

The

EKATI MONITOR



Issue 17, November 2017

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Agency Site Visit September 2017



Lynx Pit.

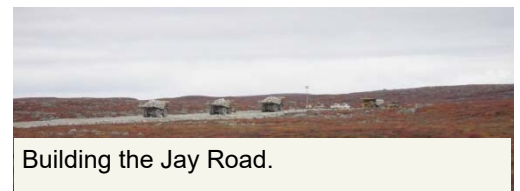
In September, the Agency visited Ekati Diamond Mine, 300 km northeast of Yellowknife. The Agency really enjoyed this visit as they got to visit “all 4 corners” of the site for the first time in a while. Areas visited include:

- The new Jay Road,
- Lynx Pit, and
- The Sable Road and Area, where caribou were observed crossing the

road.

The Agency also discussed a number of issues with Dominion Diamond Mine staff, including:

- The sale of the mine to Washington Companies,
- The WROMP Pigeon Expansion,
- The new Fox Deep project, and
- Misery Underground and Potassium Effluent Quality Criteria Amendment Application.



Building the Jay Road.

2016-17 Annual Report



The Agency continues to produce 2 versions of the annual report, a Technical and Plain Language. This year, based on feedback, we only printed the Plain Language version, and the technical is available as a digital version on our website. Should you require a hard copy, please contact the Agency.

The annual report is where you can find the Agency’s formal recommendations to Dominion Diamond, the Agency’s assessment of Dominion Diamond and regulators, summary of current conditions and monitoring, and the work the Agency has been involved in over the past year.

Sale of Ekati Diamond Mine

The purchase of Ekati Diamond Mine by Washington Companies was completed in November, 2017. The transition team worked with the governments of the Northwest Territories, Canada and Aboriginal leaders to get all of the approvals in place. Dominion Diamond Mines will continue to operate as a standalone, private company.

<https://www.ddmines.com/dominion-diamond-corporation-announces-completion-of-plan-of-arrangement/>

New Directors

In March and April, the Agency had a shift in Directorship. April 1, 2017, Ron Allen was appointed jointly by Dominion Diamond, Government of the Northwest Territories, and Government of Canada, in consultation with the Aboriginal Governments. The Agency thanks Doug Doan for his work and expertise over the last 2 years.

Emery Paquin was also reappointed to another 3 year term! Arnold Enge, of North Slave Métis Alliance is retiring from the Agency, and Bill Slater will begin in April, 2018.

IEMA Video

The Agency has a new video to serve as an introduction to the Agency and what we do.

To view, go to
monitoringagency.net

Upcoming Dates:

The Agency will be hosting it's Annual General Meeting January 17, 2018.

Environmental Workshop on Waste Rock will be January 18, 2018.

Community visit to Kugluktuk

In May, the Agency visited Kugluktuk, NU. This visit was combined with the Agency's Annual Report Writing Session, which gave Director's time to visit with community members and see the land.

While there, the Agency held a Community Information Session, visited the school, met with the Hamlet of Kugluktuk and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

The main concern the Agency heard is that the community's water quality needs to be maintained. The Coppermine River, which is downstream from Lac de Gras/Ekati, is the source of the community's drinking water. There were also concerns expressed about the relocation of Dominion Diamond's head office to Calgary.

Waste Rock—Closure ERA



Fox Waste Rock Pile

The Agency reviewed the Waste Rock Storage Area Closure Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA), this past year. In general, the Agency is pleased that Dominion Diamond Mines has attempted to address the waste rock seepage uncertainties at closure and beyond. However, the Agency raised a number of concerns including:

- Lack of water balance for waste rock;
- Lack of measured data, which leads to a lack of confidence in long term seepage water quality and thermal conditions of pile post closure.

Considering the importance of this work and the time remaining until planned closure of the mine site in 2034, the Agency believes that Dominion Diamond Mines can, and should, focus efforts on collecting the required data needed to reduce the uncertainty in the thermal and water quality predictions upon which the Closure ERA is based.

Jay Project Water Licence

The GNWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources granted the amendment to Ekati Diamond Mine's Type A Water Licence as recommended by the Wek'èezhıı Land and Water Board. This amendment allows for Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation to move ahead with the Jay Project.

Misery Underground



Misery Site.

The Misery Underground (MUG) Amendment application would move mining operations of the Misery Pit to underground, extending the life of the mine by one year. It is a small project with predicted high quality and high carat diamonds. It would also create an economic bridge between Misery and Jay Project because it will feed the mill until Jay Project is ready and help DDEC to keep its skilled workforce.

To accommodate MUG, DDEC will need to expand the Misery Camp, create an access portal to underground operations, extend the power transmission line, add pipelines for water management, and modify the King Pond Settling Facility.

Key components of MUG is the mine water management as it will need to be adjusted, to make sure the timing fits with other projects such as Lynx, Misery, and Jay. The Agency highlighted a need for operational flexibility to allow for proper waste management.

Based on current timelines, DDEC expects environmental approvals and permits in 2018 and early operations to begin in 2019.

Potassium Amendment

DDEC has applied to increase their Effluent Quality Criteria (EQC) for potassium from 41 mg/L to 64 mg/L. The site specific water quality objective has already been approved at 64mg/L. The Agency believes greater effort could be made to consider reducing contaminants at the source.



**Independent Environmental
Monitoring Agency**

PUBLIC WATCHDOG OF EKATI DIAMOND MINE

CONTACT US!

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DIRECTORS

Jaida Ohokannoak

(Chairperson)
Appointed by
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Emery Paquin

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

Kim Poole

(Secretary/Treasurer)
Appointed by Tłı̄chq̄ Government

Tim Byers

Appointed by
Akaitcho Treaty 8

Jesse Jasper

Appointed by DDEC/
Canada/GNWT

Ron Allen

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 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 Dominion Diamonds environmental reports and plans for Ekati Mine, visits the mine site and listens to community and public concerns. We make recommendations to Dominion Diamonds 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)
- Tłı̄chq̄ Government
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (INAC)
- 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 Ekati Mine.

Director Profile: Jesse Jasper



Jesse Jasper was jointly appointed by Dominion Diamond, Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Canada. Jesse retired in 2011 after 39 years of public service. Since 1971 he has worked exclusively in northern Canada, focusing on land and water monitoring to evaluate impacts on development. He coordinated a number of reviews and technical presentations for environmental impact assessments, including NWT Diamond Project, which is now Ekati Diamond Mine. Jesse represented Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Environment Canada on a number of boards, including the Mackenzie River Basin Board, the NWT Water Board, and the Mackenzie Gas Project.