WHO WE ARE

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency is the public watchdog that oversees the environmental management at Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd's Ekati Diamond Mine.

As part of the Ekati environmental agreement, signed in 1997, IEMA was established to be an independent monitor of the environmental programs and overall performance at the mine.

IEMA has 7 Directors, each appointed by our society members: 4 from the Indigenous governments and organizations (Akaitcho Treaty 8 (Łutsel K'e and Yellowknives Dene First Nations), Tłįcho Government, Kitikmeot Inuit Association and North Slave Métis Alliance) and 3 jointly appointed by the Government of NWT, Government of Canada and the mine owner.

WHAT WE DO

Through our mandate, IEMA listens to concerns and helps share information about the mine with Indigenous communities and the general public. Society member and the public are kept up to date about activities at the mine through our annual reports, brochures, videos, workshops, community visits and our website.

IEMA Directors provide a technical review of environmental management plans and monitoring programs for Ekati and provide recommendations to the mine owner and government regulators about how best to protect the environment around the mine.



(From left to right) Directors: Jesse Jasper, Kim Poole, Tim Byers, Emery Paquin, Ron Allen, & Bill Slater, Staff: Jamie Mistry & Marc Casas



2021 Satellite image of the Ekati mine site. Courtesy of Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd

HOW TO REACH US

For further information on IEMA's recommendations, check out our annual report avaiable on our website or you can pick up a hard copy from our office.

BY TELEPHONE 867-669-9141

IN PERSON Unit 203-5006 Franklin Ave Yellowknife, NT

BY EMAIL monitoringagency.net





2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS AT THE EKATI DIAMOND MINE

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

A PUBLIC WATCHDOG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

UBLIC WATCHDOG OF EKATID AMOND MIN

IEMA RECOMMENDS

Based on our review of Arctic Diamond's reports and overall management throughout the year, IEMA has identified six recommendations which we believe would help improve the environmental monitoring at the mine. IEMA recommends Arctic Diamond:



Work with stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of current caribou mitigation measures.



Re-initiate monitoring the waste rock at Sable pit, consistent with modern best mining practices.



Evaluate and identify alternative sites unaffected by the mine to measure seepage. The current control sites continue to show influence from nearby mining activities.



Install instruments to monitor surface and subsurface flow at selected longterm seepage locations to better understand water movement within the rock piles.



Develop measurable criteria to include in the next closure plan. These criteria support decision-making about closure methods and activities.



Work with regulators to develop more effective ways and conditions to schedule and complete progressive reclamation.

KEY EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021-22

POINT LAKE PROJECT

The Point Lake Project is a recently approved open pit project located along the Lac du Sauvage Road and beside the Misery Pit.

This is a five-year mining operation that will extend Ekati's mine life to 2029. During the review, IEMA raised several concerns with the project. In response, Arctic Diamond facilitated additional meetings with stakeholders to address these concerns. Here are some of the concerns raised and Arctic Diamond's response:

> Build more ramps during the dewatering phase & review collared caribou data

Minimal use of traditional knowledge specific to the project site

piles on wildlife

Actions to monitor

impacts on caribou

and reduce the

Effects of the rock

Work with stakeholders to find the ideal location, size and shape of the rock piles

Collaborating with

their concerns

knowledge holders to

understand and address

Effects of the rock piles on water quality

Conduct more studies to predict long term effects of the waste rock and

seepage water quality

PLANNING FOR CLOSURE

Planning for closure is becoming increasingly important as Ekati completes mining in existing pits. Although there have been many delays in submitting an updated Closure Plan, Arctic Diamond has made progress on components that will be included in the next version of the plan. Over the past 2 years, the company has hosted workshops and met with stakeholders to help identify closure objectives and establish a mutual agreement on the associated criteria for the objectives.

These are important steps and IEMA commends Arctic Diamond for the work done to date, however there is more work to do.

IEMA believes that for a 25-year old mine, the closure plan should be more advanced and include greater detail, in particular the development of measureable criteria for closure. Arctic Diamond should continue work on the Closure Plan and work with regulators to schedule and implement progressive reclamation of sites that are no longer active.

