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Agency Visit to Kugluktuk - March 2011

The Agency visited the community of Kugluktuk from March 15-17, 2011. We held a Board meeting, hosted a community open house and met with staff from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Nunavut regional biologist.

About 50 people attended our community open house and information session. We gave a presentation on the Ekati mine, BHP Billiton's environmental monitoring programs, and the Agency's work.



People had the opportunity to ask questions, and we had a good discussion about the effects of the mine as well as planning for closure and reclamation.



We also visited the Jimmy Hikok Ilihavik Elementary School and Kugluktuk High School to talk about our work.



Ekati Timeline Project

Check out our new Ekati Timeline website!

[http://
timeline.monitoringagency.net/](http://timeline.monitoringagency.net/)

Scroll back and forth through time as you look at pictures of important events in the history of the Ekati diamond mine. Mine operations, regulatory events, environmental issues and Agency activities are highlighted.

And don't forget our main website as we continue to make improvements...
www.monitoringagency.net

Here you'll find meeting minutes, correspondence, background documents, photographs, and other Ekati information.





Did You Know?

The largest rough diamond ever found is the **Cullinan**. Discovered in 1905 in Transvaal, South Africa it weighed **3106 carats!** It was cut into nine major stones that are now part of the British Crown Jewels.



Air Quality Workshop and AGM - November 2010

On November 17th the Agency hosted an air quality workshop in Yellowknife. BHPB, the Agency and Environment Canada gave presentations. We talked about the Agency's review of the 2008 Air Quality Monitoring Program (AQMP) report and the recent improvements BHPB has made.



Environment Canada gave the results of a 2008 study at Ekati. Toxic chemicals called dioxins and furans are showing up in the sediments of Kodiak Lake. They are released into the air when garbage is not burned properly. BHPB bought a new incinerator in 2006 that releases much less pollution, but they still do not have it working.



At the workshop and our Annual General Meeting the next day, community members said they are very concerned about the impacts of dust and contaminants at Ekati. We want BHPB to start using the new incinerator right away.

Decision on Ekati Closure Plan - December 2010

In our last newsletter, we talked about BHPB's legal arguments with the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB). The main issue was what happens when the mine closes and the pits are filled with water. BHPB said it would install barriers so that fish could not travel through and that it did not have to create fish habitat in these pit lakes. The Agency and others disagreed, and a public hearing was held to consider the whole plan, including what to do with the pit lakes.

The WLWB released its decision on December 10th. The Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP) is approved but BHPB must make some important changes. If water quality in the pit lakes will not harm fish, the company must not block fish from travelling through. The company must create shallow areas that will help fish live in and use the pit lakes. BHPB must also set goals on how to make the mine area safe for wildlife, and do more research to find the best ways to close the mine that can be measured. The decision can be found on the WLWB [website](#).

Panda Diversion Channel (PDC)

In 2010 a total of 1,564 Arctic grayling were counted moving through the PDC fish boxes.



BHPB has monitored the PDC since 1999. The results and other studies suggest that PDC grayling are smaller and have less body fat than grayling from other streams. This means they might not survive through the winter. We are still not sure whether grayling that hatch in the PDC survive in Kodiak Lake until they are old enough to reproduce.

BHPB started work this past winter to widen the PDC. This will make it more stable, and help prevent rock and soil from falling off the sides and into the channel below. The work will continue next winter.



Agency Ekati Site Visit - June 2011

Directors and staff visited the Ekati mine site and met with BHPB staff.

We visited the following:

- Panda Diversion Channel (widening project area and the fish box);
- Beartooth Pit; and
- Long Lake Containment Facility (LLCF) including the Fay Bay spill, Cell A high road and processed kimberlite (PK) discharge point.



Discussion with BHPB staff in Environment lab.

We discussed a number of issues with the company including:

- Water quality coming from Ekati;
- Processed Kimberlite deposition planning;
- Steps necessary to get the incinerator working;
- Revisions to the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP);
- Wildlife management including grizzly bear monitoring;
- Renewal of the company's water licence; and
- Snow sampling.



Processed Kimberlite discharge point.



Arctic hare and fox seen during our site visit.

Diamond Quiz

Diamonds can only be polished with another diamond.

True or False?

Diamonds have a unique molecular structure that is very strong. They can scratch any other mineral and can only be scratched or polished by another diamond.

Answer: True.

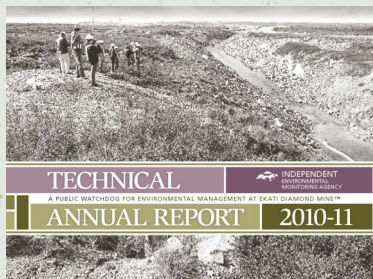
Looking Ahead....

Our new 2010-11 Annual Report will soon arrive in your community! Technical and Plain Language versions are available, as well as a short Summary Brochure. The report will also be available at our office and on our website.

Directors and staff will attend an Arctic Ungulate Conference in Yellowknife August 22-26, as well as an international conference on mine closure in Lake Louise, Alberta from September 17-21.

Updates on these and other activities will be on our website and in the next newsletter. We are also working on possible dates for a Board meeting and community visit to Whati.

If you would like the Agency to visit your community, please contact us.



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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DIRECTORS:

Bill Ross (Chairperson),
appointed by BHPB/Canada/
GNWT

Tim Byers (Vice-
Chairperson), appointed by
Akaitcho Treaty 8

Jaida Ohokannoak
(Secretary-Treasurer),
appointed by
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Tony Pearce, appointed by
Tłıchq Government

Kim Poole, appointed by
BHPB/Canada/GNWT

Laura Johnston, appointed
by BHPB/Canada/GNWT

Audrey Enge, appointed by
North Slave Métis Alliance

STAFF:

Kevin O'Reilly
Executive Director

Monica Krieger
Communications and
Environmental Specialist

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency is a public watchdog for environmental management at BHP Billiton's Ekati Diamond Mine. We were created through Article V of the Environmental Agreement signed on January 6, 1997. This is a legal document to make sure that BHP Billiton and the governments of Canada and Northwest Territories respect and protect the land, water, wildlife and land-based way of life essential to the Aboriginal Peoples of the area.

The Agency consists of seven Directors appointed by the following:

- Akaitcho Treaty 8 (łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Yellowknives Dene First Nation)
- Tłıchq Government
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Government of Canada (Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development)
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- BHP Billiton Canada Inc.



The Directors are independent of the appointing Parties. They work together in the best interests of the people and environment affected by the Ekati Diamond Mine. The Agency reviews BHP Billiton's environmental reports and plans. We visit the mine site and listen to community and public concerns. We make recommendations to the company and various regulators on how best to protect the environment at Ekati.

Our Yellowknife office has two staff members, a resource library, and lots of information about the Ekati area. Feel free to contact us! We would be happy to answer your questions and help you learn more.

Director Profile: Bill Ross (Chairperson)



Bill Ross was appointed in April 1997 when the Agency was first created. He is one of three Directors that are jointly appointed by BHP Billiton, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada (in consultation with Aboriginal governments). He has been Chairperson since 2003.

Bill lives in Calgary and has been involved with environmental impact assessment for 35 years. Despite being officially retired, he continues to work with the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design. He has served on panels for oil and gas developments, and is often asked to provide advice and assistance for international projects.

Bill's goal for the Agency is that when the Ekati Mine closes, BHPB will be recognized as having operated the best environmentally-managed mine in Canada's North.

