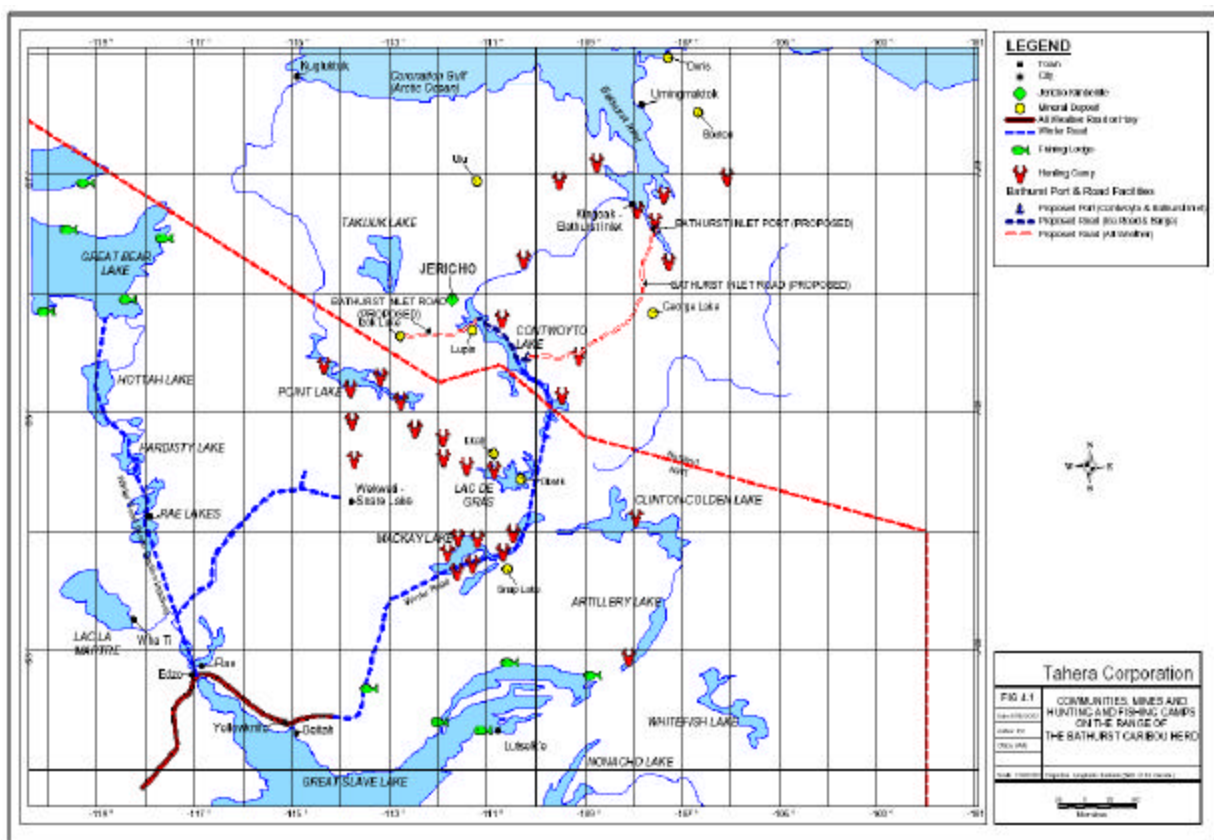


The Tahera Jericho Diamond Mine

Project Description

Jericho has an 8-year mine life, and each year, about 300,000 tonnes of kimberlite rock with diamonds in it will be mined. Jericho will employ about 110 to 175 people (including employees and contractors).



The Jericho diamond mine would start as an open pit mine, and then become an underground mine. The rock with the diamonds in it, or the kimberlite ore, will be mined nine months of the year (April through December). The rock with the diamonds in it is broken and crushed to release the diamonds. About 15% of the rock that gets crushed up will end up looking like sand. That sand will then be pumped with water in a pipeline to Long Lake.



Picture of an open pit at the EKATI Diamond Mine.

Some of the rock with diamonds in it that is crushed to release the diamonds will look like gravel afterwards. This material will be stockpiled and used by Tahera when reclaiming the mine. In the winter Tahera will build an ice road to bring materials and supplies to the Jericho site.

Employment

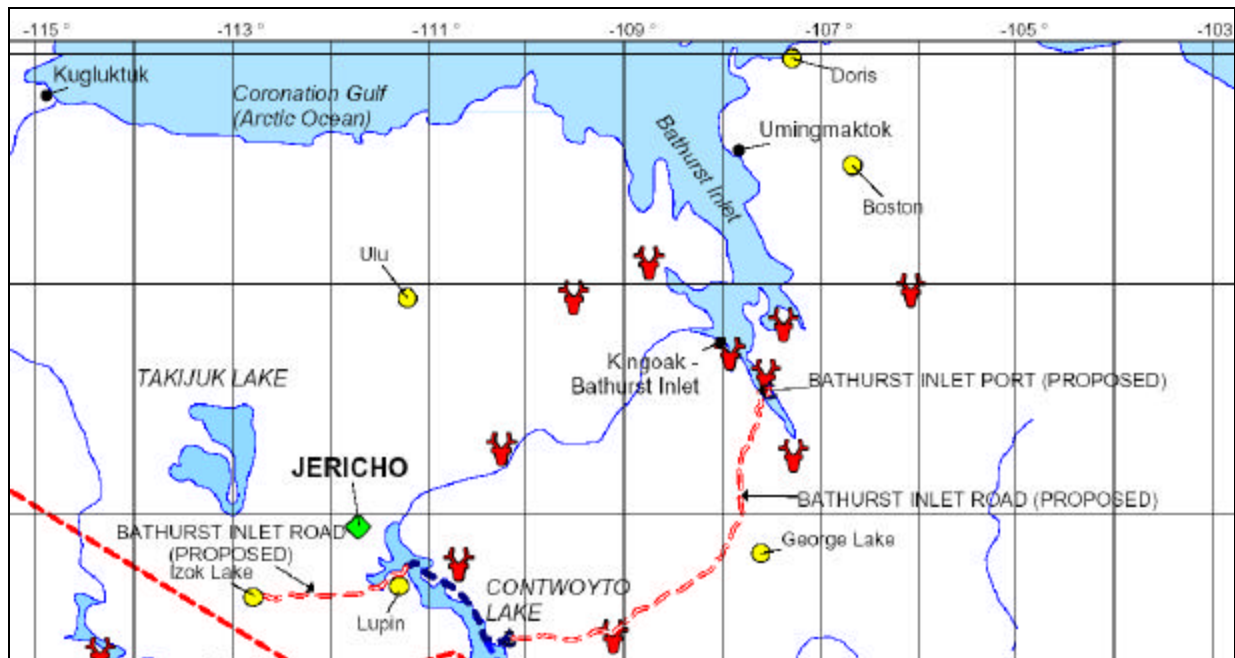


During mine construction and pre-stripping, Tahera plans on employing 25 to 60 people. For the construction of the process plant, Tahera will require 20 to 60 people. During operations, Tahera will employ 60 to 116 people for 3 years during open pit mining, and 48 people over the last 2 years for underground mining. Processing will require 40 people over 8 years.



Transportation

Tahera plans on building a 1,200 m long airstrip at Jericho. It will also build a float and ski plane dock on Carat Lake and an ice strip for Hercules aircraft in winter on Carat Lake, if required. Winter road access from Yellowknife to Jericho (mid January to mid March) is planned, as is an all weather road from Contwoyto Lake to the mine site.



Mining



To get the rock that has diamonds in it, Tahera will first break it up using explosives. It will then move the rock using large trucks. This is called open pit mining. After five or six years of making a big hole in the rock, Tahera will make a tunnel into the rock and take the diamond rock out of the under ground mine.

The good and not-so-good kimberlite ore rock will be separated so that the good diamonds can be sold first. Then, maybe, the not so good diamonds in the remaining kimberlite ore rock will be sold later.

When digging the big hole to get the diamonds there will be a lot of rock that does not have diamonds. This rock will be put in 2 very big rock piles, that look like gravel, close to the hole in the ground.

Diamond Processing

There are special machines needed to get the diamonds out of the kimberlite ore rock. The special machines when all put together are called the processing plant. A company in South Africa will build the processing plant and then ship it to Nunavut in steel containers. Then, the machines will be put together at the mine site. This is like the housing crates that arrive in the spring or fall barge. The crates are then opened up and the house assembled. In this case the crates are made of steel and instead of building a house, they are used to build the processing plant to get diamonds out of the kimberlite ore rock.

Contracting

Tahera will contract out its mining operations. The company that gets the contract will hire all the workers, pay them, and provide them places to eat and sleep while at the mine. Tahera will build a camp out of trailers for all the workers by joining the trailers together to make one larger building.

Water

Water used by the processing plant and the mining camp for drinking, cooking, and washing will come from Carat Lake.

Fuel

Fuel will be kept near the processing plant in a tank farm with twenty tanks. The tanks will be shipped in pieces and put together on site. The existing nine tanks will be moved into the tank farm area. The tank farm at the mine is like the one in your community, just bigger.

Gravel

Gravel is needed to cover the building pads and roads. There are four good places to get gravel. One of them is far from the mine and will not be used unless Tahera runs out of gravel.

Rock piles

There will be several piles of rock at the mine that were not there before. The piles include three piles of kimberlite ore rock, two piles of rock without diamonds and a pile of crushed kimberlite that looks like gravel.

Processed Diamond Rock

Crushed diamond rock, with all the diamonds taken out, looks like sand and gravel. Tahera is going to put that sand into a part of the land that looks like a big bowl. That way, the sand will not get away and hurt the land and water. By making dams or raising the edges of the bowl, Tahera can add more of the sand from mining. There is going to be water mixed with the sand also, and that water is going to runoff to the edges of the bowl on the land. The water will be let go from the bowl every year and it will flow into Caret Lake.

Before any water on the mine area is let go, it is going to be collected using ditches and ponds. Tahera plans on treating the water to make sure its safe for fish and people before letting it go back onto the lakes.

There is a stream that Tahera plans on moving. Tahera will move it by digging a ditch around the big hole it wants to dig to get the diamonds. The ditch will move the water around the hole just like it moved before there was a ditch.

Water and Sewage Treatment

Water used for cooking, cleaning, showers, and the bathrooms and the processing plant is going to be treated and cleaned in a water treatment (cleaning) plant. The water that comes out of the water treatment plant is going to be as good as water required by NWT guidelines for municipal waste water plant discharges.

Mine Reclamation

Tahera will reclaim (clean-up) the mine over the life of the mine. After the big hole in the ground is finished, Tahera is going to reclaim the rock piles that it made, and all the buildings and machines not needed are going to be removed.

Steps in the Environmental Review

This table shows the steps that the NIRB follows when it does an environmental review of a project. The darker areas show what has been done so far. The lighter areas show what has to be done before NIRB can finish reviewing the proposed diamond mine.

Tahera Jericho Diamond Mine	
DIAMONDS	
Environmental Screening	
Guidelines prepared by NIRB and government	
Guidelines sent to Tahera	
Tahera prepares draft environmental report based on guidelines	
NIRB and government review the environmental draft report to make sure its good enough	
NIRB and governments have public pre-hearings to discuss the draft environmental report	
NIRB informs Tahera what additional environmental information is needed to finalize the environmental impact report and before the public hearings.	
NIRB holds public hearings to discuss the environmental impacts of the Jericho Diamond Mine.	
NIRB prepares its decision on the Jericho Diamond Mine	
NIRB environmental decision sent to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs	

The Tahera Jericho Diamond Mine Environmental Review

NIRB provided the owner of the diamond mine, Tahera Corporation, with guidelines to prepare an environmental report on the proposed mine. The guidelines are like a recipe book and tell Tahera what needs to be done to prepare a good environmental report. Tahera sent NIRB its final environmental report on January 21, 2003. The report was distributed to all the people and organizations that were interested in the proposed Jericho diamond mine. These included local Hamlet offices, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), the Government of Nunavut (GN), and the Federal Departments of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

NIRB wants to make sure residents in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven can tell NIRB what they think about the proposed diamond mine. NIRB is going to inform Tahera Corporation how to improve the environmental impact report before having any final public hearings.

Community Coordination Work

The NIRB community coordinator, Lucianno Azzolini, was in Kugluktuk April 21-25 and in Gjoa Haven May 6-9, 2003. He will be in Kugluktuk the week of May 19th.

NIRB Board Member

Members of the Nunavut Impact Review Board are Nunavut beneficiaries. Your board members are:

Elisabeth Copland, Chairperson, Arviat
Ryan St. John, Vice-Chairperson, Arviat
Albert Ehloak, Secretary/Treasurer, Cambridge Bay
Pauloosie Paniloo, Executive Member, Iqaluit
Percy Kabloona, Member, Whale Cove
Martha Akoluk, Member, Bathurst Inlet
Mary Avalak, Member, Cambridge Bay
Peter Paneak, Member, Clyde River
Peter Akkikungnaq, Member, Gjoa Haven

Members are nominated by NTI, GN or INAC and are appointed by Minister Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs for 3-year terms.

NIRB Contact

Ms. Zainab Moghal
Technical Advisor
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
PO Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B-0C0
Tel toll free: 1-866-233-3033
Tel: (867)-983-2593
Fax: (867)-983-2594
zmoghal@nirb.nunavut.ca

