



## JAY PROJECT

Air Quality, Waste Rock and Other Matters EA1314--01

INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2015** 

## OUTLINE

- Background on the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA or the "Agency")
- Air Quality and Dust
- Waste Rock and Seepage Management (includes mercury in lake sediment)
- Other Matters



### BACKGROUND ON IEMA

- Environmental "watchdog" under 1997 legally-binding Environmental Agreement for the Ekati Mine
- Mandate to provide advice to the company and regulators, and to participate as an intervenor
- Involved in the Jay Project environmental assessment from the beginning

#### ISSUE

 Developer is to quantify the accumulation of emissions in the environment and show how they will comply with national standards and minimize emissions and impacts to the environment.

### DEVELOPER'S CONCLUSIONS

Effects to air quality
were classified as
not significant



### AGENCY'S CONCLUSIONS

- Main concern is with dust impacts, mitigation, monitoring and management
- Dust as a possible driver for Zone of Influence for caribou avoidance of Ekati Mine
- Given the importancevof the Jay Project area for caribou, air emissions are likely to cause a significant impact

- Developer predicts exceedances of NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and TSP (above GNWT Ambient Air Quality Standards)
- Agency recognizes significant improvements in air quality monitoring and management at Ekati and efforts to engage parties
- No threshold triggers or response actions for dustfall, snow and lichen (longer term trends)
- No specific thresholds or triggers for dust mitigation

- No proposed sampling or monitoring sites on the north or east side of Lac du Sauvage, or on the esker system near Jay
- Concern that there are no enforceable air quality standards in the NWT
- No evidence suggesting cooperation with Diavik on regional air quality monitoring and management

- AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS
- Suggestion: GNWT should develop an appropriate and enforceable regulatory framework and system for air quality in the NWT as soon as possible.
- Suggestion: DDEC, in collaboration with GNWT and other interested parties including DDMI, should develop a regional approach to air quality monitoring, management and mitigation.

- AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS
- Measure: Develop a revised Air Quality and Emission Monitoring and Management Plan collaboratively before construction commences including:
  - Specific triggers for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and TSP that will result in adaptive management actions and responses;
  - A plan and timetable to develop thresholds and actions in relation to dustfall, snow and lichen sampling results;

#### AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Measure: (continued)
  - Plans to manage road traffic to reduce fugitive dust including triggers when dust suppressant must be reapplied;
  - Monitoring and sampling sites to capture dust, and sample snow and lichen on the northern and eastern shores of Lac du Sauvage and along the esker system; and
  - Quality assurance and quality control protocols to ensure data reliability.

(includes Mercury in Sediments)

#### ISSUE

- TOR require Developer to "predict the likelihood and consequences of...acid rock drainage" and "proactively manage against developing adverse impacts"
- Lakebed sediments from Lac du Sauvage are potentially high in mercury and will be placed in the Jay WRSA.

(includes Mercury in Sediments)

#### AGENCY'S CONCLUSIONS

 Additional monitoring and adaptive management of the Jay WRSA is needed in order to prevent a significant adverse impact to water quality

#### DEVELOPER'S CONCLUSIONS

 Predicted seepage and runoff from Jay WRSA will not cause adverse effects to aquatic life or prevent the use of the water as a drinking source

(includes Mercury in Sediments)

- Lakebed sediments within the proposed dyke area are relatively high in mercury
- DDEC prediction: average Hg concentration in Jay WRSA seepage is approx. same as CCME WQ Guideline for Protection of Aquatic Life. Predicted maximum conc. exceeds Guideline by 50%
- Co-disposal of potentially acid generating rock with granite has not been used before at Ekati

(includes Mercury in Sediments)

- Limited setback of 30m on drainage into LdS
- DDEC proposes to monitor seepage only
- No thermal monitoring of WRSA until mining is finished
- No adaptive management (triggers and action levels) in conceptual WROS Management Plan
- Three-year reporting cycle may not provide enough lead time if problems are detected

(includes Mercury in Sediments)

#### AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Measure: Revised Waste Rock and Ore Storage Management Plan to be submitted within one year of overburden stripping operations to include:
  - Relevant information on the design, construction monitoring and management of the Jay WRSA facility, including details on plans to encapsulate lakebed sediments within the WRSA;
  - Justification and rationale for proposed setbacks from water bodies;

(includes Mercury in Sediments)

#### Measure: (continued)

- A comprehensive WRSA monitoring system (e.g. thermal monitoring, internal water sampling) to provide early indicators on performance;
- Adaptive management with triggers and action levels that lead to responses to prevent or manage Acid Rock Drainage; and
- Annual reporting of monitoring results including any trigger exceedances and reporting of longer term of trends.

### OTHER MATTERS

### PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

- Efficient and effective process to date
- Adequacy Review an improvement over Conformity Check
- Good engagement by Developer
- Significant progress on a number of management plans that needed updating
- No participant funding provided to communities or Aboriginal governments

### OTHER MATTERS

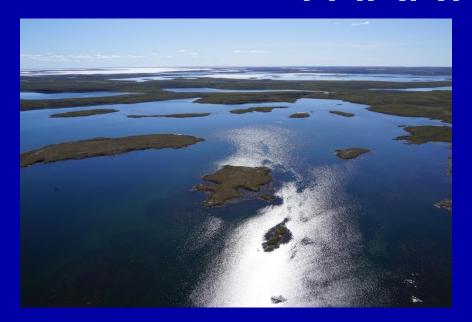
- PROCESS OBSERVATIONS
- Suggestion: Canada and GNWT investigate and publicly report on the establishment of permanent participant funding for environmental assessments held under Part V of the MVRMA within one year of the acceptance of the Report of Environmental Assessment.

### OTHER MATTERS

#### FOLLOW-UP

- Significant adverse impacts can be prevented with adoption of Measures and collaborative follow-up actions
- Measure: DDEC and other parties report annually on progress made on the Measures, suggestions and commitments recorded in the Report of Environmental Assessment for the Jay Project

# THANK YOU







**Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency** 



Telephone: (867) 669-9141 Fax: (867) 669-9145

Email: monitor1@yk.com Website:

www.monitoringagency.net