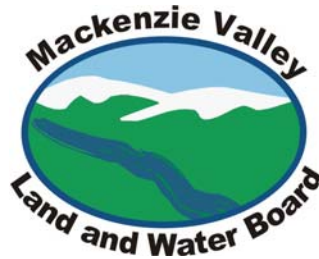




Independent Environmental
Monitoring Agency (IEMA)



February 17, 2004

Distribution List:

Re: Workshop to review Ekati's Environmental Monitoring and Management Programs - March 16th and 17th, 2004.

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) and the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) are pleased to invite you to a workshop scheduled for March 16th and 17th in Yellowknife at the Explorer Hotel. The results of selected BHP Billiton environmental monitoring programs and reports related to BHPB's environmental management programs will be presented and discussed by all parties in attendance.

Purpose: The purpose of the workshop is to review the results of BHPB's aquatic effects monitoring program (and related work) and wildlife effects monitoring program with representatives of affected Aboriginal parties, regulatory agencies and BHPB. The regular review and revision of management and monitoring plans are a very important component of adaptive management.

The workshop is an important opportunity to identify any required changes to the 2004 monitoring programs. It will also provide an effective means to identify the concerns of Aboriginal Peoples about the environmental monitoring and management of the project.

The workshops will:

- Provide an overview of the purpose of the plans and programs
- Review outcomes of environmental monitoring in 2003
- Make recommendations regarding monitoring programs for 2004
- Identify emerging issues
- Exchange information among all affected parties
- Present information in an understandable format

Process: The two-day workshop will be hosted jointly by the MVLWB and the IEMA, and are intended to bring together Aboriginal people and government regulators who have an interest in the environmental monitoring and management programs at Ekati. Proceedings will be recorded and a final summary of findings distributed to all participants. Recommendations to revise environmental monitoring and management plans for 2004 will be forwarded to BHPB in a timely manner so that they can be considered and incorporated prior to 2004's sampling season.

Participants: Participant funding will be provided by the IEMA to three representatives of each of its Aboriginal Society members. Details of participant funding must be arranged with the IEMA **prior** to the first day of the workshop. Other participants will include the IEMA Board and Staff, the MVLWB Regulatory Officers and Executive Director, and representatives of various government agencies such as Environment Canada, DIAND, RWED and DFO. BHP Billiton has been invited to attend.

Overview of the Agenda:

Tuesday March 16th – The BHPB Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) and related reports:

Morning - Discussion of key findings and assessment

Afternoon – Input from all parties and suggestions for program improvements

Wednesday March 17th – The BHPB Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) and related reports:

Morning – Discussion of key findings and assessment

Afternoon – Input from all parties and suggestions for program improvements

Information: The IEMA and the MVLWB are co-hosting the workshop. If you are interested in attending please contact Carole Mills or Sean Kollee to confirm your participation by March 5th. We will be distributing a detailed agenda to confirmed participants prior to the workshop.

For further information please contact:

Carole Mills/Sean Kollee
IEMA
(867) 669 9141
monitor1@yk.com

Latisha Heilman/Sarah Baines
MVLWB
(867) 766 7471
Latisha@mvlwb.com

We look forward to working with you and discussing these important issues in a workshop format.

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

Carole Mills
Manager, IEMA

Robert Wooley
Executive Director, MVLWB