

3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

June 26th 2000 at 7:15 p.m., Smokehouse Café, N'dilo

Participation:

Kitikmeot Inuit Association:	Stanley Anablak
Lutsel K'e:	Brenda Parlee, Archie Catholique
North Slave Métis Alliance:	Bob Turner
Yellowknives Dene:	Lawrence Goulet
Dogrib:	Alice Legat
BHP:	Chris Hanks, Scott Williams, Derek Chubb
DIAND:	Mary Tapsell, Greg Cook, David Livingstone
RWED:	Bob McLeod, Julie Prystupa
Independent:	Thom Stubbs, Macleod Institute
Agency Directors:	Tony Pearse, Red Pedersen, Pete McCart, Bill Ross, Fikret Berkes; François Messier
Agency Staff:	John Holman, Alexandra Thomson

1. Opening Address by Red Pedersen & Introductions

Red welcomed the members and introductions were made. The evaluation meeting was also discussed, as there appears a need for a Treaty 8 director since the quorum has been difficult to achieve at board meetings.

2. AGM Presentation by Bill Ross

Gave an overview of the year's activities and the recommendations given in the 1999-2000 Annual Report.

Chris Hanks of BHP asked about the Agency's recommendation on Land Satellite Telemetry (LSAT) for habitat studies.

François Messier responded that LSAT provides metre-by-metre standardization so that data can be compared regionally. Habitat losses, reclamation, and other data should adhere to a common methodology, which is the LSAT. It will record the changes and classification more efficiently year after year.

3. Budget Presentation by Francois Messier

The financial statements for the 1999-2000 fiscal year were presented, followed by a motion to approve "MacKay and Partners" as the Auditor for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

4. General Discussion

In response to a comment regarding metal concentrations and notice of recommendations made by Derek Chubb of BHP, Bill Ross noted that the Agency raised

the recommendations in the February workshops, and with BHP's senior staff. Bill also noted that the Agency believes that metal concentrations also require more attention and is examining the issue closely.

Derek Chubb of BHP requested that in future years the annual report be distributed earlier in order to let members be in a better position to respond to the concerns.

David Livingstone pointed out that DIAND is encouraged by the developing relationship with the Agency. The ability to discuss issues in a timely manner is a positive development. The recommendations of the MacLeod report are clear, and appear pragmatic. The evaluation of the agency carried out by the MacLeod Institute, in particular, may help the Agency prepare to look at its future role. There is a possibility that the Agency may join other structures because having a monitoring agency for each upcoming mine is unfeasible.

Greg Cook, on behalf of DIAND, expressed appreciation for the Agency's support in the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team. He also pointed out that the Agency is creating new relationships with the new licensing regimes, such as the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

Scott Williams, on behalf of BHP, expressed his appreciation for the Agency's input into the February workshop, as well as the provision of the compliance report. It proves that the Agency can provide value in the long-term. The seepage survey meeting was another good initiative that now requires diligence. BHP is developing a response to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board involving the engineering and technical divisions. As the Agency has matured it has become an authority and as such, its comments carry weight. BHP urged the Agency not to take this responsibility lightly and to recognize that BHP wants to improve its management but that may take time. For example, the waste rock seepage issue is one that BHP wants to solve. If this is brought into the public domain, such as recent media coverage of water quality issues in Australia, BHP will be devoting research time to responding to the media instead of rectifying the problem.

Julie Prystupa of the department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, thanked the Agency staff for ongoing efforts to provide information on EKATI™ to her department. When the Environmental Agreement was signed, the GNWT was in favour of a regional monitoring agency rather than a project-specific system. The Diavik advisory board will be set up in two years, according to its environmental agreement; that may have implications on the future role of the Agency.

Bob Turner, on behalf of the North Slave Métis Alliance, envisions changes to monitoring mechanisms as other mines come on stream. An easier monitoring system must be developed. The Agency has not been in the community that much in the last year, but it has offered some critical information in regards to the EKATI™ project.

Lawrence Goulet of the Yellowknives Dene First Nations is a new member of the Lands and Environment Committee. Rachel Crapeau sent him as the representative. He requested the minutes so that Rachel and he can review them and respond.

Brenda Parlee of the Lutsel K'e Lands and Environment Committee mentioned that the Chief had sent the Agency a letter on Traditional Knowledge, and options to support the TK Working Group. Archie Catholique mentioned that there should be a workshop to help implement TK Working Group, and it will also help the Society Members to deal with the Evaluation report. Lutsel K'e believes it can only have effective representation via its own seat on the Agency board.

Chair Red Pedersen pointed out that the Environmental Agreement must be amended in order to add a Director to the Agency. The bylaws must then be amended through a special meeting or annual general meeting. The Society Members alone cannot make this change because the Environmental Agreement would have to be opened, and this can occur only once a year on the January anniversary of the agreement. It was suggested that a letter on the issue should be written to the signatories, BHP, GNWT, DIAND and copied to the Agency.

Bill Ross brought up an idea regarding the Chair spending a portion of every year in Yellowknife that arose from the Evaluation meeting.

The Chair offered to spend a part of every year in Yellowknife to participate in community outreach and liaison with the communities. The Chair explained that he could be available a significant portion of the year to help fulfill commitments as outlined in the Evaluation Report, and discussed at the meeting regarding this report.

Bob Turner expressed support.

Mary Tapsell, on behalf of DIAND, brought up the issue of options in the future for the Agency. It was suggested that the agency should contemplate how to best approach monitoring collectively, rather than just for EKATI™. She recommended that the signatories to the Environmental Agreement should take the lead on this issue.

Alexandra Thomson asked about the condition of the Diavik advisory board and the cumulative effects framework.

Mary Tapsell responded that once the regulatory instruments are in place, the advisory board would be set up 60 days thereafter. This is expected to take place within the next month or two. At this point in time, there has not been a lot of discussion on the composition of the board. Within the cumulative effects framework, it was indicated that there has been some work done and the Agency will be given information in the future. It was noted that cumulative effects are a tight issue in terms of funding and that there will be a conference call coming up on Thursday with the working group on cumulative effects. The working group has written a work plan on the Cumulative Effects Monitoring Framework. Items will be prioritized within the next week and the Agency will be placed on the distribution list. Mary also noted that there would be some cost sharing with some project-specific organizations, especially in relation to traditional knowledge and research.

Bill Ross pointed out that some Society Members have asked the Agency to explore how long the Agency's life is in response to the regional cumulative effects framework.

Bob Turner asked for a clarification from Mary Tapsell on how aboriginal organizations will participate in the restructuring since they are also signatories to the Diavik agreement and as Society Members of the Agency.

Mary Tapsell responded that preliminary discussions should occur with the signatories of the BHP agreement. Once a draft model is on paper aboriginal groups will be consulted.

Bob Turner asked BHP for a clarification on the fisheries charges.

Ron Allen responded that it is an issue before the courts.

Alexandra Thomson pointed out that the Agency has the available public information in its resource center.

5. Chair's closing comments

Chair Red Pedersen thanked the Society Members for their participation, as well as congratulated the outgoing staff, Manager Alexandra Thomson and Communications Administrator John Holman, who are moving to other opportunities.

Meeting concluded at 2130.