

The EKATI MONITOR

Newsletter of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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Community Visit to Dettah and N'Dilo

Part of the work of the Agency is to inform communities about the Ekati Mine and how the company and regulators protect the environment. To help with this task, the Agency visits communities.

The Agency will hold a board meeting to discuss Agency business (open to the public), and hosts an evening information session, to discuss our work and any environmental concerns about the Ekati Mine that community members may have. The Agency will also try to do a school visit.

On Wednesday, March 12, 2014, the Agency visited Dettah and N'Dilo. The

last time the Agency visited the Yellowknives Dene was September 2005.

The visit started with the board meeting in Council Chambers in Dettah. Chief Edward Sangris paid a visit and re-

marked that Agency does good work to take care of the land at Ekati Mine. In the evening, the Agency held an Open House at the N'Dilo Gym. Many people from the

newly re-formed Lands and Environment Committee participated.

The Agency heard that the community is concerned about the proposed expansion of the Mine, the use of Traditional Knowledge, the amount of traffic that will be generated by the expansion project and its effects on wildlife and plants.



Annual General Meeting

The Agency held its AGM on December 6, 2013 in our boardroom. Items discussed were the Agency's workplan and budget, the communications, proposed changes to the Environmental Agreement and any concerns brought forward by the Aboriginal Society members.

The summary notes are on the Agency's website at monitoringagency.net.



Masi Cho to Berna Martin for interpreting.



Environmental Workshop - Wildlife

The company holds an environmental workshop every third year when it is putting together its Environmental Impact Report that discusses longer term trends. Agency holds workshops in the other years. The Agency hosted a workshop on December 5, 2013 to discuss wildlife monitoring at Ekati and the area around the Mine. The last workshop hosted by the Agency was in 2011 on using Traditional Knowledge in environmental monitoring and management at Ekati.

This year we had presenters from GNWT's Environmental and Natural Resources, Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, the Agency and environmental consultants come in and speak about a variety of topics. The presentation covered wildlife monitoring guidelines, testing dust as a potential cause of caribou avoiding the mine site, how wildlife are kept away from the mine site, analyses of wolverine and grizzly bear hair, wolf collaring, and the results from the 2012 camera study.

Andy McMullen of Bearwise, presented his work on avoiding and dealing with bears in camps and mine sites, including best and worst practices.

To view the workshop presentations, please go to www.monitoringagency.net



Environmental Agreement Changes

The Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories and Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. have proposed changes to the 1997 Environmental Agreement for the Ekati Diamond Mine as a result of devolution of lands and resources to the territorial government.

The Government of Canada would effectively withdraw from the Environmental Agreement. While the Agency understands that some changes to the Environmental Agreement will be necessary to recognize the transfer of authority from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to the NWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Agency is concerned that these changes will adversely affect our ability to carry out our mandate.

To view a draft of the proposed changes, please visit: www.monitoringagency.net/ The Agency's concerns with the changes can be found at: www.monitoringagency.net/

Closure Plan Progress Report

(PDC Widening June 2013)



The Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan for the Ekati Mine was approved by the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board in November 2011.

As part of the approval of that Plan, the company was directed to submit a Progress Report each year so there is better tracking of the research needed to properly close the Mine and to allow the company to request changes to the Plan and in the financial security to ensure proper closure.

The Agency recently reviewed the 2013 Progress Report. There has been very little progressive reclamation at the mine in the areas that are no longer being used, like the Old Camp, even though this is required under the water licence. The Agency was pleased to learn that the company intends to carry out reclamation of the Old Camp in the summer of 2014 and that the widening of the Panda Diversion Channel is also to be completed in the winter of 2013-14.

The Agency is also concerned that there has been slippage in completing the reclamation research plan tasks. Out of 112 tasks presented in the 2013 Progress Report, 32 of them are delayed.

DDEC would like to make several significant changes to the closure plan and a related reduction in its financial security. For example, the company wants to change the source for filling Fox pit from Lac de Gras to Cell D of the LLCF. DDEC also wants to reduce the capping of landfills from 5m to 1m. The Agency feels that many of the changes may not provide the expected level of environmental protection.

The Agency also encourages the company to meet with interested parties annually to discuss the Progress Reports.

To read more on the subject, please check out the correspondence at www.monitoringagency.net.

Plans to Expand the Ekati Mine

The current plan is for the Ekati Diamond Mine to close in 2020. Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. announced last fall that it would apply to expand the current mine to include kimberlite pipes at Lynx, Jay and Cardinal, which will extend the mine life by about another 15-20 years.

DDEC submitted a land use permit and a water licence application to the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board in September 2013 for the Lynx Project, which will require the draining of the lake and an access road to the existing facilities near Misery pit. This pipe will be mined for about a year. A public hearing on the Lynx Project was held on February 6, 2014 in Behchoko and the WLWB is expected to make a decision in May 2014.

For the Jay-Cardinal Project, DDEC submitted applications to the WLWB in October 2013. The project was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board for Environmental Assessment. The company is preparing its Developers Assessment Report (DAR).

The Review Board is scheduled to complete its work on the Jay-Cardinal Project in July 2015 but this could change depending on when the DAR is submitted and reviewed.

Once the company submits the DAR, the EA will then move onto the analytical phase where technical sessions and information requests will take place. Public hearings are expected about March 2015.

Please visit www.reviewboard.ca for details on the progress of the environmental assessment

Chief Clifford Daniels
at the Jay-Cardinal
Scoping
Session in
Behchoko
January
2014



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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The Agency is a public watchdog for environmental management at the Ekati Diamond Mine. The Agency was set up in 1997 under the Environmental Agreement. It requires Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. (DDEC) and the federal and territorial governments to protect the environment and land-based way of life of Aboriginal peoples of the area.

The Agency reviews DDEC's environmental reports and plans for the Ekati Mine, visits the mine site and listens to community and public concerns. We make recommendations to DDEC, government and regulators on how best to protect the environment at Ekati.

We are set up as a non-profit society in the Northwest Territories. The Agency's Board has seven Directors appointed by our Society Members:

- Akaitcho Treaty 8 (Łutsel K'e and Yellowknives Dene First Nations)
- Tłı̨chq̓ Government
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (AANDC)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp.

Please visit our website at
www.monitoringagency.net
to see photos, meeting
minutes, correspondence,
the Ekati Timeline and other
information about Ekati.

Our Directors are independent of the appointing parties and work together in the best interests of the environment and the people affected by Ekati.

We have two staff members and a resource library filled with information about Ekati in our office in Yellowknife. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns about the Ekati Mine.

Director Profile: Laura Johnston

Laura Johnston was appointed in December 2006 by BHP Billiton, Canada and the GNWT, after consulting with the Aboriginal governments. She has 35 years of experience in addressing environmental issues throughout Canada, most recently for 15 years in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Laura has hands-on experience in studying surface water quality, ground water quality, and contaminant distribution in sediments. During 30 years with Environment Canada, she provided expertise in water quality, environmental assessment, environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response, contaminated sites remediation, and enforcement related issues. Over a 10 year period, she was also a member of several Arctic Council Working Groups with projects throughout the circumpolar world.

