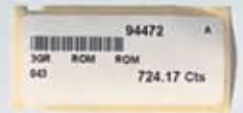




ISO 9001:2001
FM 93758



PROCESSING DIAMONDS

The process plant is the heart of EKATI's mining operations. One of the largest buildings in the Northwest Territories, it is where about 12,500 tonnes of kimberlite ore is processed every day.

Out of this large amount of ore, EKATI produces on average 12,500 carats of diamonds a day. This would be enough rough diamonds to fill a one litre coffee can.

BHP Billiton's Sorting and Valuation Facility (SVF) is the first one of its kind in North America. The SVF is located in Yellowknife near the airport. Rough diamonds are flown from the EKATI Diamond Mine to the SVF every five weeks. Trained employees sort the diamonds according to their value. The Government of Canada values the diamonds for taxation purposes before the diamonds are sent to Antwerp, Belgium to be sold.

As part of the Kimberly Process, Canada Customs verifies the shipments of all rough diamonds exported from Canada.

This means the heat-sealed packages of rough diamonds, sent from the company's Sorting and Valuation Facility to BHP Billiton's Antwerp sales office, are not re-opened until they arrive in Europe, ensuring their protection and security.

BHP Billiton is a founding member of the World Diamond Council (WDC) and the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices (CRJP), organizations established to promote responsible business practices throughout the industry from mine to retail.

In February 2006, BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. received ISO 9001 certification from BSI Management Systems for operating a Quality Management System in the preparation of rough diamonds from the EKATI Diamond Mine for marketing. This includes cleaning, sorting, valuating, Kimberley Process Certification, and shipping. This ISO 9001 certificate of registration is effective to 2009 and represents over 18 months of work by management and staff at BHP Billiton's Sorting and Valuation Facility.

