

The

EKATI MONITOR

Issue 18, July 2018

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Director Tim Byers mans the IEMA booth at the Łutsel K'e Career Fair, June 6, 2018, in Łutsel K'e , NT.

Agency Activities

▶ IEMA held our Annual General Meeting on January 17, 2018 and invited Society members to participate the next day in a waste rock workshop. The keynote presentation was given by Dr. Leslie Smith (Professor Emeritus from the University of British Columbia) on waste rock storage area dynamics, focussing on areas of potential concern. The Agency and Dominion Diamond also gave site-specific presentations.

▶ In February, Agency Director Tim Byers sat on a panel at the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act Practitioners' Workshop. His panel discussion was entitled "The Project is Authorized, Now What?". Tim provided insight into some of the issues around regulation and enforcement.

▶ The Agency also participated in the reception for organizations at the Practitioner's Workshop. We set up a booth where we showed our Agency video, and gave some goodies away. We had a wonderful time!

▶ We have also been busy writing our 2017-2018 Annual Report, and are looking forward to getting it printed and distributed very soon!

IEMA holds its 100th Board Meeting!

The Agency held its 100th Board Meeting March 13th-14th, 2018 in Yellowknife. After two days of meetings and hard work, we celebrated with a cake! And some fancy cake pyrotechnics.

Our very first board meeting was held on May 30th, 1997. We've come a long way! Thanks to all of our board members and staff, past and present, for all of your hard work and dedication to the Agency.



From left to right: Kim Poole, Ron Allen, Shannon Moore, Emery Paquin, Jaida Ohokannoak, Tim Byers, Marc Casas. Jesse Jasper couldn't make it—more cake for us!

New Staff & Director

Shannon Moore joined the Agency's staff in January of this year as the new Communications & Administrative Specialist. She brings over 6 years of professional communication and outreach experience to the Agency, and is thrilled to be part of the team!

Bill Slater, appointed by the North Slave Métis Alliance, started his Director role in April of 2018. Living and working in the north for over 25 years, Bill's technical focus areas include environmental effects assessment, mine closure, water quality and water management. Welcome, Bill!



Shannon Moore
Communications & Admin Specialist



Bill Slater
NSMA Appointed Director



Jessica Simpson
Departing Staff

Happy Trails!

The Agency would like to say a big thank you to Jessica Simpson, who held the position of Communications & Environmental Specialist with the Agency from 2013-2017. Best of luck in your new endeavours, Jessica!

Project Updates

Waste Rock Management

There were several changes to the waste rock piles at the Ekati mine resulting in several updates to the Waste Rock and Ore Management Plan (WROMP). The Pigeon waste rock pile was approved to be expanded to nearly double its original size. Lynx waste rock, found to have approximately 10% diabase waste rock, is scheduled to be used as building material for the Jay project. The Agency is concerned with the use of diabase being used as the specific acid-generating potential of diabase remains unclear. Dominion Diamond submitted a Co-placement Study Design to address some of the concerns raised in regards to the Jay waste rock co-placement approach and some of the uncertainty around the geochemical analysis. Dominion Diamond conducted a geochemical investigation on the Misery waste rock Pile. The Agency is hopeful that this will provide valuable measured data of an active waste rock pile.



Fox Waste Rock Pile. From IEMA's site visit in 2017.

Misery Underground

A Public Hearing on the water licence amendment application was held in Yellowknife on February 7, 2018, with interventions by regulators and other interested parties. Though we participated in the hearing, the Agency did not submit an intervention because our main concerns were addressed during the technical session. The review process is now complete, and the application has gone to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) for a final decision.

Jay Project Update

The Jay Project was approved by the Minister of ENR on July 6, 2017. In the spring of 2018 Dominion Diamond indicated that all future work planned for the Jay Project would be put on hold for a year in order to complete an optimization study. A global decrease in the value of diamonds was a factor in Dominion Diamond's decision. Although the Jay project has been put on hold, the Company is actively pursuing other exploration work around the existing Ekati site.



Photo from the Jay North Road. Also depicting culvert B-06.

Potassium EQC Amendment

Elevated levels of potassium have been measured in the Long Lake Containment Facility, largely due to the processing of Misery ore. Dominion Diamond underwent a Water Licence amendment application to increase the discharge criteria so that it was in line with their Site Specific Water Quality Objective (SSWQO), which is meant to be protective of the downstream environment. The Agency participated in all phases of the amendment process. The Agency's main issue was that the discharge should be set at a level that will ensure that the SSWQO will not be exceeded. The amendment has been submitted to the Minister of ENR, and is awaiting final decision.

CONTACT US!

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DIRECTORS

Jaida Ohokannoak

(Chairperson)

Appointed by
Kitikmeot Inuit
Association

Emery Paquin

(Vice-Chairperson)

Appointed by Dominion
Diamond/Canada/GNWT

Kim Poole

(Secretary/Treasurer)

Appointed by Tłı̄chq
Government

Ron Allen

Appointed by Dominion
Diamond/Canada/GNWT

Tim Byers

Appointed by
Akaitcho Treaty 8

Jesse Jasper

Appointed by Dominion
Diamond/Canada/GNWT

Bill Slater

Appointed by North Slave
Métis Alliance

STAFF

Marc Casas

Executive Director

Shannon Moore

Communications &
Administrative Specialist

Who Are We?

IEMA (the Agency) is the public watchdog for environmental management at the Ekati mine. The Agency was set up in 1997 under the Environmental Agreement, which 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.

We make recommendations to Dominion Diamond, 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)
- Tłı̄chq Government
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (INAC)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Dominion Diamond



2018 Agency Workshop —Jan. 18, 2018, Yellowknife.

Our Directors are independent of their 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 the Ekati mine.

Director Profile: Bill Slater



Bill Slater was appointed by the North Slave Métis Alliance in 2018. Bill is an independent environmental consultant with an engineering education. He is based in Whitehorse, where he has lived and worked for over 25 years. Most of his work is for First Nation governments, as a technical advisor on mining and mine closure projects. His technical focus areas include environmental effects assessment, mine closure, water quality and water management.