

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency 2014-15 Annual Report Summary





Outline

- Agency Activities 2014-15
- Wildlife
- Water and Fish
- Air Quality
- Traditional Knowledge
- Processed Kimberlite and Waste Rock Management
- Closure and Reclamation
- Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects
- Assessment of the Regulators
- Assessment of Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp.
- Recent Agency Activities





Agency Activities 2014-15

- 4 board meetings, site visits to Ekati, and AGM
- Implementation of Agency Communications Plan
- Agency visit to Lutsel K'e in September 2014
- Participated in Jay Project environmental assessment
- Meetings with signers of Environmental Agreement and Inter-Agency Coordinating Team





Agency Activities 2014-15

- Participated in meetings on the incinerator testing and air quality monitoring
- Meetings on financial security for Ekati
- Held a workshop on wildlife monitoring, reclamation and dust suppression





Wildlife

- Comments on GNWT guidelines for wildlife monitoring and management
- Agency reviewed 2014 WEMP report
- Waste disposal practices by employees still a challenge
- Mine footprint: 3,294 ha (33 km², size of Yellowknife)
- Wildlife deaths in 2014: 19 small animals (vehicle-related)





Wildlife

- No aerial surveys for caribou since 2009 and 2012
 - Most caribou seen at site during northern migration
 - Three behavioural surveys done in 2014 by Ekati staff
- 60 cameras around the site to document caribou behaviour to replace snow track surveys
 - DDEC claims roads not a barrier but limited field of view for cameras
- Agency contributed towards Zone of Influence monitoring draft guidelines
- Grizzly bear hair snagging reported high densities but did not account for edge effect



Water and Fish

- Water quality from north arm of Lac de Gras points to need for additional monitoring sites : 8 water quality chemical measurements still measure higher than they do in other lakes.
- Some contaminants remain elevated downstream of Ekati, potassium above objective set by DDEC
- University student studied hydrocarbon contaminants in fish and found that DL10 dust suppressant the likely cause
- Nitrogen Response Plan approved, company has changed explosive mixture and stopped pumping at Fox pit





Water and Fish

- Changing zooplankton communities have potential to affect fish health
- Slow progress on Aquatic Response Framework (what to do with monitoring data and how to respond to early warnings)
- Pigeon Stream diversion working, stream bank stability will have to be monitored carefully





Air Quality

- DDEC distributed its 2012-14 Air Quality Monitoring Program report
- DDEC has made good progress to improve its air quality monitoring
- Agency met with GNWT and DDEC to discuss incinerator emissions test results
- Agency concerned with lack of progress on dust suppression (EnviroKleen now being evaluated)
- Management and monitoring plans should be updated





Traditional Knowledge

- DDEC senior managers meeting with communities - a positive initiative
- Community members participated in monitoring at site
- Community-based projects continue to be funded by company
- DDEC should make better use of TK in reclamation planning
- DDEC needs to improve its reporting of concerns from community meetings





Processed Kimberlite and Waste Rock Management

- Mining completed at Fox pit but waste rock pile not freezing
- Wek'eezhi Land and Water Board initiated major review of waste rock and seepage management at Ekati
- DDEC submitted risk assessment, thermal modelling and geochemistry evaluation for operation phase of Ekati Mine





Closure and Reclamation

- Water licence security has now been posted (new form—surety bonds accepted by GNWT)
- Security Deposit under Environmental Agreement still under review and Agency left out of the process (GNWT has since made a decision)
- DDEC has made good progress at Old Camp
- Overall reclamation research continues to slip behind schedule





Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

- GNWT leading the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan, Agency participating and providing technical assistance on Zone of Influence group
- GNWT making some progress on caribou population modelling
- The Agency urges better collaboration on grizzly bear hair-snagging.





Assessment of the Regulators

- Regulators effective and work together.
- Major changes with Devolution effective April 1, 2014.
- **DFO** implementing legislative changes, reduced involvement in Ekati.
- We look forward to stronger **EC** input.
- **GNWT** inspector continued high quality work, good participation in submission reviews.
- Security Deposit under Environmental Agreement was still under review (Agency excluded at end), no further work on proposed changes to the Environmental Agreement





Assessment of the Regulators

- **Review Board** good job in managing the Jay Project environmental assessment, adequacy review done well.
- Agency pleased with **WLWB** process for Lynx water licence and land use permit. Moves to eliminate the WLWB delayed by Tlicho government court action.





Assessment of Dominion Diamond

- DDEC continues to operate Ekati in an environmentally sound manner.
- Agency had a good working relationship with DDEC.
- DDEC won an award for grizzly bear monitoring with Diavik.
- Progressive reclamation under way at Old Camp.
- Significant delays with reclamation planning and financial security.
- Agency concerned about lack of progress on dust mitigation.





Recent Agency Activities

- Agency continues to be an active participant in the Jay Project environmental assessment
- Agency visited Ekati Mine in June and September 2015
- Participating in the review of financial security under the Environmental Agreement
- Agency Directors and staff changes





THANK YOU!



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