

**BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.**  
**Operator of the EKATI Diamond Mine**



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Kathleen Racher  
Regulatory Director (Mining),  
Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board,  
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Yellowknife, NT,  
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June 27, 2008

**RE: Reclamation Research Plan**

Dear Ms Racher,

BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc (BHP Billiton) has reviewed the proposed example of the Reclamation Research Plan put forward by Steve Wilbur from Jacques Whitford, in his June 18, 2008 Verification Comments for Section 4 review of the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP). The company would like to thank Steve Wilbur for his suggestions and the example he has provided.

BHP Billiton agrees with most of the plan outline as proposed by Steve Wilbur. We have made a couple of changes to the proposal (see Sections 1, 5 and 9 below), and submit to the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) the following outline, with a brief discussion on the purpose of each section.

**BHP Billiton ICRP Reclamation Research Plan Outline**

**1. Uncertainty**

States the uncertainty that the research plan will address. Rather than have a number of goals in the reclamation research, which should not be confused with the overall Closure Goal for the EKATI Diamond Mine, the purpose of the research plan should be to address key environmental uncertainties for reclamation and closure.

**2. Research Question** – Identifies the question to be answered by the research.

**3. Objective** – States the purpose and desired outcome of the research project.

**4. Data and Information Required** – Describes what data and information are necessary to meet the objectives and address the uncertainty.

**5. Data Available and Research Completed** – Describes the data that has been collected, research completed to date, lessons learned, and application of the findings.

**6. Identified Data and Information Gaps** – Includes data and information gap assessment from completed research.

**7. Scope of Work (by Task)** – States the work to be completed, by task, to address the remaining uncertainties.

**8. Schedule** – Includes the schedule for the research. A comprehensive schedule for all research tasks will be included elsewhere in the ICRP Appendices.

**9. Project Tracking** – Describes the monitoring to be completed for the research project. The tracking of research progress should not be confused with reclamation monitoring (Appendix G) which tracks progress toward meeting closure criteria.

**10. Costs** – States the expected costs for the reclamation research activities.

**11. References** – Includes references for completed research.

BHP Billiton believes that the above outline will contribute to a more detailed Reclamation Research Plan for the reclamation and closure of the EKATI Minesite. The outline also addresses the concerns raised by the Working Group at the Section 4 review, as well as the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency's concerns related to key uncertainties for minesite closure.

BHP Billiton is requesting the WLWB extend the delivery date for the updated ICRP to allow the company to include the changes to the proposed outline for the Reclamation Research Plan, as described above. We are requesting delivery of the updated ICRP in mid December 2008.

Should you have any questions concerning the above Reclamation Research Plan or the requested submission date for the ICRP, please contact Helen Butler (867) 669-6104.

Sincerely,



Laura Tyler  
Manager Environment, Community, Communications and Planning  
EKATI Diamond Mine

cc..

Anne Wilson – Environment Canada  
Bill Ross – IEMA  
Tony Pearce – IEMA  
Kevin O'Reilly - IEMA  
Bruce Hanna – DFO  
Steve Wilbur – Jacques Whitford  
Sheryl Grieve – NSMA  
Geoff Clarke – KIA  
Nathen Richea – INAC  
Marc Casas – INAC  
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Jason Brennan – INAC  
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