



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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September 26, 2017

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

Dear Mrs. Camsell-Blondin,

**Re: Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation (DDEC) letter regarding the Agency's comments on the WROMP 7.0 – Pigeon Expansion**

On August 18, 2017 DDEC submitted a letter to the Chair of the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board (Board) in response to the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's (Agency) comments on the proposed WROMP 7.0 – Pigeon Waste Rock Storage Area Expansion (Pigeon Expansion). The Agency understands that the Public Record is closed and does not wish to further delay the Board's consideration of DDEC's application. However, we would like to take this opportunity to speak to some of the serious comments and accusations made in DDEC's letter.

The Agency notes that DDEC does not speak to the issues raised by the Agency in its review, but rather makes accusations which question the integrity and credibility of the Agency. The ability to provide independent technical review through in-house or qualified peer expertise is a critical part of our mandate. Over the past 20 years the Agency has established a reputation for providing detailed, defensible and practical comments and recommendations to the Board. In our opinion, the Agency's comments on the Pigeon Expansion Project are no different. Therefore, contrary to DDEC's suggestion, the Agency does not believe its comments to be alarmist, unfounded or disrespectful of the regulatory system.

As mentioned in our original response, the Agency welcomes a workshop with DDEC representatives, regulators and technical experts to discuss WRSA thermal modeling processes and methodologies. In this way the issues raised by the Agency can be discussed, and hopefully resolved, in a satisfactory and respectful manner.

Should you have any questions concerning our original comments or this letter, the Agency is pleased to discuss these at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Jaida Ohokannoak  
Chairperson

Cc: Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation – April Hayward  
Tlcho Government – Jessica Hum  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Alex Power  
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation – Ron Griffith  
North Slave Metis Alliance – Nicole Goodman  
Kitikmeot Inuit Association – Geoff Clark  
Government of the Northwest Territories – Laurie McGregor  
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada – Michael Roesch