



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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PO Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

File: Ekati Diamond Mine - EA
CIDM273786

October 24, 2008

Mr. Ricus Grimbeek
President and Chief Operating Officer
BHPBilliton, Ekati Diamond Inc.
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 3T1

By FAX: (867) 669-9293

**Response to the BHPBilliton Ekati Diamond Mine 2007 Environmental
Agreement Annual Report**

Dear Mr. Grimbeek,

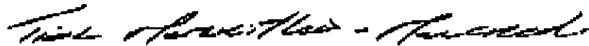
The Responsible Ministers of the Federal Government, the Government of the Northwest Territories - Environment and Natural Resources, the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency, and the Aboriginal Parties have reviewed the above-noted Annual Report pursuant to Article V section 5.1 of the BHPBilliton Environmental Agreement and have indicated to my staff that the report is satisfactory. I have attached copies of comments from the Government of the Northwest Territories, Environment Canada, and the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency for your review and response to the authors.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is encouraged by BHPB's increased consultation efforts and recent improvements to several of the environmental programs at the Ekati Diamond Mine.

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Please contact Mr. David Livingstone, Director of Renewable Resources and Environment at 669-2637 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Trish Merrithew-Mercredi,
Regional Director General
Northwest Territories

- Encl.: Letter from Government of the Northwest Territories - Environment and Natural Resources - Attachment 1
Letter from Environment Canada - Attachment 2
Letter from Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency - Attachment 3
- C.c. Gary A. Bohnet, Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources
Fax-873-0221
Dr. Bill Ross, Chair, Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
Fax-867-669-9145
Mr. Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment-North, EPO
Fax-867-873-8185
Mr. Bruce Hanna, Habitat Biologist, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Fax-669-4940
Ms. Laura Tyler, Manager, BHPBilliton- Fax-669-9293
David Livingstone, Director, Renewable Resources and Environment
Annette Hopkins, Director, Operations
Malcolm Robb, Acting Director, Mineral Development and Petroleum Resources
Grand Chief George Mackenzie, Tlicho Government, Fax-867-392-6381
Chief Steven Nitah, Lutselk'e First Nation, Fax-867-370-3010
Chief Eddie Sangris (Dettah), Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Fax-867-873-5969
Chief Fred Sangris (Ndilo), Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Fax-867-873-8545
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Métis Alliance, Fax-669-7442
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Fax-867-982-3311
Zabey Nevitt, Executive Director, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board
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