



MARK STEINWAND

Controls and Communication, Team Leader

EKATI DIAMOND MINE (*Dominion Diamond Mines*)

As team leader for controls and communication, Mark is responsible for running a crew of six instrumentation technicians and four communications technicians. Together they are responsible for all the controls at the Ekati mine. This includes everything from the underground ventilation system to the security camera system. All the systems are important, but the controls in the process plant, where the ore is processed, are most critical to the running of the mine.

Mark works a two week on/two week off rotation. When he is at the mine, his focus is keeping the process plant running and the communications channels open. Another key concern for his team is maintaining and improving the efficiency of the x-ray machines. The x-ray machines are an integral part of the diamond recovery process. Ensuring they are sorting the concentrate efficiently is important to optimizing the running of the mine.

When asked about what he likes most about his job, Mark said, "There is nothing I dislike, but the best part of my job is that every day is different." His advice to a young person trying to pursue a career in the mining industry is to be open to learning different things and not be afraid to fail.



JOB GOALS

- The main goal is to keep all Ekati mine systems running smoothly

SKILLS THAT PLAY A PART

- Be able to wear different hats to achieve desired results
- Be motivated to work hard

EDUCATION AND TRAINING NEEDED

- Math, science, chemistry, and physics are critical to the tasks
- Learn about mining laws and regulations

TRAINING RESOURCES

- NAIT offers certification in industrial instrumentation