



Annual Report 2001-2002

Independent Environmental
Monitoring Agency



Annual Report 2001 - 2002



“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.”



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Listening to Our Members

- Throughout the year we have met with communities and our members.
- Participate in monthly IACT Meetings
- We believe our communication efforts have improved
- Will keep looking for opportunities to improve communications (i.e., poster – available for all our members)



Some of Our Meetings....

- May 2001; Agency met with Aboriginal Groups re: DFO Compensation Fund
- June 2001: Agency AGM
- August 2001: Chair met with KIA, Manager attended Dogrib Treaty 11 Council Assembly
- September 2001: Tim Byers met with LDFN and YKDFN
- December 2001: Pete McCart met with Lutsel K'e members re: Stark lake
- January 2001: Manager met with Lutsel K'e members re: Environmental Agreement review
- March 2001: Directors and Staff visited Lutsel K'e and met with Dogrib reps in YK and Rae

Traditional Knowledge



- Challenges exist for both Aboriginal members and BHPB in incorporating TK into project environmental management
- BHPB's support of community mapping projects appears to be encouraging; however, the link between these projects and environmental management at Ekati is not clear
- Site visits good opportunity for community members to raise concerns; however, BHPB and communities need to find a mutually acceptable method of reporting and acting on issues raised



Traditional Knowledge Recommendation

The Agency recommends that:

1. “BHPB should work with aboriginal people to develop a method of documenting the suggestions and concerns of aboriginal people visiting the site.”



Wildlife



- Wildlife monitoring and management continues to improve
- Would like to see increased focus on wolverine monitoring
- Counting traffic on haul roads is important



Wildlife Recommendations

The Agency recommends that:

2. “The wolverine track survey should be expanded to four or five times per season. At the same time, BHPB should develop and implement the scent station monitoring program.
3. “The data relating to caribou abundance and distance from the mine infrastructure should be analysed and presented independently for the northern migration and post calving period”



Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program



- Aquatics monitoring improving
- Dust may be affecting lakes and streams
- Increasing levels of metals, nutrients and dissolved solids being released from Long Lake
- Effects being noticed downstream – not yet serious



AEMP Recommendations

The Agency recommends that:

4. “BHPB should expand the AEMP to include Leslie Lake”

Note: Also recommendation of BHPB’s consultant in recently released AEMP Re-evaluation and Refinement Report (Rescan October 2002)



Special Effects Monitoring Program

- Kodiak Lake Sewage Study
 - Recovery continues, but lake remains more eutrophic than original conditions
 - Agency supports adding Kodiak Lake to AEMP.
 - BHPB needs to look at causes of elevated nitrate in Little Lake
- Panda Diversion Channel
 - Channel continues to be used by fish; however, slow growth rates are a concern
 - Continued research and monitoring is a priority



SEMP Recommendation

The Agency recommends:

5. “BHPB should determine the cause of elevated nitrates within Little Lake.
6. “BHPB should conduct follow-up sampling in Little Lake within three or four years to confirm that the lake has recovered completely from nutrient inputs
7. “BHPB should continue monitoring fish in the Panda Diversion Channel in 2002
8. “BHPB should develop a conceptual plan for the flooding of the Panda and Koala pits, and either the long term maintenance or abandonment of the Panda Diversion Channel.”



Waste Rock



PANDA WASTE ROCK

- Agency continues to be concerned about poor quality seeps on north-eastern side
- BHPB should continue to pay special attention to this area



Waste Rock



MISERY WASTE ROCK

- Ammonia levels in seeps have reached unacceptable levels
- BHPB must quickly identify these areas in order to implement contingency measures



Waste Rock

COARSE KIMBERLITE REJECTS

- Acidic waters detected seeping from pile.
- Not originally predicted
- Monitoring and Analysis (including mineralogy) should continue



Waste Rock Recommendations

The Agency recommends that:

9. “BHPB should conduct a thorough mineralogical examination of all kimberlite types.

10. “Next year the seepage survey report should explicitly highlight any occurrences of non-compliant seeps for easy reference.”



Wastewater and Tailings



- Toxicity Studies valuable: have pointed to residual flocculants/coagulants as potentially cause of toxicity
- Concern about increasing salts, nutrients and dissolved salts being released from Long Lake; especially as little is known about the potential impact of dissolved salts



Additions to the Mine



- Agency intervened at the Fox, and Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth hearings; most issues raised related to wildlife, waste rock piles and security provisions
- Provided comments on Sable haul road permit



Air Quality

- Snow sampling shows Kodiak Lake appears to have been affected by dust
- Dust may be affecting water quality of other nearby lakes
- BHPB needs to carry out more detailed studies of where dust and air pollutants are coming from and how they can be reduced



Air Quality Recommendation

- The Agency recommends that:
 11. “BHPB should establish a dust monitoring program along the Misery road similar to the one in place along the Sable road”



Reclamation

- BHPB's studies are providing good information – but far from finished
- BHPB needs to look closely at issue of contaminant uptake in plants grown on tailings
- BHPB, government and regulators must develop a clear and acceptable (to all parties) method of determining security
- BHPB, government and regulators must develop clear reclamation criteria



Reclamation Recommendation

The Agency recommends that:

12. “BHPB should provide estimates of liability for the Ekati Diamond Mine™, that do not include the assumption that progressive reclamation has been carried out.

13. “The company, regulators, government and other interested agencies promptly begin a process to develop clearly defined reclamation completion criteria.”



Watching the Regulators



- Agency was very concerned about lack of DIAND inspections
- DFO and MVLWB doing fairly good job
- MVLWB needs to continue to clarify its rules and procedures
- DFO needs to resolve concerns about implementation of the Fish Habitat Compensation Fund



Cumulative Effects

- Concern about food waste management last year – largely resolved.
- Concept of Regional Watchdog supported by Agency, we will offer advice and support where appropriate
- Worked with EMAB on a number of levels e.g., this boardroom, proposed joint workshops



THANK-YOU



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