

About the Agency

2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

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The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency was formed in 1997 to act as a public watchdog for the Ekati Diamond Mine™. We are governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by:

- Akaitcho Territory Government (represented by Lutsel k'e and Yellowknives Dene First Nations)
- Dogrib Treaty 11 Council
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- Federal Government
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.

Agency Mandate

- Review, report and make recommendations on BHPB and government reports and plans
- Make recommendations on the integration of traditional knowledge and experience of Aboriginal Peoples into environmental plans and programs
- Participate as an Intervenor in regulatory processes
- Provide an accessible public repository of all environmental information relevant to the project
- Provide ways of distributing information to Aboriginal Peoples and the public
- Provide an effective means to bring to BHPB and governments the concerns of Aboriginal Peoples and the general public



The Agency open house in Kugluktuk

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

Agency Board of Directors and Staff



How to Reach Us

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For further information on the recommendations please refer to the Technical or Plain Language Annual Report available through our office or web site.

Listening to our members, meeting our mandate

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

A PUBLIC WATCHDOG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE™



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THE EKATI DIAMOND MINE IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY BHP BILLITON DIAMONDS INC.

Message From the Chairperson

I am pleased to present to you a summary from our 2004-05 annual report. This brochure describes our organization and shares our independent view on how BHP Billiton (BHPB) and government regulators have performed to date with regards to protecting the environment at the Ekati Diamond Mine™. It also contains some advice to BHPB and the government on what we think should be done to ensure that future performance of the mine reflects the values of northerners, particularly those of our Aboriginal Society Members and protects the land, water and wildlife.

Environmental performance at Ekati in terms of protecting the water and wildlife has been good since mining began in 1998.



When problems are identified at the mine, BHPB has managed them well and improved its overall environmental management system. Lately, in the increasingly competitive labour market, BHPB has had difficulty retaining the staff and consultants it needs to manage and maintain its high quality environment programs at Ekati and this has caused us some concern. We will remain vigilant in working with the company while ensuring that protecting the environment is a key priority. For a copy of our annual report please contact our office or view our website.

Sincerely

Dr. William A. Ross,
Chairperson
September 30th, 2005

Key Recommendations from our 2004-2005 Annual Report

The following advice has been formally submitted to BHP Billiton and the government from the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency:

On Caribou Management:

Our Aboriginal members are very concerned about potential harm to caribou from development in the north. BHPB and the government should work together on regional monitoring of the Bathurst Caribou herd.

On Involving Traditional Knowledge in Ekati:

The Aboriginal Peoples would like greater involvement in direct monitoring of the environment at Ekati.

On Mine Reclamation and Closure Planning:

While final reclamation of Ekati is more than a decade away, decisions must be made soon on how the pits, roads and tailings will be reclaimed and what standard must be met. We expect the process used to make these decisions to involve the communities and build on the best practices for mine closure.



Environmental Indicator	Agency Rating	Notes
Protecting water downstream of Ekati	✓ water and fish	Changes to water quality have been low enough to avoid harm to fish
Protecting wildlife in the Ekati area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ caribou ✓ wolves ✓ grizzly ✗ wolverine 	Caribou are given right of way and no harvesting of animals is allowed on site. Wolverine have been relocated or killed even when garbage is properly stored.
Protecting the land in the Ekati area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ management of rock piles, pits, buildings and tailings ✗ reclamation planning 	BHPB has operated the site in a professional manner and avoided unauthorized use of the land. Reclamation planning remains behind schedule, more government guidance is necessary.

