

Ekati Interim Closure & Reclamation Plan, Version 3.0

COMMUNITY INFO SESSIONS

Winter 2019

What We Heard



Independent
Environmental
Monitoring Agency

PUBLIC WATCHDOG OF EKATI DIAMOND MINE



IEMA's Executive Director, Marc Casas, presenting in Łutselk'e, February 5, 2019.

Interim Closure & Reclamation Plan, Version 3.0

On August 15, 2018, Dominion Diamond Mines ULC (Dominion) submitted their Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan, Version 3.0 (ICRP V 3.0) to the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board. The Board and Staff of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA/the Agency) reviewed the document, and created a summary presentation to take to five communities of our Aboriginal Society Members.

- Whati, NT – January 8, 2019
- Dettah, NT – January 10, 2019
- Behchokò, NT – January 14, 2019
- Kugluktuk, NU – January 28, 2019
- Łutselk'e, NT – February 5, 2019

This pamphlet is a summary of what we heard overall from our talks with community members.

WHO ARE WE?

IEMA (the Agency) is the public watchdog for environmental management at the Ekati mine. 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)
- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada—CIRNAC)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Dominion Diamond Mines, ULC

Our Directors are independent of their appointing parties and work together in the best interests of the environment and the people affected by the Ekati mine.

We have two staff members and a resource library of information about the Ekati mine in our office in Yellowknife. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns about the Ekati mine.

CONTACT US

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What We Heard: Community Input

Key Themes:

wildlife

Traditional Knowledge

Left-over Infrastructure

Waste Rock Piles

Water Quality

The Agency heard many perspectives and concerns from community members about closure and reclamation at Ekati mine, but there were a handful of topics that came up in all 5 communities.

Wildlife & Caribou: A consistent concern shared by all communities we visited was declining caribou numbers. Questions arose around how caribou would use the site in the future, and how safe it would be for them. Would waste rock piles and roads injure caribou or stop them from travelling where they need to go? Would they create pathways that predators would take advantage of?

Traditional Knowledge (TK): Communities expressed how important it is to use TK and community knowledge in the ICRP. Particularly in relation to closure of roads and waste rock storage areas, as this ties in with knowledge of caribou and wildlife movements.

Water: The topic of pit lakes (once open pit mining is complete, the pits will be filled with water) came up consistently throughout our community visits. Communities are concerned about the water quality in these pit lakes, and how it may affect future fish populations.

Infrastructure: In ICRP Version 3.0, it is clearly stated that only “salvageable” materials and equipment will be removed from underground mines before they are flooded. Communities expressed their worry about this. It was also stated a few times that all infrastructure should be shipped off-site, not put into on-site landfills.

Waste Rock Piles: A number of community members believed the original plan was for the waste rock that was removed to create the pits to be put back into the pits once mining was done. This is not the case. Waste rock piles will remain part of the landscape long after the mine is closed.



Community members of Łutselk'e attending the ICRP Info Session on February 5, 2019.

THANK YOU

The Agency would like to thank our Aboriginal Society Members, and the people of the communities we visited during our Community Info Sessions for their hospitality and interest. Many thanks go out to all of the people in each community who helped with accommodations, venues, and providing our meetings with delicious food.

Mársi
Mahsi
Qujannamiik
Quyanainni
Thank you



Packed house for the Info Session in Behchokō, January 14, 2019