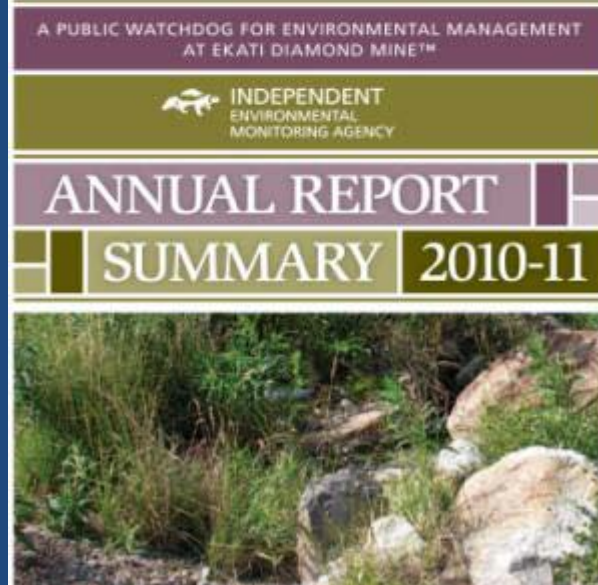
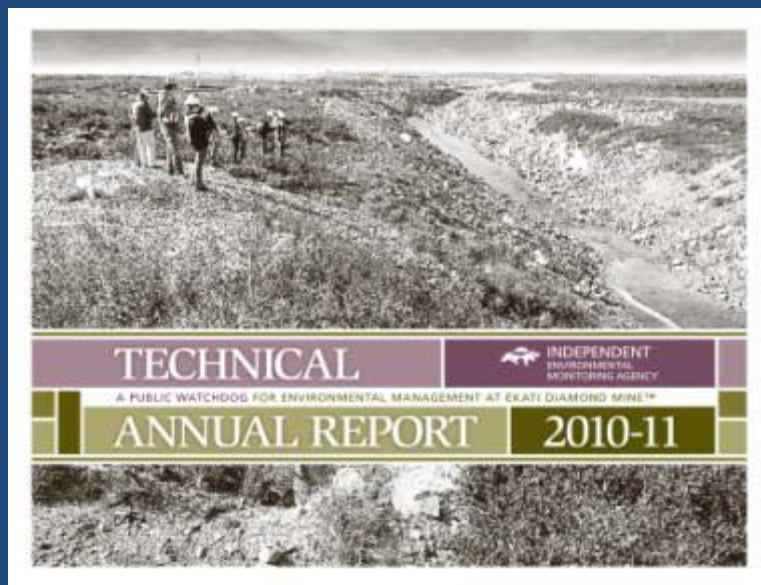
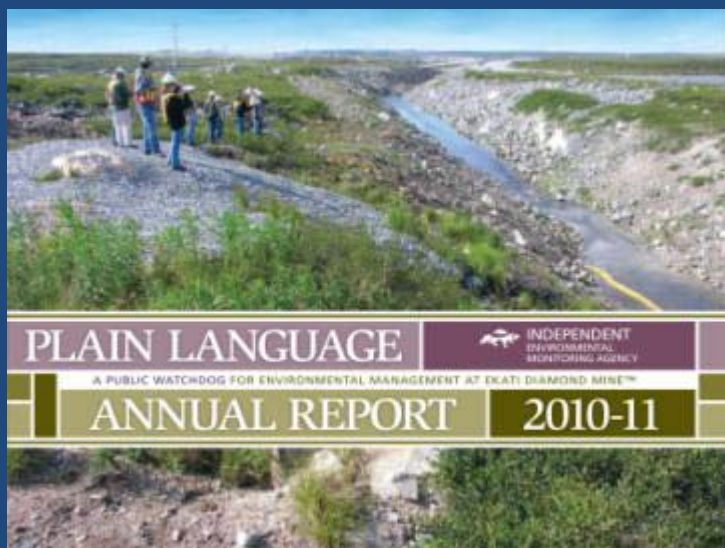


Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency 2010-11 Annual Report Summary





Outline

- Agency Activities 2010-11
- Processed Kimberlite and Wastewater Management
- Traditional Knowledge
- Wildlife
- Water and Fish
- Air Quality
- Closure and Reclamation
- Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects
- Assessment of the Regulators
- Assessment of BHP Billiton





Agency Activities 2010-11

- 4 board meetings, site visits to Ekati, and AGM
- Released a discussion paper on the three-year Environmental Impact Report
- Agency staff presentation to BHPB employees in Yellowknife
- Meetings with signers of Environmental Agreement and Inter-Agency Coordinating Team





Agency Activities 2010-11

- Reviewed wildlife monitoring programs
- Held an Air Quality Workshop and worked with BHPB on snow sampling
- Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan public hearing
- Greater focus on communications





Processed Kimberlite and Wastewater Management

- Fay Lake area appears to be recovering after 2008 spill
- Agency support for changes to Misery area to allow for pushback
- Agency concerned with the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board approval of the 2010 Wastewater and Processed Kimberlite Management Plan without changes directed by the Board





Traditional Knowledge

- BHPB TK projects with some communities, new TK staff person
- Community and TK workshop did not meet its objectives
- Agency has met with BHPB TK staff person and willingness to work with communities and other partners





Wildlife



- Review of 2010 WEMP report
- Review of wildlife monitoring programs at diamond mines
- No aerial caribou surveys; no wolverine or grizzly monitoring
- Mine footprint: 2,998 ha (almost 30 km²)
- Wildlife deaths in 2009: 6 small animals (vehicle-related); 18 non-vehicle (7 caribou , 3 fox and 8 birds)
- Muskoxen seen near Fay Bay in June 2009



Wildlife

- Agency disappointed with slow progress of Diamond Mine Wildlife Monitoring Program Review.
 - Major programs removed
 - Need to study why caribou tend to avoid mines
- Agency recommends that BHPB implement a monitoring program for grizzly bears in 2012.
- Agency recommends that BHPB and GNWT agree to a regular, formal review of wildlife monitoring and management at Ekati every three years.



Water and Fish

- AEMP changes implemented, remains a good program
- 2010 monitoring results: nitrate levels still above guideline in Leslie and Moose Lakes and zooplankton diversity low
- Agency concerned with BHPB's nitrate discharges (two letters sent and no written response to date)
- Impacts of Fay Bay spill on fish not adequately evaluated
- Policy on Water and Effluent Quality Management adopted by the Land and Water Boards
- Slow progress on adaptive management plan guidance





Air Quality

- Agency continued to work with Government agencies and BHPB to improve air quality monitoring and snow sampling
- New incinerator is still not working. Agency recommended it be made operations by end of 2011.
- 2011 is the year for comprehensive air sampling program





Environmental Impact Report

- Agency released a discussion paper of the EIR to build a better understanding and avoid problems of 2009
- BHPB made important improvements, including process for better consultation on future EIRs





Environmental Impact Report

Discussion Paper

- BHPB should consult with parties on focus and preliminary findings
- Focus should shift to longer term effects and adaptive management, rather than verifying predictions
- BHPB should improve its evaluation of its adaptive management
- Clear definitions and a transparent method for looking at effects significance
- Consistent tracking of comments and outcomes



Closure and Reclamation

- WLWB held final hearing on the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan in September 2010
- Agency had two serious issues with the ICRP:
 - BHPB proposed fish barriers for pit lakes. Agency and others of the view this is not desirable or necessary.
 - Reclamation Research Plans need more detail, and lack of progress is a major concern.
- WLWB directed there be no fish barriers and more detail required for some Reclamation Research Plan
- Agency of the view WLWB did a good job managing the process





Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

- GNWT project on cumulative effects in Bathurst herd summer range not yet completed
- WRRB released decision on caribou management
 - AANDC and GNWT to develop best practices for mitigation of impacts on caribou
- CIMP hired new staff and a developed a new internet data website





Assessment of the Regulators

- Regulators effective and work together.
- DFO staff key participants at ICRP hearing.
- DIAND inspections are high quality. Performance at ICRP hearing could have been stronger.
- EC has good advice on air quality monitoring. Overall technical input not as extensive as in the past.
- GNWT-ENR gave good advice on air monitoring. Stronger technical role and leadership would be helpful.
- WLWB ran a good process for ICRP review. Clearer guidance on expectations for management plans would be helpful .





Assessment of BHP Billiton

- BHPB operates Ekati in environmentally sound way, with room for improvement.
- Agency has a good working relationship with BHPB.
- Wildlife monitoring program can still be improved.
- Good progress on air monitoring.
- Some management plans should be updated; need a complete list of all plans.
- Need to move forward on collaborative reclamation planning and research.





THANK YOU!

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency



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