



Independent Environmental
Monitoring Agency (IEMA)

February 18, 2005

Distribution List:

Re: Workshop to Review Ekati's Environmental Monitoring and Management Programs - March 16th and 17th, 2005.

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) is pleased to invite you to a workshop scheduled for March 16th and 17th in Yellowknife at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (Museum). The results of selected BHP Billiton (BHPB) environmental monitoring programs and reports related to environmental management will be presented and discussed by all invited parties including Aboriginal governments, and territorial and federal representatives and BHPB officials.

Purpose: The purpose of the workshop is to review the results of BHPB's aquatic effects monitoring program and wildlife effects monitoring program with representatives of affected Aboriginal parties, regulatory agencies and BHPB. The regular review and revision of management and monitoring plans are a very important component of adaptive management.

The workshop is an important opportunity to identify and recommend any potential changes to the 2004 monitoring programs. It will also provide an effective means to identify the concerns of Aboriginal Peoples about the environmental monitoring and management of the project.

The workshops will:

- Provide an overview of the mine and significant changes over the last year.
- Summarize the purpose and design of environmental monitoring at the mine.
- Review results of environmental monitoring and related studies in 2004.
- Make recommendations regarding monitoring programs for 2005.
- Identify emerging issues.
- Exchange information among all affected parties.
- Present information in an understandable format.

Process: The two-day workshop will be hosted the IEMA, and is intended to bring together Aboriginal peoples and government regulators who have an interest in the environmental monitoring and management programs at Ekati. Proceedings will be recorded and a final summary of findings distributed to all participants. Recommendations to revise environmental monitoring and management plans for 2005

will be forwarded to BHPB in a timely manner so that they can be considered and potentially incorporated prior to 2005's sampling season.

Participants: Participant funding will be provided by the IEMA for two representatives of each of its Aboriginal Society members (more participants are welcome but please advise us in advance). Details of participant funding must be arranged with the IEMA **prior** to the first day of the workshop. Other participants will include the IEMA Board and Staff, and representatives of various government agencies such as Environment Canada, DIAND, RWED and DFO. BHP Billiton was invited to co-host the workshop and has indicated a representative will attend.

Overview of the Agenda:

Wednesday March 16th – The BHPB Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) and related reports:

Morning - Discussion of key findings and Agency assessment.

Afternoon – Input from all parties and suggestions for program improvements.

Thursday March 17th – The BHPB Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) and related reports:

Morning – Discussion of key findings and Agency assessment.

Afternoon – Input from all parties and suggestions for program improvements.

Friday March 18th – Optional Session for Aboriginal Society Members Dialogue with IEMA Board

Information: The IEMA is hosting the workshop. If you are interested in attending please contact Kevin O'Reilly or Sean Kollee to **confirm your participation by March 5th**. We will be distributing a detailed agenda to confirmed participants prior to the workshop.

For further information please contact:

Kevin O'Reilly/Sean Kollee

IEMA

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We look forward to working with you and discussing these important issues in a workshop format.

Sincerely,

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

Kevin O'Reilly
Manager, IEMA