

GNWT Round Two IR Responses for the Jay Project:

IR#	Topic	Comment	Request	GNWT Response
MVEIRB IR#31	Health and well-being indicator levels of significance	Section 14.6 of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) states that "... Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation the Project's effects on health and well-being are not assessed as significant". Indicators within the 2014 Communities and Diamonds report (PR#415) suggest adverse trends in several health and well-being indicators in communities effected by diamond mining (See Summary table on p7 of the 2014 Communities and Diamonds report for a list of these indicators). The Review Board needs to understand what parties and the developer deem a reasonable rate of change to health and well-being indicators that have an adverse trend. The Board also seeks to understand parties' and the developer's views on significance thresholds for these health and well-being indicators.	a) Please provide an opinion on what rate of change would be acceptable for health and well-being indicators that are currently trending adversely in potentially affected diamond mine communities as listed in the 2014 Communities and Diamonds report. b) Please describe thresholds beyond which significant adverse effects to people and communities might be expected to occur for the health and well-being indicators referenced above.	<p>The annual Communities and Diamonds report tracks current trends against historical data. Departments comment on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The direction of a trend in the pre-mine phase;</li> <li>• The direction of a trend in the post-mine phase;</li> <li>• The direction of current trends relative to historical data; and</li> <li>• An historical increase or decrease that has a probable cause (such as an outbreak or natural disaster).</li> </ul> <p>A 'threshold', as requested by MVEIRB, does not exist. The departments monitor programs and services to strategically plan territory wide programming to best meet the need of Northwest Territories (NWT) residents.</p> <p>It is important to differentiate negative trends from 'significant adverse impacts'. There are a number of factors influencing the wellness of individuals, families, and communities and negative trends may be attributable to rapid social, cultural or environmental change at both a local and territorial level, in addition to potential impacts from resource development. The departments consider data that includes capturing changes in the population, employment and education levels, trapping, hunting and fishing activity across the territory and are committed to using this data to be both proactive and responsive in the programs and services delivered to minimize negative health and well-being changes. Data, such as that found in the Communities and Diamonds report, demonstrates a correlation between resource development activity and community wellness – it does not provide causality or speak to the magnitude of a trend. The departments have programming in place addressing social, cultural and economic wellbeing issues and actively adapt programs and services through ongoing performance measurement. The departments also meet regularly with the developers to identify areas for targeted collaboration.</p>

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NSMA IR#2	Ekati SEA	GNWT agreed to consult with Boards, communities and organizations to review the results of the health and wellness report on how to improve the results. NSMA has no awareness of the results of consultations between GNWT and the Boards. Please clarify in your answer, which group the "Boards" refer to. If the originally intended organizations no longer exist, please explain how this commitment has been followed up since, by which alternative organizations, or through other consultative means.	Please provide the outcome of the consultation meetings between GNWT and the Boards, and how they improved the results. Please also provide specific data, consultations outcome, and initiatives undertaken on "establishment of daycare programs" (5.2.6) and prevention of spousal abuse (5.2.7)	<p>The Department of ECE is responsive to the needs of all NWT residents. The point of hire communities are a targeted group covered by the SEA; however, benefits of initiatives accrue to all NWT residents.</p> <p>In 2014, ECE released a Framework and Action Plan for Early Childhood Development in the NWT.</p> <p>Under that plan, a series of actions were identified that would encourage community members to become involved in early childhood development by participating in the workforce in their communities. ECE is moving toward having a more qualified staff in its early childhood development programs, which will support participation in the workforce by community members.</p> <p>By increasing the incentive to work in the area of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and building capacity in ECD, there is more of an opportunity for all community members, particularly parents, to participate in the workforce.</p> <p>Under the Action Plan for ECD, Action #21 strives to increase the number of qualified early childhood development professionals in licensed programs. This action supports all existing early childhood staff to have the required minimum postsecondary education and ongoing annual professional development, as specified in the NWT Child Daycare Standards Regulations</p> <p>This action provides a tiered grant approach for people currently working in the ECD area. Participants are encouraged to use the grant to obtain qualifications; however, this is not a condition of the award. This also addresses the issue of the low income earning potential for Early Childhood Development workers.</p> <p>In 2014, ECE awarded ten \$5000 Scholarships to support Northerners to complete an ECD diploma or degree program. This provides further incentive for individuals to complete the necessary training to provide a high quality of service in ECD.</p> <p>In 2014, ECE held its first ever Early Childhood Symposium. The Department paid for one individual from every childcare center to come to Yellowknife to participate in the Symposium and had representation from every community. This leads to a better informed and equipped workforce which strengthens the services in the community and contributes to participation in the community.</p>

				<p>Action #15 of the Action Plan commits to restructure administration and finance processes for all early childhood development programs to promote equity, inclusion, quality and stability. All communities will benefit from the work that is underway.</p> <p>In June of 2015, a Feasibility Study of Universal Affordable Day Care in the NWT was tabled in the Legislative Assembly; the study refers to “day care” as “early childhood education and child care”. The study is evidence of ECE’s commitment to assess opportunities and challenges for improvement.</p> <p>HSS collaborates with Health Authorities to address and reduce family violence through prevention, intervention services and funding to support the five family violence shelters and victims living in regions without shelters. The Department and Authorities spent approximately \$3.2 million annually toward family violence prevention and intervention services, including funds for the Territorial Family Violence Shelter Network, which enables shelter staff to collaborate and build capacity to serve women and children fleeing violence.</p> <p>The Department’s 2015/16 family violence prevention initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working with regions where no shelters exist on the development of protocols and response teams in their communities.</li> <li>○ Providing recovery and support programs for children who have witnessed and/or have been victimized by family violence; and</li> <li>○ Expanding the “<i>What Will it Take?</i>” (<i>WWIT</i>) social marketing campaign aimed at changing attitudes and beliefs about family violence.</li> </ul> <p>In the 2015/16 fiscal year, the Department will be supporting communities to deliver <i>WWIT</i> workshops as well as promoting the campaign to all NWT residents and those interested in having a workshop in their community or in becoming a facilitator can contact the Department of HSS. The <i>WWIT</i> campaign was launched in October 2014. A Territorial workshop was held in February 2015 with representation from all regions of the NWT. The workshop equipped participants to deliver <i>WWIT</i> workshops in their communities.</p>
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IR#	Topic	Comment	Request	GNWT Response
NSMA IR#3	Ekati SEA, Schedule D	GNWT has agreed to monitor selected indicators", which will be used to identify activities which strengthen benefits and mitigate negative impacts of social change.	Please describe what activities were chosen to strengthen the benefits and mitigate the negative impacts. Please describe how the programs are evaluated, and data are utilized. If analyses were undertaken to isolate the effects of the DDEC (or diamond mine) development(s), please make the results available.	<p>The GNWT has administered various programs to mitigate negative impacts, as well as maximize the benefits to Northerners in relation to indicators found in Schedule D of the Ekati SEA.</p> <p>Programs generally fall within the scope of human resource development, business development, and health and well-being. Human resource development programs aim to pair Northerners with jobs in the mining industry through training and promotion of these jobs. Examples include career fairs and counselling support, training programs, apprenticeships and skills development, and student financial assistance.</p> <p>ECE houses the student financial assistance (SFA) program to provide assistance to eligible NWT residents to help them with their postsecondary education-related expenses. Improvements to the program are in progress. The SFA Policy Manual, Regulations, and the Act are made available to the public in order to provide a foundation for fair and equal treatment for all SFA recipients. Assisting students with postsecondary education expenses contributes to a trained and skilled northern workforce.</p> <p>ECE along with Aurora College, Skills Canada and the Mine Training Society work together to promote apprenticeship and occupation certification in the NWT. ECE, through the Advanced Education Division, administers the NWT Apprenticeship and Occupation Certification (AOC) program. This program supports the development, maintenance and delivery of trade and occupation training programs which contribute to the expansion of a trained and skilled northern workforce.</p> <p>ECE is leading a Skills 4 Success Initiative in partnership with key stakeholders to take a systematic look at our adult and postsecondary education, and skills training programs, supports, and pathways with the goal to improve employment success for NWT residents, close skill gaps for in-demand jobs, and more effectively respond to employer, industry, and community needs.</p>

				<p>ECE works in partnership with Aurora College, training providers, other government agencies, non-government organizations, industry, businesses, and employers to coordinate the delivery of training programs. This includes working closely with Service Canada and Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) agreement holders, who are responsible for delivering training or skills upgrading to help Aboriginal Canadians prepare for, find, and maintain jobs.</p> <p>Business development programs seek to help Northern companies conduct business directly with the mines, as well as in support industries. Examples include business training thorough Aurora College and the Small Business Development Program (SBDP), business counselling through Economic Development Officers, and business support through the Community Futures Program, amongst other programs.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing programs and services are delivered territory-wide to help residents of the NWT achieve the best possible physical, emotional and mental health and are offered in both clinical and non-clinical environments at the community and regional levels. The programs and services offered range from routine medical care, physical therapy and preventative medicine, to mental health and addictions counseling, family programs and programs for youth. These services are available to all residents of the NWT.</p> <p>The Department of HSS monitors selected indicators of health and wellbeing as part of ongoing territory-wide performance measurement and system accountability. Patient/Client satisfaction and feedback are among the most popular methods to assess whether programs are meeting the needs of NWT residents, and when combined with health data, can provide the basis to inform program improvement across the NWT. Results are made public on the Department's website and the most recent reports will be put on the Public Registry.</p> <p>GNWT programs and services are provided territory-wide. Some communities are affected by multiple mines, development, cultural change, and other determinants of individual, family, and community well-being. Given the broad scope of GNWT</p>
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<b>IR#</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>GNWT Response</b>
LKDFN #2	Technical Session Undertaking #17; GNWT response to YKDFN IR7	In the GNWT's response to YKDFN, the GNWT indicated that an MOU had been signed between the GNWT and De Beers to govern emissions from Gahcho Kue, but that no similar MOU was necessary with Dominion as emissions would be governed by regulations currently in development. LKDFN would suggest that if a long-term development, such as the Jay Project, is to be governed by air quality regulations not yet in force, as explicitly stated by the GNWT, then the expectations of these regulations should be incorporated into the project design to the extent possible. The project has defined significance in terms of	LKDFN requests that the GNWT provide as much information as possible on the status of these regulations and enforcement measures. LKDFN also requests an approximate timeline for the implementation of these regulations. Lastly, LKDFN requests information on the measures being taken by the GNWT to prepare DDEC for these regulations to help ensure that Ekati and the Jay Project are compliant.	<p>At this time it is difficult to provide exact details on the regulatory framework, as we are in the early stages of development; however, as part of this process, significant emission sources without clear regulatory guidance are being identified and prioritized. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is researching what regulatory tools could or should be established and enforced under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> (EPA) to address air emissions from developments. A timeframe for these regulatory tools has not yet been established; however, the types of regulatory tools implemented will be determined by what is most effective and timely.</p> <p>ENR has identified waste incineration as a high priority and is currently working with the Land and Water Boards (LWBs) and our legal counsel to develop tools to effectively regulate this emission source.</p> <p>ENR agrees that it is important to prepare DDEC for potential air regulatory tools that may be implemented to aid the Company in achieving future compliance. ENR has been consistent in promoting key principles for air quality and emissions management throughout EA or LWB processes, which will ultimately provide the basis for any regulatory tools that may be developed under the EPA. These include ENR's policy of Keeping Clean Areas Clean, reducing emissions at the source, monitoring the receiving environment, and incorporating adaptive management strategies based on those results. Correspondingly, ENR has requested that DDEC incorporate the following components into their air emissions management initiatives for the Jay Project:</p> <p>1) Conduct incinerator air emissions stack testing every 3 years and comply with the applicable Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) standards. It is ENR's understanding that DDEC has committed to this request.</p>

		air quality as occasionally exceeding the limits set by the only official guidance available. If legally enforceable regulations were to incur consequences at these levels, it would be easier to address now rather than when operations have already started.		<p>2) Apply a procurement policy such that all emission-generating equipment be selected using the principle of Best Available Technology in order to minimize emissions from the mine.</p> <p>3) Implement adaptive management, incorporating ENR's Guideline for Ambient Air Quality Standards and establish appropriate pollutant threshold values and associated actions, into their air quality monitoring and management plan (AQMMP). DDEC has confirmed they are committed to developing and implementing this type of adaptive management system for air emissions.</p> <p>ENR believes that requesting DDEC implement these air emission management strategies now will help prepare the Company for future air regulatory tools that may be established.</p>
<b>IR#</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>GNWT Response</b>
LKDFN #4	Greenhouse gas emissions/alternative energy  Paths to a Renewable North: Pan-Territorial Renewable Energy Inventory (link in ORS)	At the 2009 Northern Premiers' Forum, the three territorial Premiers committed to developing an inventory of current and future renewable energy resources. In the resulting presentation, the first priority mentioned for the Northwest Territories is the possibility of new mining developments using alternative energies. It would be good to know how this	LKDFN would like to know what steps the GNWT has taken to encourage the project proponent to use alternative energies, as per the intention listed in "Paths to a Renewable North."	<p>Following the release of the Pan-territorial "Paths to a Renewable Future" inventory, the GNWT prepared a renewed Greenhouse Gas Strategy for the Northwest Territories. Building on earlier experience to identify actions to control greenhouse gas emissions, the 2011 Strategy included a commitment to encourage adoption of renewable energy and installation of energy efficient systems. Subsequently the Biomass Energy Strategy was updated and a new Solar Energy Strategy was introduced to support adoption of these renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Based on the experience gained through these actions, the GNWT provided earlier responses through this review process to the project proponent, encouraging them to undertake an analysis of the opportunity to install photovoltaic solar panels to produce electricity and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. After the proponent indicated they would not accept this as an undertaking, the GNWT requested the Arctic Energy Alliance prepare a desktop analysis of installing 50 kW of solar at the Ekati Mine based on GNWT experience with solar power installations.</p>

		approach applies to this specific project.		The results of the Arctic Energy Alliance's analysis (provided as attachments to this IR response) indicate a 50 kW solar installation could generate about 48,000 kWh annually costing \$0.208/kWh with an equity payback of 16.3 years from the savings over the cost of producing the same amount of electricity using conventional diesel generation. These systems have an operational life expectancy of over 25 years and it would become an asset with ongoing power production during the abandonment and restoration phase of the mine if no new kimberlite pipes are developed. Roof top space at the mine site could easily accommodate up to 1 MW to provide considerably more power and greenhouse gas emission reductions than the 50 kW system considered in this analysis.
<b>IR#</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>GNWT Response</b>
LKDFN #6	Coordination of Bathurst herd conservation effort	The Bathurst caribou herd has suffered a dramatic decline. GNWT has made efforts to address this population crash through various efforts including hunting bans and range planning. The project proponent has stated that the project will not impact the caribou's ability to be "self-sustaining and ecologically effective;" however, it has admitted that there will be some impacts to the caribou population. GNWT ENR has been in discussions with aboriginal groups, other	LKDFN would like to know what measures ENR has taken above and beyond established protocol to address the admitted impacts of this project on the Bathurst caribou herd population and how these measures are being coordinated with the efforts being taken on other fronts, such as hunting and range planning.	When ENR comments on potential impacts of the Jay Project to the Bathurst herd throughout the Jay EA process, it is always in the context of other factors impacting the herd including human impacts on the range and harvest as well as other processes that are currently in place to address these. For example, in addition to specific comments made throughout the regulatory process on the Jay DAR and associated wildlife plans, ENR is working with partners to manage disturbance on the range through the Bathurst Range Planning process. In addition, ENR recognizes the need for a coordinated overall approach to conservation of the Bathurst herd and will continue to promote development of a management approach for this herd that includes all parties as envisioned in the Tlicho Agreement. As this process remains in the early stages, ENR will continue to engage in and provide consistent advice on environmental assessment processes in NWT and NU that may affect Bathurst caribou, and further development of the Bathurst range plan (which includes other government departments, NU agencies, and industry). Short-term and medium-term management measures such as harvest limitation will be re-visited with all affected parties in fall 2015 once survey numbers are available. Further meetings this coming fall and winter should provide LKDFN and others with ample opportunity to raise any issues that need to be addressed.

		<p>government departments and other territorial governments to determine ways that the Bathurst caribou herd can be protected. These efforts have sometimes included sacrifices by some, such as hunters foregoing harvesting from the Bathurst herd. It is LKDFN's opinion that the effective protection of the Bathurst herd can only be achieved through coordination of all implicated parties, including government, industry, and aboriginal groups.</p>		
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