

Notes from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team
January 18th, 2002 Meeting

Participants:

John Witteman	BHP Billiton
Chris Hanks	BHP Billiton
Derek Chubb	BHP Billiton
Laurie Cordell	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)
Latisha Heilman	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)
Tamara Hamilton	DIAND Environment & Conservation
Marc Lange	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
Francis Jackson	DIAND Water Resources
Paula Pacholek	Environment Canada
Brett Hudson	RWED - GNWT
Zabey Nevitt	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)
Robin Staples	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)

Meeting began at 1:30

Round Table Updates:

John gave an update on recent activities at the mine site and noted the following:

- Five (5) caribou were observed very recently on Lac de Gras near the Diavik mine site. This sighting was unusual as caribou rarely stay up north in January.
- One aggressive fox was destroyed near the Misery camp and the body was sent to RWED to be examined.
- Winter water sampling has not yet started due to the lack of snow needed to use the snowmobile. Low snow levels around the mine site may require the use of a helicopter to reach the various sampling locations (including the lakes around Sable).
- The aquatic effects, special effects (Kodiak, Panda Diversion Channel) and wildlife effects monitoring program reports will be distributed on January 22nd.
- The water licence amendment and fisheries authorizations for the Nero-Nema stream crossing have been approved. Construction of the bridge has begun using an ice pad as a staging area for building.
- The traffic monitoring system along the Misery road is still not working as designed and a few modifications are required. A similar system will be used along the Sable road once the acoustic vehicle counter is working properly.
- Construction of the decline and pads at Koala north underground development has begun.
- The dissolved oxygen workshop with Buster Welch will potentially take place in March 2002. John also noted that he had distributed dissolved oxygen research that was performed by DFO for Kodiak Lake in 1994.

- BHP Billiton and Diavik will begin meeting monthly to discuss operational issues (e.g. data compatibility and management). The first meeting is on February 27th.

Derek began by noting that he is getting prepared to receive the various reviewer information requests relating to the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth application shortly from the MVLWB and will be responding as outlined in the MVLWB workplan. He also reiterated that the Nero-Nema stream crossing fisheries authorization and licence amendment has been approved. Habitat compensation plans under the authorization are still being discussed with DFO. Negotiations with DFO on the Desperation and Carrie fisheries authorization are also ongoing. Derek noted that the location of the Desperation and Carrie dam is currently being reviewed as the Misery mine plan is in a state of change. The final dam location will be decided following the feasibility study on the various mining options at Misery. In regards to the Fox mining application, Derek mentioned that the MVLWB is still reviewing the additional information and a final decision is expected shortly.

Chris noted that the Inuit traditional knowledge study on the West Kitikmeot Slave Geological province is nearing completion. He also mentioned that he has been involved in the review of the Environmental Agreement and met earlier in the day with representatives from DIAND, GNWT and the Agency to discuss the review process and key issues. Chris also noted that BHP Billiton has been involved in discussions with DIAND regarding the renewal application for the winter road licence of occupation. The next phase of the application following DIAND's approval will be a preliminary screening of the road by the MVLWB before the appropriate land use permit(s) are acquired. An update of the operating management plan dealing with winter road is also required due to the increased mine related traffic on the road. A number of public meetings with various stakeholders (e.g. Ingram trail residents, aboriginal groups) will be taking place in the near future to discuss safety, management and environmental issues relating to the winter road.

Laurie noted that she has been busy reviewing the numerous information requests submitted to the MVLWB regarding the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth application. She is reviewing them for clarity and repetition. Once her review is complete, she will send them to BHP Billiton for responses. Laurie also mentioned that she has met with BHP Billiton and DIAND to discuss the amendment for mining Fox pipe to determine if an update to the water licence is required to provide additional water related security. The MVLWB will likely make a final decision on the Fox mining amendment application following this review. In addition, Laurie mentioned that the Fox dewatering plan submitted by BHP Billiton has been approved.

In response to questions on the Fox dewatering plan, John noted that dewatering will begin in late February and he is anticipating that approximately 65% of the water will be dewatered downstream before the decant to Long Lake begins. The pipe between Fox and Long Lake will be installed in early spring.

Tamara began by noting that she also has been involved in the review of the Environmental Agreement and met earlier in the day with representatives from BHP Billiton, GNWT and the Agency to discuss the review process and key issues. Other meetings are expected to follow. She noted that the next meeting between BHP Billiton, DIAND, GNWT and the Agency to discuss the cost variance reports would be on February 15th. BHP Billiton and DIAND's consultants will be available at the meeting to answer questions. Tamara also mentioned that she has been involved in the Fox security discussions as outlined by Laurie. Tamara confirmed that she would be sending to John a list of attendees for the upcoming environmental workshops. In addition, she noted that a presentation on sediment quality indicators in the Coppermine River is to be given by Liisa Peramaki on Monday, January 21st

Marc mentioned that he has been reviewing the proposed changes to the Panda Diversion Channel (PDC) monitoring program and will be meeting with BHP Billiton and their consultant in the near future to discuss outstanding questions. The Nero-Nema fisheries authorization has been approved as noted above, but compensation plans under the authorization are still being discussed with BHP Billiton. Negotiations are still ongoing for the Carrie and Desperation fisheries authorization. Marc also noted that Dillon consulting was awarded the contract for reviewing fish out data that has been collected for DFO. Phase one of the study is to be a preliminary examination of the data and phase two will be a more detailed and extensive analysis of the data. Marc, in response to a request from John, agreed to look into the initial study done out of Winnipeg on fish out studies at Ekati Diamond Mine™ and provide a copy to BHPB. Marc also inquired of BHP Billiton when the fish out of Beartooth Lake will occur.

It was noted by Derek that as fish outs are usually tied to the administration of fisheries authorization, the details of the Beartooth fish out would be presented shortly to DFO for approval.

Zabey began by thanking John for providing a number of site maps to the Agency but noted that the Agency still required maps detailing the AEMP Lake and stream sites, the mine plan (including Sable) and a diagram of the underground Koala North development. Zabey also questioned John on the scheduled date for the seepage meeting and the expected release dates for reports on reclamation, air quality monitoring and phase two of the tailings characterization study. He also noted that a schedule for reporting traffic along the Sable road is needed. Zabey also requested from John all the lab certificates from SNP station 1616-30 and a list of past and present detection limits used for that station. In regards to recent Agency activities, Zabey noted that the Agency has begun working on the annual report and is preparing for the upcoming environmental workshops. The Agency also submitted a number of Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth information requests to the MVLWB.

John confirmed the date for the seepage meeting to be May 2nd and committed to provide the Agency with the three requested maps as well as the lab certificates from SNP station 1616-30 and a list of past and present detection limits used for that station. John also noted that work is ongoing on the tailings characterization study and reclamation reports.

Work on the air quality report will begin shortly. John also mentioned that monitoring along the Sable haul road would not commence until the Misery road traffic counter is working effectively.

Francis noted that DIAND Water Resources submitted a number of information requests to the MVLWB with regards to the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth application. The requests cover outstanding geotechnical and water quality concerns. Francis mentioned that he has also been involved in the Fox security discussions as noted above by Laurie.

Paula began by noting that she was filling in for Anne Wilson at the meeting today. Environment Canada has submitted a number of information requests to the MVLWB regarding the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth application. Paula also noted that Environment Canada has submitted an application for project funding for a study on water treatment coagulants and flocculants and the environmental effects of their residuals. The project would involve a comprehensive literature review and determination of feasible analytical options for determining concentrations of polymers in field samples. Copies of the funding proposal were made available to IACT members.

Next meeting will be held in the Agency boardroom on Friday March 1st at 1:15pm

Meeting finished at 2:10pm.