

Who we are

- A public watchdog for environmental management at BHP Billiton's Ekati Diamond Mine
- Set up under the 1997 Environmental Agreement negotiated by the Aboriginal, federal and territorial governments and the company
- Seven Society members appoint Directors
 - Akaitcho Treaty 8 (Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Yellowknives Dene First Nation)
 - Tłı̨chǫ Government
 - Kitikmeot Inuit Association
 - North Slave Métis Alliance
 - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
 - Government of the Northwest Territories
 - BHP Billiton Canada Inc. (BHPB)
- Directors are independent of the appointing parties



Photo by Agency



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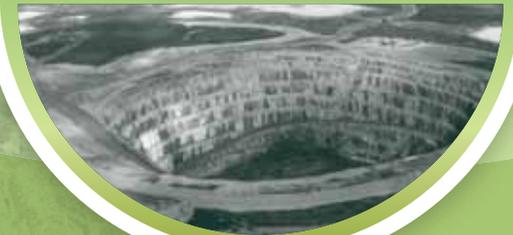


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Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency



The Environmental Agreement requires the company and the governments to respect and protect the environment and the land-based way of life of Aboriginal Peoples.



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What we do

- Review the design and results of BHPB's environmental plans and programs
- Listen to community concerns and pass them on to decision-makers
- Make recommendations to BHPB and regulators
- Watch and report on how BHPB and regulators perform
- Review and comment on regulatory approvals required by BHPB
- Encourage BHPB to use Traditional Knowledge in the design of its environmental plans and programs and follow progress of TK studies funded by BHPB
- Encourage interaction between Aboriginal governments and BHPB
- Communicate regularly using our website, newsletters, reports and other tools
- Maintain a public resource library and website (www.monitoringagency.net), including a timeline of key mining activities at Ekati (timeline.monitoringagency.net)



Key issues

Closure and Reclamation

The Agency wants to ensure there are clear criteria to measure success during closure of the Ekati Mine, and that information is available at the right time to properly close the mine.

Wildlife

Wildlife monitoring at Ekati looks for changes in the numbers, distribution and behaviour of animals near the mine. The Agency reviews BHPB's reports and suggests ways to minimize the mine's effects on wildlife. Animals studied include:

- Caribou
- Grizzly Bears
- Wolverines
- Raptors (birds of prey)



Photo by Agency

Water

BHPB monitors lakes and streams near Ekati to find out if wastewater, tailings and other waters contaminated by the mine are causing changes to aquatic ecosystems. The Agency reviews the mine's monitoring reports and data, offers comments on observed effects, and makes recommendations for preventing negative impacts.

Cumulative Effects

The Agency looks at BHPB's potential contribution to cumulative impacts to the environment in the Lac de Gras area.



Photo by BHP Billiton Canada Inc.