



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

P.O. Box 1192, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R2 ▪ Phone (867) 669 9141 ▪ Fax (867) 669 9145

Website: www.monitoringagency.net ▪ Email: monitor1@yk.com

May 14, 2009

To: Society Members Distribution List

Re: External Review of the Agency

We are pleased to send you a copy of an external review of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency recently completed by SENES Consultants. We would like to thank all of those who gave their time and their views to assist us in improving our performance.

You may know that the Agency had such a review done in 2000 and we believed that it was time to undertake a similar one. The Agency undertook this work with the financial assistance of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Government of the Northwest Territories and BHP Billiton Diamonds, and we thank them for that support.

While the Agency contracted SENES to carry out the work, we did not influence the report in any way. Directors and staff were interviewed by SENES, just as Society member representatives were interviewed.

Most of the recommendations offered by SENES involve communications with our Society members. We welcome your input on the report and its recommendations. This can be done by phone, e-mail, mail or visiting our office at any time.

In an effort to approach the recommendations in a systematic and collaborative manner, we have asked SENES to make a presentation on the report at our 2009 Annual General Meeting to be held in November or December of this year. Following the presentation and any questions, we would like to have a facilitated discussion of the recommendations and any other ideas for improving the Agency's performance. To help start the discussion, the Agency offers our preliminary thoughts on the recommendations from the report by SENES, as follows:

Recommendation #1: Renew the preparation of an Agency newsletter similar to the “Ekati Monitor”.

Preliminary Agency Response: The idea of regular communications from the Agency to our Society members appears sound to us. We would like to discuss the format and frequency with Society members and to seek direction on whether an e-mail newsletter and/or hard copy, or a web-based newsletter or blog might work best.

Recommendation #2: Prepare a “Reporting Back to Communities” pamphlet following community visits.

Preliminary Agency Response: We believe the idea of a formal follow-up after a community visit is good one and we would like to discuss this further with our Society members.

Recommendation #3: Organise more community meetings.

Preliminary Agency Response: The Agency recognizes that communities have very busy schedules and their own set of priorities. More community meetings by the Agency is dependent on our financial resources and the interest of communities. We would like to discuss the need for more community meetings further with our Society members.

Recommendation #4: Prepare summary notes / highlights from Board of Directors’ meetings.

Preliminary Agency Response: The Agency accepts this recommendation and we will summarize and distribute Board meeting highlights by e-mail to Society member representatives. We will do this on a trial basis and look forward to discussing what you think of this approach at our Annual General Meeting.

Recommendation #5: Where appropriate, make action-oriented, prescriptive recommendations in Annual Reports.

Preliminary Agency Response: The Agency agrees with this recommendation and we will try harder to improve our formal recommendations in our upcoming and future Annual Reports. Indeed, we have tried to do so in the report we are now preparing.

Recommendation #6: Follow-up on recommendations made in Annual Reports to ensure they have been, or are being, acted upon, and report back to Society members.

Preliminary Agency Response: The Agency agrees with this recommendation but we are not sure of the format or best means of distributing this information. We will track and report on any further progress on past recommendations made over the last three years and share the results with Society members.

We always welcome your input and look forward to a further discussion of this external review at our Annual General Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Ross
Chairperson

Attachment

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