ABOUT THE AGENCY
The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency was formed in 1997 to act as a public watchdog over the Ekati Diamond Mine. We are governed by a Board of Directors appointed by:

- Akaitcho Treaty 8 First Nations (Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Yellowknives Dene First Nation)
- Thëcho Government
- North Slave Métis Alliance

AGENCY MANDATE
- Review, report and make recommendations on the environmental programs, reports and activities of DDEC and governments
- Make recommendations on the use of Traditional Knowledge and the experience of Aboriginal peoples in environmental plans and programs
- Participate as an intervener in regulatory processes
- Maintain a resource library of environmental information relevant to Ekati
- Distribute information about Ekati to Aboriginal peoples and the general public
- Provide an effective means to bring to DDEC and governments the concerns of Aboriginal peoples and the general public

Agency Board of Directors and Staff
Back row, Left to Right: Jessica Simpson, Arnold Enge, Bill Ross, Tony Pearse, and Kim Poole.
Front Row, Left to Right: Laura Johnston, Kevin O’Reilly, Jaida Ohokannoak, and Tim Byers.

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Please contact us for more information about our recommendations and the performance of DDEC, governments and regulators at the Ekati Mine. Plain language and technical versions of our Annual Report 2012-13 are available on our website or from our office.
The Company’s first progress report on the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP) has some weak points.

We stress in this report how important it is that all of the monitoring works together for better management. This includes monitoring of air, wildlife and water. For example, dust is a possible reason that caribou avoid the mine. Air quality monitoring could give us a better understanding of dust and ways to reduce dust, which could help the caribou. This information could show us that caribou avoid the mine less if there is less dust.

Last year, I was hopeful about the process to decide the financial security (the money set aside to properly close the mine) needed when the mine closes. I am sad to report that the process stalled. An amount has now been proposed ($224 million). Despite this, the Agency is not able to assure our Society Members that the public will be protected from having to pay to reclaim when the mine is closed.

The Agency has continued work with our communications plan: We have information available in many Aboriginal languages, French and English. We send out summaries of our activities to interested people. Our website is greatly improved.

In the coming year, we will watch the change from BHP Billiton to Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation. We will continue to insist that Ekati Mine is operated in a way that protects the environment, as it has been for the last 16 years. As always, we welcome your input. We will try to answer any questions or concerns.

The Agency recommends that GNWT’s Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) establish guidelines for when and how carnivore and caribou monitoring programs should be conducted. The guidelines should focus on standardizing methods and the use of monitoring data for mitigation, species management, and cumulative effects management. We suggest that draft guidelines be circulated by October 1st 2013, prior to the next scheduled wildlife monitoring workshop in late 2013.

**AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS 2012-13**

**RECOMMENDATION 1**

The Wèk’èzhìı Land and Water Board (WLWB) should issue a directive to the company to conduct and complete reclamation and closure of Phase 1 tailings pond and Old Camp in accordance with a prescribed deadline determined by the WLWB.

**RECOMMENDATION 2**

The Agency recommends that GNWT’s Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) establish guidelines for when and how carnivore and caribou monitoring programs should be conducted. The guidelines should focus on standardizing methods and the use of monitoring data for mitigation, species management, and cumulative effects management. We suggest that draft guidelines be circulated by October 1st 2013, prior to the next scheduled wildlife monitoring workshop in late 2013.

**2012-13 SCORECARD FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF BHPB AT THE EKATI MINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Indicator</th>
<th>Agency Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reclamation and Closure</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>There has been little progressive reclamation at the site. Reporting on closure research and planning should be improved. Uncertainty over the financial security.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Aquatic Life</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Further improvements made to Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program. Water licence renewal completed in a timely and professional manner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Air quality monitoring has improved over the years. New incinerators now in operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Strong leadership on grizzly bear monitoring but need for improvement on caribou monitoring. GNWT should use its authority to provide better guidance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Knowledge</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Although the company carries out community visits, reports were not prepared during 2012. Little progress on using Traditional Knowledge in closure planning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RATING DEFINITIONS**

**UNSATISFACTORY** – BHPB failed to meet the expectations of the Agency, failed to carry out important commitments, or its performance resulted in sanctions or violations.

**SATISFACTORY** – BHPB met the expectations of the Agency, monitored and managed environmental impacts, and its performance did not result in sanctions or violations.

**GOOD** – BHPB exceeded the expectations of the Agency, actively investigated and managed issues of concern, and its performance demonstrated best practices, Best Available Technology, initiative and/or leadership.