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(BHPB & Diavik)

October 3, 2008

Re: BHPB Technical Sessions for the SPB Water Licence Renewal

Dear Reviewers,

In their renewal application for the Sable, Pigeon, Beartooth (SPB) Water Licence, BHP Billiton requested a number of changes to their Licence. Parties reviewing the renewal application did not agree with all of the requested changes and some reviewers requested other changes to the existing Licence. The Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board have decided to hold a Technical Session on November 4 and 5, 2008, to discuss some of the points of disagreement between the proponent and other parties. At a minimum, the Board hopes that the discussion may aid parties in the preparation of their interventions for the public hearing currently scheduled for December 8 and 9, 2008. The Board also sees the potential for resolution of at least some of the issues prior to the hearing.

The Technical Session will be held at the Northern United Place on November 4 and 5, 2008, and Dr. Neil Hutchinson will be the facilitator. Although the agenda has not yet been finalized, parties can expect the majority of the session will be spent discussing BHPB's request for changes to the effluent quality criteria and the designation of an initial dilution zone in Horseshoe Lake.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Racher at (867) 669-9591 or via e-mail at racherk@wlwb.ca.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Racher,
Regulatory Directory
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board

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