

About the Agency

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency was formed in 1997 to act as a public watchdog for the Ekati Diamond Mine™. We are governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by:

- Akaitcho Territory Government (represented by Lutsel K'e and Yellowknives Dene First Nations)
- Dogrib Treaty 11 Council
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- Federal Government
- Government of the Northwest Territories, and
- BHP Billiton Diamonds



Agency Mandate

- ✓ Review, report and make recommendations on BHPB and government reports and plans
- ✓ Make recommendations on the integration of traditional knowledge and experience of Aboriginal Peoples into environmental plans and programs
- ✓ Participate as an intervenor in regulatory processes
- ✓ Provide an accessible public repository of all environmental information relevant to the project
- ✓ Provide ways of distributing information to Aboriginal Peoples and the public
- ✓ Provide an effective means to bring to BHPB and governments the concerns of Aboriginal Peoples and the general public

A PUBLIC WATCHDOG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE™



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Agency Board of Directors and staff

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Environmental Analyst

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Bill Ross
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For further information on the recommendations please refer to the Technical or Plain English Annual Report available through our office or website.

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Summary of Recommendations from the 2003-2004 Annual Report



A PUBLIC WATCHDOG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE™



Recommendations from the 2003-2004 Annual Report



An elder reviewing the Agency's Annual Report



Left to right: Lake Trout; Wolverine DNA sampling station
PHOTO: R. PATTENDEN, MAINSTREAM AQUATICS LTD.
PHOTO: ROBERT MULDER, GNWT



Panda Pit 2003

Wildlife

1. BHPB should consult with RWED in order to re-design the wolverine monitoring program based on hair samples and DNA-based identification of wolverine individuals.
2. The monitoring of land breeding birds should be done every other year rather than every year.

Risk to Wildlife from Exposure to Processed Kimberlite

3. BHPB should undertake a new assessment of effects on wildlife from exposure to processed kimberlite based on the comments from RWED and IEMA.

Abandonment and Reclamation

4. BHPB should produce a first draft of Ekati-specific closure criteria within one year. The next step should be for the company, government and other affected parties to meet in order to finalize closure criteria for Ekati.
5. The principles for progressive reclamation security should be incorporated into the water licence when the licence is considered for renewal later in 2004.

Traditional Knowledge

6. BHPB should make more explicit efforts to incorporate the use of TK into monitoring, reclamation and other mine operations and report on its usage in these activities.

Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

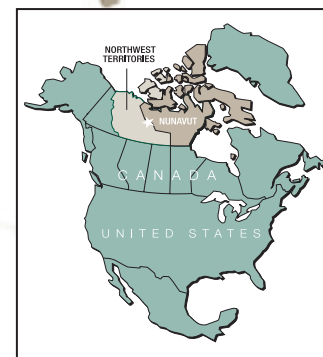
7. BHPB, DIAND, RWED and others should initiate discussions on how to monitor the regional cumulative impacts on the Bathurst caribou.



Reclaiming Fred's Channel at Ekati

Environmental Workshops

8. BHPB should reinstate its annual environmental workshops in February of each year.
9. The MVLWB should add a provision to the renewed water licence ensuring that annual reviews of environmental monitoring programs are undertaken by BHPB in a collaborative, collective process with the affected parties.



Bathurst Caribou herd

Ekati Diamond Mine