

**Notes from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team
May 5th Meeting**

Participants:

John Witteman	BHP (via telephone)
Chris Hanks	BHP
Darren Unrau	DIAND Operations
Roxanne Beavers	DIAND Water Resources
Greg Cook	DIAND Environment & Conservation
Christa Domchek	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Tasha Stephenson	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (via telephone)
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
Alex Thomson	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
John Holman	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Absent:

Scott Williams	BHP
Katherine Silcock	DIAND Water Resources
Leslie Green	GNWT
Matt Bender	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

1. Round Table Updates:

BHP: John Witteman reported that the pump out of Misery Lake stopped on May 1st, 2000. 65,000 cubic metres have been removed, and 350,000 cubic metres remains. If the water is clear around June 1st 2000 after the ice has melted, the water will be pumped to Lac de Gras. BHP will approach the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) for authorization to dewater King Pond. Fourteen kilometres of the Misery Road is built, with a remaining 15 km to complete. Wildlife surveys have shown 3 grizzly bears, 10 caribou on Lac du Sauvage; one was a wolf kill. Allan Niptanatiak conducted the wolverine study. The *Impact 2000* report is complete. BHP is still awaiting the King Pond authorization from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The spring freshet seems to be starting early. The snow covers are off the culverts in the Panda Diversion Channel. Golder and Associates has been hired to complete the wildlife effects monitoring program. The snow survey is finished.

Tina Markovic said that the Environmental Assessment for the project extension of the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth Kimberlite Pipes was submitted to the MVLWB. The public meetings are being planned to introduce the project to the communities. Chris Hanks and John Witteman are planning to meet the Treaty 8 and have already met with the North Slave Métis Alliance. The MVLWB is planning on holding public meetings at the end of June 2000.

Chris Hanks reported that BHP is doing its own internal audit of the winter road. The standard operating procedure is to determine future liabilities. Pete

McCart, from the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency, is invited on next Friday's flyover. A summary of the audit will be provided to the Agency.

Alexandra Thomson reported that the Agency's 1999-2000 Annual report has been drafted. The seepage survey meeting to discuss acidic water around the waste rock storage areas was held. The BHP and Agency presentations are available at the Agency office. A follow-up letter was sent to MVLWB regarding the discussions regarding altering the water license requirements in light of low pH at 2 SNP stations. The Annual General Meeting will likely be held at the end of June for Society Members. The Agency is preparing comment on BHP's Annual Report, Impact 2000 report and the environmental assessment of the new kimberlite pipes.

Greg Cook reported that BHP's Annual Report under the Environmental Agreement and the water licence has been distributed and comments are due by June 23rd. The MVLWB will also be reviewing the report for conformity under the water license. Revisions to the Operating Environmental Management Plans will also go to the MVLWB. DIAND received the Impact 2000 Report but did not receive enough copies to send it out for distribution.

Roxanne Beavers said that the Water Resources section still has active files to close, but will remain informed about the BHP project. The inspection reports are not being sent to Water Resources since the change in regulatory environment.

Anne Wilson found the workshop on the seepage survey to be useful, and is looking forward to receiving copies of the presentations from BHP and the Board's consultant. On the expansion Environmental Assessment, Environment Canada will provide expertise in assessing effects on wildlife, air, climate, water, waste management and cumulative effects, not on socio-economic concerns.

Christa Domchek and Tasha Stephenson are jointly working on the BHP file. With respect to the call for proposals to access money under the Fish Habitat Compensation Fund (FHCF), the affected communities submitted two letters of intention, two project applications, and one more application is expected.

Tasha Stephenson reported that DFO's letter on King Pond is still with the legal division, but should be coming out in the next couple of days. Tasha also visited the EKATI™ to look at the clearing of snow from the Panda Diversion Channel.

Chris Hanks said that there are four archaeological sites at Misery Lake to be documented as per the heritage site terms and conditions of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. A survey will be completed before construction and a qualified archaeologist (in this case, Chris Hanks) will be at the site during the operations in order to ensure that mitigation is properly carried out and further sites will not be disturbed.

Darren Unrau reported that the seepage survey meeting was useful and he is awaiting the direction from the MVLWB before dealing with the compliance issue at the Panda waste rock storage area. The Misery dewatering operation has been shut down. There has been a change to the dewatering licence, and BHP has to go to the MVLWB with the modification. The original licence approved the use of clarifier and flocculants. The King Pond dewatering licence will also go to the MVLWB for an amendment to the Class B water licence, which may include changes to the Surveillance Network Program.

The Panda Diversion Channel snow clearing appears to have been effective. There are 13 holes to be drilled as a part of the bulk sample operations and another inspection will be conducted before a final cleanup of these sites. Tailings are flowing into Cell B, where some glaciation is occurring. Darren will visit it in the summer. Quarrying is being done to see how the tailings are settling as the pit fills. Restoration will begin on the old site beginning June 6th, 2000.

Next meeting will be on June 16th, 2000 at 1:15pm in the DFO Boardroom in Diamond Plaza.