

**Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT)  
EKATI Diamond Project**

**May 28, 1999  
RWED Boardroom - 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Scotia Building  
Meeting # 17**

**Attendance:**

Julie Dahl	DFO
Steve Harbicht	DOE
Marie Adams	DIAND - E&C
Shannon Pagotto	DIAND - Waters
Darren Unrau	absent (at mine site)
Scott Williams	BHP
John Witteman	BHP
Chris Hanks	BHP
Janice Traynor	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
Kelly Robertson	GNWT - RWED

**Scott:** Correction to Minutes. Should read,

1. "Sewage is now being routed to **Koala Lake**. As soon as freshette occurs, this will be pumped out to **Long Lake**."
2. Comment attributed to Scott should be to John. (Ken Minns from DFO is developing a strategy paper covering NNL and related issues).
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> page: Comment attributed to Kelly should read: "Kelly will check with Wildlife regarding data availability for collared caribou. She will make sure BHP receives the maps referred to."

Remainder of minutes accepted as presented.

**Scott:** Inquired as to the acceptability of CDs as opposed to hard copy reports. DOE is ok with CDs. However Water Board still needs paper copies. Agency ok with CDs.

BHP proposes to release the combined Annual report required for Environmental Agreement and Annual report for Water Licence by March 30<sup>th</sup> in future which is the due date under the Water licence. (The EA annual report is due April 30 of each year). Wants reaction from all on this.

Also, the required Environmental Impact Report (3-year comprehensive rollup) is required under sec. 5.2 of the Env. Agreement. BHP has written to DIAND, GNWT and the Agency suggesting the content of the Impact Report.

Communications: Discussion on recent correspondence from the Agency regarding timely provision of information. Scott needs a note from DOE, DFO and Water Board regarding what exactly is to be on the public record and what is internal not for release.

**Unidentified:** The comment was made (not sure by whom) that draft notes from Water Board TAC meetings did not go on public registry or to the Agency as they were recommendations to the Water Board and not yet Board recommendations or decisions.

**Marie:** Question on status of information to be provided to Water Board regarding ice core dam being built at King Pond.

**Scott:** Feels the construction constitutes a 'modification' and thus no amendment to the water licence should be required. However he will provide more information on the construction of this dam and Marie will distribute.

Sewage re-route to Long Lake completed. Very close to freshete. Water travelled down the diversion ditch to old Koala. Had an ice dam build up in the Diversion Channel south of Panda crossing and water overflowed the banks of the Diversion Channel and made its way back down the old channel into Koala. Will be clearing culverts in an effort to get the ditch open.

Wildlife program up and running on time. Caribou already through the site. Water programs will start soon. 2 pumps going around accommodations area for site drainage going into 2 ponds built to capture this water. So everything ends up eventually at the processing plant.

Sable, Pigeon, Beartooth

**Julie:** Question on initial plans for NNL - new pipes. Scott to check on this. Julie (referring to minutes from last meeting) will check with Ken Minns (DFO) on strategy paper he is preparing.

**Scott:** Had first meeting with Review Board. They wanted all info on the project and were provided with the EIS and copies of all references. BHP has assigned Tina Markovic to work on the new pipes project.

(General discussion among members on the value of having the EIRB at the IACT meetings for info/communications purposes. Agreement that the Chair will send on an invitation to the EIRB to join the IACT).

**Chris:** Elders have been taken up to the site and have visited both EKATI and Diavik sites. Visits will continue through the summer with elders working with archeologists. Will help increase understanding of the operation. Note. North Slave Metis not available for this last visit.

Cell D - fish out - being planned. Timing is 4 weeks. 2" mesh being used. Big difference between 2" and 1.5" mesh. Intent is to leave behind the breeding stock for 'in situ' studies (requested by Anne Wilson - DOE). Cell C data is available. Chris to make sure DOE has this data.

Elders will be brought in to observe water on site, drainage and discharge to processing plant. Will be trying silver reflective tape or wolf scent to divert caribou. The berm around the pit keeps animals away but if elders are interested, will try rope fencing. Rope fencing won't keep animals out but in a panic they will be able to get through without hurting themselves.

**Julie:** Referred to letter sent by BHP which made a valid point that fish capture for research purposes can have its own impact and stressors on the population. So DFO is taking a close look at licences to see if baseline studies have more of an impact than the project itself.

**Scott:** Community visits in last weeks of June early July planned to discuss EA report and project description for new pipes. Letter regarding expansion has gone out to all IBA recipients.

**Janice:** Agency Board meeting April 16-18 - directors met with just about everyone in the room. Dave Milburn reported on the Coppermine study. Editing delays in annual report hope to have this before AGM. AGM planned for July 8, 1999 - evening plus a Board meeting. Possible site visit on 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. Directors would like to get together in a more informal meeting with members of society for the Agency —includes IACT members and Aboriginal groups.

**Marie:** What about meeting with RA s and BHP in a single session similar to IACT as part of the regular Board meeting.

**Janice:** Not sure that would work, questions to DOE, DIAND etc are very specific to their mandates.

**Scott:** Budget discussions proceeding well with negotiating group comprised of Red Pedersen, Bill Ross, Hal Mills.

Note: Geonorth is severing their contract with the Agency in August but will assist in hiring new staff.

**Steve:** Update on Long Lake Study. Sampling of lake water is out for evaluation. Results to be passed on to BHP. U of S researchers are testing tailings from site. Summary of last years work is available and will be passed on to BHP and DIAND as co-funders of the study. Also, draft of this year's workplan will be shared with same and will also go to P. McCart of the Agency. DIAND will be approached again this year for funding and lab services as part of their contribution to the study.

**Chris:** Tissue samples available from archives.

**Steve:** These will be useful. U of S concentrating on water and zooplankton, so DOE will concentrate on benthic community.

Question to Scott on Misery road.

Answer: Pre-stripping will take approx. 2 years.

**Shannon:** General questions on tonnage, relative value.

**Scott:** 9,000 tons /day .....= approx. 9,000 carats (milling at this rate). 250K tons / month. Largest stone 48 carats (but this was not a good specimen). 24 carats is quite good. Average. 3-8 carats. Carat = \$124 - \$146 US /carat. (Average \$135 US/carat). Sold as gem packets. Packets makeup geared to clients needs.

Achieved full production last month.

Invitation to EKATI for next IACT meeting scheduled for July 13, 1999. Scott/John to make arrangements.

Meeting adjourned approx. 3.30pm