

EA File: EA1314-01

August 21, 2015

Mr. Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Re: EA1314-01 Jay project – request for submission of 2015 Bathurst caribou herd survey results to the Review Board

On August 17, 2015 the Yellowknives Dene First Nation submitted your letter of July 9, 2015 with the attached [Bathurst and Bluenose-East Calving Ground Surveys 2015](#) document to the Review Board as evidence for the public record for the environmental assessment of the Jay Project.

The Jay Project is a proposed expansion of the Ekati Diamond mine and is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by the Review Board. The potential for impacts from the Jay Project on the Bathurst caribou herd is a key line of inquiry in this environmental assessment.

Your July 9 letter states that preliminary findings suggest further decreases in the Bathurst herd population compared to the 2012 calving ground photo survey. This letter further states that your department will have a new population estimate for the Bathurst caribou herd by late September of this year. The Review Board requires the most current information on the Bathurst caribou herd prior to the public hearing, scheduled for September 14-16, 2015, in order to make an informed decision on the Jay Project.

The public record for the Jay Project is closed from the end of the day on September 1 to the start of the public hearings on September 14. New evidence is not accepted during this time in fairness to the developer, parties and the public. The Review Board is making an exception to this policy in this instance so that the Government of the Northwest Territories can submit the most current information on the Bathurst caribou herd before the public hearings.

Please provide the final 2015 survey results and the new population estimate for the Bathurst caribou herd by September 5, 2015. There will be no comment period on this submission prior to the hearings. However, your submission will be considered as evidence on the public record during the hearings and throughout the remaining phases of this environmental assessment.



If you have questions please contact Chuck Hubert, Sr. EA Officer for the Review Board, at (867) 766-7052 or chubert@reviewboard.ca.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Deneron

Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

