

Notes from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team
March 1st, 2002 Meeting

Participants:

John Witteman	BHP Billiton (BHP B)
Chris Hanks	BHP Billiton (BHP B)
Derek Chubb	BHP Billiton (BHP B)
Laurie Cordell	MVLWB
Latisha Heilman	MVLWB
Sven Bohnet	DIAND Water Resources
Marc Lange	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
Patricia Handley	RWED - North Slave Office
Lionel Marcinkoski	RWED - GNWT
Zabey Nevitt	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)
Robin Staples	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)

Meeting began at 1:30

Round Table Updates:

Sven began by noting that DIAND Water Resources and their consultants have completed their review of BHP B's response to their information requests on the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth water licence and land use permit applications. DIAND Water Resources is developing its intervention for the public hearing on the above mentioned applications and will be submitting it to the MVLWB by the March 13, 2002 deadline. The technical reports from DIAND's consultants who helped review BHP B's applications will be attached as appendices to the intervention and all recommendations made to the MVLWB will be consistent with DIAND policy.

John gave an update on recent activities at the mine site and noted the following:

- BHP B performed a self-inspection on February 8th and the inspection report will be submitted to IACT members shortly.
- DIAND inspectors Ken Dahl and Clint Ambrose visited the mine site on February 25th and 26th for a brief orientation and inspection. They visited main camp, Misery camp and pit, Fox development, large core drilling program locations, and a number of sump locations. They had some minor recommendations to make regarding Fox Lake dewatering and a few minor spills around the site. Their report should be available in the near future.
- BHP B requests that personnel from Environment Canada, DFO, RWED and DIAND continue frequent and regular inspections / visits of the mine site, especially in summer.
- Fox dewatering has begun and end of pipe sampling will be taking place.

- Abutments for the Nero-Nema bridge have almost been completed and the main bridge structure will be transported up the winter road shortly.
- Fuel and other materials are also currently being transported up the winter road.
- Underground work is underway at Koala North and additional buildings are being constructed around the Koala North development (e.g. waste management, offices, truck warming shed).
- Stripping at Koala (main) is ongoing and a kimberlite like clay with organic material that was found overlying the Koala kimberlite pipe . This clay will be stockpiled and potentially used during reclamation.
- Thermistor cables are being placed in the centre of the Panda – Koala waste rock pile.
- A helicopter was used in February to sample dissolved oxygen in 13 lakes (AEMP plus others). The dissolved oxygen workshop with Buster Welch at the mine site is tentatively scheduled for April 19th.
- The report on the 2001 waste rock seepage survey will be submitted to the MVLWB shortly. May 2nd is the scheduled date for the annual seepage meeting.
- BHP B staff are busy working on this year's annual report. A summary of the Surveillance Network Program (SNP) for the year will be attached as an appendix in the form of a CD.
- Misery traffic counter was taken down at the request of Transport Canada due to height restrictions near the runway. Battery powered traffic counters will be constructed under the Sable and Misery haul roads in the summer, but these particular counters will not be able to discern between haul and light trucks.
- BHP B and Diavik environment staff recently met to discuss operational and environmental issues and it was determined that there is strong potential for the combination of BHP B and Diavik's wildlife monitoring programs (i.e. caribou, wolverine, wolves, birds of prey). Meetings between BHP B and Diavik environmental staff will take place roughly every month.

John continued his update by noting that as discussed at the annual environmental workshops a number of follow-up meetings will be organized to discuss issues relating to the AEMP, Panda Diversion Channel (PDC), and to inform regulators and the Agency of the relocation of the main camp landfill. Final proposed changes to the aquatic, wildlife and special effects monitoring programs (i.e. Kodiak Lake and PDC) will also be submitted soon. The air-monitoring program is being contracted out for reporting and will consolidate all air monitoring work done to date. An air monitoring report will be released roughly every three (3) years. John also attended the recent cost variance meeting and noted that an appropriate review process needs to be set up to determine which reclamation model is acceptable (Reclaim vs. Monte Carlo) to the MVLWB, DIAND, GNWT and the Agency. BHP B will take the lead on this review process and proposes that a review of the Monte Carlo model and associated report be performed before the next cost variance meeting takes place. John mentioned that he would be distributing the draft meeting minutes from the cost variance meeting shortly. John also noted that reclamation closure criteria needs to be developed and agreed to before BHP B attempts any significant reclamation at the site.

In response to a question from Zabey, John agreed that June 8th & 9th would be a good time for Agency Directors to visit the site. The site visit will include Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth. John also committed to sending the maps to the Agency, all the lab certificates from SNP

station 1616-30 and a list of past and present detection limits used for that station as previously requested.

Chris began by noting that letters from Bob Overvold of DIAND and Bob McLeod of GNWT regarding the five-year review of the Environmental Agreement are still outstanding. Chris also mentioned that BHP B has agreed to assist Chris Johnson, a postdoctoral student from the UofA, and Bob Mulders from RWED in their work on the cumulative effects of roads and other developments (e.g. mining). It was also noted that an environmental safety committee has been created for the winter road and includes representatives from aboriginal groups, mining companies and other users of the road. The committee has raised concerns over truck spills along the road and has recently organized a trip up the winter road for committee members on March 15th.

Lionel noted that Brett Hudson has recently left RWED for a job with DIAND and his position has been temporarily filled. RWED has also recently filled the air quality coordination position within environmental protection.

Patricia and RWED staff from the North Slave office recently performed an inspection of Ekati Diamond Mine™, Diavik, Lac de Gras camp and Lockhart camp along the winter road. She commended BHP B for the improvements made at Misery camp (i.e. landfill, skirting). The inspection report will be tabled at the next IACT meeting and a formal presentation given.

Derek noted that he has been busy coordinating BHP B's response to reviewer's information requests on the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth applications and re-iterated that he is available to meet with anyone who needs clarification or has further questions before the public hearing. Negotiations are also ongoing with DFO on fisheries authorizations for the Sable, Pigeon & Beartooth development and Carrie and Desperation water bodies (Misery development). Culvert drawings for the Pigeon stream crossing have been submitted to the MVLWB and the Sable road should reach the crossing in a couple of weeks. Derek also noted that the Tibbitt to Contwoyto winter road is in good condition this year and that trucking is ahead of schedule. The joint venture applying for a new permit for the winter road, which includes BHP B, is currently waiting for feedback from DIAND on the renewal application.

Zabey mentioned that the Agency Directors recently met in February and will be meeting again at the end of March. He also noted that the Agency has received and reviewed BHP B's responses to the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth information requests and is preparing for the public hearing. In addition, Zabey noted that the Agency is waiting for BHP B's final proposed changes to the aquatic, wildlife and special effects monitoring programs in addition to the other requested documents noted earlier under John's update. Representatives from the Agency and Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) are also planning a joint visit to Lutsel K'e in late March at the request of the community.

Robin noted he recently attended the cost variance meeting and EMAB workshops on fish / fish habitat and wildlife. He also mentioned that he has been involved in the Agency review of BHP B's responses to the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth information requests and is preparing for the public hearing. In addition, Robin requested fish out data, specifically from Long Lake and John committed to providing this.

Marc noted that he has been working on the ongoing fisheries authorization negotiations with BHP B for Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth and a fish compensation workplan. Discussions for the Carrie and Desperation authorization are also in progress and a draft authorization should be sent to BHP B in the near future. Marc mentioned that he has also been reviewing BHP B's responses to the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth information requests and is working on DFO's intervention for the upcoming public hearing. DFO is also currently undergoing a review of habitat compensation case studies and the effectiveness and implementation of the No Net Loss policy on a national scale. Another current initiative is the analysis of fish out data collected by BHP B and Diavik. A preliminary cursory examination of database has been performed, but as significant time was spent on data cleanup little analysis was done. Marc indicated that he would be approaching BHP B and / or Diavik in the near future to discuss funding participation. In addition, Marc passed on to BHP B the original brief fish out analysis that was done by a graduate student on data collected at BHP B. He indicated that he would pass this information on to other interested parties as well if requested.

Anne noted that she has been working on Environment Canada's intervention to the public hearing for the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth applications. As most of Environment Canada's concerns have been addressed during the review process, the department's submission will focus largely on recommendations for licence conditions. Anne also noted that the study looking at flocculent and coagulant residuals in aquatic systems is underway. A literature search looking for similar studies is the first step of the study. Anne mentioned that she will be away from the office for approximately six weeks and that Steve Harbicht will be the contact person at the department for this file while she is away.

Following Anne's update, John noted that the specific type of flocculants and coagulants being used in the process plant will change as the kimberlite ore blends change (i.e. ore from different pipes).

Laurie began by noting that April 4th and 5th are the final dates set for the public hearing and the intervention deadline is March 13th. She apologized for the recent change in the public hearing date noting that a clerical error was made. The hearing will encompass both water and land issues. Laurie thanked all the reviewers who were present at the meeting for all their helpful comments to date. In response to questions from Zabey and Derek, Laurie noted that interveners as well as other reviewers would be involved in the drafting process for the water licence and potentially land use permits. At this time a MVLWB technical committee is not being considered for BHP B. A formal review process and procedure for drafting the licence / permits will be discussed further in the near future. Laurie also noted that preliminary discussions by the MVLWB and DIAND regarding the location of land security have taken place (i.e. land use permits, land lease or Environmental Agreement). Laurie mentioned that she is also involved in the review of the Desperation coffer dam and Pigeon stream crossing and both will be brought before the MVLWB at their next meeting.

Next meeting will be held on April 19th at 9:00am in the Agency Boardroom.

Meeting finished at 3:00pm