

**Inter-Agency Coordinating Team (IACT)
EKATI Diamond Project**

**October 01, 1999
DOE Boardroom - 3rd Floor Diamond Plaza
Meeting # 19**

Julie Dahl	DFO
John Witteman	BHP
Alex Thomson	Independent Monitoring Agency
Anne Wilson	DOE
Shannon Pagotto	Waters - DIAND
Marie Adams	Environment & Conservation - DIAND
Kelly Robertson	GNWT - RWED

General discussion on how to include aboriginal representation on IACT. Generally all RAs still not comfortable with expanding membership as the technical aspects may get lost. The Agency was not comfortable with sending a letter to aboriginal groups. The DIAND proposal to invite aboriginal groups (no funding, no translation) and have the Chair ensure discussion is kept to technical matters not political was thought to not be workable. Members were agreeable to sending aboriginal groups the minutes of meetings.

Alex noted that elders had been invited to the NWB technical sessions with positive results and input. Shouldn't underestimate elders ability to participate given clear direction.

John: Land lease change sent in for Misery lease. BHP needs expansion to accommodate waste rock pile. The winter road will be taken down to Lac de Gras. 2km distance from Misery to shore. Permanent all weather road. Mainly winter use. Summer is mainly maintenance. So, routing changes from off Lac de Gras instead of Lac du Savage. Road has now reached the bridge. Waste rock from Panda being used. Expect to reach Misery June or July. Impervious dam to be built (King Pond). Need a Fisheries Authorization for King Pond.

Anne: Question on seep survey - low pH off waste rock pile.

John: ARC survey. Fresh (wet) rock - high pH drops off as oxidation continues. Because no buffering it will eventually drop to pH 5-6. Probably bog influence. Samples taken inbetween instead of at toe of waste rock pile.

Anne: V. high levels of Al, and NH₄

John: rock flour from blasting may contribute. Investigating how to solve blasting residuals release. Possibly use emulsion.

Marie: What about the suggestion from Agency that mineralogical study be carried out.

John: SO₄, Ca, Mg, are major ions. Residual mineral is gypsum (MgSO₄ or CaSO₄). At the toe of the waste rock pile pH is approx 7. At 10 meters, pH 3-8. No coarse kimberlite on this pile.

John: TK info. Best source is when the elders visit the site. Not having much luck using other means which involve working through the Band. Reports in BHP funded studies are still outstanding.

Impact 2000 report. Summary note sent out for all to review. Producing a 10pp annotated table of contents. They have taken all VECs and re-defined. For example, 'noise' in relation to caribou or grizzlies has never been mentioned, so this is being dropped. VEC to be added --at discharge pt of Cell E. Wildlife

in original EIS did not include wolves or foxes under the wildlife category. Also breeding birds (loons). These have been added. Also adding 'Valued Cultural Component' - Heritage Sites.

Reminder that BHP Environment Week is week of Feb 7th. Aquatics and wildlife main components. Lots of elders will be brought in. Technical is difficult for them to handle. Do we want this as technical? Or do we want to do the easy view - slide show?

(Comment (not sure who) that Feb. Workshops were technical in nature and this was necessary for advising and planning new field season).

John: Possible solution, have 1 portion of the presentation for the day as non- technical - lay person format slide show.

BHP presenting 2 papers at Geoscience forum. Adaptive environmental management is one. Other? BHP will also be responding to federal comments on their annual report.

On site, Oct 12 will be the switch over from above to under water discharge to Cell B for winter. Koala pump out till drained, possibly January 2000. Diversion channel work ongoing to insert semi-permeable lining to keep water in at the low pt where flooding occurred.

EA on new pipes pushing ahead. Waste management building close to opening.

Marie: Water Board info through arrangement with Vicki Losier - office mgr. Weekly info packages.

John noted that BHP needed a wildlife management permit to dispatch

Alex: Introduced herself. Communications - how to improve info exchanges between agencies. Questions on Fish compensation plan and Kimberlite toxicity

Anne: Response on release of info (DOE) being sent.

Shannon: Seep survey results are in. Set to TAC for comments. John: Actual report has to be interpreted so comments after the interpretation most useful

John: CD of complete EIS available + all Rescan reports

Next meeting Nov. 12, DOE boardroom.