

Presentation to
Community of Wekweti
Independent Environmental
Monitoring Agency

September 21, 2006



General Presentation

- Who we are
- About the Ekati mine

Monitoring Programs

- Wildlife
- Water

Planning for Mine Closure

- Update at Ekati



About the Agency

- Public watchdog for environmental management at Ekati
- 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

Mandate Continued...

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

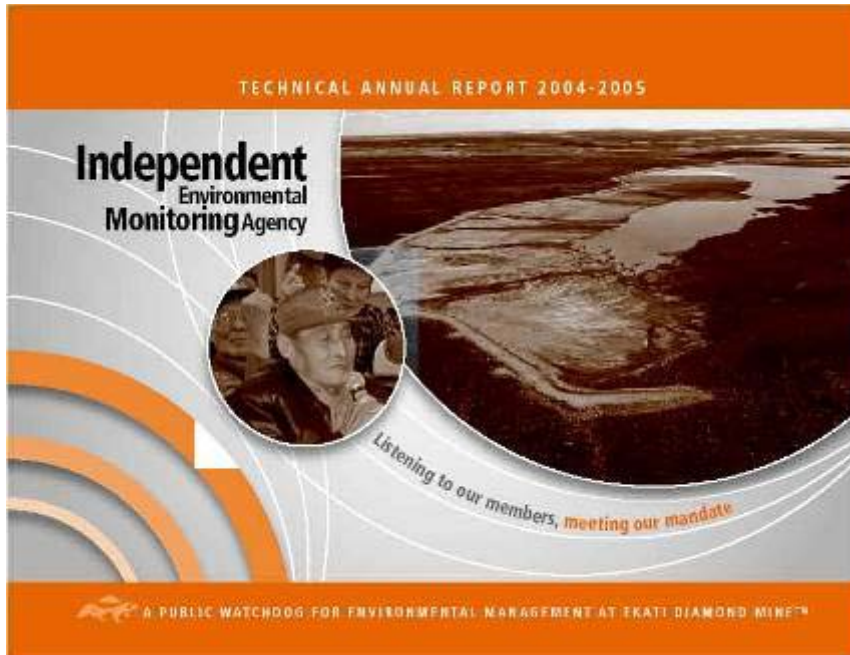
What do we do?

Provide information to the Aboriginal Peoples affected by the project

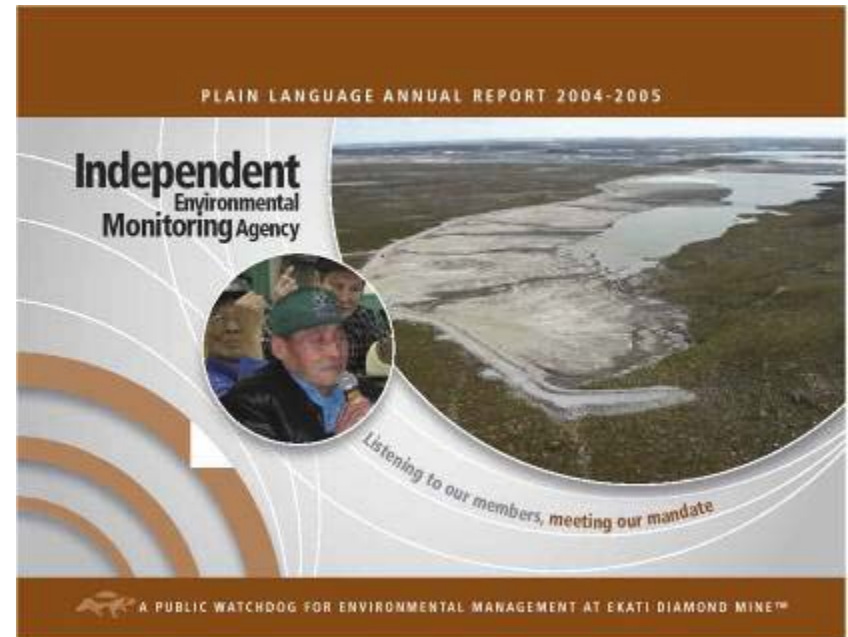


Workshops and meetings held by the Agency on environmental monitoring and mine closure.

What do we do?



We make a plain language version as well



Prepare an annual report with a lot of details about the environment at Ekati

What do we do?



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

What do we do?



Host workshops such as the 2005 mine reclamation workshop to bring people together to discuss issues

About Ekati

- Diamonds found in 1989
- Mining started in 1998
- Currently there are 4 pits being mined (above and below ground mining) and one pit is shut down for a few years

View from Underground looking into a pit



Fox Lake – water drainage and early construction in 2003



Fox Pit – One Year Later



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 make sure it is not harming the animals:

- Monitoring focuses on the area around the mine
- Aboriginal Peoples have told us the health of the Bathurst Caribou herd is declining, monitoring at Ekati does not identify harm to caribou
- More work is needed on plants the caribou eat to make sure mining is not causing harm to them



Wolverine have become a problem at Ekati

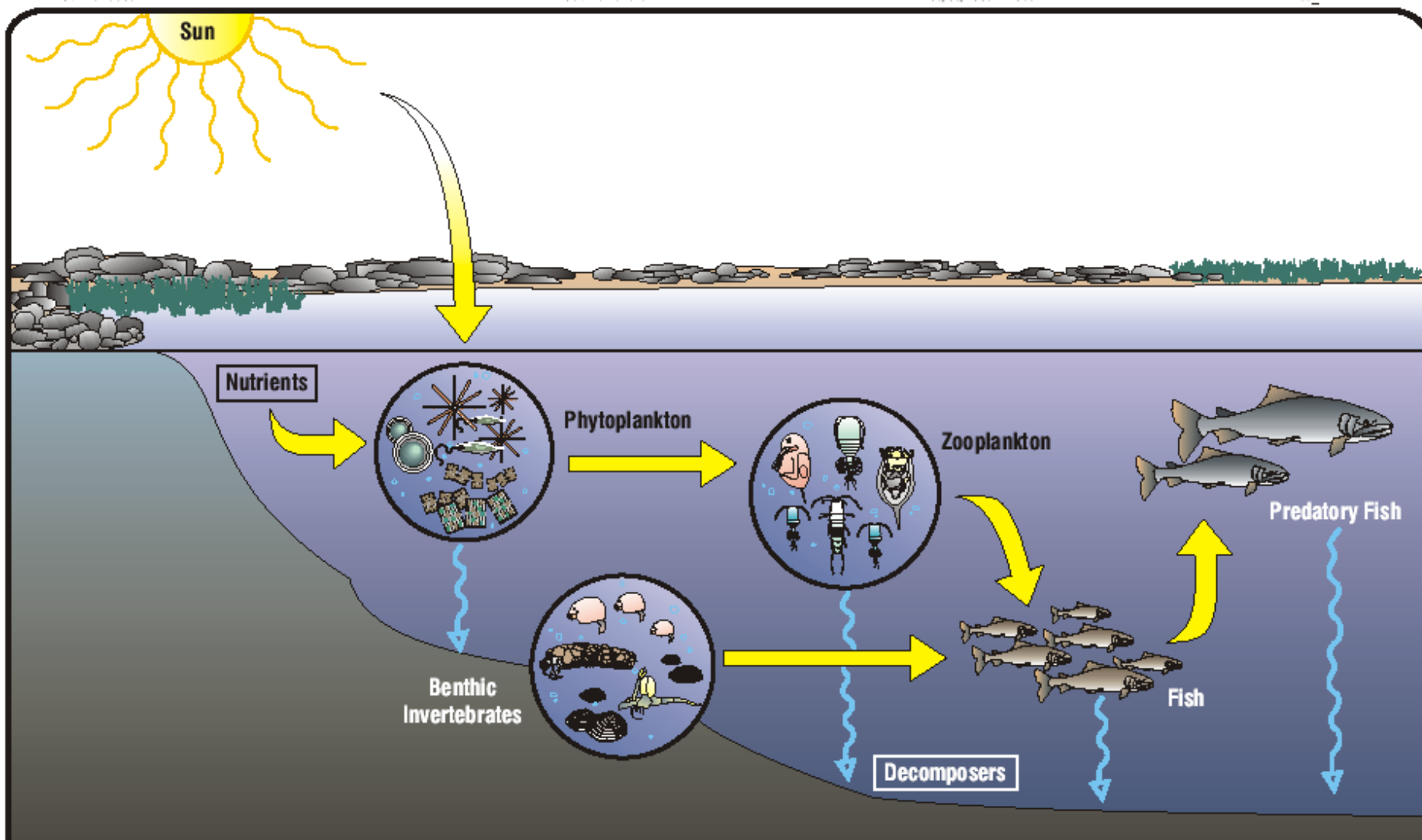


Photo:
Dean Cluff
(ENR)

Some wolverine have been 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
- 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

Planning for Reclamation and Closure of Ekati

The Agency feels that more progress needs to be made in planning how to close the pits, roads and tailings pond at Ekati.



Planning for Reclamation and Closure of the Tailings Area

A rock and vegetation cover to prevent erosion are some options for closing the tailings area. BHPB invited communities to help it with choices about how to close the mine.



The tailings pond viewed from a helicopter

Closure and Reclamation Planning

BHPB is developing a new closure and reclamation plan.

- Community input will be important to help the company improve its closure plan
- We think BHPB should be doing a better job consulting with communities on mine closure planning
- The Agency will participate in the planning process to ensure long-term protection of people and the environment is the highest priority

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



The Agency site visit in 2005