

**BHP Billiton Canada Inc.**  
**Operator of the EKATI Diamond Mine**



BHP Billiton EKATI Diamond Mine  
#1102 4920-52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yellowknife NT Canada X1A 3T1  
Tel 867 669 9292 Fax 867 669 9293  
bhpbilliton.com

June 11, 2012

Tim Byers (Director) and Kevin O'Reilly (Executive Director)  
Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency  
Box 1192  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8

Dear Mr. Byers and Mr. O'Reilly:

**Re: Other Potential Contaminants of Concern: Endocrine-disrupting Compounds (EDCs) at EKATI**

We would like to thank you for providing us your comments on the *Summary Evaluation and Proposed Work Plan for the Fish Component of the 2012 Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program* that was submitted to the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board in December of 2011. In response to your concern expressed in the Review Comment Table (IEMA, comment #8) and your follow up paper entitled *Endocrine-disruption Compounds at EKATI? A Discussion Paper*, dated March 27, 2012, an initial survey of water was conducted to test for the presence of 17 $\alpha$ -ethinylestradiol (EE2) at EKATI.

In April 2012, water samples were obtained from the Sewage Treatment Plant and Surveillance Network Program station 1616-11 (the control site for this study) and were sent to Maxxam Analytics in Burnaby, BC for analysis. Results showed that EE2 levels in the two samples were lower than both the laboratory's detection limit (0.2 ng/L) and the current water quality guideline (0.5 ng/L) established for British Columbia. Moreover, results were also substantially lower than the treatment concentrations (5-6 ng/L) used in the Kidd et al. (2007) study that initially triggered your concern for EKATI.

Given these recent results we believe that no further sampling regarding EDCs is necessary and that EDCs are not a concern for the receiving environment at EKATI. We hope that we have addressed your concerns to your satisfaction. Should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact Erin Forster, Environment Advisor - Fisheries and Aquatics at [erin.k.forster@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:erin.k.forster@bhpbilliton.com) or 867-880-2115 and Claudine Lee at [claudine.a.lee@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:claudine.a.lee@bhpbilliton.com) or 867-880-2232.

Yours sincerely,

**BHP Billiton Canada Inc.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudine Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'C' and 'L'.

**Claudine Lee**

Superintendent – Environment Operations

EKATI Diamond Mine