

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING TEAM (IACT)**FOR EKATI DIAMOND PROJECT****FEBRUARY 27, 1998****MEETING #6****ATTENDANCE:****(LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

Derek Chub, BHP
David Newton, BHP
Scott Williams, BHP
John Witterman, BHP

Steve Harbicht, DOE-EP

Ron Allen, Area Manager, DFO Yellowknife, NT
Maria Healy (Acting Chair), DFO Yellowknife, NT

Greg Cook, DIAND
Dan Elliot, DIAND
Jim McCaul, DIAND
Darren Unrea, DIAND

Matt Bender, Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
Hal Mills, Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

John Ramsey, NRCAN – by speaker phone

AGENDA:

1. Round Table Updates
2. Water Licence Update by Greg Cook, DIAND
3. Operating Environmental Management Plan Update by BHP
4. Kodiak Lake, NT Update by BHP
5. Next Meeting – Date, Time, Place/Host

ROUND TABLE UPDATES

John Witteman – BHP Environmental Management

- advised the group that copies of the "Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) Technical Overview Working Document, Final Draft – Version 3", prepared for BHP Diamonds Inc by EVS Environment Consultants, has been circulated to the government departments and the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (including Tony Pierce) for review and comment. John requests a tight turn-around date for comments – he would like to see comments submitted to BHP by March 3, 1998. **(date not confirmed)** John foresees bids for contract going out early April, 1998 for program implementation in early May, 1998.

Action: Agencies to review above document and submit comments to BHP by March 3, 1998. **(date not confirmed)**

Jim McCaul – DIAND and MVRMA

- advised group that the third reading (3rd) of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) is upcoming and that the DIAND will be meeting in Calgary on March 2-3, 1998 to discuss its contents and implementation. One discussion topic will focus on how the transition between the existing environmental assessment process based on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) and the proposed MVRMA environmental assessment process will be implemented. Grandfathering of projects to be discussed.
- MVRMA could be proclaimed as early as June 7, 1998. Options include proclaiming the Act, proclaiming the Act but delaying Part IV of the Act or delaying the proclamation of the Act.

Hall Mills:

- *Indicated that there may be some outstanding interventions that were submitted to the Standing Committee that have not been dealt with to date. Might be reintroduced to the floor at the 3rd Reading of the proposed MVRMA.*

Darren Unreau – DIAND Inspections

- Inspections are ongoing. More to follow in the discussion on Kodiak Lake, NT. (see agenda)

Scott Williams – BHP Environmental Management

- Advised group that both annual reports are forthcoming. The Annual Report for the Water Board is in draft form and the draft Annual Report for the Environmental Agreement (requirements as outlined in the Environmental Agreement) is nearing completion. Confident that both reports will meet the March 31, 1998 deadline.
- Site Visit: Scott advised group that a site visit is scheduled for the 10th and 11th of March. Persons attending include Ron Allen, DFO; Laura Johnson, DOE-EP; Peter McCart, Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency; Mary Tapsell, DIAND-IACT. Site visit to provide a general overview of ongoing site activities, including ongoing exploratory drilling, works and undertakings in the Panda Diversion Channel, stabilization works and undertakings in the Grizzly Lake area, frozen core dam construction, and dyke construction at/in Long Lake. Space for visit limited due to numbers at camp (upwards of 800 employees at the site right now).

Hal Mills – Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

- Introduced a new member to their team, Mr. Matt Bender is the Assistant Monitoring Coordinator for the Agency.
- Advised group that Janice Traynor has left for Edmonton and will be residing there for the next couple of months due to health precautions related to her pregnancy. She's in good spirits!
- Circulated a copy of the Agency's Policy to the group. Most of us have it already, just wanted to make sure everyone had a copy.
- Circulated a copy of the letter submitted to the Agency by the DIAND regarding the Release of BHP-Related Environmental Documents to the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency.
- Advised group that the GNWT-RWED had some questions and concerns re: the interpretation of the above letter. Hal advised group that the Agency has interpreted the letter to mean that information from TAC members that is submitted to the TAC re: a project would not be released to the Agency. The Agency does expect receipt of project information and documents that are submitted to the Water Board by the BHP (those materials that are being reviewed by TAC members) be forwarded to the Agency by the BHP. Agency is only interested in receiving those comments regulatory agencies might forward to persons/groups outside of the TAC that are not otherwise confidential. (example: letter to respective regulatory agency Minister).
- Series of Workshops Held First Week of February: Agency's general reaction is that these workshops were good and that they are now looking forward to the company's resulting documents for comment. Timing for receipt of these documents (AEM Program and Wildlife Monitoring Program) fits well with the next scheduled Agency meeting (March 14, 15, 1998)
- Advised group that the next Agency meeting will take place in Yellowknife on the 14th and 15th of March, 1998.

Action: Maria Healy will forward copies of the hand-outs to John Ramsey.

Steve Harbicht – DOE – Environmental Protection

- Steve updated group on status of the Kimberlite Toxicity Work/Study that is ongoing. Advised group that his comments were ready, but that he was waiting to review the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's comments before submitting his to the NWT Water Board.
- Steve advised group that he was under the impression that John Sprag was commenting on behalf of the Agency and that John S. had discussions with Jack Klaverkamp. Steve is not certain whether he will be forwarded John Sprag's comments.

Hal Mills:

- *Advised Steve, and John Witteman, and the group, that while in the past the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's(Agency) consultants/members may have forwarded their comments directly to other government departments under their letterhead and/or name, the Agency has decided to refine their response/commenting/advising protocol. Comments are to be forwarded under the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's letterhead and name. Therefore, John Sprag's comments would be forwarded to the Agency and then those comments would be forwarded to other government departments by the Agency.*
- *Advised group that he would look into how far along the Agency's comments for the Kimberlite Toxicity Study are.*

Action: Hal Mills, on behalf of the Independent Monitoring Agency, will update other government departments on when the Agency's response and comments on the proposed Kimberlite Toxicity Study will be submitted.

John Witteman:

- *Advised group that the BHP has already started its Kimberlite Toxicity Study.*

John Ramsey - NRCAN

- Advised group that NRCAN has been in discussions with David Newton, BHP re: use of explosives proposed in the Construction and Operating manual and that all concerns had been resolved.

WATER LICENCE UPDATE

Greg Cook – DIAND Water Resources

- Advised group that most of the reports/programs/plans required under the Water Licence have been submitted by the BHP for review. Still working on the wastewater treatment plan, waste rock and acid rock drainage.
- Looking forward to the complete submission of the OEMP at the end of the month.
- A request has been submitted to hold a TAC meeting on the AEMP. Will follow up with appropriate government departments to agree on a time and place.

OPERATION ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PLAN/PROGRAM UPDATE

David Newton – BHP Environmental Management

- updated group on the Construction Phase: BHP getting close to the formal closure of their construction phase. BHP has been in conversation/meetings with NRCAN re: explosives issues and with Mary Tapsell, DIAND. NRCAN and BHP have reached agreement. Territorial government still has some outstanding concerns however, the BHP feels that these issues will be resolved in a timely manner.
- OEMP: plans are out for review – Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program, Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program, Spill Contingency Plans (small changes have been made and had been sent out again for review), Recalibration Report (making changes based on comments received by the Water Board).
- Other associated program/plan development is ongoing...for example, BHP's Environmental Awareness Training, Environmental Procedures plans and other plans associated with Pits and Quarries, QA/QC, Winter Roads.
- Number of plans have been updated and include the Waste Management Plan, Air Quality Plan, Archeological Plans.
- Timelines: confident that a complete OEMP will be ready by the end of March 1998.

John Witteman – BHP Environmental Management

- Suggested to the group that unless major changes are made to components of the OEMP, the BHP will wait to forward to agencies as a whole document at the end of March. Group agreed with this approach.
- John advised group that the BHP was aware that future strategies for managing the fuel waste/waste fuel at the site will need to be addressed. BHP in the process of shipping a huge amount of fuel to the site and will have to start to consider how they intend to manage the associated waste.

KODIAK LAKE UPDATE

Derek Chub – BHP Environmental Management

- Circulated over-heads to group. Overhead discussion outlined the status of Dissolved Oxygen levels at Kodiak Lake, on-going monitoring and mitigation as well as proposed "future" strategies for mitigation and monitoring. (see overheads)
- Advised group of situation at Kodiak Lake, NT re: low dissolved oxygen(DO) levels and remedial action being taken....company has removed snow from surface (not very effective as wind keeps drifting more snow onto the surface) and is pumping oxygen into the lake. See information in handout for changing DO levels and proposed continued strategies for mitigation and monitoring.
- Probable source/explanation for low DO levels is sewage treatment plant and input of treated sewage into the lake.
- Sewage is now being trucked onto lake – deposited onto ice surface in thin layers.

Ron Allen – DFO

- Advised group that the DFO had discussed the immediate situation at Kodiak, NT with DFO experts in Winnipeg this morning.
- Advised group of the DFO's concerns with respect to the Kodiak Lake, NT Dissolved Oxygen Levels.
- Temperature: Ron advised the BHP and group that temperature might be becoming one of the most important factors to be concerned with. Concern for critical temperatures below the one degree mark. Anything less than 1 degree is of major concern.
- Critical Zones for Tolerance to Low DO: advised group that critical zone for lake trout survival has been reached.
- Advised company that they might have access to better numbers of tolerance levels for Kodiak Lake fish species.
- Advised company that the DFO would like to see an effort made for long-term/follow-up monitoring. Might be a potential for Spring/Summer fish kill due to blue green algae bloom growth.
- Little Lake: advised company that the DFO was under the understanding that the BHP was sampling Little Lake for DO...any results? Also queried whether there was any outflow from Kodiak Lake to Little Lake.

John Witteman, BHP Environmental Management

- Indicated that no monitoring of DO or assessment of outflow from Kodiak to Little Lake is being conducted. Will consider to monitor and assess.

Action: Maria Healy will forward overheads to John Ramsey for his interest.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1998

LOCATION: TO BE ANNOUNCED – BHP BOARDROOM IS FULL. ANY VOLUNTEERS?

Action: Maria Healy will write up minutes and distribute to attendees via email and facsimile.