

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

September 25, 1998
DFO Boardroom - Diamond Plaza
Meeting #12

Attendance:

Julie Dahl	DFO
Steve Harbicht	DOE
Kelly Robertson	GNWT
Scott Williams	BHP
John Witteman	BHP
Chris Hanks	BHP
Matt Bender	Independent Monitoring Agency
Allen Ehrlich	Independent Monitoring Agency
Marie Adams	DIAND E&C
Greg Cook	DIAND Waters
Darren Unrau	DIAND District

Minutes: 1 change. 'Gordon Lake Burn area' rather than 'berm' area. (Change noted by all present).

Round Table Updates

Marie Adams: Informed BHP that Health Canada had not yet heard from the company on follow up on Article 12.3 - ground water sampling. A copy of correspondence from Scott Williams to Claude David (Health Canada) dated August 24 will be re-sent to Health Canada with copy to DIAND. No idea why Health Canada has not yet received this letter.

The IMA newsletter "Ekati Monitor" was brought up. An issue surrounding cumulative effects which had appeared to be resolved through previous meetings and through public statements of the IMA director, re-surfaced in the newsletter. The wording and explicit detail of the newsletter articles in DIAND's opinion, was unworthy of the collaborative nature of this organisation and leads to mistrust between the parties when conflicting messages are presented through public media.

Allen Ehrlich explained that the newsletter was prepared for publication prior to some of the discussions between the parties.

Darren Unrau: Last inspection of site was Sept. 11, 1998. The land farm is completed along with the fuel containment area with the bulk oil storage area nearing completion. Ekati has done a good job of minimizing impacts associated with their exploration program. Only 4 spill files

remain open. Next inspection is next week.

Question on how the pumping of Koala Lake will affect the water balance followed by discussion on limits imposed on how much can be pumped from Long Lake dewatering to a lake (lake to lake) as opposed to an outlet stream.

John: They will not need to pump continuously and will not be reaching the limits imposed.

Greg Cook: AEMP comments due today. Final approval of Kimberlite Toxicity Study and QA/QC under the AEMP are with DOE. The 'as built' summary report has been sent out for comment and is expected to be approved subject to any problems identified. It needs a descriptive report to match contract specifications.

Steve Harbicht: They are finalizing Long Lake Study funding. Need to wait for the toxicity study results. DOE would like to get 3 masters students involved up to the site. Possible dates discussed were Oct. 3,4.

Julie Dahl: All reports on fish out studies received and are being reviewed. Means of minimizing impacts (turbidity) on water with culvert replacement discussed.

Kelly Robertson: Caribou work done by Anne Gunn discussed in relation to burn area around Gordon Lake. Caribou are likely to avoid the area for sometime due to lack of food.

General discussion: It would be useful to have data on caribou in the burn area. It would be useful to find out if in fact impact on caribou is attributed to lack of forage rather than the presence of mining development.

Scott Williams: Dykes B & C are completed and tailings are being deposited in Cell B. Dewatering of Koala into Cell C started last Monday. Culverts are complete and so are the roadways. (In response to question from D. Unrau), Sampling program is in place for the dewatering. The land farm is completed and site drainage lines were supposed to be in this week, however the snowfall has retarded that operation.

The big announcement: Diamonds are being produced at Ekati! Production started September 8, 1998. Tailings are settling nicely into Cell B.

John: BHP will be applying for Water licences shortly for Bear Tooth, Sable and Pigeon (land based pipes). No results on Pigeon. Bear Tooth is on the surface lease currently held by BHP. Sable is 17-18 km away. Pigeon ½ km outside of the lease. Will need Fisheries authorization.

Julie: To clarify, there will be a CEEA review on Sable, Bear Tooth and Pigeon. Water Board has indicated a 'B' licence will be necessary not A.

(Clarification - G.Cook. It was easier to issue a separate licence rather than re-do the current licence for those on the surface lease).

General discussion on MVRMA applicability. Totally dependent on date of coming into force of the Act (Except for Part 4, December 1998).

Marie: Will bring up the new EA and water licence requirements at the next MVEIRB meeting. It will be good to inform the new MV Land and Water Board as well if it appears they will be in force (Possibly April 1999).

John: The Wildlife, Archeology work has already been done on Sable. Will have limnology on all lakes and 2 years wildlife data on Sable in Project Descriptions for all the new projects.

Steve: Drilling crew working on Bear Tooth were filming operations showing type of drilling and associated impacts. Any reports available? No need to reinvent the wheel, others can learn from this if info is shared.

John: SDS did a good job. Film itself did not show much except for plume of sediment which was visible. Least impact was observed when the crew used a casing and then drilled within the casing. (Least impact when inside and outside casing used together). SDS is also doing drilling for Monopros. Agree the info is useful and will put a report together.

Announcement of upcoming workshops: February 1-5. Wildlife Feb. 2-3. Aquatics, Feb. 4-5.

Chris Hanks: T8, T11, KIA, Lutsel Ke' and Metis all had groups on site during the caribou migration. BHP is running info sessions in Kugluktuk, YK Dene in October and November. Caribou hunting season has interfered with opportunities to present the wildlife program to all groups, but it will take place soon.

Phase II of the study. Transcribing problem will be resolved by having all interviews combined with Arcview maps. The database will probably be taken over by KIA. Hopefully this info will be integrated with the WKSS Tuktu Nogait Study and also integrated with DIAND's data on the Coppermine River Basin study.

Dogrib brought in their own expertise on water quality- Lac de Gras and Slipper Lake. Metis - politics have interfered. Looking for ways to re-vitalize their participation. Overall, after 2 years people are comfortable with the direction of the TK program. Lutsel Ke' proposal on water flow has been rejected by WKSS as flow studies have already been done to verify direction of flow. However positive discussion taking place to identify alternate studies for Lutsel Ke'.

Wildlife technicians have been secured from Kugluktuk, Rae and Lutsel Ke'. Fish outs of Cell c will be completed with Rae Lakes, Whati and Snare Lakes. A surprise in the fish out was the sudden appearance of Ciscoe among the lake trout. Samples have been sent to the Freshwater Institute to do exact specifications.

Julie: Interested in validation of the fish out. It points out that standard methods used for verifying fish populations are not accurate. The major species appear to be the only samples secured through established sampling methods.

Matt Bender/ Allen Ehrlich: Matt is just back as monitoring coordinator and is getting caught

up. The Agency is putting together a map of exploration sites around BHP for public information. Known Kimberlite exploration is the target. Purpose is info to be used in tracking potential cumulative impacts.

A TK workshop with Aboriginal members is planned. BHP requested Agency's assistance in getting the workshop off the ground. This is the workshop which was postponed from last February. Acknowledged concerns that the right people attend. ie, the representatives from all aboriginal groups who have been involved in negotiating IBAs and TK study specifics should be the ones attending as they have a good base of knowledge already.

Web site is being worked on and will be up shortly.

Questions on Fish Out reports (Julie). What is happening to these reports and how are they being used in the future?

Question on waste rock settling in Long Lake (Allen). Tailings characterization numbers report mentions settling could take up to 4,000 years??? Mistake in report?
BHP puzzled, settling takes about a minute. Issue may be one of space available.
BHP to draft out a paper on settling for the Agency.

Questions on why the Water Board has effluent restrictions on TSS but not on Turbidity. Answer is that turbidity is easy to measure in field but has definite limitations. Turbidity can be influenced by algal blooms etc. TSS is also what is measured in the Metal Mining Effluent Regs.

Next meeting Friday the 13th of November at 1.15pm. Same venue. The Chair will be on time.

Adjourned at approximately 3pm.