

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

March 19, 1999  
DOE Boardroom - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Diamond Plaza  
Meeting # 16

**Attendance:**

Anne Wilson	DOE
Marie Adams	DIAND E&C
Shannon Pagotto	DIAND - Waters
Laura Hawke	DIAND - Waters
Darren Unrau	DIAND - District
Scott Williams	BHP
John Wittemann	BHP
Chris Hanks	BHP
Matt Bender	Independent Monitoring Agency
Kelly Robertson	GNWT - RWED

Minutes of previous meeting accepted with one correction. Information on Little Lake DO. DO was up not down as reported in minutes.

**Scott:** The 'Ekati' name has been trademarked. Be aware when using.

Sewage is now being routed to Long Lake. As soon as freshette occurs, this will be pumped out to Kodiak Lake. They are gearing up for summer wildlife and aquatics programs. New programs include baseline studies for future developments of Sable, Pigeon. Ken Minns from DFO is developing a strategy paper covering No Net Loss (NNL) and related issues.

Misery Road: Crossing points for caribou have been outlined. These will be discussed with elders before being finalized. The road will have a low profile. Crossings will be wide enough for 3-4 caribou to cross - 5-10m wide and sloped. A pad is being constructed for storage of waste rock at Paul Lake. This is outside of lease boundary. Will be applying for LUP. The alternative is a lengthy drive for aggregate. Timing for the Misery road? Pre-stripping next year.

Cell D. Upon request by DFO, will look at using large size mesh to remove older larger fish and leave the smaller ones behind for in-situ studies. Cannot leave all fish in cell D as aboriginal groups were promised opportunity to fish out.

Caribou surveys go April 15 to Oct 15. Indications are that migration is 2 weeks early. Wolves already at Lac de Gras.

**Marie:** At wildlife workshops, the behaviour of caribou as a factor of distance from infrastructure was mentioned as being something to note.

**Scott:** This is being noted. Also surveys are being carried out in the early part of the day to noon as advised by elders as being the most likely time for caribou to be moving around. They tend to rest in afternoon.

Questions: Clarification on fish studies that lab studies are completed, field studies to continue?

**Scott:** Collaborative efforts of BHP, DOE, U of Sask. and DIAND put toward the field monitoring in Long Lake fish studies. BHP has archived fish kidneys, tissues etc which can be used in the studies.

**Anne:** Waiting for Scruggins report. No surprises expected. Also, A&R plan up for review by the 29<sup>th</sup>. Anne will be going in to do benthic component field work.

**Kelly:** Caribou data available for collared animals.

**John:** BHP needs this data. They are not on distribution list.

Reports: would like to combine the Tailings study with the Waste rock management plan under the water licence to reduce the volume of paper and still meet requirements. Combined annual report for the Water Board and Agency will be done by the end of March. The General Environmental Agreement annual report will be ready by end of April. The Environmental Impact Report will be due next year (year 3). BHP hoping to be able to combine the Environmental Impact Report and the Annual Report for next year and still meet requirements.

**\*\*Wants feedback on this. Is this acceptable?**

BHP will be drafting a note to all IACT members on this. DIAND will be coordinating response of federal agencies.

Groundwater in pits sent for testing as required for radio nuclides. But don't think this is real groundwater. More probable it is seepage from Kimberlite

Question on Public meetings associated with annual reports.

**Scott:** This was done. Met with Dogrib communities and Lutsel K'e.

BHP is working on producing an 'Overview' report. This will combine the key points of all reports and will be available on CD and hard copy. Aquatics and Wildlife will all be in one report for 1999.

They would like to do all the technical reporting on CD for aquatics and wildlife.

**\*\*Does the CD format meet everyone's needs? Need feedback on this.**

Bulk sampling completed on Gazelle and Piranha. Reverse circulation drill used. Turbidity results were good with this method.

Still decanting out of Long Lake which will shut down in the summer.

**Laura:** Preliminary screening of new pipes project - water licence. Is being referred to the EIRB. Rationale is that it is a watershed that hasn't been as studied (under the Panel) and possibly cumulative effects with Ekati-Diavik.

**Shannon:** The Water Board approved amendments for SNP and sewage.

**Julie:** DFO sent letter to Water Board. Which of DFO's recommendations made it in? Letter was sent to Greg Cook who asked for it as he could pass on to the Water Board.

(General discussion Julie/John on addition of P to sampling at Long Lake Discharge and importance of determining total loading levels - Is a Specific Effects Monitoring program needed for Kodiak Lake? DFO concerned that monitoring will stop after 3years. It was noted the assumption is that P in Kodiak Lake will remain associated with sediments -need to verify this so monitoring is necessary.)

**John:** Will move monitoring of Kodiak to Core monitoring program and will continue to sample so will not end after 3 years. (This was acceptable to DFO).

In response to request by DOE, Long Lake results to be provided to Anne.

**\*\*John announced dates for next BHP workshops - Feb 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, Aquatics, with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for Wildlife in year 2000.\*\***

**Julie:** NNL plans for Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth presented by BHP. Kimberlite toxicity questions remain. BHP wants to fill the first pit with processed kimberlite. DFO has not accepted a re-filled pit as compensation for lost lake habitat. BHP wants credit under the Fish loss compensation program for enhancing fish habitat in pits. (Only 1 case for precedent - involved coal mining). Concerns remain with water quality issues. Kimberlite long-term concerns.

**John:** The top 3-4m are expected to be totally oxidized followed by a reduction zone below so nothing should go past the top layer. Before month end BHP should have the strategy paper from Ken Minns (DFO) and this will help discussions. BHP looking at raising the level of the lake to form more littoral habitat and is interested in knowing if this compensates for loss of habitat in other areas. The lake is already selected.

**Darren:** Bulk sampling program is nearly completed. Geotech continuing at Misery where BHP is planning a frozen core dam. Amendment to Misery lease to create new sedimentation ponds. Amendment to water licence may be necessary as discharge point is now changing to King Pond (previously unnamed lake) and BHP is building a facility which was not part of the original application which was approved through the water licence. May be minor change. Possibly amendment to SNP. Understand necessity for the dam given the changes.

**John:** the alternative was discharging to Long Lake which was too controversial. John to get something on paper explaining to Water Board/Agency what the changes are. Studies this summer on fish in King Pond.

**Darren:** BHP continuing exploration with another LUP through ice. They will need to submit

application for renewal. Cell B has glaciation problems in upper reaches. Discharging had to be stopped and the discharge point was diverted to Cell C as back up. Will need to monitor the melting of this ice. Interesting to see rate of melt.

**John:** Engineering operations are developing a management plan for discharging. If discharged in winter may have to go underground with spigot discharge into water or the ice may continue to build up.

**Matt:** FYI Geonorth is contracted to provide 1 person to staff the Agency offices. So he is extremely busy. There is a new newsletter out. Will be coming out every 2 months instead of every 4 months. This year's annual report will consider some of the changes suggested by the Feds. And BHP. Agency attended the Feb. technical workshops and provided comments/recommendations for changes to field programs or studies. New website up. Designed and implemented in-house.

**Scott:** Kudos to the Agency for a great job on their new web site. Easy to find information, good job.

**Chris;** Worked with Agency to deliver TK workshop - quite successful. Agency and BHP need to keep the ball rolling. Trying to get a working group together next week. Aboriginal groups have indicated that they want to keep going. Need to keep up the momentum gained from the workshop.

**Marie:** Question on budget discussions - Agency and BHP.

**Scott:** Update will be provided to GNWT /DIAND outside of this meeting.

**Next meeting RWED boardroom, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Scotia Building. May 14<sup>th</sup> 1.15pm.**