

04 May 2007

Richard Weishaupt
Manager, Health, Safety and Environment
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
#1102, 4920 – 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT Canada X1A 3T1

Dear Mr. Weishaupt:

Responding to concerns: BHP Billiton Wildlife Research Permit application NSR 048-07

Thank you for providing additional details on methods to be used in BHP Billiton's NWT Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) application. We do not require a technically extensive description of proposed methods but enough detail for communities and ourselves to review the procedures as required under the WRP process. For renewal WRP applications, the Department also requires a brief summary of the previous year's activities. This brief summary could be as little as 2-3 paragraphs and need not depend upon release of your annual Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) report. However, making reference to the WEMP report and indicating its availability to the reader is recommended.

Although your letter references how changes to the mine's monitoring programs (WEMP) are made, our concern relative to the 2007 WRP application was simply the need to include more detail for WRP application assessment purposes. The WEMP report(s) will likely contain more than enough detail needed to complete a WRP application. Therefore, it should not be an onerous task to select the pertinent information from there for the WRP application. The Department believes that the WRP application should be a stand-alone document in plain language that does not require the reader to search for supporting documents.

As for the status of BHP Billiton's WRP current application, the detail on methodology contained in your letter 25 April 2007 letter is satisfactory to us. We now just need the brief summary for last year's activities. Once we receive that and consider any comments from the communities, I would be in a position to issue a permit.

Sincerely,



Ernie Campbell
Regional Superintendent
North Slave Region

- c. Brent Murphy, BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
- Dave Abernethy, BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc
- Susan Fleck, Director, Wildlife & Fisheries, ENR-Headquarters
- Fred Mandeville, Manager, Wildlife & Environment, ENR-North Slave
- Dean Cluff, Regional Biologist, ENR-North Slave
- Raymond Bourget, Senior Wildlife Officer, ENR-North Slave
- Independent Environment Monitoring Agency
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board