



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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Summary of Discussion from the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT) Meeting May 13th, 2005

Participants

Kevin O'Reilly	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA)
Sean Kollee	IEMA
Lionel Marcinkoski	Dep. of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)
Robin Staples	INAC
Malcom Robb	INAC
Fraser Fairman	INAC
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada (EC)
Jane Howe	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Jason McNeil	GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)

Chairperson – Lionel Marcinkoski (INAC)

Lionel mentioned Tamara's new role in environmental assessment and regulatory at INAC in Ottawa effective June 1st, 2005.

Round Table Updates

IEMA

Kevin described recent Agency events and other events directors and staff participated in such as:

- The Ekati Environmental Workshop March 17th - recommendations from this were sent to Agency members and participants.
- Financial assurance workshop hosted by INAC
- Agency 2004-05 Annual report production is underway and distribution is planned for July 2005.
- Core budget and workplan mediation following meeting of EA signatories is likely to occur.
- New director Anne Naeth plans to start work in July 2005 following the Agency site visit
- Bill Price has been hired to review the BHPB seepage report

BHPB

Jane had site information to report:

- Pilot flotation plant operational for six months has successfully floated diamonds. Expansion underway to 5 tonne/hr pilot plant that will run 6-12 hrs/day until data will be fed into a feasibility study. Flotation allows the capture of smaller diamonds (less than .5 mm)
- Misery operations ceased at the end of April 2005. Letter was submitted to DIAND advising of that interim closure measures (5-7 yrs) will be undertaken. The environmental management system will continue as before and stockpiled ore will be trucked for processing. Some issues with south wall ramp structure stability exist. Pit water will not be drained and at the end of summer the quality and quantity will be monitored. Pit economics will also be re-evaluated
- Koala mining ceased, efforts now focussed on underground development.
- First production blast occurred at the end of April at Panda underground.
- Fox may start feeding the process plant in summer, the plant is operating from surface feed at Beartooth, other stockpiles and Misery ore.
- Freshet pending and snowmelt has occurred.
- Snow surveys as part of AQMP have occurred. Air quality modelling is underway using weather data from EC, emissions data from site to model dispersions to locate the various snow sample and vegetation monitoring sites within the predominant plume. Early model suggests a few samples located further out may be required.
- Does Ekati monitor incinerator stacks? BHPB is constructing a newer incinerator that is more efficient. There is the potential for wet scrubbers to be installed on the incinerator in a future phase.
- Wolverine DNA sampling program occurred in conjunction with ENR and a CBC interview on the topic was done.
- Winston Fillatre will replace Jaida Robillaird (maternity leave) in the compliance department.
- Water licence renewal site visit with Gartner Lee (MVLWB consultant) occurred. BHPB was advised that a third draft licence is likely toward the end of May 2005.
- Misery atomization project on hold, with Misery shutdown the effluent will not be available, another testing site will be necessary. EC suggested MVLWB should be notified that licence conditions for monitoring will not proceed and licence obligations are not to be met.
- Ammonium Nitrate (AN) building improvements and water collection structure underway to mitigate leak of AN prill into Kodiak Lake
- Helen Butler (BHPB) is working on ToR for the new closure plan and BHPB is looking for a new project manager for the closure plan. Tours planned for the communities, potentially IACT. BHPB plans to have a new interim closure plan approved by the end of 2006 and a revised liability estimate to follow.

EC

Anne has reviewed the AEMP and CWS reviewed the bird survey work but has not received the BHPB annual report yet. She also would like to know if there is a covering letter attached to the AEMP with a deadline for comments. Anne also requested an update on Cujo Lake oxygen levels. Jane replied that she is not aware of anything further on oxygen levels as the ice is probably thin now to sample from.

Jane also mentioned that the Plain English version of BHPB's annual report is under way but probably would not be ready until the second half of June.

INAC

Lionel mentioned that Eric Yaxley is shifting to the Diavik file and Fraser will be on the Snap Lake file. Lorraine will be the department lead on environmental assessment as a result of a recent reorganization. On the subject of CEAMF there has been some staff turnover with maternity leaves and replacements. The first draft of the environmental audit is due in June or July. There has also been a change in inspectors, Darnell is now Manager of INAC Lands department and Julian will be the inspector for Ekati until Ed returns. There should be a further letter from INAC on mediation shortly. INAC also hosted a workshop on financial assurance and is reviewing the BHPB seepage and AEMP reports.

Next meeting to discuss water licence prior to review period deadline.