



Environment Canada
Environnement Canada

Environment Canada
Prairie and Northern Region
#301-5204 50th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2

January 28, 2008

Our File: 4780 005 004

Dr. Kathy Racher
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board
Box 32, Wekweeti, NT X0E 1W0

**Re: BHP Billiton (BHPB) Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan, Section 3
Verification comments**

Ms. Racher,

Environment Canada had no direct comments with respect to our jurisdiction; however we did support an issue raised by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada related to the LLCF as follows.

Review Comment

EC supports INAC's recommendation for further studies of pore water issues in relation to the LLCF and the permafrost regime. EC is concerned with the negative effects that this may have on surface water quality at closure.

Status

EC understands that this issue has been resolved by way of a commitment on behalf of BHP Billiton to collect further information on pore water to help determine further steps regarding the closure of the LLCF. It is also understood that the results of this information will be provided in a subsequent document on the LLCF.

We look forward to continuing to work with the board through the review process for the ICRP for the Ekati Mine. Should you have any further questions please contact myself, Savanna Levenson at (867) 669-4772 or via email at savanna.levenson@ec.gc.ca.

Yours Truly,

Savanna Levenson
Environmental Assessment Specialist
Environmental Protection Operations

Canada 

c.c: Carey Ogilvie, Head EA North, Environment Canada
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Anne Wilson, Water Pollution Specialist, Environment Canada