

## Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT) for Ekati Diamond Project

October 24, 1997

Meeting #2

<b>Attendance:</b>		<b>Phone</b>
Mary Tapsell (Chair)	DIAND -Env. & Conservation	669-2680
Kelly Robertson	RWED -GNWT	920-8069
Maria Healy	DFO	920-6641
Rick Hoos	Rescan/BHP	(604) 689-9460
John Witteman	BHP	(867) 880-2232
Stephen Harbicht	EC -EPB	669-4733
John Ramsey	NR Can	(613) 947-1591
Greg Cook	DIAND -Water Resources	669-2656
Darren Unrau	DIAND -South Mackenzie District	669-2763
Hal Mills	Independent Monitoring Agency	669-9141
Tony Pearse	Independent Monitoring Agency	(250) 539-3015
Steven Matthews	RWED -GNWT	873-7775
Meredith Seabrook	(Minutes)	669-2594

### **(1) Round Table Updates:**

Darren distributed a hand-out detailing an overview of DIAND's inspection plan. Inspection reports are completed after each inspection (every two weeks) with an annual Compliance Monitoring Report, summarizing the year's activities. There was discussion over the wording in the overview hand-out, regarding compliance.

**Action:**          **Darren to re-draft the Overview in terms of the compliance section for the Independent Monitoring Agency.**

Mary has recently had interactions with the media regarding the Ekati Project. She has had interviews with Maclean's magazine and the Toronto Star and emphasized that all parties are working together as BHP moves into the Operating Phase.

RWED, GNWT and BHP had a meeting on October 9 to discuss the wildlife monitoring program. Both parties agreed that this was a successful first step and will be moving into the next stages with BHP hosting a workshop for February.

Lisa Dyer of RWED met recently with BHP to discuss waste handling.

Greg indicated that the NWT Water Board is on track regarding the water licence and will be meeting October 30 to discuss further.

The Independent Monitoring Agency met earlier with BHP to discuss Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan. Representatives from DFO, DOE & DIAND sat in on the meeting. These first discussions provided a good, technical overview.

Stephen indicated Environment Canada's progress with the kimberlite toxicity study and indicated that EC will soon be organizing a session for BHP, DFO, EC and Diavik to have technical discussions on this issue for mid-November.

John provided an update on the water management issue of the Project. Koala Lake should be completely pumped out by the end of November and then water still in Panda will be transferred to Koala sump. All buildings are up and externally complete with the work emphasis now on the indoors. Currently, BHP is flying up fuel until the winter road is in. This year, many trucks will be on the road as they have a larger fuel supply. Two bulk samples are proposed for this winter - Beartooth and another within Koala. The liner from Phase I tailing has been completely replaced.

## **(2) Review of Action Items from Sept. 26 meeting**

The action items resulting from the first meeting were reviewed. Departments still need to identify what materials they will make available to the Agency. It is hoped the Agency's new Communication Policy will assist.

There was a general discussion about interactions with the NWT Water Board. There was concern raised over the lack of timeliness in reviews of certain documents waiting for Water Board approval.

The group decided that the items were suitably recorded.

## **(3) Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's Communication Policy**

Hal Mills distributed the draft Policy to be used by the Agency for comments by IACT members. Another policy will be drafted to deal with Aboriginal people and the general public.

**Action:** Hal to send electronic version of policy to Mary for further distribution to IACT members for comments.

**All comments on Policy to be sent to the Monitoring Agency by November 7.**

## **(4) Review of Terms of Reference**

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that formal minutes are not required for this working group, but rather "summary" or "highlights" notes. General comments on the draft T.O.R include the following:

-change BHP Project to Ekati Project throughout

- remove water licence in objective 2
- possibility of inviting David Milburn to these sessions to discuss Water Board issues.
- possibility of having Aboriginal representatives attend sessions for information-sharing (on-going discussion and will re-visit)
- under Procedures, section 2 -change minutes to highlights which will not be made public.
- section 4 -calendar of related events to be deleted from T.O.R but rather made a task of the group

**Action: Mary to re-write Terms of Reference and distribute on October 27. IACT members to provide comments to Mary by November 7.**

### **(5) BHP Annual Report**

BHP will be consulting with various government agencies. BHP needs information on what the Agency wants in terms of compliance.

**Action: Deadline for federal comments on BHP's Table of Contents is due to Mary by October 31. Mary will then roll-up the comments, send to BHP on November 3 and copy to members.**

**The Agency and GNWT are to send comments on Table of Contents to BHP by November 3 and copy to members.**

### **(6) Operating Environmental Management Plan**

John indicated that the Construction Phase Environmental Management Plan represents about 90% of the Operating Plan and is seeking comments and direction on what the plan should look like. The QA/QC is complete.

**Action: John to put in writing what BHP is planning to do for obtaining comments for this plan.**

### **(7) Media Briefings**

IACT members may want to consider this in the future with the inclusion of departmental communications staff.

### **(8) Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Friday, November 21, 1997 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at BHP Diamonds Inc. (9<sup>th</sup> floor of Precambrian Building)