



***INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY***

P.O. Box 1192, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8 ■ Phone (867) 669-9141 ■ Fax (867) 669-9145  
Website: [www.monitoringagency.net](http://www.monitoringagency.net) ■ Email: [monitor1@yk.com](mailto:monitor1@yk.com)

April 28, 2010

Lionel Marcinkoski  
Environmental Scientist  
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
Box 1500  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

Dear Mr. Marcinkoski

**Re: BHP Billiton Environmental Impact Report (EIR) 2009  
Close-Out Report and Technical Addendum**

The Agency has reviewed BHP Billiton's Environmental Impact Report 2009 Technical Addendum and Close-Out Report. BHPB has addressed many of our concerns raised in our October 14, 2009 letter regarding the methodology and findings.

While several issues remain largely unresolved, in particular the ratings for mine effects on caribou and downstream water quality, and the overall purpose and focus of the EIR, we do not believe that these differences are resolvable at this stage. We are of the view that time and effort would be better directed at further collaborative discussions to better define the purpose of the EIR, review the methodology used and to better define adaptive management in the context of the Ekati Mine.

The Agency remains willing to assist with the above steps to avoid continued disagreement on future EIRs. To help facilitate such steps, the Agency will be preparing a short discussion paper on the purpose and focus of the EIR for distribution in the fall of 2010. It may be possible to discuss this further at a workshop to be held as early as this fall. It should involve all interested parties.

We trust that this approach will help move us towards a mutual understanding of the EIR, the anticipated outputs and how to better manage the environmental effects of the Ekati Mine. We would be happy to discuss this with you and others at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Bill Ross  
Chairperson

cc. Society Members