

Media Release

BHP and TAHERA WIN 40th ANNUAL MINE RESCUE COMPETITION!

Yellowknife, NT (June 12, 2006) – The team from BHP Billiton Diamonds Ekati Mine - NWT was declared the Overall Underground winner while the team from Tahera Diamond Corporations Jericho Mine – Nunavut was declared the Overall Surface winner at this past weekend's 40th Annual Mine Rescue Competition, hosted by the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The two day Mine Rescue event, part of Mining Week activities, saw close competition involving five teams in seven mine rescue events. The events were held outdoors at the Giant mine site and Yellowknife City Hall.

In the Surface Competition, Tahera finished first in Written Exam, Fire Fighting, and Surface Practical Bench. BHP (Surface) team finished first in the Surface Obstacle/Extrication task.

In the Underground Competition, Diavik team finished first in the Smoke and Underground Obstacle event. BHP (Underground) finished first in the Underground Written Exam, Rope, Underground Bench, and First Aid events.

The Mine Rescue Competition showcases the exceptional calibre of emergency response in the mining industry. The level of competition encourages teams to keep their skill levels honed throughout the year. "All of the teams proved themselves to be fully capable, highly trained and disciplined. The Workers' Compensation Board is proud of this year's competitors, and of those who are active in mine rescue throughout the year," said David Arthur, Mine Rescue Coordinator of the WCB.

Tahera Diamond Corporation was Overall Winner in the Surface Competition and BHP Billiton garnered the Overall Winner in the Underground Competition. The Underground teams (BHP and Diavik) actually tied in final points and the Overall Winner had to be decided by a tie-breaker! BHP and Tahera are now entitled to compete in the Western Regional Mine Rescue Competition to be held in Fernie, B.C. in 2007. Winning teams from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, B.C., the NWT and Nunavut, as well as Northwestern United States will also compete.

The Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut is active in promoting accident prevention in all Northern workplaces.

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