



March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Bill Ross  
Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency  
P.O. Box 1192  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2R2

**Regional grizzly bear monitoring program**

Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for your letter dated 31 January 2012 regarding the joint regionally based grizzly bear monitoring program that was discussed at a workshop that Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) hosted in November 2011. I have reviewed correspondence received from DeBeers Canada Inc., Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., and BHP Billiton subsequent to the workshop and to the best of my understanding, Diavik and BHP intend to participate in a regional monitoring program in 2012 and DeBeers intends to participate in a regional monitoring program in 2013/14.

ENR has written to all three mines requesting:

1. A proposal that clearly outlines how mines will “*determine if mine-related activities influence the relative abundance and distribution of grizzly bears in the study area over time*”.
2. That the mines, monitoring agencies, and affected Aboriginal organizations meet again to finalize the study design and to discuss formalizing roles and responsibilities of parties with respect to a grizzly bear monitoring program. It is during this meeting that I think further clarity with respect to timelines, etc. will be obtained.

These letters were copied to all the monitoring agencies. While I acknowledge your frustration with respect to progress on a regional monitoring program for grizzly bears, ENR is encouraged by this recent initiative and believes it will lead to a more robust data set that will greatly benefit the management and monitoring of grizzly bears in the Northwest Territories.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole McCutchen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole McCutchen, PhD  
Manager, Wildlife Research and Management

c. Keith McLean, Superintendent  
EKATI Diamond Mine  
BHP Billiton

David White, Executive Director  
Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency

Kevin O'Reilly, Executive Director  
Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Mark Fenwick, Executive Director  
Environmental Monitoring Agency Board

Lynda Yonge, Wildlife Director  
Environment and Natural Resources

Fred Mandeville, North Slave Regional Superintendent  
Environment and Natural Resources