



***Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency***

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Ian Goodwin  
Manager  
Environment, Community and External Affairs  
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc  
#1102 4920-52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3T1

Dear Ian,

**Re: Cancellation of Ekati Environmental Workshops**

We are extremely surprised and sincerely disappointed with your unilateral decision to cancel the December and February environmental workshops and to replace them with tri-annual workshops and annual visits to individual communities. The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) views this decision as a serious step backwards in achieving open dialogue and integrated regulatory and community input to annual monitoring and related adaptive management programs. Based on written and verbal feedback we have received from both Aboriginal and regulatory participants, others share our view.

Because of this feedback and of the value that our members attach to these workshops, we have decided to organize a workshop this year to facilitate a forum for discussion. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation through the timely distribution of 2003 monitoring reports and proposed 2004 monitoring programs. We view your involvement in the workshop as important and hope you will be able to attend.

We will keep you informed about workshop details as they become available.

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

William A. Ross  
Chairperson

Cc: Society Members, IACT members