



***INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY***

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April 28, 2006

Bob Overvold  
Regional Director General  
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
Box 1500  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

Dear Mr. Overvold

**Re: Inspections of Ekati Diamond Mine**

The Agency is concerned about the on-going capacity of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to carry out land and water inspections at the Ekati diamond mine (see our last letter on this subject dated February 2, 2002). The last inspection report we have on file for the Ekati mine is dated July 26, 2005 from an inspection conducted by former Resource Management Officer Julian Kanigan on July 13-14, 2005. The Agency has had some contact with DIAND representatives on the issue of a replacement and whether any further inspections have been done since July 2005, but little progress appears to have been made.

The Agency has praised the work of previous inspectors in our annual reports. Inspection reports, both written and verbal, have been of great assistance to the Agency in carrying out our mandate. Such reports keep us informed of activities on site and may raise issues (and potential issues) of mutual interest with performance and compliance with the terms and conditions of licenses, permits and leases.

This is a critical time at Ekati as the mining operation shifts to underground operations and given the renewed focus on closure planning.

We respectfully request that DIAND place a higher priority on inspector recruitment and assignment of the Ekati diamond mine to ensure an adequate inspection program is in place as soon as possible.

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We look forward to your reply and the timely assignment of the Ekati portfolio to an inspector. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you wish any further information.

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

Bill Ross  
Chairperson

cc. Society Members

Zabey Nevitt, Executive Director, Wekeezhi Land Water Board

Annette McRobert, Director of Operations, DIAND

Ed Hornby, District Manager, South Mackenzie District - DIAND

Doug Crossley, Chair, Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board

Johnny Weyallon, Chairperson, Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency