. This did not give parties sufficient time to review the document before the public workshop.

For more information, please contact the Agency or go to www.monitoringagency.net



Marc Casas and Jesse Jasper at the EIR Technical Session in July 2016.



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

CONTACT US!

P.O. Box 1192
203, 5006 50 (Franklin) Ave.
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N8
Ph: (867) 669-9141
Fax: (867) 669-9145
monitor1@monitoringagency.net

DIRECTORS

Jaida Ohokannoak
(Chairperson)
Appointed by
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Emery Paquin
(Vice-Chairperson)
Appointed by DDEC/
Canada/GNWT

Kim Poole
(Secretary/Treasurer)
Appointed by Tłı̨ch̨ Government

Tim Byers
Appointed by
Akaitcho Treaty 8

Doug Doan
Appointed by DDEC/
Canada/GNWT

Arnold Enge
Appointed by
North Slave Métis Alliance

Jesse Jasper
Appointed by DDEC/
Canada/GNWT

STAFF

Marc Casas
Executive Director

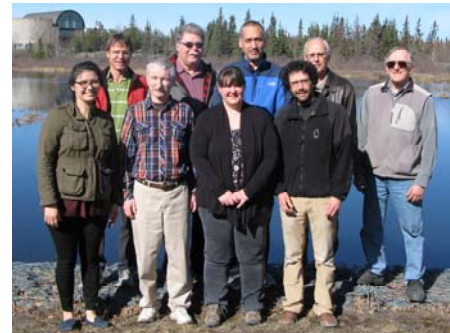
Jessica Simpson
Communications and Environmental Specialist

The Agency is a public watchdog for environmental management at the Ekati Diamond Mine. The Agency was set up in 1997 under the Environmental Agreement. It requires Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. (DDEC) and the federal and territorial governments to protect the environment and land-based way of life of Aboriginal peoples of the area.

The Agency reviews DDEC's environmental reports and plans for the Ekati Mine, visits the mine site and listens to community and public concerns. We make recommendations to DDEC, government and regulators on how best to protect the environment at Ekati.

We are set up as a non-profit society in the Northwest Territories. The Agency's Board has seven Directors appointed by our Society Members:

- Akaitcho Treaty 8 (łutsel K'e and Yellowknives Dene First Nations)
- Tłı̨ch̨ Government
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (AANDC)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp.



Agency staff and directors.

Our Directors are independent of the appointing parties and work together in the best interests of the environment and the people affected by Ekati.

We have two staff members and a resource library filled with information about Ekati in our office in Yellowknife. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns about the Ekati Mine.

Director Profile: Doug Doan



Doug Doan graduated from Queen's University in 1974 and started his career with the Industrial Development Bank in Oshawa Ontario. After 10 years with the Bank, Doug relocated to the Northwest Territories in 1987 accepting a position with the Government of the Northwest Territories as superintendent of economic development in Behchoko. Doug worked in a number of positions in economic development including positions with both federal and territorial governments and has lived in Behchoko, Inuvik and Yellowknife. Now retired from the Government of the Northwest Territories Doug and his wife live in Yellowknife. Doug is also a member of the Gwichin Renewable Resources Board.