



***INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY***

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March 30, 2008

Zabey Nevitt  
Executive Director  
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board  
1 - 4905 48 St.  
Yellowknife NT  
X1A 3S3

**Re: Review of Ekati Watershed Adaptive Management Plan**

Dear Mr. Nevitt

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency has begun to review BHP Billiton's Watershed Adaptive Management Plan. We note the request by Dr. Racher for comments to be submitted by April 7, 2008.

We take the responsibility of reviewing adaptive management plans very seriously and would like to carry out a responsible review of the Watershed Adaptive Management Plan (WAMP) BHPB has submitted. To do so, we believe that it makes sense to first determine, beyond the important requirements in the Water Licence, what an adaptive management plan ought to contain. Only then can we review and comment constructively. This would follow on the very helpful adaptive management that the WLWB (and others) put on recently. In order to do so, we would like to contract outside technical expertise, in collaboration with the Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) for a joint review of the Ekati and Diavik adaptive management plans with a focus on developing an evaluative framework and criteria for such plans. We are in the process of finalizing the selection of a technical consultant but, if we undertake this more substantial effort at reviewing the WAMP, it will not be possible to meet the April 7, 2008 deadline.

Our staff has also met with others that are conducting a review of the two plans, and in some cases, regulators are also collaborating on joint reviews of the two documents. We have agreed that there would be additional value in sharing the results of these reviews with others through a workshop that EMAB is already organizing on the topic of adaptive management.

To allow us to retain outside technical expertise, and to share and gain from the collaborative workshop mentioned above, we request an extension to the comment deadline to June 6, 2008. This will ensure that our comments, and those of others, will have the benefit of the



review and collaboration of the workshop and bring greater value to our submissions to the Board.

We look forward to your positive reply.

Sincerely,

--Original Signed By—

Bill Ross  
Chairperson

cc. Society Members  
John McCullum, EMAB  
Bruce Hanna, Fisheries and Oceans  
Anne Wilson, Environment Canada