

BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.



BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.  
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March 29, 2007

File 4.1.8.13

Bill Ross  
Chair  
Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency  
P.O. Box 1192  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2W8

Dear Bill;

**Re: Response to Recommendations made in the IEMA 2005-6 Annual Report**

Thank you for the recommendations from your 2005-6 Annual Report that relate to BHP Billiton. Please find below our response to these recommendations.

Tailings and Wastewater Management

1. BHP Billiton's new Wastewater and Processed Kimberlite Management Plan (WPKMP) should:
  - a) Contain a commitment to complete deposition into the north end of cell B by 2009 to allow pilot scale reclamation to begin.
  - b) Omit use of cell D for deposition.

***Response: BHP Billiton must maintain the management flexibility as designed. While every effort will be made to minimise deposition in Cell D, BHP Billiton will continue to include Cell D in its LLCF deposition plans for the foreseeable future.***

Reclamation and Closure

2. BHP Billiton should develop closure objectives, options and criteria and assess risk collaboratively with all interested parties in accordance with the advice offered by the Agency and the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP) working group members.

***Response: BHP Billiton has submitted an Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan to the WLWB incorporating the closure objectives, options and criteria. The Working Group process currently in place will provide a forum for discussion of this over the next 12 months.***

### Aquatic Effects Monitoring

3. BHPB should, through monitoring and additional analyses of data already collected, obtain the necessary information to explain changes in zooplankton community structure in relation to water chemistry changes.

***Response: This work is in progress and includes changes to BHP Billiton's annual Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program. BHP Billiton is comfortable that the current analyses and reporting provides all the necessary information.***

### Communications and Consultation

4. BHPB consultation and communications activities should adopt the principles suggested by the agency and our Aboriginal Society Members.

***Response: BHP Billiton continues to engage its stakeholders and is constantly trying to improve this process based on input from all parties. BHP Billiton is currently developing a consultation strategy for the upcoming Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth Water Licence renewal and as a first step we are seeking input from all of the community stakeholders on how they would like to be consulted. However, it must also be realized that BHP Billiton can not realistically satisfy everybody all of the time.***

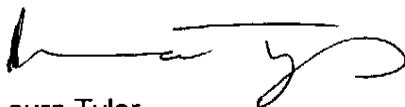
### Assessment of BHP Billiton

5. BHP Billiton should provide adequate resources to its Environment Department to ensure it can meet the obligations of its Environmental Agreement, water licences and other authorizations.

***Response: Staff hiring will continue to be problematic as long as the regulatory process continues to take years to complete. The reporting and monitoring demands and expectations are also continually increasing resulting in increasing workloads with minimal net environmental improvements.***

If you have any questions regarding these comments, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 669-6156.

Sincerely  
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.



Laura Tyler  
Superintendent – Development Planning