

TRIP REPORT

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Subject: EA99-004

Date: August 10, 1999

RE: Trip to BHP Mine Site

Development: BHP Mine Extension
Departure Date: July 26, 1999 with Darren Unrau, Inspector, DIAND
Return Date: July 26, 1999
Mode of Travel: Canadian Helicopters
Reason: Visit BHP Site and proposed new developments
Public Notification: No notification provided
Meetings: No meetings attended
Cost: No cost to the Review Board

The following are Louie Azzolini's observations on the trip to BHP and while at the BHP site and surrounding area.

- There seem to be many cabins on the way out of Yellowknife that are not road accessible. Curious to know how many permanent and semi-permanent residents live north of Yellowknife.
- It seems there are unique or special "micro-climatic" pockets that are probably pretty valuable ecologically. Are there similar areas or "pockets" on the BHP claim block?
- The winter road has permanently impacted the landscape. What level of impact exists outside of the winter road usage?
- Winter road access points to the shoreline (where the ice road meets land) are good places for summertime boat access and combined with the road could provide access to areas for development purposes, e.g. cabins.
- Flying over the Misery kimberlite pipe one cannot help but see the road from the BHP main camp. It has visual presence. Ecologically, how does it compare to say a cut line or a winter road?
- The Misery route selection seems to have followed the "high ground". I asked the helicopter pilot who flew the route selection and he said he did a number of passes at various altitudes to scout

From.....

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the road's alignment and that he would land once in a while and people would conduct on the ground examinations.

- Curious how Beartooth kimberlite pipe will change the Panda waste rock pile.
- Curious to know if there will be accelerated (different) water movement into the Beartooth kimberlite pipe from as the topography and surface of lands around it are changed by the waste rock pile roads, etc....
- The Long Lake tailings area would get all the water from Reynolds pond, maybe at an accelerated rate as the pond is filled with ARD generating rock from the Pigeon pipe. Curious to know how that will impact the tailings, reclamation work and the whole water flow regime into and through the various cells of the tailings ponds.
- Access to the Sable kimberlite pipe will have several water/stream crossings.
- The Sable and Pigeon kimberlite pipes drain into the Exeter Lake/drainage basin.
- Darren noted that lake bottom sediments were discharging water as they continued to consolidate/compress and that it seemed that would continue for a while to come.
- It is hard to visualize that the Sable pipe may end up being almost as big (including waste rock dump) as the Sable pipe.
- Curious to find out what the total processed kimberlite volumes will be, at what point they will be placed in exhausted pipes and how that all fits together into an integrated mine plan including the new pipes.
- Visual impacts.

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