

Notes from the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team January 14, 2000 Meeting

Participants:

Scott Williams	BHP
Jim Millard	BHP
Tina Markovic	BHP
John Witteman	BHP
Chris Hanks	BHP
Marie Adams	DIAND Environment and Conservation
Greg Cook	DIAND Water Resources
Darren Unrau	DIAND Operations
Shannon Pagotto	DIAND Water Resources
Roxanne Beavers	DIAND Water Resources
Julie Dahl	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Alex Thomson	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
John Holman	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Absent:

Anne Wilson Department of the Environment

1. **The notes from the last meeting** were accepted via email. Marie thanked the Agency for sending out the notes to the Aboriginal Organisations.

2. **Round Table Updates:**

Marie Adams reported that she has been seconded to a position with the Regional Implementation Team in order to implement the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act for the establishment of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. Therefore, she will no longer be the contact for Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) on BHP, nor will she attend the Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT) meetings for the next six months. **Greg Cook** will fulfil this role during her absence. In an unrelated update, the DIAND response to the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's (Agency) annual report is forthcoming.

John Witteman reported that the *Impact 2000* report is going to be released by April 30th, 2000. It will be issued in plain English but fully reference all data and technical reports. The goal is to have it serve as a whole ecosystem report. No interim review will occur, and if the report is found to be unacceptable, complaints may be dealt with via the dispute resolution mechanism in the Environmental Agreement.

BHP continues to receive requests for information on BHP site operations. John finds it troubling that schools and other members of the public are still uninformed about the diamond operations.

Sections on Waste Rock and the Tailings Management Plan will be added to BHP's Operating Environmental Monitoring Program (OEMP). The workshops on the Aquatic Environmental Monitoring Program (AEMP) and Wildlife Environmental Monitoring Program (WEMP) workshops are still required for the report's completion and the planning of the year 2000 monitoring requirements. BHP would like to complete revisions on the OEMP and distribute the report by the end of February 2000. There are plans to issue future reports as summaries, with the technical reports referenced if this information is required. Also, such reports will be on CD-ROM, with some exceptions. The Agency and the NWT Water Board requested hard copies in addition to CDs.

Jim reported that the number of participants in the February AEMP and WEMP workshops is increasing. There will be simultaneous translation at the meetings in Chipewyan, Dogrib and Inuinnaqtun. A poster session will begin the workshops and respective monitoring programs examined over subsequent days. Day One may have some consultants presenting reports and results. Day Two may concentrate on refining and presenting this year's programs. A slide show for Elders will be included to offer definitions and detailed explanations of the applicable mining jargon. The workshops will begin at 0900 and discussions will be reserved for the afternoons.

Chris Hanks said that a dinner for the Elders is also being planned as a debriefing at the conclusion of the workshops, giving them a chance to ask questions and explore further discussions.

Scott Williams said that the annual workshops are growing and it will be impossible to accommodate if it gets any bigger. He will step out of the scientific sessions to allow the researchers to field questions in those areas.

Marie Adams asked why BHP took out newspaper advertisements informing the general public about the proposed project on the new kimberlite pipes.

Chris Hanks responded that it is a stipulation of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)'s Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment (E.A.) of the Beartooth, Pigeon, and Sable Kimberlite Expansion Project. Four responses have been received to date.

Marie Adams asked that BHP add all DIAND employees involved with BHP (in Environment and Conservation) to its email list for announcing upcoming public meetings.

Chris Hanks reported that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) is hosting an upcoming community consultation in Kugluktuk on the proposed project. They are using the Interim Resource Management Act (IRMA) funding.

Marie Adams confirmed that the KIA had received IRMA funding, along with the Dogrib Treaty 11, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the North Slave Metis Alliance. DIAND provided the funding in order to help Aboriginal organisations respond to E.A.s in the Lac de Gras area.

Tina Markovic reported that BHP wants the Environmental Assessment Report completed in mid- to late February, and plans a brief and succinct document. They are also waiting for the Agency's *Compliance Report*. BHP is scheduled to share the Environmental Assessment results with the communities during March to April 2000. BHP also owes the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency a response to its July 9th, 1999 letter on its site visit to BHP, as well as comments on the Annual Report. Both are forthcoming.

Darren Unrau reported that he visited Ekati on December 3rd-6th 1999. He reported that:

- Dyke B was completed to the final height;
- Decanting in Cell B ended in November 1999 due to freezing;
- Koala continues to be pumped out and pre-stripping will begin soon;
- Kodiak and Little Lake continue to be aerated;
- The Misery Road construction continues to 2 km east of Paul R. bridge, and;
- Four different bulk samples will be explored: one near Misery Lake, one near Grizzly Lake, one near Paul Lake and one near Sable Lake. The Box Car Camp will be moved from Gazelle to Misery Lake for this work and there will be another small camp at Sable. A winter road will be constructed for the six-week program.

Darren is working on fall seepage survey comments for the Water board TAC since they are due Jan. 24th. He also wanted to know if anyone else wanted to go up to site, since Anne will be doing a site visit shortly.

Tina Markovic said that the technical report on the water restraining structures is to be included in the Environmental Assessment Report for the proposed project.

John Witteman added that the road should reach Misery Lake by June 2000. A crew of 30 to 40 people will begin pre-stripping and dewatering will begin in March 2000 and will maintain water quality below 25 mg/L TSS. He explained that dewatering in the winter seems to be more effective because the ice cover allows TSS levels to remain at its regulated discharge level. This is probably due to the prevention of wave and wind action. A new nine-million-litre fuel tank is being installed at the main camp. Mining at the Panda and Misery pit will begin in March 2000 – with Panda likely to be mined until 2002 or 2003.

Julie Dahl reported that the Panda Channel overflow remediation plan has been received. It describes a simple remediation approach to the problem of overflow from the channel flowing to Koala. An area adjacent to the channel bank was excavated and refilled with packed material. The King Pond documents are being reviewed. A response will probably be issued next week.

Alexandra Thomson introduced John Holman, the new Administrative Assistant at the Agency. Since last meeting with IACT members, the Agency has held a Board Meeting and an open house. The Agency continues to work on the *Compliance Report* for BHP. Alex asked for a copy of the Panda Diversion Channel Remediation report, and would be happy to receive other reports as they come in.

Shannon Pagotto reported that she has received a as-built construction report from the Internal Dyke B and still awaits the drawings. The drawings may be still with the Northwest Territories Water Board or in transit to her office from the Board.

Darren Unrau pointed out that he has a copy of the drawings.

Marie Adams reported that the Natural Resources Canada representative, John Ramsey, has moved on to other things. Taking over for him will be Maria Ooi.

Greg Cook was involved with BHP a few years ago through DIAND Water Resources and has been getting up to speed on the Project.

Chris Hanks reported that the Environmental Assessment Report is to be in plain English and may be on tape, but that is being evaluated. It must be suitable to both the communities and the general public. Although the document will be translated in all three languages, the English version of the Environmental Assessment Report will be the definitive text. BHP has held terminology workshops with the translators.

Scott Williams informed the IACT members that in the Agency's December board meeting he received agreement to publish both the English Summaries of the Annual report and the Impact 2000 report in one volume, as long as they are separated and their discrete functions explained.

Chris Hanks mentioned that BHP has responded to a request from Lutsel K'e for a Traditional Knowledge (TK) Working Group meeting. They, in turn, have not yet responded.

Marie Adams speculated that it might be because they are busy with the Diavik project.

John Witteman asked whether any industry representative is on the Lands and Advisory Committee (LAC).

Marie Adams replied that LAC membership is reserved for the federal agencies and special interest groups.

Next meeting will be on February 25th at 1:15pm in the Agency's board room, Lower level of the 50-50 Mini Mall.