

**Work Plan for the Water Licence Application:
Dominion Diamond Mines ULC – W2020L2-0004
Ekati Water Licence Renewal**

Work Plan Timeline

See page 3.

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for the application for Water Licence W2020L2-0004 (renewal of W2012L2-0001) for the Ekati Diamond Mine.

Background

Dominion Diamond Mines ULC (Dominion) submitted a renewal application to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB) on November 26, 2020. The existing Licence will be expiring on August 18, 2021. The Applicant is applying for a twenty-six (26) months renewal to the term of its Licence with no other proposed changes to the existing Licence.¹

Scope of the Project

The scope of this project includes water use, diversions, dewatering, and deposits of waste associated with the Ekati Diamond Mine, as described under Part A, condition 1 of the current Water Licence (W2012L2-0001).

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Work Plan of the WLWB throughout this water licence renewal process:

- The licencing and permitting process shall be carried out in a timely manner and shall have regard to the protection of the environment in consideration of the impacts of proposed undertaking and the importance of conservation to the well being and way of life of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada (Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*);
- The Board will review Dominion's application and consider potential conditions based on evidence and rationale submitted by the applicant and other parties;
- The Board will review Dominion's Application and consider potential conditions in order to meet the Board's mandate and applicable policies, and to ensure consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley; and
- The Board will continue to monitor compliance with existing Water Licence requirements.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan is to achieve the following objectives:

- Compile a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the water licensing process;
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely water licensing process; and
- Establish Water Licence conditions to ensure adequate protection of the environment.

Opportunities for Engagement

- The Board requires the Proponent to engage with communities and Indigenous organizations regarding applications prior to its submission;
- The Board will distribute the application to all reviewers on the Board's 'Ekati distribution list' – including Indigenous organizations, governments, and communities – for review using the LWB Online Review System;
- The Board will include a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;

¹ See WLWB Online Registry for
December 15, 2020



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

#1-4905 48th Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S3
Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-765-4593
www.wlwb.ca

- The Board will hold a public hearing and provide notice to the public of this, in advance, in the newspaper; and
- Any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Task	Responsible Party	Due/Complete
Application submitted by Proponent	Proponent	Thursday, November 26, 2020
Application distributed for review	WLWB	Friday, December 4, 2020
Comments due on draft work plan	Reviewers	Monday, December 14, 2020
Comments due on application	Reviewers	Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Response to comments on application	Proponent	Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties	Tuesday, February 2, 2021
Deadline for Interventions	Interveners	Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Deadline for Response to Interventions	Proponent	Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Circulate agenda for Public Hearing	WLWB	Thursday, February 25, 2021
Deadline for Interveners Public Hearing presentations	Interveners	Thursday, February 25, 2021
Deadline for Proponent Public Hearing presentations	Proponent	Friday, February 26, 2021
Public Hearing	All Parties	March 3 and 4, 2021
Deadline for Public Hearing Undertakings	All Parties	Thursday, March 11, 2021
Draft Water Licence distributed for Review	WLWB	Monday, March 15, 2021
Deadline for Reviewer comments on Draft Water Licence and Closing Statements	Interveners	Tuesday, March 30, 2021
Deadline for Proponent response to Draft Water Licence and Closing Statements	Proponent	Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Board Meeting	WLWB	May 2021
WLWB Recommendation to the Minister	WLWB	May/June 2021



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Timeline for Decision from Minister	Minister	Within 45 days of WLWB Recommendation. The Minister may extend time limit of Decision by up to 45 days.
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Please note that the Work Plan has been created based on information available and is subject to change at any time.