

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXCEL TEMPLATE:

1. Do not leave blank rows above or between comments.
2. Do not modify or delete the instructions or the column headings (*i.e.* the grey areas).
3. Each comment must have an associated topic and recommendation.
4. All formatting (*i.e.* bullets) will be lost when this file is uploaded to the Online Comment Table.
5. If necessary, adjust the cell width and height in order to view all text.
6. Cutting and pasting comments from WORD documents cannot include hard returns (spaces between paragraphs).
7. If you would like to create paragraphs within a single cell, please use a proper carriage return (ALT & ENTER).

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
<i>Be as specific as you think is appropriate; for example a section or page of the document, a recommendation #, general comment, etc.</i>	<i>Comments should contain all the information needed for the proponent and the Board to understand the rationale for the accompanying recommendation.</i>	<i>Recommendations can be for the proponent or for the Board. Recommendations should be as specific as possible, relating the issues raised in the "comment" column to an action that you believe is necessary.</i>
2.1 Scope of Development	The project must scope in the impacts from existing infrastructure – it is not sensible to pretend that because the currently exist they are not part of the project. Simply limiting the scoping to new activities or impacts as a consequence of the change will not allow a proper assessment of impacts. This applies to both operations and closure.	Include ongoing and existing impacts as well as future. Secondly, Ekati has ongoing exploration and drilling programs which should be addressed within the scope of development.
2.3 Geographic Scope	YKDFN agrees with the geographic scope – it must be considered from the impacted values perspective, not the project.	To this end, item #6 should be amended from “the habitat of any potentially affected species” to the “the <i>annual</i> habitat range of any potentially affected species.
2.4 Temporal Boundaries	The project should utilize a similar timeline to that which was used at Gahcho Kue, where the re-establishment of fish and fish habitat (Particularly Lake Trout) in the impacted zone was the principal driver	We believe that this was set at 75 years as a conservative limit (<i>i.e.</i> the company and parties accept that it would likely see progress prior to that).

2.5 Other Scope of Assessment Considerations	The project uses the phrase reasonably foreseeable future developments, but does not provide a definition. In previous environmental assessments, the project's consultant has said that having a physical footprint is part of the test as to whether a potential project should be included for consideration. This approach lacks credibility and results in few projects being incorporated within this approach. YKDFN would rather base reasonably foreseeable both based on proposed projects but also historical trends.	Road traffic associated with the continued operation of the site should be part of the project scope. Without this project the TCWR would have no traffic other than De Beers, thus this part of the road, with its impacts, necessarily forms part of the scope.
3.1.4 Use of Appropriate Media		In addition to the user-friendly approach, YKDFN recommend that the project supply a printed copy to all interveners in the process. The Gahcho Kue EIR was many thousands of pages, which would have been a significant cost to the First Nation to print
3.1.4 Use of Appropriate Media	While it is has generally been the case (and we acknowledge that Ekati's approach in the past has been very open), DDEC should be required to submit all electronic documents in an manner that allows ease of access	for '.pdfs' they should be unsecured, allowing parties to copy and paste sections. For tables, the project should be prepared to provide excel spreadsheets upon request
3.2.2 Developer		Within Item #2, the project should complete a comprehensive analysis of the proponent's compliance with the Socio-Economic Agreement over the life of its project. This should be done in a way that looks at a project specific approach but also relative to its peers. It should include a listing all consequences, penalties and punitive actions taken as a result of non-compliance and a review of all adaptive management actions undertaken in response to non compliance.

3.2.2 Developer		Within Item #3, the project should be required to submit a comprehensive analysis of accidents and malfunctions from their historical operations. This should review the project spills in terms of absolute number of occurrences, but also an analysis of trends using both a life of mine approach and a 'rolling average' approach. It should evaluate performance relative to other NWT mines and identify mitigations and management approaches undertaken in response to any incidents.
3.2.2 Developer		Also within Item #3 (but perhaps it fits elsewhere) the project should review the environmental predictions made as part of previous Environmental Assessments and evaluate their value and accuracy in terms the actual impact and the significance predictions. In addition, one section should review the unforeseen or unpredicted impacts (ie. impacts reaching Great Slave Impacts).
3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment	the existing environment and the 'pre-development' environment. This project is taking place environment that is already impacted, but the degree of change from 'baseline' should be the metric that	The area effected by the TCWR should be evaluated as well
3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment – Biophysical Environment		#3 - Baseline ambient noise should be done in all four seasons – both in terms of distribution/range and strength.
3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment – Biophysical Environment		#5 – At a minimum the list of parameters analyzed should be the same as what exists within the current license.
3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment – Biophysical Environment		#8 – Caribou crossing locations in the Lac de Gras (LdG) area and in the vicinity of the TCWR should be a matter of focus within migration routes

3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment – Biophysical Environment		#12b – Add the concentrations of Furan and Dioxins within water body sediments, as well as the deposition structure/timeline.
3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment – Human Environment	A fulsome description of the human environment will further the assessment and development of effective mitigation efforts. For example, if there are 100 unemployed residents within an affected community, how many are unable to work at remote sites because they have family obligations? How many have criminal records or life skill challenges?	#15 – Availability should also be considerate of the ability of those ‘available’ to take advantage of the employment being offered with this development. General unemployment metrics present a misleading picture which does not allow parties, governments and the proponent to consider the true benefits of a project
3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment – Human Environment		#17 – The project should present evidence that evaluates the repeated concerns from communities on family health and structure (tied to project ToR 3.2.4 #21), drug and alcohol abuse rates, employment rates, job satisfaction/quality and standard of living. This should consider the status of communities prior to 1998 and in the current day.
3.2.4 Description of the Existing Environment – Human Environment	Provision of training opportunities is only one step towards broadening the pool of labour able to take advantage at the minesite, if we are to truly assess the benefits being offered we need to take the next step	#18 - YKDFN agree that the project should evaluate the availability of training, but also the effectiveness of programs such as the Mine Training Society.
3.2.5 Development Description – Existing Infrastructure		Add a description of the noise levels and distributions (by season); add TCWR
3.3 Impact Assessment Steps		The impact assessment should start with a review of the of the impacts and significance to date (linking back to the proposed inclusion in section 3.2.2)
3.3 Impact Assessment Steps - Bullet 5		As mentioned, this should consider both pre-development and pre-mine conditions, with an emphasis on the latter in terms of impact assessment

3.3 Impact Assessment Steps - Bullet 7		Prior to evaluation of residual adverse impacts, the project should look at mitigation measures with the previous Ekati EA's and evaluate their efficacy
3.3 Impact Assessment Steps - Bullet 8		Prior to placing our reliance in 'Adaptive Management', the project should identify existing adaptive management plans, when they were triggered/utilized, and what the end result was
3.3.1.1 Key Lines of Inquiry	In the past, environmental assessments have focused almost exclusively on evaluating impacts to the environment. Socio-Cultural impacts and benefits have been considered, but the consequences are poorly understood. For example, are we really benefiting communities by providing employment on a 2 week rotation if its contributing to weaker family structures and a generation less able to take advantage of the opportunities that exist	Key Line of Inquiry #4 – Impacts and Benefits to Communities
3.3.1.1 KLI-2	The physical characteristics of the waters in the area must remain similar to pre-development. For instance, does the changing salinity or chemical loadings alter the freeze dates or thermal properties of the water bodies	Include a section that evaluates any physical changes to the area (ice thickness, freeze up timing etc) that may result from changes to the chemical loadings or thermal properties of the local water bodies
3.3.1.1 KLI-3	The direction within this KLI must be for the project to demonstrate that they are not impacting caribou. Given the low herd population and the Federal Government's 2011 declaration that Barren Ground Caribou are in danger of extinction, the project must show how they have reduced their impacts to the herd	Part of the KLI should evaluate how impacts have been reduced from past Ekati operations
3.3.1.1 KLI-3	Caribou migration must be a particular focus within this KLI as the proposal will effectively block off one of the important water crossings (between LdG and LdS) for the area and the ZOI will encompass others on LdS with unknown implications. On simple measurement, there is no unaffected caribou crossing for almost 70 km	The KLI should focus on where and how caribou crossed historically and where they are able to move through the area now

3.3.1.1 SoN-1 – Air Quality	Given the projects previous contamination within the local area	this SoN should include discussions on Furans and Dioxins
3.3.1.1 SoN-3 – Fish Habitat	This should be addressed within a greater KLI. The project is going to destroy a significant part of this lake, with a likely significant impact on the remainder and unknown downstream effects.	The bullets here should form part of a greater response to the KLI, with a particular focus on closure and re-establishment of the aquatic ecosystem
3.3.1.1 SoN-3 – Fish Habitat	This should be addressed within a greater KLI. The project is going to destroy a significant part of this lake, with a likely significant impact on the remainder and unknown downstream effects.	The Project should evaluate the amount of habitat it is destroying and prepare an initial fish habitat compensation plan. YKDFN recommend that the project approach communities to collaboratively develop the objective to guide this plan.
3.3.1.1 SoN-New – Alternatives	YKDFN believe that the alternatives assessment should be an important subject of note. The destruction of a lake should be done as a last resort, not just as the cheapest option.	A new SoN should be added, which recognizes and incorporates the importance of conserving pristine land and water.
3.3.1.3 Biophysical Environmental Monitoring	The future reporting approach is uncertain and the current approach to comprehensively considering wildlife data can be more certain	In addition to the discussion surrounding the plans, the proponent should identify a comprehensive analysis of wildlife monitoring data as part of the system (Currently similar to the EIR report under the Environmental Agreement)
3.3.2.1 Human Environment – Key Line of Inquiry	YKDFN do not agree that there are no key lines of inquiry to be pursued. While we support the efforts to date, we don't know to what degree they have been effective or how the community has been affected since the mine opening. By looking back over the last 15 years to evaluate successes and failures, we should be able to improve the lasting positives for the north.	Established a KLI to consider: <i>Past impacts and benefits to affected communities and the expected benefits to impacted communities</i>

3.3.2.2 Subjects of Note – impacts to employment	The competition for northern employees will continue to increase as Gahcho Kue and other projects come on line, making it much more difficult for this mine to meet its commitments with regards to northern and aboriginal participation. If the project has already had difficulty meeting commitments, new methods and increased efforts must be made	The company should identify ways and means of increasing retention, northern hiring, and promoting residency
3.3.2.2 Subjects of Note – impacts to employment	The project has a history that reviewers should be able to understand and evaluate. Understanding where the project has encountered difficulty and how they will respond in the future, in more difficult conditions, gives reviewers more information to evaluate the merit and value of the commitments.	The project should develop a response framework that seeks to improve compliance to company commitments wherever possible, and when not possible, develop new ways and means to provide support for community health and employment
3.3.2.2 Subjects of Note – impacts to employment	Previous Socio-Ec submissions can be improved to better reflect the conditions that exist within the effected communities	This SoN should consider changing labour demands, demographics and population factors over the lifespan of the mine
3.3.3 Cumulative Effects, Bullet 6	Any cumulative effects analysis must focus both on the distribution/habitat and population of the Bathurst Caribou herd. It is the latter that represents the end consideration for harvesters. Additionally, this analysis must consider the relative impacts during different stages of the caribou's life cycle. For example, the projects occurring on/near the calving grounds (Hacket River, Izok Corridor, Back River) will have a more significant impact than those at the periphery of the caribou range (Fortune, Nechalacho).	The items for consideration should be expanded to clarify that the impacts on Barren-Ground Caribou is to include population analysis. Secondly, the analysis must develop a peer reviewed approach that takes into account the relative sensitivity of caribou with their lifestage and seasonal range.
3.4 Accidents and Malfunctions, #1, bullet 3	Concerned parties are routinely assured of the safety of tailings dams and water retention structures.	The proponent should prepare an analysis of past tailings/water retention dam/dykes across Canada (including the recent Obed Mtn incident), looking at the causes and evaluating if they are applicable to concerns at Ekati.
3.6 Closure and Reclamation	YKDFN suggest that the easiest and most utilitarian approach to meeting this section would be to extend the current ICRP structure to address the Jay-C project.	The project should use the current ICRP format to address the requirements of this section

3.6 Closure and Reclamation		The project should identify how they will remove/decommission newly constructed/imported infrastructure
3.6 Closure and Reclamation #7	the Closure and Reclamation section needs to have a particular focus on fish habitat establishment and a return of the existing aquatic ecosystem in a similar abundance.	Amend #7 to consider not just sustainability, but also also look at the return of an aquatic ecosystem in similar abundance and diversity, with a focus on and utilization of habitat by lake trout (top trophic level)