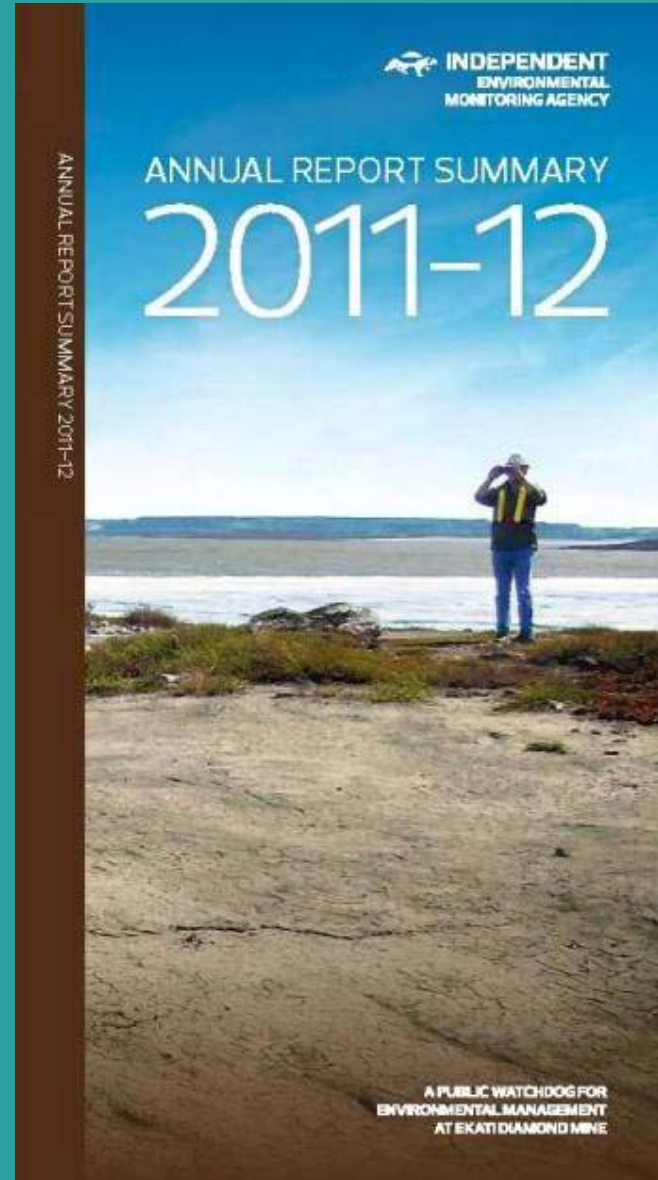


Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency 2011-12 Annual Report Summary





Outline

- Agency Activities 2011-12
- Processed Kimberlite and Waste Rock Management
- Traditional Knowledge
- Wildlife
- Water and Fish
- Air Quality
- Closure and Reclamation
- Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects
- Assessment of the Regulators
- Assessment of BHP Billiton
- Recent Agency Activities





Agency Activities 2011-12

- 4 board meetings, site visits to Ekati, and AGM
- Completed Agency Communications Plan
- Hosted a TK workshop
- Agency presentations in Lutsel K'e and to NSMA in Yellowknife
- Meetings with signers of Environmental Agreement and Inter-Agency Coordinating Team





Agency Activities 2011-12

- Participated in grizzly bear monitoring workshop
- Reviewed plans for the Long Lake Containment Facility and changes to fish sampling
- Agency staff provided updates to SLEMA and EMAB





Processed Kimberlite and Waste Rock Management

- Beartooth pit approved for processed kimberlite storage, Agency recommends careful monitoring of Beartooth pit water
- Large portions of the Fox waste rock pile not freezing
- Inspector orders BHPB to carry out regular inspections of the LLCF





Traditional Knowledge

- BHPB held community engagement visits on air quality and wildlife monitoring
- Agency sponsored TK workshop where communities discussed their projects
- Recommendations included:
 - closure planning should make better use of TK
 - improved documentation on use of TK at Ekati
 - sharing of wildlife incident reports





Wildlife

- Agency reviewed 2011 WEMP report
- BHPB helped push for a joint diamond mine grizzly bear monitoring program to start in summer of 2012
- No aerial caribou surveys, wolverine or grizzly monitoring during 2011-12
- Mine footprint: 3,002 ha (30 km², size of Yellowknife)
- Wildlife deaths in 2011: 8 small animals (vehicle-related); 7 non-vehicle (5 caribou , 2 muskrats)
- Two moose were seen on remote cameras





Wildlife

- Agency pleased that BHPB proposed a joint grizzly bear monitoring program
 - Hair snagging posts around Lac de Gras in cooperation with Diavik in 2012, southern study area to start summer 2013
- No aerial survey program for caribou since 2009
 - Limited behavioural surveys and camera observations undertaken
 - Agency learned later that aerial surveys began again in summer of 2012
 - Still a need to investigate the causes of the zone of influence for caribou around Ekati



Water and Fish

- Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program remains good
- 2011 monitoring results: chloride, nitrate and molybdenum elevated downstream of LLCF in Leslie and Moose lakes
- Nitrate experiment in cell D had little effect on levels
- BHPB plans to divert minewater to Beartooth pit
- Downstream contaminant levels will be reviewed during water licence renewal
- Reporting of effects on plankton improved
- Fish sampling to be improved by using slimy sculpin and to look at distribution of fish exposed to hydrocarbons





Air Quality

- 2011 Report received after Agency Annual Report period, Agency still reviewing it
- BHPB reported major problems with data collection for air quality monitoring
- New incinerator finally began working in January 2012
- Revised waste management plan should be circulated





Closure and Reclamation

- WLWB approved Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan in November 2011
- Limited progressive reclamation and little reclamation research conducted in 2011-12
- Progress on reclamation research and planning to be reported in December 2012
- Agency commissioned a report on how to measure revegetation success
- BHPB should better engage communities on closure planning
- Cooperative approach to reviewing financial security has begun





Regional Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

- GNWT project on cumulative effects in Bathurst herd summer range not yet complete
- AANDC partially accepted WRRB recommendations to develop best practices for mitigation of impacts on caribou
- CIMP will focus on caribou, fish and water over next 3-5 years





Assessment of the Regulators

- Regulators effective and work together.
- DFO and EC staff helpful in understanding protection of aquatic habitat.
- AANDC inspections are high quality but more resources needed for inspections and the upcoming water licence renewal.
- GNWT-ENR gave good advice on air monitoring. Strong leadership in hosting grizzly bear monitoring workshop. Broad mandate and expertise could be better used on Ekati for technical matters.
- Agency generally pleased with WLWB decisions and direction. Clearer guidance on expectations for management plans and adaptive management would be helpful.





Assessment of BHP Billiton

- BHPB operates Ekati in environmentally sound way, with room for improvement.
- Agency has a good working relationship with BHPB.
- Closure plan approved and sets a high standard.
- Progress made on resolving EIR process and focus.
- Aquatic effects monitoring and reporting made more effective.
- Caribou monitoring and community engagement should be improved.

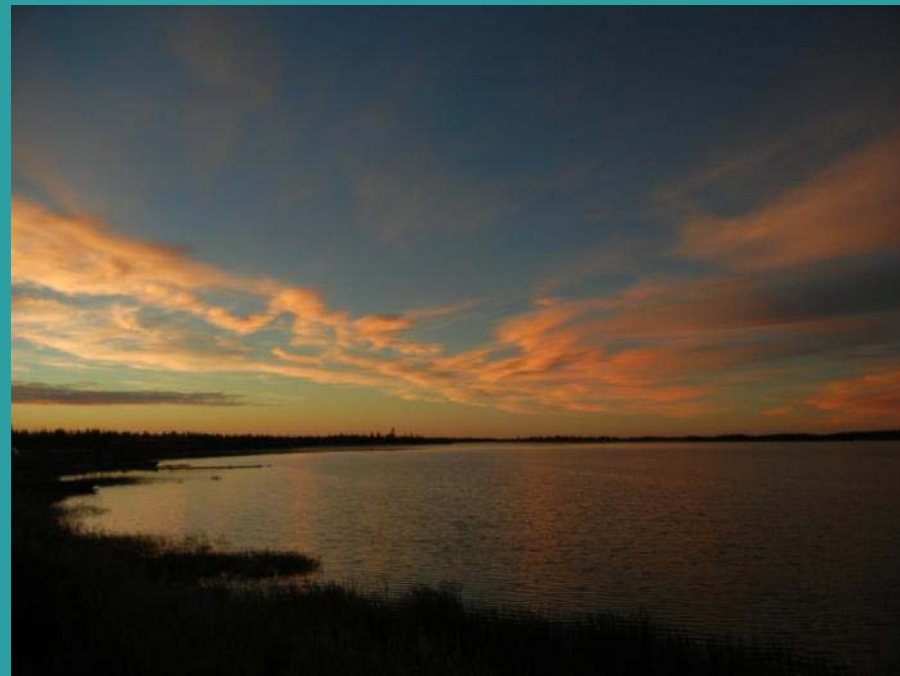




Recent Agency Activities

- April 2012 Agency staff visited Ekati to see the Pigeon Stream Diversion construction
- Agency wrote to AANDC regarding its capacity to carry out land and water inspections
- Agency participated in workshops on the three-year Environmental Impact Report in July and November 2012
- Visited Whati in September 2012, held a Board meeting, Open House and visited the community school
- Agency participated in the Ekati water licence renewal technical session in October 2012





THANK YOU!



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