

**Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT)
for Ekati Diamond Project**

August 28, 1998
DFO Boardroom - Diamond Plaza
Meeting #11

Attendance:

Julie Dahl	DFO
Anne Wilson	DOE
Steve Harbicht	DOE
Kelly Robertson	GNWT
Scott Williams	BHP
John Witteman	BHP
Hal Mills	Independent Monitoring Agency
Allen Ehrlich	Independent Monitoring Agency
Marie Adams	DIAND E&C
Greg Cook	DIAND Waters

regrets: Darren Unrau

Round Table Updates

Scott Williams: Most on-site construction is nearing completion. Still working on Dyke B. Dyke C is complete. Site drainage: New sediment traps have been placed on both sides of the connecting channels and should be retrieved by the end of November. Large culverts are in place in the channels to allow for safe passage for fish. The land farm is complete and land fill has been relocated.

John Witteman: The AMP is winding down. One week left for collection of samples. Not much wildlife on site. Very few caribou. Nick Jones - Grad student has been conducting counts of grayling and a report will be available soon. Workshops on Fish and Wildlife issues are scheduled from February 1-5.

Vegetation studies are going well, however results are being consumed voraciously by arctic hare and caribou. Fencing will be installed around the study area to control wildlife access. Grasses which were planted are growing well

Air Quality studies continue. Snow data has been compiled and a report will be out soon. Water sampling on Little, Leslie, Larry and Long Lakes are continuing. Dissolved Oxygen is one of the parameters being measured. Samples will be collected from all the cells.

Question: Is de-watering of Long Lake completed?

Scott: It is getting there, going slowly. (Discussion on Berms).

Question: Kodiak Lake. Sewage carrying capacity. Has there been any work done in anticipation of winter conditions.

John: Report will be released shortly which will list alternatives. John will take Hal Mill's suggestion to contact Peter McCart for his input.

Traditional Knowledge program is ongoing. Five visitations from community people and elders.

Steve Harbicht: Berms around Gordon Lake. May affect caribou migration and these needs some consideration.

Mary Tapsell: Agree, also may want to consider effects recent fires may have on caribou migrations.

John: Unusual feature in cell C was that 30% of the take was ciscoes, which were not seen previously. Two graduate students (Nick Jones and assistant) will be funded to work on biological habitat.

Official opening of the mine is October 14, 1998.

Question: Why would granite need to be tested?

Scott: Helps set plates in the crusher.

Hal: Matt Bender is returning to Geonorth. They are about to launch a number of communications initiatives including the Web site which is under construction and newsletter. Site will be www.monitor.nt.ca

Hal discussed TK meetings and workshops:

Some discussion with Aboriginal appointees. Trying to get a process in place on how TK is used in adaptive management. Agency is planning an initial meeting with Aboriginal organizations without BHP being present. Hoping to get all 4 aboriginal organisations to get together in 2 weeks time with a workshop in January, 1999. Next meeting of the Agency is October 31.

The Agency has submitted comments to DIAND about how Cumulative effects are dealt with in the Diavik EA Guidelines.

Alan Ehrlich: The Agency Directors have attended a few Aboriginal council meetings and general assemblies. (NSMA, Dogrib). Red Pedersen will attend the KIA AGM. There has not been much response back from these groups except that they seem to be satisfied with the status quo.

Question: Is the Agency doing anything proactively to solicit input from public and aboriginal groups?

Anne Wilson/Steve Harbicht: Working with U of S and grad student on Long Lake Study

which will measure sediment, physical characteristics, phytoplankton and these will be tied in to the Kimberlite toxicity study. . . . basically a living bioassay.

Steve Harbicht will be taking over from Anne Wilson for DOE.

(AEMP general discussion). Some surprise at the negative comments after the workshop. Consensus was not reached. It was noted that consensus was important in order to approve strategies and get work completed. The direction given at the February workshop is being followed for now. There needs to be a clearly defined process for sign off on approved items as it is frustrating when things are re-visited.

Scott recognized there is a need to finalize this in some way - there is still a lot of frustration surfacing. Mary suggested that John contact her for a technique that may help in tracking comments from different sources and tracking responses to these comments.

Greg Cook: Waste Rock, tailings report just went out for comments. Noted QA/QC still outstanding. The DIAND lab has agreed final approval would be with Steve on the QA/QC.

John: Expect the first draft of the Kimberlite toxicity plan soon.

Kelly: Where is BHP at with response to OEMP?

Scott: we are working on changes, will be producing a new copy in a binder, want to make sure things are changed as requested.

Mary: A&R Plan - acknowledged and thanked BHP for submitting a plan to consolidate the requirements of the Environmental Agreement & the Water Licence for A&R plan.

Geoscience Forum will be happening in late November and there will probably be an opportunity to have information sessions on environmental management. DIAND's E&C division will likely coordinate and we will be in touch with you in for potential presentations., Cumulative effects and Aboriginal membership are items which need discussion.

(Cumulative effects discussion). Mary reviewed some of the past correspondence between DIAND and the Agency on this issue and as well as on the issue of "independence" of the Agency. These matters had been discussed directly with the Agency and it was the general understanding that no "issues" were outstanding. There has been some bad coverage of this topic in the media and Mary hopes we will continue to resolve issues internally first and strive to reach agreements.

(Discussion on membership - IACT). Member's briefly discussed the issue of who attends IACT meetings. Noted that this is an informal forum to address technical issues in a proactive manner. Formalizing the group would take away from the solution-oriented structure and dilute the group to the point where it may minimize its value. All felt that the multi-party structure should be maintained. The Agency will continue to act as the conduit/one window approach for keeping Aboriginal and general public informed of activities.

Agency's Annual Report - Marie Adams will coordinate the review with the federal agencies.

(Discussion on Exploratory Activities on BHP lease). SCC rules illegal to give some information out on exploratory activities. Release to the public only the portion that is not confidential. DIAND does do a summary of exploration activities and exploratory activities is also mentioned in the LU permit. As such BHP is required to report such activities.

BHP will seek legal advice. Bear Tooth and Upper Panda info has come out and is released. It is up to the public to look at the values and make their own determination as to whether BHP will exploit these economically. BHP is looking at putting out a short summary of exploratory activity that took place in the previous year. Not sure why the IMA wants this information? However they will do a summary for the Annual Report.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting Sept. 25 , same place.