



**Environment Canada** **Environnement Canada**

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Our file: 4703 001

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*Via Email*

**Re: NWB2PEL0507 – BHP Billiton – Amaruk Project, 2005 Annual Report**

On behalf of Environment Canada (EC), I have reviewed the above mentioned application. The following specialist advice has been provided pursuant to Environment Canada's mandated responsibilities for the enforcement of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, Section 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Species at Risk Act*.

BHP Billiton Inc. has submitted an annual report of water use and waste disposal associated with exploration activities for its Amaruk Project in 2005. The report stated that freshwater was solely used for domestic purposes at the project's camp, which is located 45 km south of the Hamlet of Kugaaruk. The camp site has a coordinate of 68°7'43"N, 90°4'29"W. Freshwater consumption averaged 2.284 m<sup>3</sup> per day in July and 2.23 m<sup>3</sup> per day in August.

Gray water from the kitchen and bathroom facilities was discharged into passive sumps excavated in sand. In preparation for the 2006 exploration season, an insulated and heat-traced tank has been installed in the ground to replace the original gray water sumps. This tank will be equipped with a discharge line that pumps settled gray water to a ground surface location on a periodic basis.

Sewage was confined to two latrine pits excavated in sand. These pits were treated with lye and backfilled as part of the camp's seasonal shutdown procedures.

Combustible solid waste materials were incinerated in a burning barrel and non-combustible wastes were sent to Kugaaruk for proper disposal. Empty fuel drums were delivered to Churchill for disposal whenever aircraft backhaul space was available.

Environment Canada recommends that the following conditions be applied throughout project activities:

- Environment Canada requests that erosion control measures be implemented at the discharge point of the new gray water tank.



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- The proponent shall ensure that all sumps, specifically those designed for the containment of gray water, be made inaccessible to wildlife prior to exiting the project area. When sumps are no longer in use, they should be backfilled and contoured to match the surrounding landscape.

If there are any changes in the proposed project, EC should be notified, as further review may be necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments with regards to the foregoing at (867) 975-4631 or by email via [david.abernethy@ec.gc.ca](mailto:david.abernethy@ec.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

David W. Abernethy  
Environmental Assessment Technician

cc. Colette Spagnuolo – Environmental Assessment/Contaminated Sites Specialist - Environment Canada, Iqaluit