

# About the Agency

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)
- » Tłı̨chǫ Government
- » North Slave Métis Alliance
- » Kitikmeot Inuit Association
- » Government of Canada
- » 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 addition of traditional knowledge and experience of Aboriginal Peoples into environmental plans and programs
- » Participate as an intervenor in regulatory processes
- » Provide an accessible public library 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



Visitors at Ekati examine processed kimberlite.

A PUBLIC WATCHDOG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE™

# Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency



## Agency Board of Directors and Staff

Left to right: Bill Ross, Sean Kollee, Kevin O'Reilly, Sheryl Grieve (kneeling), Tony Pearce, Tim Byers, Kim Poole, Laura Johnston, Jaida Ohokannoak

## 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.

A PUBLIC WATCHDOG FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

AT EKATI DIAMOND MINE™

# Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency



## 2006-07 Annual Report Summary

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 of the 2006-07 Annual Report of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (the Agency). This brochure contains our key recommendations to BHP Billiton (BHPB) and governments regarding the environmental performance of the Ekati mine. It also offers a scorecard of BHPB and government regulator environmental performance we observed last year.

We continue to see good environmental management of Ekati by BHPB. The major focus of the Agency continues to be on contributing to the planning for the eventual closure and reclamation of Ekati. BHPB submitted

a new Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan in early 2007 and much of our efforts have been to participate in the review process lead by the Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB).

In addition to mine reclamation related review work we have been involved in updates to the Ekati aquatic monitoring program and discussions related to understanding and managing cumulative effects on the Bathurst caribou herd.

In 2006 two new Directors were appointed to our Board, Laura Johnston and Kim Poole. They are both former residents of Yellowknife and have retained a keen interest in environmental management of the NWT. We welcome Laura and Kim to the Agency.

Please feel free to pass on your comments to us about protecting the environment at

Ekati or about the job we are doing to keep our Aboriginal Society Members up to date with activities at the mine. For a copy of our full Annual Report for 2006-07, please visit our

website or contact our office and request a printed copy.



Sincerely, William A. Ross  
Chairperson, March 31, 2007

## Key Recommendations from our 2006-07 Annual Report

*This is a summary of the formal recommendations we made to BHPB and governments in 2006-07. To view the responses to our recommendations please see our Annual Report:*

- BHPB should develop specific closure objectives for each of its mine components (pits, roads, waste rock piles, etc.). The objectives should be linked to the overall site closure goal and lead to measurable closure criteria **(Done)**.
- BHPB should identify uncertainties related to closure

objectives and link these to a reclamation research plan. **(In progress)**

- There has been a lack of progress on regional and cumulative effects on caribou. The Government of the NWT and the Government of Nunavut should make greater efforts in this area. **(GNWT to hold future workshop)**
- DIAND, the Government of the NWT and BHPB should amend the Environmental Agreement to set March 31st as the deadline for submission of BHPB's aquatic and wildlife monitoring reports. **(Review has not begun)**

### BHP Billiton and government regulators environmental performance scorecard

Environmental Indicator	Agency Rating	Comments
Water and Downstream Aquatic Life	Not able to rate	- The aquatic monitoring program report was not made available from BHPB in time for the Agency to review it.
Wildlife	Not able to rate	- The wildlife monitoring program report was not made available by BHPB in time for the Agency to review it.
Land and Reclamation Planning	Improving	- Substantial progress made in reclamation planning last year with regard to development of a new closure and reclamation plan. - Improved closure objectives needed.
Overall	Good	- BHPB and the regulators continue to adequately protect the environment at Ekati.

## Ekati Diamond Mine



MAP: BHP BILLITON DIAMONDS INC.



Traditional Knowledge



Panda Diversion Channel



Discussion with BHPB's staff