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)
- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- Government of Canada
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- BHP Billiton Canada Inc.

**Agency Mandate**

- Review, report and make recommendations on BHPB and government reports and plans
- Make recommendations on the addition of Traditional Knowledge and experience of Aboriginal peoples into environmental plans and programs
- Participate as an intervenor in regulatory processes
- Provide an accessible public library 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

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

**Agency Board of Directors and Staff**


**How To Reach Us**

**INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY**

**Website:** www.monitoringagency.net

For further information on the recommendations please refer to the Technical or Plain Language Annual Report available through our office or website.
2009-10 Recommendations (for the complete recommendations and responses please see our Annual Report on our website or contact us)

1. Recommendation

The Agency recommends that BHP, ideally in collaboration with ENR and other mines, complete its diamond mines wildlife monitoring review and develop an improved Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP), including addressing recommendations from the September 2009 workshop, evaluating monitoring program objectives, and developing innovative methodologies and study designs to address these objectives.

**BHPB Response:** BHPB has committed to continuing the WEMP review process and has suggested two workshops in 2010 to facilitate technical and community collaboration with the aim of developing an improved WEMP.

2. Recommendation

We recommend that BHPB invite all interested parties to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) workshop to be held no later than spring 2011. This will make the results available in time for BHPB’s preparation of the 2012 EIR and hopefully avoid disagreement on future EIRs. The workshop should better define the purpose and focus of the EIR, review the methodology used (especially for determining significance of impacts), better define adaptive management in the context of the Ekati Mine, and such other matters as others may contribute.

**BHPB Response:** BHPB has committed to an open “pre-EIR” meeting in 2011 to kick off the 2012 EIR process. The workshop could address the items identified by JENIA as well as other topical issues.

3. Recommendation

DIAND Response: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) supports this recommendation and will participate in any workshops or other discussions concerning the development of the 2012 EIR.

BHPB should carry out and make public a 10-year review of its use of Traditional Knowledge (TK) in its environmental plans and programs. This review should document how the company has given full consideration to the incorporation of TK into environmental plans and programs, the successes and lessons learned from the TK Studies, and what changes or improvements in adaptive management can be attributed to TK.

**BHPB Response:** BHPB recognizes the importance of the inclusion of Traditional Knowledge into our environmental practices and designs. There are a number of past and current successes in which BHPB is proud to have played a part. BHPB sees better value in pursuing forward-looking opportunities rather than a retrospective review. This approach inherently incorporates past experience in a constructive manner.