



***Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency***

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**Summary of Discussion from the Annual General Meeting  
of the Society of the  
Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency  
held on  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
at the  
Monitoring Agency Boardroom**

**Participants**

**Society Members**

Lutselk'e Dene First Nation (Akaitcho Treaty 8):	Florence Catholique Antoine Michel
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Akaitcho Treaty 8):	Rachel Crapeau
Kitikmeot Inuit Association:	Geoff Clark
North Slave Metis Alliance	Bob Turner
Government of Canada:	David Livingstone, DIAND Tamara Hamilton, DIAND
Gov't of Northwest Territories:	Doug Doan, RWED
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.:	Scott Williams John Witteman Chris Hanks Derek Chubb Denise Burlingame Jane Howe Helen Butler Jim Millard Allison Armstrong

**Directors**

Red Pedersen  
Bill Ross  
Bob Turner  
François Messier  
Peter McCart  
Tony Pearse  
Tim Byers

**Staff**

Zabey Nevitt  
Sean Kollee

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Meeting commenced at 14:00

**Opening Prayer**

Antoine Michel delivered the opening prayer.

**Welcome and Chairperson's Address**

**Red Pedersen (Chair)** delivered the opening address:

Red welcomed the Society Members to the meeting and introduced the Directors and staff of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (the Agency). The Chair explained the purpose of the meeting; to report on activities of the Agency for the period April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002, and to receive comments of Members about direction for the upcoming year, 2002-2003.

Red presented the agenda for the meeting, and indicated that the Agency would keep its presentations short in order to allow for comments and questions from the Members.

The Annual Report consisted of the technical and summary publications delivered previously by mail to all Society Members. Red mentioned that extra copies were available from the Agency if needed. The Chair also indicated the reports were available in *.pdf* format both on CD and on the Agency's website ([www.monitoringagency.net](http://www.monitoringagency.net)).

The Chair described the formation of the Agency under the Environmental Agreement and its incorporation under the NWT Societies Act. The Members were described, followed by a review of the mandate and activities of the Agency.

**Presentation of Annual Report**

**Vice-Chair Bill Ross** presented a 30-minute summary of the Agency's 2001-2002 Annual Report and discussed the benefits of producing a technical and plain language (summary) version. He made reference to the recently produced poster that was created to communicate the mandate and role of the Agency in environmental monitoring. He also mentioned the poster would be distributed in the near future to society members.

(Copies of slides used during this presentation are available).

Bill's presentation focused on highlighting the 13 major Agency recommendations found in the 2001-2002 annual technical and summary reports. He mentioned the Agency is looking for ways to improve communication with society members (such as the poster and director visits to communities), in addition to improving the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge (TK) in monitoring activities. Bill discussed improved wildlife and traffic monitoring, and the ongoing review of a major component of the environmental activities at the mine, i.e., the aquatic effects monitoring program. He

emphasized that so far the Agency believes aquatic downstream effects of the mine are not serious.

### **Questions**

Bill Ross, on behalf of the Agency Directors, responded to all questions in this section. **John Witteman** added input on behalf of BHPB.

**Florence Catholique** and **Rachel Crapeau** asked a number of questions related to scientific and traditional knowledge issues and recommendations of the Agency in 2001-2002. Their questions ranged from cumulative effects on wolverines, contaminant uptake in re-vegetated tailings areas, toxicity studies, ammonia issues, knowledge of kimberlite types, air quality, watching regulators, and a request to host a TK workshop.

Bill responded that:

- Building skirts around buildings and increased vigilance at the Misery site has aided in reducing wildlife interactions.
- The main landfill was reconstructed and BHPB is trying to do something about the presence of juice boxes in landfills.
- Some contaminants such as nickel will be taken up by vegetation on tailings. The solution is identifying plants that caribou do not eat; more research results should be available next year.
- The toxicity studies are looking into the effects of flocculants and coagulants that BHPB uses to settle out tailings in Long Lake.
- Ammonia residue on blasted rock can seep out, hence requiring immediate action by BHPB.
- About the varying types of kimberlite ore and water quality implications, especially pH levels, the Agency is encouraging BHPB to do more research on this “environmental surprise”. This issue will require adaptive management.
- An upcoming workshop will detail the findings of an air quality expert.
- The Abandonment and Reclamation plan would not change unless BHPB demonstrates re-vegetation is preferred to a rock cover over the kimberlite tailings.

On the subject of a TK workshop, the mandate of the Agency is to facilitate it rather than actively directing it. A TK panel was also raised as an issue and this will be considered by the Agency. A large amount of discussion related to a TK meeting hosted by the Agency a few years ago. That meeting unfortunately did not resolve outstanding issues, nor did it create a plan to move forward on TK incorporation into mine management.

### **Presentation of Treasurer’s Report**

**Secretary-Treasurer François Messier** presented the Agency’s audited financial statements (2001-2002), and the work plan and budget for the 2002-2003 year.

(Copies of the slides used during this presentation are available)

François mentioned the sound and prudent approach the Agency has taken towards financial management. François' presentation focused on describing the contributions and expenditures of the Agency over the previous financial year and a summary of year-end balances and contingency funds. He mentioned the one-time charges for renovations and equipment, the increased costs due to travel, and greater director workload due to the expansion of mine activities. Carrying a full complement of seven directors required prudent administration of funds. The Agency avoided excessive board meetings to reduce travel costs.

The presentation of the work plan and budget for the 2002-2003 year focused on the differences in the core budget between 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 and areas of increase such as communications and staff wages.

*Motion: To appoint McKay and partners as the auditors for the Agency for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.*

*Moved: Derek Chubb  
Seconded: David Livingstone  
Carried without opposition*

*Motion: To approve the summary of discussion from the 2001 AGM.*

*Moved: François Messier  
Seconded: David Livingstone  
Carried without opposition*

A detailed discussion followed on how best to incorporate traditional knowledge into the Agency's activities and work plan.

**YK Dene: Rachel Crapeau** suggested a motion that the Agency revises its budget to include more TK. A motion to that effect was put forward and opened up to discussion.

*Motion: The Board consider establishing a TK advisory panel with a mandate to include TK in environmental management of the Ekati Diamond Mine<sup>TM</sup>. The Agency in the course of its deliberations will consult with EMAB and other parties regarding the makeup of such a panel.*

*Moved: Rachel Crapeau  
Seconded: David Livingstone  
Carried without opposition*

**NSMA: Bob Turner** described the TK camp that Diavik is setting up in cooperation with their Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) and the potential for a joint initiative with the Agency.

The society members and directors discussed at length the mandate of such a panel: would it address specific issues only or be a more rigid group with infrastructure and a

regular work schedule? This question remains outstanding and awaits a TK workshop for clarification.

### **Society Member Comments:**

*Lutselk'e Dene First Nation* **Florence Catholique** asked the directors what their consultation plan is with communities. The directors responded that the plan is multi-faceted with the annual report being a critical component. Other parts of the plan include director visits such as director Tim Byers' visits to Lutselk'e, letters on issues, the website, and how input from the communities makes it onto the annual report (e.g., the issue of limping caribou in summer 2001). Zabey explained how the office staff delivers correspondence and our standing invitation to increase our mailing list if necessary.

**Florence Catholique** requested a seat separate from the shared seat with the YK Dene. She mentioned the letter distributed to DIAND, RWED and BHPB on this topic and requested the minutes from a meeting that occurred previously. Generally, she expressed the desire for greater consultation with Aboriginal communities.

**Antoine Michel** discussed the feeling in the community that the impacts and benefits of the mine were not being equally shared, and that the community should have increased say in mine operations.

*BHP Billiton:* **Derek Chubb** made comments on behalf of the company. He declined detailed comments on the Agency's annual report as a formal written response will be made in the future. He stated that the annual report was encompassing in its coverage and generally easy to read. He mentioned the difficulty in determining the Agency's perception of the company's degree of environmental stewardship, but appreciated the Agency's comments on the regulators performance. He noted that Agency spending on community consultation appeared to have decreased in 2001-2002.

*Government of Canada (DIAND):* **David Livingstone** commented that the Agency annual report is well written and easily read. DIAND supports the recommendations made relative to his Department. He agreed that reclamation completion criteria are an outstanding issue and that the temporary absence of an inspector was regrettable. He also approved of cooperation with EMAB and discussed the upcoming Regional Monitoring Agency workshop on November 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

*Government of the Northwest Territories, Resources Wildlife and Economic Developments:* **Doug Doan** introduced himself as the Assistant Deputy Minister of RWED attending on behalf of Deputy Minister Robert Mcleod. He indicated his confidence that RWED would support the Agency's recommendations and will continue cooperating with all parties.

*YK Dene:* **Rachel Crapeau** approved of both reporting formats and looks forward to an upcoming TK workshop. She was in support of a separate seat for Lutselk'e but believed this might not be a pressing issue as they may be entitled to one when the formation of a

Regional Monitoring Agency occurs. She also expressed support for the appointed director (Tim Byers) and his consultation efforts.

*Kitikmeot Inuit Association:* **Geoff Clark** mentioned his recent relocation to Kugluktuk and his scientific background. His attendance at the meeting was as a representative of KIA leaders, Charlie Evalik and Jack Kiniak, and the Lands Department. They believed that the KIA has more pressing concerns and they are satisfied with the Agency reporting process. The Elders were satisfied with their involvement in monitoring roads and caribou health, and would appreciate witnessing the freshet at the mine site next year.

*North Slave Metis Alliance:* **Bob Turner** would appreciate a definition change of the aboriginal communities in the Environmental Agreement, to include the North Slave Metis Alliance. He did not believe this change was a difficult task. He also felt the DIAND environmental inspectors need to be properly paid to ensure continuity.

**Red Pedersen** thanked all for their attendance at the meeting and declared that the Agency would be judged next year based on how we do from here on. He stressed that all comments about TK will be considered seriously.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00.

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Sincerely

- ORIGINAL SIGNED BY -

Red Pedersen  
Chair