

FINAL REPORT

**EXTERNAL REVIEW OF THE
INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING AGENCY**

Prepared for:

Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SENES Consultants Limited was contracted by the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA, the Agency) to conduct an independent external review to assess the Agency's performance relative to the mandate established by the Environmental Agreement for the BHP Billiton (BHPB) Ekati Diamond Project. The goal of the review is to assist the Agency in its efforts to identify ways to improve the effectiveness of its internal management. This includes its goal to better serve the interests of its Society members and the general public, and to improve overall environmental management at Ekati.

The external review was conducted by reading annual reports prepared by the Agency, looking at correspondence and reports available on the Agency's website, and most importantly, interviewing a selected number of officials and representatives of the Agency's Society members, government representatives, and staff of the two other similar project agencies.

The external review of the Agency has clearly shown that there is generally a high degree of satisfaction among government departments, Aboriginal Society members, BHPB, and resource management agencies with the performance of the Directors and staff. All participants feel that the Agency is fulfilling its overall mandate. A majority of respondents specifically recognised the technical competence of the Directors and staff and said that the Agency is doing a good job of holding BHPB accountable. Several community representatives spoke of the sense of trust and confidence they have in IEMA and how that allows them to focus on other pressures and be less engaged in activities related to the mine site.

While the overall message is certainly that IEMA is doing good work, many of the participants in the review acknowledged that the weak area lies with community outreach and communications, and the integration of traditional knowledge.

The review produced the following six recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Renew the preparation of an Agency newsletter similar to the "Ekati Monitor".

Recommendation #2: Prepare a "Reporting Back to Communities" pamphlet following community visits.

Recommendation #3: Organise more community meetings.

Recommendation #4: Prepare summary notes / highlights from Board of Directors' meetings.

Recommendation #5: Where appropriate, make action-oriented, prescriptive recommendations in Annual Reports.

Recommendation #6: Follow-up on recommendations made in Annual Reports to ensure they have been, or are being, acted upon, and report back to Society members.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA, the Agency) was established in 1997 in response to requirements specified in Article IV of the Environmental Agreement for BHP Billiton's Ekati diamond mine in the Northwest Territories. The Environmental Agreement legally binds BHP Billiton (BHPB) and the Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories to respect and protect land, water, wildlife and the land-based way of life essential to the well-being of aboriginal peoples.

The Agency commissioned SENES Consultants Limited (SENES) to conduct an independent external review to assess the Agency's performance relative to the mandate established by the Environmental Agreement. The goal of the review is to assist the Agency in its efforts to identify ways to improve the effectiveness of its internal management. This includes its goal to better serve the interests of its Society members and the general public, and to improve overall environmental management at Ekati.

1.2 STATEMENT OF WORK

The review is a follow-up to a similar evaluation conducted in 2000 by the Macleod Institute for Environmental Analysis. In meeting the objectives of the work, SENES completed the following major tasks:

- Developed an evaluation framework for the external review based on roles and responsibilities under the Environmental Agreement, the last external review done in 2000, and other appropriate documents;
- Assessed the Agency's performance to date by reviewing its annual reports, outgoing correspondence, public information materials and programs, its website and other appropriate materials; and,
- Interviewed a selected number of officials and representatives of the Agency's Society members, government agencies and others as appropriate, to understand their needs and perceptions of the Agency.

1.3 SUMMARY OF REVIEW METHODOLOGY

The external review was conducted by reading annual reports prepared by the Agency, looking at correspondence and reports available on the Agency's website, and most importantly, interviewing a selected number of officials and representatives of the Agency's Society members, government representatives, and staff of the two other similar monitoring agencies (Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) and the Snap Lake Environmental Monitoring Agency (SLEMA)). Our initial contact list identified 47 individuals.

Of those, we received input from 26. Table 1 provides a summary of the people interviewed or those who provided written input.

TABLE 1
LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDED INPUT FOR THE REVIEW

Individual	Affiliation
David Livingstone	INAC Environment and Conservation
Lionel Marcinkoski	INAC Environment and Conservation
Lorraine Seale	INAC Environment and Conservation
Marc Casas	INAC Water Resources
Jason Brennan	INAC Inspector
Bruce Hanna	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Anne Wilson	Environment Canada
Carole Mills	Former IEMA Manager, INAC Water Resources
Gavin More	GNWT Environment and Natural Resources
Todd Slack	Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Steve Ellis	NWT Treaty #8 Tribal Corporation
Kevin Tweedle	Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Sheryl Grieve	Former IEMA Director, North Slave Métis Alliance
Zabey Nevitt	Former IEMA Manager, Wek'eezhii Land & Water Board
Karin Clark	Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board
Alice Legatt	Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board
John McCullum	EMAB
Dave White	SLEMA
Eric Denholm	BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
Bill Ross	IEMA Director
Tim Byers	IEMA Director
Jaida Ohokannoak	IEMA Director
Kim Poole	IEMA Director
Laura Johnston	IEMA Director
Kevin O'Reilly	IEMA Manager
Scott Duguid	IEMA Environmental Analyst

The primary means for gathering perspectives on the Agency was through interviews. To this end, an interview guide based on roles and responsibilities under the Environmental Agreement, the external review done in 2000, and information from the Agency website was prepared early on in the contract (see Appendix A for a copy). The focus of the information gathering was the seven activities identified on the Agency's website that it undertakes to fulfill its mandate (and which originate in the Environmental Agreement). These activities are listed below:

1. Reviewing and commenting on the design of monitoring programs and management plans and the results of these activities;

2. Monitoring and encouraging the integration of traditional knowledge of the affected aboriginal peoples into the mine's environmental plans and programs;
3. Acting as an intervenor in regulatory processes directly related to environmental matters involving the Ekati Diamond mine and its potential contribution to cumulative effects;
4. Bringing concerns of the aboriginal peoples and the general public to BHP Billiton and government;
5. Keeping aboriginal peoples and the public informed about Agency activities and findings;
6. Writing an Annual Report with recommendations that require the response of BHP Billiton and/or government; and,
7. Maintenance of a resource library and website.

1.4 ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

As stated on the Agency's website¹, IEMA is a public watchdog for environmental management at BHPB's Ekati Diamond Mine. The daily operations of the Agency are supported by two fulltime staff and guided by seven directors appointed by the following:

• Akaitcho Treaty 8 (specifically the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Yellowknives Dene First Nation)	➤ appoint one Director
• Dogrib Treaty 11 Council	➤ appoint one Director
• Kitikmeot Inuit Association	➤ appoint one Director
• North Slave Métis Alliance	➤ appoint one Director
• Canada's Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development	➤ jointly appoint three Directors, in consultation with the Aboriginal governments
• Government of the Northwest Territories	
• BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.	

Directors are independent of the appointing parties, and cannot be employees of government or BHPB. The Agency directors work together reviewing the company's environmental reports and plans and listening to community concerns.² The Agency makes recommendations to the company and various regulators about how best to protect the environment around the mine. The following are the principal tasks of the Agency:

- Review reports and technical information from BHPB
- Identify, evaluate and make recommendations on environmental impacts
- Participate in technical workshops about environmental management
- Review the activities of regulatory agencies on the project
- Review and comment on regulatory approvals sought by BHPB
- Follow the progress of traditional knowledge studies funded by BHPB

¹ <http://www.monitoringagency.net/> (accessed February 20 2009)

² Ibid

- Encourage interaction between aboriginal organizations and BHPB
- Meet and correspond regularly with Society Members
- Host an annual general meeting for Society Members
- Maintain a publicly-accessible library of all related materials
- Publish newsletters, a web site, and annual reports

1.5 REPORT STRUCTURE

This review report is presented in three main sections:

- Section 1: Introduction – presents an overview of the external review conducted by SENES, including the statement of work, methodology, and background on the Agency
- Section 2: Review Findings – with a focus on the activities of the Agency, presents a summary of the input received from the participants in the review, and some discussion of the issues raised
- Section 3: Conclusions and Recommendations – presents the review team's assessment of the findings and suggested recommendations for improvements where appropriate

Additional information is provided in two appendices:

- Appendix A: Interview Guide prepared for the review
- Appendix B: Sample "Reporting Back to Communities" pamphlet prepared in previous years by the Agency

2.0 REVIEW FINDINGS

2.1 OVERVIEW

Generally, it was clear from our review that there is a high degree of satisfaction with the Agency. In no one instance did we hear concern raised that IEMA is not fulfilling its mandate as set out in the Environmental Agreement. Overall, respondents identified the technical contributions of the Agency as especially strong and said that IEMA is doing a good job of holding BHPB accountable. The Directors and staff are seen as very competent and we heard from several of the community representatives that there is a sense of trust and confidence in the Agency.

That said, many of the participants we heard from recognised that there is room for improvement, primarily in the areas of community outreach, communications, and traditional knowledge integration.

The following sections present the results of the review as directly relate to IEMA's principal activities (listed in Section 1.3).

2.2 EVALUATING MONITORING PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

All participants in the review recognised the Agency's technical knowledge and constructive input when it comes to reviewing and commenting on monitoring programs, management plans and annual reports produced by BHPB. Several respondents identified that changes in some cases had been made by the company in response to feedback and recommendations made by the Agency.

We did hear from one interviewee that IEMA should direct more attention to ensuring that the various required plans are up to date and still relevant. Under the Environmental Agreement, BHPB has to have a variety of plans in place, such as an Air Quality Management Plan, Wildlife Management Plan, and a Waste Management Plan, among others. It was felt that it is not enough to just review the monitoring results as presented in the company's annual reports, but that the plans themselves should be periodically reviewed as well. Based upon the Agency's recent work with an outside consultant to evaluate air quality monitoring activities at the mine site it is apparent that some plan review has occurred. Expanding this to other plans may be warranted.

2.3 INTEGRATION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

In conducting its evaluations of BHPB's annual reports and other documentation, it is expected that the Agency will focus some of its review on reporting on and making recommendations concerning "the integration of traditional knowledge and experience of Aboriginal Peoples into Environmental Plans and Programs".³ Many of the individuals we interviewed or received input from recognised that while IEMA has made improvements in this area over the past several years, it remains an area of weakness. That said, none of the review participants had any suggestions on how there might be an overall improvement made, other than one interviewee identifying the need for recommendations from the Agency that are more specific with respect to actual work or research ideas. It was recognised by nearly all respondents that the integration of traditional knowledge into land and resource management is a big challenge for everyone, from government to regulatory boards to companies to Aboriginal communities.

We heard that this is seen as an area where community input needs to lead the way. One Aboriginal community representative we interviewed suggested that how traditional knowledge is brought into the dialogue is really the responsibility of the Aboriginal Society members. Another pointed out that the majority (4 out of 7) of the Agency Directors are appointed by Aboriginal Society members therefore if a change in focus was desired, Directors with closer ties to traditional knowledge holders could be appointed.

³ Environmental Agreement for the BHP Billiton Ekati Diamond Project

2.4 INTERVENING IN REGULATORY PROCESSES

There is no doubt that this aspect of the Agency's work is seen as its major strength. All people we heard from, regardless of their affiliation, spoke highly of IEMA's interventions in all aspects of the regulatory process. Many of the respondents acknowledged that they rely on the Agency's input for formulating their own submissions, while a few said that knowing the Agency is participating alleviates them of the task because they know IEMA's intervention will be thorough, technically sound, and constructive.

We also heard that the Agency has made an effort in the past years to get their submissions out to Society Members in advance of the regulatory deadlines so that their Aboriginal Society members might use them in preparing their own written comments. While this is definitely seen as a good gesture a couple interviewees suggested that if this could be done even earlier it would be better. The review team accepts that this is likely so but also recognises that the reality of the regulatory process probably doesn't leave a lot of time for completion of work well in advance of deadlines.

One other aspect of this activity, as presented in the Environmental Agreement, relates to the potential contribution of the project to cumulative effects. As with comments on the integration of traditional knowledge, many respondents identified cumulative effects as a complex issue that remains a territorial challenge, not just an Agency / project challenge. Participants who spoke to this issue said that effectively assessing cumulative impacts has to be done more so regionally and not at the project-specific level. Several specifically identified the lack of success in creating a multi-project environmental monitoring agency as the reason cumulative effects are not being adequately assessed, monitored, and addressed. None of the respondents suggested specific improvements the Agency might make in this regard.

2.5 RAISING CONCERNS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND THE PUBLIC

This activity was identified as a weakness by several of the individuals interviewed. Some suggested that more direct community contact, better reporting back to communities, and more northern representation on the Board would improve this situation. On the other hand, we also heard that it is not the Agency's role to speak for Aboriginal communities and that it is the responsibility of the Aboriginal Society members to make the Directors aware of concerns they feel are not being adequately addressed. Content on the IEMA website and in recent annual reports indicates that the Agency feels that it does not receive much feedback from its Society members and the general public, although, there appears to be an openness to consider and follow-up on input received. As mentioned by several interviewees, the Agency is open and accessible if someone calls, writes, or stops by the office.

Our external review suggests that the absence of feedback is likely a combination of the sense of confidence Society members have in the Directors and staff, and the lack of capacity within departments and organisations of the Aboriginal Society members to keep

up with all the various projects and issues they are expected to track day to day. With respect to greater community presence and more northern representation on the Board, the former is limited primarily by budget and in the case of the latter, as stated by several respondents, a majority of the Directors are appointed by Aboriginal Society members therefore having “local” representation does not appear to be a priority.

2.6 KEEPING ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND THE PUBLIC INFORMED

Similar to the comments raised with respect to the previous section, we heard from many of the respondents that there is room for improvement when it comes to community engagement and communications. Several of the people we spoke to felt that the Agency’s direct contact with communities is not frequent enough. A few others said that the Agency is doing as well as it can given resource constraints and the level of effort placed on the technical reviews. From the standpoint of the Agency, each year for the past several IEMA has endeavoured to hold one of its Board meetings in a community other than Yellowknife. Additionally, the Directors generally make time to visit a community if a request is made, and funding is provided for two Aboriginal Society members from each community to attend the Annual General Meeting.

The Agency annual reports acknowledge that there are concerns among Society members that not enough is done to report back or directly involve communities. Our review suggests that the limited community contact is related to available budget. And, we also acknowledge that the Agency has been taking steps to improve communications (e.g., the timeline project under development). We do however feel there are opportunities with the current resources to further improve communications. For example, six issues of an Agency newsletter, *The Ekati Monitor*, were produced between August 1998 and October 2001. The current practice of preparing plain language and summary versions of the Annual Report covers off part of what was presented in the newsletter, but it would likely still be worthwhile to prepare some form of update throughout the year. Another example of a previous practice that likely assisted with keeping communities informed was the preparation of a pamphlet on specific community visits (see Appendix B for a sample from August 2004).

2.7 WRITING AN ANNUAL REPORT

The technical and plain language versions of the Agency’s Annual Report, as well as the summary pamphlet, are seen as one of IEMA’s strengths. The fairly recent move by the Agency to release the Annual Report only after BHPB and governments have had an opportunity to respond to any recommendations made to them is seen as an improvement. That is, the inclusion in the annual reporting of the company’s or governments’ responses is a benefit.

One area for improvement that we did hear from a number of respondents was that the recommendations should be more specific, action-oriented, and in the words of one participant, “more provocative”. For example, as previously mentioned, traditional

knowledge recommendations should suggest actual work or specific ideas. Similarly, we heard from a few of those interviewed that greater attention should be placed on recommendations for government, not just the company.

2.8 MAINTAINING A RESOURCE LIBRARY AND WEBSITE

Most respondents also recognised the Agency's resource library as a strength. We heard from several participants that as far as they are aware the library is the only one-stop source of documents, reports, and correspondence relating to the Ekati Diamond mine, from the time of the environmental assessment to the present.

The review team heard from a couple of those interviewed that it would be beneficial if the Agency advertised the resource library so that more people are aware of its existence and usefulness.

Participants also noted that the Agency's website is up to date, has very complete information posted to it and available for download, and that there have been improvements made to it over the past while.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The external review of the Agency has clearly shown that there is generally a high degree of satisfaction among government departments, Aboriginal Society members, BHPB, and resource management agencies with the performance of the Directors and staff. All participants feel that the Agency is fulfilling its overall mandate. A majority of respondents specifically recognised the technical competence of the Directors and staff and said that the Agency is doing a good job of holding BHPB accountable. Several community representatives spoke of the sense of trust and confidence they have in IEMA and how that allows them to focus on other pressures and be less engaged in activities related to the mine site.

While the overall message is certainly that IEMA is doing good work, many of the participants in the review acknowledged that the weak area lies with community outreach and communications, and the integration of traditional knowledge.

Based upon our review we provide the following recommendations broken into the categories of "Communications" and "Technical Aspects".

3.1 COMMUNICATIONS

Recommendation #1

Renew the preparation of an Agency newsletter similar to the “Ekati Monitor”.

A newsletter could be distributed 2 to 3 times per year and include such things as:

- purpose and focus of the Agency (to avoid confusion with EMAB and SLEMA)
- recent activities of the Agency
- upcoming activities (e.g., Board meeting, community visit, hearing)
- update on the status of recommendations made in an Annual Report
- specific questions that the Agency may be seeking input from communities on (e.g., traditional knowledge issues)
- resource library open to Society members and the public

Recommendation #2

Prepare a “Reporting Back to Communities” pamphlet following community visits.

As was done previously (see Appendix B for a sample), a brief tri-fold pamphlet could be prepared following each community visit and sent back to the community for distribution. Copies could also be sent electronically to the other Society Members and posted to the website.

Recommendation #3

Organise more community meetings.

The review team recognises that the primary limitation in accomplishing this recommendation is likely budgetary, but it is well known in the North that, where possible, face to face communication is always preferable to other forms. Being able to hold Board meetings in communities more than once a year would be an improvement.

Recommendation #4

Prepare summary notes / highlights from Board of Directors’ meetings.

The Agency’s website is an excellent resource for details of activities and meetings but it is likely not as accessible to community people as a focused summary document. Minutes from Board of Directors’ meetings could be summarised into a pamphlet that presents highlights. The pamphlet would be sent to Society members for distribution within the community.

3.2 TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Recommendation #5

Where appropriate, make action-oriented, prescriptive recommendations in Annual Reports.

Recommendations in annual reports should, to the greatest extent possible, put forward ideas for specific action or studies that the Agency feels should be carried out by BHPB or government. This applies equally to the company and governments.

Recommendation #6

Follow-up on recommendations made in Annual Reports to ensure they have been, or are being, acted upon, and report back to Society members.

Agency tracking of action on recommendations made in Annual Reports would assist with company and government accountability. Moreover, if the Agency reports back to its Society members on outstanding recommendations it may help to better engage Aboriginal representatives in the environmental management issues.

Note that while no specific recommendation is made with respect to the integration of traditional knowledge into plans and programs relating to the Ekati Diamond Project, the review team feels improved community engagement through the communications recommendations and more action-oriented recommendations in Annual Reports will help to improve this.

APPENDIX A

Interview Guide

Interview Guide

Introduction

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) for the BHP Billiton Ekati diamond mine has contracted SENES Consultants Ltd. (SENES) to conduct an external review of the agency. This is the second such review conducted, with the first having been done by the Macleod Institute in 2000.

The review is to assess the Agency's performance relative to the mandate established by the Environmental Agreement. The goal of the review is to assist the Agency in its efforts to identify ways to improve the effectiveness of its internal management. This includes its goal to better serve the interests of its Society members and the general public, and to improve overall environmental management at Ekati.

To assist the review team in conducting its work the following questions have been developed. You have been included in our list of contacts because of your current or past experience with IEMA. As with the previous Agency review, the broad focus of our work is the following:

- how the Agency mandate is understood;
- if the activities of the Agency fulfill the mandate;
- if stakeholders believe their desired objectives in the mandate are being achieved; and,
- whether the activities of the Agency are resulting in the desired outcomes.

Your participation in making the review a success is appreciated.

Background

- 1) Please describe your role and responsibilities as they relate to the Agency and/or the Society. What is the relationship between the Agency and your organization?
- 2) Which aspects of the Agency are you most familiar with?

IEMA Mandate

The following text box provides the primary components of the Agency's mandate as established by the Environmental Agreement.

IEMA Mandate

1. Serve as a public watchdog of the regulatory process and the implementation of the Environmental Agreement
2. Compile and analyze available relevant Environmental Quality data, in order to review, report, or make recommendations concerning:
 - (i) the environmental effects monitoring program respecting short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts, carried out by BHP pursuant to the Environmental Agreement;
 - (ii) government compliance monitoring reports and BHP self-assessment reports pursuant to Regulatory Instruments and the Environmental Agreement;
 - (iii) Environmental Plans and Programs;
 - (iv) Annual Reports and Environmental Impact Reports;
 - (v) monitoring, regulatory and related management programs and activities of Canada and the GNWT; and
 - (vi) the integration of traditional knowledge and experience of the Aboriginal Peoples into Environmental Plans and Programs;
3. Participate as an intervenor in regulatory and other legal processes respecting environmental matters
4. Provide an accessible and public repository of environmental data, studies and reports relevant to the Monitoring Agency's responsibilities
5. Provide programs for the effective dissemination of information to the Aboriginal Peoples and the general public on matters pertaining to the Monitoring Agency's mandate
6. Provide an effective means to bring to BHP and governments the concerns of Aboriginal Peoples and the general public about Ekati operations and the monitoring and regulation of Ekati

Questions about the Mandate

- 1) What does the mandate, and each mandate item, mean to you, your organization?
- 2) What would be some indicator or evidence that would show success in each area?
- 3) What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the Agency activities?
- 4) What has happened as a result of the Agency activities?
- 5) Should more emphasis be placed upon certain areas of the Agency mandate?
- 6) Are the links between the activities of the Agency and the mandate realistic?
- 7) Are there factors, internal to the Agency that may influence its effectiveness in delivering on its Mandate?

- 8) Are there external factors that may influence the Agency's ability to deliver on its Mandate?
- 9) Is the Agency delivering on its Mandate as originally intended? If no, in what way?
- 10) Is it realistic, all things being considered, that the Agency can deliver its Mandate?

Other Aspects

- 1) If you feel that improvements can be made in the Agency's activities, what are the most important ones?
- 2) If you participated in the previous evaluation, or have reviewed the Macleod report, do you feel the recommendations have been adequately addressed?
- 3) Do you have any other comments about the Agency's activities?

THANK YOU!

APPENDIX B

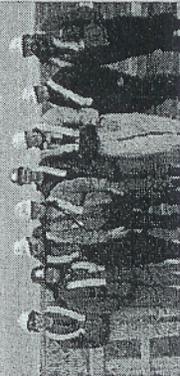
Sample “Reporting Back to Communities” Pamphlet

The Agency Board of Directors

The Agency is made up of a Board of Directors appointed directly by four aboriginal groups including the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Alkaicho Territory Government, Dogrib Treaty II Council and the North Slave Metis Alliance. The Governments of Canada and the NWT and BHP Billiton jointly appoint three Directors.



The Agency Director appointed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association,
Jaida Ohokannoak



The Directors and staff of the Agency

Thank-you for your hospitality:
Community of Kugluktuk
Interpreters Mona Tiktalek and Marian Bolt
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

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 and make recommendations on BHPB and government reports and plans, provide information to the public and the Aboriginal Peoples, and participate in the regulatory processes for Ekati. The Agency also makes recommendations on incorporating traditional knowledge into environmental programs and brings forth the concerns of Aboriginal Peoples and the public to BHP Billiton and governments.

Contact Information

To schedule a meeting in your community with the Agency please contact:

Carole Mills, Manager



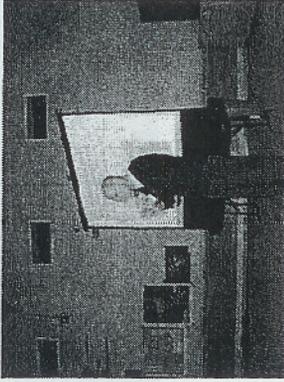
The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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A public watchdog for environmental management at Ekati Diamond Mine™



August 2004 Community Information Session, Kugluktuk, NU



The Independent
Environmental
Monitoring Agency

- Example -



The Agency Community Visit to Kugluktuk, August 2004

The Agency was invited to the community of Kugluktuk by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to conduct a community information session regarding the environmental performance of BHP Billiton at its Ekati Diamond Mine.



Agency Vice-Chairperson Tim Byers at the evening session

Topics of Discussion included:

The Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program for the Ekati mine—how BHP Billiton monitors the water quality downstream of the mine and results from the past year.

Closing the Mine—an update on BHP Billiton's mine closure plan and what the Agency views as important to ensure the land is protected.

The Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program for the Ekati mine—The species monitored and methods used by BHPB to avoid harming wildlife and results from the past year

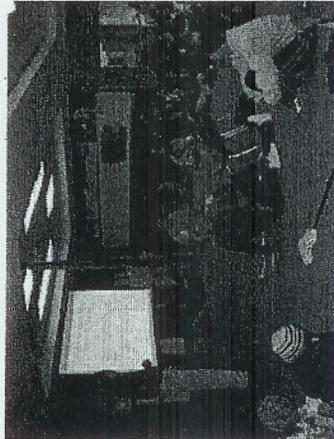
Visiting the Kugluktuk High School

During the Kugluktuk visit, some members of the Agency visited the local school to discuss environmental issues related to diamond mining with the students and to encourage them to stay in school.

The Agency found the students to be very enthusiastic and educated about the various types of aquatic life found in northern lakes and streams.



Students at the high school in Kugluktuk



The Directors presenting scientific information to the students

Learning about the land

Following the community visit, the Agency Directors and staff were invited out to 7-mile island for an evening of camping and fishing.



Harvesting Arctic Char in the Coppermine Delta, Nunavut

Concerns heard from the Community:

Fish sampling

- Locations sampled downstream of Ekati
- Health of fish in the Coppermine River

Closing the mine

- Security deposits
- Ensuring the land is protected when mining is complete

Potential for downstream contamination

- How the company can prevent contaminants from moving downstream