

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency



2006-7 Year in Review and Annual Report Summary

Presentation Outline

- Agency 2006-7 Annual Report Summary
- Agency Highlights in 2006-7
- Agency focus since April 2007
- Focus for the future
- Summary

Agency Annual Report Summary 2006-7

“The Monitoring Agency shall report annually.... to BHP, the Minister, and the GNWT. All reports of the Monitoring Agency shall be made available to the Aboriginal Peoples and the general public.”

Environmental Agreement
for BHP Billiton Diamonds Project

Agency presentation at Joint Review Panel
hearing in Yellowknife—May 2007

Wildlife Effects Monitoring

- AEMP was delivered late so Agency review was completed after Agency annual report published
- 10 years of monitoring results
- 37,000 caribou counted in study area in 2006
- Decreasing trend of caribou around Ekati during northern migration
- We commend BHPB for expanding caribou study area
- Further work needed on cumulative effect monitoring and management

Wildlife Effects Monitoring and Regional Monitoring

The Agency recommends:

There has been a lack of progress on regional and cumulative effects on caribou. The Government of the NWT and Nunavut should make greater efforts towards regional and cumulative effects monitoring and assessment, primarily as it relates to caribou.

Wildlife Effects Monitoring

GNWT Response:

The GNWT remains committed to addressing cumulative impacts on barren-ground caribou as set out in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Framework for Action, the NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy and the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan. Although implementation of some initiatives has been delayed, the GNWT plans to convene a workshop on cumulative effects in the fall of 2007. The purpose of the workshop is to address potential cumulative effects assessment methodology and the links to regional and mine-specific monitoring programs. The GNWT intends to work with all stakeholders including, but not limited to, communities, Aboriginal Governments, industry, DIAND and monitoring agencies. A partnership approach will be necessary to address this important issue within the Slave Geological Province and in other areas experiencing increased levels of human activities.

Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

- GNWT to host cumulative effect on caribou workshop in 2008
- Agency would like to see diamond mine monitoring of caribou more consistent, comparable and cooperative

Tailings and Wastewater Management

- Agency reviewed 2006 and 2007 plans submitted by BHPB
- Advice to BHPB - avoid Cell D and plan to use a pit for processed kimberlite
- Suggest WLWB needs to ensure LLCF is 'designed for closure'

Traditional Knowledge

- Kugluktuk Elders providing annual advice to BHPB
- Agency would like to see a on site programs and a workshop with Elders from all communities involved
- Use of TK at site should be better documented in BHPB's annual environmental report

Communications and Consultation

- Individual director visits to communities upon request
- Board Meeting in Wekweti in September 2006
- Interested in meeting in Lutsel K'e in late winter 2008

Assessment of the Regulators

- DFO has taken a more active role as we suggested
- DIAND filled the inspector position and performed well in regulatory reviews
- GNWT did good work on wildlife and air quality, Agency would like GNWT to carry this through on closure planning
- Environment Canada continues to contribute on air and water quality
- Wek'eezhi Land and Water Board started well and has built up capacity, good management of ICRP review process

Reclamation and Closure

- A revised mine closure and reclamation plan submitted by BHPB
- Working group in place to review the plan
- Use TK and community preferences to develop closure objectives for rock piles and pit lakes

Reclamation and Closure

The Agency recommends that:

- Where information uncertainties exist in formulating objectives, options or criteria for any mine component, BHPB should explicitly identify the uncertainties in the text of the ICRP and link them to that part of the reclamation research plan that addresses them.

Reclamation and Closure

BHPB Response

- BHPB has always recognized that there will be a requirement for additional research in order to clarify the processes, techniques and plans to be employed in final closure of the mine site. While some of this research is underway other areas are in the planning stages and all these different areas of research were included in the research plan of the ICRP. BHPB has provided improved connections and additional cross-referencing to outline the links with the reclamation research plan in the ICRP. This was a result of input from the WLWB working group members during the recent meetings to review the plan.

Reclamation and Closure Recommendations

The Agency recommends that:

- BHPB should develop mine component-specific objectives as part of the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan. The Objectives for each mine component should be linked to the overall site closure goal and lead to measurable closure criteria.

Reclamation and Closure

BHPB Response

- BHPB provided draft closure objectives and criteria related to each mine component in the recent release of the ICRP for the Ekati mine site. The working group, including representatives from DIAND, GNWT, DFO, EC, Aboriginal Communities and the Agency, was set up by the WLWB to provide comments and suggestions on the ICRP. The comments and suggestions were incorporated into the final objective and criteria tables to improve clarity and understanding. Input from Laura Johnston from the Agency and guidance from the WLWB were particularly useful in this process.

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program

- AEMP was delivered late so Agency review was completed after Agency annual report published
- Some contaminants increasing in lakes downstream - approaching CCME
- Not yet harmful to fish in lakes
- Zooplankton (Cladocera) effects now clearer

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program

- Insert chart from AEMP presentation

Assessment of BHPB

- BHPB has agreed to deliver environmental reports sooner next year
- BHPB showing flexibility in its approach to the ICRP working group
- No major environmental issues identified in 2006
- Water quality trends a concern for future management

Assessment of BHPB

The Agency recommends that:

- DIAND, GNWT and BHPB should amend the Environmental Agreement to set March 31st as the deadline for submission of the AEMP and WEMP annual reports.

Assessment of BHPB

Response

- BHPB, GNWT and DIAND acknowledge that this year is a key date for review of the Environmental Agreement. It is expected that the signatories to the Environmental Agreement will consider a review of reporting requirements amongst other items in the Agreement.

Agency Highlights in 2006-7

Highlights in 2004-05 • IEMIA AGM 2007

Director Visit and Board Meeting in Wekweti

Agency Highlights – 2006-7

Agency Highlights 2006-7

Ekati Site Visit in May 2007

Agency Consultation Initiatives

Agency Highlights 2006-7

Agency Director Visits Lutsel K'e

Agency Focus Since April 2007

- Review of 2006 monitoring reports
- Environmental workshop for members
- Participation in ICRP working group
- Document review (e.g. 2006 AEMP and WEMP, Wastewater and Processed Kimberlite Management Plan)
- Likely mediation regarding use of Separate Fund
- Community visits upon request

Overall Perspective on Ekati

- Improvements made to caribou survey area
- DNA monitoring of wolverine should produce data soon
- BHPB to release information key to future water quality prediction (LLCF report)
- Air quality monitoring program - collaboration required
- New and more BHPB environmental staff a positive development

THANK YOU

Summary • IEMIA AGM 2007

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Manager: Kevin O'Reilly

Environmental Analyst: Sean Kollee

Telephone: (867) 669-9141

Fax: (867) 669-9145

Email: monitor1@yk.com

Website: www.monitoringagency.net