

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXCEL TEMPLATE:

1. Do not leave blank rows above or between comments.
2. Do not modify or delete the instructions or the column headings (*i.e.* the grey areas).
3. Each comment must have an associated topic and recommendation.
4. All formatting (*i.e.* bullets) will be lost when this file is uploaded to the Online Comment Table.
5. If necessary, adjust the cell width and height in order to view all text.
6. Cutting and pasting comments from WORD documents cannot include hard returns (spaces between paragraphs).
7. If you would like to create paragraphs within a single cell, please use a proper carriage return (ALT & ENTER).

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
<i>Be as specific as you think is appropriate; for example a section or page of the document, a recommendation #, general comment, etc.</i>	<i>Comments should contain all the information needed for the proponent and the Board to understand the rationale for the accompanying recommendation.</i>	<i>Recommendations can be for the proponent or for the Board. Recommendations should be as specific as possible, relating the issues raised in the "comment" column to an action that you believe is necessary.</i>

Item Number	Topic	Comment	Recommendation
1	Engagement of Affected Parties	It is not clear whether DDEC undertook any engagement with affected parties in the preparation of the Engagement Plan. The Plan is not signed by any of the identified affected parties, and there is no mention of whether the Plan was circulated or discussed with the affected parties. (see s. 3.4.1 of the MVLWB Engagement Guidelines, "The engagement plan should be developed collaboratively with affected parties.")	DDEC should clarify what, if any, engagement was undertaken with affected parties in the preparation of the Engagement Plan.
2	Engagement for On-Going Operations, pg. 2	DDEC states, "As part of these activities, Dominion actively seeks out comments and questions from community members. Comments and questions are recorded and responded to by Dominion." It is not clear what happens if DDEC is unable to answer questions or respond to concerns raised during meetings or workshops. We had expected to see a commitment to respond in writing to concerns or question that cannot be answered at the time these matters are raised.	DDEC should clarify if it intends to respond in writing to issues, concerns and questions raised where an immediate response is not possible.

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3	Engagement for On-Going Operations, pg. 2	Engagement Best Practices should be applied in this Engagement Plan as it represents one of the largest mining operations over a long period of time as specified in s. 3.4.2 of the MVLWB Guidelines. The Agency had expected to see a clear commitment and a format to record key input taken from engagement, what concerns were heard, any alternatives discussed or agreed to, and any outstanding issues (see Appendix A of the MVLWB Guidelines, pg. 9).	DDEC should provide an explanation as to whether it has adopted the Engagement Best Practices as identified by the MVLWB Guidelines.
4	Engagement for On-Going Operations, pg. 2	<p>Appendix B of the MVLWB Engagement and Consultation Policy sets out the criteria, principles, and questions the Board will use to assess engagement plans. The “Achieved Results” section is of particular interest in evaluating DDEC’s Engagement Plan using the following questions:</p> <p>Were relevant documents shared with the affected communities?</p> <p>Did the submitted engagement plan reflect guidance provided by the Board?</p> <p>Did the applicant note the resources, if any, that were put into engagement (such as community visits, materials, etc.)? This would include reasonable costs of running meetings.</p> <p>Where community visits were not possible or required, did the applicant use alternative means of engagement?</p> <p>Were responses to the engagement from the affected Aboriginal group(s) included?</p> <p>Did the applicant include evidence showing management of disputes and grievances?</p> <p>Which modifications, if any, did the applicant make to the project as a result of engagement?</p> <p>Did the applicant highlight agreements, if any, in regards to access, impact management, or socio-economic benefits?</p> <p>Section 3.3 of the MVLWB Guidelines state that an Engagement Record should include an engagement log</p>	DDEC should clearly identify how it will record and document its engagement activities under the Plan using the guidance provided in the MVLWB Policy and Guidelines. DDEC should provide a template form for its Engagement Record and log as part of this Plan.

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		<p>which amongst other things, shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues raised by the affected parties • recommendations made by the affected party; and • the proponent's response to the issues, an indication of whether the issues were resolved or unresolved, and if any changes to the project were made as a result of the engagement activity <p>In addition, the Agency is of the view that given that the Ekati Mine is a larger, longer-term project and the company has dedicated staff for engagement, DDEC should also be collecting the following as part of its engagement record:</p> <p>--identification of patterns of land and resource use --identification of VECs or valued socioeconomic components --identification of traditional knowledge obtained --a demonstration of clear linkages between the results of the consultation process and how the consultation process has influenced project proposal decisions, such as project design, mitigation measures and/ or monitoring</p> <p>It is unclear what DDEC will collect and document through its Engagement Plan as part of its Engagement Record and log. The Agency had expected to see a commitment from DDEC to collect and document the type of information as outlined above during its engagement activities. A form for recording this information might be a helpful appendix or addition to the Engagement Plan.</p> <p>As an observation, it is not clear to the Agency that such an engagement log was kept by DDEC for the Lynx Project.</p>	

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5	Evaluation and Assessment of Engagement and the Engagement Plan	There does not appear to be any provision in DDEC's Plan for the assessment and evaluation of its engagement activities and the overall Plan, including regular review with affected parties and others. The MVLWB Guidelines in Appendix G state, "It is also important that engagement with affected parties is evaluated and assessed throughout the life of the project and that proponents consider and carry out engagement planning as an ongoing planning process"	DDEC should include some provisions in the Plan for the assessment and evaluation of its engagement activities, and for review and amendment of the Plan.
6	Dispute Resolution Process	For large projects requiring a Type A license such as the Ekati Mine, a dispute resolution process should be part of the Engagement Plan as set out in the MVLWB Guidelines (Appendix G, Figure 2)	DDEC should include a description of its dispute resolution process as part of the Engagement Plan and indicate how it intends to document the process in its engagement record.