

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL  
MONITORING AGENCY



# 2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

PLAIN LANGUAGE

Emery Paquin Vice-Chairperson

## Recommendations for 2016-17

### Recommendation No. 1

The GNWT, in cooperation with the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board standardize whether, and what portion of, security be held back upon completion of reclamation activities.

### Recommendation No. 2

The GNWT, in cooperation with the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board standardize the application, consideration and approval of staged closure and reclamation securities.



## Agency Activities

### Meetings and Visits

- Four Board meetings and the AGM
- Community Information Session for North Slave Métis Alliance and the public (March 2017)
- On-site visit to Ekati mine

### Reviews and Workshops

- Major effort towards Jay Project water licence application
- Significant reviews
  - Environmental Impact Report
  - Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program Re-evaluation
  - WRSA Ecological Risk Assessment
  - Agency video





# Waste Rock and Processed Kimberlite

## Highlights

- WRSA Closure Ecological Risk Assessment completed
- Permafrost in Panda/Koala/Beartooth (P/K/B) WRSA being established
- Fox and Coarse Kimberlite storage areas remain largely unfrozen

## Agency Assessment

- ✓ Closure Seepage Ecological Risk Assessment completed
- X Ecological Risk Assessment results questionable
- ✓ Continued seepage monitoring
- ✓ Thermal monitoring of P/K/B and Fox storage areas
- X Lack of thermal monitoring for Misery and CKR storage areas



# Closure and Reclamation

## Highlights

- A timeline for updating the ICRP has now been established
- A process for staging and handing back financial securities is needed
- Delays in reclamation research remain a serious concern

## Agency Assessment

- ✓ WLWB remains watchful over reclamation planning and security
- ✓ Overall closure and reclamation performance has been satisfactory
- X DDEC response to WLWB directive for updated reclamation schedule was unsatisfactory
- X Reclamation work at Old Camp was postponed



# Water and Fish

## Highlights

- Aquatic Response Plans in place
- Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan Re-evaluation complete
- Progress made in assessing changes in aquatic communities

## Agency Assessment

- ✓ Aquatic Response Framework (ARF) in place
- ✓ Parameter-specific response plans initiated under ARF
- ✓ AEMP improved through the Re-evaluation
- X Agency review of Sable AEMP identified deficiencies



# Air Quality

## Highlights

- EnviroKleen proving effective at reducing dust from roads
- Initiation of work towards an Air Regulatory Framework
- One-time incinerator emissions test below Canadian standards

## Agency Assessment

- ✓ Expanded trials of the dust suppressant EnviroKleen
- ✓ Jay Project Air Quality Emissions Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Continued monitoring of ambient air quality and dustfall
- X Study into inline incinerator continuous emissions monitoring
- X Overall limited progress towards an Air Regulatory Framework





# Wildlife

## Highlights

- Observed caribou numbers highest in recent years
- Wildlife Effects Monitoring and Caribou Road Mitigation plans
- Sable Road constructed through previously undisturbed habitat

## Agency Assessment

- ✓ Occurrence of misdirected wildlife attractants declined
- ✓ Jay Caribou Road Mitigation Plan implemented site-wide
- ✓ Partnership with the TK Elders Group
- X Updates to site-wide Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan and Caribou Road Mitigation Plan





# Jay and Sable Project Development

## Highlights

- Jay Project Report on Environmental Assessment approved
- Water Licence and LUP Public Hearings
- Minister's decision on WL received July 6, 2017
- Development of Sable Project initiated

## Agency Assessment

- ✓ Thorough and efficient water licence regulatory process
- ✓ Dominion cooperative and responsive to inquiries
- X Application to extend existing water licence term
- ✓ Final WL conditions largely reflective of input and discussion



# Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

## Highlights

- Bathurst Caribou Range Plan discussion document released for public review
- Caribou Zone-of-Influence task group achieved limited progress
- Potential for increased phosphorous in Lac de Gras from Jay Project effluent



# Traditional Knowledge and Community Engagement

## Highlights

- Traditional Knowledge Elders Group established
- Ekati Mine Engagement Plan updated

## Agency Assessment

- ✓ Improvement in the use and reporting of TK
- ✓ Several fish-offsetting projects initiated
- ✓ Traditional Knowledge Elders Group
- ✓ Cultural camp
- X Clarity around Incorporation of TK into management decisions





## Assessment of Regulators

ENR	Robust and focussed technical participation Limited progress on management plan for Bathurst caribou
INAC	Continue to play less of a role in environmental management
DFO	Narrowing scope and mandate affecting input
ECCC	Participation in regulatory processes inconsistent
WLWB	Sound management of DDEC permits and licences



# Assessment of Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation

Environmental Indicator	Agency Rating
Closure and Reclamation	Satisfactory
Financial Security	Satisfactory
Water and Aquatic Life	Satisfactory
Air Quality	Good
Wildlife	Satisfactory
Traditional Knowledge	Satisfactory



# Questions

