

Northwest Territories

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CANADA'S FIRST DIAMOND MINE ONE STEP CLOSER

OTTAWA (August 8, 1996) -- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) Ronald A. Irwin today announced that the Government of Canada accepts the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Review Panel (EARP). Today's approval means that BHP Diamonds Inc. can proceed with the work required to obtain the permits and licences (eg: water, land use, etc.) for the construction and operation of the multi-billion dollar Northwest Territories mine.

Mr. Irwin said, "the NWT Diamonds Project, the first of its kind in North America, represents enormous development potential for the North, for Aboriginal people and other northerners, and for Canada generally. Our task over the coming months will be to solidify the partnership between all the proponents of the project; Aboriginal people, northerners, governments and other stakeholders to ensure this development occurs in harmony with other important considerations."

"BHP estimates the mining operation is expected to increase the Canadian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by \$6.2 billion over the projected 25 year life of the project and that \$2.5 billion of this will accrue to the economy of the NWT," stated Mr. Irwin. "It is estimated that approximately 60 per cent of this contribution will be in the form of wages and benefits."

Before issuing major licences, Mr. Irwin will review progress on the negotiation of an environmental agreement and the negotiation of impact benefit agreements between BHP Diamonds Inc. and the affected Aboriginal groups. Furthermore, the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories, Aboriginal groups and interested parties, will be working together to put a protected areas strategy in place in the Northwest Territories by the end of 1998.

It is anticipated that the Northwest Territories will benefit from increasing revenue and employment opportunities as a result of the mine. The EARP panel report released on June 21, 1996 estimates that the total wages for northerners during the two year construction of the mine will be nearly \$32 million. According to figures provided by BHP the mine will directly employ about 1,000 people during the construction phase.

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BHP estimates total earnings for northerners will average \$39 million per year through direct and indirect employment opportunities resulting from the anticipated 25 year operation of the mine. It estimates an average of 830 people annually will be employed during the operating phase of the mine and two thirds will be northern residents. In addition, the company estimates the project will create approximately another 640 indirect jobs in the NWT economy.

"Canada has the expertise needed for this project to proceed in a way which minimizes risk to the environment, provides benefits to northerners and Aboriginal communities, and leads to new opportunities for this industry in Canada," added Minister Irwin.

In July, 1994, at Mr. Irwin's request, the EARP panel was formed and mandated to conduct a public review of the environmental and socio-economic effects directly associated with BHP Diamonds Inc.'s proposed diamond mine project in the Lac de Gras area of the Northwest Territories. Members of the panel were appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment (DOE) in December, 1994. EARP's final report, which included twenty nine recommendations, was submitted to the federal government in June, 1996.

This news release is also available through the Internet at <http://www.inac.gc.ca>.

Information backgrounders are attached.

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FOR
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT**

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BACKGROUNDER #1
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
THE SEARCH FOR DIAMONDS

CHRONOLOGY

- 1983** Chuck Fipke forms Dia Met Mineral Ltd.
- 1989** Fipke finds indicator minerals in the Lac de Gras, NWT area and starts staking minerals claims
- 1990** Dia Met and BHP sign joint venture agreement
- 1991** First diamonds are discovered near Point Lake, NWT
- 1992** BHP Winter Drilling Program begins
- Kennecott, Aber and Southernera discover eight pipes southeast of Point Lake.
- Lytton Minerals drills the diamond-bearing Ranch Lake pipe
- 1993** BHP Winter Drilling Program for Leslie, Fox, and Koala area begins
- Kennecott and BHP apply for permits and licenses to perform bulk sample testing of diamond-bearing pipes at Lac de Gras, NWT
- BHP opens Koala Camp
- BHP goes underground at Fox for bulk sample
- Tanqueray Resources Ltd. drills the diamond-bearing Torrie pipe
- Kennecott begins bulk sampling of Tli Kwi Cho double pipe
- 1994** BHP Process Plants become operational
- BHP Winter Drilling Program for Panda, Koala, Fox, Leslie, and Misery begins
- BHP goes underground at Panda
- DIAND recommends Environmental Impact Study

Environmental Assessment Review Panel is appointed by federal Minister of Environment

Kennecott releases disappointing results from Tli Kwi Cho bulk sample

Kennecott/Aber discover A154 pipe

Kennecott/Aber begin environmental baseline studies

1995 EARP Panel releases EIS Guidelines

BHP Winter Drilling Program continues at Panda, Koala, Fox, Leslie, and Misery

EARP Panel holds Scoping Meetings on BHP Project

BHP submits EIS to Panel

Kennecott/Aber collect bulk samples from various pipes

1996 EARP Panel holds public review hearings in NWT

July 21, 1996 EARP Panel submits its report to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Environment Canada, recommending the project be approved subject to 29 recommendations

Aug. 6, 1996 Government of Canada accepts the recommendations of the EARP panel report

August 1996

BACKGROUNDER #2
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
LAND CLAIMS NEAR THE BHP SITE

The BHP site lies within the traditional territories asserted by the Treaty 11 Dogrib and the Yellowknives Dene.

The Treaty 11 Dogrib live in four communities: Behcho Ko (Rae-Edzo), Wha Ti (Lac La Martre), Gameti (Rae Lakes) and Wekweti (Snare Lake). Wekweti is the closest community (180 kilometres) to the BHP site at Lac de Gras. The Dogrib are negotiating a comprehensive land claim and self-government agreement.

The Yellowknives Dene live in Ndilo, in Yellowknife, and in Dettah, across Yellowknife Bay. The Yellowknives Dene have entered into Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) negotiations.

Since land claim and TLE negotiations have not been completed, there is concern on the part of the Dogrib and the Yellowknives Dene that mining development will compromise the government's ability to conduct negotiations. There is also some frustration with the review process and the difficulty of concluding benefit agreements with the company. For its part, BHP has committed to negotiate benefit agreements with all the Aboriginal groups in the area; this would include the Inuit of Coppermine and the Métis Nation of the Northwest Territories as well as the Dogrib and Yellowknives Dene.

Land claim negotiations with the Dogrib commenced in January 1994. Two interim agreements have been signed. The Interim Provisions Agreement (June 1994) provides the Dogrib with opportunities to participate on government bodies which assess and review development activities and regulate land and water uses in their claim area. The Interim Land Withdrawal Agreement withdrew from disposition (in August 1994) approximately 5,000 square miles of land around the four Dogrib communities and in a culturally sensitive area. The agreements remain in effect pending the settlement of the Dogrib claim.

The Dogrib Framework Agreement was signed in Behcho Ko, Northwest Territories, on August 7, 1996 by the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Canada. The framework agreement outlines the process, subject matters, scope, parameters and time frame for negotiation of a comprehensive land claim and self-government agreement-in-principle (AIP) and a final agreement.

The federal government is also committed to the settlement of treaty issues with the Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation which represents the Yellowknives Dene, Lutsel K'e and Deninu K'ue First Nations.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has said resolution of claims is his highest priority for the North. Since 1993, there have been 57 specific and treaty land entitlement claims and five comprehensive claims settlements negotiated throughout Canada. The Minister has also asked BHP and Aboriginal groups to renew their efforts to conclude benefits agreements.

BACKGROUNDER #3
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
CANADA'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT TO GROW BY \$6.2 BILLION

Canada's diamond mine project is expected to provide significant economic benefits to Canada and the Northwest Territories, a region of the country where unemployment is above the national average. These benefits will include jobs and associated wages and benefits, the purchase of capital and consumable goods and services by the mine, and tax and royalty revenues paid to the federal and territorial governments.

The mining operation is expected to increase the Canadian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by \$6.2 billion over the projected 25 year life of the project. It is estimated that \$2.5 billion of this increase in GDP will accrue to the economy of the NWT. BHP estimates that approximately 60 per cent of this contribution will be in the form of wages and benefits. The mine is expected to be one of the largest purchasers of goods and services in the North. During the operation of the mine, BHP estimates that 70 per cent of each purchase dollar will likely be spent in the North.

During the exploration phase of the project, BHP indicated that 25 per cent of the workforce was made up of Aboriginal people and contracts totalling about \$20 million were awarded to Aboriginal companies or contractors with a significant Aboriginal workforce. During the construction phase, BHP estimates that the mine will directly employ about 1,000 people.

During the operational phase, BHP expects to employ an average of 830 people. According to figures provided by BHP, two-thirds of the workforce will be composed of Northern residents. In addition, the company estimates that the project will create another approximately 640 indirect jobs in the NWT economy.

BHP will operate the mine as a fly-in/fly-out operation with a two weeks in/two weeks out employee schedule which will accommodate the traditional Aboriginal lifestyle. The company has committed to a policy of Aboriginal preference in hiring and on-site training in order to maximize Aboriginal employment at the project. BHP estimates that of the jobs filled by Northerners, half, or about 275, will be held by Aboriginal people. BHP estimates that the project will result in a 10 per cent reduction in the unemployment rate in NWT Aboriginal communities, from 40 per cent to 30 per cent.

BHP has committed to apply its preferential hiring policy for Aboriginals to its contractors and sub-contractors. BHP will also give preference to Aboriginal businesses in the letting of contracts.

BACKGROUNDER #4
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW PROCESS

In July, 1994 a panel review was requested by Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) Ronald A. Irwin to determine environmental impacts of the BHP diamond project and at the same time to respond to public concern. Members of the Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP) panel were appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment (DOE) in December, 1994 and their final report was submitted in June 1996. The members of the EARP panel were: Ms Letha MacLachlan (Chair), Ms. Cindy Kenny-Gilday, Dr. Walter Kupsch and Miss Jessie Sloan.

EARP was mandated to conduct a public review of the environmental and socio-economic effects directly associated with BHP Diamonds Inc.'s proposed diamond mine project in the Lac de Gras area of the Northwest Territories. Terms of Reference were issued by the Minister of the Environment after consultation with DIAND, the GNWT and the directly affected First Nations and Inuit organizations.

The scope of the review included:

- the project's short and long-term environmental effects within the NWT and the social effects directly related to these environmental effects;
- the project's short and long-term general socio-economic effects within the NWT; and
- issues relating to long-term cumulative effects of the current project in addition to future development scenarios as identified by BHP on its Lac de Gras properties.

The panel was also to give full and equal consideration to traditional knowledge and, although not included in the terms of reference, it could also recommend appropriate approaches on dealing with other development initiatives in the Slave Geological Province.

The EARP panel process was:

- December 9, 1994 Submission by BHP of a project description document.
- January 23, 1995 Issuance of operational procedures for conduct of the review (prepared by the Panel and approved by the Executive Chairman of the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Office (FEARO)).
- January 31, 1995 Preparation by the panel of draft guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and distribution of the guidelines for public comment.
- March 14 - April 8 1995 Holding initial ("scoping") public meetings.
- May 23, 1995 Finalization of the EIS guidelines by the panel.
- July 24, 1995 BHP submission of completed EIS.
- July 24, 1995 Review by the panel of existing project documentation.

- January & February 1996 Establishing detailed procedures for the conduct of the hearings and scheduling and holding of public meetings once EARP was satisfied with EIS documentation. Public meetings began in January, 1996 and ended February, 1996.
- June 21, 1996 Preparation of the report of findings, conclusions and recommendations and its submission to DOE and DIAND.

Biographies for EARP panel attached.

PANEL MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Letha MacLachlan (Chair)

Ms. MacLachlan has worked in the NWT since 1972 with Aboriginal people, government, small businesses and environmental interests. Her experience appearing before and sitting on administrative tribunals is extensive and backed by a strong practical and academic background in environmental, corporate and administrative law and Aboriginal comprehensive land claims. She is a former member of the NWT Water Board and independent chair of two public reviews of Workers' Compensation in the NWT. She has served on the boards of numerous territorial and national organizations, and currently practices law in Calgary.

Cindy Kenny-Gilday

Ms. Kenny-Gilday is a Dene originally from Deline, NWT. She now works as a private consultant out of Yellowknife. She has worked as a teacher and a communications specialist with Aboriginal organizations on local, national and international levels. One of the founders of Indigenous Survival International, she served with the World Conservation Union as Chair of its first indigenous forum. She is a member of the National Round Table on Environment and Economy and a board member of the Canadian Native Arts Foundation. She received the Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1994 for her work on environmental and Aboriginal rights issues.

Walter Kupsch

Dr. Kupsch is Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, University of Saskatchewan. Until his retirement in 1986, he had a long and distinguished career at the university with considerable experience in the NWT and on northern issues. He was the recipient of the NWT Commissioner's Award for Public Service in 1992 and editor and co-editor of *The Musk-Ox - a Journal on the North* from 1981 to 1994.

Jessie Sloan

Miss Sloan is an economic consultant specializing in resource and environmental issues. Prior to moving to Yellowknife in 1990, her career included work with a management consulting firm in Ottawa and service with the Alberta Department of Energy and Natural Resources as Director of Resource Economics. Her academic background includes degrees in geology and in economics.

BACKGROUNDER #5
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
WEST KITIKMEOT - MINERAL STUDY IN THE
SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE

The Study

The West Kitikmeot Slave Study (WKSS) is a five-year regional study co-managed by a board of representatives of partners. The study focusses on environmental, social and economic issues related to mineral development in the Slave Geological Province. This area in the central NWT has been the focus of a great deal of mining activity since the discovery of diamonds in 1991. Yet, there is little data about this huge region, especially in relation to the possible cumulative effects of the various potential mining and related infrastructure developments.

The federal and territorial governments are contributing up to one-third of the study's costs to a maximum of \$750,000 each per year, for five years starting in 1996. The other partners will contribute the balance. The mineral industry has also agreed to commit resources.

The initial set of research projects were approved by the WKSS May 1996, and these studies are underway. They cover a range of investigations into wildlife, habitat and natural resources of the region.

The Partnership

The WKSS is an example of effective partnerships at work. Consultations on how best to conduct the study were held with Aboriginal organizations, the mining industry, environmental organizations, federal and territorial government agencies, and other stakeholders directly involved in the management of this region. Together, they created a partnership to oversee the study including setting its management structure, terms of reference and priorities for specific areas of required research.

Partners

Dogrib Treaty 11
Lutsel k'e Dene First Nation
Métis Nation of the NWT
Northern Environmental Coalition
Inuit Organizations
Nunavut Co-management Organizations
NWT Chamber of Mines
Government of the Northwest Territories
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

The Slave Geological Province

The Slave Geological Province covers the region north of Great Slave Lake extending to Coronation Gulf on the Arctic Coast. Mineral exploration and development in the region (especially for gold and base metals) has taken place for decades. However, the recent discovery of diamonds in the area has resulted in an exploration staking rush that has reached record levels. Some 22 million hectares of land were staked by 200 companies in three years, compared to less than four million hectares in the previous decade. The area in question is roughly equivalent to one-third the size of Alberta. The development potential of the area is believed to be significant and several major mining companies are conducting advanced exploration work.

Why is a study needed?

The Slave Geological Province is large and unstudied. Right now, there is little information available on wildlife populations and distributions, on important habitat such as nesting or calving areas, or on the sensitivity of the wildlife and habitat to industrial development. Discussions to date among Aboriginal organizations, the mining industry, environmental organizations, federal and territorial government agencies and other parties with direct involvement in this region show that there is solid support for this type of program.

The region has an abundance of renewable resources including caribou, musk-oxen, grizzly bears, wolves, raptors, waterfowl and arctic char. This wildlife supports the traditional harvesting activities of local Aboriginal communities, several outfitting and tourism businesses, and wilderness recreation. There is growing concern about the pace and scale of development activity and its effects on renewable resources.

Of particular importance is a study of potential developments and their possible environmental, social, and economic impacts on the cultural fabric of local communities which will provide a valuable information base for responsible decision-making.

Ready access to the baseline information developed under the WKSS will support any review of future development projects in the Slave Geological Province.

How is the study being conducted?

The required studies are being conducted by various technical organizations including consulting firms, government agencies and other bodies contracted to carry out specific tasks. Special consideration is being given to hiring Aboriginal people and Northerners.

Some research projects will be concluded in five years' time. Other projects will be completed in a shorter time frame. Study results will be released to the public as they are available.

BACKGROUNDER #6
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS

The Government of Canada has demonstrated a long standing commitment towards the establishment of protected areas. Consider that Canada's national park system - started in 1885 - is widely acclaimed throughout the world, and is complemented by equally important systems of federally managed wildlife areas, migratory bird sanctuaries and national marine conservation areas. Despite these past efforts, it is clear that much more remains to be done, and Canada has joined with a growing number of countries in working actively to create additional protected areas.

Recent federal government commitments to expand systems of protected areas were specifically outlined in the 1990 *Green Plan*; a unanimous 1991 House of Commons resolution related to completing networks of protected areas; the 1992 *Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada's Networks of Protected Areas*; in *Creating Opportunities*, the 1993 "Red Book" document outlining the intentions of the Liberal Party; and most recently the February 1996 Speech from the Throne. Other important accords, such as the *Whitehorse Mining Initiative* signed in 1994 by Ministers Irwin (DIAND) and McLellan (NRCan) reinforce and build upon this government direction.

Common to the above statements is the intention to protect representative samples of each of Canada's natural regions and the recognition that such an ambitious goal requires cooperative action in concert with the provincial and territorial governments and Aboriginal peoples. Each statement also maintains Canada's commitment to complete the national park system - the highest profile of all the protected area commitments.

Several important federal protected area initiatives are underway in the North. Perhaps most notably, important progress is being made towards representing all of the national park natural regions located in the territories. Tuktot Nogait National Park containing just under a 16,340 square kilometers area was established in June of 1996. It represents the Tundra Hills Natural Region and protects the calving grounds of the Bluenose caribou herd. Incidentally, this large natural region encompasses the smaller ecoregion where the BHP diamond mine proposal is located. Wapusk National Park, protecting one of the world's largest polar bear denning areas, was created in April 1996 along the Hudson Bay shoreline near Churchill, Manitoba. Aulavik, 12,100 square kilometers on the Northern Banks Island, and Vuntut National Parks, 4,345 square kilometers located in north western Yukon, were created in 1992 and 1993 respectively. Both areas represent additional natural regions and protect critical habitat for muskoxen and the Porcupine caribou herd.

Looking ahead, national park establishment negotiations are well advanced for a spectacular area on northern Baffin and Bylot Islands and land withdrawals are being considered for national park proposals on Wager Bay and Bathurst Island.

Parks Canada's national historic sites program is also very active in Northern Canada, working to conserve and present aspects of our nation's cultural heritage. Two large historic sites are presently under consideration in the vicinity of Great Bear Lake. Although additional intentions and accomplishments related to the national historic sites program are not outlined in this document which focuses primarily on national areas, it is important to note that concepts of "natural" and "cultural" are particularly interwoven in the North, and future historic sites could make valuable contributions towards protecting our natural heritage - and of course the converse is also true.

In addition, the Department of the Environment, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), is working cooperatively with the territorial government and Aboriginal groups to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat under its *Habitat Conservation Strategy: Plan for the Northwest Territories 1993-2003*. Under this strategy, CWS has prioritized a number of sites of importance to wildlife on which they will be seeking protection over this 10-year period. Consultation with all affected parties - governments, communities, resource sectors and non-governmental groups - is a normal part of the process leading to protected status. The pace of these consultations is set by the parties involved, the objective being to achieve a mutually acceptable and beneficial result. While representing natural regions is not the thrust of these habitat conservation initiatives, sites conserved do contribute to meeting such objectives.

More recently, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development reconfirmed the government's commitment to identify and protect areas in the Arctic regions of Canada by signing the 1996 Inuvik Declaration on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in the Arctic. This launches an initiative to ensure protection and conservation is recognized as a priority not only nationally, but internationally. To fulfill Canada's obligations, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will be working cooperatively with the Government of the Northwest Territories, other federal departments, Aboriginal groups and interested parties to have in place a strategy for protected areas in the Northwest Territories by the end of 1998.

Finally, under comprehensive land claim agreements, areas requiring special protection or management have been identified and set aside. For example, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas including national wildlife areas and migratory bird sanctuaries. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement also requires the development of management plans for all of these areas.

BACKGROUNDER #7
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT

The federal government's jurisdiction is based on a variety of legislative instruments such as: the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Northwest Territories Waters Act* and the *Territorial Lands Act* for regulating the environmental impact of a mining project such as the BHP Diamonds project.

Many of the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP) panel report on the BHP Diamonds project that deal with issues within the jurisdiction of the federal government can be met through the terms and conditions of the project's water licence, land lease, and land use permits. However, there are a number of recommendations of the EARP panel review which lie outside the scope of these regulatory permits. To address these recommendations, the federal government will seek to enter into an "Environmental Agreement" with BHP. This approach has been used in the past by the federal government for several mines in the Yukon and for the Norman Wells Pipeline.

An Environmental Agreement with BHP would deal with EARP Panel report recommendations such as:

- the establishment of an Environmental Advisory Group as outlined in the BHP Environmental Impact Statement;
- the establishment of a caribou monitoring and management plan (recommendation 14);
- the requirement to submit an annual monitoring report to government (recommendation 5);
- the requirement to prepare a long-term monitoring report (recommendation 6);
- the review and revision of environmental management plans (recommendation 7);
- water quality issues not covered in the water license (recommendation 12);
- additional bird surveys and monitoring (recommendation 16); and
- radiological data on water samples.

A review to determine which recommendations will be included in the Environmental Agreement and which will be dealt with through the water licence and land lease is currently being undertaken by government and will be refined during the process of developing the agreement with BHP.

The federal government, in discussion with GNWT and Aboriginal groups, will negotiate the agreement with BHP. After its completion, it will become a public document so that stakeholders and the public can be confident that the directions from the federal government and the commitments made are included.

BACKGROUNDER #8
CANADA'S DIAMOND MINE PROJECT:
FEDERAL RESPONSE TO PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The federal panel appointed under the *Environmental Assessment and Review Process Guidelines Order* which reviewed BHP Diamonds Inc.'s proposed NWT Diamonds Project released its report in June 1996. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who initiated the review, is responsible for the response of the Government of Canada to the panel recommendations.

Most of the panel's recommendations fall within federal jurisdiction, some fall jointly to the federal and territorial governments, some fall solely to the GNWT, a few fall directly to BHP and one falls to the West Kitikmeot Slave Study (WKSS). While most of the recommendations to the federal government are within the jurisdiction of DIAND, some fall within the jurisdictions of DFO, DOE (Canadian Wildlife Service) and HRD. DIAND has worked closely with other federal departments in the development of this response. The following identifies each panel recommendation and corresponding federal government response. The GNWT will respond separately to those recommendations which fall within its jurisdiction.

The federal government has a variety of legislative instruments for regulating the environmental impact of a mining project such as the BHP Diamond project. Of particular note are the *Fisheries Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Northwest Territories Waters Act* and the *Territorial Lands Act* and its regulations.

Many of the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP) panel report on the BHP Diamond project that deal with issues within the jurisdiction of the federal government can be met through the terms and conditions of the project's water licence, land lease, and land use permits. However, there are a number of recommendations of the EARP panel review which lie outside the scope of these regulatory permits. To address these recommendations, the federal government will enter into an "Environmental Agreement" with BHP. This approach has been used in the past by the federal government for several mines in the Yukon and for the Norman Wells Pipeline.

An Environmental Agreement with BHP would deal with such recommendations of the EARP Panel report as:

- the establishment of an Environmental Advisory Group as outlined in the BHP Environmental Impact Statement;
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- the requirement to submit an annual monitoring report to government (recommendation 5);
- the requirement to prepare a long-term monitoring report (recommendation 6);
- the review and revision of environmental management plans (recommendation 7);
- water quality issues not covered in the water licence (recommendation 12);
- additional bird surveys and monitoring (recommendation 16); and

- radiological data on water samples.

A review to determine which recommendations will be included in the Environmental Agreement and which will be dealt with through the water licence and land lease is currently being undertaken by government and will be refined during the process of developing the agreement with BHP.

To ensure full commitment to all conditions of the project and to assist monitoring, an environmental agreement with the company is seen as essential. It is important that these understandings be clearly spelled out before the project fully commences. The project is therefore approved subject to satisfactory progress on the agreement with government. Applications for licences and permits may proceed but final approval of the water licence will be held pending a further review by Cabinet of the status of the agreement. The Government of Canada is fully committed to working to conclude an agreement quickly and is confident this can be done within the two months.

Once the agreement has been finalized with BHP, it will become a public document so that stakeholders and the public can be confident that the directions from the federal government and the commitments made are included.

The overall conclusion of the report is stated in recommendation number four.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

Land Claims and Aboriginal Rights

1. The Panel recommends that:

- a) the Government of Canada and Aboriginal peoples work toward a quick and equitable settlement of outstanding land claims in the region;***
- b) the Government of Canada clarify, for all parties, the status of lands under exploration in areas where land claims have not been settled, and define when lands are considered to be at a stage of advanced exploration and the effect of this on their availability for selection by an Aboriginal claimant group; and,***
- c) the Government of Canada examine the processes and policies in place in the region to ensure that they are the most appropriate for resolving the outstanding land claims with Aboriginal peoples.***

The Indian Claims Commission (sic) may provide an opportunity to use alternative dispute resolution techniques to resolve contentious issues.

1.a) The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation and is already complying with it.

The federal and territorial governments are committed to settling outstanding land claims in the region. Negotiations are underway with a number of Aboriginal groups and governments are willing to look at options for settling land claims with other groups. The Dogrib framework agreement was signed in Behcho Ko, NWT, on August 7, 1996 by Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the GNWT and the Government of Canada.

1.b) The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation and will clarify the status of lands under exploration in areas where land claims have not been settled. The government will provide Aboriginal groups with a definition of "advanced exploration", and will indicate the availability of these properties for selection by Aboriginal groups negotiating comprehensive and treaty land entitlement claims.

When, during comprehensive claims negotiations it is agreed to transfer subsurface title to a First Nation, the title is made subject to rights, titles or interests existing at the time of title transfer. Government would continue to administer the existing interest, and the interest holder would be eligible for all renewals, replacements, extensions of terms in accordance with applicable legislation.

Government, as a matter of established precedent in the Mackenzie Valley, has not agreed to the selection of lands which are under a mineral disposition and determined to be in a stage of advanced exploration, development or production.

1.c) The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation and is already complying with it. The government's land claims policies and processes are appropriate and sufficiently flexible for resolving the outstanding Aboriginal claims in the region.

The Government of Canada is prepared, subject to parties' acceptance, to look at various appropriate dispute resolution techniques and processes.

Traditional Knowledge

2. *The Panel recommends that the Government of Canada develop a policy on the inclusion of traditional knowledge in environmental assessment. This policy should be developed in consultation and collaboration with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Aboriginal peoples and industry. The most immediate need is to set out guidelines and standards for traditional knowledge that developers are expected to meet when preparing environmental assessments. Moreover, the role and responsibility of government in this area needs to be defined.*

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of traditional knowledge.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will develop, in collaboration with its partners, a guide on traditional knowledge in the context of federal environmental assessment. The guide will describe the various types of traditional knowledge that have been used in the past in Canada. It will also provide advice on how and when traditional knowledge can be integrated into the federal environmental assessment process. Once Aboriginal land claims are fully implemented and boards and institutions pursuant to those claims are in place, the use of traditional knowledge in environmental decision making will become more widespread in the North.

Regulatory Regime

3. *The Panel recommends that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) should have regard for the following principles when developing new legislation and management structures resulting from land claims settlements: projects must be managed with consistency, integrity and continuity; effective consultation with the public and Aboriginal peoples is essential; and regional land-use planning must be undertaken to ensure that a broad perspective is considered in decision-making.*

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. Implementing this recommendation is consistent with the proposed Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, which provides for regional land-use planning institutions and consultation measures. The Mackenzie Valley legislation will create a co-management regime and associated boards which will benefit from the direct membership of Aboriginal representatives. The boards will be responsible for the regulation of land and water including the issuance of land use permits.

Overall Conclusion

- 4. The Panel recommends that the Government of Canada approve the NWT Diamonds Project subject to the following recommendations.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation but final approval of the project by Cabinet will be subject to satisfactory progress being made on the environmental agreement with government and impact benefit agreements with Aboriginal groups affected by the project. With respect to the remainder of the recommendations some will be included as terms and conditions of the licences and permits issued to BHP. Other Panel recommendations will be included in a binding agreement between the Government of Canada and the proponent in which BHP would commit to carry out environmental monitoring programs and follow guideline, codes, best management practices and policies to prevent and mitigate environmental impacts.

Monitoring

- 5. The Panel recommends that, as a condition of approval, BHP should be required to submit to government annual reports on the results of its environmental and socio-economic monitoring programs. The reports should be made public and should be presented at a public meeting (or meetings) held in the region and organized by BHP and government.***

The Government of Canada agrees with the need for public reports on environmental monitoring programs. The Government of Canada will place special emphasis on monitoring and how it will be done in the agreement with BHP.

With respect to the organization of the public meetings, the Government of Canada is of the opinion that the responsibility for reporting should remain with BHP, but would participate, as appropriate, at them.

In addition, the Government of Canada suggests that a similar bilateral agreement between the GNWT and BHP, with regard to the requirement of reporting on socio-economic monitoring programs, be developed.

Monitoring

- 6. The Panel recommends that periodically (for example, every three to five years) BHP prepare a report that would:***

- a) take a longer term view of effects monitoring in the context of natural variability;***
- b) review actual performance of Project activities as compared to predictions in the Environmental Impact Statement; and,***
- c) evaluate how the adaptive management strategy has performed over time.***

This report should be made public and should be presented at a public meeting (or meetings) held in the region and organized by BHP and government.

The Government of Canada agrees with all aspects of this recommendation and will include it in the agreement between Canada and the proponent.

The responsibility for reporting and for holding or organizing the public meetings should remain with the proponent.

Environmental Management Plans

7. *The Panel recommends that BHP, government agencies and Aboriginal people work together during the Project design and implementation stages to revise and update environmental management plans as required.*

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. However, it is understood that responsibility for the approval environmental management plans, pursuant to specific regulatory requirements, remains with the respective regulatory departments, and consultation is undertaken as part of the existing regulatory process. A formal mechanism and timetable for the updating and/or revision of the environmental management plans will be included, and involved departments will be consulted in developing this formal mechanism, and timetable in the agreement between Canada and the proponent.

Tailings Management

8. *The Panel recommends that the information it received concerning the design, construction and monitoring of the Long Lake tailings impoundment be taken into account by DIAND and the Water Board at the water-licensing stage.*

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation.

Materials Management

9. *The Panel recommends that BHP be required to submit a detailed spill contingency plan for fuel haulage to Environment Canada, DIAND and the GNWT for approval prior to commencement of the 1997 fuel haul. As part of this plan, the Proponent, its suppliers and its contractors should confirm that each has the capacity, through insurance or other instruments, to meet the full potential liability should a spill occur on the Echo Bay winter road or on public highways.*

The Government of Canada generally supports this recommendation but notes that such plans and the liability for their implementation are the responsibility of the road operator. These plans are submitted annually to DIAND as a requirement of the land use permit/easement application process. As a matter of course, DIAND requests technical input and expert advice on such applications from both Environment Canada and the GNWT. Furthermore, the federal government will require that BHP expand its spill contingency plan to include

other hazardous material storage and haulage.

The transportation of dangerous goods on public highways is controlled under the *Dangerous Goods Act*, which is administered by the GNWT Department of Transportation.

Mine Site Security

- 10. The Panel recommends that the Government of Canada make the necessary amendments to the Criminal Code to provide a secure environment for the diamond-mining industry prior to the start of full production.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. A federal interdepartmental committee is reviewing the Criminal Code and other laws to determine what amendments, if any, are necessary.

Air Quality

- 11. The Panel recommends that an air quality monitoring program be developed jointly by BHP, Environment Canada, the GNWT and DIAND.***

The Government of Canada generally agrees with the recommendation. The federal government will encourage BHP and the GNWT to develop an air quality monitoring program in consultation with the federal government and other interested parties, and implement the program through an agreement. It is recognized that the program would most likely be established to monitor air quality as it relates to occupational health and safety and/or mine safety and would therefore be regulated under the applicable GNWT legislation.

Water Quality

- 12. The Panel recommends that the water licensing process take into account water quality issues raised during this review including, but not limited to, integrity of frozen core dams, slow settling of suspended particulates, acid generation from waste rock, kimberlite toxicity, nitrogen contamination of waste rock and location of monitoring stations.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation and notes that water quantity as well as quality issues should also be taken into account.

Fish

- 13. The Panel recommends that:***

- a) cash compensation for the loss of fish habitat should be considered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) only when there are no viable options to avoid the loss of habitat or to re-create the lost habitat;***
- b) DFO develop a fair, realistic and transparent approach to the calculation of compensation***

- for loss of fish habitat;*
- c) *DFO settle compensation with BHP as quickly as feasible, reflecting the principles described in b) above;*
 - d) *if it is decided to proceed with the proposed Habitat Management Fund, an effective public consultation program including Aboriginal peoples be undertaken by DFO as soon as possible to identify projects that would be most appropriate; and,*
 - e) *the results of projects paid for by this fund be carefully monitored to ensure that the objective of habitat enhancement is achieved.*

13. a) Generally, the Government of Canada does not accept cash compensation for the destruction of fish habitat. It accepts this recommendation only as it applies to this project. DFO's Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat clearly presents a hierarchy of preferences for compensating for altered, disrupted or destroyed fish habitat. Like-for-like replacement of lost habitat is the preferred option. For stream habitats destroyed by the Project, this will be achieved through fish habitat creation and enhancement within the channel constructed to divert water from Panda Lake to Kodiak Lake, as described in the BHP report *Panda Lake Diversion and Fish Habitat Enhancement Channel Design, June 1994*. It is estimated that the ratio of created stream habitat to destroyed stream habitat will be approximately 2:1 through implementation of this plan.

The replacement of lake habitats altered or destroyed by the Project is not considered to be technically feasible for a number of reasons, most of which are unique to the Arctic environment:

- Proven methods for whole lake replacement, particularly in the Arctic, do not exist.
- If new lakes were dug, it is estimated that they would not fill due to low precipitation and high evaporation rates in the development area.
- The development area is extremely remote from communities that could access potential fisheries.
- The productivity of area lakes is usually quite low. Annual production rates are often just a few kg/year.
- There is an abundance of similar lakes in the immediate vicinity of the development.
- The fish bearing lakes in the area can be assumed to be at maximum carrying capacity, having not been previously disrupted. Little gain in productivity would be realized if additional habitat were created within existing lakes when other aspects of the system, such as food availability are the limiting factors on production.

Because of the uniqueness of this situation and the fact that all other options have been exhausted, DFO and BHP have developed a plan to compensate for lost habitat. The plan will support smaller scale habitat enhancement and restoration projects, closer to

affected communities, where known habitat management techniques can be utilized.

13.b) The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. DFO and BHP have already agreed on a realistic and effective method for achieving compensation for stream habitats affected by the Project.

To determine the cost of compensating for the loss of lake habitats, the proponent estimated the costs of providing satisfactory compensation on-site, which included construction costs. Such compensation will require the hauling of gravel and other materials to create specific habitat types, such as spawning shoals. Details of the proposal for lake habitat compensation can be found in the BHP report entitled *Hypothetical Lake Replacement/Habitat Enhancement At Paul Lake, June 1996*.

13.c) The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. Compensation plans for both stream and lake habitats affected by the Project have been agreed to, in principle by DFO and BHP.

13.d) The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. DFO will establish a NWT Habitat Management Fund and an Advisory Committee of stakeholders to assist in administering the fund and selecting habitat restoration and enhancement projects for support. Aboriginal peoples, particularly from those communities most affected by the Project, will be represented and requested to provide project proposals for consideration by the Committee.

13.e) The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. DFO will seek the participation of the NWT Habitat Management Fund Advisory Committee in determining the monitoring studies required to ensure the success of the habitat restoration and enhancement projects and the achievement of the No Net Loss principle as defined in the Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat.

Caribou

14. The Panel recommends that BHP be required to submit a detailed caribou monitoring and management plan for review and approval by DLAND and the GNWT prior to the commencement of mining.

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation and notes that the monitoring and management plan for caribou on or near the project site will be included as a component of an agreement between Canada and the proponent. Also, these plans will respect existing co-management boards established by land claims legislation.

Caribou

- 15. The Panel recommends that governments consider establishment of a Bathurst caribou management board. Such a board would provide a focal point for multi-party input to the monitoring and management of this herd.***

The Government of Canada agrees with the need to have a focal point for the management of the Bathurst caribou herd. However, the Government of Canada does not agree that the establishment of a caribou management board is the best possible option. Other options include the use of existing and future co-management institutions established under final land claims agreements. It is recognized that the Bathurst caribou herd range overlaps several land claim settlement areas, therefore government would encourage appropriate arrangements between co-management boards established under final land claims agreements.

Birds

- 16. The Panel recommends that BHP should continue bird surveys until sufficient information has been gathered to refine the impact prediction. Requirements for baseline information collection and for monitoring should be defined in consultation with government agencies.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. The requirement to undertake such studies will be included as a component of an agreement between Canada and the proponent.

Impact and Benefits Agreements

- 17. The Panel recommends that all parties set the timely negotiation, conclusion and implementation of Impact and Benefits Agreements as a priority. The Panel also encourages BHP and Aboriginal people to conclude the agreements before the operational phase of the Project begins.***

The Government of Canada supports this recommendation. It also views the benefits agreements as an extremely important component of this project and how it relates to the communities. It is the expectation that these agreements will be finalized through serious negotiations of both parties and be in place so that full opportunities related to all phases of the project are available to the communities.

To that end the Government has approved the project subject to satisfactory progress on the benefit agreements over the next two months. All parties must work seriously toward a fair agreement.

Government will be encouraging all parties to negotiate a fair agreement and is prepared to assist when appropriate to ensure agreements are concluded on a timely basis.

Employment

- 18. The Panel recommends that the Government of Canada require BHP to report on progress on northern and Aboriginal employment as part of the annual monitoring report previously recommended.**

The Government of Canada agrees with the principle that BHP should report on progress made with respect to northern and Aboriginal employment. The employment and other benefits to northerners is a very important component of this Project's benefits to the region. It is therefore important to ensure that these efforts are being made and that these efforts be regularly monitored and reported.

It is the position of the Government of Canada that the requirement for Aboriginal employment and associated reporting should be negotiated between the proponent and Aboriginal groups in Impact and Benefits Agreements.

Northern Business

- 19. The Panel recommends that BHP include as criteria for the selection of contractors the fairness and adequacy of wages paid to the contractor's employees, as well as the contractor's policy and record on northern and Aboriginal hiring.**

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation and would strongly encourage BHP to accept this recommendation. Such an approach would assist northern and Aboriginal people affected by the Project to share in the benefits that such activities can bring to the region. Those parties negotiating an Impact and Benefits Agreement should consider this recommendation in such agreements.

Northern Business

- 20. The Panel recommends that government ensure that financial programs continue to be available to northern and Aboriginal businesses so that they are able to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the NWT Diamonds Project.**

The Government of Canada supports this recommendation in principle and notes that increasing economic self-sufficiency for Aboriginal people and other northerners is a priority of this government. A number of measures are in place to facilitate business financing. The government recognizes that any future program decisions must give careful consideration to the capital needs of northern businesses. However, it is important to note that no guarantee can be provided that current federal government programs will not be modified or terminated

as the result of government review of its programs.

Socio-Economic Monitoring

- 21. The Panel recommends that BHP and the GNWT meet periodically to review the results of monitoring of socio-economic conditions and trends, and of monitoring of Project activities.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation. The requirement for and nature of socio-economic monitoring and subsequent reporting, could be a component in an agreement between the GNWT and BHP.

Social Effects

- 22. The Panel recommends that the Government of Canada and the GNWT undertake work to define the need for information on the socio-economic effects of development in the region and to develop a framework for analysis. The Panel proposes that the West Kitikmeot Slave Study accept collection of regional socio-economic baseline information as a priority to meet the needs of this analysis.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation.

The Government of Canada and the GNWT are two of several partners in the WKSS and both contribute significant funds towards the collection of information on a variety of research topics. The WKSS has five priority subject areas for research, one of which is socio-economic research. The partners have recognized the importance of avoiding duplication of work and are in the process of defining specific socio-economic studies which meet the needs of communities while complementing ongoing socio-economic monitoring by governments.

The Government of Canada is committed to continuing its annual contribution to a maximum of \$750,000 to the WKSS for the duration of the five year study.

Archaeological and Heritage Sites

- 23. The Panel recommends that consultation by BHP with Aboriginal groups continue over the life of the Project and as new areas are explored and developed in order to incorporate traditional knowledge with the archaeological surveys. The archaeological surveys of new sites must be done to the highest standards of the day and must respect places of significance to Aboriginal people. The Panel appreciates the sensitivity of Aboriginal peoples regarding the burial places of their ancestors and the connection of this to land claims issues, and recommends that Aboriginal groups work co-operatively with BHP to ensure that burial sites in the Project area are identified and protected.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation.

Fishing Policy

- 24. The Panel recommends that BHP consult with the Aboriginal groups who use the area and with the responsible agencies to develop an acceptable fishing policy.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation.

In addition, DFO is prepared to meet with the proponent and Aboriginal groups, including co-management boards, to discuss the issue as necessary. Under DFO policy, there are no restrictions on subsistence fishing by Aboriginal groups in the Project development area. Sport fishing by licensed anglers is managed by DFO under its NWT Fishery Regulations. While DFO could restrict fishing on specific lakes if it appears that stocks are threatened, BHP's "no fishing" policy for project staff is the preferred method for providing the necessary protection.

Firearm Policy

- 25. The Panel recommends that BHP establish a consultation process with communities to explain its firearm and fishing policies, to describe the relationship between its policies and people's ability to hunt and fish on the claims block, and to resolve any misunderstandings on these issues.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation.

Compensation

- 26. The Panel recommends that the Government of Canada make BHP's compensation policy a condition of approval for the Project. In addition, the compensation policy should set out firm procedures for seeing disputes through to resolution. The Panel also recommends that the Government of Canada ensure that land-users have access to resources to pursue compensation claims.***

The Government of Canada agrees that BHP should develop a compensation policy. BHP has provided their compensation policy to the Panel however it is recognized that it requires revision to ensure that firm procedures are set for seeing disputes through to resolution. BHP is advised that the requirement for satisfactory revision and implementation of its compensation policy will likely be part of an environmental agreement with the company.

The Government of Canada is not prepared to provide resources to ensure that all land-users could pursue compensation claims where a conflict is alleged. The federal government will

work with the GNWT and other groups to ensure there is good knowledge of potential development applications so that such conflicts can be avoided where possible.

Compensation

- 27. The Panel recommends that DIAND work closely with the GNWT to develop an enforceable compensation policy that addresses the issues of burden of proof, access to resources and means to ensure resolution, in relation to future development in this region. Once developed, the compensation policy should also be applied to this Project.***

The Government of Canada generally agrees with this recommendation. DIAND will work closely with the GNWT to review its existing compensation policy and consult with industry and other land-users to develop an acceptable dispute resolution mechanism that addresses the issues of burden of proof, access to resources and means to ensure resolution that could be applied to future development in this region.

Diamond Valuation

- 28. The Panel recommends that the Government of Canada develop administrative procedures for diamond valuation and ensure that these are in place prior to the start of full production. These procedures should be developed in consultation with the GNWT and BHP.***

The Government of Canada agrees with this recommendation and will ensure that the procedures are in place before BHP starts production.

West Kitikmeot Slave Study

- 29. The Panel recommends that the West Kitikmeot Slave Study:***

- a) develop a regional approach to the collection of traditional knowledge;***
- b) work together with BHP, the federal government and the GNWT on a co-operative approach to environmental effects monitoring for the region;***
- c) collect regional baseline information on eskers and other glaciofluvial deposits, in order to provide a basis for development of guidelines and cumulative effects assessment by government;***
- d) provide a forum to co-ordinate collection of baseline information on caribou;***
- e) accept the regional grizzly bear study as a major component of its program;***
- f) develop baseline information that will be required to identify areas for protected area status;***
- g) accept the collection of regional socio-economic baseline information as a priority; and,***
- h) ensure that its study program is designed to provide the information needed for cumulative effects assessment of future development in the region.***

Should the West Kitikmeot Slave Study decide not to adopt these initiatives, then responsibility

should fall to government to ensure that these issues are addressed.

The Government of Canada generally agrees with this recommendation and reconfirms its commitment to continue supporting the WKSS.

29 a) The WKSS has established a Traditional Knowledge Steering Committee, developed a set of guidelines for Traditional Knowledge (TK) research and is encouraging and coordinating the collection of TK. However the steering committee has agreed that such research must be controlled at the community level and has recognized that research priorities will vary from community to community.

29b) The goal of the WKSS is to collect and provide information for the WKSS area to assist informed decision making by the partners. Study objectives include the provision of a basis for the identification and assessment of cumulative effects and provision of information to enhance understanding of potential impacts of exploration and development on ecoregion processes and communities. The partners include the mining industry, the federal government and the GNWT. Several of the approved studies were either partially or wholly sponsored by these three. To date there appears to be a strong level of cooperation within the priority research areas (eskers, caribou, grizzly bears, habitat, and socio-economic studies) of the WKSS.

29c) The WKSS has approved a study on the location, physical characteristics and traditional use of eskers in the Contwoyto Lake area, and their extent and use as wolf habitat in the southern tundra region of the WKSS area. This study will provide baseline data on eskers in the area of greatest activity.

29d) The WKSS has approved several studies on the Bathurst caribou including a seasonal movement study, a study of their behaviour in relation to minesites and reaction to various types of barriers, a study of calving grounds and the reasons for shifting use and a study on Dogrib traditional knowledge of caribou. There has also been some discussion on regional traditional knowledge study of the Bathurst herd involving all WKSS communities using the herd.

29e) The WKSS has already approved the regional grizzly bear study headed by Dr. F. Messier.

29f) The WKSS plans to carry out habitat studies including identification of critical habitats and protected areas but has not yet approved any such studies.

As the Panel noted, the process for identifying such areas is neither simple or swift because of the need for broad consultation. However, the Government of Canada recognizes the importance of protecting areas of ecological significance, especially in areas subject to extensive resource development pressure. Therefore, the Minister of

Indian Affairs and Northern Development will work with the Government of the Northwest Territories, federal departments, Aboriginal groups and other interested parties to develop a framework for protected areas in the Northwest Territories by the end of 1998.

29g) The WKSS partners have recognized the importance of avoiding duplication of socio-economic research work and are in the process of defining specific socio-economic studies which will meet the needs of communities while complementing ongoing socio-economic monitoring by governments.

29h) This recommendation while ambitious, is clearly in line with the objectives of WKSS. The WKSS will contribute information to cumulative effects assessment, but whether the WKSS can provide all the information needed for such an assessment is a function of the amount and type of information required in relation to WKSS priorities and resources.