



September 17, 2021

Ryan Fequet
Executive Director
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

by EMAIL

Dear Ryan Fequet:

**Information Requests Resulting from
Ekati Technical Workshop - Point Lake Project – Type A Water Licence Amendment and
Type A Land Use Permits Applications (W2020L2- 0004, W2021X0004, and W2021D0005)**

The Department of Lands (Department) has received and reviewed the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Boards (WLWB) information requests dated September 10, 2021. The Department notes that the WLWB was a preliminary screener for the proposed Point Lake project, and that the WLWB's preliminary screening role concluded with the issuance of the WLWB's preliminary screening determination on August 24, 2021.

IR #46 for GNWT-Lands:

To provide the consultation process for surface leases.

To provide confirmation and clarification if surface leases are required to satisfy eligibility under section 18 of the MVLUR. If so, what is the expected timeline for surface lease process to be completed.

GNWT-Lands Response:

On all tenure applications, the Department is required to consult with Indigenous governments or Indigenous organizations with asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights that may be adversely impacted. The Department's consultation timeline is normally 45 days. However, more time may be required in certain instances.

A surface lease is not required for eligibility for a land use permit for road construction and project preparation activities associated with a mine. Under Section 18(a) of the MVLUR, Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd. (Arctic) mineral rights provide them with eligibility. However, a surface lease will be required before mining can commence due to s. 7(3) of the *Mining Regulations*. The Department encourages Arctic to submit an application for a surface lease as soon as possible in order to avoid project delays.

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IR #54 for all Parties

Provide feedback on proposed revised Workplan and Hearing dates.

GNWT-Lands Response:

The Department supports the proposed revised Workplan and Hearing dates provided the dates comply with Section 24.1 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

If the WLWB members and/or staff require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Melanie.Williams@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melanie Williams, P.Eng.
Director, Land Administration
Lands