



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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Summary of Discussion from the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT) Meeting of April 11th, 2004

Participants

Kevin O'Reilly	IEMA
Sean Kollee	IEMA
Denise Mazur	Dep. of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (INAC)
Tamara Hamilton	INAC
Lionel Marcinkoski	INAC
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
Dave Balint	Dep. of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
Chris Hanks	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Helen Butler	BHPB
Heather Mills	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)
Sarah Baines	MVLWB
Gavin More	Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED)

Chairperson: Tamara Hamilton

Round Table Discussion

Denise Mazur works with DIAND Land Administration and was introduced to IACT.

Chris Hanks delivered an Ekati update including the following comments:

- AEMP will be circulated shortly
- WEMP report undergoing major revisions
- No BHPB revisions suggested to environmental programs, as the company believes they should only be modified every three years.
- Closure planning process will not begin until after water licence renewal
- New WWPCKMP and changes to LLCF to be reflected when this application is submitted.
- MV2003L2-008 licence – BHPB will request revisions to this water licence.
- 2005 field season – BHPB is working with consultants on ToR for the programs.
- Tier 2 risk of chloride will be likely in autumn before this plan is revisited. BHPB has no plans to discharge under the 008 licence at this time.
- Wolverine problems at Misery even though the buildings are skirted.

- Major ions and work on under ice sampling is still being collected. Cell D stratified this winter and BHPB is unsure if this is new or has happened before.
- 2006 Environmental Workshops planned along with 3-year Environmental Impact report.
- Misery is closing temporarily in spring. Three options for pit water, pumping continuously, no pumping and allow pit to collect water or fill pit with water to stop pit wall oxidation. Temporary closure plan to be put forward first as a draft plan – final version to be incorporated in the full closure plan.
- Cujo lake DO problems being managed.
- Atomization program will be moved with misery closure, but not likely in 2005.
- Spills – increased incidence including large spills. All BHPB spills have gone into spill line, a fuel spill also occurred at Ekati during an inspection.
- TK – KIA study to be distributed.

Dave mentioned events related to fish habitat enhancement and Nero-Nema as an area for rehabilitation to improve habitat within the channel. Drilling programs on Lac de Gras and Lac du Sauvage in deep water are largely alleviating fisheries concerns. DFO has also had discussions related to the PDC and met with Rescan and will be expecting a letter detailing changes within the next weeks. Progress is being made on a compensation program for pigeon diversion channel. Work at Ekati has occurred at Carrie culvert and mitigation has been proposed to transfer water meeting discharge criteria from Desperation Pond to the Carrie watershed. Buster culvert is scheduled to be lowered during April).

Sarah announced that the MVLWB has hired Gartner Lee (GL) to contact interveners and reviewers of the water licence. The MVLWB would like the licence to be presented to the board by the end of April and has devoted much of the staff resources to this effort. The objective of the consultant is to clarify comments that were made during water licence process. GL must look at everything on the record from the preliminary comment stage, through the public hearing and including comments made on Drafts 1 and 2. **This review includes 1616** and an evaluation of all changes made to the drafts since the beginning of the licensing process.

A short discussion occurred regarding the role of the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board. Bob Wooley attends working group meetings for the new board and has stated that the fate of the BHPB file is not necessarily established.

Summaries will be circulated, as will another draft licence, which will be based upon the second draft, rather than the original 1616 licence. A short discussion occurred regarding the role of the Wekeji Land and Water Board. Bob Wooley is involved in a working group for the new board and has stated that the fate of BHPB file is not necessarily established.

Kevin announced his start date as the Agency manager. He updated IACT on Agency sponsored events such as the Mine Reclamation and Closure workshop and the Ekati Environmental workshop planned for March 17th.

Tamara announced the review period of BHPB's annual report would commence on March 31st as per the *EA*. She is also considering a meeting on implementation of the *EA*, tracking, regulatory regime and other issues. Part of INAC's rationale for the meeting is on why and how *EA*'s differ for multiple projects. A discussion occurred on the background for the Ekati *EA* (because the regulatory regime not able to deal with monitoring requirements). BHPB felt that rather than one off *EA*'s perhaps the regulatory regime should be changed so all projects be treated the same. Underlying clauses or deficiencies in regulations, acts and policies should be improved by governments (such as the lack of legal instruments wildlife and air). BHPB also suggested that INAC's environmental audit would be an opportunity to discuss this.

Tamara also announced that a seminar on financial assurance would occur to improve the understanding of financial assurance models and methods, conduct a gap analysis and optimize the determination of security amounts. Various speakers are planned for and there was considerable interest in attending.

INAC will be interviewing Aboriginal elders to gain insight on issues and concerns related to mining activities and a historical perspective on abandoned mines. Work on mine reclamation guidelines and incorporation of TK into the guidelines is also a component.

Anne Naeth has accepted a nomination to the Agency board and parties have reviewed this appointment.

Anne reported that an expert in the EC guidelines and standards office reviewed the BHPB research on nitrate toxicity to local fish species. A LLCF benthos report from University of Saskatchewan is also due for release. EC and INAC agreed to run seminars evaluating effluent quality, use of CCME in the north. The first course will occur on March 30th – April 1st. April 1st will be of interest and include information on specific parameters to many IACT members.

Gavin announced the department change at RWED into two new departments. RWED will no longer exist and the department that will retain environment assessment is called Environment and Natural Resources, the other is for Economic Development and Tourism.

Next meeting – May 13th, 2005.