

File: EA1314-01
Jay Project
Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation

January 30, 2015

Elliot Holland
Vice-President, Projects and Business Development
Dominion Diamond Corporation
#1102-4920 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT
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Dear Mr. Holland

RE: Request for Amendments to the Work Plan for the Jay Project Environmental Assessment - EA1314-01

The Review Board acknowledges your correspondence of January 22, 2015, regarding the timelines for the Environmental Assessment process for the Jay Project. We note the concern that Dominion Diamond has expressed about its proposed development start date. The timelines in the current Work Plan outline the potential process steps that may be undertaken during the Environmental Assessment. The overall timing of the proceeding is of course subject to mandatory timelines set out in the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

The work plan is intended to be a living document that is updated after key process milestones are reached, as had recently occurred after the submission of the Developer's Assessment Report to the Review Board. This allows the Board to have a better understanding of where the Environmental Assessment is in terms of the actual dates of the completed process steps, what issues have been resolved or unresolved, and what information requirements may still be outstanding.

The Board has built conservatism into the current work plan that helps to ensure that process steps are achievable and that there is an ability to adjust dates as need be within the 16 month legislated timelines. We remind Dominion that additional time was required to review the changes to the project description and update the Terms of Reference accordingly, although the Review Board commends Dominion Diamond for adapting its project in part to concerns that were heard during the Environmental Assessment.

The Board is constantly striving to improve the timeliness of its process while continuing to conduct robust and fair Environmental Assessments. Dominion Diamond has already



benefited from some of the Board's more recent initiatives, such as the use of the Review Board's online review system and adequacy review process. We will continue to look at ways to improve our process.

With regards to Dominion Diamond's request to change the date of the public hearing to August, the Board believes that it would be premature to change the Work Plan at this time. The Board will reconsider the dates for the public hearing, as well as the dates of the other remaining process steps, after the completion of the Technical Sessions scheduled for April 2015. We remind Dominion Diamonds that the timely submission of any required information from the developer is an important factor to meeting the Review Board's timelines.

We are pleased to hear that Dominion Diamonds appreciates the efforts of the Review Board to date. The Review Board looks forward to a continuing our productive collaboration.

Respectfully,

JoAnne Deneron
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Review Board

