



Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement
économique du Nord



VIA EMAIL

Bill Enge, President
North Slave Métis Alliance
PO Box 2301
32 Melville Drive

Dear Mr. Enge:

**Re: Participation in the Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation - Jay-Cardinal Project
Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Processes (EA1314-01)**

As you are aware, Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation (the “Developer”) has filed its Jay-Cardinal Project (the “Project”) application to mine two new kimberlite pipes in order to continue operations at the Ekati diamond mine near Lac De Gras, Northwest Territories. On November 21, 2013, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (“AANDC”) referred the Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the “Review Board”) for environmental assessment (“EA”) on the basis of potential significant adverse impacts on the environment.

The location of the proposed Project is within the area that the North Slave Métis Alliance (“NSMA”) has previously asserted Aboriginal rights. Accordingly, the purpose of this letter is to encourage the NSMA to participate in the processes of the Review Board and Wek’eezhii Land and Water Board (“WLWB”), as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

During the EA, a variety of opportunities are available for the NSMA to communicate any concerns to the Review Board, including during the technical and public hearing phases of the EA. When providing such input, the NSMA is encouraged to:

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on NSMA asserted Aboriginal rights are anticipated as a result of the Project; and, if so,
- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the Review Board in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

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The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board has developed Engagement Guidelines, which require the Developer to prepare an engagement plan for affected communities and maintain an engagement record. In addition to the EA process, direct engagement with the Developer is one of the principal means through which the NSMA can:

- fully understand the nature and scope of the Project;
- identify any potential adverse impacts of the Project;
- explore alternatives to eliminate or mitigate such impacts; and,
- offer local knowledge or advice on the Project.

For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the Review Board and the WLWB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for discharging any of their potential consultation obligations.

It is recognized that engaging in EA and regulatory processes may impact NSMA human and financial resources. As you are aware, funding from the GNWT Interim Resource Management Assistance program (previously administered by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada prior to devolution) can be utilized (in accordance with program guidelines) for projects such as this one.

The Northern Projects Management Office of CanNor will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory decision making in relation to the Project. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the NSMA actively participating in the EA, regulatory processes and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office,
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency



Kate Hearn
Assistant Deputy Minister
Planning and Coordination,
Department of Lands,
Government of the Northwest Territories

cc: Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Canada

Catherine Conrad, Director, Environment and Renewable Resources Directorate,
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada

Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

David McNabb, Director, Sustainable Mining and Materials Policy Division, Natural
Resources Canada

Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport
Canada

Jim Lothrop, A/Director General, Stewardship and Sustainable Transportation Programs,
Transport Canada

Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review
Board

Brett Wheler, A/Executive Director, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board

Eric Denholm, Superintendent, Traditional Knowledge & Permitting, Dominion Diamond
Ekati Corporation