

EA1314-01  
February 1, 2016

The Honourable Robert C. Mcleod  
Minister of Lands  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Via email: [Robert\\_C\\_McLeod@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Robert_C_McLeod@gov.nt.ca)

Dear Minister Mcleod,

**Re: EA1314-01 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision for the Jay Project, Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation**

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is pleased to submit the attached *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* (Report) for the Jay Project.

The Review Board recommends, pursuant to sub-paragraph 128(1)(b)(ii) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, that the approval of the Jay Project be made subject to implementation of the measures described in this Report, which are necessary to prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment and mitigate the causes of public concern. This recommendation is contingent on the developer implementing its commitments to mitigate impacts to the environment, including people, as described in the Report.

The measures recommended by the Review Board require that the Jay Project:

- be designed and operated in a manner that reduces impacts to caribou, particularly from roads and dust
- manage surface waters so the area is useful for Aboriginal traditional uses after the Jay Project closes
- better manage social impacts, with more community engagement.
- offset remaining impacts to caribou from the Jay Project on other areas of the Ekati Mine site
- fund an Elders group to advise on constructing, operating and monitoring the Jay road
- ensure clean surface waters on the Jay and Misery pits after closure
- create an independent dike review panel to help design and operate the dike safely
- prevent impacts to the Narrows
- improve the strategy to employ women
- use Traditional Knowledge appropriately to design and operate the Jay Project



- create a cultural camp
- follow up monitoring and reporting on implementing these measures and their effectiveness

The environmental assessment for the Jay Project was completed using nine months of Review Board time since the coming into force of timeline amendments to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* on April 1, 2015. This is within the legislated timeline of 16 months for an environmental assessment with a hearing. Total Review Board time for the assessment of EA1314-01, including time prior to April 1, 2015, is 12 months.

If you have any questions regarding this report please to contact our office.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Deneron  
Chairperson

