

Presentation to
Community of Gameti
Independent Environmental
Monitoring Agency

October 6, 2009



General Presentation

- Who we are
- About the Ekati mine

Monitoring Programs

- Wildlife
- Water

Planning for Mine Closure

- Update at Ekati



Gameti



About the Agency

- Public watchdog for environmental management at Ekati (not the company, we are independent)
- Seven member Board:
 - Tlicho, Akaitcho, North Slave Metis, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, BHP Billiton, GNWT, Canada



Agency Board Members and Staff

The Agency Mandate

- Review and make recommendations on Ekati environmental programs, reports and plans from the company and government
- Make recommendations on using TK in environmental plans and programs
- Participate at public hearings on the mine



Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board Public Hearing June 2009

Mandate (continued...)

- Bring concerns of Aboriginal Peoples to governments and BHP Billiton
- Distribute information to our members and the public



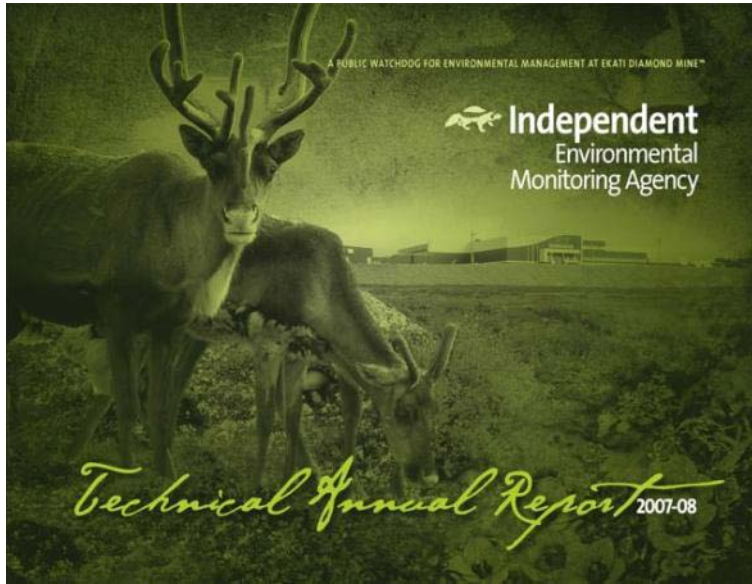
What do we do?

Provide information to the Aboriginal Peoples
affected by the project



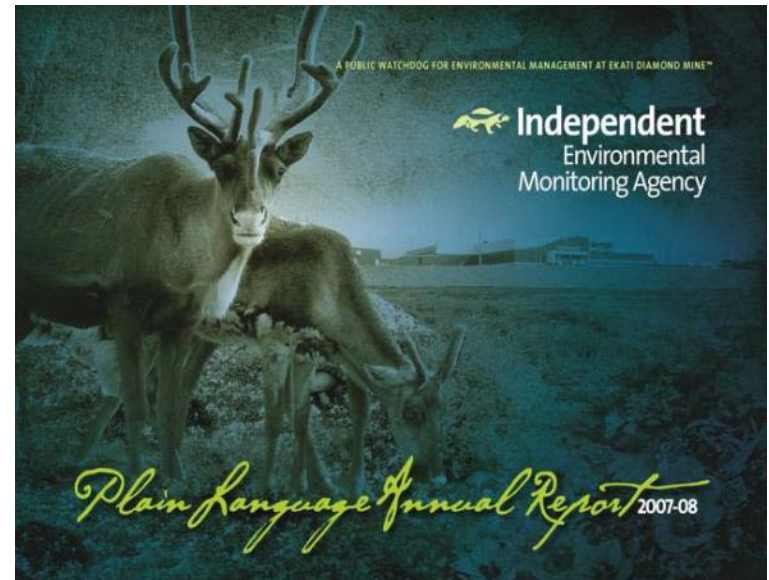
Workshops and meetings held by the Agency
on environmental monitoring and mine closure.

What do we do?



We make a plain language version as well

Prepare an annual report with more information about the environment at Ekati



What do we do?



Site Meeting to Discuss the Environmental Impact Report 2009

We meet with the company and government regulators to help them do a better job

What do we do?



Host workshops such as the 2008 environmental workshop to bring people together to discuss issues

About Ekati

- Diamonds found in 1989
- Mining started in 1998
- Currently there are 3 pits being mined (above and below ground mining) and one pit is shut down for a few years, another pit is now used to store minewater

View from Underground looking into a pit



Fox Lake – water drainage and early construction in 2003



Fox Pit – One Year Later in 2004



Fox Pit – August 2009



About Ekati – the Misery Waste Rock Pile



Misery camp and fuel storage

Wildlife Monitoring at Ekati



Caribou



Grizzly bear



Wolverine



Wolves

Birds and raptors



Caribou Monitoring

BHPB monitors the caribou to better understand effects on caribou:

- Monitoring focuses on the area around the mine, diamond mines working together more closely on monitoring
- Aboriginal Peoples have told us the Bathurst Caribou herd is declining
- Monitoring at Ekati shows that caribou avoid the mine site but we do not know the cause
- More work is needed on dust and the plants the caribou eat to make sure mining is not causing harm to them



Wolverine problems at Ekati have declined



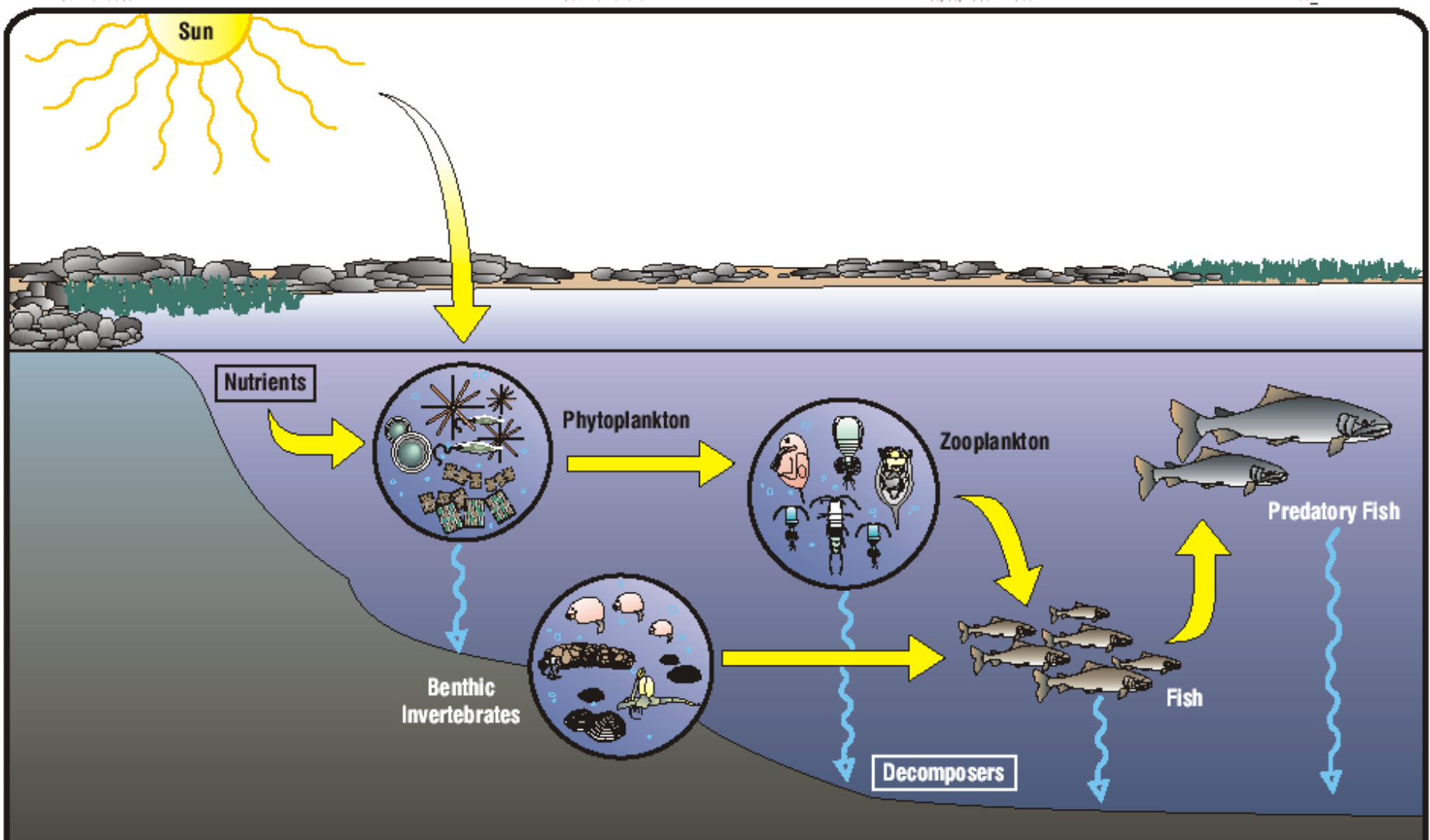
Photo: Dean Cluff (ENR)

Some wolverine were killed, others trapped and sent away from the mine. Company has closed spaces under buildings. Management of garbage is good at the mine.

Water and Fish

- Water is looked at every year in summer and winter
- Fish are tested every few years - there are not enough fish in the lakes around Ekati to sample them every year (special monitoring done of fish this past year)
- Small changes have occurred in the water close to the mine, and some very small changes found in Lac de Gras





Effects downstream of Ekati

Zooplankton – tiny bugs
that live in water that are
food for fish



The number and kind
of zooplankton found
in lakes downstream of
Ekati are changing, but
so far the fish seem to
be healthy

Fay Lake Spill

- Overflow of 4.5 million litres of processed kimberlite from north end of Cell B happened in mid-May 2008.
- Discovered by company employee. Inspected by government, no charges laid.
- Exact cause unknown, ice dam during spring runoff suspected



Fay Lake Spill

- Good progress on cleaning up Fay Lake spill.
- Monitoring and revegetation of spill area needed.



Burlap and sand bags to prevent erosion

Liner and berm being built at north end of Cell B



Planning for Reclamation and Closure of Ekati

Good progress on developing closure plan but research work needs more detail.



Planning for Reclamation and Closure

Agency still concerned:

- Scale and pace of progressive reclamation
- BHPB wants to build permanent barriers to keep fish out of pits after mining. No scientific reasons to prevent fish passage. Dispute off to the courts for a resolution.
- Limited research into extra-fine processed kimberlite in the tailings area, and storage and treatment
- Revegetation and rock cover design for tailings not finalized
- Need for stronger community involvement in closure planning



The tailings pond viewed from a helicopter

The Agency will continue to work to improve environmental management at Ekati



Agency site visit in June 2009