WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE -- FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



EMAB Conference Call Minutes October 29, 2004

Present:

Floyd Adlem, Chair, Government of Canada Doug Crossley, Kitikmeot Inuit Association Lawrence Goulet, Yellowknives Dene First Nation Gord MacDonald, Diavik Diamond Mines Incorporated Fred LeMouel, North Slave Metis Alliance Doug Doan, Government of the Northwest Territories

Absent:

Eddie Erasmus, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council Florence Catholique, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation John Morrison, Government of Nunavut

Minutes:

John McCullum, Executive Director

Meeting started at 11am

Purpose of meeting is to discuss follow up to the DFO letter of September 14 regarding fish habitat compensation in lakes at Diavik. The letter was not received at EMAB until October 14 after it was referred to at a meeting between Floyd Adlem, John McCullum and DFO officials.

DFO is directing that Diavik go ahead with developing a detailed design for the lake enhancements based on the long delay so far and the lack of information on the effects of enhancements on northern lakes. The study design would include collection of baseline information and information following the enhancements.

There was a lot of discussion on the situation and appropriate follow-up by EMAB:

 This is a boondoggle; maybe use report card approach to indicate that DFO has not handled this well

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- Parties could have been more active in identifying off-site options
- It is not EMAB's job to provide DFO with alternatives; it is DFO's job
- DFO's consultation was inadequate; they have to justify their conclusions. There must be other off-site options
- DFO is directing DDMI to go ahead as before; no accommodation of EMAB's position
- EMAB needs to note its objections and the shortcomings in the consultation – letter saying EMAB is disappointed in the credence given to EMAB input
- It would be good to identify a couple of off-site options to DFO to support the idea that they exist
- DFO should do more to identify off-site options, not EMAB
- EMAB could encourage communities to communicate with DFO on this and encourage DFO to have more meaningful discussions with communities
- Consider agreeing to enhancement of one lake to give DFO some data
- DDMI would like clarity as to whether EMAB's position remains the same as in the 2002 motion.

Action Item: E.D. and Chair will prepare a draft letter in response to this letter and circulate to Board for review. The letter will be finalized at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.