

TRIP REPORT

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Subject: EA99-004

Date: September 30, 1999

Prepared by: Louie Azzolini

RE: Trip to Dettah

Development:	BHP Mine Extension
Departure Date:	September 29, 1999, Louie Azzolini
Return Date:	September 29, 1999
Mode of Travel:	Personal Transportation
Reason:	Attend the Land and Environment Committee
Public Notification:	No notification provided
Meetings:	No meetings attended
Cost:	Approximately \$40

Louie Azzolini attended a meeting of the Yellowknives Dene Land and Environment Committee to observe and report on the BHP presentation on its proposed extension. The meeting began at about 7:20P PM. The BHP Presentation began with Chris Hanks discussing / reporting on the 1998 Environmental Management Report. That was followed by Tina Markovic providing an overview of the proposed mine extension.

Chris and Tina did not have a chance to complete their presentations and said that upon the Land and Environment committee's invitation would return to the Dettah/N'dilo and to meet with the Yellowknives Dene.

The following table summarizes the comments noted at the Land and Environment Meeting. There were about 20-25 people in attendance not including Louie Azzolini or Tina and Chris.

From.....

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Receiving information - Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were communities receiving copies of BHP's environmental reporting that it provides to government and the independent monitoring agency. • Suggestion that BHP have more frequent meetings with the Yellowknives Dene. • The Yellowknives Dene wish to participate in monitoring in general not specific to any one monitoring activity or monitoring component.
Petroleum Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How natural remediation of soils with bacteria worked and where that was being done on site.
On Site Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals or substances used in cleaning and maintenance of equipment that could be hazardous. • Chemicals brought onto the BHP site or created on site. Special concern about arsenic. Are there chemicals being used on-site that people are not aware of.
Graphic and/or Video Illustration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual of the dump. • Visual of the contaminated soil reclamations area. • Visual to explain petroleum spill clean up and about spill kits. • Visual of new products being introduced to minimize and/or avoid petrochemical spills. • Visuals of fencing. • Misery road. • Appropriate translation.
On Ice or In Water Spills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vehicles that have gone through the ice and accidents on the winter road. • Number of petroleum product events associated with accidents and their severity.
Operations Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions regarding effectiveness of on-site spill reporting. • Accountability - who are the people accountable for the various activities and operations on site.
Traditional Knowledge (TK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly demonstrated use of TK in the design and operation of the mine needed. People want to see for themselves how TK is being used and incorporated on-site. • It was noted that the environmental agreement called for "on-going" continuous input of TK. There seems skepticism about the follow-up on that component of the agreement. • Suggestion or idea of having an elder work part-time with BHP staff and with summer students as part of larger training program tied into existing monitoring work. Land and Environment Committee indicated that this was a larger issue that needed more discussion.

Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing of the airport runway because of caribou on it. • Fencing of Open Pits after kimberlite recovery completed and pits being reclaimed - do not have big open holes in the ground because of the possible effects on people and wildlife. • It was noted by an attendee that the pits at the Pine Point mine were fenced.
Reclamation Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see more information on reclamation planning of the new pipe (Sable, Pigeon and Beartooth). • Option of replacing waste rock into kimberlite pits. • Quality of the water in the mined out pits during and after reclamation - How drinkable will the water be? • Any potential for mercury? • Will fish be reintroduced into the pits as part of the reclamation process? • Attendee said at the BHP panel he heard that BHP would fill in the pits. Chris said that BHP said it would fill the pits in to the extent possible.
Existing Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction of overland flow of Ulu Lake towards the Exeter Lake. • Does BHP know what is underground in the kimberlite pipe, that is size, depth, materials, geology and configuration of the pipes and surrounding materials - particularly with respect to safety. Tina indicated there was information on the kimberlite pipes and the surrounding materials and their respective properties. The Land and Environment Committee would like to see the information considered in the environmental assessment.
Waste Rock Run-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might the waste rock drain chemicals into the Sable pit and other pits during operations and reclamation? • Water quality of water flowing off of the waste piles into the pits given the length of time it will take to fill the Sable pit. • BHP indicated that the Beartooth pit would be a test to see the success they have in creating fish habitat (littoral zone habitat) and that it would be monitored.
Ground Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If blasting down very far underground (300 plus m.) will there be water seepage into the pit as people are working in it and that it might fill up? • Potential for water cavities in the Kimberlite pipes and associated mining and safety issues.
Experts	<p>Louie was asked if communities would have access to review BHP's submission. He replied that at this point he was uncertain.</p>

Massive Failure	Possibility of a massive failure resulting in a rapid and significant inflow of water into a mining operation (open pit or underground).
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At the conclusion of the presentation there was a brief discussion of the upcoming meeting on October 6, 1999. The meeting wrapped up at about 10:30 PM.