



EMAB STRATEGIC PLANNING 2004-05



PRELIMINARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS REPORT: DETTAH/NDILO, LUTSEL K'E & KUGLUKTUK

January 7, 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EMAB consulted three of its eight Affected Communities in November. Community members from the following Parties were consulted: Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Kitikmeot Inuit Association and Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation. Visits to the communities of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the North Slave Metis Alliance are pending. The goal is to ensure EMAB is in tune with the people we are serving and to increase our efficiency in watching over the Lac de Gras environment where Diavik is located. EMAB will use the information gathered to develop a strategic plan.

After informing communities of its recent activities, EMAB asked four questions relating to mandate priorities, the use of Traditional Knowledge in monitoring, monitoring by Aboriginal people of the Affected Communities, and what information communities wanted and how it should be delivered.

Animal health, and fish health, is of the greatest concern to the people we talked to. The quality of the air, water and environment relates directly to the health of the animals and fish. People are concerned with dust and emissions into the air as they affect vegetation that animals eat. People live off the land; maintaining the quality of what they eat is primary. Further, the general well-being of the animals is important. Water is equally important as people drink it from the source. Secondary concerns were more future-oriented, such as reclamation and cumulative effects. The only comment, voiced by KIA, related specifically to EMAB capacity was that the Board does not do enough technically (read: scientifically).

People see Diavik's community-based camp as an asset with the potential for more use. Elders are an asset and should be included in monitoring. Emphasis was placed on people in communities *seeing*, rather than hearing about, monitoring activities. There's a feeling that TK/IQ has not enjoyed continuous use, despite initial consultations before mine construction. There are knowledgeable people in the communities that have great ideas about including TK/IQ in monitoring.

Direct involvement of Aboriginal people in monitoring is a major priority. Involving youth in environmental monitoring and training them is a priority. The idea of a cooperative approach, either with the mine or with other communities, was raised several times. Teaming up elders (for their TK) and youth (to learn both TK and scientific methodologies) was also raised. Kugluktuk currently has a stalled water quality monitoring program, while Lutsel K'e seems to be moving forward with a monitoring project with DeBeers that could serve as a model for one with Diavik.

Communities seem to lack information on what's going on with caribou (population and migration), the winter road, and incidents at the mine when they happen. When they are informed about developments, such as Diavik's ammonia amendment application, communities (Kugluktuk especially) feel there is no follow-up reporting on results. People really like to meet in person with people who have the direct hands-on experience. The idea that Diavik's environmental technicians could speak directly on what they see, and that Diavik needs to spend some time reporting to communities solely on the environment came through loud and clear. As for EMAB, people like our public meetings. To complement these, we should try to make sure our annual report is developed in plain language. People also like smaller, shorter documents for information, such as pamphlets or newsletters.

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**PRELIMINARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS
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INTRODUCTION

In November 2003, EMAB held a board effectiveness workshop. The Board has since committed to the development of a strategic plan strongly grounded in input from EMAB communities. The goal is to ensure EMAB is in tune with the people we are serving and to increase our efficiency in watching over the Lac de Gras environment where Diavik is located.

To work effectively on a strategic plan, EMAB formed a Strategic Planning Committee. The planning process involves several steps.

During the March Board meeting, the Board decided that as a whole it would be responsible for strategic planning and community engagement and each Aboriginal Party representative would take the lead in their community(ies), identifying how best to engage with them and lead the process. The Communications Coordinator was to assist in whatever way the members needed.

In late April, staff sent a survey to the representatives of the Aboriginal Parties to gather info on how best to involve their communities in the community engagement process. They then drafted a general plan based on the gathered information. To prepare for the community visits, Board members attended an Environmental Agreement Workshop and training sessions to develop presentation and facilitation skills. Over the ensuing months, staff developed community-by-community plans in consultation with each Aboriginal Board member, which were approved by the Board.

The Board scheduled community engagement meetings in all affected communities. Four of the eight meetings took place: Lutsel K'e, Dettah and Ndilo, and Kugluktuk. These visits took place in October and November.

Visits to the Dogrib communities of Wha Ti, Wekweti, Gameti, and Rae Edzo have been postponed until the new year at the request of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council. A meeting with the North Slave Metis Alliance has also been postponed until January.

STEPS

Environmental Agreement Workshop: In February 2004, the Board made the decision to hold a workshop in order to fully review the Environmental Agreement for the Diavik Project (EA) is the agreement that created EMAB, and the Board's mandate is clearly stated (4.2 (a) – (m)). At the workshop in March, the Board identified several areas in the mandate that might require more attention.

Training: The Board identified the need to be better prepared to engage communities. A survey of Board members determined that PowerPoint training and facilitation training would help members be more efficient in both sharing information with their communities as well as gathering information. Four days of training took place in September.

Community-by-community plans: The Board acknowledged that each community's needs were different, and varying approaches would be needed to engage each community. For Kugluktuk, for example, the KIA representative explained that short intensive sessions with small groups of people would be fruitful, with a public meeting to follow. For Lutsel K'e, the representative determined that before the public meeting, a more focused meeting with the Wildlife Committee would be helpful. In Dettah and Ndilo, one public meeting – involving both YK Dene communities – was deemed sufficient to gather the information required.

PowerPoint presentation: Staff developed a PowerPoint presentation that outlined EMAB's accomplishments to date, and focused on explaining the areas where EMAB does most of its work. EMAB's mission statement was included. The presentation also noted that there were areas in the mandate that could use more attention, while recognizing that there are limited financial resources and decisions always have to be made as to where those resources should go. This presentation was reviewed by the Board.



Public meeting in Kugluktuk.

Questions: In order to gather information successfully for the strategic plan, staff drafted four questions to put to the communities. The questions were based on a close reading of the mandate as stated in the EA, with particular attention to areas not yet addressed by the Board, as identified in discussions at the EA workshop. As EMAB’s mandate is extensive, individual items were grouped to create four questions that would serve to determine the real issues that concern communities.

The Board reviewed and approved the following questions:

- 1) EMAB focuses on wildlife, water and fish as priorities. Do you agree? Are there other areas that concern you?
- 2) How do you see Traditional Knowledge / Inuit Qaujimagatunangit being used in monitoring? How can we help strengthen your ability to include TK/IQ in monitoring activities?
- 3) Do you want to be more involved in monitoring? How? And how can we help strengthen your ability to be more involved?
- 4) What kind of information do you want from us? How do you want it?

CONSULTATIONS

PUBLIC MEETINGS

On average, each meeting, including a feast, lasted three hours. Attendance varied in each community.

COMMUNITY	PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE
Dettah/Ndilo	32
Kugluktuk	40
Lutsel K’e	87

Board members adapted a generic agenda so that it would better suit their community. The meetings generally consisted of:

- Opening prayer.
- Introduction: Why are we here?
- PowerPoint presentation on EMAB activities over the last year and a lead-in to the idea that EMAB has a large mandate and could do more depending on community input.
- A session allowing community members to respond to the four questions.
- A feast.

- A draw for prizes.
- Closing prayer.



Public meeting in Dettah.

INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED

In Lutsel K'e, staff and the Board member met with the Wildlife, Land and Environment Committee before the public meeting. In Kugluktuk staff and the Board member met separately with five organizations prior to the public meeting: KIA representatives, employees of the Environment Department (Government of Nunavut), a representative of the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, the executive of the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (local Hunters and Trappers Organization), as well as the Mayor of Kugluktuk. In Dettah/Ndilo staff and the Board member received input from the public meeting only.

KUGLUKTUK

Stanley Anablak (KIA)
Mona Tiktalek (KIA)
Lynn Carter (KIA)
Monica Kapakatoak Angohiatok (GN)
Allen Niptanatiak (GN)
John Morrision (GN)
Philip Kadlun (KAA)
Sandy Buchan (Hamlet)
Peter Taptuna (Mayor; KAA Executive Director)
Jack Himiak (Chair, KAA)

LUTSEL K'E

Charlie Catholique (Wildlife, Lands and Environment Committee)
Monica Krieger (Wildlife, Lands and Environment Committee)
J. B. Rabesca (Wildlife, Lands and Environment Committee)
Dora Enzoë (Wildlife, Lands and Environment Committee)
Steve Ellis

RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: EMAB FOCUSES ON WILDLIFE, WATER AND FISH AS PRIORITIES. DO YOU AGREE? ARE THERE OTHER AREAS THAT CONCERN YOU?

In all cases communities confirmed that EMAB's priorities are also their own: wildlife – especially caribou – water and fish. However, there were concerns in these three areas that EMAB does not address. These are noted below. There were several other issues discussed that EMAB does not normally deal with that seemed of great concern to communities. These are also noted below.

WILDLIFE

While EMAB has listed caribou as a priority, it became clear through conversations with individuals and at all three public meetings that there are specific concerns regarding this important food source.

Animal health is the greatest concern. The caribou are skinnier (Lutsel K'e) – this is attributed to development and other activities on the land. There are reports of sick caribou (KIA), and community members proposed that there might be some relation between the health of caribou and dust coming from the mine, specifically from blasting and from waste rock. Special note was made of dust settling on lichen, the food caribou eat

In Kugluktuk, (and Dettah / Ndilo) they've heard many concerns about caribou with broken legs; thinks this might be caused by the use of big boulders on roadsides. They (mines) should avoid using big boulders where caribou are likely to walk. Not sure how many caribou have been reported with broken legs, but it keeps coming up. It's also been noted here that caribou have been seen with skin/fur rubbed off their sides, without explanation.

Dust came up repeatedly at all three community meetings. Specifically, there were concerns about dust causing earlier spring melt, so that dusty areas tend to have plant growth before others, attracting wildlife, particularly caribou, to feed there and consume dust.

“These issues have been brought up with Diavik but they aren't listening to us.” Charlie Catholique, Lutsel K'e Wildlife Committee

Community members also expressed the need to know that caribou have a safe passage through the mine area. (EMAB has held several panels/workshops on fencing and is moving this item forward.)

VEGETATION

Besides being seen as potentially harmful to all animals, dust is seen as causing changes in plant life. For example, there are reports of berries being smaller than they have been in the past (KIA).

WATER

In Lutsel K'e, it was noted that trucks on roads are a source of dust and depending on winds, it might be a problem for water and fish.

Regarding the dikes, and the exposure of previously unexposed rock to air, chemicals and minerals may escape into the water.

Regarding water specifically – Elders in Kugluktuk say their tea tastes differently.

FISH

There are reports of less fish than there have been in the past. The fish were once fat, the trout are skinny now.

There is a concern that DFO does not share its reports with Lutsel K'e, that they do things on their own without consulting the community. KIA also expressed concern with DFO.

Concern was expressed about the fish in Lac de Gras and running a Fish Palatability Study where fish from that lake are eaten. It was suggested: instead of conducting the Fish Palatability Study at the Diavik community-based camp, that the fish be brought to the people so that everyone could sample it.

Relating to fish habitat replacement – Kugluktuk has four alternatives that might replace enhancing pristine lakes.

AIR QUALITY

The powering up of diesel equipment has an impact on air quality, as well as on the snow.

Add reclamation to the list of priorities. Stanley Anablak (KIA)

RECLAMATION

Could waste rock be put back in the pit? Because water is dripping through the waste rock piles.

(See more on reclamation under Question 2)

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

There is a concern that no-one is taking on long-term cumulative effects

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

KIA staff informed us that Geoff Clark (lands officer for KIA in Kugluktuk) says EMAB should have more capability that is technical.

CONCLUSION: Animal health, and fish health, is of the greatest concern to the people we talked to. The quality of the air, water and environment generally relates directly to the health of the animals and fish. Specifically, people are concerned with dust and emissions into the air as they affect vegetation that animals eat. People live off the land and maintaining the quality of what they eat is primary. Further, the general well-being of the animals is important. Water is equally important as people drink it from the source. Secondary concerns were more future-oriented, such as reclamation and cumulative effects. The only comment, voiced by KIA, related specifically to EMAB capacity was that the Board does not do enough technically (read: scientifically).

QUESTION 2: HOW DO YOU SEE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE / INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT BEING USED IN MONITORING? HOW CAN WE HELP STRENGTHEN YOUR ABILITY TO INCLUDE TK/IQ IN MONITORING ACTIVITIES?

- Include elders in monitoring, for a TK perspective. Take them to the mine site. Show them what is happening.
- More use of Diavik’s community-based camp, also an interest in seeing it used year-round, in all seasons.
- Monica Angohiatok (GN) developed a study where she compared IQ and scientific data on caribou and she says they amount to the same thing. It consisted of a series of questions. Elders are knowledgeable people, she said. An IQ study should be done closely with HTO.
- Lutsel K’e stated that Traditional Knowledge in relation to reclamation has not been addressed, that the plans are not what they think they should look like. That community is now working with DeBeers to create a monitoring program fully instituted and managed by Lutsel K’e. They want to lobby Diavik for the same and require help to do it – especially that there is a clause in the Diavik EA that pertains to this.

CONCLUSION: Diavik’s community-based camp is seen as an asset with more potential use. Elders are seen as an asset, and they should be included in monitoring activities. Much emphasis has been placed on people in communities seeing, rather than hearing about, monitoring activities. There’s a definite feeling that TK/IQ has not enjoyed continuous use, despite initial consultations before construction at the mine site. There are knowledgeable people in the communities that have great ideas about how to include TK/IQ in monitoring.

QUESTION 3: DO YOU WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN MONITORING? HOW? AND HOW CAN WE HELP STRENGTHEN YOUR ABILITY TO BE MORE INVOLVED?

“We want to maintain the safety and purity of what we’re going to eat. We want to be the monitors. It’s about assuring ourselves that all is protected.” Florence Catholique, Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation

All communities expressed the need for Aboriginal people to be involved in monitoring. While the subject of studies and research might change from area to area (for example the Coppermine River for Kugluktuk and the winter road for Dettah/Ndilo) all were concerned about the caribou.

“The community has wanted to be involved in monitoring from day one. For example, monitoring of the Coppermine River. Taking three or four months and checking the river from one end to the other. Because if the elders see a fish that doesn’t look right they immediately blame it on the mine.” Stanley Anablak, lands officer, KIA

It was suggested that the communities and Diavik could do caribou surveys jointly. (Lutsel K’e)

In Lutsel K’e it was suggested that the Lutsel K’e Dene and the people of Kugluktuk could get together to come up with ways to monitor.

Aboriginal monitoring is cursory – a few one week trips. Lutsel K’e is ready to go beyond that and get directly involved in environmental monitoring and management. It’s not the case that best efforts are being made. Lutsel K’e will show them (mines) how to do it. Steve Ellis, Lutsel K’e

More frequent inspection of winter road (from both Lutsel K’e and Yellowknives Dene).

There is a feeling that there are incidents involving wildlife at the mine but that the mine is not informing communities. If people from the communities were involved in monitoring, communities would be better informed.

Aboriginal people must monitor. Yellowknives Dene First Nation

Young people should be trained to take part in monitoring.

It was suggested that EMAB needs to help set up training programs because no one is doing it.

The community would like to be able to use the community-based monitoring camp that Diavik set up. People want to see what is being monitored. They want to see more camps (at the Diavik community-based camp), during all seasons. Rachel Crapeau, Wildlife Committee, Yellowknives Dene

CONCLUSION: Direct involvement of Aboriginal people in monitoring is a major priority with individuals and the community as a whole. Involving youth in monitoring, training youth in the area of environmental monitoring is a priority. The idea of a cooperative approach, either with the mine or with other communities, was raised several times. Teaming up Elders (for their TK) and youth (to learn both TK and scientific methodologies) was also raised. Kugluktuk currently has a stalled water quality monitoring program, while Lutsel K'e seems to be moving forward with a monitoring project with DeBeers that could serve as a model for one with Diavik.

QUESTION 4: WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION DO YOU WANT FROM US? HOW DO YOU WANT IT?

INFORMATION COMMUNITIES WANT

The main emphasis seemed to be on actual monitoring results, and particularly on any areas that EMAB is concerned about.

- Real information on how the caribou are doing
- The question was asked in Kugluktuk: are there studies on caribou population and migration behaviour?
- Reporting on any studies having to do with caribou population and migration
- Follow-up when communities are consulted – what happens after? (Example: Recommendations that came out of EMAB's Water Quality Workshop and what happened with Diavik's ammonia amendment application, which was discussed at the Water Quality Workshop)
- Direct reporting to communities on winter road incidents
- When there are incidents at the mine, EMAB plus Parties should be informed.

We want actual information, details. Such as, how are caribou really doing? How is the water really doing? Yellowknives Dene community member

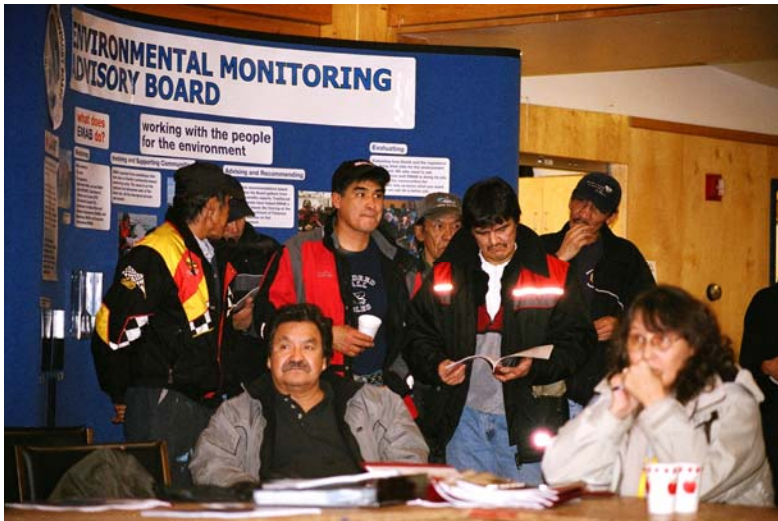
HOW COMMUNITIES WANT INFORMATION

- Directly from the people on the ground (the technicians at Diavik’s Environment Department) doing the monitoring because they’re out there and they see what’s going on. This would be three times a year specifically on environment issues. Less causes suspicion. (Lutsel K’e).
- Public meetings are best for information from EMAB.
- Talk – when people go to the mine site they should come back and say what they saw.
- More frequent direct communication with communities (by Diavik).
- EMAB’s Annual Report should be in plainer language.
- Pamphlet or newsletter

“Industry has to do its own reporting.” Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation

CONCLUSION: Communities seem to lack information on what’s going on with caribou (population and migration), the winter road, and incidents at the mine when they happen. When they are informed about developments, such as Diavik’s ammonia amendment application, communities (Kugluktuk especially) feel there is no follow-up reporting on results.

People really like to meet in person with people who have the direct hands-on experience. The idea that Diavik’s environmental technicians could speak directly on what they see, and that Diavik needs to spend some time reporting to communities solely on the environment came through loud and clear. As for EMAB, people like our public meetings. To complement these, we should try to make sure our annual report is developed in plain language. People also like smaller, shorter documents for information, such as pamphlets or newsletters.



Public meeting in Lutsel K’e.