

June 30, 2008

Ryan Fequet Regulatory Specialist Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board P.O. BOX 32 WEKWEÈTÌ, NT X0E 1W0

Dear Mr. Fequet:

BHP BILLITON DIAMONDS INC., MV2003L2-0013 2007 Waste Rock and Waste Rock Storage Area Seepage Survey Report.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has reviewed the above Report based on its mandated responsibilities under the *Wildlife Act*, the *Forest Management Act (FMA)* and the *Environmental Protection Act (EPA)* and provides the followings comments for your consideration.

General Comments

ENR staff are pleased to learn that BHPB has proposed weekly sampling during the open-water season of 2008, in addition to spring and fall surveys of SEEP-018, SEEP-019 and SEEP-052 locations, for analysis of total and dissolved metals, major ions and field parameters.

This additional monitoring will increase the data set for understanding the mechanisms involved with contributing to elevated metal levels and low pH as WRSA seepage water interacts with the natural soils along it's flow path. ENR expects this analysis will continue validating the hypothesis of chemical substitution for the observed water chemistry.

Should you have any questions or concerns with regards to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Jason McNeill, Environmental Assessment Analyst – Mackenzie Valley, at (867) 920-6592 or <u>Jason McNeill@gov.nt.ca</u>.

Jason McNeill

nvironmental Assessment Analyst –

Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring
Environment and Natural Resources

Erika Nyyssonen Industrial Specialist – Mining Environmental Protection C.