



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

P.O. Box 1192, Yellowknife NT, X1A 2R2 ▪ Phone (867) 669-9141 ▪ Fax (867) 669-9145
www.monitoringagency.net ▪ E-mail: monitor1@monitoringagency.net

March 26, 2019

Joseph Mackenzie
Chair, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board
#1-4905 48th St, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 3S3

Re: Cujo Lake Outflow Special Study Design

Dear Mr. Mackenzie,

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency) has reviewed the Cujo Lake Outflow Special Study Design Plan submitted by Dominion Diamond Mines ULC (Dominion). The Agency submits the following comments for your consideration.

Additional Species Monitoring

The Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) Reason for Decision states: "*The Board notes that although Arctic Grayling is the predominant species, monitoring should not be restricted to Arctic Grayling and has therefore included Part J, Condition 15 to apply to all spawning species.*" (p.32) This study plan states that incidental observations of fish species in the monitored 'B' steams will be recorded, but assessment of access to habitat will focus solely on Arctic grayling. Slimy sculpin, a sentinel species monitored in the AEMP, are also present, and like grayling, spawn in spring in both lakes and streams. It is not clear why slimy sculpin are not included in the assessment of habitat.

Recommendation: Dominion should include slimy sculpin in the access to habitat monitoring or provide rational for why they should not be included.

Should you have any questions concerning these comments, the Agency is pleased to discuss these at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jaida Ohokannoak
Chairperson

Cc: Dominion Diamond– Harry O'Keefe
Tł̨chq̨ Government – Violet Camsell-Blondin
Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Johanne Black

łutsel K'e Dene First Nation – Lauren King

North Slave Metis Alliance – Jessica Hurtubise

Kitikmeot Inuit Association – Geoff Clark

Government of the Northwest Territories – LeeAnn Malley

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada – Dinah Elliott