

**Summary Notes from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT)
Meeting December 13, 2002**

Participants:

John Witteman	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Chris Hanks	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Jane Howe	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Latisha Heilman	MVLWB
Tamara Hamilton	DIAND Environment Conservation
Darnell McCurdy	DIAND Operations
Marc Lange	DFO
Lionel Marcinkoski	RWED
Gavin More	RWED
Sean Kollee	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)

Meeting began at 1:15pm

Chair: Tamara

Round Table Updates:

Gavin

No update.

Lionel

Most of his recent efforts have been occupied by the Debeers Snap Lake hearings. He examined the Sable road culvert plan and Bearclaw Dam design but has yet to comment on them. He asked BHPB a variety of questions related to the winter road such as its opening date, emergency response procedures and for an update on contaminated sites. Chris responded that all contaminated material other than snow and ice will be brought to Ekati for disposal. Contaminated snow and ice will be taken to bermed areas with liners, later the liquids will be pumped out. BHPB is waiting for legal department to provide more direction on the winter road permit. Chris also mentioned he is officially taking over project management of the winter road from Derek.

RWED has established a camp on an island in Ross Lake to conduct inspections of vehicles accessing the winter road for hunting. Lionel does not yet know about staffing or inspection procedures that will be implemented by RWED. The camp was established to address aboriginal concerns about harvesting of wildlife from the road. Chris mentioned BHPB might create a registration system at the Tibbit Lake winter road

entrance to keep track of commercial vehicles passing through as a safety measure. He was asked two questions about winter road maintenance activities:

- Plowing occurs constantly during the season on the road.
- Two lanes are flooded on each lake; one lane is open while the other is reconstructed. Once the first lane degrades the second lane is properly frozen and ready for use.

Latisha

BHPB approached the MVLWB about a scale reduction of the Misery surplus water atomization project; this was agreed to and approved by the board. The water licence is currently being written and may be reviewed at the next board meeting scheduled for December 19th.

Extensions to the submission deadline for the Sable-Pigeon-Beartooth updated Contingency Plan and security deposits were granted to BHPB until January 27th, 2003. Design plans for the Bearclaw Dam are being review. Board approvals for these design report should be available early in the near year. MVLWB recognizes that BHPB wants to start construction ASAP during the 2003 winter construction period.

Darnell

Darnell reported the highlights of his last inspection and noted very little was out of compliance at the site. The landfill requires capping soon by BHPB. The Fox pipeline placement problem was rectified by BHPB by moving it back to west side of the road. Now, a spill from the pipeline would discharge into the LLCF. The development of the Fox pit continues and the ring road is nearly complete. Once the water licence for the atomization project is complete he will prepare comments to the MVLWB. He asked BHPB which two towers are scheduled for installation and John replied that he believes towers 4 and 5 were selected but he could not confirm until EBA prepares the final engineering plans. John also mentioned pumping infrastructure will be necessary. Darnell asked if it could be placed on existing asphalt pad. The area influenced by the water vapour will no longer be near the coarse kimberlite pile because both towers are on the north side of the Misery road.

Darnell asked if the water flow out of the Beartooth pipeline rock bed at 8 cubic metres per minute could displace 30 cm diameter rocks. His concern is erosion could then impact water quality in North Panda Lake. John responded that BHPB might have to use larger cobbles or even large boulders available from an esker nearby to address Darnell's concern.

Darnell's next inspection will be scheduled around the time of his survival course on January 10th and 11th, 2003.

Chris

His update on the winter road is summarized earlier in this document.

John

BHPB's annual week of workshops will occur on February 3rd and 4th. Topics on the agenda include WEMP, AEMP, air, PDC, reclamation and possibly seepage.

BHPB is continuing with ISO 14001 registration. The compliance register is completed and it is working on a risk register. Registration should improve environmental management at the mine. John does not know if the ISO registration audit report will be available for distribution.

Ninety new rooms are being constructed at site for new employees and this should also aid extended site visits for the regulators and Agency.

Final reclamation at the Old Camp is underway and all buildings and tanks have been removed. BHPB plans to use the asphalt plant to heat petroleum-stained material and burn off volatile hydrocarbons. Remaining charred material will be placed in the landfill.

The AEMP data distribution protocol is near completion.

Marc

The agenda has been distributed and travel arrangements made for two individuals from potentially impacted aboriginal communities to attend the DFO draft fisheries authorization consultation meeting on December 17th. The GNWT and Agency have requested and been granted permission to attend as observers. The facilitator will be Masood Hassan. Julie Dahl and Marc will review the BHPB No Net Loss plan and habitat accounting techniques during the morning session. DFO has purposely set a short agenda and plans to complete their presentations by noon to allow the community representatives' ample time to express their views. BHPB has been invited to attend the workshop as well.

Sean

Sean presented an update from the Agency office and board of directors.

The last board meeting minutes and IACT minutes will be distributed early next week. Three outgoing correspondence items were been distributed the week of the IACT meeting including:

1. Agency comments supporting the proposed changes to the AEMP re-evaluation:
 - The Agency supports the inclusion of Leslie Lake into the program
 - The Agency supports the reduction in water quality sampling samples in streams from three to two and in lakes from two at each depth to one at each depth, and the selected statistical tools for trend analysis.

- The agency did not support the move towards a tiered zooplankton sampling system because zooplankton communities are sensitive to changes in pH, nitrogen and heavy metal levels that may not be reflected by the phytoplankton community.

2. Agency concern about statements made by BHPB relating to pH levels of natural run-off from the Ekati site.

3. The Agency had no major problems with the contents of the BHPB water licence and environmental agreement annual report. The directors mentioned the summary report fails to mention any problems BHPB encountered over the year especially those raised by stakeholders. BHPB responded that it does not always agree with stakeholder comments and the potential exists that such comments can be inaccurate.

Carol Mills will be starting work as the Agency manager on February 3rd, 2003.

Sean asked John what BHPB has learned about lake dewatering that will be applied to Beartooth Lake. John replied that water would be pumped directly to Cell C, thereby eliminating the issue of discharging water directly to the receiving environment. This method will prevent potential build up and blockage issues from water freezing in the PDC. Dewatering could start in March if approval is granted that quickly. At full volume it should only take three or four day of pumping to drain Beartooth Lake if BHPB were to pump at 0.52 m³ /sec. Water sampling will occur at the outlet of the pipe and flocculation will occur within the small flocculation plant (in the process plant) to test its effectiveness at settling the lake water.

Tamara

Tamara received comments from the KIA, the Agency and DIAND on BHPB's annual report. The comments will be distributed electronically at John's request. She regretted missing the AEMP technical workshop. She has prepared a letter to BHPB on security deposits in response to the \$17 million figure contained in BHPB's earlier letter and it will be distributed soon. She hosted a tracking meeting that was not well attended from some of the regulators due to schedule conflicts. Another tracking meeting will be scheduled later in January to review ideas already proposed and look at next steps. The environmental agreement five-year review is nearly complete. DIAND will be hosting a meeting to provide an opportunity for the aboriginal members to be engaged in further discussion about changes to the agreement.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Next meeting: January 24th, 2003 at the Agency boardroom 1:15 pm.