

PRESS RELEASE - PII

**INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC PANEL - BUYAT BAY ENVIRONMENTAL  
MONITORING RESULTS PERIOD OF 2007-2008**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year ISP monitoring findings at Buyat Bay are consistent with those of 2007

**Manado, North Sulawesi, August 26, 2009** - The Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) that was established in 2006 on the basis of a Goodwill Agreement has the objective to observe and analyze all data of the monitoring program outcome for a period of 10 years (2007 to 2016) to verify the marine environment quality in the vicinity of PT Newmont Minahasa Raya (PTNMR) tailings placement location and to evaluate the potential adverse impacts of tailings placement to the community, environment and health in the future.

Referring to the early 2007 ISP monitoring Plan, contractors carried out the monitoring activities in September 2007, May 2008 and September 2008 that include seawater and sediment sampling and laboratory analysis; benthic marine invertebrate communities sampling and evaluation and coral reef observation study; seawater column stratification; seabed bathymetry; and fish tissues metal concentration analysis. In addition, human health studies were also completed and it includes seafood consumption intake pattern study and metal concentration analysis of local markets fish and seafood samples. SEAMEO /University of Sam Ratulangi/ University of Indonesia, BPPT Engineering and the Institute of Agriculture - Bogor are the monitoring program executors selected through a bid process.

In accordance with the second ISP Report of Annual Monitoring of 2008, various findings indicate the followings:

1. The measured results of total dissolved arsenic, total dissolved mercury and total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations in Buyat Bay and in the seawater column in close proximity to tailings placement location are consistent with previous findings with no measurable release of arsenic and mercury release from the deposited tailings.
2. There is no evidence of adverse impacts from the tailings placement on the macrobenthic communities
3. Tailings placement, therefore, does not impact the growth of coral reef.
4. Seawater column stratification shows natural variability but remained essentially unchanged between 2007 and 2008.
5. Seabed bathymetry data show that the tailings mound remains stable with no indication of change in its shape or and does not show any sign of tailings transport.
6. Fish tissue analysis for arsenic and mercury continue to show that the fish harvested from Buyat Bay contain levels that are similar to those observed in other parts of Indonesia in natural non-contaminated environments.

Based on the results of the 2007 and 2008 ISP monitoring, being the second ISP Annual Monitoring Report, in general it can be concluded that no adverse impacts from submarine tailings placement in Buyat Bay on the marine environment or human health can be observed. Monitoring program in the next eight years needs to be continued to observe tailings stability and to find out the probability of changes because of the seawater dynamics, particularly in the context of global warming. In view of that, the ISP will continue to evaluate its

monitoring plans, modifying those plans as necessary, to ensure that the data collected is both appropriate and of a justifiable scientific quality.

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