



***Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency***

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July 18, 2014

Bob Overvold  
Manager  
Environment and Communities  
Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp.  
#1102 4920-52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yellowknife NT X1A 3T1

Dear Mr. Overvold

**Re: Plans for and Design of Dust Suppression Study at Ekati Mine**

The Agency has had a long-standing interest in air quality and dust suppression at the Ekati Mine. We have also encouraged further study and work on the cause of the Zone of Influence or avoidance of the Ekati Mine footprint by caribou as shown through the compilation of data from the former aerial survey program and collaring. We and others suspect that dust may possibly be one of the main causes of caribou avoidance of the Mine.

The Agency commissioned SENES to review the 2011 Air Quality Monitoring Program (AQMP) report. That review was sent to BPHB on March 27, 2013. We received a response on January 30, 2014. In that response it states “*An analysis of the effectiveness of dust suppression efforts will be undertaken and presented in the next AQMP report.*”

We have also recently met with your staff on April 22 (on the incinerator stack testing), May 29 (in preparation for the 2014 Air Quality Monitoring Program report) and at the site during our recent visit on June 11-12, 2014. These were helpful discussions where dust suppression was also discussed.

We wish to encourage further study and analysis of dust suppression at the Ekati Mine site but it is unclear to us what will be studied during the summer of 2014 beyond the use of water and perhaps some DL-10. From the discussions with your staff, GNWT and Environment Canada, continuous dust sampling equipment is available.

We are prepared to assist with further discussions of a study design focussed on improving the effectiveness of dust suppression but we are not aware of what is planned at site or how that will be monitored and reported.

We would appreciate receiving further information on the study design for dust suppression effectiveness for this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.A. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Ross  
Chairperson

cc. Society Members (GNWT, AANDC and Aboriginal Society Members)  
Brett Wheler, Executive Director, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board  
Chuck Hubert, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, Mackenzie Valley  
Environmental Impact Review Board