



***INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY***

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Re: Highlights from the Environmental Workshop November 17, 2010

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) hosted a workshop to discuss Ekati's air quality monitoring and management programs on November 17, 2010. We have attached a summary of the workshop for your information. The presentations made at the workshop can be found on our website. We thank BHPB for sending representatives and participating fully in the discussions.

The purpose of the workshop was to review air quality monitoring at Ekati, the results for 2008, and the progress to date in improving and revising the programs.

The workshop was well attended by community and government representatives. The Agency has a mandate to convey the concerns of Aboriginal peoples to BHPB and government about Ekati and the monitoring and regulation of the mine. This letter and the attached summary help fulfill that mandate.



Although the Agency was present at the workshop and participated in it, these recommendations came primarily from other participants – our Society members, but are nevertheless supported by the Agency:

1. BHPB should consider additional dustfall monitoring sites around Cell B of the Long Lake Containment Facility (to evaluate the effectiveness of dust control measures during closure), and on Kodiak Lake (to evaluate the potential effects on water quality from airstrip dust).
2. BHPB should get the new incinerator commissioned and operational. A plan and timeline to do this work should be prepared and distributed.
3. BHPB should compare and integrate results among programs within the Air Quality Monitoring Plan, such as the snow sampling (winter deposition), dustfall sampling (summer deposition) and vegetation monitoring (lichen sampling). The company should also investigate linkages between the AQMP and other monitoring programs for aquatics and wildlife. For example:
  - a. The linkages among ambient air quality, dust deposition on lichens and other vegetation, and potential effects on wildlife (particularly caribou). Is there a relationship between dust deposition and the zone of influence for caribou avoidance around the mine site?
  - b. The linkages among air quality, contaminants in water bodies, and potential impacts to fish and aquatic life. In particular, since dioxins and furans are present in lake sediments as a result of incineration, the next logical step would be sampling fish species such as sculpins for the presence of these compounds.
  - c. Discuss opportunities with Diavik to coordinate air quality modeling and monitoring to better examine the overall picture between the two mines, save resources and ensure compatibility of methods and results.

The Agency is aware of the recent improvements in air quality monitoring and management at Ekati and we commend BHPB for constructively engaging technical experts retained by the Agency and the staff of Environment Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

We look forward to your response to the above recommendations. We would be happy to discuss any of these matters at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'W'.

Bill Ross  
Chairperson

cc: Society members  
Bruce Hanna, DFO  
Anne Wilson, Environment Canada  
John McCullum, EMAB  
Dave White, SLEMA