

December 17, 2007

File: 4.6.3.1

Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
101 – 5204 50<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

Attention: Mr. Bruce Hanna, Habitat Biologist

**Re: Winter Water Withdrawal Submission for on-ice Drilling Program at Lac du Sauvage and Lac de Gras near EKATI Diamond Mine**

Dear Mr. Hanna;

This letter is provided to meet the information requirements of DFO's Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol and to seek DFO's review. We have provided separate notification to DIAND and WLWB of drilling activities pursuant to Land Use Permit MV2002C0040.

Based from Misery camp, it is anticipated that the crews supporting the temporary road construction and camp support activities will begin work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2008.

Commencing approximately early-March 2008, BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. will be conducting diamond drilling, requiring the use of under-ice water from Lac du Sauvage in the vicinity of Cardinal and Jay Pipes located 2 km and 5.8 km NE of Misery Camp respectively, and on Lac de Gras south of Lynx Lake, approximately 10 km south of Misery Camp (Figure 1).

Core diamond drilling will use one LF90 hydraulic diamond drill. Drilling is scheduled to begin in mid-March and be complete by mid-April (weather and road conditions dependent). It is anticipated that up to five holes will be drilled. It is estimated that the drill will use 68 m<sup>3</sup>/day of fresh water. A map including available bathymetry at each drill hole is provided (Figures 2-5).

Diamond drill program (Lac du Sauvage): 28 days x 68 m<sup>3</sup>/day= 1,904 m<sup>3</sup>

Diamond drill program (Lac de Gras): 14 days x 68 m<sup>3</sup>/day= 952 m<sup>3</sup>

Lac du Sauvage and Lac de Gras are both very large water bodies, with surface areas estimated at 68,445,000 m<sup>2</sup> and 577,757,000 m<sup>2</sup> respectively. Because of the large estimated lake capacities, and the anticipation that our diamond drilling program at the lakes will use only 1,904 m<sup>3</sup> and 952 m<sup>3</sup> respectively, we would like to request an exemption from the Winter Water Withdrawal Protocol for this program.

We trust that the above information meets with your requirements. Please contact the undersigned at (867) 669-6156 should you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,  
**BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.**



*for* Laura Tyler  
Manager – Environment, Community, Communications and Planning  
EKATI Diamond Mine

Attachments

cc: Mr. Ryan Fequet – Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board  
Mr. Bill Ross – Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Figure 1 – Jay area, Cardinal area and south of Lynx lake; proposed targets, sump locations.

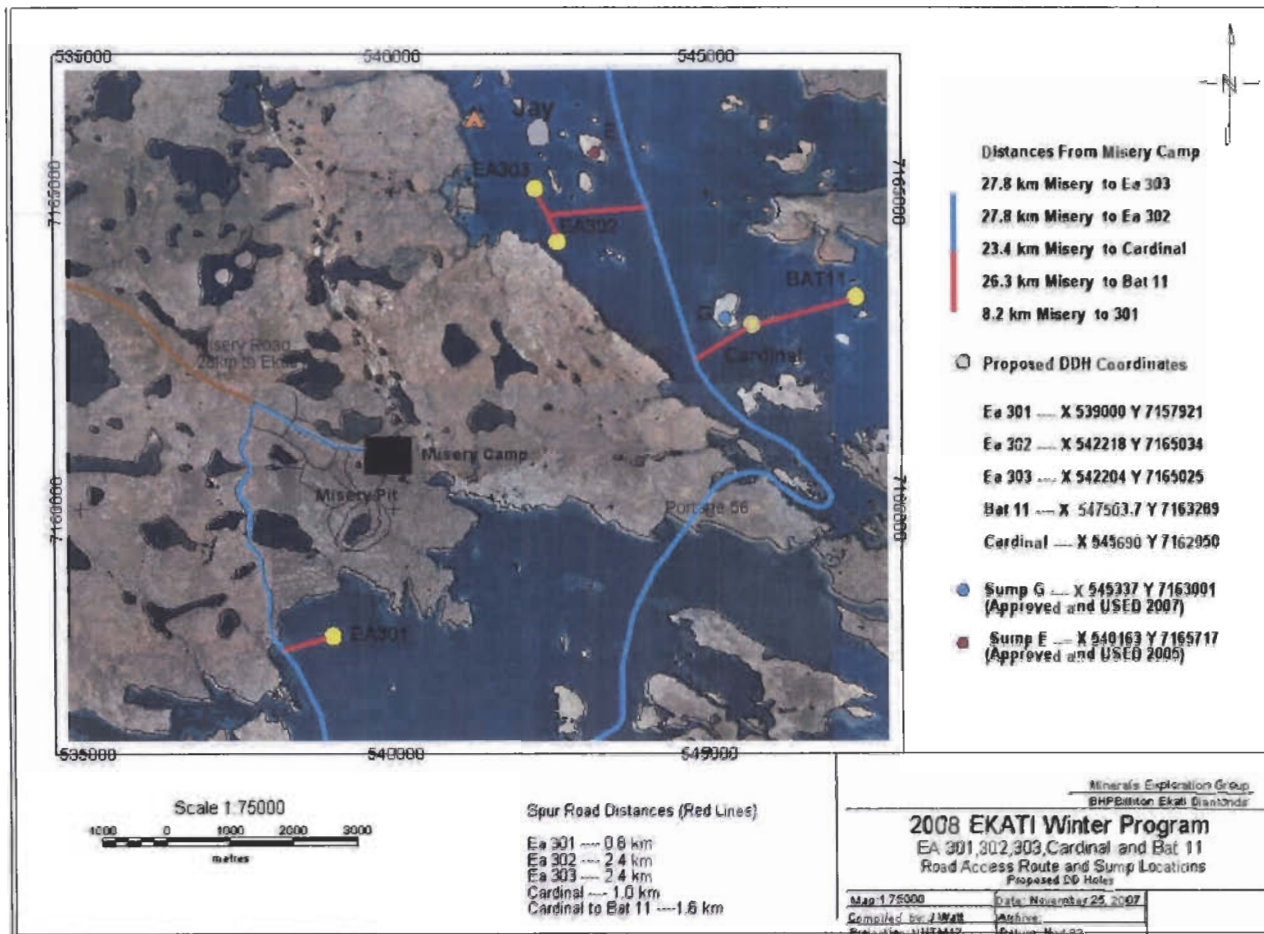
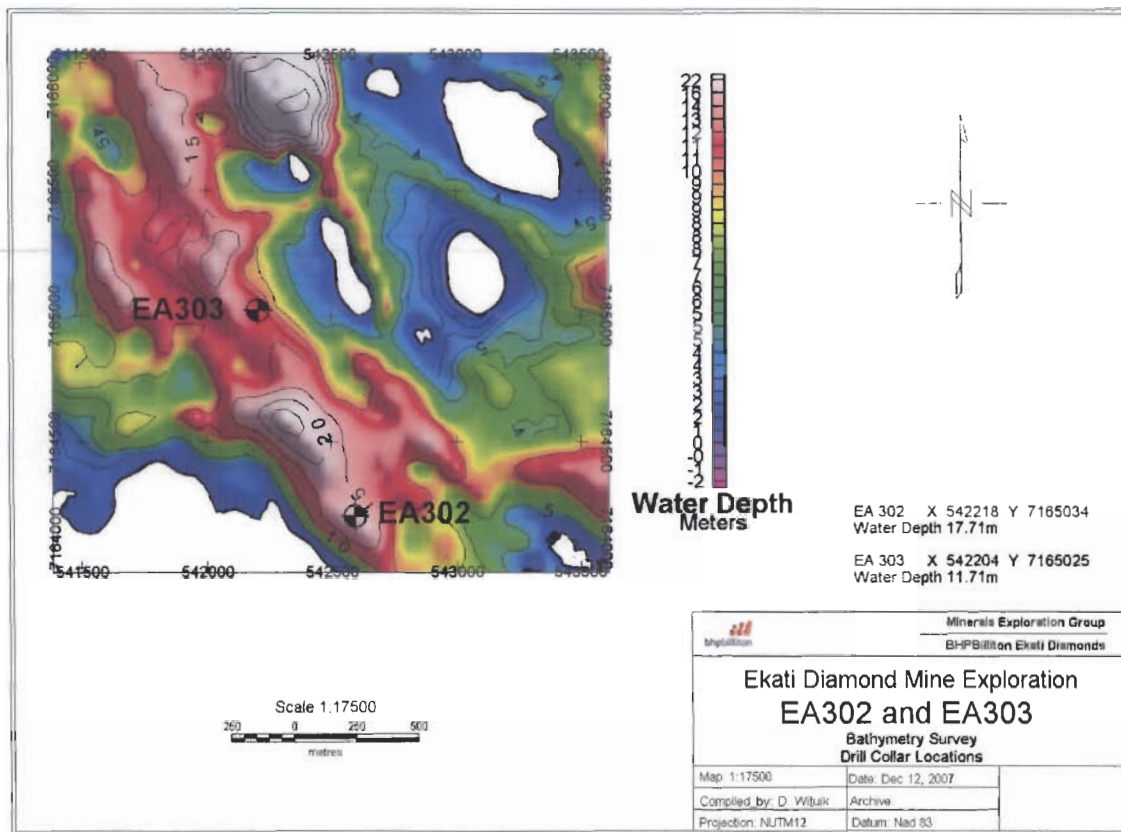


Figure 2 – Jay area bathymetry and planned diamond drill targets



**Figure 3 – Cardinal area bathymetry and planned diamond drill target**

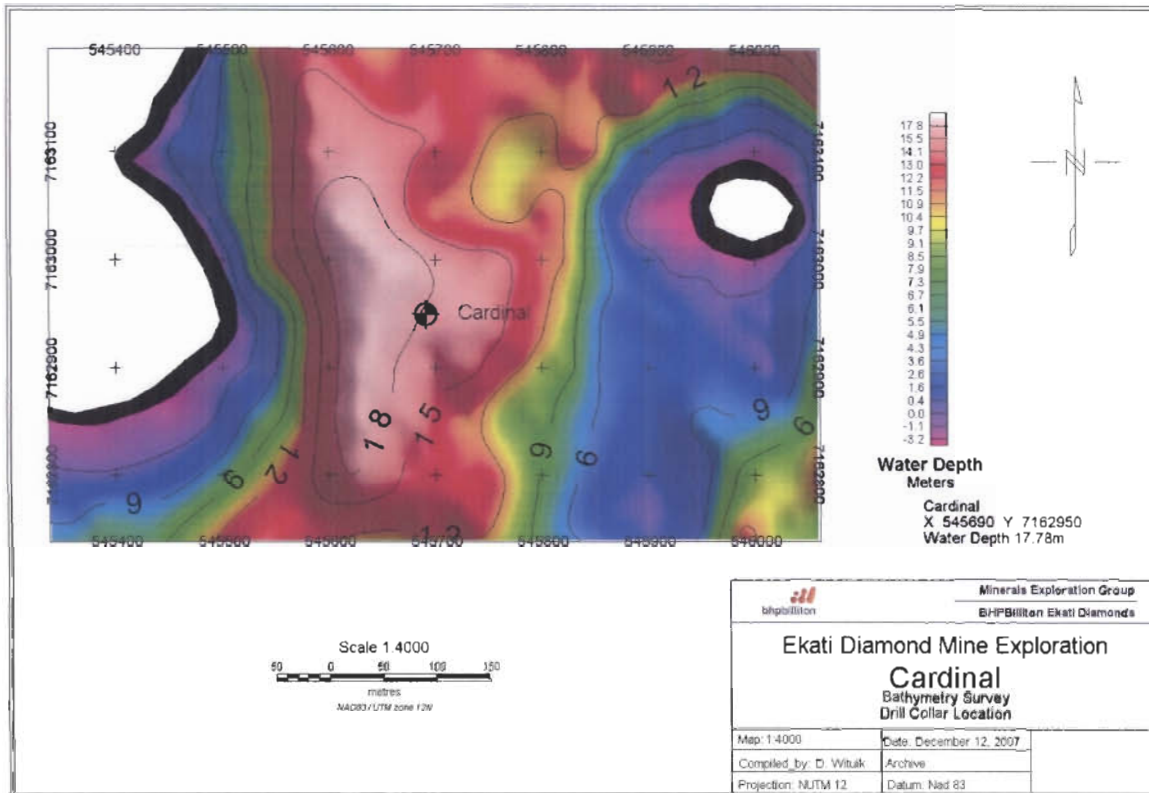
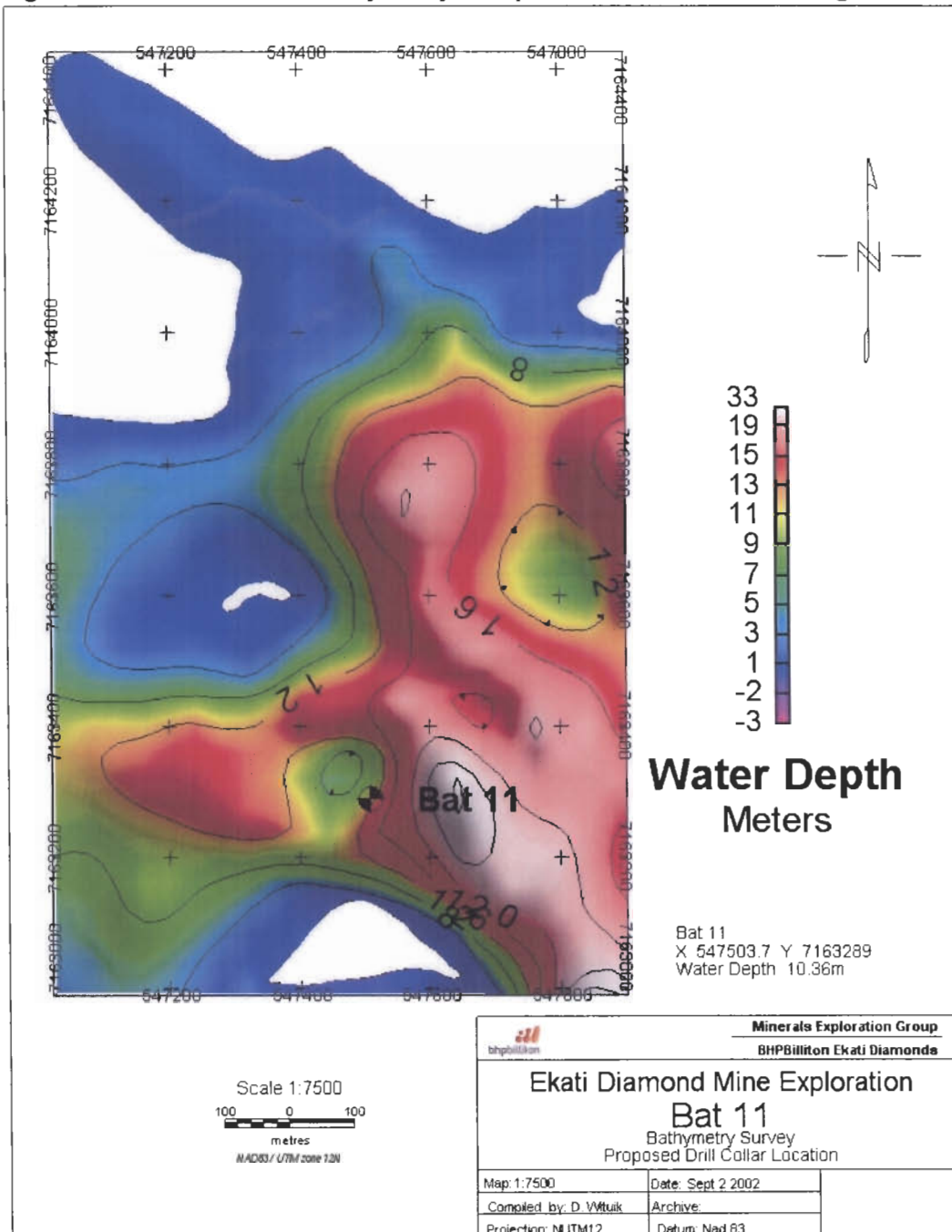


Figure 4 – Cardinal area bathymetry and planned diamond drill target BAT11



**Figure 5 – Bathymetry south of Lynx Lake and planned diamond drill target**

