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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

File No: NWB2NAD0206

August 8, 2002

Attention: Jeremy Howe
Logistics Coordinator
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
1400-1111 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4M3

RE: Spill Contingency Plan

Dear Mr. Howe:

The Nunavut Water Board received your revised 'Spill and General Contingency Plan' on May 1, 2002. While the Plan goes into considerable detail regarding the types of spills that are possible and ways to manage spills, it does not address many of the comments in the NWB's letter, dated March 8, 2002. The spill plan does not reference the project(s) for which the plan applies and does not provide any site-specific information related to the Nadluardjuk Lake Project associated with Water Licence #NWB2NAD0206. Efforts should be made to incorporate the following comments into a second revised plan, that were made in March 2002:

- i. The plan should begin with an introduction on BHP Billiton's Environmental policy, overview of the project area. If the plan is to be used by more than one of BHP's exploration camps then they should be listed and summarized (i.e., location, size, etc). A site map of the camp location and layout shall be provided
- ii. The plan should outline the response equipment available at Nadluardjuk Lake site and its location for both camp facilities and drill sites. If applicable the equipment shall be listed separately for each licensed operation.
- iii. Response Organization chain of command contact information is provided yet on site field contact and project manager names and numbers are not listed. Federal contacts for Nunavut should be provided, including DIAND Water Resources Inspector in Iqaluit.
- iv. Brief statement on any training programs (where, when and how) for staff and contractors that will be at the Nadluardjuk Lake Project site.
- v. Include site map of camp facilities. Large site map shall also be included providing an indication of areas of drill sites and fuel caches for the 2002 proposed project.
- vi. Response measures previously provided should be included with current MSDS sheets for chemical, fuels, etc., used at the camp facilities and/or drill sites and a spill report form.

In addition, BHP Billiton Diamonds does not address preventative measures that will be instituted to ensure that spills are avoided, including storage and containment, as well as, fuel transfer and inspection protocols.

The NWB notes that the proponent proposes to use peat moss on spills over the Tundra of waste, lube, hydraulic and diesel oil, as well as, gasoline and jet B fuel and leave these substances to “degrade, if feasible to do so” (page 3 & 4). Furthermore, an argument is made on page 16 that small oil spills in muskeg “be allowed to degrade during summer months since more damage can be done by attempting clean-up using mechanical methods” due to vegetation disturbance. Although “natural degradation is very slow”, it is suggested that spills be covered with peat moss and left. BHP Billiton Diamonds also suggests that the clean-up should be delayed until conditions improve and all parties should be consulted to determine when and how cleanup should be undertaken. It is written: “in many cases, the best solution may be to add nutrients to the contaminated area and monitor the site to ensure that the spill does not migrate to an adjacent area”. The NWB would like to know what will be the procedures for making this assessment of what is appropriate, who specifically will be contacted and if there is any data to support your estimation that the risks to cleaning up the spill outweigh the benefits of eliminating further potential contamination by removing or burning the substances from the spill on muskeg.

The revised Spill Contingency Plan shall be submitted with the necessary changes within two (2) months, along with the supportive data mentioned above. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Alexandra Thomson
Technical Consultant

cc. Paul Smith, DIAND Iqaluit
Constantine Bodykevich, DIAND Inspector
Solamie Shoo, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Gladys Joudrey, Nunavut Impact Review Board
Josee Gallipeau, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P. Pacholek, Environment Canada
P. Partridge, Department of Sustainable Development
J. DeGroot, Department of Fisheries and Oceans