

# EKATI Traditional Knowledge Strategy

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<b>Brief Description:</b>	The Strategy for Traditional Knowledge Programs with the EKATI Diamond Mine

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## 1.0 Where We Are

Traditional Knowledge work at EKATI over the past 15 years has provided a solid base upon which BHP Billiton and Aboriginal groups can continue a long term and productive relationship.

The Environmental Assessment process and the subsequent Environmental Agreement document BHP Billiton's commitment to continue work on traditional knowledge projects and to incorporate traditional knowledge into environmental management. The Environmental Agreement states that "BHP shall incorporate all available traditional knowledge in the Environmental Plans and Programs and shall give all available traditional knowledge full consideration along with other scientific knowledge as the Environmental Plans and Programs are developed and revised" (Article X1, Item 11.3).

During the course of mine operations, BHP Billiton has initiated and successfully completed a number of traditional knowledge projects. However, not all projects were completed (e.g. development of a GIS database in Lutsel K'e and the development of a traditional history of the Metis in the EKATI area). To increase the focus on this important area, BHP Billiton talked with communities in 2008 and 2009 to reassess ideas on how BHP Billiton can assist in developing new projects, or renew past initiatives. The critical focus is on projects that will provide long-term benefit to the communities.

In 2010, the three diamond mines held a *Diamond Mines Wildlife Monitoring Programs-Community Workshop*. The objectives for the workshop were:

- (1) Discuss the use of traditional knowledge in monitoring wildlife and determine how it can be incorporated into the wildlife monitoring programs currently in place; and,
- (2) Gather ideas on how the mines can conduct and improve their wildlife monitoring programs by incorporating community perspectives from traditional knowledge holders.

The workshop provided the community representatives and Traditional Knowledge holders a forum to voice recommendations. BHP Billiton agreed to review the recommendations to determine how best to incorporate into its existing monitoring programs.

In 2011, the position of Environment Advisor-Traditional Knowledge was created and staffed. The mandate was to implement the EKATI Diamond Mine Traditional Knowledge Strategy. The advisor is to consult with the Impact Benefit Agreement communities (IBA), Traditional Knowledge stakeholders, and local community governments to plan and implement community orientated traditional knowledge projects. In addition, the Environment Advisor-Traditional Knowledge is to execute site-based projects, and reclamation research, that advance the use of traditional knowledge in environmental monitoring programs and closure planning.

BHP Billiton considers the need to integrate Traditional Knowledge into its environmental monitoring programs as important today as when the EKATI mine first began operations. This strategy defines "*Where We Want To Go and How We Are Going To Get There*".

## 2.0 Where We Want To Go

*For 2011 to 2014*

### 2.1 Vision

The Vision of the Traditional Knowledge program at EKATI is to build and sustain a meaningful, healthy and interactive relationship with the aboriginal people of the north, with a common goal of preserving, sharing and the promotion of northern aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.

### 2.2 Mission

BHP Billiton will continue its history of developing meaningful, lasting and mutually beneficial Traditional Knowledge relationships with the Impact Benefit Agreement communities, with the underlying objective of benefiting the communities and the environment at the EKATI mine.

BHP Billiton will work directly with community representatives to identify, develop, and implement ideas for Traditional Knowledge initiatives, in accordance with the Traditional Knowledge Strategy.

BHP Billiton will identify, develop and implement ideas for Traditional Knowledge incorporation into environmental monitoring and reclamation programs.

BHP Billiton will travel to communities and invite aboriginal people to EKATI, with the goal of fostering open and productive dialogue, demonstrating the principles of sustainable development and providing face-to-face interactions.

### 2.3 Guiding Principles

The guiding principles for this plan were developed from the BHP Billiton Charter, the BHP Billiton Sustainable Development Policy, and the recognition of aboriginal culture. These principles are the basis for decision-making regarding Traditional Knowledge relationships and Traditional Knowledge projects.

*Guiding Principles that govern the EKATI Traditional Knowledge Strategy Plan:*

#### **Investment**

BHP Billiton views Traditional Knowledge relationships as an investment in the aboriginal people of the North and values the use of Traditional Knowledge to develop best practices in mining and environmental monitoring.

#### **Inclusion**

BHP Billiton seeks to develop strategic relationship with all IBA communities for inclusion in Traditional Knowledge Projects, and looks for opportunities to strategically partner with other mining companies, government agencies, and other project partners.



### **Incorporation**

BHP Billiton will assist aboriginal communities in advancing Traditional Knowledge within their community and look for ways to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into environmental monitoring programs and reclamation activities at the EKATI Diamond Mine.

### **Respect**

BHP Billiton respects the rights of aboriginal peoples and values their cultural heritage. BHP Billiton acknowledges and fully respects that aboriginal peoples own and control their Traditional Knowledge, and will only utilize Traditional Knowledge that is communicated for the benefit of the EKATI Diamond Mine.

### **Fairness**

BHP Billiton will treat each aboriginal community with fairness, and seeks to develop long-lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships.

## **2.4 Goals**

*Over the next 3 years, we specifically wish to:*

- Increase Traditional Knowledge inclusion into site based monitoring programs. This will be accomplished through increased community participation and meaningful incorporation of Traditional Knowledge.
- Have discussions with each Impact Benefit Community to identify and prioritize Traditional Knowledge Projects. We want to complete community projects currently underway, and initiate new projects.
- Enhance feedback to communities on Traditional Knowledge initiatives. This will be accomplished by making community visits by inviting community members to the EKATI Diamond Mine, and providing summary reports on site visits.
- Provide Traditional Knowledge input to Community Development Projects.
- Provide Traditional Knowledge input to Reclamation Planning.

## 3.0 How We Are Going To Get There

BHP Billiton will continue to strengthen the relationships established with the Impact Benefit Agreement communities by actively seeking and engaging community participants in site based monitoring programs to incorporate and give full consideration for Traditional Knowledge in the further enhancement of the EKATI Diamond Mine's environmental management and reclamation and programs.

BHP Billiton will continue to solicit community based Traditional Knowledge project proposals that will provide sustainable long-term benefits through the preservation, sharing and the promotion of northern aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.

BHP Billiton will liaise with other mines, agencies, and governments for the advancement of northern aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.

### 3.1 Priorities

*Priorities for the 2011 to 2014 EKATI Traditional Knowledge Strategy Plan:*

#### **Ideas**

BHP Billiton will continue to facilitate discussions and lead processes that will generate forward-looking *ideas*.

#### **Implement**

BHP Billiton will assist the communities to *implement* the best ideas as well-planned projects.

BHP Billiton will *implement* with the communities participation in site-based programs.

#### **Sustainability**

BHP Billiton will support the on-going *sustainability* of Traditional Knowledge initiatives and completed projects.

### 3.2 Community Contacts

BHP Billiton's Community Contact List (Appendix # 2):

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association/Hamlet of Kugluktuk
- Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Tlicho Government
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation

### 3.3 Community Orientated Projects

Community Orientated Projects are those that are developed in cooperation with BHP Billiton and typically have community orientated objectives. These community-based projects may not have a direct link to environmental management at EKATI, however are developed based on the priorities and focus areas identified through community engagement.

***These projects are focused on the preservation, sharing and advancement (promotion) of traditional knowledge within the community.***

In 2008 and 2009, BHP Billiton invited each of the IBA communities to take part in a process to develop ideas for traditional knowledge projects in their communities, and to work with BHP Billiton to develop project implementation plans. The on-going strategy is to continue to engage each community to focus on projects of most immediate interest/value to them, and then to assist with development, implementation, and funding plans. In some cases BHP Billiton may fund the project and in other cases additional partners may also support the project.

Using the traditional knowledge proposal submissions, BHP Billiton will work with the communities to develop detailed project plans for the community. Working together, we will develop plans of action, milestones, roles and responsibilities, and deliverables. Each project will have its own schedule, reports and outputs, developed by and with the community.

### 3.4 EKATI Orientated Projects

EKATI Oriented Projects are projects initiated by or within BHP Billiton that relate directly to enhancing environmental management or monitoring at EKATI. The goal of these projects is to advance the development of EKATI-specific traditional knowledge and to use that knowledge in improving and modifying the environmental management and monitoring programs.

This approach will be to focus on:

- Talking with Traditional Knowledge Holders,
- Bringing Traditional Knowledge Holders to EKATI,
- Listening to their ideas, knowledge and concerns,
- Sharing our ideas, results and issues,
- Providing feedback to the communities.

Reports will be sent to the communities after each session, summarizing the traditional knowledge information gathered during site visits and participant interviews. This may include stories and personal reflections not directly related to the environmental monitoring and management programs, but reflect the values and traditions of the traditional knowledge stakeholder.

Individual EKATI monitoring and reclamation reports will document the use of Traditional Knowledge for that program.

### 3.5 Reclamation Planning

The incorporation of community input into closure planning for EKATI is outlined in GLD.035 which requires the asset to “Develop a community and external relations plan for closure throughout the operating life of the Asset and into closure”.

Reclamation planning for EKATI is formalized in the current Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP), and the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan to be submitted to the Wek’eezhii Land and Water Board 2 years prior to cessation on mine operations. The current ICRP includes approximately 40 reclamation research and engineering studies that will address uncertainties in how mine components will be reclaimed. Community input and Traditional Knowledge will be valuable in assisting BHP Billiton to meet its reclamation goals. BHP Billiton will plan for inclusion of Traditional Knowledge.






### 3.6 Partnerships

For the overall benefit to the communities, BHP Billiton will reach out to other mines, agencies, and governments to create partnerships. This is important because it will support the communities in planning and implementing community orientated traditional knowledge projects, site based projects, and to advance the use of traditional knowledge in environmental, reclamation and management programs.

### 3.7 Update of the Traditional Knowledge Strategy

This strategy will be reviewed every year by BHP Billiton and updated where needed. The Head of HSEC and the Superintendent of Traditional Knowledge & Permitting will approve each update for the EKATI Diamond Mine. The Strategy will also be endorsed by the Superintendent-Environmental Operations and Superintendent-Community and External Affairs. Any change requests can be submitted to the Environment Advisor-Traditional Knowledge.

### 3.8 Approvals/Endorsements

APPROVAL SIGNATURES RECORD			
REVIEWER ROLE	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Approval: Head – HSEC	Karl Schubert		20 July 2011
Approval: Superintendent – Traditional Knowledge and Permitting	Eric Denholm		20 July 2011
Endorsement: Superintendent-Community and External Affairs	Deana Twissell		20 July 2011
Endorsement: Superintendent-Environment Operations	Keith Mclean		28 July 2011
PREPARED BY: Environment Advisor-Traditional Knowledge	Charles Klengenber		20 July 2011



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## 4.0 Appendices

## Appendix 1.0 History of Traditional Knowledge Projects at EKATI

### Background of Traditional Knowledge at EKATI

The Environmental Assessment Review Panel (EARP) charged BHP Billiton in the 1996 Environmental Assessment of the EKATI Diamond Mine to give Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge full and equal consideration with engineering and scientific knowledge. This led to the proposal for Phase I and Phase II Studies. Phase I related to work that was incorporated in the EIS. Phase II were studies negotiated with the Aboriginal groups following the EARP process to contribute to the ongoing use of TK by BHP Billiton.

#### Phase I Studies

To include TK into the 1995 EIS, BHP Billiton conducted a Phase I TK Study. The study consisted of defining the roles of participating parties and initiating consultation/workshops in the communities to document the environmental and socioeconomic concerns that Aboriginal people might have with respect to the EKATI Mine Project. Traditional ecological knowledge was collected in the process, and BHP Billiton provided people with information on the mine and listened to their comments on what they thought the effects from the project might be. The information was collected through a series of structured interviews with traditional users using an interview guide designed by BHP Billiton's consultants. The information collected during Phase I from the three groups which participated was integrated throughout the EIS, with the primary purpose of highlighting concerns and addressing them in accordance with the EIS guidelines.

The Inuit, and the Metis, and NWT Diamonds Project employees participated directly in the Phase 1 Study. BHP Billiton contracted Inuit and Metis interviewers for those projects and had one of its own Traditional Knowledge consultants conduct the interviews with the employees. The Tlicho conducted its own study, and the Yellowknives Dene and Lutsel K'e Dene declined to participate, but later took part in the water licence public hearings on the subject.

#### Environmental Agreement

The Environmental Agreement was signed January 1997 between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Government of the Northwest Territories and BHP Billiton. An ongoing role for traditional Aboriginal knowledge was established in the environmental management of the EKATI Diamond Mine.



Article XI of the Environmental Agreement states that:

11.1. Phase II Traditional Knowledge Study. In order to effectively incorporate the traditional knowledge of Aboriginal Peoples in its Environmental Plans and Programs, BHP shall complete the study (the Phase II Traditional Knowledge Study) BHP has agreed to carry out in order to identify categories of the traditional knowledge of Aboriginal Peoples to be incorporated into the Environmental Plans and Programs.

11.2. Principles. The following principles shall be incorporated in the Phase II Traditional Knowledge Study and into any agreement entered into between BHP and Aboriginal Peoples with respect to the Phase II Traditional Knowledge Study:

- (a) it shall, to the greatest extent possible, be designed and carried out in partnership with the Aboriginal Peoples or if not possible be designed in Consultation with the Aboriginal Peoples;
- (b) the traditional knowledge shall remain the property of the Aboriginal Peoples and no proprietary information shall be disclosed by BHP to parties other than employees of BHP directly involved in the Phase II Traditional Knowledge Study without the express prior consent of the affected Aboriginal Peoples; and
- (c) each Aboriginal group shall determine the extent of its own participation in the Phase II Traditional Knowledge Study and the inclusion of its own expertise and knowledge.

11.3. Incorporation of Traditional Knowledge. Subject to Section 11.2(b), BHP shall incorporate all available traditional knowledge in the Environmental Plans and Programs and shall give all available traditional knowledge full consideration along with other scientific knowledge as the Environmental Plans and Programs are developed and revised.

### Phase II Studies

The Phase II Study was originally part of the multi-party agreement signed in early 1995 between BHP Billiton, then Dogrib Treaty 11, Akaitcho Treaty 8, the Inuit of Kugluktuk (as represented by the Hunters and Trappers Association) and the NWT Metis Nation (later North Slave Metis). This study was intended to assist Aboriginal groups in preparation of a baseline of TK, and in turn assist BHP Billiton in environmental and socioeconomic monitoring of impacts. The Phase II was to be designed jointly by Aboriginal organizations and BHP Billiton to broaden the information collected during the Phase I Study. All proprietary information obtained by the groups during this phase of the program was to be kept confidential and would not be disclosed to each other or to third parties during or after the program, unless the group who supplied the information to the program agreed to disclose its portion of the study. Therefore, each group would determine the extent of its future participation and the inclusion of its own expertise and knowledge. The TK Projects would be jointly

sponsored by BHP Billiton and the Aboriginal groups, to provide the groups the opportunity to bring relevant TK to EKATI's environmental management process.

### **Update of Traditional Knowledge Projects at EKATI**

To date as part of the Phase II Studies BHP Billiton has provided funding to the Tlicho, Yellowknives Dene, North Slave Metis, Lutsel K'e Dene and the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association (and later the Kitikmeot Inuit Association) for TK projects.

#### Tlicho (Dogrib Treaty 11)

Funding was provided to the T'licho to develop a report on Tlicho traditional land use. In August 2000 "A T'licho Perspective On Biodiversity" was completed and provided to BHP Billiton. This study provided a brief overview of land use around the EKATI Lease Area and documented the various types of habitats and the vegetation found there.

#### Yellowknives Dene

The 'Weledeh Yellowknives Dene, A Traditional Knowledge Study of Ek'ati' was prepared and approved in 1997 by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Elders Advisory Council. Funding for the project was provided by BHP Billiton, and this was the first of all the Phase II studies to be completed. The study looked at the historical land use of the Yellowknives Dene throughout the Weledeh and EKATI Mine site Lands, and provided recommendations on the use of the EKATI and Lac de Gras area for mining. Detail is provided on the patterns of life on the land prior to non-indigenous influence, and changes to the culture and settlement areas affected by the trapping industry through to mining. Maps have been included to show established Weledeh Yellowknives Dene routes in the tree line and the barrens, by people and wildlife, and discussion on camp sites and burial sites (Yellowknives Dene First Nation Elders Advisory Council, 1997).

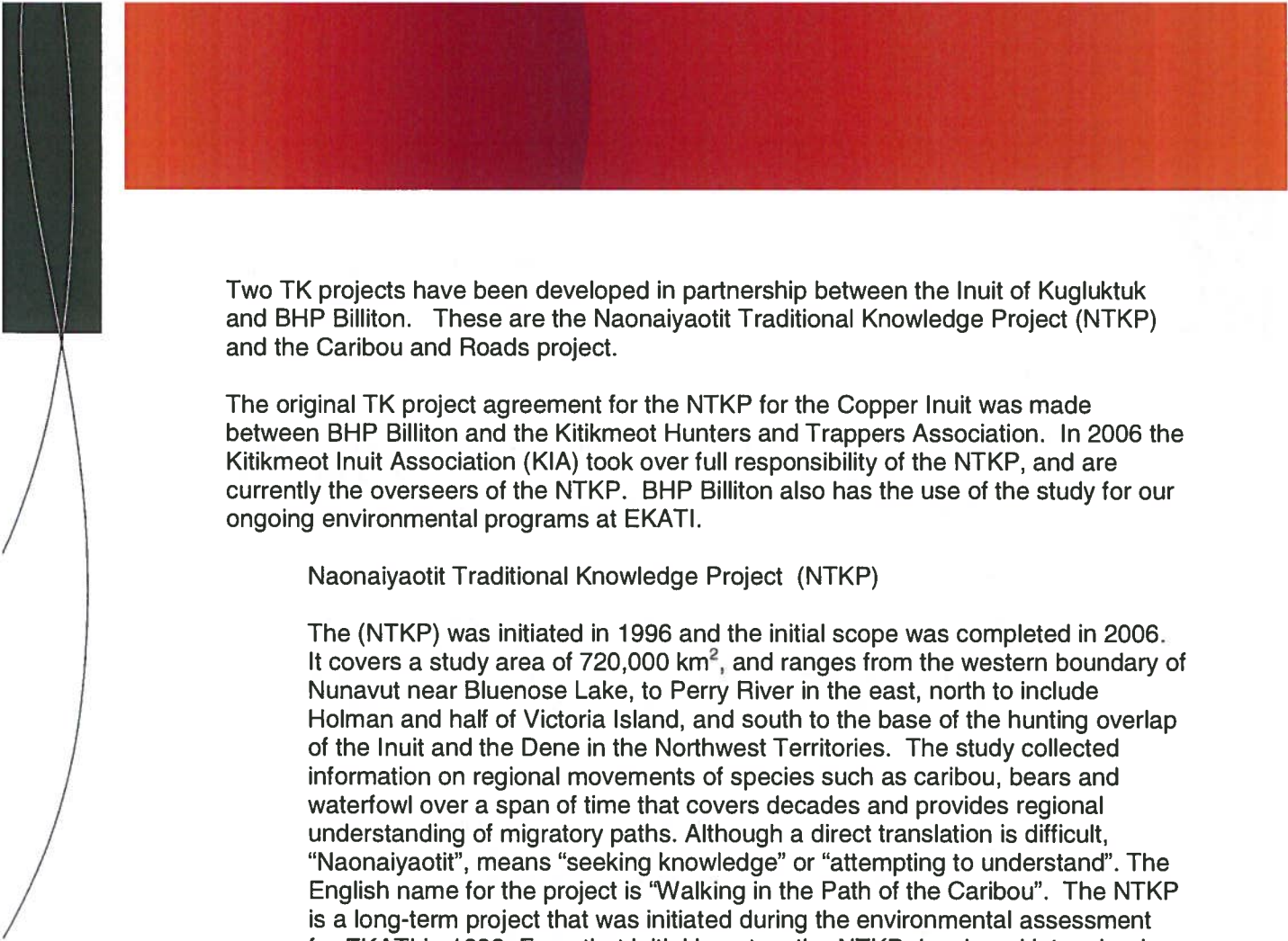
#### NSMA

An historical study was initiated but not completed and reported.

#### Lutsel K'e Dene

A comprehensive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based traditional land use database was developed between 2000 and 2005 in Lutsel K'e that was used as a tool by the Lutsel K'e Wildlife, Land and Environment Committee. The information was reported in the West Kitikmeot Slave Study (WKSS) reports. BHP Billiton's support was considered as matching WKSS funds. The GIS technician position in Lutsel K'e was funded by BHP Billiton.

#### Kugluktuk Inuit



Two TK projects have been developed in partnership between the Inuit of Kugluktuk and BHP Billiton. These are the Naonaiyaotit Traditional Knowledge Project (NTKP) and the Caribou and Roads project.

The original TK project agreement for the NTKP for the Copper Inuit was made between BHP Billiton and the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association. In 2006 the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) took over full responsibility of the NTKP, and are currently the overseers of the NTKP. BHP Billiton also has the use of the study for our ongoing environmental programs at EKATI.

#### Naonaiyaotit Traditional Knowledge Project (NTKP)

The (NTKP) was initiated in 1996 and the initial scope was completed in 2006. It covers a study area of 720,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and ranges from the western boundary of Nunavut near Bluenose Lake, to Perry River in the east, north to include Holman and half of Victoria Island, and south to the base of the hunting overlap of the Inuit and the Dene in the Northwest Territories. The study collected information on regional movements of species such as caribou, bears and waterfowl over a span of time that covers decades and provides regional understanding of migratory paths. Although a direct translation is difficult, “Naonaiyaotit”, means “seeking knowledge” or “attempting to understand”. The English name for the project is “Walking in the Path of the Caribou”. The NTKP is a long-term project that was initiated during the environmental assessment for EKATI in 1996. From that initial impetus, the NTKP developed into a land-use planning tool that provides the Inuit with a means of responding to land-use applications and integrating TK into environmental assessments throughout their area of historical and current use, including EKATI. The project is ongoing, in that there has been an ongoing dialogue between Inuit and industry about the appropriate application of traditional Inuit cultural and natural history knowledge to environmental assessment and management. The level of biological detail in the NTKP will permit the information to be useful in minesite management. The first product of the NTKP, the Placenames Atlas, was released early in 2004. A series of reports in English on land use and wildlife was compiled and printed in 2006, and a GIS database was transferred to the KIA by BHP Billiton in 2006 with the intention to continue training and building capacity within the community to use and apply the database. In 2006 BHP Billiton and the KIA signed an Asset Purchase and Transfer Agreement. This agreement ensures that the NTKP is transferred to the KIA and that BHP Billiton provides financial assistance for 2 years to cover staff costs for use of the NTKP database, as well as training for that position. In 2007 the KIA created a full time GIS position in Kugluktuk with the purpose of maintaining and updating the GIS database. .



## Caribou and Roads Traditional Project.

The Caribou and Roads Traditional Knowledge Project was initiated in 2002. The objective of the project was to review and address current issues with caribou on roads and near pits at EKATI. The project resulted in the formation of an Inuit "Elder's Advisory Group". Examples of the types of recommendations the Elder's Group made include:

- The use of inokhok at the mine site to deter caribou during spring migration.
- The use of gates across roads in specific areas such as on the Sable Road near the Beartooth Pit,
- The construction of a temporary fence at Beartooth Pit to protect caribou
- Improving existing caribou crossings,
- New caribou road crossings where needed on the Misery, Fox and Sable Roads,
- Removing road berms where less obstructive solutions would meet mine safety requirements,
- Constructing berms to act as barriers where caribou needed to be deterred, and
- Continuing to use people on the ground to divert caribou when necessary.

BHP Billiton and the Elder's Advisory committee met once a year in Kugluktuk to review the previous year's work projects at the mine, and discuss upcoming projects. Reports were produced each year. The project is being integrated into new strategies for using TK in environmental monitoring.

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## Appendix 2.0 BHP Billiton TK Community Contact List

### Kugluktuk:

Kitikmeot Inuit Association

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-Donald LeBlanc- Senior Administrative Officer

### Lutsel K'e:

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-Ray Griffith-Senior Administrative Officer

-Tsatsiye Catholique-Director, Wildlife, Lands & Environment

-Sonja Almond- Administration Assistant-Wildlife, Lands & Environment

**North Slave Metis Alliance:**

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**Tlicho Government:**

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