



***INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY***

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October 9, 2008

Laura Tyler  
Manager-Environment, Community, Communications and Planning  
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.  
#1102 4920-52nd Street  
Yellowknife NT  
X1A 3T1

Dear Laura

**Re: Need for a Revised Air Quality Management and Monitoring Plan**

The Agency is pleased with the progress that BHP Billiton (BHPB) has made with regard to improvements in air quality management and monitoring at Ekati. Following the independent review of the 2005 Air Quality Monitoring Program Report and the CALPUFF Air Dispersion Modelling conducted for the Agency and distributed in August 2007, there have been two meetings sponsored by BHPB to review the monitoring programs.

A number of changes to the air quality monitoring programs were agreed to including new protocols for sampling and analysis, additional locations for snow and lichen sampling, moving the continuous air quality monitoring building from Grizzly Lake to the emulsion plant, and more. We understand that BHPB retained a lichen expert this past summer to properly sample and analyze lichen while training staff. The Agency is also aware that BHPB has installed new, more efficient incinerators and that it hopes to operate these units soon. These are all good news stories.

We appreciate the cooperation shown by your staff in working with Environment Canada and Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT in improving air quality management and monitoring at Ekati. The last version of the Air Quality Management and Monitoring Plan that we can locate in our resource centre is dated April 2003. We believe that it is now time to update this plan to properly document the current air quality monitoring programs and management initiatives, including the new incinerators and their proper operation and staff training.

BHPB had also committed to discussing the changes to air quality management and monitoring with Aboriginal communities. We would appreciate an update on the status of these consultations.

We understand that Diavik is also improving its air quality management and monitoring and that there may be some opportunities for better coordination and cost savings.

We would be please to discuss improvements to air quality management and monitoring with you at your convenience. We look forward to a revised Air Quality Management and Monitoring Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.A. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Ross  
Chairperson

cc. Society Members  
Dave Fox, Environment Canada  
Graham Veale, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT