



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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November 16, 2007

Violet Camsell-Blondin
Chairperson
Wek'eezhi Land and Water Board
Box 32
Wekweti NT
X0E 1W0

Dear Ms. Camsell-Blondin

Re: Panda/Koala Waste Rock Storage Area Expansion

As requested by your staff on October 29, 2007, the Agency has reviewed the proposal from BHP Billiton to expand the Panda/Koala Waste Rock Storage Area.

The Agency reviewed the July 31, 1998 Waste Rock and Ore Storage Management Plan Table 7-2 (page 108) where the storage capacity of the final Panda/Koala dump is shown. The final elevation is 50 m consisting of three 15 m lifts with a final capping of an additional 5-10 m layer. According to this table, an additional 5 m of dump height could accommodate approximately 13.6 million cubic metres of waste rock. This should be more than sufficient to store the 5 million tonnes of additional waste rock to be produced from the Beartooth Pit.

Given that the additional Beartooth waste rock could be accommodated with a relatively minor increase in height to the Panda/Koala dump, the Agency has a moderate preference for this option, rather than an expansion to the dump footprint. Furthermore, if the additional waste rock is placed in an accessible manner, it could be available for future use in construction of the Sable Road or wildlife access ramps at closure.

If there are technical or regulatory reasons why a small increase in height to the existing Panda/Koala dump is not possible, the Agency is not opposed to the option of expanding the footprint as preferred by BHPB.

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We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and would be pleased to discuss them further with your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members
Helen Butler, BHPB
Jason Brennan, DIAND Water Inspector