



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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**Summary of Discussion from the
Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT)
Meeting of May 11th 2006**

Draft May 19, 2006

Participants

Kevin O'Reilly	IEMA
Sean Kollee	IEMA
Lionel Marcinkoski	Dep. of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND)
Malcolm Robb	DIAND
Mike Palmer	DIAND
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada (EC)
Dave Fox	EC
David Scott	BHP Billiton (BHPB)
Helen Butler	BHPB
Graham Veale	GNWT (ENR)

The Chairperson (Lionel) presented comments on behalf of Sarah Baines (WLWB):

Agenda

- BHPB operations update
- BHPB Reclamation Planning
- WLWB report tracking
- Agency Update
- Air Quality
- DIAND Update

BHPB Operations Update (David Scott)

- Freshet underway - rainfall event at Ekati last weekend was an unusually early event
- Flow in PDC early by 2-3 weeks.
- Wolverine program lacking sufficient snow cover – mostly completed.
- Mining fox and beartooth ore - Process plant running at good throughput. Carats production decline as forecast from 5.5 to 3.5 million carats.
- Some waste removed from koala pit by truck.
- Misery camp - Opened for Jay Program exploration in Lac du Sauvage at a kimberlite pipe discovered in 1994

- Norms camps is usual summer base for helicopter exploration but this year misery is host of exploration activity.
- Kodiak lake 20% open water, snow cover on ground less than 20%.
- BHPB is allowing people to come to work and respects views of those on strike. Company is operating as normal possible. Information line is available.
- Security – \$56 million posted now total is \$156 million. \$20 million is part of a debate that was subject to a corporate guarantee. The Canadian banking system reaching limit of ability to provide security.
- Wildlife – some caribou passing through Ekati.
- Report distribution - WEMP was distributed at the end of March, AEMP end of May, Air quality end of May, Annual report next few weeks, EIR next few weeks.
- EIR community info sessions –June 15-18 (Thursday – Sunday). Visit is over the weekend due to flights and accommodation availability. BHPB is planning the agenda. BHPB would like continuity of individuals with the closure site sessions. A subgroup of people from communities could be assigned to the BHPB project to learn about the business, closure and environment (youth, elder, translator) to build knowledge in the communities on how BHPB operates.
- Change to monitoring programs – WEMP changes not yet approved so BHPB will begin caribou survey along lines of previous years. This year's program will be a hybrid of the old and new program that lacks permits. Diavik is staying with its original program.
- AEMP – meeting in fall to discuss proposed changes to AEMP.
- Air quality monitoring – changes recommended and new equipment to be installed (high volume sampler).
- Incinerator – the incinerator is nearly commissioned. Operator training will be done. EC mentioned that operators can be sent to Edmonton for training or have trainers visit the site.
- Koala underground – approved by some levels of the company but not yet the highest levels although a June board meeting of Ekati Directors is set to occur.
- Fox Pit – ore exposed, less open pit work force required.
- TK – BHPB internal health and safety award to Chris Hanks and environment team. Function held in Kugluktuk and certificates and feast. Goal was to have it released widely but KIA now holds the copyright and their tendency is not to distribute it as widely as BHPB would like.
- Environment Department Staffing – site team is fully staffed. Jane's old role not yet filled.
- Research – Misery atomization project is one that BHPB would like to do and is in next years budget. BHPB feels the conditions attached to the water licence are not reasonable but BHPB would like to make it work.
- Wind power – budget would be \$11 million dollars and material would have to come up on next years winter road. The program is likely to be pushed back 12 months.
- Tailings deposition – road construction planned for this summer but may not be achievable this summer due to labour issues.
- Small diamond recovery under construction – due for commissioning in September 2006.

- Thickenner upgrade – affected by winter road shipment.
- Winter road shortage of loads – \$12 million extra in shipping costs, \$5 million extra for fuel shipping.
- Seepage report – BHPB will be responding to agency and other review comments.

Ekati Reclamation Planning Process (Helen Butler)

Helen announced that a letter was sent regarding the schedule of meetings planned at Ekati. BHPB has visited some communities to present closure options but have not had success with the Tlicho and YK Dene although it is looking more positive at this time. BHPB will try to spend more time in the community to work out a successful visit.

Reclamation site visits must occur over a weekend to ensure accommodation. The focus is on community participation and will be aided by one representative from each regulator and the Agency to review main reclamation components. BHPB would like the same people to attend the site visit for EIR and reclamation site tours.

The reclamation site tour will have a workshop similar to the MAA process for LLCF with a focus more on community involvement. It will be called an options evaluation workshop and be run along a similar format of the Colomac process (and Brewery Creek and Red Dog mines). BHPB conducted a trial run at its internal risk assessment workshop and found use of a plain English MAA style to be favourable.

The Agency asked BHPB if it was able to consider Agency advice contained in its March 31st letter on reclamation consultation. The Agency observation to this point is that it does not appear that the consultation advice provided was considered. Have the dates been discussed with participants ahead of time, was there enough notice given? The Agency may prefer stretching the process into the fall to ensure better availability and the EIR preliminary meeting was a good example of having everyone together to discuss schedules.

BHPB tried hard to see what it could do regarding timelines and notice. It is the WLWB driven process and deadlines that must be met unless the WLWB provides extension. Project management requires that sometimes extensions cannot be granted.

BHPB was asked if there is a product from its internal risk assessment and how is it going to be presented to people? BHPB replied that this would be done in an overview as stated in its recent letter that was widely distributed. June 12th was put forth as a good date for an Agency meeting as the Agency is meeting in Yellowknife at that time.

WLWB Update

It was announced that The MVLWB (now under management of WLWB) put together a water licence-tracking sheet for document management.

Comments were received for the ICRP ToR and staff will submit a document on May 31st, 2006 to the WLWB. Jan 15th 2007 remains the deadline for ICRP submission.
Agency update (Kevin O'Reilly)

Since the last IACT meeting the Agency has submitted comments on WWPKMP, Waste Rock Seepage, ICRP ToR and conveyed a summary of its internal workshop on reclamation at Ekati in February to its distribution list. A letter on air quality monitoring was sent this week and an annual report writing session in April was held. Recommendations have been developed and production is in process. The Agency will meet on May 18th with EA signatories part of resolution agreement to attempt to improve the implementation of the EA. The focus on of the meeting is on Agency and EA signatory consultation efforts and a summary of the Agency annual report for 2005-06. Ideally Agency current year recommendations would be accompanied by responses in the annual report. Photos were requested from the IACT group and BHPB offered to provide some.

Air Quality Monitoring (Dave Fox)

EC and GNWT mentioned they strongly support the recent Agency letter to BHPB on air quality monitoring. EC was working on regional air quality from a model of diamonds developments in the central territory. EC had an earlier commitment from the mines to provide data (agreement signed with Jaida Robillard in 2004). The agreement was sent to Brent in the hopes that he will be able to revisit the data. A consultant input file should be sufficient for EC's data requirements. EC not able to review the BHPB seepage survey this year and is looking forward to the upcoming workshops at Ekati.

DIAND Update (Lionel Marcinkoski)

Minesite reclamation guideline development has been completed and used in BHPB documents and there has been a positive response to them. DIAND will participate in the May 18th resolution agreement meeting to be held at the Agency office. DIAND will send out schedule for IACT on June 9th meeting.

DIAND has been looking into financial issues surrounding security deposits in terms of the accounting rules related to security issues. Companies were also involved in financial management and bank discussion. BHPB views that reclamation expenses would have to be paid for twice if crediting of work done does not follow completion of work quickly (security amount would still be on the financial books). BHPB views that money has to be spent upfront but will not be received back as there is not a mechanism. The security system as set up makes it such that reclamation work is not likely to be done in advance of mine closure.

Next IACT meeting – June 9th for BHPB to discuss reclamation with IACT (DIAND will circulate agenda).