



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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October 19, 2009

Rita Catholique
Aktitcho Treaty 8 BHPB Billiton IBA Office
P.O. Box 310
Yellowknife NT
X1A 2N3

Re: Environmental Information Sessions

Dear Ms. Catholique

Thank you for your letter dated October 16, 2009 inviting the Agency to environmental information sessions in the communities of Dettah, N'dilo and Lutsel K'e. As you know, part of the mandate of the Agency is to disseminate information on our mandate and activities.

The Agency is always interested in providing information to the communities directly affected by the Ekati mine. To ensure we can do this for all ten of the affected communities and meet our other responsibilities, we have prepared and adopted a policy on community consultations that we attach for your information. This policy helps ensure we stay within our budget. You will note that we cover the costs of Directors and staff to attend community information sessions and reasonable costs that relate to room rental, translation, refreshments and administration. We do not have the funds available to cover honouraria, transcription or recording.

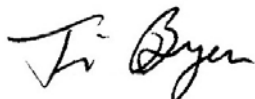
We would be pleased to work with you to help set up meetings for Dettah, N'dilo and Lutsel K'e at a mutually agreeable time. We can provide information our mandate, our activities, findings and recommendations on environmental performance of BHP Billiton and the government regulators regarding the Ekati mine.

You encourage you to consider inviting BHP Billiton to host community information sessions on other aspects of the Ekati mine including its environmental monitoring programs and results, the future of the operation, socio-economic issues and other matters. The company is in a much better position to answer questions on those areas.



Our Manager will contact you shortly to arrange a time to further discuss planning for Akaitcho community information sessions. We look forward to working with you to make such meetings a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Byers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "B".

Tim Byers
Vice-Chairperson

cc. John Carter, Yellowknives Dene First Nation Band Manager
Sandra Lockhart, Lutsel K'e First Nation Band Manager