

**Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT) for the Ekati Diamond Mine  
Summary of Discussion  
January 24, 2014**

*Revised: February 25, 2014*

In Attendance

Lionel Marcinkoski (AANDC)  
Patrick Clancy (GNWT-ENR)  
Kevin O'Reilly (IEMA)  
Marty Sanderson (AANDC)  
Eric Denholm (DDEC)

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*Meeting commenced 10:00 am.*

**INTRODUCTIONS AND SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Lionel Marcinkoski served as chairperson for the meeting. The last meeting was held October 24, 2013. A summary of this meeting was circulated earlier in the week. Meeting rescheduling occurred because of significant other related EA project conflicts.

**DDEC UPDATE ON EKATI ENVIRONMENT AND PERMITTING PROJECTS**

**Operational Update**

- Fox pit will finish up in the spring.
- Koala North came to a stop in 2013, but the work is not quite done.
- At the Misery Push Back, the main kimberlite zone has not yet been reached, some kimberlite has been brought to surface, but has not yet reached full production.
- Pigeon Open Pit will begin later in the winter, which is scheduled to be in production until 2019.
- Pigeon Waste Rock Pile, there was a slight design change for the Pigeon Waste Rock Pile that is currently under review by the Wekeezhii Land and Water Board.
- Nitrogen Response Framework was submitted for approval.
- Spill Response Plan is currently in the final editing stage. So far, everyone seems to be on the same page about this.
- ICRP progress report - The annual reclamation progress report contains updates to the ICRP and reclamation security that need board approval. Regarding the Old Camp, the WLWB received the submission, but no dates for the review have been set.
- General discussion on alternate communication options was tabled in regards to Aboriginal parties and between governments plus the Agency
- Waste management plan have been posted on the WLWB website guidelines section, they also include the Incinerator stack testing performance.

- Panda Diversion Channel: The slope on the west side was completed in March 2012. The east slope is scheduled to be completed in 2014. The channel has been flooded to thicken the ice to over a meter. After the blasting of the slope, an excavator will go on to the ice and clear off any debris.
- Air Quality: The company finds that the three year reporting is working really well because it lines up with the Environmental Impact Report. The 2013 AQMP has rolled into the water licence reporting. Kevin, from the Agency, asked if there is any improvement with the air quality sensors and pumps. Eric said that he does not know. The company is still working with MAXXAM.
- Wildlife Environmental Management Plan: DDEC plans to soon circulate a draft for comments. No date for this review has been set, but it will occur in the spring of 2014.
- Wolverine DNA Program: Wolverine hair snagging for DNA testing is planned for 2014 in conjunction with Diavik Diamonds Mine.
- Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program: An assessment on the combined effects of Diavik and Ekati Mines on aquatic effects of Lac de Gras, will be provided along with the relevant AEMP data. This will be done under the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP). Not all of the AEMP is required, but only the relevant information from Lac de Gras will be put together and a statement of the overall impacts to Lac de Gras. The forward thinking aspect is that unless there are some questions, we will work on this point. This should be a good solid platform to carry work forward on the Jay Cardinal – cumulative effects evaluation. Diavik and Ekati are taking part on this evaluation. Kevin questioned if there is a 1 pager update on this program. Will probably focus on water quality in this initial stage. It will probably become more than that. Kevin presumes that she will also have historical data.

### Lynx Project

Intervenors have made their submissions; there have been technical sessions and one round of Information Request. Now parties are working on their interventions for a public hearing February 6 and 7. After the public hearing, the WLWB is scheduled to make a recommendation to the Minister in May.

The company is working on receiving a Fisheries Act Authorization to fish out the Lynx Lake to begin developing the Lynx Project. They are working with Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and engaging communities to work on a fish out plan. Eric also mentioned that the company has told the communities that they will be working on this with the Aboriginal Parties and the Agency, and continue to pursue mutual goals as we go forward.

The water licence for the Lynx Project will arrive well before the project is slated to start, in 2015. This permits additional time to assess the fish-out of Lynx Lake and the de-watering plans.

### Jay-Cardinal Project

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board held scoping sessions January, 2014. The sessions were really well attended and there was a lot of discussion, especially in Behchoko and Lutselk'e.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has completed their scoping sessions, and parties have made submitted comments. DDEC would like to have the draft Terms of Reference by the end of January or early February, including comments, and the Developers Assessment Report submitted in the summer of 2014. This is a tight time frame, but DDEC is working to shorten the gap between the terms of reference and the DAR. DDEC will be more certain about what can be expected in the DAR once they see the Terms of Reference.

Patrick commented that the Jay-Cardinal environmental assessment is not as significant as the original project. A lot of the “original” issues have already been dealt with in the original EA. This environmental assessment should really focus on the impacts to Lac du Sauvage.

A discussion paper on alternatives will be available at the end of the week. There is a draft and it should be available for January 31, 2014. This paper will discuss the approach and methods used. This paper on alternatives was asked for by the Agency at the Review Board scoping session January 8, 2014.

## **ROUND TABLE UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC):***

On Friday, January 31, 2014 at the Agency Boardroom, Robert Jenkins gave an overview on the financial securities. The financial security issue is moving ahead and DDEC and AANDC are in discussions. There will likely be more updates on the details of devolution and the proposed Amendments to the Environmental Agreement. AANDC has been working on the administration of the Environmental Agreement. AANDC is working on all three Environmental Agreements at the same time for the Administrative changes proposed, and, the terms of the agreement with the parties. Lionel suspects that there will be more correspondence on the issue at the end of January.

There are only 46 days left until “Devolution Day” (April 1). Lionel and Paul are handling DDEC and the Environmental Agreement. Starting April 1, Lindsay will move into the new Lands Department at GNWT with Paul Mercredi, Lorraine Seale, and Charlotte Henry with Lionel Marcinkoski and Laurie McGregor devoluting into the ENR division, Conservation, Assessment and Monitoring.

Marty Sanderson was at Ekati Mine on Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Marty looked at several aspects of the site and everything looked really well. DDEC is currently helping DeBeers Snap Lake with additional fuel supply, Marty saw the transfer station where that was happening and reported that it is very clean.

Eric Denholm mentioned that DDEC helping DeBeers with the additional fuel resupply because of the short term unplanned shortage. De Beers is taking the extra DDEC fuel, and then when the winter road is open, De Beers will be replacing that fuel.

Marty also had a look at the Panda Diversion Channel slope enhancement project. A small CAT was bringing in fresh clean snow from the banks of the channel. A water truck was taking water from Grizzly Lake and taking it to the channel to build the “pad” up. There were no concerns and it look to be going well. Marty also went to the contaminated snow site and land fill, there were no concerns there.

Marty discussed with Jaime Steel and Andrew Howton about what they expect from the Land Use Permit, and what Marty wants to see on the site. For the winter drilling program.

The trip to the mine was also good timing, Jaime was talking with a large number of people involved in the exploration program to talk about what training he would like to see occur for the exploration crews..

Ice road development and pad clearance for the drill program will begin in a week or so. Marty indicated that he will be on site next week, to look at the program.

There will be no bulk samples. Kim Ferguson is the geologist and she gave Marty a time frame of the drill movements and it looks like the winter drilling program will continue into April.

Deep thermistors, drill delineation, some sort of packer test for deep ground water samples, and some kimberlite samples, geotechnical for pit design (at Jay Cardinal).

Kevin thinks it would be good to see the drilling program in March or April. Eric can take this on board, but thinks this is probably not a place to have a lot of people drive over to see how it is going. It will be kept in mind.

Eric mentioned that the DDEC environment team is scheduled to have their environmental monitoring reports out on time. April 30<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Annual Report and the end of March for the WEMP monitoring reports.

### ***GNWT Environment and Natural Resources***

From the GNWT's Wildlife perspective, the incineration monitoring will integrate seamlessly into the new DDEC expansion projects. The GNWT thinks the good stack testing will continue, even though the project is expanding.

There are also a lot of discussions regarding wildlife surrounding the mine and we will see what kind of comments they come up with for the application in the Environmental Assessment.

Patrick is also unsure how devolution will unfold and how IACT could be affected. This is the last IACT meeting before devolution.

Kevin forwarded comments on the waste water processed kimberlite management plan (and Sean Whitaker of GNWT, Environmental Protection).

The letter was well written, there are no comments yet on the GNWT's perspective. Patrick did bring this issue to the manager's attention, but there has been no feedback at this time.

### ***Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA):***

Kevin discussed the Agency's recent activities including the intervention on Lynx Project that occurred on Monday, January --, 2014. The corresponding presentation will be completed today (ahead of schedule), in time for the Lynx Hearing February 6 and 7 in Behchoko. For the hearing, Laura Johnston, Kim Poole, Tim Byers and Kevin and Jessica will attend. Kevin and Agency directors attended the Jay-Cardinal scoping session in Yellowknife and Behchoko at the beginning of January.

The Agency held an Environmental Workshop on wildlife on December 5, 2013 and the Agency's Annual General Meeting on December 6, 2013. For the environmental workshop, presenters from ENR, like Andrea Pateneaute and Dean Cluff and Robert Mulders presented on wildlife monitoring guidelines, the results from wolf collaring and the wolverine DNA sampling.

The Agency provided comments on the exploration land use permit that was issued to DDEC, have been involved in the financial security review, and wrote a letter that asks what is going on. We are also waiting for a letter from AANDC with the proposed changes to the environmental agreement due to devolution. We are also waiting to see how the WLWB wants to do for a review schedule like the Nitrogen Response Framework, the ICRP Progress Report, the Old Camp reclamation, etc. We will also stay involved in the Jay-Cardinal project and look forward to receiving the Terms of Reference.

The Agency will be hosting a community meeting with the Yellow knives Dene First Nations, coinciding with our next board meeting in March. The Agency has not been to N'Dilo for quite a while. We are also looking to meet with North Slave Metis Alliance. And, the Agency's annual report writing session will be occurring in May on Mayne Island in BC.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be on May 6, 2014 in the DDC Boardroom on the 11<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Precambrian Building, from 9:30-11:30.

Eric proposes the next IACT site tour be early June, tentatively proposed for June 10, Tuesday.

*Meeting concluded 11:20 am.*