

BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
Operator of the EKATI Diamond Mine



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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE

The EKATI Diamond Mine announced today the appointment of Ricus Grimbeek as its new President and Chief Operating Officer, replacing Sean Brennan who has left the company for other pursuits.

Ricus Grimbeek is an experienced Mining Engineer, and rejoins the BHP Billiton group after a short absence since 2003, where he held the position of Executive Vice President Mining at Lonmin Platinum in South Africa.

In this position, Mr. Grimbeek was responsible for a very large 1.2 million ton a month operation comprised of 27,000 people. He made significant contributions including the implementation of a world class mine planning system, Life of Mine plan, and community and business integration processes.

With experience working as an underground miner and shift supervisor, Mr. Grimbeek's interest in strategic and operational issues moved him into management positions focused on health, safety, environment and community. He has a strong risk management background with emphasis on community relations and communications.

"While I have the utmost gratitude for Sean Brennan's contribution to EKATI and I am sorry to see him move on, this new appointment comes at an exciting time in EKATI's history", said Alberto Calderon, President of Diamonds and Specialty Products at BHP Billiton. "Mr. Grimbeek is well positioned to lead the important phase of unlocking EKATI's full potential and maximum economic life in an increasingly challenging environment."

Mr. Grimbeek is married with two children. He is an experienced rock climber and enjoys other outdoor activities, such as golf, tennis and cycling.

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