



INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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October 5, 2007

David Livingstone
Director, Renewable Resources and Environment
Box 1500
Yellowknife NT
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Dear David

The Agency has had an opportunity to review BHP Billiton's (BHPB's) 2006 Annual Environmental Report and the plain language summary. While reviewing these documents, we were also mindful of the full Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP), Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) and Panda Diversion Channel (PDC) monitoring reports for 2006.

The Agency is of the view that the 2006 Annual Environmental Report is satisfactory and that the information provided is adequate, including the description of remedial actions taken or proposed in respect of impact or compliance problems.

The Agency makes the following observations, some with a view to improving future Annual Reports:

- Page 3 describes several internal and external audits and certifications of Ekati and it would have been even more helpful to summarize the improvements in environmental management resulting from these activities.
- The communication and external outreach section 3, on page 8, is a useful addition, although further details on issues raised and actions taken arising from community meetings and other communication activities would be helpful to document.
- Page 10 includes information on the fisheries authorizations which is a helpful addition in this year's report.
- The text on page 52 perpetuates the error the Agency identified in the Environmental Impact Report 2006, where mitigation measures (permafrost growing into waste rock piles and revegetation success on disturbed sites) are wrongly identified as positive effects of the mine.

- Page 59, lists and abstracts of all environmental plans and programs are required by the Environmental Agreement but it is not clear if all of these have been included in this year's Annual Report.

The Agency has also submitted a set of minor editorial corrections and questions regarding the 2006 Annual Environmental Report directly to BHPB.

We would be pleased to discuss these comments with BHPB and others to ensure improved public reporting and environmental management at Ekati.

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members
Zabey Nevitt, Wek'eezhi Land and Water Board