

# Agency Recommendations for 2007-08



## Recommendation

**Closure and Reclamation:** The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND) should increase the amount of resources available to potentially affected Aboriginal organizations to engage in regulatory and review processes, in particular the closure planning process for the Ekati Mine.

**DIAND Response:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) recognizes that Aboriginal organizations have concerns about their capacity to participate in regulatory and review processes. INAC has no formal process to provide participant funding for these process, but will continue to consider individual proposals as funding becomes available. ■



## Recommendation

**Closure and Reclamation:** BHP Billiton (BHPB) should improve its reclamation research plan to include an explicit description of the link between the research task and the related closure measure, how the research task will be carried out to deal with each of the remaining uncertainties, what data will be collected, how the results will be used to improve the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP) and when the results will be available to amend the ICRP. This recommendation should be targeted especially at the four key issues of concern—pits, Long Lake Containment Facility (LLCF) cover, water quality in the LLCF, and extra-fine processed kimberlite.

**BHP Billiton Response:** The Agency provided this recommendation to BHPB early in 2008 when comments were sought as a part of the ICRP review process. This advice was considered together with requests and comments from community and regulatory members of the ICRP Working Group. Changes to the layout and content of the Reclamation Research Plan have been undertaken to address these and other concerns and will be included in the final draft due later this year. ■

## Recommendation

**Wildlife Effects Monitoring:** BHP Billiton (BHPB) should, in collaboration with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR), recommence wolverine DNA monitoring in 2009 for continuation every second year. All cells within the BHPB study area should be sampled (varying numbers of cells were not sampled in 2005 and 2006). The snow track surveys for wolverine should be discontinued in favour of the DNA monitoring.

**BHP Billiton Response:** The wolverine DNA monitoring program carried out in 2005 and 2006 was a part of a sampling program operated and coordinated by ENR with four northern mining developments. BHPB is prepared to cooperate with ENR in the future should a similar monitoring program be set up. Future modifications to the Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program will be considered.

**GNWT Response:** It is the GNWT's intent to continue to move forward with a wolverine DNA monitoring program in the central barrens. The GNWT has had initial discussions with BHPB about participation in this program. ■

## Agency Recommendation Themes 1997-2008

Recommendation Recipient	Frequency of Recommendations
BHPB	80
Government (GNWT, GN, Government of Canada)	13
Water Boards (NWT Water Board, MVLWB, WLWB)	8
Environmental Agreement signatories	3
Aboriginal Society Members and BHPB	3
Aboriginal Society Members	1
All Agency Society Members	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>

