

Notes from the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team June 16th Meeting, Javaroma

Participants:

Chris Hanks	BHP
Tina Markovic	BHP
Darren Unrau	DIAND Operations
Roxanne Beavers	DIAND Water Resources
Greg Cook	DIAND Environment & Conservation
Christa Domchek	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Alex Thomson	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
John Holman	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Absent:

Matt Bender	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Katherine Silcock	DIAND Water Resources
Tasha Stephenson	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Scott Williams	BHP
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
John Witteman	BHP

1. Round Table Updates:

BHP: Tina Markovic reported that the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) on Sable, Pigeon, and Beartooth is complete, and that Louie Azzolini has received comments on the Environmental Assessment Report from Regulatory Authorities for the conformity review for the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board both sent two representatives to EKATI™ for a site visit. Tina will respond to the conformity review submitted by the Government of the Northwest Territories via email and then a letter. A public meeting organized by BHP was also held in Yellowknife on the project and EAR.

Alexandra Thomson asked what were the concerns.

Tina Markovic answered jobs and training, distribution of taxes and the process of the Environmental Assessment Report. Roland Semjanovs from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board also made a presentation. Tina's division will concentrate now on responding to Information Requests, invite the communities to request BHP's presence on public information sessions as part of the environmental assessment.

Chris Hanks said that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board has responded to the Seepage Survey Meeting that the Agency hosted, by developing a monitoring program. BHP will be signing a contract with the North Slave Métis Alliance on Phase II Traditional Knowledge work. The Traditional

Knowledge working group is moving very slowly. Chris will talk with the Dogrib Treaty 11 on June 19th. Summer programs are underway at EKATI™. The spring freshet occurred yesterday, and the diversion ditch is full of grayling.

DFO will visit the site with DIAND on June 20th. Christa Domchek and Peter Cott will meet with Derek Chubb. The Agency may be able to fly up on June 27th for its annual site visit.

The primary crusher is being rebuilt. Foundations are being made longer at the mill site and truck shop in preparation for pre-stripping Koala and in anticipation of increased production. The Misery Road should be finished in July. Bathurst caribou cows went through the site a couple of weeks ago and now the infertile bulls are the only caribou on-site. EKATI™ was also closed during BHP's annual spring cleanup.

Roxanne Beavers said that she is participating with Greg Cook on project reviews. She has compiled the comments on the application for the Fox amendment. Last week she met with Matt Bender of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in order to determine the next step in the amendment review process. The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board will handle the request from this point on, including completion of the Preliminary Screening.

Tina Markovic asked what that application was screened for specifically.

Roxanne Beavers replied that the type and placement of the discharge point is being examined. The licensing review, however, will apply to the whole application.

Tina Markovic replied that there is no water license for the Fox amendment, yet, and that a Type "A" license is required.

Alexandra Thomson pointed out that the amendment request was for dewatering and mining Fox.

Roxanne Beavers assured Alexandra that after the screening of the change in dewatering method for Fox Lake is completed, the amendment request will enter the regulatory phase. At this stage, more detailed information will likely be required from BHP for a technical review administered by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board of this amendment request. All technical comments and concerns noted during the screening phase of the project will be brought forward. In addition, as this is an amendment to a Type A Water Licence, Sec. 21 of the NWT Waters Act states that a public hearing must be scheduled (but can be cancelled if there are no public concerns).

Darren Unrau mentioned that nothing is coming out of the waste piles except for snowmelt. The spring seepage survey was done. One thing to note is that there are two more drainages into Bearclaw Lake because the waste piles are placed further north. The diversion channel was very clear. Decanting is proceeding well. The tailings area will be tested for vegetation growth in Cell B, and some of it may be fenced off to keep out the browsers. Last year there was a big flush of water in the freshet, but the snow covers seemed to have prevented it this year. The ground is drying up around the site, and summer exploration programs are beginning. Winter diamond drilling is over, and water sampling has begun.

John Holman said that his last day of work is June 30th. He attended the annual conference of the Ontario Association for Impact Assessment in Ottawa June 1 & 2, 2000 as part of his *On the Job Training Program* (Education, Culture and Employment). He is helping to organize the Agency's annual general meeting at the end of June, and providing the directors with administrative support.

Greg Cook pointed out that there have been no comments submitted yet on BHP's Annual Report, nor *Impact 2000*, under the Environmental Agreement.

Chris Hanks said that an errata sheet had been mailed out for *Impact 2000*.

Christa Domchek said that Tasha Stephenson is on holidays and that the EAR and conformity reports have kept her busy. The Fish Habitat Compensation Fund is taking about $\frac{3}{4}$ of her time. The advisory committee has evaluated the proposals and made recommendations for approval, but the final decision rests with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The proposals cover the area but none cover the Coppermine drainage. Phase I of the fund examines assessment only. The public call for proposal deadline is June 28th 2000. The Agency can comment on these, too, it wants.

Alexandra Thomson said that Agency chairperson Red Pedersen made a presentation on June 13th to a board meeting of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. As part of its annual general meeting, the Agency has scheduled a session at the Smokehouse Café in N'dilo at 2 p.m. on June 26th to discuss the Mcleod Institute's evaluation of the Agency. Society members and interviewees have been invited to attend. The annual report and newsletter are being printed and will be available at the AGM. The Agency is reviewing BHP's annual report, as well as *Impact 2000*. Letters were sent in regards to the Fox amendment.

Next meeting will be on August 25th 2000 at 1:15pm at BHP offices.