

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7



August 3rd 2007

Sarah Baines
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
sbaines@wlvb.ca

Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program – August Lake Sampling

Dear Ms. Baines,

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) has reviewed and has concerns with BHP's proposal for August only lake sampling. We feel it is premature to change the sampling protocol until BHP has consulted with interested parties on critical effect size and type II error rate. It is important to understand the effect size that interested parties will accept and then determine if the current monitoring program is adequate to find this level of change. We feel this should be priority before any changes are made to the current Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program.

Our other specific concerns are as follows:

- We feel that details on the analysis conducted to test the feasibility of August only sampling should be provided as an appendix to the letter by BHP. The appendix should include the Rescan logo, detailed methodology and results, and should be signed by the specific individuals responsible for the accuracy of the results provided. We feel this is important in maintaining independence of the consultant, as well as accountability and credibility of the results provided.
- We feel Rescan should run a commonly used general linear model, such as an ANOVA, to test for any month by year interactions. The interaction variable would directly answer if it is necessary to sample each month individually by testing if each month behaves differently by year.
- We require a justification for the use of a Tobit model for the calculation of variances. We are not familiar with this model and require more details to determine if it is used adequately. What are the assumptions of this model and were these assumptions tested? Why was this model used instead of a simple comparison of each month's standard error?

Sincerely,

Sheryl Grieve
Manager, Lands and Resources
lands@nsma.net

CC: Laura Tyler – BHP (Laura.Tyler@bhpbilliton.com)