

**Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Discussion and Decisions**

May 9th and 10th, 1998

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Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Board of Directors Meeting Summary of Discussion and Decisions

May 9th and 10th, 1998

Directors Present

Red Pedersen	Tony Pearce
François Messier	Kevin O'Reilly
Bill Ross	Peter McCart

Staff Present:

Hal Mills	Jackie Morris
Matt Bender	Lisa Hurley

Saturday May 9th, 1998

1 Review of Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed and found satisfactory.

2 Business Arising from Last Meeting

Action Items from the last meeting were reviewed.

- Action Item 2: regarding BOD (biological oxygen demand) limits set by NWT Water Board for Kodiak Lake. No letter was written; this was done verbally.
- Action Item 4 – no letter was written regarding collection of oxygen and temperature data in lakes near BHP claim block, to be followed through verbally with DIAND.
- Action Item 5 – at the Water Board hearings for the BHP project, nobody flagged the issue of 40 mg/l of BOD for Kodiak Lake.
- Action Item 15 – DFO has yet not provided us with their presentation notes (to the NWT Water Board regarding their comments on BOD in Kodiak Lake). Hal will arrange a meeting with Ron Allen and Julie Dahl to cover several outstanding questions.

3 Information Updates

3.1 Chair

Red and Hal attended an information session regarding environmental review procedures that might apply to Diavik. Red and Bill attended a subcommittee meeting at the home of Tony Pearce, held to formulate parts of the Annual Report. Red voiced his concern that exploration work done on the BHP claim block, such as that underway at the Sable Pipe, may be adding to environmental impacts of the project, and that the Monitoring Agency should not overlook this activity.

3.2 Directors

Updates were brief and are covered under the appropriate topic later in these meeting notes.

3.3 Staff

Hal updated the Directors on the April meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT) (meeting held on May 1). Notes from that meeting were included in the Directors' briefing binders.

Hal Mills introduced Lisa Hurley, a summer student who will assist the Monitoring Agency until September. Matt will be gone over the summer and return in September.

Matt provided a general overview of new documents.

3.4 Correspondence

The Directors reviewed recent correspondence, and discussed ways to make the correspondence available to the public.

Action Item One: Staff will maintain a binder for copies of the Monitoring Agency's correspondence. This binder will be available for viewing by the public as part of the Monitoring Agency's Public Registry.

4 Environmental Monitoring

4.1 Abandonment and Restoration Plan

The Directors voiced concern that there appears to be two different plans – one that was submitted to the Water Board and another one produced for the Environmental Agreement, to which the Monitoring Agency is to have input. The Monitoring Agency's interpretation had been that there was only one plan to be prepared. At the May 1 IACT meeting, the IACT group considered the possibility of BHP producing one plan that met the requirements of both the Environmental Agreement and the Water Board. The Monitoring Agency Directors expressed support for this idea.

4.2 New Development on the BHP Claim Block

The Directors questioned what environmental assessment process was in place for the development of the Sable and Zach pipes. These were not part of the original licences and permits.

Action Item Two: Staff to request information from DIAND regarding what environmental assessment process is in place for development of new pipes in the BHP claim area.

4.3 Construction Phase Environmental Monitoring Plan

The Directors noted that Mr. Livingstone's letter of March 14th indicated that DIAND and GNWT have not yet signed off the plan as approved. The NWT Water Board has not yet approved the revised Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan.

4.4 Aquatic Effects Monitoring Plan

On Friday May 8th, staff from DIAND, Environment Canada and DFO met with Tony and Peter at the Monitoring Agency office to discuss the AEMP. There was frustration over the different dates on the AEMP (the version in the Operating Environmental Management Plan is slightly different than a version circulated separately in April). The Quality Assurance/Quality Control protocols were slightly different in the two versions. Another concern was regarding the lack of information in the adaptive management strategy. The Technical Advisory Committee for the NWT Water Board will look at the AEMP next week.

4.5 Operating Phase Environmental Management Plan

All Directors have received a copy of this plan. Directors will review the document and return comments to the office by May 22nd. Comments will then be compiled and submitted by May 29th.

Action Item Three: Directors to send their comments on the Operating Environmental Management Plan to the office by May 22nd.

5 Meeting to Discuss the Dogrib Treaty 11 Traditional Knowledge Project

Violette Camsell-Blondin and Allice Legat spoke to the Directors about the Dogrib Treaty 11 traditional knowledge project. Zabey Nevid was also in attendance. Fikret Berkes participated via the speakerphone.

Allice described the Dogrib's approach to doing traditional knowledge research:

- includes youth and elders working together
- elders are sharing knowledge for the benefit of the general public, and in the hope that this knowledge will benefit their communities
- research involves speaking to many people; should not be just one person's opinion

Allice described the projects put forth by the Dogrib and the associated responses from BHP. The West Kitikmeot/ Slave Study has also been involved, in terms of sharing projects and funds. To date the Dogrib and BHP have not agreed on a methodology or funding. Allice noted that the different Aboriginal groups working with BHP would likely want to accomplish their research projects in different ways.

6 Other Items for Discussion

6.1 BHP's Annual Report for Water Licence

The Directors will review this report and return comments to the office by June 1st.

6.2 BHP's Annual Report for Environmental Agreement

The Directors will review this document and return comments to the office before June 1st.

6.3 Diavik Meeting

Red and Hal attended an information meeting hosted by DIAND about an environmental review process for the Diavik project. No decision has been made yet regarding whether the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) would require a Comprehensive Study or a Review Panel. The Directors restated their view that the Monitoring Agency's interest in the Diavik project is from the point of view of assessing cumulative impacts.

Sunday May 10th, 1998

7 Treasurer's Report

François reported that approximately 85% of the Monitoring Agency's budget was spent in 1997/98. Wowk and Wong will be performing the audit and financial statement for the Monitoring Agency.

François noted that the Monitoring Agency had not yet provided DIAND with a report of the Monitoring Agency's activities, as is required for the Contribution Agreement. DIAND has made an amendment to the Agreement, extending the due date for this report to June 1st.

François will approach the GNWT to set up the Contribution Agreement for 1998/99.

The Board continued their discussion about the need for Directors' and Officers' liability insurance. The decision was made to purchase this insurance.

Action Item Four: Staff will apply for Directors' and Officers' liability insurance for the Board.

A revised Travel and Expenses claim form was adopted by the Board. A final version will incorporate a few changes as noted by the Board.

Action Item Five: Staff to ascertain whether the government travel rates have changed for this fiscal year and adjust the Monitoring Agency's rates accordingly.

The Directors reviewed a proposed budget for 1998/99 and gave approval to the budget, providing the suggestions made at this meeting were incorporated. The revised proposed budget will be presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

In lieu of a workplan, the Directors will include a preface to the proposed budget, to outline how the money will be spent.

8 Annual General Meeting

The Directors chose the evening of June 24th for the Annual General Meeting. There was discussion as to whether the meeting should be open to the public. Letters notifying the Members of the AGM should go out more than one month previous to the meeting. The Directors set up an Agenda for the AGM.

9 Annual Report

The Directors are continuing to develop the contents of the Annual Report. By May 22nd the Directors should have their portions sent to the office for compilation. On May 26, 27, and 28th there will be an edit session at the office. François, Tony, Peter, Bill, Kevin and Hal will be attending all or parts of the edit session.

10 Meeting with Scott Williams of BHP

Scott updated the Directors regarding environmental management at the Ekati site. He covered:

- the status of the Operating Environmental Management Plan (OEMP);
- the Environmental Agreement Annual Report;
- Kodiak Lake oxygen mitigation and the silt protection berm;
- the Panda Diversion Channel remediation;
- de-watering of Panda Lake;
- Long Lake de-watering and dyke construction.

Scott described the June 9th spring cleanup day for Ekati and the Bear Awareness program underway for site workers.

Components of the Aquatic Effects and Wildlife Effects Monitoring Programs are in progress or about to begin.

There was a discussion regarding the Traditional Knowledge projects and the lack of progress in getting these underway.

The Directors questioned Scott about the Abandonment and Restoration Plan.

Scott was asked about documents listed at the back of the BHP Environmental Agreement Annual Report. He will follow up on our request for documents.

Action Item Six: Staff to write up a list of documents that the Agency does not yet have and forward it to BHP.

11 Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be in Yellowknife, with the following schedule:

June 24	Board Meeting
June 24 evening	Annual General Meeting
June 25	Site visit to Ekati
June 26	Continuation of Board Meeting

(Date of site visit, and whether or not to stay overnight at Ekati, to be confirmed)

List of Action Items

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Action Item Two: Staff to request information from DIAND regarding what environmental assessment process is in place for development of new pipes in the BHP claim area.

Action Item Three: Directors to send their comments on the Operating Environmental Management Plan to the office by May 22nd.

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