



Box 32, Wekweètì, NT X0E 1W0  
Tel: 867-713-2500 Fax: 867-713-2502

#1-4905 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S3  
Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-765-4593  
[www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)

June 27, 2022

File: W2020L2-0004

Harry O'Keefe  
Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd.  
900-606 4 Street SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 1T1

Sent by email

Dear Harry,

**Re: Ekati – Point Lake Dewatering Plan - Version 3.0 – Lac de Gras, NT**

The Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board met on June 27, 2022 and considered Arctic Canadian Diamond Mine Ltd.'s (Arctic's) Point Lake Dewatering Plan (the Plan) Version 3.0.

As detailed in the attached Reasons for Decision, the Board has decided to approve Version 3.0 of the Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mason Mantla".

Mason Mantla  
Chair, Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

Bcc'd to: Ekati Distribution List  
Attached: Reasons for Decision



Box 32, Wekweètì, NT X0E 1W0  
Tel: 867-713-2500 Fax: 867-713-2502

#1-4905 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S3  
Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-765-4593  
[www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)

---

### Reasons for Decision

Reference/File Number:	W2020L2-0004 (Type "A" Water Licence)
Licensee:	Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd. (Arctic)
Subject:	Point Lake Dewatering Plan Version 3.0

### Decision from the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board Meeting of June 27, 2022

---

#### 1.0 Decision

On June 27, 2022, the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB or the Board) considered Version 3.0 of Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd.'s (Arctic's) Point Lake Dewatering Plan Version 3.0.<sup>1</sup> In consideration of the submission, previous Board direction, reviewer comments and proponent responses, the Board has approved Version 3.0 of the Point Lake Dewatering Plan.

#### 2.0 Background

In the Reasons for Decision for the Point Lake Project amendment for Licence W2020L2-0004, the Board approved Version 2.2 of the Point Lake Dewatering Plan and directed Arctic to submit Version 3.0 of the Point Lake Dewatering Plan with additional information related to caribou habitat details within 15 days of the issuance date of the Licence Amendment.<sup>2</sup>

On May 18, 2022, Arctic submitted Version 3.0 of the Point Lake Dewatering Plan to reflect the Board's direction. Arctic's request was distributed for public review on May 18, 2022, with reviewer comments

---

<sup>1</sup> See WLWB ([www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)) Online Registry for [Ekati – Point Lake Dewatering Plan – V. 3.0 – May 17 22](#)

<sup>2</sup> See WLWB Online Registry for [Ekati – Point Lake Project – RFD and Recommendation to Minister – Apr 08 22](#)

due by June 8, 2022 and Arctic's responses due by June 15, 2022. Comments were received by the deadline of June 8, 2022 from the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT-ENR). Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) noted they had no comments at this time. Arctic provided responses to reviewer comments by the deadline. The Review Summary and attachments can be found on the Online Review System.<sup>3</sup>

### **3.0 Reasons for Decision**

Version 3.0 of the Plan was to address Schedule 4, Condition 1 (k) to describe caribou crossing details for dewatering pipelines and description of contingency and adaptive management actions if Stage 1 dewatering was delayed. Arctic included Appendix 1 and 2 with the Plan to outline the related outcomes from the Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) Addendum Workshop for the Point Lake Addendum, and comments from Parties on the proposed monitoring program and caribou crossings plan. In its review, IEMA noted it believed Arctic had satisfied the requirements of the Board's direction, and other Parties, other than GNWT-ENR as discussed below, indicated no recommendations or concerns. For these reasons, ***the Board has approved Version 3.0 of the Point Lake Dewatering Plan.***

In review of the plan, IEMA noted that it was disappointed with a lack of thoroughness in the provided contingency and adaptive management actions provided, but was satisfied that Arctic had achieved the minimum requirements set out in the Board's directives (IEMA comment 1).

GNWT-ENR recommended that Arctic add details about specific methods for monitoring noise issues related to the pipelines that could affect caribou movement. GNWT-ENR also recommended that additional details be provided in the Plan about the specific method that would be used to determine if noise from the pipeline was creating a movement barrier to caribou, and what criteria would be used to trigger a temporary interruption to pumping (GNWT-ENR comment 1). Arctic responded that the WEMP and WEMP Addendum would assess the existence of a potential barrier effect at the Dewatering pipelines, and that given other site operations and literature review, the physical presence of the pipeline would be the primary driver of a potential effect on caribou. The Board notes that the intent of submission of Version 3.0 of the Plan was to address additional schedule requirements as identified above, and it is unclear why concerns regarding sound from water flow as a movement barrier were not previously raised during reviews of other versions of the Plan. Arctic has indicated it does not expect sounds from water flowing in the pipelines will be a driving concern for caribou movement for this activity. The Board agrees with Arctic that the physical presence of the pipeline is the primary concern for a potential effect on caribou habitat. The Board also recognize that GNWT-ENR will have an opportunity to raise its concerns regarding noise in the forthcoming review process for the WEMP. Therefore, the Board is of the opinion that these details are not required to approve Version 3.0 of the Plan.

---

<sup>3</sup> See WLWB Online Review System for [Ekati – Point Lake Dewatering Plan V 3.0 – Item for Review](#)

Signed the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022, on behalf of the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board



---

Mason Mantla  
Chair, Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board



---

Witness