



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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January 31, 2012

Nicole McCutchen
Manager, Wildlife Research and Management
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9

Dear Ms. McCutchen

Re: Regional Grizzly Bear Monitoring

The Agency was initially very pleased with the outcome of the November 2, 2011 Grizzly Bear Monitoring Workshop and BHPB's leadership in proposing a jointly funded regional grizzly bear hair snagging program. There appeared to be promise that a coordinated, regional program was being developed and would be implemented in 2012. However, subsequent letters appear to indicate otherwise.

We have reviewed BHPB's December 12, 2011 letter, along with one from Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. dated December 14, 2011. It appears to us that BHPB is prepared to proceed with an expanded grizzly bear hair snagging program on its own in 2012 and that other diamond mines may join in a regional program in 2013. We would like confirmation of this understanding.

If a regional program is not proposed until 2013, we would like a clear explanation of why it is not possible to begin this program in 2012. We are frustrated by the glacial progress for developing a regional program; there has been no effective grizzly bear monitoring in the Slave Geological Province since the diamond boom of the early 1990s –almost 20 years.

We look forward to greater clarity of what is planned for 2012 and hope to hear about an effective and coordinated regional approach beginning this summer. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Ross".

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members

Keith McLean, BHP Billiton

Mark Fenwick, Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board

Dave White, Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency