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PRESS RELEASE

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**VALIDITY OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT'S 2004 REPORT IS AGAIN
QUESTIONED**

ADDITIONAL SAMPLING RESULTS: BUYAT BAY IS CLEAN!

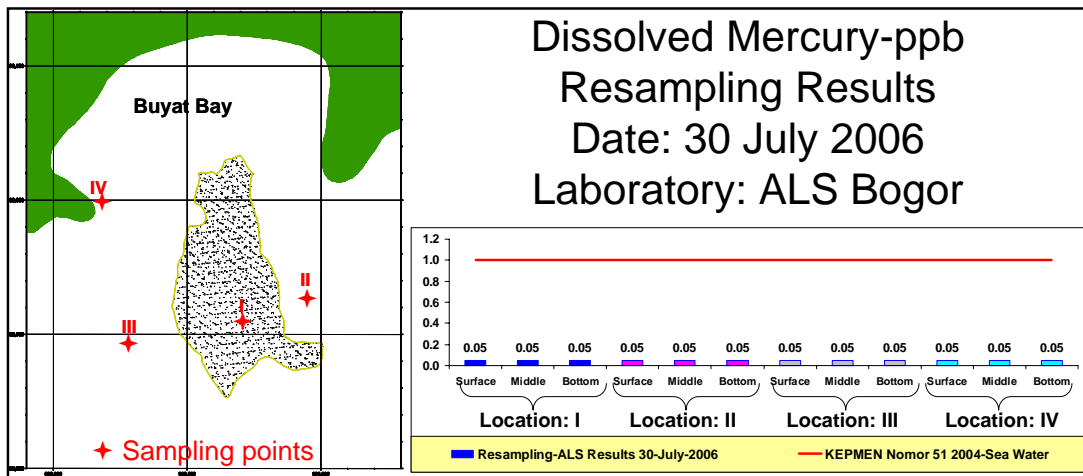
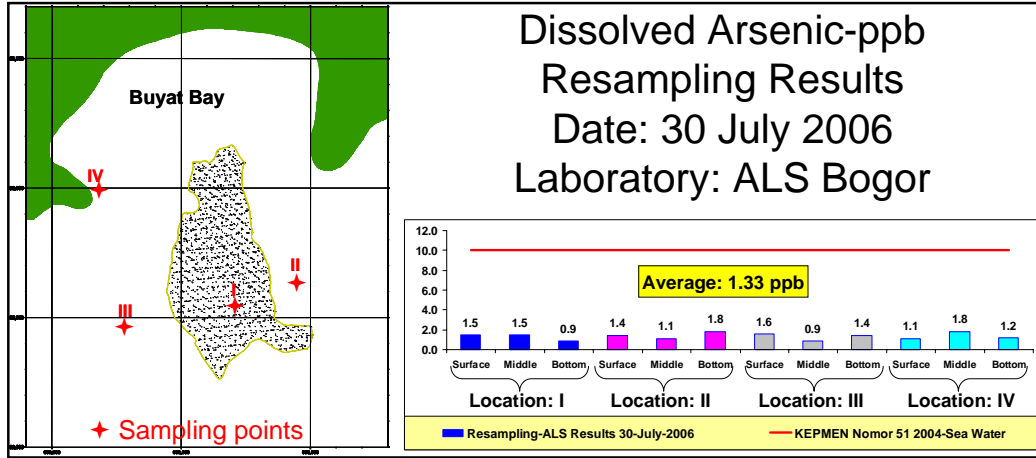
(Manado, 11 August 2006) Results of the additional sampling of Buyat Bay are in and the findings are not surprising: Buyat Bay is clean and the water quality is far below any existing water standards in the world. These findings were presented in court today as the criminal proceedings against PT Newmont Minahasa Raya (PTNMR) and its President Director Richard B. Ness was continued in Manado, North Sulawesi. The defense team also submitted additional written evidence to the court, which included a full analysis of the water samples conducted by ALS Indonesia as well as a letter from the ASEAN Secretariat regarding ASEAN's Marine Water Quality Criteria.

These evidences continue to highlight the numerous inconsistencies, irregularities and in some instance the bizarreness of the Ministry of Environment's 2004 Technical Report – supposedly a key basis for the indictment against PTNMR. Many of the data, numbers, references and conclusions in the report simply does not add up. An example is the report's reference to the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria 2004, a criteria used by the member countries of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nation) as water quality standard. In the Ministry of Environment's report, it was concluded that the concentration of mercury and arsenic in the sediment at the location of PTNMR's tailing discharge is polluted, as referenced in the ASEAN criteria. In reality, ASEAN's criteria does not include a sediment standard a a guideline.

SUPPORTING FACTS FROM THE ALS ANALYSIS

As per the instructions of the court, ALS collected 12 samples on 30-July-2006 from four locations in Buyat Bay. The results of the seawater analysis conducted by ALS show that Buyat Bay is clean. The laboratory results confirm that the level of dissolved mercury in Buyat Bay is below the detection limit of 0.05 ppb (Exhibit-1). Similarly for dissolved arsenic, all the samples were well below the safe limit of 10 ppb. The re-sampling results for dissolved arsenic show that the average value is 1.33 ppb, with 0.9 ppb as the minimum and 1.8 ppb as the maximum value (Exhibit-2).

For further information, please visit our website www.newmont.co.id or www.BuyatBayFacts.com
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These re-sampling results for dissolved mercury and arsenic are consistent with results of the seawater quality tested during the operational as well as the closure phases of PTNMR

The first independent study of seawater quality in Buyat Bay during the operational phase of PTNMR was conducted by KLH in August 2003. This study found that the level of dissolved mercury and arsenic were well within the standard, which is same as the findings of the current re-sampling results by ALS.

In 2004 the PTNMR's operational period continued until 30-September-2004. Before the last day of the tailings discharge on 30-September-2004, five independent studies of Buyat Bay's water were completed. These studies were conducted by various independent national and international organizations. All the studies had shown that the seawater of Buyat Bay was clean. The current re-sampling results further validate the results of all the previous studies,

thereby establishing that Buyat Bay was clean in the past and it remains clean in the present, and most likely would continue to be clean in the future.

Comparison with the POLRI Results

The only study that differs from the results of the current re-sampling and all the past studies is the laboratory results of POLRI conducted on 28-29 July 2004. The current re-sampling results took samples from the same locations as the POLRI samples to ensure full comparability. The location by location comparison establishes that the POLRI results are inaccurate and therefore is an invalid evidence of pollution.

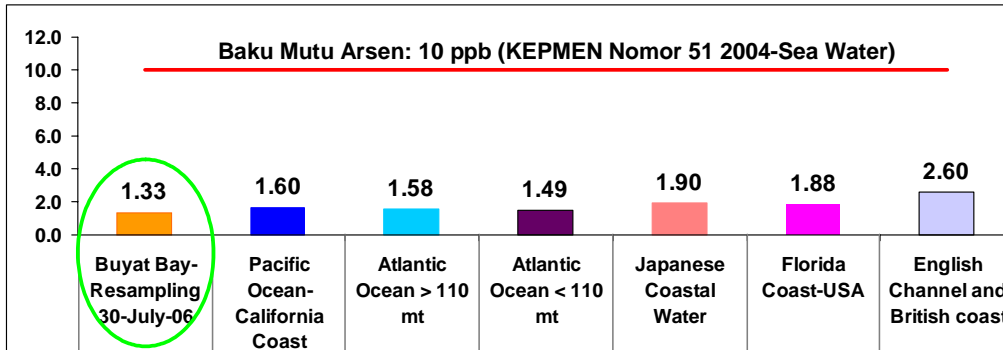
Sampling Points			Hg-Dissolved (µg/L) Standard: 1		Arsenic (µg/L) Standard: 10	
Location	Label	Depth (m)	POLRI 28-29 Jul 04	ALS-Bogor 30-Jul-06	POLRI 28-29 Jul 04	ALS-Bogor 30-Jul-06
Buyat Bay	I	30	3.313	< 0.05	12.433	1.5
Buyat Bay	II	30	9.801	< 0.05	10.184	1.1
Buyat Bay	III	30	3.834	< 0.05	6.920	0.9
Buyat Bay	IV	10	3.064	< 0.05	8.260	1.1
Totok Bay	A	0.5	5.415	< 0.05	9.105	1.0

Comparison of Buyat Bay and Other Oceans of the World

The comparison of Buyat Bay with the other oceans of the world also confirms that the level of dissolved arsenic in Buyat Bay is in the same range as found in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and in the coastal areas of USA, Japan and UK.



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Data Source: “Review of Potentially Harmful Substances: Arsenic, Mercury and Selenium”, Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP), Report # 28, World Health Organization, Geneva, 1986, pg23, Section 1.5.1

Note: For Pacific ocean and the Japanese waters the data shows the mid-point of the range reported in the reference.
