

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

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April 14th 2008

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Wildlife Research Permit Application - Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) for Ekati Diamond Mine (Application # NSR062-08)

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) has reviewed and conditionally supports the aforementioned application.

The NSMA represents the Indigenous North Slave Metis People who have been using and occupying the North Slave region of the Northwest Territories (NWT) since long before the "Crown" established "effective control" over wildlife management in the area. This means the North Slave Indigenous Metis People possess Aboriginal Rights and Titles and Treaty Rights to the lands and resources in the area of this application, including an aboriginal right to participate in the management of wildlife. With that in mind, the NSMA takes its representative mandate seriously, and must continue to ensure it is "consulted and accommodated," regarding all activities on, or potentially affecting, its traditional environment, lands or natural resources.

The conditions of NSMA's support for BHP's Wildlife Research Licence are:

- ∞ BHP should provide the NSMA with details of their research workplan(s) including expected dates and duration of all wildlife research and monitoring activities, as well as the contact information of the individual in charge of conducting each study, prior to the issuance of the research licence.
- ∞ One month before the start of field work, BHP or its delegate should provide the NSMA with a detailed list of employment and training opportunities available for NSMA members, as well as opportunities for staff involvement.
- ∞ BHP should involve the NSMA in the wildlife monitoring programs at the Ekati mine site by providing training and employment to NSMA community members, and by involving NSMA staff.
- ∞ BHP should incorporate Metis TK into the Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program and will consider Metis TK equally to scientific information when making management decisions about the Ekati mine.
- ∞ In 2008 specifically, BHP should facilitate the involvement of the NSMA in a program to incorporate Metis Traditional Knowledge (TK) into the caribou, waterfowl, and furbearer monitoring programs.

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- ∞ BHP should continue to conduct wolverine snow track surveys until a more effective methodology replaces the snow track surveys.
- ∞ BHP should remove the reference to ENR's wolf aerial surveys of occupancy and productivity from their Wildlife Research Permit application. ENR's research program is not intended, or adequate, to monitor specific impacts of the Ekati mine on wolf populations. (Wolf den data available from ENR for the study area should nevertheless be referenced and commented on in BHP's Wildlife Effects Monitoring Reports.)
- ∞ BHP should continue their incidental and behavioural observations of all wildlife, including wolves.
- ∞ BHP should respond in writing to the NSMA's comments on the 2006 Wildlife Effects Monitoring Report and any further reviews.
- ∞ BHP should present the results of their 2007 Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program to the NSMA community prior to the application for the 2009 Wildlife Research Permit Application.
- ∞ BHP should contact the NSMA to arrange for the community meeting at least one month in advance of the meeting to make arrangements (so, at least two months prior to application for the 2009 licence).

The NSMA looks forward to being Consulted on the development of standardized protocols for wildlife monitoring in the region, as well as the establishment of triggers for adaptive management actions.

The NSMA is in the process of hiring a team of youth(s) and elder(s) for the 2008 field season in order to ensure participants are available to participate in wildlife research related opportunities. We would like to see these staff as active as possible in the wide diversity of monitoring in the NSR. Please contact the undersigned by email a month or so in advance of each field project to arrange participation to the greatest extent possible.

Sincerely,



Sheryl Grieve
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