

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

May 28, 1998
5th Fl Scotia Centre, RWED
Meeting #9

Attendance:

Mary Tapsell (Chair)	DIAND -Env. & Conservation
Kelly Robertson	RWED
Julie Dahl	DFO
Scott Williams	BHP
Chris Hanks	BHP
Anne Wilson	EC
Darren Unrau	DIAND -South Mackenzie District
Hal Mills	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Regrets: John Ramsey, NRCan
Greg Cook , DIAND - Waters

Round Table Updates:

Scott Williams: Panda Diversion Channel has lots of greyling moving into it. Two traps have been set up - one at the entrance of the channel and one at the end by Grizzly. A grizzly bear was sited in by old camp on Sunday. Monday night used crackers to scare it away, it hasn't returned, and caused no problems. Have sited a pair of denning wolves on an esker by Vulture. Not many caribou passed through the site this spring - they went East of the site. Dogrib & Lutsel K'e are upset about the change in caribou movements. Lots of exploration is happening this summer . . . Getting ready to drill on Pigeon (north of camp).

Chris Hanks: tentative agreement with the Dogrib for Phase II of the Traditional Knowledge project. Visited Lutsel K'e last week to discuss TK study. Their primary concerns are over water issues. Letters have been sent to all four Aboriginal organizations outlining the proposal to send an Elder and a youth (late summer/early fall) to the site to monitor how caribou/animals act when approaching the pit & air strip. All have expressed an interest and Dogrib have verbally said they will tie it to the WKSS study. This project will be organized at short notice (i.e. when the caribou are moving through). Will also be taking an Elder and a youth in late June to look at archeological sites to see if they can identify any other areas. These are all trial projects - if successful, will be part of a long-term study/program. Studies may be changed and adapted to meet the need of a particular organization.

Scott William: Updated us on status of graduate students doing work at the site. Unfortunately they lost the student working on the hydrological studies - looking for a replacement.

Julie Dahl: Was at the site on May 21. Channel is flowing & silt curtains are in and trapping sediment. The system seems to be working. Remediation work on the Grizzly channel seems to be intercepting the natural channel well.

Anne Wilson: recently returned from Ekati site(yesterday) - will pass along aerial photos of the channel and outflow to Julie.

Darren Unrau: as up at the site yesterday - did not see any dead fish on shores of Kodiak. Buster Creek is nice & clear and the Diversion Channel is much cleaner than last year. Beartooth Lake is ice free and the water looks clear. Paul Lake Creek is wide open - the bridge looks good - no erosion problems. Looked at future location for Pigeon Pipe by air (land use permit as it is off of lease site - N off Long Lake). Will need a drill pad - will have to make an amendment to existing permit - don't foresee any problems at this time. Chris Hanks mentioned that he has also looked at the archeological surveys and hasn't seen anything in the area.

Had a TAC meeting re: modifications to the SNP and the Water Bdr meets today to review recommendations. The biggest changes to the SNP involved Kodiak Lake (discharge & run-off stations). Have reviewed the OEMP and provided comments.

Hal Mills: Four Directors are in town reviewing the OEMP and BHP's Annual Report. They are also writing and reviewing the Agency's Annual Report and this is a high priority so they can get it to the printer. Agency's AGM is coming up (June 24) and will be followed by a trip up to Ekati (June 25). The AGM will be a private meeting followed by a press briefing. Agency has some new staff members - Lisa Hurly (summer student) and Alan Ehrlich (arrives next week).

Had a comment in from Florence Catholique (Lutsel K'e) asking why the OEMP has not gone to the Aboriginal Organizations. She knows that the Agency is there for the technical review, but still would like a copy for themselves. She also enquired about translation of the document.

Scott Williams: No problem in providing Aboriginal Organizations with reports . . . just concerned about timeliness.

Anne Wilson: Had a good site visit with Darren. It is critical to go to site because it allows reviewers to pick up stuff visually. Pigeon Pipe site - need to make sure that there are no burdens on the Lake. Diversion Channel looks good - it was clear at Grizzly end. Kodiak Lake has a low level - no dead fish observed took some samples. Some concern about the Koala sump into Cell C and will watch impacts. Pleased with the Hazardous waste & Fill management . . . Cleanest mine I have ever seen. Looked at land farm - it is underway.

While at site, noticed that the rotary kiln (which was burning contaminated soils) was

discharging quite a few particles. Understand that this is short-term - but should have tried to trap the particles. The land farm will now be used to treat contaminated soils and this will probably never occur again.

Kelly Robertson: Question/Point of clarification: It would help us a lot if BHP would indicate what reports are for when they send them out. We receive so many different reports that are parts of BHP's various requirements, however, we do not necessarily know what requirement a specific report is linked too. Still reviewing the OEMP and waiting for comments.

Mary Tapsell: Informed the Agency they will be receiving a response to their letter regarding their interest to be involved in the environmental assessment of the Diavik Project. Still waiting for comments to come in on the OEMP and BHP's Annual Report.

Items to report on behalf of **Greg Cook:** the QA/QC plan in the current AEMP and OEMP apparently has not been received by the Analyst for review and approval (i.e. Taiga lab chemists). The status of the 2 outstanding study approvals remains the same, i.e. BHP is waiting for DOE to give the final word, and get back to the Board or DIAND. They (kimberlite and ground water study) were conditionally approved, subject to finalizing with DOE.

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, JULY 10/98 1:00pm, DFO's Boardroom (Diamond Plaza)