

DRAFT

**Notes from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team
November 19th Meeting**

Participants:

Scott Williams	BHP
Jim Excell	BHP
Tina Markovic	BHP
John Witteman	BHP
Chris Hanks	BHP
Marie Adams	DIAND Lands and Environment
Greg Cook	DIAND Lands and Environment
Darren Unrau	DIAND Operations
Shannon Pagotto	DIAND Water Resources
Roxanne Beavers	DIAND Water Resources
Julie Dahl	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Alex Thomson	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA)
John Holman	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA)

Absent:

Ann Wilson Department of the Environment

1. **The notes from the last meeting were accepted.**

2. **Marie Adams' Secondment:** Marie Adams reported that she has been seconded to a position implementing the Environmental Impact Review Board and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. Therefore she will not attend the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IAC) meetings for the next six months. In her place Greg Cook will represent the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). In an unrelated update, the DIAND response to the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's annual report is late but forthcoming.

3. **Round Table Updates:**

John Witteman reported that the *Impact 2000* report is proceeding smoothly, and will be released by April 30th, 2000. It will be issued in plain English but fully reference all data and technical reports. The goal is to have it serve as a whole ecosystem report. No interim review will occur, and if the report is found to be unacceptable, complainants will have to refer to dispute resolution clause in the Environmental Agreement.

BHP continues to receive requests for information on BHP site operations. With the communications expertise among IACT members, John finds it troubling that schools and other members of the public are still uninformed about the diamond operations.

Sections on Waste Rock and Treatment of Waste Rock Water have been added to BHP's Operating Environmental Monitoring Program (OEMP). The workshops on the Aquatic Environmental Monitoring Program (AEMP) and Wildlife Environmental Monitoring Program (WEMP) workshops are still required for the report's completion. BHP would like to conclude the report and distribute it by the end of February 2000. There are plans to issue future reports

Deleted: Tina Markovic, . BHP†

as summaries, with the technical reports referenced if this information is required. Also, such reports will be on CD-ROM, with some exceptions. This was acceptable to the IACT members.

Jim Excell reported that the number of participants in the February AEMP and WEMP workshops are increasing. There will be simultaneous translation at the meetings in Chipewyan, Dogrib and Inuit. A poster session will begin the workshops and respective monitoring programs examined over subsequent days. Day One may have some consultants presenting reports and results. Day Two may concentrate on refining and presenting this year's programs. A slide show for Elders will be included to offer definitions and detailed explanations of the applicable mining jargon. The workshops will begin at 0900 and discussions will be reserved for the afternoons.

Chris Hanks said that a dinner for the Elders is also being planned as a debriefing at the conclusion of the workshops, giving them a chance to ask questions and explore further discussions.

Scott Williams said that the annual workshops are growing and it will be impossible to accommodate if it gets any bigger. He will step out of the scientific sessions to allow the researchers to field questions in those areas.

Marie Adams asked why BHP took out newspaper advertisements giving information about the new kimberlite pipes.

Chris Hanks responded that it is a stipulation of the Environmental Agreement. Four responses have been received to date.

Marie Adams asked that BHP add all DIAND employees in her section on its email list for announcing upcoming public meetings.

Chris Hanks reported that there is an upcoming community consultation in Kugluktuk with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA). It is using the funding that DIAND provided.

Marie Adams confirmed that the KIA had received funding under the Interim Resource Management Act's envelope, along with the Dogrib Treaty 11, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the North Slave Metis Alliance. The funding is meant for commenting on the Environmental Assessment.

Tina Markovic reported that BHP wants the Environmental Assessment report completed in mid- to late February, and plans a brief and succinct document. They are also waiting for the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's *Compliance Report*. BHP is scheduled to share the Environmental Assessment results with the communities during March to April 2000. BHP also owes the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency a response to its July 9th, 1999 letter on its Annual Report. That will be forthcoming.

Darren Unrau reported that he visited Ekati on December 3rd, 1999 and became weathered in for three days. He noted that any one visiting the site for a day should bring along a small bag in case weather prevents a return flight. He reported that:

- Dyke B was completed to the correct height;
- Decanting in Cell B ended in November 1999 due to freezing;
- Koala continues to be pumped out and pre-stripping will begin soon;
- Kodiak and ?? lakes continue to be aeriated;
- The Misery Road construction continues, and;
- Four different bulk samples from four different lakes – Misery, Kodiak, Sable and Cougar – are being taken. The Box Car Camp will be moved from Gazelle to Misery Lake for this work.

Tina Markovic said that the technical report on the water restraining structures will be included in the Environmental Assessment report.

John Witteman added that the road should reach Misery Lake by June 2000. A crew of 30 to 40 people will begin pre-stripping and dewatering will begin in March 2000 and will continue until water quality deteriorates (above 25 TSS). He explained that dewatering in the winter seems to be more effective because the ice cover allows TSS levels to remain at its regulated discharge level. This is probably due to the prevention of wave and wind action. A new nine-million-litre fuel tank is being installed on site. Panda will likely be mined until 2002 or 2003.

Julie Dahl reported that the Panda Channel overflow remediation plan appears as if it works. Only a cursory review has been done, but the channel has been dredged and refilled with packed material. The King Pond documents are being reviewed. A response will probably be issued next week.

Alexandra Thomson introduced John Holman, the new Administrative Assistant at the Agency. Since last meeting with IACT members, the Agency has held a Board Meeting and an open house. The Agency continues to work on the *Compliance Report* for BHP's Impact 2000 document. Alex asked for a copy of the Panda Diversion Channel Remediation report, and would be happy to receive other reports as they come in.

Shannon Pagoto reported that she has received a report from the Internal Dyke B and still awaits the drawings. The drawings may be still with the Northwest Territories Water Board or in transit to her office from the Board.

Darren Unrau pointed out that he has a copy of the drawings.

Marie Adams reported that the Ottawa Natural Resources Canada representative, John Ramsey, has moved on to other things. Taking over for him will be Maria Ooi.

Chris Hanks reported that the Environmental Assessment will be in plain English and may be on tape, but that is being evaluated.

Tina Markovic added that the document will have Dogrib and Chipewyan translations included in the back.

Chris Hanks said that the English version will be the definitive text. It must be suitable to both the communities and the general public.

Scott Williams informed the IACT members that in the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's December board meeting he received agreement to publish both the Environmental Assessment and the Impact 2000 report in one volume.

Chris Hanks mentioned that BHP has responded to a request from Lutsel K'e for a Traditional Knowledge (TK) Working Group meeting. They, in turn, have not yet responded.

Marie Adams speculated that it might be because they are busy with the Diavik project.

John Witteman asked whether any industry representative were on the Lands and Advisory Committee (LAC).

Marie Adams replied that LAC membership is reserved for the federal agencies and special interest groups.

Next meeting will be on February 15th at 1:15pm in the IEMA board room.