



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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August 7, 2008

Laura Tyler
Manager—Environment, Community, Communications and Planning
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
#1102 4920-52nd Street
Yellowknife NT
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Re: Reclamation Research Plan

Dear Laura

The Agency has reviewed your letter dated June 27, 2008 regarding the format and organization of the Reclamation Research Plan. We support BHPB's efforts to improve the Reclamation Research Plan and we note that the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board has accepted BHPB's approach to the revision of the Plan.

As we have previously stated, one of our principal concerns is to gain an adequate understanding of the research that yet needs to be completed to support the ICRP. We note that Steve Wilbur provided four descriptive bullets about the ideal content of the scope of work. In this regard, we want to emphasize the importance of item 7 (Scope of Work) in BHPB's list, and express our expectation that the bulk of the new information to be supplied by the company on its reclamation research will fall into this category--solid descriptions of the activities to be undertaken and details of the methods that will be employed to carry out the identified research tasks.

We agree that item 1 (Uncertainty) of the Reclamation Research Plan should provide explicit links to uncertainties in the ICRP as noted in various tables, where specific closure options and methods have not yet been defined or measurable closure criteria are not yet developed.

While we agree with item 8 that proposes "a comprehensive schedule for all research tasks will be included elsewhere in the ICRP Appendices", we believe this schedule should be an integral part of the Reclamation Research Plan. We also wish to emphasize the need to coordinate the reclamation research with the Life of Mine Plan and scheduled closure

activities to ensure that BHPB has the information necessary to close each mine component and facility in a timely manner.

We would be happy to discuss these comments with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

-Original Signed By-

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members
Helen Butler, BHPB
Kathy Racher and Ryan Fequet, WLWB
Anne Wilson, Environment Canada
Bruce Hanna, Fisheries and Oceans