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April 27, 2022

File: W2020L2-0004

Laura Pacholski  
Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd.  
Suite 900, 606 – 4 St SW  
Calgary AB, T2P 1T1

Sent via email

Dear Laura Pacholski,

**Re: Request to Relocate Evapotranspiration Station**

The Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB) met on April 27, 2022 and considered Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd.'s (Arctic's) request to relocate its evapotranspiration station.<sup>1</sup> As per Annex B, Part C, Condition 2 of Arctic's Licence W2020L2-0004 (the Licence), "The Licensee shall submit to the Board for approval, the location, methods and frequency for measuring and recording the meteorological data identified in Item 1 above."<sup>2</sup>

As detailed in the attached Reasons for Decision, the Board has decided to approve Arctic's request to relocate its evapotranspiration station.

Sincerely,

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

Mason Mantla  
Chair, Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

BCC: Ekati Distribution List

<sup>1</sup> See WLWB Online Registry ([www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)) for [Ekati - SNP Program - Notification - Arctic Letter of Intent to Move Meteo-Station - Mar 5 22.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> See WLWB Online Registry for [Ekati - Water Licence - Sep 30 21.pdf](#)



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## Reasons for Decision

Reference/File Number:	W2020L2-0004 (Licence)
Licensee:	Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd. (Arctic)
Subject:	Relocation of evapotranspiration station

## Decision from the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board Meeting of April 27, 2022

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### 1.0 Decision

On April 27, 2022, the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB or the Board) considered Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd.'s (Arctic) request to relocate its evapotranspiration station,<sup>3</sup> as required by Annex B, Part C, Condition 2 of its Water Licence W2020L2-0004 (the Licence). In consideration of the submission, reviewer comments, and proponent responses, the Board has decided to approve Arctic's request to relocate the station.

### 2.0 Background

Annex B of the Licence contains conditions applying to the Surveillance Network Program (SNP). The SNP details the sampling and monitoring requirements related to compliance with several conditions in the Licence. Part C, Condition 1 of Annex B outlines the meteorological data that is to be collected under the SNP. Annex B, Part C, Condition 2 of Licence W2020L2-0004 requires Arctic to submit to the Board, for

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<sup>3</sup> See WLWB Online Registry ([www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)) for [Ekati - SNP Program - Notification - Arctic Letter of Intent to Move Meteo-Station - Mar 5 22.pdf](#)

approval, the location, methods, and frequency for measuring and recording meteorological data identified in Annex B, Part C, Condition 1.

On March 5, 2022, Arctic submitted a letter indicating its intent to move the evapotranspiration station, and noted that Board approval was required as per Annex B (the Request). In the Request, Arctic explained that the rationale to move the location of this station (from Polar Lake to North Panda Lake; see Attachment 1) is to allow for easier access (i.e., by road) and more flexibility to visit the stations due to potential unforeseen circumstances (e.g., grizzly bears in the area, responding to other time-sensitive environmental issues). Arctic also stated that this new location “is in the same approximate area as Polar Lake, with a rough distance of 500 meters between the two locations.”

The Request was distributed for public review on March 15, 2022, using the Online Review System (ORS). Reviewer comments were due by April 5, 2022, and proponent responses were submitted by the deadline of April 12, 2022. Reviewer comments and recommendations, as well as the proponent responses are available on the WLWB Online Review System. One comment and recommendation was received from the Tłıchǫ Government (TG). The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA), the Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Environmental and Natural Resources – Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (GNWT-ENR-EAM), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), and the Wek’èzhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) stated it had no comments or recommendations at this time.

### **3.0 Reasons for Decision**

In review of the Request, the TG commented that Arctic did not provide information about the ways in which the evapotranspiration data is used or assurance that changing the station would not compromise those data uses (TG comment 1). The TG recommended that Arctic explain the uses of the meteorological data and whether the location change could compromise the use of the data or its comparison with historical data (TG comment 1). In response to the TG’s question about how the data is used, Arctic explained how it uses the various types of data collected to inform the management of air quality at the Ekati Diamond Mine and explained that the weather data collected is presented in the annual Air Quality Monitoring Program (AQMP) Report. The AQMP is not a requirement of the Water Licence and is thus not submitted to the Board. In response to the TG’s question about whether the location change could compromise the use of the data, Arctic explained that:

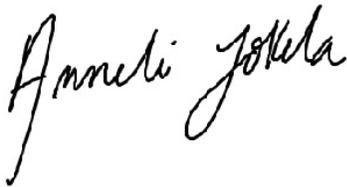
- Evapotranspiration data would never be used on a standalone basis; rather, it is generalized across site based on the decades of information collected at the station;
- If the data is used, the entire dataset is averaged and applied to any watershed of concern. Because this station is meant to provide general information about evaporation and transpiration in the Ekati area, there are no concerns with correlating or calibrating data between locations;
- The proposed and current locations are approximately the same distance away from any large structures and environmental factors (e.g., elevation, prevailing winds, proximity to large water bodies) do not change significantly between locations;

- The risk that differences in meteorological station location could affect data usability is negligible, given not only the proximity of the proposed and current locations, but especially considering the application of the data; and
- Moving the station kilometers away would not influence the applicability of the evapotranspiration data across the entire Ekati site.

Overall, the Board is of the opinion that the explanation provided by Arctic in its response to the TG indicates that the use of the data collected at the evapotranspiration station would not be compromised as a result of the proposed change in location. As discussed in section 2 of these Reasons, all other parties that participated in this review indicated they had no comments or recommendations on this Request. Thus, the Board approves the location change for the evapotranspiration station.

➤ ***Decision 1: The Board approves the location change for the evapotranspiration station.***

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



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Witness



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Mason Mantla  
Chair, Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board