



**Nunamta  
Aulukestai**



**Baywatch  
Seafoods**

**Bristol Bay Driftnetters' Association**  
The Voice of Bristol Bay's Driftnet Fishermen

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October 22, 2008

Cynthia Carroll, CEO  
Anglo American plc  
20 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5AN  
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Carroll;

We are writing to request information pertaining to Anglo American and its subsidiaries record of environmental incidents over the last five years. The company's annual reports indicate that 723 "level 2" environmental incidents occurred between 2003 and 2007.<sup>1</sup> These incidents are described as having moderate impacts, although some of these incidences involved substantial spills into rivers, streams and residential areas. Only a few of these incidents are described in Anglo American or its subsidiaries annual reports (see attachment for examples).

We appreciate your stated commitment towards transparency. Of particular interest to our organizations and businesses is your commitment that Anglo American "*will not be associated with the development of a mine that damages Alaska's Bristol Bay fishery and wildlife...*"<sup>2</sup> Given the economic and subsistence value of the Bristol Bay fishery, we are particularly interested in understanding Anglo's track record, and the potential risks associated with mining activities and Anglo's other resource development activities. For that reason, we ask that Anglo American reaffirm its commitment to transparency by supplying a full list and description of these 723 environmental incidences.

We would also respectfully request information concerning the legal actions that Anglo American has been a party to in the last five years. Anglo American's 2007 annual report indicates that the company was involved in 32 legal actions, and the 2005 report indicates that 15 criminal and 10 civil actions were filed. According to the company's 2007 report, claims were filed recently against Anglo American's Base Metals operations in Brazil and Chile – with one relating to a fish kill.

We appreciate your attention to these matters and look forward to your detailed response. While we understand it will take some time to assemble the requested information, we would appreciate an initial response by November 30, 2008.

Sincerely,

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Spokesperson for,  
Nunamta Aulukestai  
(Caretakers of Our Land)  
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Cc:

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## Level 2 Incidents

**2007:** At the Lebowa Mine, continuous illegal discharge of mine water from settling dams. And, community water supplies (boreholes) are dried up. At the Amandelbult Section, raw sewage overflowed from the emergency containment dam into a tributary of the Bierspruit.<sup>3</sup>

**2006:** The slurry pipeline from Los Bronces Mine to Colina burst. The emergency pond of the pipeline contained some of the material, and the rest flowed into the El Durazno creek where it joins the Colina river. The river turned a lead color due to the effect of the sands in suspension, requiring dikes to be constructed, and a multi-month remediation program.<sup>4</sup>

**2005:** The pollution-control dam [at the Polokwane Smelter] overflowed into the Sterkloop vlei and stream for nine days at end-February 2005. The dirty water dam at the Rustenburg Section overflowed into the Paardekraal Spruit.<sup>5</sup>

**2005:** At the Ergo Mine, some slurry flows into the backyards of four houses following the overtopping of a containment structure and subsequent flooding of the stormwater trench with mine process water. A slime (tailings) spillage from slurry pipeline occurs in an urban area. And about 500 tons of slurry flowed into stormwater system and was discharged into the Natal Spruit.<sup>6</sup>

**2005:** At Vaal River Mine, heavy rains overwhelmed a catchment area, leading to discharges totaling about 90,000 cubic meters (approximately 24 million gallons) of waste water and 270 tons of salts, which affect land below the dam.<sup>7</sup>

**2005:** At West Wits Mines, an unauthorized discharge of some 10,000 cubic meters (approximately 2.6 million gallons) process water occurred from the north boundary dam into the Wonderboom Spruit (stream).<sup>8</sup>

**2004:** At the Rustenburg Mine, partial failing of the Klipfontein tailings dam wall occurred. Overflowing of the pollution control dams also occurred due to excessive rainfall.<sup>9</sup>

**2004:** At the Obuasi Mine, the containment wall of the Kokotesua south sump failed, resulting in a spill in October of slurry materials downstream of the dam and the inundation of several residential houses.<sup>10</sup>

**2003:** At the Lebowa Mine, excess water discharge occurred to the veld at Merensky dams and Middlepunt earth dams; discharge of water to the Rapholo Spruit does not meet water consumption guidelines; and dewatering of well field all result in Noncompliances with National Water Act.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Anglo American, Report to Society, 2003-2007.

<sup>2</sup> Cynthia Carroll in Anglo American press release November 28, 2007

<sup>3</sup> Anglo Platinum, 2007 Sustainable Development Report.

<sup>4</sup> Anglo Chile, 2006 Sustainable Development Report.

<sup>5</sup> Anglo Platinum, 2005 Sustainable Development report.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> AngloGold Ashanti, 2005 Sustainable Development Report.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> AngloGold Ashanti 2004 Sustainable Development Report.

<sup>11</sup> Anglo Platinum, 2003 Sustainable Development Report, p. 58.