



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada



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September 13, 2006

Brent Murphy
Chief Environment Officer-Operations
EKATI Diamond Mine
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
#1102 4920-52 Street
Yellowknife NT, Canada, X1A 3T1

Dear Brent Murphy,

Thank you for your invitation to visit the Ekati mine site (letter dated September 1, 2006). We acknowledge the need to discuss the ambient air quality monitoring locations and appreciate the opportunity to offer our support. However, an important aspect of locating monitoring sites is an air dispersion modelling assessment to determine spatial patterns of elevated pollutant concentrations. Without this assessment it is not possible to know if a monitoring site is properly located. In addition, a detailed map locating emission sources would assist in site selection.

We commend Ekati on its decision to improve ambient air quality monitoring at the mine site. In order to best utilize this investment, we need to have the tools outlined above to ensure that the monitoring equipment is properly located.

We suggest that we postpone our site visit until we have had a chance to review the air quality modelling assessment.

Sincerely Yours,

Graham Veale
Air Quality Programs Coordinator
GNWT

Dave Fox
Air Pollution Management Analyst
Environment Canada

cc: Independent Environmental Monitoring Board (IEMA)