



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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September 10th, 2004

Chris Hanks
Chief Environmental Officer
Billiton Diamonds Inc.
#1102 4920 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife NT, X1A 3T1

Stephen Nielsen
Interim Chair
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor – 4910 50th Avenue
Yellowknife NT, X1A 2P6

Dear Mr. Hanks and Mr. Nielsen

Re: “Focussed Independent Review of Select Parameters of the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program for the Ekati Diamond MineTM”

In our role as Chair of the inter-agency steering committee overseeing the Third Party Review of the 2002 AEMP Report at Ekati, we are forwarding the attached final report dated September 7th, 2004 prepared by Zajdlik and Associates Inc.

The steering committee composed of Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Agency have reviewed and accept the report and generally agree with its findings. We encourage BHPB to examine the report’s recommendations with a view to strengthening the AEMP by optimizing the use of the extensive database the company has collected over the past ten years and exploring the use of alternative statistical analytical tools.

On behalf of the steering committee and our contractor, Dr. Zajdlik, we thank BHPB for its cooperation in providing data and time of Rescan scientists to allow a successful completion of this important review.

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

William A. Ross, Chairperson

Cc: Society Members
Barry Zajdlik, Zajdlik & Associates, Inc.