



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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October 15, 2008

Laura Tyler
Manager-Environment, Community, Communications and Planning
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
#1102 4920-52nd Street
Yellowknife NT
X1A 3T1

Dear Laura

Re: Long Lake Containment Facility Water Quality Model

The Agency has reviewed the July 23, 2008 response by BHP Billiton (BHPB) to comments that were made on the Long Lake Containment Facility (LLCF) Water Quality Models. While the Agency agrees that BHPB has likely met the requirements of the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board in filing this work, we were disappointed that BHPB did not take the time to respond to the comments that were submitted.

The Agency recognizes the work that BHPB has gone to in putting together and running the two versions of the model, and the improvements that were made from the first to the second version. The work to date accurately reflects the past and present levels of chloride in the LLCF, and provides a good understanding of where this parameter is likely headed.

We agree that the model is a management tool for BHPB, but disagree that it should be only for internal use. The model will become a critical part of the research that is needed to support the Watershed Adaptive Management Plan (in predicting contaminants of potential interest and future trends that may require a management response) and the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (in understanding what the water quality will be at closure under a variety of scenarios and what, if any, further treatment may be required).

The Agency is of the view the BHPB should commit to answering specific research questions and timelines (related to when the research results are needed) in further developing and applying the LLCF Water Quality Models. The suggestions provided to date as part of the technical review requested by the WLWB can begin to form the basis of the further work that should be carried out.

We would be interested in a response to this issue and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'W'.

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members

Kathy Racher and Ryan Fequet, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board