



April 11, 2023

Mr. Tommy Thorsteinsson
Wildlife Advisor, Arctic Canadian Diamond Ltd.
900-606 4 STREET SW
CALGARY AB T2P 1T1
E-mail: Tommy.Thorsteinsson@arcticcanadian.ca

Dear Mr. Thorsteinsson:

Update on the Status of the Review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan for the Ekati Diamond Mine

In a letter dated June 23, 2021, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), formerly known as Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), informed Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd. (Arctic) that they were required under Section 95 of the *Wildlife Act* to submit a Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) for the Ekati Diamond Mine. Arctic submitted a WMMP on November 17, 2022, and a public review of the document was initiated through Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board via their Online Review System. Arctic hosted a WMMP focused workshop February 3 and 10, and received final stakeholder comments on February 17, 2023. ECC, received the Ekati WMMP March 13, 2023.

Through that process four parties provided comments - Deninu Kujé First Nation (DKFN), Tłı̨chǫ Government, Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Arctic provided responses to the initial reviewers comments on February 3, 2023, and incorporated additional feedback into a final version submitted to ECC for approval March 13, 2023.

This letter is to notify Arctic that ECC is currently reviewing the Ekati WMMP document and will be providing ECC's decision shortly. ECC recognizes the [WMMP Process and Content Guidelines](#) states ECC will provide a decision to whether the Minister approves or provisionally approves within 30 days and post a decision to the registry. However, ECC is extending this timeline to ensure a comprehensive and in-depth review is completed.

Please contact Kathy Unger, Manager, Environmental Assessment & Habitat at (867) 767-9237 extension 53227, or kathy.unger@gov.nt.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heather S/C" followed by "S/ Director for".

Heather Sayine-Crawford
Director
Wildlife Division
Environment and Climate Change

c: Dr. Brett Elkin
Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations
Environment and Climate Change

Mr. Julian Kanigan
Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental and Climate Change
Environment and Climate Change

Mr. Bruno Croft
Superintendent, North Slave Region
Environment and Climate Change

Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty
Tłı̨chǫ Government

Chief Daryl Marlowe and Band Council
Lutsel Kè Dene First Nation

Chief Edward Sangris and Band Council
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)

Chief Ernest Betsina and Band Council
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilo)

Chief Louis Balsillie and Band Council
Deninu Kue First Nation

Mr. Garry Bailey
President
Northwest Territories Métis Nation

Mr. William (Bill) Enge
President
North Slave Métis Alliance

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips,
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Ms. Kathy Racher
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Mr. Matt Spence
Regional Director General
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Ms. Georgina Williston
Head, Environmental Assessment North
Environment and Climate Change Canada