

1712

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

December 19, 1997
Meeting #4

Attendance:

Mary Tapsell (Chair)	DIAND -Env. & Conservation
Steve Matthews	RWED
Grant Pryznyk	DFO
Scott Williams	BHP
John Witteman	BHP
Carey Ogilvie	EC -EPB
Dan Elliot	DIAND -South Mackenzie District
Hal Mills	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
Janice Traynor	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Round Table Updates:

Grant Pryznyk: informed group that on Dec 15/97 the Fresh Water Institute and BHP met regarding the proposal from Dillon on the Diversion Channel proposal and have agreed the work should go ahead. DFO will be attending the IEMA meeting, Jan. 10/98 to discuss the Habitat Compensation Plan.

Hal Mills: the Agency is meeting Jan 10/11, 1998.

- still waiting to hear from the Water Board regarding the recent direction about the distribution of BHP documents required by the Water Licence. Has been told that the Water Board says it is okay for BHP to release documents directly to the IEMA, however the Agency is waiting to receive notification.
- updated progress on workshop preparations
- discuss on the status of Treaty 8 appointment to the Board; the Agency has received some indication that this is being dealt with. It was decided that we wait and see if a member is appointed before following up with a letter.

Scott Williams: regrets to inform us that Chris Hanks has recently had back surgery and will be laid up for some time.

John Witteman: provided a brief update on site activities

- they are starting to explore ways to stabilize the Diversion channel (to minimize sediment) in accordance with plans drafted by Dillon. There has also been permafrost degradation along the Grizzly channel. Hope to start construction by Grizzly end in March/April.
- moving the road beside the airstrip
- in the process of creating Dykes A, B and C and in spring '98 will start on Dyke D
- frozen core dam is being built - will start dewatering Long Lake
- currently working on the Annual Report . . . will have 31 abstracts of other reports included

- December 16/97 hired EBS Consultants (Peter Chapman) to work on the Aquatic Effects Workshop

General Discussion on upcoming February Workshops:

John Witteman: discussions on the Wildlife Workshop have been on-going

- concern was expressed by several people sitting around the table that there has virtually been no consultation on the upcoming Aquatics Workshop it was again stressed that many feel the approaches to the two workshops (Wildlife & Aquatic Effects) should be similar. John assured everyone that he has instructed consultants to give it high priority. Mary expressed concern on the time frame left to consult with regulatory bodies . . . January is a busy month for many of the participants.

- Janice repeated the recommendation made at the Wildlife meeting that Community Consultation for the Wildlife & Aquatic Effects should be done jointly. She asked John if a data summary for Aquatic Effects would be provided - John assures that yes one will be complete by year end. Janice also asked for agendas for February meetings ASAP - John is to get them to members as soon as possible. Janice hopes the agendas for the February meetings will be prepared in time for the IEMA Directors to review at their next meeting.

There was some discussion about presentations to the IEMA from the consultants working on the Wildlife & Aquatic Effects February Workshops at the next IEMA meeting. This is to be further determined between the IEMA and Scott Williams.

Greg Cook: reported recent TAC activities include meeting on the Abandonment & Restoration Plan and the Wastewater and Tailings Management Plan - comments are still to be summarized. The revised Spill Contingency Plan has been received and distributed. The Acid Rock Drainage and Geochemical Characterization Plan and Waste Rock and Ore Storage Management Plan are due by the end of December. John Witteman said these will be combined into one document.

Mary Tapsell: DIAND and the other agencies I have contacted are content on how things are progressing with the Wildlife Monitoring Program . . . there are concerns from DIAND , GNWT and the other federal agencies as to the progress of the Aquatics Effects Monitoring Workshop. There has not been a lot of contact to date on the development of this workshop and there is concern that the time is running short

- some discussion came up about the A&R Plan . . . requirements as stated in the EA vs requirements as stated in the Water Licence. Mary to look into this further to determine what - if anything - these overlapping requirements will mean.

- Mary reminded all members that the anniversary of the EA is coming up -January 6, 1998 - and this presents an opportunity for changes (if necessary) to the EA.

NEXT MEETING: 1:00pm, FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 - DFO's board room.