



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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**Summary of Discussion from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team
November 15th, 2002 Meeting**

Participants:

John Witteman	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Derek Chubb	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Jane Howe	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Tamara Hamilton	DIAND Environment & Conservation
Buddy Williams	DIAND Land Administration Division
Marc Lange	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
Jane McMullen	RWED
Albert Bourque	RWED
Gavin More	RWED
Steve Harbicht	Environment Canada
Sean Kollee	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (Agency)
Zabey Nevitt	Agency

Meeting began at 1:15 pm.

Round Table Updates:

Chair: Tamara

Tamara started the meeting by commenting that December 13th is the preferred date for the next IACT meeting. Attendance at the BHPB technical workshops on December 10th – 12th was discussed. John reminded the IACT group that aquatics, wildlife and possibly seepage are scheduled for presentations.

Lionel

Lionel presented a satellite footprint of the mine and distributed copies. He mentioned the expiration on November 12th of the 45-day review period for responses that were due to DIAND regarding BHPB's annual environmental report. He reserved a few questions for John to answer later on in the meeting about the Fox pipeline, the most recent inspection of the mine on November 4th to 5th and management of mud and water from mine trucks.

Albert

No update from his section of the RWED office.

Derek

Derek has been looking at the Land Use permits for the Sable and Pigeon expansion and the Water Licence for the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth expansion and awaits the fisheries authorization.

BHPB is disappointed with the MVLWB's rejection of the Misery Land Treatment application. Derek was asked whether it was the area of land to be impacted or the volume of water to be treated that was the MVLWB's concern. Derek pointed out that the only concern about the volume came from RWED and that other technical questions could be addressed and managed. .

Derek announced his resignation and relocation to Calgary as the office manager for Dillon Consulting and expressed his appreciation for the colleagues he has developed over his years with BHPB. Jane is now the main contact for many of Derek's former responsibilities, and Jane mentioned she is looking forward to working closer with the IACT group.

Marc

Marc described a number of documents that he is in the process of analyzing such as the BHPB report on the results of the Carrie and Desperation Lake fish outs and the summary of crossings impacting stream habitat for the Sable road. John mentioned he is seeking DFO's advice on how to prevent impacts to stream habitats while constructing crossings on the Sable haul road. He will be copying the Agency on these reports soon.

DFO has not yet evaluated the AEMP and PDC re-evaluations. Comments were only received from the Agency by DFO regarding the Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth draft authorization s.s.35(2). The Aboriginal consultation was unacceptable to the Aboriginal groups and a meeting towards the end of November is planned. Notification of this will be distributed. BHPB will be invited to present their No Net Loss habitat plan and DFO will present habitat accounting techniques, afterwards there will be a comment period. Translators for the community representatives have not yet been considered by DFO.

John

BHPB are preparing reports for the December 10th to 12th technical workshops so by February technical aspects are addressed to suit the wider audience who will attend the presentations.

The ice on Kodiak Lake has reached 42 cm's in depth.

The location of parts of the Fox dewatering line was declared unacceptable by the inspector because a breach in a few specific locations could cause uncontrolled discharge to Leslie Lake or to Nero-Nema. BHPB plans to respond to the inspector's concerns. Pumping until Fox Lake is completely dry will occur starting in December or January.

The area constructed for staff fire training on the waste rock dump was not built to the inspector's standards and will need to be fixed. Pit sludge washed off trucks is sent to the Land farm and water to LLCF.

BHPB will be sending Desperation as-built diagrams out. The upcoming Beartooth Lake dewatering is highly dependent on licence conditions so designs will follow BHPB's analysis of the licence. Three culvert crossings are proposed on the Sable road by BHPB. John promised a written engineering rationale for the Pigeon culvert choice also describing alternatives not selected to the Agency at Zabey's request.

BHPB promised to respond to DFO's request for comments on the Nitrate toxicity issue and Derek mentioned the proposed CCME draft guideline for Nitrate of 13 mg/L.

John said he would check where the sludge from the wash bay was deposited. He has since responded and has indicated that it is placed in the land farm.

Zabey

Zabey announced his resignation from the Agency and future position working on implementation of the Tlicho Agreement. Following a question from BHPB, Zabey explained the calculation technique used by the Agency for estimating the amount of nitrate as nitrate in water vs. nitrate as nitrogen. Jane McMullen mentioned her attendance at a recent water quality seminar and will circulate a paper on water quality parameters.

Sean

Sean provided a detailed list of Agency staff and director activities over the nearly two months since the last IACT meeting such as attendance at the AEMP re-evaluation workshop, the AGM and 30th board meeting and the regional monitoring agency workshop. He also requested some information from John such as the report detailing expenses related to environmental management at other mines and agreed to deliver BHPB's information request regarding waste management back to the Agency.

Steve (reporting for Anne Wilson)

Steve updated the group on the Coagulant study, mentioned a dissolved oxygen workshop with Buster Welsh and Environment Canada's opinion that the Misery surplus water atomization project has merit and would like to see it tested.

Buddy

Buddy had no news from the DIAND Land Administration Division.

Gavin

Gavin was officially introduced to the group as the new Environmental Assessment Analyst, part of the team at RWED who has taken on a coordination role.

Tamara

Tamara handed out fresh copies of BHPB's Environmental Agreement and mentioned additions to the document will be in the form of attachments. She asked John about the BHPB information release protocol (raw data from AEMP) and John said they would be distributing a draft protocol via email, as owners of the information any user will be required to consult BHPB as part of this information sharing agreement. Water Resources will be conducting a third party review of all the AEMP data, in order to confirm BHPB conclusions that were made in the AEMP reports.

Tamara is in the process of drafting a letter for ministerial signature requiring 100% security to be posted by BHPB. John mentioned BHPB is waiting for the MVLWB to decide if their security proposal is acceptable or not.

Future environmental annual reports would be for all water licences rather than one for the original licence and another for the expansion.

Tamara has agreed to take the lead on the process of developing a tracking system for all the deadlines, comment periods, changes and regulatory requirements for the Ekati project. A meeting will be held Friday November 22nd on this issue at 1:30 pm in the Bellanca building's 4th floor boardroom.

The Parties to the Environmental Agreement will be hosting a meeting in December to address the issues related to the EA review process raised by the NSMA and Lutselk'e in the letters they distributed at the Agency AGM.

Annual report comments were received from the KIA and GNWT. A Ministers Report will not be distributed to BHPB as long as no deficiencies are recorded. DIAND will be submitting comments to BHPB on the recently submitted waste rock plan.

Some general comments were made about upcoming events such as a public consultation event at the YK Inn on November 22nd (Bathurst Road and Port project), and Chris Hanks will be the key contact for the winter road and Dome Lake camp joint venture.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Next Meeting – December 13th, 2002.