



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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Society Members

Re: BHPB's Environmental Impact Report for 2003

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) is writing to remind you of an important report released by BHPB. In May you should have received from BHPB the Environmental Impact Report for 2003. I have attached a photocopy of the front page to help you identify the report. This report is very informative because it summarizes the impacts the Ekati mine may have had on the environment since it began operating with a focus on the last three years of studies.

It is important to note that BHPB reports that no major environmental impacts have occurred. Many smaller problems are described including the actions that were taken to fix the problem and if those actions were successful. As well, the predictions made in the 1995 Environmental Impact Statement are compared to what has actually happened. A good summary of the issues is found in Table 9 of the report "Effects, trends, and adaptive management at the Ekati Diamond Mine from 1995 EIS to 2002." IEMA's Board of Directors and staff have quickly reviewed the report and did not see any major problems with the report or with the findings. We will be reviewing it more thoroughly over the next few weeks.

Everyone has 45 days (until approximately June 30, 2003) to review the document and identify major concerns they may have about the report or about the actions BHPB has taken to address environmental concerns. Although the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) is responsible for collecting the concerns, we are also interested in hearing what the communities think about the report and about environmental management practices at the mine.

Please contact us if you would like additional copies of the report or if you have concerns. Let us know how we can be of help in your review.

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

Carole Mills
Manager