



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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Summary of Discussion from the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT) Meeting October 8th, 2004

Participants

Carole Mills	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA)
Sean Kollee	IEMA
Tamara Hamilton	Dep. of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND)
Robin Staples	DIAND
Malcolm Robb	DIAND
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada (EC)
Dave Fox	EC
Dave Balint	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
Chris Hanks	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Jane Howe	BHPB
Brent Murphy	BHPB
Gavin More	Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED)
Graham Veale	RWED
Sarah Baines	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)
Heather Mills	MVLWB

Chair – Tamara Hamilton

A presentation by Dave Fox (EC) on Air Quality modelling was delivered to the IACT group. It provided background on modelling in the prairie and northern region in Canada. It also described the northern modelling project currently underway. The presentation is available electronically by contacting the IEMA or EC, key points made related to the Ekati project included:

1) BHPB has not finished compiling its emission inventory. This is delaying both EC's regional modelling project and BHPB's local modeling project. Ekati is waiting for EC's meteorological model output but it requires the emission data prior to modeling. BHPB has stated it would be contacting EC.

2) EC strongly recommends that Ekati use the CALPUFF model and not ISC for its modeling project. The presentation discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the two models and described why CALPUFF is far superior to ISC.

Following the presentation a group discussion occurred.

BHPB suggested incorporating potential emissions from proposed base metal mines such as Izoc and induced development along the Bathurst port and road into the northern air quality-modelling project. Malcolm agreed to provide information on mines with complete scoping studies to Dave. Chris mentioned that about 5000 loads were sent up the road last year, less than in other years. The prediction for 2005 is 6000 loads, (may be more depending on De Beers' plans).

Modeling at Ekati

BHPB noted that it is waiting for data from EC. Dave replied that he plan to send data to BHPB shortly and that while BHPB is waiting for data from Dave, it has yet to complete its emission inventory which is needed by both Dave for his regional modelling project and by BHPB's consultants (Rescan) for the site specific modelling project.

Dave requested a GIS file of the centre line of the Winter Road and BHPB agreed. The traffic on the road would allow Dave to estimate the emissions. BHPB suggested that modelling Ekati on a 12km grid the mine would be too coarse and result in only two emissions sources, Misery Pit and the process plant. Dave replied that a 4km grid could be made for Ekati and that the precise detailed information could be beneficial. Carole mentioned the 2004 dust and air quality sampling season was delayed so urgency is needed to ensure the sampling can be done in 2005. Dave encouraged BHPB to select a CALPUFF model for its air quality-monitoring program rather than a less advanced model based on its effectiveness in modelling particulate deposition. BHPB replied that it would use CALPUFF provided the data appeared suitable.

BHPB presentation

Jane delivered an Ekati operations update:

- Atomization Project – project commissioning has been unsuccessful. BHPB is currently evaluating its next steps. Contractual issues prevent research from being conducted at this time.
- BHPB personnel changes and vacancies.
- Drilling in Fox Pit – BHPB is re-evaluating the potential for deep reserves, results will be known early in 2005. Baseline studies will be initiated around the Fox Pit in case pit enlargement becomes necessary.
- Koala and Misery Pits - planned to be complete in 2005 with initial Fox ore processed in 2006. Panda underground ore expected in 2006.
- Nitrate study – Peter McCart (IEMA ret.) declined to do a review of the study, EC in Ottawa will be conducting a review.
- TK and community activities - community visits have occurred and work on constructing Inuksuit to divert caribou around the core area of Ekati operations is underway. BHPB is monitoring this to determine its effectiveness.
- Caribou incident – a caribou was caught in the airstrip fence in mid August and was partially eaten by wolves. BHPB is unsure of if the caribou was driven into the fence or made its way there on its own.

- Dust suppression DL10 – water does not always wet the road enough to keep the dust down. Dust suppressant application was approved by the MVLWB. Suppressant is only applied on the core section of the road, not the sides or within 30m of a water body.
- Reports in progress - Wildlife dust suppressant interaction study
- LLCF 5 year review - Presented by Andy Robertson and Don Hayley (a summary report and lessons learned, 3 options for LLCF). Three meetings scheduled to take place.
- A&R plan working group to be chaired by MVLWB – group has technical focus but has yet to have its first meeting. Its objective is development of a new interim A&R plan. This fits into the Ekati life of mine planning process.
- Changes to spill reporting process.
- Unintentional draw down of Bearclaw Lake and DFO investigation and special effects study
- Ammonium Nitrate Storage – the existing storage structure has problems related to overfilling and prill leakage from the building soffits. BHPB is attempting to resolve this situation.
- DIAND draft environmental best practices report – may apply to industrial operations across the NWT and Nunavut. A presentation from Gartner Lee during Geoscience symposium is scheduled in November.

DIAND security update

Tamara met recently with Chris and Jane to discuss security. An update is necessary on cost variance and BHPB will insert underground data in the near future. There is currently a \$100,000,000 dollar variance between BHPB and DIAND estimates of mine liability. A table demonstrating this was provided at the public hearing, Tamara agreed to distribute this to IACT. Another column will be updated with the 2005 estimate. The current total held by DIAND consists of \$134 million, \$87 water licence and \$47 in *Environmental Agreement*. This information is available in a May 23rd, 2003 letter.

IEMA update

Carole mentioned that the water licences for diamond mines require objectives for reclaiming mine components. DIAND has approached IEMA to host a workshop to advance these discussions involving members of IEMA and EMAB. This workshop would be similar to what BHPB is proposing for its LLCF review. Depending on the approval of the proposal the event could be held in January of 2005. Generic objectives related to pits, roads, waste rock piles, etc. would be developed. These could then become more specific to individual projects, at that point each company would be able to step in and develop specific objectives and criteria for its mine components. The Agency plans to host a three-day workshop. Brent noted that for the Nanasivik Mine this process took almost three years to finalize its closure. How can generic criteria for diamond mine components be developed and not have them apply to all sorts of mines? Carole replied that the workshop would allow excluding mine components that diamond mines do not have such as chemical tailings ponds.

Water licence update

Sarah mentioned that MVLWB staff would meet with the MVLWB legal council to discuss the draft water licence. Distribution is planned for October 22nd. A two-week review period will ensue after which all comments would be immediately circulated. Another short review will be offered following receipt of reviewer comments. Bob Wooley will be chairing first meeting of the Ekati A&R working group, but this will be put off until mid February of 2005. The MVLWB retains the option to extend the water licence by 60 days and this may happen. The Minister of DIAND must approve this sort of request.

Agency Update

The Agency annual general meeting is planned for November 5th, 2004. Quorum is required for successful consensus decisions to be made at the event. The Agency also plans its annual report distribution shortly.

In August of 2004 the community of Kugluktuk hosted a community consultation session. The Agency delivered a plain language overview of environmental monitoring programs and results at Ekati and followed this with a more technical session. Both sessions were well attended. Interest among the participants included questions related to fish and water quality.

At the next agency board meeting some time may be set aside for a discussion on cumulative effects on caribou related and the potential contribution of Ekati.

The Agency also conducted an extensive review of DIAND's reclamation guidelines and sent in detailed comments.

Next meeting

March 11th, 2005