

September 22, 2015

Mr. Chuck Hubert
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102-50th Ave Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Via email

Dear Mr. Hubert,

RE: Public comment on the Jay Project regarding renewable energy sources

I submit this comment as a Yellowknife City Councillor and resident of Yellowknife. I am not representing the City of Yellowknife.

I am encouraged by Dominion Diamond (Dominion) efforts to establish the Jay Project in a sustainable manner. Dominion Diamond has noted their commitment to reducing emissions through responsible energy management and has committed to complete a concept study of potential additional alternative energy investments, which would include wind and solar energy. They noted that this would be publically reported within one (1) year of the completion of the Jay Project environmental assessment review. I applaud the effort of Dominion in moving forward with a study; however, I am concerned that a study will be the only thing that comes forward.

As a member of the public, I am concerned with energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Mining and metal processing in the north is a very energy-intensive process. Reducing energy consumption at a mine reduces greenhouse gas emissions. I understand that it may be premature to have the Board implement a measure on this issue, as the feasibility of renewable energy is still unknown for Jay, but it clear that renewable energy is possible when looking at Diavik, which not only saves the company \$5 million a year in diesel, but also cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy sequencing is critical for the NWT in order to scale-up renewable energy and so any recommendations cannot land squarely with Dominion Diamond, but also with the GNWT. The GNWT needs to mandate renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, continue to map and monitor resources necessary for renewable energy, and aggressively undertake its own renewable energy investments in collaboration with the NWT Power Corporations and community governments across the NWT.

That said, I recommend that the Review Board implement binding measures for the Jay Project that will outline what a proper concept study of potential additional alternative energy investments should include, including a meaningful business case, predicted energy yields, and detailed assessment of technology options.

There is a significant advantage for the northern businesses and residents if locally sourced and constructed renewable energy is to power the Jay project. Using locally derived fuels will keep energy dollars in the North.

Sincerely,
Dan Wong