



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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June 7, 2007

David Livingstone
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment
Box 1500
Yellowknife NT
X1A 2R3

Dear David

Re: BHPB 2006 Annual Environmental Report

The Agency is in receipt of BHPB's 2006 Annual Report under the Environmental Agreement and water licences. Within forty-five days of receipt of the document, the Agency has the opportunity to advise the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether the "Annual Report is satisfactory, including whether the information provided is adequate as well as whether or not remedial actions taken or proposed in respect of impact or compliance problems are satisfactory" (article 5.1(c) of the Environmental Agreement). The deadline for comments may come as early as June 15, 2007.

The Agency has not yet received the 2006 Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) report or results (although we have received a summary report), the 2006 Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) report or results, or any of the special effects monitoring reports for 2006. In the absence of these documents, it is not possible for the Agency to verify whether the conclusions presented in the 2006 Annual Report accurately reflect the state of the environment or monitoring program results.

The trend over the last several years for the monitoring program results to be submitted later and later, points out the need for a firm deadline for such reports that allows for timely input and review to permits adjustments to monitoring programs, including possible reductions in scope and frequency where agreed. The monitoring program reports also serve as an essential tool for reviewing BHP Billiton's Annual Report, reinforcing the need for timely submissions.

We would be please to discuss these comments with BHPB and others to ensure improved public reporting and environmental management at Ekati.

Sincerely,

-original signed by-

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members
Sarah Baines, Wek'eezhi Land and Water Board