

April 26, 2018

Mr. Pierre Gratton
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Mining Association of Canada
275 Slater Street
Suite 1100
Ottawa, ON K1P 5H9

Dear Mr. Gratton:

Dominion Diamond Ekati ULC (Dominion) has completed a Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) self-assessment and an external verification for 2017. The Washington Companies acquired Dominion in November 2017. Dominion Diamond Ekati ULC is the current operator of the Ekati Diamond Mine, which has been in operation since 1998, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dominion Diamond Mines ULC.

The external verifier, BSI Group, audited Dominion's 2017 self-assessed performance indicator results as measured against the requirements of MAC's TSM Performance Indicators. Dominion representatives from the Processing and Asset Optimization, Health and Safety, Environment, and Communities Departments served as protocol champions and participated in the 2017 external verification.

The 2017 External Verification results indicate that Dominion is maintaining an A rating or better across all indicators for all protocols. Dominion is proud of this achievement and will continue to strive for improvement in the future. Since the last External Verification in 2014, Dominion has maintained AAA ratings for all indicators in the Aboriginal and Community Outreach and Biodiversity and Conservation Management protocols. Relative to the 2014 External Verification, the following indicators were adjusted / changed / revised in the 2017 external verification:

- Energy and GHG Emissions Management – Indicator 3 (C to A)

In 2015 Dominion began setting energy reduction targets in the company's Business Plan. Through investments in energy reduction projects such as the in-vessel composter, LED lighting, and efficient dual-powered road trains, Dominion has been able to achieve energy reduction targets for the past two years.

- Crisis Management – Indicator 1 (No to Yes)

Dominion has established crisis communication mechanisms to ensure that employees are effectively alerted of a crisis and its developments.

- Tailings Management – Indicator 1 (AA to A)



Dominion did not complete a formal internal, independent audit to confirm that the tailings management policy and commitment is in conformance with MAC's *A Guide to the Management of Tailings Facilities*. The last internal audit of this criteria was completed in 2014.

- Safety and Health – Indicator 1 (A to AAA) and Indicator 4 (A to AAA)

In 2015 Dominion contracted an external auditor to review Dominion's conformance to the MAC Safety and Health Framework and the accuracy of Health and Safety performance data monitoring.

Dominion continues to pursue initiatives and develop management systems which contribute to strong MAC TSM performance. Dominion adheres to a Sustainable Development Policy which includes environmental protection, community engagement, processed kimberlite management, and safety as core company values. Dominion remains certified for Environmental Management Systems ISO 14001 and Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems OHSAS 18001, and was awarded the Certificate of Recognition (COR) from the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association in 2015. Due in large part to ongoing initiatives like the Zero Incident Process (ZIP), fiscal year 2018 (February 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017) was the safest work year in the history of the Ekati mine.

Dominion is proud of the accomplishments of the Emergency Response Team, which engages with other mining companies for exemplary Emergency Response Training. The Energy Steering Committee has driven several projects which have helped the Ekati mine achieve energy reduction targets since 2016. Dominion was awarded the 2017 TSM Environmental Excellence Award for the significant advancement and innovations made in waste management in recent years.

The CY18 Business Plan (February 1 – December 31, 2018) outlines objectives which will ensure Dominion further improves MAC TSM performance moving forward. After achieving the safety target set last year, Dominion has set an even more ambitious target for All Injury Frequency Rate and will continue to employ ZIP to further develop an already strong safety culture at the Ekati mine. For Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management, Dominion has set an aggressive target of 4,000 tonnes CO₂ equivalent reduction compared to budget. Dominion is committed to reducing GHG emissions at the Ekati mine, and the company will achieve the reduction target by supporting the Energy Steering Committee and continuing to invest in new energy efficiency projects.

As a Canadian company with roots in the Northwest Territories, Dominion will continue to engage with communities of interest on key issues impacting Northern culture and biodiversity. Dominion is committed to investing time and resources into regional biodiversity conservation research and development. Dominion will engage with communities, regulators and academia to identify key environmental concerns, incorporate Traditional Knowledge, and improve understanding of Northern biodiversity.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned at Chantal.Lavoie@ddcorp.ca if you have any questions about the 2017 self-assessments or external verification.



**Dominion
Diamond Mines**

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Sincerely,

Chantal Lavoie, P. Eng.
Chief Operating Officer