

**Notes from the  
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001 Meeting**

**Participants:**

Scott Williams	BHP
Chris Hanks	BHP
John Witteman	BHP
Derek Chubb	BHP
Roxanne Beavers	DIAND Water Resources
Greg Cook	DIAND Water Resources
Tamara Hamilton	DIAND Environment & Conservation
Marc Lange	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
Laurie Bruno	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)
Zabey Nevitt	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)
Robin Staples	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)

**Meeting began at 1:30**

**Round Table Updates:**

**Greg** began by introducing Tamara Hamilton who will now be responsible for the BHP file among others in the Environment & Conservation division of DIAND. She will also be the IACT representative for Environment & Conservation from now on.

**Tamara** then briefly described herself and her past work and noted that she has just started and is beginning to review the BHP file.

**Greg** is now back with Water Resources and noted that he has recently been working on finalizing the federal review of the Operating Environmental Management Plan (OEMP). Greg also briefly discussed the abandonment and reclamation model that BHP intends to use.

**John** responded to Greg's comments by noting that the 1998 reclaim model that was submitted by BHP never received any comments from DIAND and was thus assumed to be satisfactory. John continued by mentioning that BHP is looking into developing their own Reclaim model, which is an adaptation on the current model and one that is similar to that used in the Oil and Gas industry. BHP is beginning to meet with their consultants later this month and will release this new model May 1<sup>st</sup>. John also noted that John Brodie, the reclaim consultant used by DIAND, is not able to visit the mine site as he is an expert witness for the prosecution in the BHP – DFO court case which is ongoing.

**Scott** noted that a meeting should be set up with Mary Tapsell to further discuss this

issue in late February or early March.

Greg then spoke on the behalf of Darren Unrau, the DIAND inspector, as he is away on holidays. Darren noted to Greg that the Comprehensive Monitoring and Confirmation Program report is due out at the end of January, the information package of the Misery land treatment has still not been received and his OEMP comments have been sent to Laurie at the MVLWB directly, in addition to being copied to other divisions in DIAND.

Marc began his update by noting that he is still catching up with the BHP file. He also mentioned that he has recently been involved in meetings between DFO and BHP that are focusing on the potential impacts from the upcoming development of the Sable, Pigeon & Beartooth pits and the compensation that will be required. Marc also noted that DFO has requested information from BHP regarding the Carrie and Desperation water bodies that are associated with the Misery pit development. BHP has indicated that this information package is presently being put together. In addition, Marc mentioned that the original fish out data is being compiled and put into a report that will also include recommendations for the Fox Lake fish out. Marc indicated that this report should be finished by July.

John noted that the sooner BHP receives this report the better, as BHP will need to meet with their consultants on the logistics of the fish out and an aboriginal company will need to be contracted out to perform the actual fish out. He also responded to a question regarding the large drilling program and noted that they would be drilling at the Lynx site first and the Fox site second. John then noted that the land treatment information package is currently being produced by EBA Consulting and will be out shortly. In addition, John briefly discussed the upcoming workshops and mentioned that BHP will be having an open house for the public on the Monday night February the 5<sup>th</sup>. John also noted that the Comprehensive Monitoring and Confirmation Program seepage reports would be finished this month and sent to the MVLWB. As well, John mentioned that BHP is currently working on developing terms of reference for a study on dissolved oxygen in arctic lakes. John indicated that BHP would be sending these terms of reference to Anne Wilson and Steve Harbicht of Environment Canada for input.

Derek began his update by mentioning that BHP is still waiting on the report from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) regarding the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth development. Derek noted that he does not know when this report will be finished. He also noted that BHP is currently working with DFO on compensation alternatives for the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth development in addition to meetings with DIAND regarding land leases. In addition, Derek mentioned that the land treatment information package for Fox would be sent out soon to the MVLWB.

In response to a question regarding the potential impact that the lengthy regulatory process will have on the time frame for the Sable, Pigeon & Beartooth development, Scott noted that the consequences to the development timing is still unclear, but that the extra time which was put aside for permitting has almost been used up.

Chris then gave an update on ongoing Traditional Knowledge (TK) projects that BHP is

involved in. He noted that BHP has entered into an arrangement with DeBeers to fund the final stages of the traditional knowledge research project that Lutsel K'e is involved in, as the funding from the West Kitikmeot Slave Study (WKSS) is ending. Chris also noted that BHP is working on a funding arrangement with the Tuktu & Nogak project in order to help finish the report. In addition, BHP is also working with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center to help upgrade the Heritage Center's GIS program with a program developed by BHP.

Chris noted that BHP is still working on a response to the Dogrib Traditional Knowledge report. A draft report for the Inuit land use study has also been completed. DeBeers has recently become a partner for this Inuit study and the hope is that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) will take over this study in the long term to help with the screening of land use applications. Chris also noted that BHP has entered into an agreement with the North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) to help the NSMA produce maps and update their GIS program.

It was also noted that Gerry Atatahak has been awarded an honorable mention for the BHP environment & community award for his work on the Inuit project and others. Chris noted that TK studies are moving along, but slowly and a detailed update and description of ongoing TK projects will take place at the February 5 & 6 Environmental workshops.

Laurie mentioned that she has been busy reviewing everyone's comments on the OEMP and intends to bring the OEMP before the Board at the next meeting that is in early February. She is still reviewing the BHP file and is preparing for the February 5 & 6 BHP environmental workshops. She also noted that she is getting prepared for BHP to resubmit their application after the MVEIRB makes its recommendations on the Sable, Pigeon & Beartooth proposed development.

Anne noted that she has been working on getting the Environment Canada comments on the OEMP in. She also confirmed that BHP would report sewage releases into Kodiak Lake as spills. Anne also expressed an interest in getting Paula Pacholek (the coordinator for environmental assessment for Environment Canada) up to the Ekati™ site with Darren Unrau so that she may be more familiar with BHP if she ever has to fill in for Anne. Anne also requested getting the data from the Kodiak lake effects study in a form that she could manipulate.

Robin gave an update on his recent work updating the Agency's resource library into a more user friendly form. He also noted that the web site would be updated in the near future to incorporate changes at the Agency including those to the resource center.

Zabey noted that the Agency has already sent its comments on the OEMP to BHP and sent a copy to the MVLWB. He also expressed his appreciation for Scott's cooperation in the Agency's office move and briefly noted the recent work to the resource library. Zabey also mentioned that the chair of the Agency, Red Pederson, is now spending significant time in Yellowknife meeting with the Agency's society members.

In addition, Zabey requested clarification that BHP would be submitting separate information packages on land treatment for the Fox and Misery sites (including a report from the consultant Andre Sobolewski of Microbial Technologies). Zabey also led a brief discussion on the ongoing geochemistry testing. He also questioned when the Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program might be available on CD and when phase two of the tailing characterization study would be coming out.

**John** responded that the CD should be out shortly. On the tailings characterization study, BHP would be drilling the length of cell B this spring, and the final report should be out in the fall. BHP plans to meet with their consultants and look at a few changes to the study. John also noted that a brief description of ongoing graduate work at the site should be available in early February.

**Roxanne** noted that she has been working on reviewing the OEMP and compiling the comments from the various federal departments. She has also begun preparing for the upcoming BHP environmental workshops.

**John** requested that if it is at all possible, it would be very useful to receive questions regarding material in the upcoming workshops before hand so that time is efficiently used and BHP can have answers prepared and available for discussion at the workshops.

*Next meeting will be at the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's Boardroom at 1:15pm on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001.*

**Meeting finished at 2:30pm**