

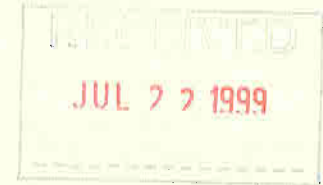


INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AGENCY

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Heidi Klein & Louis Azzolini
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7



July 16th, 1999

Dear Heidi and Louis:

Subject: MVEIRB Public Documents Re BHP's Ekati Diamond Mine

As we recently discussed, I am writing to request that the MVEIRB simultaneously copy the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency on all environmental matters related to the BHP 'project.' I understand that you wish to review this request with your Board of Directors.

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency has a mandated requirement:

1. To serve as a public watchdog of the regulatory process for the 'project' and the implementation of this Agreement (the Environmental Agreement signed by BHP, GNWT & Canada);
2. To provide an accessible and public repository of environmental data, studies and reports relevant to the Monitoring Agency's responsibilities; and
3. To participate as an intervenor in regulatory and other legal processes respecting environmental matters.

The 'project', by terms of the Environmental Agreement, is activities on the claims block that include 'such exploration, development and mining together with all related and ancillary operations and activities including, without limitation, construction, transportation, studies and maintenance.' The mandate clearly includes BHP's recent applications for expansion of the 'project.'

To facilitate maintenance of the public repository on the project, the Agency would like to receive copies of all MVEIRB public documents related to the project. We are not looking for copies of internal, confidential or draft documents. We would like to receive copies of official correspondence between MVEIRB, and such things as guidelines, deficiency statements, and screening/environmental assessment/panel reports.

Thank you for agreeing to discuss this request with your Board.

Sincerely yours,

Hal Mills, Manager

