

***Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency  
39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors  
April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Summary of Discussion***

Revised: June 7, 2004

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Directors

Jaida Ohokannoak	Tim Byers
Bill Ross	Tony Pearse
François Messier	Dave Osmond

Staff

Carole Mills	Sean Kollee
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The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 9:00 am on Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

**AEMP Third Party Review Steering Committee Update**

Dave Osmond briefed the Agency Board on the status of the AEMP review project. A draft interim report was received from Barry Zajdlik on April 13<sup>th</sup>. This report was the subject of a preliminary review, and a conference call was arranged for the 14<sup>th</sup> of April involving all members of the steering committee. The objective of the conference call was to:

- Gain input from the steering committee on developing the final draft report to be distributed to BHPB and Rescan.
- Discuss the meeting at the end of April with BHPB.
- Receive an update of key findings from Barry.
- Participate in a question and answer session with Barry.

Barry informed the steering committee that he has two more sections to include in the upcoming revised draft. He commended BHPB for the extent of data collections but felt the data are not fully analyzed. From a statistics perspective, he felt the program was adequate for some areas.

His key findings include:

- Rescan considers a sub-sample to be an actual replicate
- Rescan discounts the effect of seasonality yet later cites in its 2002 AEMP report that seasonality has an effect resulting in difficulties in interpretation.
- Zooplankton diversity indices are not useful and it would be more effective to associate the number of species within a sample to water quality parameters

Directors felt that Barry should cite evidence relative to the problems associated with diversity indices, so that others can be convinced not to use diversity indices. There may be contrary arguments so he should consider if he wants this conclusion to be highlighted in his report.

- A multivariate analysis should be applied. If a trend is identified within a parameter it could be linked to a number of causes.
- The Directors requested Barry refine a conclusion of what would be learned from a multivariate approach as it relates to enhanced environmental management of the mine. The Directors also requested provision of an example of an analysis of multivariate statistics that will assist in improving environmental management.

Next Steps in the AEMP review process:

- Provide draft to BHPB prior to finalization of report
- Meeting in Yellowknife is planned for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- Proper zooplankton data formatting was not provided to do the type of analysis Barry and the steering committee would like to see. It would take Barry between 3-8 extra days depending on the data set.
- The steering committee was requested to check the project ToR to determine exactly what was agreed to.

Action Item #1 – Staff to review AEMP 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review ToR to determine zooplankton review requirements and contractor responsibilities.

### **MV2003L2-0013 Water Licence Intervention**

The Directors noted that the deadline of the MVLWB for the intervener submissions is May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004. For the Agency, intervention options include reiterating our earlier submission, responding to BHPB's comments on reviewer feedback to its water licence renewal application, and commenting on a summary of the changes that MVLWB will be suggesting for the water licence (note: the MVLWB will not be providing a draft licence prior to public hearing).

The Directors agreed that the Agency Aboriginal members might appreciate viewing the Agency submission while they are in the process of developing their own submissions. This suggests the Agency response (in rough form) would be needed by May 10<sup>th</sup> for completion by May 12<sup>th</sup> for distribution to members (providing almost one week).

Action Item #2 – Prepare draft Agency submission on water licence MV2003L2-0013 in advance of the MVLWB deadline in order to provide input to Aboriginal members.

### **Abandonment and Reclamation Plan**

The Directors noted that a revised *A&R Plan* had been received but it has yet to be reviewed by the Agency. Draft comments are due May 5<sup>th</sup> to the MVLWB. The MVLWB would like to have all of the comments prior to the MV2003L2-0013 water licence public hearing in July 2004. There will be a meeting in Yellowknife on May 11<sup>th</sup> of all stakeholders to discuss the *A&R Plan*. Final comments are due May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Directors noted that the *A&R Plan* is extraordinarily important and such an early deadline is not compatible with such an important review. Comments due to staff May 2<sup>nd</sup>, possibly a conference call will be necessary.

### **Agency Annual Site Visit**

The Directors agreed to meet on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 in Yellowknife. The Agency would tour Ekati from June 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> returning the morning of June 7<sup>th</sup> to Yellowknife for further meetings. Guests to be invited for June 3<sup>rd</sup> include Darnell McCurdy, David Livingstone and Rebecca Chouinard from DIAND, EMAB, and potentially the MVLWB, Chris Johnson and BHPB.

### **Cumulative Impacts on Caribou Behaviour**

François reviewed the report from Chris Johnson and Mark Boyce. His initial assessment is that further study would likely be required to demonstrate that the mine was having an impact. The report is very complex and difficult to understand and will require more careful review.

Action Item #3: Staff to invite Chris Johnson to next Board meeting and determine whom else he'd be comfortable talking with. Staff will then invite others, as appropriate, keeping in mind that it will be a very technical session.
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### ***Next Meeting***

June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Yellowknife and at Ekati.

### ***Summary of Discussion Approved by:***

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

François Messier, Secretary-Treasurer.