

Minutes from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team
August 16, 2002 Meeting

Participants:

John Witteman	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Derek Chubb	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Laurie Cordell	MVLWB
Latisha Heilman	MVLWB
Darnell McCurdy	DIAND Operations
Paula Pacholek	Environment Canada
Marc Lange	DFO
Lionel Marcinkoski	RWED
Jane McMullen	RWED
Zabey Nevitt	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)
Sean Kollee	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)

Meeting began at 1:15pm

Round Table Updates (Speaker in turn in bold):

Chair: Darnell McCurdy:

Darnell began by introducing himself as the new DIAND inspector and mentioned the release date of his first inspection report (August 7, 2002), and that any questions for Tamara will have to wait until she comes back from vacation.

Zabey noted that draft minutes are distributed for comment prior to further distribution. Last meeting's minutes were distributed as normal, and comments received from some participants.

John passed out copies of satellite images taken in July of Misery development and Main camp to meeting attendees. Zabey requested a larger laminated version of the Main camp and Misery image to place in the Agency boardroom, Jane, Marc and Lionel requested digital and hardcopy versions. John said the satellite images were taken at a resolution of one meter and a new satellite may be used with improved resolution in the future.

Details and Discussion of images:

Fox Lake – 2 million cubic metres of water left to be pumped from Fox Lake and BHPB prefers to discharge it into cell D of LLCF. The image shows the mine footprint, the most notable observation of an area newly affected is Fox Lake. The water has not cleared up as much as expected based on BHPB's prior lake dewatering experience leaving a cloudy appearance to Fox Lake on the image.

Airstrip Esker - A remnant of a lake was there but the core of the esker has thawed and remainder of the lake has drained away and no longer exists (SE of Larry Lake). Water ran west towards Nero Lake. The ice core in the esker has now disappeared.

Fox Road - The Fox road is now across the Nero-Nema bridge (after satellite image taken so is not shown). On August 12, 2002, the first blast occurred at the Fox development. The blast occurred outside the north end of the Lake. BHPB is using the waste rock to build roads at the Fox site. Topsoil is being stockpiling and preparations are underway to get the pipeline installed back to the Long Lake Containment Facility. The present plan is to run the pipeline halfway up cell D of the LLCF, install a small flocculation plant in the line and discharge over a boulder field into cell D.

Fill is being placed against the concrete abutments at the Fox bridge, and some riprap is being placed this coming weekend.

The road to Sable is currently just past the Pigeon stream culvert.

Underground mining is now into kimberlite ore at Koala North, BHPB is learning how to approach it considering the challenges in moving from the granite into kimberlite. Wall stability is of prime importance. No water has been found in drilling into the kimberlite from the granite. This was unexpected.

The airstrip has been resurfaced and Old Camp has been mostly removed, only the generator shed is left and a 1 million-litre fuel tank that is to be removed along with the last shed. By spring all the rest will be salvaged or go to the landfill and the area ready to reclaim. The material might go to a salvage broker, as some of the motors are now incompatible with the rest of the mine. A Phase 3 assessment to look for contaminated areas will be done by Dillon Consulting, more information will be provided on this later.

67 Caribou were observed in the area on the last aerial survey; they are stragglers of the main herd and some are in poor shape. A bull recently had to be put down after receiving approval from RWED.

John indicated that this year 22 lakes are being studied and there is a fish component to the AEMP this year.

Zabey asked John why Fox Lake had clouded so quickly, compared to other dewatering projects. John explained that during dewatering, the water level beneath the ice lowered until eventually the ice collapsed. This stirred up sediments in the deep hole in Fox Lake, and when it appeared that discharge limits may be exceeded, BHPB turned off the pumps. This left 2 million cubic metres of water in Fox Lake.

Discussions followed relating to BHPB's proposal to discharge the remaining decant and mine water to cell D of the LLCF. Zabey indicated that the Agency does not support this approach and a letter would be forthcoming to the MVLWB. John provided BHPB's perspective and reasoning for the new approach.

Darnell read written comments and questions prepared by **Tamara**, including a question on BHPB's annual report (plain English section). John responded that the report is at the printers.

Tamara update indicated that a group tour of the mine is planned soon. A letter from DIAND regarding the Environmental Agreement review is forthcoming, and minutes will be distributed from the May 8th Environmental Agreement review meeting. Tamara also submitted comments on the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth licenses.

Darnell then presented comments from his recently completed three-day inspection of the mine site (July 30th – August 1, 2002):

- Clint Ambrose participated in the inspection to aid in Darnell's transition to the position.
- Silt curtains at the Nero-Nema crossing can come off once riprap is complete
- At the ammonium nitrate storage building – ground penetrating radar results, that determine sub-surface flow, are not yet in. BHPB will be attempting to isolate any subsurface flows from the pad.
- Looked at land farm, and zone S. A layer of coarse ore reject has been spread over the landfill, and BHPB is looking into a salvage program of used tires. Liquids have been pumped from the land farm. Zone S contained some inappropriate materials that he ordered removed.
- At Misery Darnell looked at existing spills in the area; some he was able to close off, others not. In total 39 spill files were closed off, about half of the total. Also he carried out an inspection of exploration camps. Darnell noted that the rig used to drill was a very low impact unit. Pegasus, Wildebeast and Impala needed some drill cases cut down.

Lionel requested a copy of all spill reports for RWED.

Marc expressed his concern about the silt curtain removal, and allowing the proponent final decision on when to remove it. Instead he suggested that the inspector should inform them of their responsibility to control erosion and that should dictate when the curtain is removed.

Darnell indicated that his next trip to the mine is next week when he will be looking at the Fox Lake area as well as additional spill sites and the ammonium nitrate storage.

Marc requested the Inspection reports in *.pdf* format.

Marc continued by noting that he is just back from holiday and the AEMP/PDC re-evaluation review period extension was greatly appreciated.

He continued by indicating that he is working on draft Sable, Pigeon, Beartooth authorizations and has been meeting with consultants on habitat calculations and compensation for Sable, Pigeon, Beartooth. He continued by informing participants that BHPB has invoked Clause 7 of the 1996 Compensation Agreement. This Agreement involved creating the PDC and establishing a fund to delay compensation works until

communities could identify acceptable works. Clause 7 allows the substitution of unused authorized water bodies for other impacts. BHPB has proposed substituting the Leslie Lake for losses related to the development of Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth as it is about equal in habitat to Leslie Lake, this will be finalized and sent out to stakeholders.

Paula (read comments prepared by **Anne Wilson**): She noted that a literature review and recommendation reports on water treatment polymers received from University of Saskatchewan has been distributed and comments are due mid September. Environment Canada provided their comments to Jim Millard (BHPB) on the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program and Panda Diversion Channel Monitoring Program. She also indicated that Anne is currently reviewing the Misery surplus water atomization project. Paula asked John to confirm that once the pre-stripping of the Fox pit is done, minewater will be piped to Cell D? She also posed a question to Board: where will the SNP (Surveillance Network Program) monitoring site be for this discharge? Does it need to be monitored as long as it is going in the Long Lake Containment Facility? Is minewater quality going to be monitored? She also asked Laurie when the expansion licence would be made public?

Derek noted he was available for answering questions but has no comments as he just returned from vacation.

Zabey described correspondence recently released by the Agency including comments regarding seepage and natural run-off, wolverine, Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth, Fox waste rock management plan and Tailings Characterization Study, AEMP review, and a letter on the Fox Lake dewatering plan will be sent today. The Agency's annual report is scheduled for release at the beginning of September and the Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October. A DIAND regional monitoring agency workshop will take place November 13-14, 2002. Zabey asked BHPB for follow up on traffic reports, as the 2 month deadline is passed, he also requested a visit to the mine for the Agency staff.

Lionel presented a large satellite image of the mine footprint. The map was made in response to questions of the reclamation liability and the need to clarify the footprints, roads, and infrastructure etc.

Following a question relating to the purpose and location of zone S **John** indicated that it is an area in the centre of the Koala waste rock storage area for rock stained with hydrocarbons or spills, it has a minimum of 100m set back from the edge of the waste rock pile. In response to a further question, **John** noted that the wind-monitoring tower is not yet in operation as there are currently concerns related to grounding and lightning strikes.

Jane requested distribution lists from each agency that this is to support their internal review of procedures for technical reviews in environmental impact assessment and regulatory preliminary screenings.

Laurie noted that today (August 16th, 2002) is the deadline for comments on Fox Lake dewatering.

Latisha indicated that the Misery Surplus Water Atomization Project class B license application is out for review, and comments are due by September 10, 2002. AMEC provided comments to the MVLWB on the project and these were distributed as well as EBA's response to AMEC's comments. The winter road application will go to the Board on September 9, 2002. Board members reviewed the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth applications on August 15th, 2002 but wanted to carry out further review. The road watering class B licence has been passed. An application for a permit for the exploration camps has been received by the Board and sent out for review. Discussion followed on the Sable, Two-Rock and Beartooth fish-out. Marc indicated that DFO was available 24 hours per day for emergencies.

Next Meeting: September 20, 2002 at 1:15pm in the Agency board room

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.