



Memo

**Environmental
Engineering
Scientific
Management
Consultants**

4370 Dominion Street
5th Floor
Burnaby BC
Canada V5G 4L7

Bus 604 436 3014
Fax 604 436 3752

www.jacqueswhitford.com

Date: February 4, 2008

To: Kathy Racher, Ryan Fequet, Wek eezhii Land and Water Board

cc: Nick Lawson, Jacques Whitford AXYS

From: Steve Wilbur, Jacques Whitford AXYS

Subject: Verification of Status of Resolution Regarding Technical Comments on Working Group Section 3 Issues, 2007 Ekati ICRP Report Sections 6.4 to 6.6

Please find attached a summary of the resolution status of technical comments provided by Jacques Whitford-AXYS on BHPB's January 9, 2008 written responses based on discussions during the January 21, 2008 Technical Working Group meeting.

The following tracking numbers are resolved:

32, 34, 55, 56, 58, 78, 79, 94, 102, 116, 119, 127, 130, 131, 132, 134, 140, 141, 146, 157, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188 and 207

The following tracking numbers are resolved with a commitment/action and/or recommendation:

9 - recommend that the pond level and discharge data are collected with sufficient frequency, so that it is adequate for hydrologic design of weirs.

14 – the review and discussion of details for specific research and pilot studies will be conducted as part of Section 4; recommend that a distinction be made between on-going pilot studies and future pilot studies with reference (and prioritization) to the timing of closure and when the results of research and pilot studies would be available

30 - BHPB will clarify the duration and physical conditions for developing a 300 to 400m thick zone of permafrost.

33 - BHPB will explain contingencies related to reduced performance of dyke filters.

35 - BHPB will include a description or reference to lessons learned regarding dyke performance and associated changes to design contingencies.

77- BHPB will ensure consistencies with 1995 EIS and note any revisions and improvements to initial studies.

80 – BHPB to provide reference for Multiple Accounts Analysis with respect to LLCF 5-year review

115 - BHPB will produce a plan map with scaled dimensions of Phase 1 facility.

121 - BHPB will also reference relevant DFO authorization.

125, 126, 127, 128 and 129 – Although BHPB asserts that a large database exists (from operations, water license compliance and on-going studies) it is not clear whether site-specific data has been or will be collected for various areas and/or facilities that will be adequate to support the development of closure criteria or specific design features. Recommend that during the Section 4 review, BHPB provide references to or a compilation of pertinent data that will be

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used as the basis for supporting the closure and/or design of specific facilities. In this way, data gaps can be identified as a part of the development of research and/or pilot study programs.

128 - Recommend BHPB explain or clarify why snow removal will not be required at closure.

129 – BHBP to provide references to DFO authorization(s) that explain the closure conditions for Bearclaw jetty.

133 - Recommend that BHPB state also that weirs will be designed for conveying peak flows.

135 - Recommend that BHPB clarify how the recent (2006) “100-year” precipitation event was conveyed in PDC (ie; design flows were not exceeded).

167 – Recommend that wording be re-phrased wherever a post-closure monitoring period is described, such that the total monitoring duration could be reduced or increased (for specific aspects) to reflect actual trends and results, while at the same time providing a minimum “additional time” of monitoring after criteria are initially achieved

Thank you,

Jacques Whitford AXYS Ltd.

Stephen Wilbur, Ph.D., P.Geo.
Senior Consultant