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*AB/LC/LZ*

**STAFF REPORT**

<b>Company:</b> BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. (BHPB)	
<b>Location:</b> Ekati Diamond Mine	<b>Water Licences:</b> MV2001L2-0004; MV2001L2-0008; MV2002L2-0002; MV2002L2-0003MV2003L2-0013
<b>Date Prepared:</b> March 5, 2006	<b>Meeting Date:</b> March 14, 2006
<b>Subject:</b> Plan approval – 2006 Spill Contingency Plan (SCP)	

**1. Purpose/Report Summary**

The purpose of this report is to present to the Board for review the 2006 Spill Contingency Plan (SCP) for the Ekati Diamond Mine. BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. (BHPB) submitted the SCP to satisfy the requirements of the following water licences:

- WL MV2003L2-0013 (main Ekati WL) – part H, item 1
- WL MV2001L2-0008 (Sable, Pigeon, Beartooth WL) – part J, item 1
- WL MV2002L2-0003 (atomization WL) – part I, item 1
- WL MV2002L2-0002 (Misery Road watering WL) – part F, item 1
- WL MV2001L2-0004 (Sable Road watering WL) – part F, item 1

**2. Background**

The primary objective of the SCP is to ensure that BHPB has adequate materials management and spill response procedures in place for all controlled substances such as fuels, ammonium nitrate (ingredient in explosives), and chemicals used in the processing plant and for machine maintenance. This will help minimize the number of spills that occur and will help maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of spill responses. Overall, this will prevent or lessen any impacts to human safety and the environment caused by spills.

Since spill response planning plays a significant role in protecting people and the environment, all Ekati water licences require that BHPB annually review the SPC at a minimum. If, through these reviews, BHPB determines that the SPC has to be revised to reflect changes in operation or technology, BHPB must update the SCP and submit it to the Board for approval.

Generally, the SCP does not require revision every year as materials handling and spill response procedures, and the types of chemicals on site do not radically change from year to year. The SCP was last revised in 2004 and the revisions were approved by the MVLWB in May of that year.

BHPB's 2006 review of the SCP took place in January and they determined that no significant changes to the SCP were required. The changes that were made are explained below in the Discussion section.

### **3. Discussion**

Board staff compared the 2006 SCP with the approved 2004 version to confirm that no significant changes were made to procedures. For the most part, only administrative changes such as rearranging the sequence of tables and figures were made.

The one change to note is that a section titled "Satellite Facilities" (Section E) has been added to the 2006 SCP. This section summarizes the current infrastructure status and activities at sites distant from the main development area. The satellite facilities include Misery, Sable, Pigeon and Jay. Please see the attached maps for these locations.

From the perspective of spill response planning, separating out the satellite facilities is useful because activities at these sites are changing significantly. Misery is on temporary shutdown while additional exploration work is planned for Sable and Pigeon, including the establishment of fuel caches. Discussing the satellite facilities under a separate section eases the revision of the SCP which will occur frequently as activities at Sable and Pigeon ramp up. It also makes the plan more "user friendly" for on-site personnel.

### **4. Review comments**

The SCP was not distributed for review because BHPB has only added more detail to the SCP. Overall, the materials handling and spill response procedures remain unchanged from those approved in the 2004 SCP.

### **5. Recommendation**

I recommend that the Board approve the 2006 SCP as submitted by BHPB.

### **6. Attachments**

- 2006 Spill Contingency Plan (binder)
- Draft approval letter
- Maps of the main development area and satellite facilities

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Sarah Baines  
Regulatory Officer**