



Directors touring the Ekati Diamond Mine, 2024
(from left to right) Tim Byers, Bill Slater, Anne Wilson, Kim Poole, and Ron Allen.
Absent from photo: Jayko Palongayak, Shelagh Montgomery, Marc Casas and Jamie Mistry

Who We Are

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency is the public watchdog that oversees the environmental management at Burgundy Diamond Mine 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.

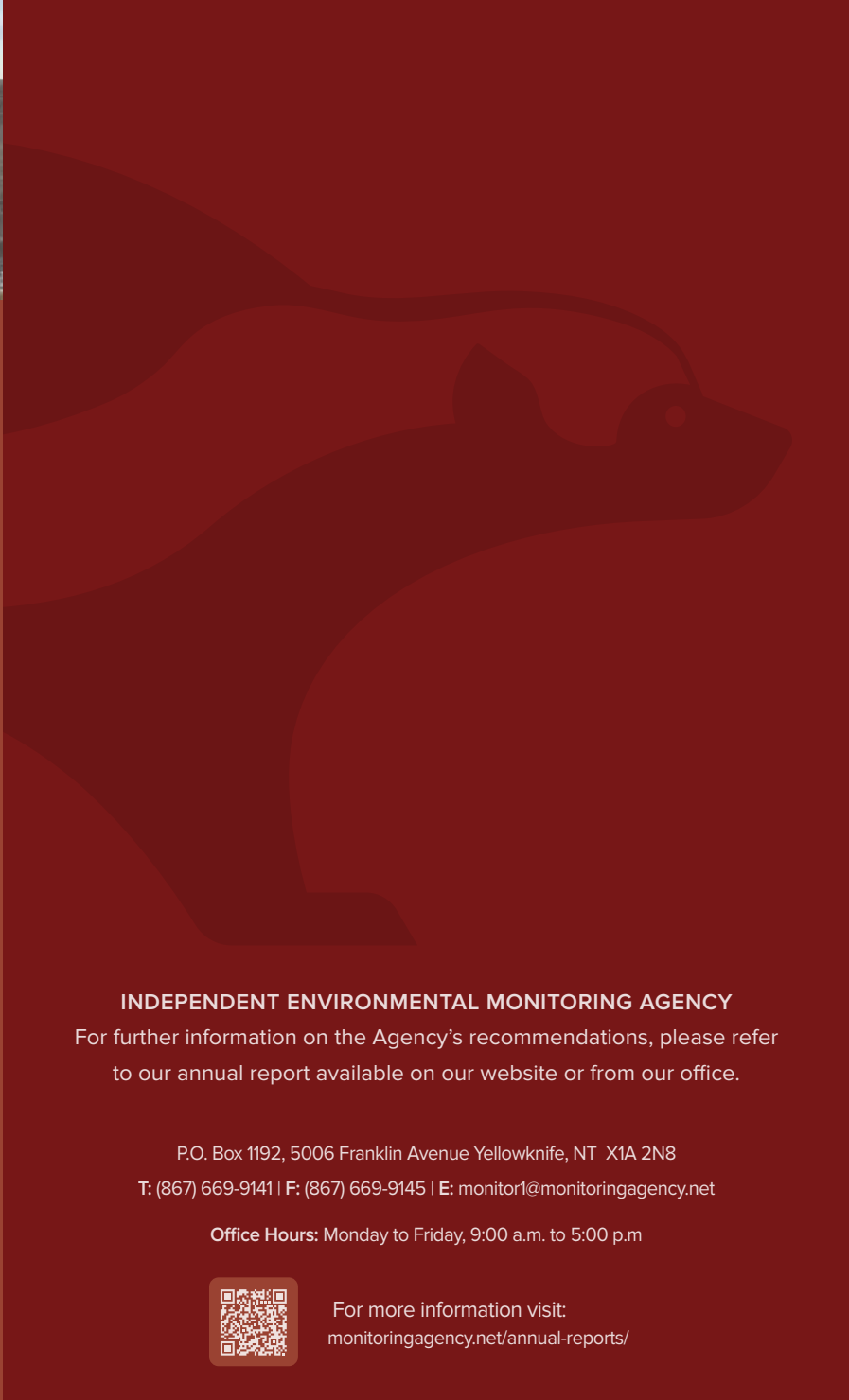
IEMA has 7 Directors, each appointed by our society members: 4 from the Indigenous governments and organizations (Akaitcho Treaty 8 (Łutsel K’e and Yellowknives Dene First Nations), Tłı̨cho Government, Kitikmeot Inuit Association and North Slave Métis Alliance) and 3 jointly appointed by the Government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

What We Do

Through our mandate, IEMA provides technical input to the regulatory process, listens to concerns and helps share information about the mine.

Society members 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.



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

For further information on the Agency’s recommendations, please refer to our annual report available on our website or from our office.

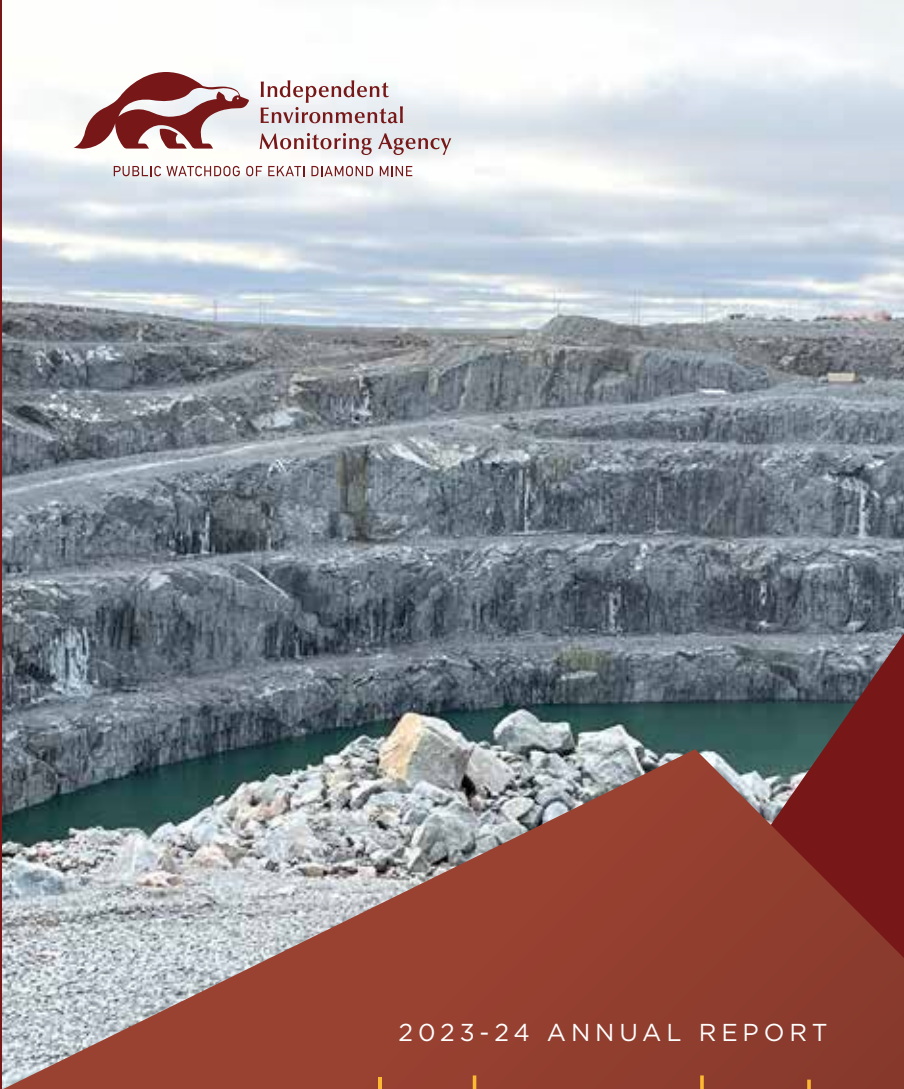
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2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

A PUBLIC WATCHDOG
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT AT EKATI
DIAMOND MINE

Recommendations

The Agency made two recommendations to Burgundy and two recommendations to the GNWT. The recommendations are related to exceedances and compliance concerns raised throughout the year.

Management Systems

Burgundy should ensure that up-to-date management systems and plans are in place to ensure ongoing and consistent compliance with their Water Licence and Land Use Permits and effective implementation of operational environmental requirements.

Old Camp

Burgundy should undertake a study to investigate causes of water quality exceedances in Old Camp runoff. Design of the study should consider whether more frequent monitoring is needed to better understand the causes of exceedances. Burgundy should also design and implement measures to address minor landform stability issues at Old Camp, with the intent of developing a better understanding of approaches that can be used for other site closure and reclamation activities.

Liability of Accumulated Mine-affected Wastewater

The GNWT, in conjunction with the WLWB, should adjust the liability estimates and security bond requirements to account for closure costs associated with management of accumulated mine-affected wastewater.

Operational Authorizations

The GNWT should review its policies and internal practices related to the scope and scale of operational changes that inspectors can authorize under an existing Land Use Permit, including the adoption of operational thresholds that, if exceeded, would require a public review be undertaken.

Highlights and Key Events

New ownership: Burgundy Diamond Mine Ltd.

In July 2023, the Ekati Diamond Mine changed ownership from Arctic Canadian Diamond Company to Burgundy Diamond Mine Ltd. As the new operators of the mine, Burgundy strives to keep Ekati operating as long as possible and have shared how they plan to extend the mine’s lifespan. Potential options to extend mine life includes mining at Point Lake and Misery underground, as well as underground mining at Sable open pit and Fox open pit.

Discharged water into Cujo Lake

As part of Burgundy’s monthly sampling and monitoring, an EQC exceedance was identified for the discharge of wastewater from King Pond to Cujo Lake. The total suspended solids and copper concentrations were measured well above the licence limits. It was determined that this was due to equipment working near the discharge pipe.

Snow chemistry and Lichen tissue

Snow chemistry and lichen tissue samples were collected in various locations around the mine in 2023. The results show that mine related changes in snow samples and lichen tissues can be detected as far as 10km from the mine.



Morning fog at Sable Pit, 2024

Point Lake Project

Stage two dewatering of Point Lake continued in 2023 from May through October. A small amount of water remained in the lake which would be drained in spring 2024. The Waste Rock Design Plan was approved, allowing Burgundy to start the next stage of excavating the overburden material and waste rock. Kimberlite mining is expected to begin in 2025.

Non-compliance for high volumes of water

Falcon Lake was one of three water sources used for road watering in 2023. Due to a particularly dry season, a greater effort was made to control dust from roads. Burgundy withdrew a volume of water greater than what is permitted in their licence due to an oversight in their reporting.

Burgundy discharged much more water from King Pond Settling Facility to Cujo Lake than was permitted. The high volumes of water were a result of continued dewatering of Point Lake to allow for mining. There was no action taken from the GNWT as a result of the exceedance.



Point Lake pit at the start of construction, 2024