



**Independent
Environmental
Monitoring Agency**

PUBLIC WATCHDOG OF EKATI DIAMOND MINE

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories March 1, 2017

The Agency would like say Thank You to those who helped organize the Community Information Session:

Shin Shiga, NSMA

Arnold Enge, Agency Director

And Linda at Northern Chicks Catering

About the Agency

The **Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency** is the public watchdog for environmental management at Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation's Ekati Diamond Mine. The Agency was set up in 1997.

We review Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation's environmental reports and plans for Ekati, visit the mine and respond to community and public concerns. We make recommendations to the company, governments and regulators on how best to protect the environment at Ekati. We tell the company and governments about community concerns and make recommendations on the use of Traditional Knowledge in environmental programs.

Agency Board of Directors and Staff



Left to Right:
Jessica Simpson (staff), Kim Poole, Tim Byers, Doug Doan, Jaida Ohokannoak, Arnold Enge, Marc Casas (staff), Emery Paquin, Jesse Jasper

We have a Board of Directors with seven members appointed by:

- Tłįchǫ Government
- Akaitcho Treaty 8 (Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Yellowknives Dene First Nation)
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation.

Our Directors are independent of the appointing parties.

CONTACT US

Please contact our office to schedule a meeting with us in your community, or if you have questions about Ekati or the Agency's work.

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Current Conditions at Ekati Diamond Mine

Jaida Ohokannoak, the Agency's Chairperson, reviewed the role of the Agency, current conditions at the Ekati Diamond Mine, and upcoming initiatives. She explained the role of the Agency, which is to make recommendations to Dominion Diamond and other regulators, listen to community concerns and inform our Society Members about the mine.

Currently, the mine's footprint is approximately 34 km², including 87 km of road. With the Sable area and the Jay Project, the foot print will increase, including an additional 25-30 km of road.

Currently, the Agency is involved in the Jay Project water licence process, which had public hearing arguments in December 2016, and closing arguments in March. We are expecting a decision from the responsible Minister by July 2017.

The current Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan was approved in 2011 and is quickly becoming outdated. The Agency recommends a new one be approved 6-12 months after the water licence approval.

Some of the other main issues discussed are:

- Waste rock piles not freezing, which can create seepage and water quality issues over time;
- Dominion Diamond has been testing a new dust suppressant called Enviro-Kleen, for which there seems to be positive test results; and
- The Agency is concerned about the degree to which roadways and other infrastructure may be acting as barriers to wildlife movement, and we are not confident these concerns are adequately addressed in the current Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program and the Caribou Road Mitigation Plan.

The Agency has also grown more concerned about how Traditional Knowledge is incorporated into monitoring programs.

Overall, the Agency will be reporting what we heard from this community information session to the company and to the territorial and federal governments.



Jaida Ohokannoak, Agency Chairperson, speaking at the Community Information Session.



Robert (Bob) Mercredi of NSMA.

What the Agency Heard

The Agency heard concerns from participants, most of which were related to reclamation and closure and the use of Traditional Knowledge (TK) in Dominion Diamond's monitoring programs.

Jaida, Agency Chairperson, talked about waste rock piles at the mine not freezing, and the Agency's concern about potential seepage and water quality issues. A participant asked if waste rock piles at other diamond mines, such as Diavik Diamond Mine, are freezing and if they are experiencing similar issues.

Jaida also mentioned that the mine now has a composter that produces soil-like material high in nutrients and saves 74,300 liters of fuel. Participants also wanted to know if the soil produced from the new composter will be used in reclamation at the mine. The soil will be tested to see if it can be used in reclamation, but it can also be packed up and shipped south.

The Agency and participants had a discussion on the use of TK in Dominion Diamond's monitoring programs. A participant

commented that TK is difficult to measure, there is no real way of measuring TK. Jaida, said that one of the Agency's recommendations to the mine is to show how TK has changed monitoring programs, how it was used, and how TK data were collected.

Some of the participants currently sit on the company's newly formed Traditional Knowledge advisory panel. A participant commented that the panel is fortunate to have Elders who "speak their mind," but their work has only just begun. He also gave an update on the location for the "on the land" camp.

Some participants feel that the Dominion Diamond is very "corporate" in their responses to the recommendations and they are not getting any real report from the company. They wanted to know if the Agency gets a sense that they are simply "repeating" the same answer over and over. Tim, an Agency Director, said he feels that the company is genuinely trying to do more and collect more and better data, and he does get the sense that the work is being done effectively.



Participants at the Community Information Session



Agency Director Emery Paquin with Marc Whitford of NSMA.