

# About the Agency

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency was formed in 1997 to act as a public watchdog for the Ekati Diamond Mine™. We are governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by:

- ▶ Akaitcho Territory Government (represented by Lutsel K'e and Yellowknives Dene First Nations)
- ▶ Tłı̨chǫ Government
- ▶ North Slave Métis Alliance
- ▶ Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- ▶ Government of Canada
- ▶ Government of the Northwest Territories
- ▶ BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.

## Agency Mandate

- ▶ Review, report and make recommendations on BHPB and government reports and plans
- ▶ Make recommendations on the addition of traditional knowledge and experience of Aboriginal Peoples into environmental plans and programs
- ▶ Participate as an intervenor in regulatory processes
- ▶ Provide an accessible public library of all environmental information relevant to the project
- ▶ Provide ways of distributing information to Aboriginal Peoples and the public
- ▶ Provide an effective means to bring to BHPB and governments the concerns of Aboriginal Peoples and the general public



A PUBLIC WATCHDOG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE™



# Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency



## Agency Board of Directors and Staff

Left to right: Kim Poole, Laura Johnston, Sheryl Grieve, Bill Ross, Tony Pearce (top), Tim Byers, Jaida Ohokannoak.

## How To Reach Us

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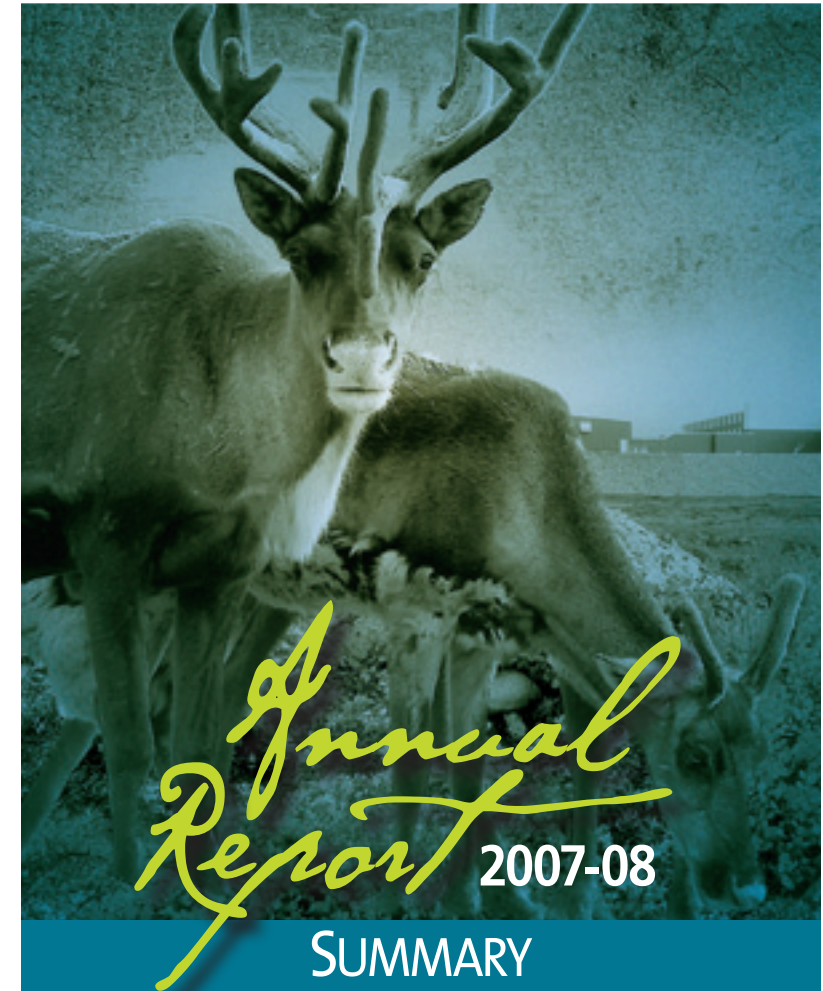
Website: [www.monitoringagency.net](http://www.monitoringagency.net)

For further information on the recommendations please refer to the Technical or Plain Language Annual Report available through our office or website.

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COVER PHOTO: JEFF HERRMANN

THE EKATI DIAMOND MINE IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY BHP BILLITON DIAMONDS INC.

## Message From the Chairperson

I am pleased to present to you this summary brochure of the 2007-08 Annual Report of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (the Agency). As in previous years, a feature of our summary brochure is a 'scorecard' of overall environmental performance at Ekati during the last year.

Our organization remains focused on assisting with the eventual closure and reclamation of Ekati. The draft Closure Plan submitted by BHP Billiton (BHPB) in 2007 is going through a detailed review process led by the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board over the past 18 months. BHPB is currently revising its Closure Plan based on input from interested parties including the Agency. We expect to see the improved Plan in late 2008.

Please feel free to contact us with your comments on protecting the environment at Ekati or about the job we are doing to keep our Aboriginal Society Members up to date with activities at the mine. For a copy of our annual report for 2007-08, please visit our website or contact our office and request a printed copy.



Sincerely, William A. Ross  
Chairperson, March 31, 2008

## 2007-08 Recommendations

For the complete recommendations and responses please see our annual report on our website or contact us.

- 1 **DIAND should make funding available to the Aboriginal parties so they can be better involved in the closure and reclamation planning process for Ekati.**

**Response** – DIAND recognizes that Aboriginal organizations have concerns about their capacity to participate in regulatory and review processes. DIAND will consider individual proposals as funding becomes available.



- 2 **BHPB should improve its Reclamation Research Plan to make sure that uncertainties are resolved well before closure activities take place. The research should be targeted at the key issues of concern – open pits, water quality and how to cover and contain the processed kimberlite.**

**Response** – BHPB has made changes to the layout and content of the Reclamation Research Plan to address these and other concerns and this will be included in the final draft of the Closure Plan due in late 2008.

- 3 **BHPB should continue to monitor wolverine using bait poles that collect hair samples. The DNA monitoring provides more valuable information about the wolverine population around Ekati than snow track surveys.**

**Response** – BHPB is prepared to cooperate with GNWT, Environment and Natural Resources in the future should

a monitoring program be set up. Future modifications to the Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program will be considered. The GNWT intends to continue monitoring wolverine using the DNA in a large area in and around all the diamond mines. The GNWT has had initial discussions with BHPB about participation in this program.

## Ekati Diamond Mine

Aerial view of an open pit at Ekati.



### Environmental Performance Scorecard at Ekati for BHPB and Government Regulators

Environmental Indicator	Agency Rating	Comments
Water and Downstream Aquatic Life	<b>Good</b> Better predictions are needed along with management options to avoid future water quality problems	The aquatic monitoring program is detailed and provides helpful information. The company is putting together a plan to better identify and avoid problems in the future with water quality. Further fish monitoring could be required based on the results from the 2007 field season.
Wildlife	<b>Good</b> Some improvements required to monitoring methods	A credible caribou monitoring program is now in place for the mine. Continued wolverine and wolf monitoring improvements are necessary. Grizzly bear monitoring should be improved and better methods should be developed. An improved air quality monitoring program should address the potential impacts to caribou from dust deposition.
Land and Reclamation Planning	<b>Substantial Improvement</b> Waiting for a proper research plan	Improved closure objectives are now in place. A critical path for reclamation research prior to the company beginning work is needed to be in place soon. Aboriginal involvement has not been sufficient due to lack of capacity.
Overall	<b>Good</b>	Ekati is operated in a manner protective of the downstream environment and of wildlife.