



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Environment Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
#301-5204 50th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

June 6th, 2008

Our File: 4780 005 004

Dr. Kathy Racher
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
Box 32, Wekweeti, NT X0E 1W0

**Re: BHP Billiton (BHPB) Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan, Section 4
Verification comments**

Ms. Racher,

Review Comment

It is EC's understanding that the numbers used to provide the data describing the natural variability within the littoral zones of Upper Exeter and Ursula Lake are based on very limited data points. EC is not comfortable with the predicted effects of extraction rates provided and would like to see increased monitoring to ensure that the true extent of natural variability is captured. Furthermore, it is also EC's understanding that monitoring of the lake levels is a requirement under the water licence, however it appears that we do not have a comprehensive data set for the lake levels at this time.

Status

BHP Billiton has provided information on the number of years of monitoring for Upper Exeter and Ursula Lakes and the Ursula Outflow stream and how this data was calculated into the modeling results for predicted effects of extraction rates. EC is satisfied with the information BHP Billiton has provided, however EC would like to note that 3 to 4 years of data collection in the realm of hydrological and lake level monitoring is on the lower end of the spectrum and may not truly capture the natural variability of the area.

We look forward to continuing to work with the board through the review process for the ICRP for the Ekati Mine. Should you have any further questions please contact myself, Savanna Levenson at (867) 669-4772 or via email at savanna.levenson@ec.gc.ca.

Yours Truly,

Savanna Levenson

Canada 

Environmental Assessment Specialist
Environmental Protection Operations

c.c: Carey Ogilvie, Head EA North, Environment Canada
Anne Wilson, Water Pollution Specialist, Environment Canada