

# Gahcho Kué Ni Hadi Yati

Ensuring Aboriginal Party Capacity for the Holistic Environmental Stewardship of the  
Gahcho Kué Project

A Joint Presentation of Aboriginal Parties and De Beers



DE BEERS  
GROUP OF COMPANIES

# OVERVIEW

- Background
- Outline of Ni Hadi Yati
  - Purpose
  - Objectives
  - Structure
  - Parties vs. Advisors
  - Technical Advisors
  - Benefits
- Proposed measures for Panel decision

# BACKGROUND

- All agree that it is important that Aboriginal Parties meaningfully inform the development and implementation of environmental management and monitoring plans and programs for the Gahcho Kué Project
- Since the previous diamond mines, extra-regulatory mechanisms have been re-evaluated by all parties for various reasons (meeting aboriginal party needs, costs, duplication, improving regulatory efficiency)
- De Beers submitted a draft Terms of Reference for an Adaptive Management Advisory Committee in May 2012
- Aboriginal Parties (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Deninu Kue First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and Tłıchǫ Government) considered the proposal and developed an alternative proposal based on respective views and needs.
- De Beers and Aboriginal Parties met on five occasions between October and November to advance a collaborative model suitable for the Gahcho Kué Project

# NI HADI YATI - PURPOSE

- To ensure that Aboriginal parties have the capacity to participate in the holistic environmental stewardship of the Gahcho Kué Project
  - Acknowledges that Aboriginal groups have limited technical resources to effectively participate in the development and review of environmental management and monitoring plans and reports
  - Resolving this issue in a coordinated manner for the Gahcho Kué Project will lead to:
    - Better environmental performance of the Project
    - Improved trust among Parties
    - Meaningful participation of aboriginal parties in environmental management and monitoring
    - Improved efficiency in the fulfillment of mandates by the regulatory authorities

# NI HADI YATI - OBJECTIVES

- Provide technical capacity for all Parties to meaningfully participate in Gahcho Kué environmental monitoring and management
- Improve public trust in the Project and its environmental monitoring and management
- Reduce costs, avoid duplication of efforts, and improve regulatory efficiency
- Provide a communication forum for all Parties
- Identify opportunities for traditional knowledge to be incorporated effectively in environmental monitoring and management

# NI HADI YATI - STRUCTURE

- Ni Hadi Yati elements confirmed in a binding contract between De Beers and the Aboriginal Parties
- The Parties provide in-kind support for the governance and administration of Ni Hadi Yati
- The Parties identify and secure technical advisors to support their efforts to develop and review environmental management and monitoring plans and programs. Technical advisors drawn from existing government expertise wherever available
- Parties convene to identify annual technical review needs (work plans), budget, and the preferred technical advisors to carry out reviews
- Technical coordination of work plans and document control undertaken by a contractor selected by the Parties

# NI HADI YATI - STRUCTURE

- Funding provided by De Beers
- Confirmed Parties include:
  - Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
  - Yellowknives Dene First Nation
  - Deninu Kue First Nation
  - Tłıchǫ Government
  - De Beers
- NSMA and NWT Metis are invited to participate as Parties if interested

# NI HADI YATI – PARTIES VS. ADVISORS

- Parties convene to do the following:
  - Initial determination of technical advice and administrative services required and selection of advisors/administrators
  - Annual planning to determine work plan and budget for coming year(s)
  - Provide direction annually to technical advisors on work plan implementation
  - Annually review activities and performance from previous year's workplan
- Technical Advisors convene as needed to review plans and reports
- Advice provided to the Parties to be used as they see fit



# NI HADI YATI – TECHNICAL ADVISORS

- Drawn from existing specialists where available to reduce duplication and increase efficiency:
  - AEMP (EC, DFO, AANDC)
  - WEMP (GNWT, AANDC, CWS)
  - Geochemistry (NRCan)
  - Air Quality (GNWT, EC)
  - Cumulative Effects (AANDC, GNWT)
- Additional advisors recruited where needed (e.g. Traditional Knowledge)
- Advisors operate independently of the Parties

# NI HADI YATI - BENEFITS

- Addresses the key issue of Aboriginal capacity to participate at a technical level in the development of project plans, adaptive management, and on-going regulatory processes
- Allows Aboriginal Parties to shape technical review needs based on their workloads and areas of interest
- Reduces duplication by using existing resources and maximizing collaboration
- Increases regulatory efficiency by providing a multi-disciplinary forum devoted to Gahcho Kué
- Improves process efficiency by involving Parties in the development and evolution of project plans (early engagement throughout the Project life)
- Builds trust amongst all parties

# NI HADI YATI – BENEFITS: A PLUS FOR DE BEERS

- Opportunity to build on collaborative relationships
- Opportunity for increased efficiency in regulatory processes
- Alignment with De Beers corporate policies and values:
  - Working with Aboriginal Communities Policy
  - Sustainable Development Policy
  - Build Trust
  - Pull Together
  - Shape the Future
  - Show we Care

# PROPOSED PANEL MEASURE

- De Beers and interested Aboriginal Parties to the EIR shall further develop Ni Hadi Yati as outlined in the joint presentation and shall enter into a contract for its implementation
- Ni Hadi Yati will ensure Aboriginal Party capacity to participate in the holistic environmental stewardship of the Gahcho Kué Project
- The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories shall lend available technical resources to the Ni Hadi Yati