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***Archeological Sites - Bhp Diamond Mine
Environmental Assessment Panel
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ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

Submission to the Environmental Management Plans
Technical Session
BHP Diamond Mine Environmental Assessment Panel

Yellowknife, NT

Prepared by

**Government of the Northwest Territories
Department of Education, Culture and Employment**

February, 1996

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The archaeological research conducted to date by the Proponent's consultants has been of very high calibre and has complied with all Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and federal requirements. The comments in this submission are intended to ensure that this quality is carried through all stages of the project.

During the 1994 and 1995 field seasons a total of 62 archaeological sites were recorded for specific development areas in the BHP property. The 1995 field season involved both additional reconnaissance to add to the inventory of archaeological sites and mitigation of several sites recorded the previous summer. As the 1995 report indicates there is "good potential" for locating additional sites on the property.

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1.0 STATEMENT OF ISSUE

The "1995 Archaeological Investigations for BHP Diamonds Inc." report, **issued as a supplement to the the Proponent's Environmental Impact Statement**, states: "The 1995 field investigations have re-confirmed that the BHP study area contains landforms with good potential for archaeological sites. It is recommended that archaeological reconnaissance continue to be conducted in advance of development and exploration. Recorded sites should be plotted on all development plans and avoided by all associated activity, including vehicular use. If avoidance is not feasible, varying levels of systematic data collection would be required. Development in areas which do not contain recorded sites should be assessed for archaeological potential. If moderate or greater archaeological potential is evident, an inventory should be conducted in advance of any development activities."

Though the report outlines potential mitigative options there has been no response from the Proponent as to which of these options it plans to proceed with. Clearly there will be impacts to archaeological sites for which mitigation plans have been outlined, but for which no action has been undertaken. Additionally, over the life of the project, these plans will provide a clear environmental management strategy for mitigating impact to archaeological sites and monitoring this over the life of the project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

Further research, surveillance and monitoring should be conducted by a qualified archaeologist holding a valid NWT Archaeologists Permit. The Proponent should continue to ensure that traditional knowledge plays a formative role in this work. At minimum this should include:

Mitigation:

- Develop a mitigation plan and schedule for each archaeological site recorded on the property. (Guideline Section 1101 & 1102)

Surveillance:

- Develop a site surveillance/monitoring strategy and schedule for other areas on the property as development plans warrant. (Guideline Section 1002)



Monitoring:

- Develop a strategy and schedule for conducting monitoring or impact management plan compliance during implementation and operation of the mine project. (Guideline Section 1002)
- Provide training for staff in the recognition of archaeological remains and in procedures to follow once an archaeological site has been exposed unexpectedly. (Guideline Section 1002)

