

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

AGNICO EAGLE MINES LIMITED
MELIADINE EXTENSION PROJECT PROPOSAL
NIRB FILE NUMBER 11MN034

PUBLIC HEARING

VOLUME 2

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

September 13, 2023

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1 Proceedings taken at Singiitug Complex Recreation Hall,
 2 Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

3

4 NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

5	K. Kaluraq	Chair of Hearing
6	P. Kadlun-Omingmakyok	Panel Member
7	G. Alikut	Panel Member
8	P. Kusugak	Panel Member
9	A. Ehaloak	Panel Member
10	C. Emrick	Secretary-Treasurer

11

12 NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD STAFF

13	T. Meadows	Legal Counsel
14	R. Barry	Executive Director
15	T. Arko	Director, Technical Services
16	K. Gillard	Manager, Project Monitoring
17	L. Klassen	Technical Advisor II
18	E. Koide	Technical Advisor III
19	L. Atatahak	Administration Support

20

21 PROPONENT

22

23 AGNICO EAGLE MINES LIMITED (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

24	B. Armstrong	Legal Counsel
25	C. Kowbel	Legal Counsel
26	M. Turmel	Superintendent, Permitting and

1		Regulatory Affairs
2	C. Prather	Permitting Technical Advisor,
3		Water Management
4	J. Range	Regulatory Specialist
5	E. Malindzak	Permitting Specialist,
6		Aquatics
7	S. Lacourse	Permitting Specialist, Social
8		& Land
9	D. Kritterdlik	IQ & Wildlife Advisor
10	P. Kusugak	Director, Nunavut Affairs
11	A. Buchan	Director, Nunavut Affairs;
12		Stakeholder Engagement
13	L. Syvret	Director, Shared Services
14		Nunavut
15	L. Chouinard	Project Manager, Meliadine
16		Extension
17	M. Gillman	Environment Superintendent
18	S. Savoie	Environment General Supervisor
19	J-C. Blais	General Manager, Meliadine
20		Operations
21	C. Fernandes	General Superintendent, Mining
22		Operations
23	D. Rodrigue	General Superintendent
24	J. Aggark	Community Liaison Officer,
25		Chesterfield Inlet
26	N. Allen	Project Manager, Nunavut

1		Decarbonization
2	D. Coulton	Consultant, Senior Wildlife
3		Biologist
4	G. Sharam	Consultant, Senior Wildlife
5		Biologist
6	V. Young	Consultant, Acoustic Scientist
7	J. Quesnel	Director, Permitting and
8		Regulatory Affairs
9	C. Paradis St-Onge	Nunavut Communication
10		Coordinator
11	K. Chenel-Fournier	Communication Counselor
12		
13	INTERVENORS	
14		
15	NUNAVUT WATER BOARD (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
16	A. Shaikh	Technical Advisor
17		
18	NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
19	N. Gonzalez	Legal Counsel
20	D. Nouvet	Legal Counsel
21	P. Irngaut	Vice President
22	G. Nirlungayuk	Director, Wildlife and
23		Environment
24	B. Dean	Assistant Director, Wildlife
25		and Environment
26	R. Mercer	Resource Management

1		Coordinator
2	E. Greene	Senior Research and Technical
3		Advisor
4	H. Uniuqsaraq	Acting Chief Operations
5		Officer
6	D. Lee	Biologist
7		
8	KIVALLIQ INUIT ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
9	J. Katz	Legal Counsel
10	L. Manzo	Director of Land
11	D. Kuksuk	Vice President
12	G. Karlik	Chief Executive Officer
13	A. Sexton	Geologist
14	M. McDougall	Aquatic Biologist
15	A. Gunn	Aurora Research
16		
17	GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
18	E. Carroll	Legal Counsel, Justice
19	N. Pudluk	Assistant Deputy Minister of
20		Environment
21	D. Haney	Manager, Land Use and
22		Environmental Assessment,
23		Department of Environment
24	S. Atkinson	Wildlife Biologist, Department
25		of Environment
26	A. Cyr-Parent	Director, Mineral and

1		Petroleum Res., ED&T
2	D. Lapierre	Manager, Environmental
3		Assessment and Regulation,
4		ED&T
5		
6	CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA	
7	(REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
8	S. Dewar	Director, Resource Management
9	F. Ngwa	Manager, Impact Assessment
10	A. Roy	Senior Environmental
11		Assessment Specialist
12	J. Walsh	Senior Environmental
13		Assessment Analyst
14	M. Staniewski	Environment Policy Analyst
15	T. Brown	Technical Expert - Arcadis Canada
16		
17	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA (REGISTERED	
18	SPEAKERS)	
19	S. Forte	Technical Specialist, Water
20		Quality
21	V. Shore	Senior Environmental Assessment
22		Officer
23	S. Mallon	A/Senior Environmental
24		Assessment Officer
25	E. Walker	A/Head Environmental
26		Assessment

1 DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS (REGISTERED
2 SPEAKERS)

3 J. Audet-Lecouffe Senior Biologist Fish and Fish
4 Habitat
5 P. Harper Biologist, Fish and Fish
6 Habitat
7 A. Beattie Unit Head, Fish and Fish
8 Habitat

9
10 HEALTH CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

11 J. Anderson Impact Assessment Specialist
12 J. Kaushansky Impact Assessment Specialist
13 W. Wilson Senior Environmental Health
14 Advisor
15 N. Lyrette Senior Environmental Health
16 Advisor

17
18 TRANSPORT CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

19 J. McHattie Legal Counsel
20 S. Tielesh Legal Counsel
21 A. Downing Regional Senior Environmental
22 Supervisor, Technical and
23 Environmental Services
24 R. King Indigenous Relations Unit
25 N. D'Souza Project Officer, Environmental
26 Assessment

1 K. Magee A/Senior Project Manager,
2 Environmental Assessment
3
4 NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)
5 P. Unger A/Director, Impact Assessment
6 Division
7 P-O. Edmond Manager, Impact Assessment and
8 Consultation
9 R. Goulet Manager, Lands and Minerals
10 J. Cole Senior Researcher, Lands and
11 Minerals
12
13 KANGIQLINIQ HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION
14 (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)
15 N. Kaludjak HTO
16 R. Pilakapsi HTO
17
18 ATHABASCA DENESULINE NE NE LAND CORPORATION (REGISTERED
19 SPEAKERS)
20 K. Rasmussen Ecological Consultant
21 R. Robillard President and Chief Negotiator
22 K. MacDonald Admin
23 K. Mercredi Chief
24
25
26

1 SAYISI DENE AND NORTHLANDS DENESULINE FIRST NATION
 2 (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

3	K. Olson	Legal Counsel
4	G. Bussidor	Sayisi Dene First Nation
5		Chief Negotiator
6	B. Denechezhe	Northlands Denesuline
7		First Nation
8		Chief Negotiator
9	D. Chranowski	Wildlife Biologist Advisor

10

11 HAMLET OF RANKIN INLET (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

12	M. Hickes	Community Representative
13	A. Kabvitok	Community Representative
14	L. Curley	Community Representative

15

16 HAMLET OF BAKER LAKE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

17	D. Owingayak	Community Representative
18	E. Elytook	Community Representative
19	L. Nukik	Community Representative

20

21 HAMLET OF WHALE COVE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

22	P. Kabloona	Community Representative
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23

24 HAMLET OF CHESTERFIELD INLET (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

25	S. Sammurtok	Community Representative
26	H. Aggark	Community Representative

1	L. Mimialik	Community Representative
2		
3	TADOULE LAKE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
4	E. Bussidor	Community Representative
5	K. Clipping	Community Representative
6		
7	LAC BROCHET (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
8	M. Antsanen	Community Representative
9	N. Denechezhe	Community Representative
10	T. Shaoullie	Community Representative
11		
12	BLACK LAKE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
13	C. Sayazie	Community Representative
14	J. Laban	Community Representative
15	D. Bigeye	Community Representative
16		
17	FOND DU LAC (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
18	L. Mercredi	Community Representative
19	M.N. Pacquette	Community Representative
20	D. McDonald	Community Representative
21		
22	HATCHETT LAKE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
23	B. Tsannie	Community Representative
24	E.M. Denechezhe	Community Representative
25	P. Gazandlare	Community Representative
26		

1 INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS (INUKTITUT)

2 J. Tucktoo Language Translator

3 M.R. Angoshadluk Language Translator

4 B. Dean Language Translator

5

6 INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS (DENE)

7 D. Alphonse Language Translator

8 N. Pacquette-Mercredi Language Translator

9

10 COURT REPORTERS

11 D. Lopez, CSR(A), RPR Official Court Reporter

12 S. Burns, CSR(A), RPR, Official Court Reporter

13 CRR

14

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1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 9:09 AM)

2 Opening Remarks

3 THE CHAIR: Good morning. My name is
4 Kaviq Kaluraq, and I am the chairperson of the Nunavut
5 Impact Review Board. On behalf of the Board, I would
6 like to welcome you to Day 2 of the NIRB's public
7 hearing associated with the occasion of the existing
8 Meliadine Gold Mine project. Thank you for the
9 community of Rankin Inlet for hosting us. The
10 assessment is going to -- going to make a bit of a
11 modification to their existing Meliadine Gold Mine
12 project. Thank you to the community of Rankin Inlet
13 while we're holding our public hearing here.

14 So before we start, please turn off your cell
15 phones or put them on silent before we begin. And
16 prior to starting, we're going to start with an opening
17 prayer by David Uvingngayaq.

18 Opening Prayer

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Uvingngayaq, for
20 that prayer for the start of our day.

21 This morning, as I indicated yesterday, we'll be
22 picking up where we left off before the site visit with
23 the completion of Agnico Eagle's overview presentation,
24 Item Number 5 of the agenda for Day 1 followed by an
25 opportunity for registered intervenors to ask questions
26 of the proponent.

1 The Board hopes all who attended yesterday's site
2 visit gained a better understanding of the existing
3 Meliadine Gold Mine and the changes proposed in the
4 extension proposal that is talked about at this
5 hearing.

6 As I said yesterday, the Nunavut Impact Review
7 Board is holding this public hearing to hear evidence,
8 ask questions, and to listen to questions and concerns
9 of registered intervenors, community representatives,
10 and members of the public in order to assess the
11 potential ecosystemic and socioeconomic effects of the
12 changes proposed by Agnico Eagle under the extension
13 proposal.

14 For those of you not able to attend the meeting
15 yesterday due to travel delays, the Board welcomes you
16 and appreciates your participation. I invite you to
17 pick up a copy of the agenda and Agnico Eagle's
18 overview and site visit presentations from the back
19 table so that you can see what information was
20 presented yesterday.

21 For those of you in the hall, we ask that you sign
22 in at the table as you enter the hall for each of the
23 sessions today: morning, afternoon, and evening. This
24 will help the Board keep an accurate record of
25 attendance.

26 For everyone's benefit, I will do a quick summary

1 of the format of this hearing and outline the parties
2 who are participating in the room and online. Although
3 the Board has focused on returning to in-person
4 proceedings to allow the public to participate and
5 speak to the parties and the Board directly, due to
6 limits on the availability of hotel rooms in
7 Rankin Inlet and with the number of intervenors
8 participating in this assessment, the Board has also
9 provided an audio-video link for this hearing so that
10 parties providing support to the representatives in the
11 room can view the proceedings remotely and will be able
12 to speak to provide follow-up support if required.
13 Please have patience as we switch between speakers, and
14 for the sake of our interpreters and sound tech, please
15 wait until I call your name before you speak.

16 If you are participating by Zoom, when your name
17 is called, please click on the "raise your hand" button
18 at the bottom of the screen, and this will help the
19 techs identify you more quickly so that they can unmute
20 your line and turn on your camera.

21 So that everyone is aware, because the Board has
22 prioritized in-person participation, although the Board
23 will do everything we can to ensure that the remote
24 link remains stable and available, as we all know,
25 sometimes the technology is interrupted due to
26 circumstances outside -- outside the Board's control.

1 If this occurs, the Board will continue with the
2 in-person proceedings as planned. We thank everyone in
3 advance for your flexibility and patience as we work
4 through any interruptions in remote access.

5 Simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings is
6 being provided throughout the meetings from
7 interpreters here in Rankin Inlet. In the Zoom feed,
8 you can choose the language feed you want to hear, but
9 when you go to speak, you may have to turn off the
10 interpretation feed to avoid feedback.

11 For people here in Rankin Inlet, receivers are
12 available from the sign-in table, and receivers are set
13 to Channel 1, is the floor sound; Channel 2 is English;
14 and Channel 3, Inuktitut; and Channel 4 in Dene.

15 If you are having trouble hearing the proceedings,
16 please see our technical support, Ryan Dempster from
17 Pido, at the side of the room.

18 If you're having issues with the online feed,
19 please email Emily Koide at ekoide@nirb.ca.

20 Just a quick reminder to everyone participating in
21 this hearing that no one is permitted to record or
22 rebroadcast the images, video, or audio of these
23 proceedings in any form without the express written
24 consent of the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Failing to
25 follow these directions may result in sanctions by the
26 Board including suspending access to the live feed or

1 being asked to leave the hall.

2 The NIRB is generating a transcript from these
3 proceedings which will be available following the
4 hearing on the NIRB's public registry.

5 Now that you know how to participate in our
6 proceedings, I'll give you some background about the
7 purpose and process of this hearing.

8 As I stated already, I'm Kaviq Kaluraq, the
9 chairperson of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and I'm
10 from Baker Lake. I've served continuously with the
11 Board since my first term in 2010, and with me today
12 are my fellow board members. We're the decision-makers
13 for this assessment. And I'll ask them to introduce
14 themselves starting with Guy.

15 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 I am Guy Alikut, board member. I've been with the
17 NIRB for 13 years, and I'm originally from Arviat.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. EMRICK: My name is Catherine Emrick.
20 I'm from Calgary, and I've been with the Board -- this
21 is my 6th year. Thank you.

22 MR. OMINGMAKYOK: I'm Phillip Omingmakyok. I've
23 been with the Board for 12 years now, and I'm from
24 Kugluktuk.

25 MR. EHALOAK: Good morning. Albert Ehaloak.
26 Originally from Cambridge Bay, now live in Iqaluit, and

1 this is my second term. Thank you.

2 MR. KUSUGAK: Good morning. Peter Kusugak.

3 Second year -- second year in my term. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: We also have several members
5 of the Board staff and legal counsel supporting the
6 Board during the public hearing. In the interest of
7 time, I'm not going to reintroduce everyone, but for
8 parties just joining us, if you need help from the
9 Board, our staff are wearing NIRB name tags and will be
10 happy to assist you.

11 I am also not going to reintroduce everyone who
12 introduced themselves yesterday, but to ensure the
13 Board has an accurate record of all participants, I ask
14 that if your organization has had new representatives
15 join the hearing today, that you bring your updated
16 list of your representatives including your primary
17 speaker to the Board's legal counsel, Teresa Meadows,
18 so that we can update our list.

19 Around the table, during these technical sessions,
20 we have representatives from Agnico Eagle, the
21 proponent. Intervenors -- the intervenors are Nunavut
22 Tunngavik Incorporated. Kivalliq Inuit Association,
23 Government of Nunavut, Crown-Indigenous Relations and
24 Northern Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change
25 Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Health Canada,
26 Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada, Kangiqliniq

1 Hunters and Trappers Organization, Sayisi Dene
2 First Nation, Northlands Denesuline First Nation,
3 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

4 I would like to notify all participants these
5 proceedings are open to the media and may be attended
6 by media representatives. If members of the media are
7 attending in person, we ask that you check in at the
8 table -- at the front table and wear a press badge or
9 similar identification throughout these proceedings so
10 that it is clear to parties which media outlet you're
11 representing.

12 Media participating online should provide notice
13 to Ryan Barry, the NIRB's interim executive director,
14 rbarry@nirb.ca, and inquiries for information from
15 media representatives should also be sent to Ryan.

16 The Board welcomes the media providing information
17 about these meetings to those who cannot attend;
18 however, I remind everyone that the Board members and
19 our staff cannot take questions or provide interviews
20 to the media or make public comments regarding these
21 meetings while we are underway.

22 Before I turn things over to Agnico Eagle to
23 finish their presentation, there are some final
24 housekeeping matters to cover. For those of you not
25 familiar with the hall here in Rankin Inlet, the
26 washrooms are located outside this room in the lobby

1 area, exits are located through the main doors to the
2 lobby and on the side of the room and at the front and
3 back doors -- back corners.

4 As you will see from the agenda, today's technical
5 sessions will include an evening session, so our
6 schedule for the day is 9 AM to 5 PM Central Time.
7 There will be a mid-morning break, a lunch break around
8 noon Central Time, and a mid-afternoon break and a
9 dinner break between 5 and 6:30 Central Time. Today's
10 evening session will start at 6:30 and conclude at 9 PM
11 Central.

12 Lastly, to ensure that everyone has a reasonable
13 opportunity to participate in these meetings, the Board
14 requires that everyone respect the following Board
15 directions.

16 It's our tradition to give respect to our Elders.
17 Therefore we invite any Elders who are in attendance to
18 let our staff indicate to me that they wish to speak so
19 that we can hear the comments provided. We do ask that
20 Elders wait until I say their name and our staff can
21 get a microphone in front of them before they speak.
22 It's very difficult to predict the precise time
23 requirements for presentations and questions, and as a
24 result the schedule remains somewhat flexible.

25 Consequently, the Board asks that all participants
26 bear with us as we adjust to reflect the needs of the

1 participants and the Board throughout these meetings.
2 To make the best use of our time, please respect the
3 timelines set out in the agenda and the time I've set
4 for breaks and return promptly to the proceedings. We
5 have a lot to cover during these hearings, and we
6 cannot wait for late arrivals.

7 For all participants, please do not interrupt when
8 a person is speaking. Please do not begin speaking
9 until I say your name as I'm often waiting for the
10 interpreters to finish their work before we turn to
11 another speaker.

12 For community representatives set out in the
13 agenda for the community roundtable, when the technical
14 sessions are done, there will be an orderly opportunity
15 for you to ask questions during the community
16 roundtable about the topics included in the various
17 technical presentations during the first few days of
18 the hearing. Please keep track of your questions and
19 comments for our discussions during the community
20 roundtable.

21 For the sake of our interpreters and all other
22 participants, when it's your turn to speak, please use
23 a microphone, state your name and your community or who
24 you represent, then speak clearly and at a reasonable
25 pace.

26 Also, please do not use abbreviations and

1 acronyms, and be mindful that some terms may require
2 our interpreters to take time to explain in detail. So
3 please be aware of the interpreters and pause when it
4 appears they need extra time to explain what you are
5 saying.

6 And a reminder. Please turn your cell phones and
7 electronic devices on silent. The Board asks all
8 participants joining the proceedings to be patient with
9 each other and the Board as the technology we use may
10 result in interruptions and limitations that are
11 outside of the parties' and the Board's control.

12 And finally I'd like to remind everyone that
13 comments intended to denigrate or belittle the views or
14 comments of other participants or simply intended to
15 disrupt the proceedings are not appropriate and may
16 result in the Board sanctioning such commentators.

17 The Board recognizes that parties may have very
18 different and strong opinions about this assessment,
19 but we appreciate everyone sharing their views in a way
20 that is respectful and productive. And we thank all
21 parties in advance for participating in this hearing in
22 that spirit. The Board appreciates everyone's
23 contribution to a respectful and productive hearing.

24 Going back to Agnico Eagle to finish their
25 overview presentation.

26 Manon Turmel.

1 Presentation by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Meliadine
2 Extension - Overview)

3 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

4 Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 Good morning. So we will restart where we left
6 off with my colleague, Sophie. Thank you.

7 MS. LACOURSE: Thank you, Manon, Madam Chair.

8 My name is Sophie Lacourse with Agnico Eagle. In
9 the next slides, we will go through the summary of
10 public engagement and community response update. Next
11 slide. Thanks.

12 The community engagement program for the Meliadine
13 extension encompassed over 30 engagement activities,
14 including one-on-one meetings, coffee and chats, local
15 Elders' meetings, focus groups, public consultations,
16 and open houses. Following last November's technical
17 meeting, Agnico Eagle has continued to engage with
18 community members on the Meliadine extension to gather
19 feedback and provide up-to-date information and
20 included a total of 17 engagement --

21 THE CHAIR: Hold on. We don't -- I don't
22 have a button to mute you guys, and the interpreter
23 doesn't have their light. You're talking too fast. So
24 if you can please pause between sentences and slow down
25 your pace. Now I'm okay. Okay.

26 Okay. You can continue.

1 MS. LACOURSE: I'll start from the last
2 paragraph. Makes sense.

3 Following last November's technical meeting,
4 Agnico Eagle has continued to engage with community
5 members to gather feedback and provide up-to-date
6 information and included a total of 17 engagement
7 activities.

8 Here are some examples: two meetings with the
9 Kivalliq Elders advisory committee, one site visit to
10 Raglan Mine's wind farm, two site visits on water
11 management infrastructure at the Meliadine Mine site,
12 two focus group meetings with Rankin Inlet Elders and
13 cabin owners, and one focus group with Whale Cove's
14 Elders.

15 By listening to community members throughout
16 engagement activities, Agnico Eagle is taking a
17 proactive approach by adapting traditional place-names
18 into our plans and seeking advice from the Kivalliq
19 Elders advisory committee, designing the Meliadine
20 extension to be almost entirely within the same
21 footprint as the approved Meliadine Mine, by ongoing
22 support for community program training opportunities
23 and educational initiatives, by continuing to comply
24 with monitoring and management plans to protect the
25 environment, and by adjusting plans where required for
26 the Meliadine extension.

1 Through engagement activities, Agnico Eagle has
2 collected traditional knowledge. We collected
3 traditional knowledge in a structured and neutral
4 environment through our Kivalliq Elders advisory
5 committee. This committee was established in 2021 in
6 recognition of the important role of Kivalliq Elders'
7 knowledge of Inuit and community knowledge.

8 This process is shared by an independent member
9 and supported by David Kritterdlik, our traditional and
10 wildlife advisor. David has taught Agnico that
11 traditional knowledge is not owned by one but by many.
12 This now serves as the basis of our traditional
13 knowledge integration.

14 The Kivalliq Elders advisory committee is
15 comprised of 21 Elders from Baker Lake, Chesterfield
16 Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Arviat.

17 In 2022, two meetings took place with the Kivalliq
18 Elders advisory committee to discuss the Meliadine
19 extension. Topics included the removal of the proposed
20 airstrip from the project proposal and additional
21 information on the wind farm such as noise level,
22 positioning of the turbines, and the alternative
23 resources that were evaluated. We are honoured that
24 David is part of the team and would like to say a
25 special thank you to the members of the Kivalliq Elders
26 advisory committee.

1 Additionally, since November 2021, Agnico Eagle
2 has met with the cabin owners several times to discuss
3 topics such as the Meliadine extension, cabin
4 identification on laps, road to Discovery information
5 sharing, and water management at the Meliadine Mine.

6 I will now pass the presentation to my colleague,
7 Colleen.

8 THE CHAIR: Colleen Prather.

9 MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
10 Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle. Next slide. Next
11 slide, please.

12 The Meliadine extension assessment followed the
13 methods implemented in the 2014 assessment, the
14 2018 assessment, and the 2020 assessment. A pathway
15 analysis was completed for all valued components. Only
16 three new primary pathways were identified outside of
17 the 2014 assessment. These were all related to the new
18 component of the wind farm. No other new pathways were
19 identified.

20 The pathway analysis, including the three new
21 pathways, represents a minor change from the
22 2014 assessment and approved mining activities. We
23 will go into more details of valued ecosystem
24 components and valued socioeconomic components in the
25 next two presentations. Next slide, please.

26 Conclusions of the assessment were as follows:

1 There will be no negative significant impacts. There
2 will be positive socioeconomic benefits including
3 training and jobs, business partnerships, and tax
4 revenue. Greenhouse gases will be reduced. There will
5 be no significant cumulative effects. We anticipate
6 further discussion on water and waste topics during the
7 Nunavut Water Board Type A water licence process.

8 The extensive and robust monitoring and management
9 plans will continue to be used to mitigate, monitor,
10 and report on environmental performance against the
11 regulatory requirements.

12 I will now pass the presentation back to
13 Jennifer Range. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Jennifer Range.

15 MS. RANGE: Madam Chair. Jennifer Range
16 with Agnico Eagle. This will be an overview of the
17 final written submissions.

18 Following the pre-hearing conference in March,
19 Agnico Eagle recognized that the Nunavut Impact Review
20 Board required additional information to support their
21 review of the Meliadine extension proposal. Further
22 work was requested to resolve issues with responsible
23 parties with respect to the wind farm, caribou, in-pit
24 deposition, and water management.

25 As we will hear in the upcoming presentations,
26 Agnico Eagle has met the requests of the Nunavut Impact

1 Review Board and responsible parties by providing
2 sufficient evidence to complete the technical review.

3 We thank all parties, consultants, and community
4 members who have been part of the process over the past
5 months. The additional studies, meetings, calls, and
6 collaboration have enabled us to resolve technical
7 comments.

8 This graph reflects the final written submissions
9 received based on valued component and the resolution
10 status. It also shows commitments that have not been
11 completed; however, as per Agnico Eagle's list of
12 commitments, these were to be completed following
13 issuance of the project certificate, such as updating
14 the spill management plan.

15 With the evidence before the Board, studies
16 completed, and commitments -- commitments executed,
17 Agnico Eagle considers technical comments addressed and
18 resolved.

19 Madam Chair, this concludes Agnico's overview
20 presentation.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your
22 presentation.

23 Now moving on to questions from intervenors,
24 Agnico Eagle's project overview presentation.
25 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Questions Agnico Eagle
26 Mines Limited

1 THE CHAIR: First, Nunavut Tunngavik
2 Incorporated, Gabriel Nirlungayuk.

3 MS. GONZALEZ: Ulllaakut. Neida Gonzalez,
4 legal counsel for Nunavut Tunngavik.

5 We do have some questions related to the
6 alternatives to the wind farm. You did provide some
7 brief explanation of the other alternatives that you
8 looked at, and we are -- we are interested in what
9 other investigations for solar, for -- for other types
10 of green -- greenhouse gas reduction methods that could
11 have been used, and also carbon offsets. So if you
12 could provide a little more information as to the
13 alternatives that were reviewed, that would be helpful.
14 Thank you. Qujannamiik.

15 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

16 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

17 Thank you for your question. We looked at other
18 alternative energy for -- renewable energy other than
19 the wind farm. In the north, there's not that many
20 options that are readily available and that can provide
21 an important amount of energy which the mine requires.
22 Solar energy is -- is definitely an option, but for the
23 amount of energy we require, the wind energy is a known
24 technology that has the capacity.

25 Solar could be used as a -- additional sources,
26 but cannot be the primary one. If you look at solar as

1 well to have -- to provide energy, it -- it requires a
2 lot of space for the different solar panels, but
3 primarily it's -- the wind farm can provide the --
4 the -- the energy -- sufficient energy to power the
5 mine and really displace a -- a significant amount of
6 fuel.

7 We also looked at hydropower. We also looked at
8 nuclear. The technology is not there yet. So those
9 are some other renewable energy we looked at.

10 And you've also referred to carbon offsets, and as
11 I've mentioned in the overview presentation, Agnico
12 Eagle wants to invest in something that will help
13 reduce greenhouse gas emissions rather than pay for a
14 project elsewhere. Hopefully this answers your
15 question. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Tunngavik
17 Incorporated, Neida Gonzalez.

18 MS. GONZALEZ: Qujannamiik. Yes. That's
19 fine for now. Thank you.

20 Kivalliq Inuit Association Questions Agnico Eagle Mines
21 Limited

22 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
23 Luis Manzo.

24 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

26 Legal counsel will ask a question, and then I will

1 proceed and ask some other technical questions.

2 MR. KATZ: Thank you. Jonathan Katz,
3 legal counsel, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

4 In your overview presentation yesterday, a
5 reference was made to the Tiriganiaq-Wolf mining area
6 being a continuation of an existing deposit. I note
7 that in the community roundtable presentation which
8 you'll be giving on Saturday at slide 17, you state
9 that you're proposing to develop a new deposit, the
10 Wolf underground. Can you confirm that you are
11 developing a new deposit as part of the Meliadine
12 extension project proposal? Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

14 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

15 Thank you for lending me the opportunity to make
16 it clear. Tiriganiaq-Wolf is a continuation of the
17 Tiriganiaq deposit which we're currently mining
18 underground, and the deposit's -- it's, like, a long
19 line. And so we're basically mining from this area,
20 and this new portal will -- would help us access it
21 from a different location. So it's not a new deposit.
22 It's the continuation of the existing Tiriganiaq
23 deposit. Thank you.

24 MR. KATZ: Just -- Jonathan Katz, legal
25 counsel, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

26 So can you just confirm, then, that slide 17 in

1 the community roundtable presentation -- again, that
2 Wolf is not a new deposit, or is it a new deposit?

3 THE CHAIR: If you can please turn off
4 your microphone and just remember for me to wait to
5 refer to you 'cause I'm usually -- I'm listening to the
6 interpreters so everyone can understand clearly.

7 Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

8 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

9 Please give me just 30 seconds. I'll pull the
10 slides just to make sure I'm clear in my response.

11 I confirm that this is an error in slide 17 of the
12 community roundtable. We should have mentioned as
13 we've mentioned in our project description and other
14 applications; it should have been written "mining
15 area", not a "new deposit". Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
17 Luis Manzo.

18 MR. MANZO: Sorry. Something with the
19 button.

20 In slide 13 of your presentation, you mentioned in
21 the location with the wind power -- several items in
22 that page was mentioned an archeology caribou site.
23 And this would not have impact, in the -- in the
24 conclusion as it's not -- it's not going to be a
25 detriment, an impact for the community, so for -- for
26 Kivalliq.

1 In the investigation of caribou, can you elaborate
2 what kind of information you collect in regarding to
3 caribou and harvest in that location?

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

5 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

6 Just to confirm I understood well your question,
7 Mr. Manzo, this is related to harvesting primarily that
8 you want? Sounds good.

9 So Agnico Eagle has been working on the hunter
10 harvest study for the past three years, so we're --
11 we've completed three reports or analyses as per terms
12 and conditions of our project certificate that were
13 studies developed in collaboration with the hunters and
14 trappers organization. And basically for people in the
15 room, it's a calendar where harvesters will share where
16 they have had successful harvest, what time of the
17 year, that type of information. And so we've used
18 that -- that information, and overall the conclusion of
19 that study is that there's still harvest in the area
20 around Meliadine and the -- and the road, and it's
21 similar to what -- to before the -- the project was --
22 was in operation, and it's provided really valuable
23 information of where harvesting is occurring in the
24 project area.

25 So we can see that it's -- harvesting occurs
26 around -- around the road, not close to the road,

1 obviously, but in different areas, so not focused in a
2 specific area. So we've used a hunter harvest study,
3 which is the most up-to-date information that we are
4 aware of. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
6 Luis Manzo.

7 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
8 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

9 So if I'm correct in your response, you're
10 saying -- you're just saying the harvest study from the
11 road to make predictions in the location where the wind
12 power would -- would be placed; is that correct?

13 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

14 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

15 So this study does not only focus on the road.
16 It's the region around Rankin Inlet, the mine, so not
17 really only focusing on the road. So including the
18 area where the -- the wind farm will be. So that
19 whole -- whole region.

20 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
21 Luis Manzo.

22 MR. MANZO: Thank you. Luis Manzo,
23 Kivalliq Inuit Association.

24 Agnico Eagle did any analysis in between the last
25 study done by Nunavut Wildlife Management Board done
26 between two thousand -- two -- 2005. I mentioned that

1 last time. Which those conclusions give us that there
2 was a -- that area is a -- is -- is a hunting area, and
3 what the difference in between the reserves and the
4 existing reserves and what the changes are today in
5 existing operation, activities, things.

6 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

7 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

8 So the report that you are referring to, as you
9 mentioned, dates from 2005. Our hunter harvest study
10 was completed in 2020, 2021, and 2022. So it really
11 looks like -- looks at recent data and comparing to
12 baseline pre-mining activities. So this really has the
13 most up-to-date information and, like I mentioned,
14 working with the hunters and trappers organization to
15 make sure we get as much reports as possible. Thank
16 you.

17 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
18 Luis Manzo.

19 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 And thank you for the response.

21 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut,
22 Diane Lapierre or Atkinson. I forgot your first name.

23 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
24 Steven Atkinson on behalf of the Government of Nunavut.
25 No questions. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and

1 Northern Affairs Canada, Spencer Dewar.

2 MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

3 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern

4 Affairs Canada. No questions.

5 THE CHAIR: Environment and Climate Change

6 Canada, Victoria Shore.

7 MS. SHORE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Victoria Shore, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

9 No questions. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada,

11 Paul Harper.

12 MR. HARPER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 Paul Harper, Fisheries and Oceans Canada. No

14 questions.

15 THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Julie Anderson.

16 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 Julie Anderson, Health Canada. No questions.

18 THE CHAIR: Natural Resources Canada,

19 Peter Unger.

20 MR. UNGER: Qujannamiik. Peter Unger,

21 Natural Resources Canada. No questions. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada,

23 Adam Downing.

24 MR. DOWNING: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Adam Downing with Transport Canada. No questions at

26 this time.

1 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
2 Trappers Organization, Noel Kaludjak.

3 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
4 Noel Kaludjak, Rankin Inlet Hunters and Trappers. No
5 comments at the moment. Thank you.
6 Sayisi Dene First Nation Questions Agnico Eagle Mines
7 Limited

8 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
9 Geoff Bussidor.

10 MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Geoff
11 Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation.

12 I do have one question. Although the wind farm
13 has not been approved, but would there be any plans to
14 have lighting around the wind farm if it -- if it was
15 approved and to be built? I'm just wondering about
16 the -- that if -- if it's going to be -- it's part of
17 the plans. And thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

19 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

20 Please give me just one minute so I can have a
21 clear answer for you.

22 Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your
23 question. As per Transport Canada regulations, we are
24 required to have lighting on some of the turbines.
25 Depending on the final arrangement, we do not
26 necessarily need a light, which is typically a red

1 light, on each of the turbines, but it really depends
2 how far apart they are. But, yes, there would be a --
3 a red light on some of the turbines for -- for planes
4 and avoiding collisions. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
6 Geoff Bussidor.

7 MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Thank you for the response. Our biologist
9 Dan Chranowski does have questions.

10 THE CHAIR: Dan Chranowski.

11 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 Dan Chranowski, Matrix Solutions on behalf of Sayisi
13 and Northlands Dene and Denesuline First Nation.

14 I notice in -- on the -- page 32 of the overview,
15 it mentions only three new primary pathways identified
16 because of the wind farm. It appears that it is a -- a
17 lack of -- of concern about caribou. It -- it -- it
18 was just that they felt that -- you felt that it was --
19 only terrestrial birds would have a -- would there be
20 an impact. I wonder why that was not really brought up
21 as a new pathway, impacts to caribou from the wind
22 farm. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

24 MS. TURMEL: Please give me a few seconds.

25 I will come up with an answer.

26 Madam Chair, I would like Dan Coulton to address

1 this question, but he has not been sworn in, Madam --
2 Madam Chair.

3 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
4 Counsel

5 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut
8 Impact Review Board.

9 If I can have the witness state and spell your
10 name for the record, please.

11 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
12 name is Dan Coulton. My name is spelled D-A-N; last
13 name is C-O-U-L-T-O-N.

14 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Coulton. Do
15 you wish to be sworn or affirmed.

16 MR. COULTON: Affirmed, please.

17 DANIEL COULTON, Affirmed

18 MS. MEADOWS: Teresa Meadows, legal counsel
19 for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

20 Thank you, Madam Chair. Those are my procedural
21 matters.

22 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Dan Coulton.

23 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 Dan Coulton, WSP for Agnico Eagle.

25 Sensory disturbances are the primary pathways
26 associated with the wind farm in addition to direct

1 habitat loss. Those pathways were assessed as part of
2 the 2014 FEIS, so they are not new pathways associated
3 with the wind farm.

4 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
5 Dan Chranowski.

6 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Sorry. Thank you.
7 Dan Chranowski, Sayisi and Northlands Denesuline
8 First Nation.

9 The -- the sensory impacts pathway, was -- was,
10 like, a lot of general stuff. This is a new actual
11 development, and I -- I question why -- if terrestrial
12 birds could receive a -- have sensory disturbance as
13 well, why caribou would not have new sensory
14 disturbance and a new pathway? Thank you.

15 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Dan Coulton.

16 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
17 Dan Coulton, WSP for Agnico Eagle.

18 Sensory disturbances include things like lights,
19 sound, noise, dust. They're not specific to what type
20 of source they are, and so all those things would be
21 emanating and were assumed to be emanating from the
22 wind farm for the Meliadine extension addendum, but
23 those were already considered as primary pathways for
24 the 2014 FEIS.

25 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
26 Dan Chranowski.

1 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Dan Chranowski with Matrix Solutions Dene
3 First Nations.

4 I will have one other question, and it pertains to
5 the wind farm locations. Agnico Eagle has been,
6 through a lot of our questions, have really looked at
7 many different options. What I consistently hear is
8 that wind farms should be placed in the optimum
9 location to maximize power generation, and from their
10 analysis, it shows that wind primarily comes from the
11 northwest. Of all the options that have been looked
12 at, when I look at the actual approved footprint, I
13 still do not see suggested locations on the west side
14 of -- of the -- the footprint. And when you look at
15 the footprint, most of it faces north, but if the winds
16 are coming from the northwest, why wasn't there options
17 to look at close to the footprint and facing northwest?
18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

20 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

21 Please give me a few seconds, and I will be back.

22 THE CHAIR: Actually, it's 10:15 right
23 now, so we're going to take a 15-minute break.

24 (ADJOURNMENT)

25 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.

26 Continuing with questions to Agnico Eagle. Just for

1 the awareness of participants, there is media in the
2 room, Donna Adams representing CBC, and she's wearing a
3 badge.

4 Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

5 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

6 Before I answer your question on the alternative
7 locations, Madam Chair, if I could just provide a point
8 of clarification on the previous question on the
9 pathways. I would let Dan just provide a quick
10 clarification, and then I'll answer your follow-up
11 question. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Dan Coulton.

13 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 Dan Coulton, WSP.

15 My interpretation of the question that was asked
16 was why sensory disturbance wasn't a new pathway
17 associated with the farm. The assessment pathway
18 itself of sensory disturbance was not new because it
19 was already a primary pathway in the 2014 FEIS;
20 however, new sensory disturbances associated with the
21 wind farm were assessed in the Meliadine extension
22 application. Additional details about this will be
23 provided in our next presentation. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

25 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

26 Thank you, Dan.

1 So your question before the break was: We're
2 looking at the locations to the northwest, but why
3 haven't we looked at the west for options? For us, our
4 goal is to reduce our footprint, be as compact as
5 possible. And so if we were to install it to the west,
6 additional roads would be required. There's a number
7 of lakes in that area as well, so there would be
8 additional infrastructures required. So that's why we
9 have looked at the northwest area with more interest,
10 and it was preferred for us. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nations,
12 Dan Chranowski.

13 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.
14 Dan Chranowski, Sayisi and Northlands Dene and
15 Denesuline First Nation.

16 With the extension, you have actually expanded
17 your footprint by proposing these wind farms to the
18 northwest. My suggestion is that the west side
19 actually could be utilized because it already has --
20 you are expanding -- you have expansion right to that
21 area, and, from my point of view, it looks like there's
22 space there that would not have to extend as far into
23 the habitat of caribou.

24 From yesterday's site visit, when I looked at the
25 three locations, they're all in prime caribou movement
26 corridors, high, elevated, escape from insects. And

1 when you talk about maximization of power generation,
2 certainly it seems to make sense to put them in that
3 location; however, I don't believe you've looked at all
4 locations. I believe that the west side also has
5 potential because it is already on the west side and
6 there won't be interference from the mine itself,
7 especially if those turbines are faced to the northwest
8 to maximize power potential. So I would like Agnico
9 Eagle to commit to looking at that in more detail.

10 Now, I have other questions. Madam Chair, may I
11 continue? Thank you.

12 One follow-up to the primary pathways. Sensory
13 disturbance comes in all forms: noise, visual. It --
14 the 2022 and 2014 all emphasized mainly noise sensory
15 disturbances and not visual disturbances to caribou.
16 Not only just the primary visual impacts of seeing
17 these wind turbines from a distance, but also it
18 doesn't appear there was any analysis of secondary
19 visual impacts. Caribou that first see these wind
20 turbines will react, and other caribou following behind
21 will have an -- will be impacted as well from their
22 observing the caribou ahead of them. There does not
23 appear to be any discussion in that regard in your FEIS
24 as far as the visual impacts of these wind farms to
25 caribou. I'd like to see that further investigated and
26 why you didn't address those impacts.

1 I could leave that one with -- if they wanted to
2 answer. I could ask one more final question. Thank
3 you.

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

5 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

6 Please give me a moment. I'll be right back.

7 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Dan Coulton.

8 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 Dan Coulton, WSP.

10 The assessment of sensory disturbances from the
11 wind farm included application of zones of influence
12 that described the extent -- the spacial extent of
13 changes in caribou distribution. The extents applied
14 were conservative and based on scientific information,
15 and so the extent of the change would include the
16 phenomena described. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
18 Dan Chranowski.

19 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 While it's indicated -- sorry -- Dan Chranowski.
21 While it's -- the statement here is that that included
22 visual impacts from primary and secondary impacts.
23 That information was not in the FEIS. It did not
24 describe that in any detail at all. I will leave that
25 as a -- as a deficiency, in our regard.

26 On page 12, it related to the alternate locations

1 of possible locations for the wind farm. It -- it
2 seems that Agnico Eagle always mentions that a location
3 further away from the mine causes a loss of energy to
4 get the energy up to the mine. What's missing is how
5 much is there a loss? Is it one more percent, or is
6 it, The wind turbines apparently are going to displace
7 40 percent of the need for -- for -- will reduce the
8 greenhouse gas emissions roughly by 40 percent or take
9 up 40 percent of the energy needs? What is the loss in
10 changing the location from an energy that is generated
11 and received by Agnico Eagle from having the wind
12 turbines closer to town and then getting it moved up to
13 Agnico Eagle? There's never been a discussion about
14 how much that is in loss. Is it minor, or is it major?
15 Give us a number. It would be nice.

16 And as we are along on alternate energy sources,
17 can I ask Agnico Eagle if they have looked at the new
18 technology even further on solar energy? Diavik Mine
19 recently has identified that they have purchased
20 double-sided solar panels. They collect energy from
21 the sun, but in the winter they still collect energy
22 because they're double-sided and the light reflects off
23 the snow and comes underneath the solar panels. They
24 say that is -- almost doubles their energy production.
25 I would like to see Agnico Eagle -- a request that they
26 look into that. That may actually provide them another

1 real energy source.

2 And the final comment I -- when they talk about a
3 solar panel farm taking up a lot of space, I saw a lot
4 of space at the -- of the site when I looked at the
5 site visit yesterday. I think you have space, but
6 ...

7 Thank you. I appreciate making these comments and
8 asking for the clarification.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

10 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
11 Please give me just a quick moment.

12 Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your
13 questions, Dan. I will answer the first one, and then
14 I'll have Nicholas -- she [sic] has not been sworn
15 in -- answer the following questions.

16 So when we were assessing the alternatives in
17 Rankin Inlet, this was a factor, the loss of energy,
18 but it's not a major factor into us determining that
19 our preferred option is at the site. It's primarily a
20 driver of -- it's cost primarily, and we are -- to us,
21 we feel that the wind farm at site will be as
22 protective as -- as caribou.

23 And there were other factors as well, if you
24 looked at the May 23rd memo that were looked at, but I
25 just wanted to clarify loss of energy was not a key
26 driver in the decision, and I'll let Nicholas answer

1 the other ones.

2 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
3 Counsel

4 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

5 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
7 Review Board.

8 If I could have the witness state and spell your
9 name for the record, please.

10 MR. ALLEN: Madam Chair, thank you.

11 My name is Nicholas Allen, N-I-C-H-O-L-A-S
12 A-L-L-E-N, from Agnico Eagle.

13 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
15 Review Board.

16 Mr. Allen, do you wish to be sworn or affirmed?

17 THE WITNESS: Affirmed, please.

18 NICHOLAS ALLEN, Affirmed

19 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Allen.

20 Those are all my procedural matters, Madam Chair.

21 THE CHAIR: Nicholas Allen.

22 MR. ALLEN: Madam Chair, thank you.

23 Nicholas Allen from Agnico Eagle, manager of
24 decarbonization projects for all of the Nunavut sites,
25 so participated in the decarbonization plan for the
26 Nunavut mines.

1 Dan, thank you for your question. On the solar,
2 we evaluated all options. So the double-sided were
3 evaluated as well as single, double access, and the
4 cost associated with them. So the area -- sorry. I'll
5 wait a bit. So the area that we calculated that is
6 necessary for solar panels at 1 to 3 kilometres square
7 is for all these technologies. So it is better with
8 double-sided, but it's not necessary -- it does still
9 take more than a kilometre square of area.

10 THE CHAIR: Can you repeat the last part
11 that you said for the interpreters, please.

12 MR. ALLEN: Madam Chair, thank you.
13 Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

14 Evaluating all different technologies for solar,
15 even with the best ones, would require more than one
16 square kilometre of area.

17 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nations,
18 Dan Chranowski.

19 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 Is there any -- was there any estimate of what
21 amount of energy that would be -- that is needed by the
22 mine that would get displaced by solar energy of all
23 types as -- my questions are leading because I see that
24 solar doesn't move like wind farms do, and so it would
25 be nice to know the difference in energy generation by
26 a large solar panel, double-sided type of structure,

1 and its benefits to Agnico Eagle. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Nicholas --
3 Manon Turmel.

4 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
5 Please give me a moment.

6 MR. ALLEN: Madam Chair, thank you.
7 Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

8 So your question was how much energy can be
9 produced with the solar panels? So if I go one step
10 back, our objective of minus 30 percent for 2030, we're
11 looking at the best options to do this. I do want to
12 mention -- I think it's important that before looking
13 at solar or wind turbines, we looked at reducing energy
14 on-site. I think that should also be said. A lot has
15 been done, and of the -- of the 30 percent that we want
16 to reach, putting all efforts into energy efficiency,
17 reducing at the source, we can do 5 percent of the 30.
18 So for the rest we looked at alternative energies.
19 That's where solar and wind and all the others come in.

20 And solar versus wind, to answer your question,
21 what we were saying for the area of 1 or 2 kilometres
22 square is for an equivalent hour of the wind turbines
23 that we want to install.

24 So to reach our target with solar is not possible
25 because of the area it would take, but also the cost
26 would be more than twice over that because of the solar

1 resource of the sun we have here versus the wind that
2 is a very good resource.

3 And I go back to the land, but one of the main
4 reasons is how much effect we would have on land with
5 the wind turbines versus the solar. Solar panels are
6 on the ground and block really any passage of any
7 wildlife or peoples. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nations,
9 Dan Chranowski.

10 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 And thank you for those enlightening information,
12 things that I really didn't see in any of the
13 discussions in the FEIS detail that would be helpful
14 until finding it out now.

15 I guess I did notice that you had predicted your
16 carbon emissions in 2022 were lower than predicted
17 levels and possibly due to the efforts of being more
18 efficient. But, in the end, if you really wanted to be
19 carbon neutral, carbon offset purchases actually make
20 you carbon neutral now and continuing into the future.
21 I know it's not an actual reduction up here, but carbon
22 offset purchases can be purchased and make a real
23 difference overall. I recognize it's a cost to the
24 company, but it shows true environmental leadership
25 when it comes to carbon CO2 emissions.

26 So thank you, Madam Chair. I have no further

1 questions.

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

3 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

4 You were mentioning that there's a few of this
5 information, that it's the first time that you're
6 seeing, but I do note that Agnico Eagle and Ghotelnene
7 K'odtineh Dene First Nations had numerous discussions,
8 meetings, formal, informal, on various topics in which
9 some of these information were included. So I do note
10 that we've had various discussions around that topic.
11 It's not all new information.

12 And I just want to reiterate regarding the offsets
13 that Agnico Eagle wants to be part of the solution, be
14 actively involved in decarbonization, not funding,
15 like, broad offsetting options, and I do note that if
16 we reduce emissions at the site overall, it also can
17 improve the air quality in the area. So we want to be
18 actively participating in that, finding a solution.
19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Northlands Dene First Nation,
21 Benjamin Denechezhe.

22 Northlands Dene First Nation Questions Agnico Eagle
23 Mines Limited

24 MR. DENECHZHE: Good morning, Madam Chair.

25 Thank you. Benjamin Denechezhe, Northlands First
26 Nation.

1 Sitting here as you discuss various options that's
2 presented to us and the amount of information that's
3 been provided, in the past when you first presented in
4 Winnipeg, the concerns that you brought forth regarding
5 our -- our habitat and our way of life depending on the
6 caribou. Time and time I heard the costs associated
7 with certain aspects to your needs, but thinking about
8 the future and the reality that we're faced today with,
9 especially the climate change. Now, I understand
10 what's been discussed before us, but I'm also thinking
11 about our future, what lies ahead. A very sacred place
12 that, to us, is the calving ground and the migration
13 year after year.

14 And for the wind farm, that is something new to
15 the caribou. We don't know how they will react because
16 them caribou have never seen a wind farm. So that is
17 concerning. And you were clear about the options that
18 you looked at, but sitting here from the aboriginal
19 perspective, we're also considering our options, what's
20 the best solution. And I'm pretty sure that our
21 relatives that are living around these parts will also
22 consider that, the best solution, because, like I said,
23 we depend on the caribou, and if that affects us in the
24 long run, I don't know how or where we can replace that
25 because that's been in existence for thousands and
26 thousands of years.

1 So I'm pretty sure you understand where we're
2 coming from. We want to work with you, but also at the
3 same time we want the best option that's available in
4 front of us from both the company and the people that
5 utilize and live on and depend on caribou.

6 Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

8 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

9 Thank you for your comment, and I want to
10 reiterate that we also enjoyed all the engagement
11 activities that we've had with the Ghotelnene K'odtineh
12 Dene First Nations and the other indigenous groups.

13 We've heard, as you mentioned, that caribou is
14 very important for you, and it's very important for us
15 as well. Since the beginning of the construction of
16 the mine, we've continuously adapted to ensure
17 protection of caribou during the migration, and in the
18 next presentation, we'll go in a bit more detail as to
19 what we've done in the previous years working in the
20 field with indigenous groups to continue ensuring
21 caribou protection.

22 As for the proposed wind farm, we have developed
23 during the review process the wind farm management
24 plan, including some ideas from the intervenors, to
25 ensure that we monitor and mitigate properly any
26 potential impacts, and we don't consider this plan as

1 set in stone. We're open to additional ideas. We
2 heard some great ones in June, and we're open to
3 additional ones.

4 You're mentioning that cost is a factor, but I
5 just want to reiterate that we feel that the option
6 that we're proposing or close to the site is as
7 protective to caribou as positioning it closer to
8 Rankin Inlet.

9 THE CHAIR: If you can please pause. Slow
10 down. Back to the costs, where you were talking about
11 costs.

12 MS. TURMEL: Yes. So speaking about the
13 costs, it's not only that we've mentioned that the
14 option at site to us is as protective for caribou as
15 options closer to Rankin Inlet. We really appreciate
16 the feedback from intervenors on alternatives. Those
17 were really fruitful discussions and are looking
18 forward to continued discussions on monitoring and
19 mitigation measures. So thank you for your comment. I
20 really appreciated our engagement activities and
21 continue the moving forward. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
23 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.
24 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation Questions
25 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

26 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie

1 Rasmussen, consultant for the Athabasca Denesuline Ne
2 Ne Land Corporation.

3 We have a couple questions. First, I'd like to
4 say good morning to everyone, and thank you to the
5 Elder for the prayer this morning.

6 So in your presentation yesterday, you stated that
7 you don't believe that existing monitoring or existing
8 activities should be in the scope of this discussion.
9 However, you also stated that current monitoring will
10 continue as is for the -- if the extension is approved.
11 So that would be 11 more years of potential impacts to
12 caribou and to the land and people using the land.
13 It's 11 more years of potential risk and cumulative
14 impacts using current monitoring. So I think I'm
15 trying to understand your perspective. If you think
16 that we should not be reviewing current monitoring in
17 the scope of this extension, how can we possibly review
18 potential impacts, monitoring, and mitigation for the
19 11-year extension of the mine life? Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

21 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

22 So thank you for your question. We'll go in more
23 details regarding our existing monitoring and our
24 interpretation of why we think the existing monitoring
25 is adapted for the additional 11 years that we're
26 proposing. So we'll go in a bit more details in the

1 next presentation around that. Hopefully it's going to
2 answer your question or address your concerns.

3 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
4 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

5 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie
6 Rasmussen, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

7 So, just to clarify, will you be addressing in
8 further detail your position on the scope of what is
9 included in this review? Because my understanding,
10 based on your presentation, is that you seek current
11 monitoring outside of the scope, and at the same time
12 you're proposing that current monitoring will be used
13 for the extension. So those two -- those two
14 statements don't -- are in disagreement, to me. Thank
15 you.

16 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

17 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
18 Please just give me a quick moment.

19 Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. So as part of the
20 scope related to the extension, we've included the wind
21 farm management plan, which is related to the new
22 components, so the Meliadine extension, not the
23 existing mine. And so the continuation of the caribou
24 protection measures, yes, it's for the existing mine,
25 not related to the extension because we're not changing
26 anything to the road. We're not changing anything to

1 the other deposits or to the mine site. It's primarily
2 the wind farm that we'll be changing, and that is
3 addressed with the wind farm management plan.

4 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
5 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

6 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie
7 Rasmussen, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

8 A final comment on that question is just that the
9 change is an 11-year extension in mine life, so that's
10 a significant change for potential cumulative impacts
11 and -- as well as intensification of the mine activity
12 within the current footprint.

13 I do have a second question. I don't know if
14 Agnico Eagle wants to respond to that right now, but
15 ... Okay.

16 So my next question is also about the three
17 pathways that were identified, and I think in the
18 coming presentations we'll talk about this more, but,
19 for now, I would like to understand more Agnico Eagle's
20 decision to not talk about the shifting calving grounds
21 into the regional study area and the post-calving
22 grounds to have more impact and more interaction with
23 the mine site and study area.

24 Given the importance of calving and post-calving
25 grounds that both nonindigenous science and indigenous
26 knowledge speak to increased vulnerability, increased

1 potential for population level impacts, as well as the
2 fact that calving grounds have been -- are seen as
3 sacred and deserving of respect, it's hard to
4 understand how that information was not included as a
5 new pathway and how that information is still not being
6 included as a new pathway even though over the last
7 year of technical discussions it's been spoken about
8 very clearly that that is a significant change in the
9 project. So can Agnico Eagle speak to their
10 decision-making process to leave that very important
11 change and condition out of a new pathway assessment?
12 Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

14 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

15 Please give me a quick moment. I'll be right back.

16 Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. We've heard since we
17 did the engagement prior to the Meliadine mine being in
18 operation that caribou is very important. Calving and
19 post-calving areas are important for indigenous groups,
20 and we've also heard in those engagement activities
21 that caribou was not always taking the same path.
22 There was cyclicalality. In some of the first years of
23 the mine, we did not see caribou very much, and then in
24 the last years we've started to see them more and more,
25 and our current terrestrial plan is adaptable to that.
26 And we'll see it in the next presentations, but we can

1 see that the mine has been shutting down and mitigating
2 a lot more than when there were less caribou. So this
3 year -- we'll see the number, but it's approximately
4 28 days, I believe, of road closures or mine site
5 closures. So the TEMMP is adaptable. The terrestrial
6 plan is adaptable to changing conditions, and we are
7 working in collaboration with the hunters and trappers
8 organizations, the Kivalliq Inuit Associations in the
9 last years. They're with us in the field to take those
10 decisions on -- on closure.

11 Through the annual report as well we've received
12 comments. And the terrestrial advisory group and
13 previously to the group being in place, discussions
14 were happening between the different parties. So we've
15 continuously adapted to ensure caribou protection
16 because we know it's very important. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
18 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

19 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie
20 Rasmussen, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

21 Thank you for the response. I interpret having --
22 having more shutdown days due to more caribou
23 interacting with the mine is not an adaptation of
24 caribou protection because the triggers for protection
25 did not change when the shift of the calving grounds or
26 the intensification of interaction with post-calving

1 ground happened. Your plan and your triggers have
2 stayed the same, but because of more interaction,
3 there's been more days of shutdown. So, to me, that is
4 not an adaptation to acknowledge the significance and
5 the vulnerability of the calving grounds. No changes
6 have been made to your triggers for caribou protection
7 in response to the shifting calving and post-calving
8 grounds.

9 And I think I'll leave it there because I'm sure
10 we'll have more opportunity to discuss this in
11 future -- after future presentations.

12 We have one more question, Madam Chair, and it
13 will come from Diane McDonald. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

15 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

16 So our thresholds and triggers, so the 5-kilometre
17 distance when there's more than 50 caribou, has not
18 changed, but it's still very protective of caribou. It
19 still allows us to shut down. In reality, when the
20 migration comes in, you won't see anything on the road.
21 There's nothing happening. We do sometimes convoys
22 when we receive approval from local organizations, and
23 similar at the mine site, very, very, very limited
24 activities. The only approved are the ones from --
25 from our parties, so we've worked hand in hand in the
26 field with hunters and trappers organization and the

1 Kivalliq Inuit Association to ensure protection. So
2 our thresholds have not changed, but it allowed us to
3 be protective of caribou by shutting our roads,
4 shutting down our mine site, and we do note that the
5 threshold, the 5 kilometres, is one of the most
6 stringent in the industry. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
8 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

9 MS. MCDONALD: Good morning, Madam Chair.
10 Diane McDonald with the Athabasca Denesuline
11 representing three Athabasca First Nations: Black Lake
12 First Nation, Hatchet Lake, and Fond Du Lac First
13 Nation. Thank you for this opportunity.

14 I just want to allude to just the caribou itself.
15 As nomadic people from the Athabasca people, you know,
16 we've been known as nomadic, and we've followed caribou
17 through our life span, and this is the main food source
18 sustenance for us for thousands of years, and I
19 understand, you know, our neighbouring family members
20 here north of us are reliant on the caribou as a food
21 source as well, and I want to acknowledge that. And,
22 you know, from our experience in Saskatchewan, we are
23 faced with many uranium and gold mines. We have over a
24 hundred years experience dealing with potential impacts
25 to us from mining industry. So over the period of
26 years we've -- we've looked at caribou that -- how it

1 has impacted us over the years from mining -- from a
2 mining industry as well as a power line that was put in
3 to benefit the industry to operate their mines from --
4 from west of our community to further southeast to
5 Chief Tsannie's community, which is only about
6 20 kilometres.

7 And certainly caribou are very sensitive animals,
8 and -- and when you consider the windmills that
9 generate, it does produce many vibrations and movements
10 with noise and sounds, waves up to 30 to 40 kilometres,
11 and with the sensitive from caribou -- they have real
12 sensitive hearing, so that does have the potential
13 impacts of how caribou would react, and certainly it
14 has impacted us through power lines, that caribou has
15 not moved into southern Saskatchewan further past our
16 communities over the years. And primarily I'm going to
17 speak -- like, the Beverly herd was the primary, and
18 certainly with the Diavik Mine, they do have some wind
19 turbines, and certainly that herd has not come down to
20 our community since the '80s.

21 So we've seen many impacts from the caribou to our
22 community, and certainly that impacts our social
23 economics and our food sustenance that we depend on as
24 Denesuline people.

25 And certainly with the potential expansion of the
26 Meliadine Mine, certainly based on our experience and

1 the impacts that we have faced over the years with the
2 shifting of the calving grounds, that would also have
3 the impact further down the line for us, and certainly
4 caribou do travel a long ways. And certainly since the
5 power line has been put in, the caribou has not passed
6 the power line since the '80s when the power was put in
7 for the mining industry in -- in the Athabasca.

8 And I just want to allude back to the presentation
9 in terms of the -- back in June we had requested
10 that -- that we have a meeting with Elders from all the
11 communities, potential Elders that may be impacted by
12 this extension to discuss the shifting of the calving
13 and post-calving grounds. Agnico Eagle responded to
14 that because they have met with the Kivalliq Elders
15 advisory, that the request has been fulfilled.

16 However, Agnico Eagle has not met with the Elders
17 from the Athabasca Denesuline communities, so my
18 question is: How have you fulfilled this request if
19 you have not met with our Athabasca Denesuline Elders
20 to discuss this important topic that is great to us,
21 very great importance to us? It's imperative that I --
22 you know, why you haven't met with our Elders to seek
23 their advice as well? Marsi.

24 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

25 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

26 Thank you for your comments and questions.

1 In our next presentation, we will discuss a bit
2 more about noise and potential impacts from the wind
3 farm, so if we can hopefully address more of your
4 comments regarding that part of your question in that
5 presentation, hopefully it's going to clarify a few
6 things, and if you still have questions, please go
7 ahead after the presentation.

8 And regarding your comment on meeting with Elders,
9 the Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation joined
10 the review process in December and have been engaged in
11 workshops -- caribou workshops with various intervenors
12 in April, in June, and Agnico Eagle accompanied the
13 Nunavut Impact Review Board during its information
14 sessions in the various communities earlier this year,
15 but we are happy to continue discussions with the
16 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation as we are
17 continuing to advance or developing our wind farm
18 management plan as we recognize it's a -- it's
19 important for you. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
21 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

22 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Diane
23 McDonald, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Corporation.

24 I would like to refer this -- the response to your
25 comments to Katie.

26 Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 THE CHAIR: Katie Rasmussen.

2 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie
3 Rasmussen, consultant for the Athabasca Denesuline Ne
4 Ne Land Corporation.

5 Thank you for your responses. This request to
6 have a meeting with all -- with Elders from all
7 communities potentially impacted was directly in
8 response to information we didn't receive from Agnico
9 Eagle until May of 2023 showing the overlap with the
10 regional study area and the local study area of the
11 post-calving and calving grounds to see how much they
12 have shifted.

13 When the NIRB and Agnico Eagle came to the three
14 Athabasca Dene communities in March of 2023, that
15 information was not shared to our community members.

16 Because Denesuline knowledge teaches that calving
17 grounds are sacred and should be respected, this new
18 information that we received relatively late in this
19 review was very concerning for our members, which is
20 why a meeting of Elders to specifically address this
21 issue was requested.

22 In the response to that request in the
23 technical -- in the written technical comments, final
24 comments, Agnico Eagle sees that request as being met
25 without having ever met with the Athabasca Denesuline
26 Elders. That is what our question was referring to.

1 Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

3 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. I
4 would like to clarify that the information provided on
5 May 23rd, basically we've been able to provide it at
6 that time because before Agnico Eagle and the
7 Government of Nunavut were in discussion regarding
8 obtaining the collaring information to produce such
9 maps; however, in the field in the last years, Agnico
10 Eagle and local partners have adjusted based on more
11 caribou visiting our area during the migration. So
12 we've adapted to that.

13 As for the meeting, we can discuss with our
14 environment team or community relations team as to how
15 we could discuss further on that -- on that topic.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
18 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

19 MS. RASMUSSEN: Katie Rasmussen, consultant
20 for the Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.
21 Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 We appreciate the offer of ongoing conversations
23 and hope to see that discussion with Elders from
24 potentially impacted communities as it will be an
25 important discussion to guide how to move forward on
26 this proposal. I'd also just like to reiterate in

1 response to your response that while we appreciate the
2 adaptations you've made in the field, they have not
3 specifically addressed the shifting calving grounds,
4 and that needs to be -- we believe that needs to be
5 addressed as a significant change, and just having more
6 days where you're implementing the same measures is not
7 the same as adapting to recognizing that the calving
8 grounds have shifted to within the regional study area
9 and the potential impact of the mine. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

11 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. I
12 would like to take a quick moment. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, who will be
14 providing your response?

15 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel. It will be Dan.

16 THE CHAIR: Dan Coulton.

17 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 Dan Coulton, WSP.

19 In the May 23, 2023, submissions in response to
20 the Government of Nunavut's Technical Review Comment 05,
21 we included a distribution map of predicted calving
22 locations and calving mortality locations. None of
23 those locations occurred within the regional study
24 area, although there was some overlap with the
25 distribution boundary. And Agnico Eagle believes that
26 the mitigation is adaptive, as Manon referred to

1 previously, that as caribou increase, the frequency of
2 interacting with the mine and all-weather access road
3 and the duration of those interactions, triggers
4 additional mitigation, which is protective of caribou.
5 Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: It's almost lunchtime, and
7 we're still on, you know, questions to the overview
8 presentation, and there's actually several
9 presentations on the topics that are being discussed,
10 and the intervenors actually have dedicated time to
11 present comments for their intervention, so I'm going
12 to continue on the list for any questions to the
13 overview presentation.

14 NIRB staff, Tara Arko.

15 MS. ARKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tara
16 Arko, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff. Staff have no
17 questions at this time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 THE CHAIR: Any questions from the Board?
19 Guy?

20 Nunavut Impact Review Board Panel Questions Agnico
21 Eagle Mines Limited

22 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 I have two questions or two comments. My first
24 question is: Yesterday you had mentioned that the wind
25 turbines are going to be used. I wanted to get some
26 clarification. Once you're done using them at the mine

1 site, how -- can you clarify that for me, first of all?

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

4 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

5 Just to clarify the question, you would like to know
6 what we will be doing with the turbines after we are
7 done?

8 THE CHAIR: Guy Alikut, Nunavut Impact
9 Review Board member.

10 MR. ALIKUT: Yes. Correct.

11 THE CHAIR: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

12 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

13 So the life of the turbines are approximately 15 to
14 20 years, and we've always mentioned that we do not
15 want necessarily to operate them. We are willing and
16 still hoping that we can find a local partner to
17 operate the turbine, and we could buy it from them. So
18 if we were to close, that could continue.

19 But there's different opportunities. If we were
20 to operate them at the end, if the community has not
21 been involved and they want to be involved, there's --
22 we can have discussions to work with them, or another
23 option too, if there is no interest, is to dismantle
24 them, as we've put in our application, and landfill at
25 site. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: NIRB board member, Guy Alikut.

1 MR. ALIKUT: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Thank you for that clarification. The other
3 question that I have, you were saying that the -- once
4 the windmill is generating, that maybe the generation
5 would decrease. What distance would that be? So
6 what's the gridline? How much power is too far for the
7 wind turbines to -- too far to generate power? Thank
8 you.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

10 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

11 Please give me a quick moment. I'll be right back.

12 Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your
13 question. The generation and potential -- the loss in
14 power generation as the turbine is further and further
15 away from site is not a major factor. There's no
16 distance where we're losing the power as its, you know,
17 being transported along the cable. It's primarily
18 other factors that are driving why we want it closer to
19 the mine site. Hopefully I got your question right.
20 If not, please let me know. I'm happy to elaborate
21 more.

22 THE CHAIR: NIRB board member, Guy Alikut.

23 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. Thank you for that
24 clarification, and thank you, Madam Chair. That's all
25 the questions that I have. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Phillip Kadlun.

1 MR. KADLUN: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

2 Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

3 I also have a question on wind turbines. Firstly,
4 what is the plan for the turbines after the closure?
5 And my second question is whether the turbines requires
6 specialized technicians other than the ordinary
7 electrician that every community has.

8 Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

10 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

11 Thank you for your question. The first one on what
12 would we do with the turbines at closure, depending on
13 the interest from the community, if we've been able to
14 develop a partnership, they could continue operating
15 the turbines or dismantle them. And if Agnico Eagle is
16 operating the turbines, which is a less favourable
17 scenario for us, we could dismantle them or work with
18 the community. We would for sure have discussions with
19 local stakeholders before closure to clarify those
20 aspects.

21 And on the employment and use of specialized
22 technicians, primarily during construction there's
23 civil work that needs to be completed, construction of
24 access roads, pads. This is work similar to what we're
25 doing already at site, so we could work with our
26 existing local partners and contractors.

1 During operations, you're correct, it's
2 specialized technicians, a limited number to just
3 monitor a switch between diesel and wind farm, so it's
4 just a few specialized technicians during operation.
5 Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Phillip Kadlun.

7 MR. KADLUN: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

8 Phillip Kadlun. That's all I have.

9 THE CHAIR: Are there any more questions
10 from the Board? Hearing none, it's just about 12:00,
11 so we're going to take a lunch break, and we'll
12 reconvene at 1:15 and continue with the next
13 presentation.

14 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:15 PM)

15 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 1:16 PM)

16 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone. If
17 you can please take your seats, and we'll continue.

18 Welcome back, everyone. Now we will continue with
19 Item 8, Subsection 1 of today's agenda, Agnico Eagle's
20 presentation on the socio -- sorry -- ecosystemic
21 environment. I will ask that our -- I will ask that
22 our legal counsel swear or affirm the next group of
23 presenters for the ecosystemic presentation and mark
24 the exhibits.

25 NIRB legal counsel.

26 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal

1 Counsel

2 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
4 Review Board.

5 So, Madam Chair, I have one hard copy of the
6 presentation materials entitled "Valued Ecosystem" --
7 "Ecosystem Components Assessment and Resolution", and I
8 propose to mark that as the next exhibit in the public
9 hearing.

10 EXHIBIT 3 - Hard Copy PowerPoint

11 Presentation, "Valued Ecosystem Components
12 Assessment and Resolution"

13 (English/Inuktitut)

14 MS. MEADOWS: And it is my understanding
15 that four additional witnesses need to be sworn in for
16 this presentation. So if Agnico Eagle can have those
17 witnesses up at the front, and then if I can get those
18 witnesses to state and spell their name for the record,
19 please.

20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

21 Discussion

22 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel with Agnico
23 Eagle.

24 Before we move on to the next presentation, I'm
25 wondering if we can take just a few minutes to go back
26 to a previous question. We just want to clarify a bit

1 better the process that we followed to select the wind
2 farm as the technology to choose for this project. Is
3 that okay?

4 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

5 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Yes, I mean, rather than have it as a deferred
7 response, absolutely. If they're ready to respond,
8 please proceed.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

10 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. I
11 will have Nicholas speak to this.

12 THE CHAIR: Nicholas Allen.

13 MR. ALLEN: Thank you. Nicholas Allen,
14 Agnico Eagle. So I'll be quite brief. I think it's
15 just -- to then answer the very specific question on
16 solar panels, I just want to emphasize the process that
17 we -- through which we went through to arrive at that
18 decision.

19 So just -- again, more context is myself, being a
20 subject matter expert, I've -- I'm a mechanical
21 engineer and worked in the energy and decarbonization
22 renewable energy for the last 15 years. I have
23 analyzed projects for different types of technologies,
24 including wind turbines and solar and many others. And
25 I guess in all these analyses, as a subject matter
26 expert, we always start the project including all the

1 stakeholders, so specifically here we started with the
2 biologist, health and safety, community relations. So
3 I know I spoke very technical earlier, but we have been
4 including all these factors in our analyses.

5 So -- yeah. As a conclusion, considering all of
6 this, I just want to make it clear that wind is
7 definitely the best option. We've evaluated
8 everything, but for our carbon reduction objectives,
9 wind is the -- the ideal solution. That's it. Thank
10 you.

11 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

12 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

13 Moving onto the next session and the participants
14 for the presentation. So it will be Jennifer Range,
15 Daniel Coulton, Matt Gillman, Colleen Prather,
16 Edward Malindzak, Victor Young. Victor, Edward, and
17 Matt have not been sworn in.

18 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
19 Counsel

20 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

21 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 So if I can have the witnesses who need to be
23 sworn in or affirmed state or spell your name for the
24 record, please.

25 MR. GILLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

26 Matt Gillman, M-A-T-T G-I-L-L-M-A-N.

1 MR. MALINDZAK: Thank you. Edward Malindzak,
2 E-D-W-A-R-D M-A-L-I-N-D-Z-A-K.

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
4 name is Victor Young from WSP Canada. First name
5 spelled V-I-C-T-O-R; last name spelled Y-O-U-N-G.
6 VICTOR YOUNG, EDWARD MALINDZAK, MATT GILLMAN, Affirmed

7 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
8 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
9 Review Board.

10 Madam Chair, those are all my procedural matters.
11 Presentation by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Valued
12 Ecosystem Components Assessment and Evaluation)

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.

14 Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel or Jennifer Range.

15 MS. RANGE: Madam Chair, Jennifer Range
16 with Agnico Eagle.

17 In this presentation, we will go through the
18 assessment completed for the valued ecosystem
19 components as well as some arising work that has been
20 completed since the March prehearing conference. The
21 presentation is structured as outlined on this slide
22 and will be presented by various members of the team.
23 We will start with atmospheric environment.

24 The wind farm proposed as part of Meliadine
25 extension supports climate objectives. Agnico Eagle's
26 objectives are an interim target to reduce greenhouse

1 gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030 and net zero by
2 2050. This approach, which will help reduce reliance
3 on diesel fuel, is also consistent with Canada's
4 climate plan and policies.

5 When the project certificate was issued in 2015, a
6 term and condition was included to develop a proactive
7 approach in limiting greenhouse gas emissions
8 throughout the mine life. The objectives to reduce
9 greenhouse gas emissions with the installation of a
10 wind farm also support Term and Condition Number 9.

11 Agnico Eagle's view is the best outcome to meet
12 this objective is by reducing greenhouse gases by the
13 mine rather than purchasing carbon credits. Reducing
14 local greenhouse gas emissions has benefits such as
15 improved air quality.

16 We strongly believe the wind farm is the best
17 available technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
18 resulting from electricity generation. Available
19 technologies will be continuously re-evaluated.

20 Under the operation of five wind turbines, which
21 is the number of turbines proposed in the first phase
22 of construction, approximately 16.9 million litres less
23 diesel fuel will be required each year. A new pathway
24 for Meliadine extension was identified outside of the
25 2014 assessment which was assessed -- which was to
26 assess reduced fuel consumption and associated air

1 quality omissions with the inclusion of the wind farm.
2 The results for Meliadine extension found that
3 concentrations are not predicted to exceed the relevant
4 thresholds for all modelled scenarios.

5 All technical comments related to air quality have
6 been resolved. Noise effects from the Meliadine
7 extension are predicted to be generally consistent with
8 the noise effects predicted in the 2014 assessment. In
9 particular, the Meliadine extension noise assessment
10 classified the magnitude of noise effects as negligible
11 or low for all receptors in the local study area.

12 Noise monitoring data has been collected since
13 2016 as part of the noise abatement and monitoring plan
14 and will continue over the life of the Meliadine
15 extension with some adjustments to monitoring locations
16 based on the updated footprint.

17 In their final written submissions, Environment
18 and Climate Change Canada acknowledged Agnico Eagle's
19 commitment to building wind turbines and the strategies
20 to reduce fuel consumption outlined in the greenhouse
21 gas reduction plan.

22 Since the November technical meeting, Agnico Eagle
23 has worked to resolve all technical comments. As an
24 example, an analysis to determine greenhouse gas
25 emissions during construction and decommissioning
26 phases was completed. This analysis concluded that

1 emissions predicted were all below the 2014 assessment
2 predictions.

3 Further, Agnico Eagle provided details on our net
4 zero plan whereby we aim to minimize and mitigate
5 impacts of our operations on the environment and
6 maintain its viability and diversity.

7 I will now pass the presentation to Dan Coulton to
8 begin the terrestrial wildlife summary.

9 THE CHAIR: Dan Coulton.

10 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 Dan Coulton, senior wildlife biologist, WSP.

12 We will now move on to the terrestrial wildlife
13 assessment. Next slide, please.

14 The following slides will include information on
15 the Meliadine extension assessment and additional
16 information and studies provided since the March
17 pre-hearing conference. Next slide.

18 The residual, incremental, and cumulative effects
19 from primary pathways of the Meliadine extension on
20 wildlife and wildlife habitat, including caribou and
21 caribou habitat, were assessed. The predicted
22 incremental and cumulative effects are not considered
23 significant for caribou and all wildlife VECs and are
24 not expected to decrease opportunities for traditional
25 use. These conclusions are consistent with the
26 conclusions of the 2014 assessment. Next slide,

1 please.

2 The potential impacts to wildlife and caribou
3 include an additional 227 hectares of new disturbance
4 to the mine, which is an 8.8 percent increase. With
5 the removal of the airstrip, it is less. The new roads
6 leading to wind turbines and to the Tiriganiaq-Wolf
7 mining area have been designed with a low profile and
8 are expected to allow caribou passage. The wind farm
9 will be located close to the mine, which minimizes
10 sensory disturbance to caribou.

11 From 1993 to 2022, a typical caribou based on
12 collar information spends about two weeks in the
13 regional study area and less than two days in the local
14 study area. Caribou migrate through the all-weather
15 access road and mine over a two- to three-week period
16 during the post-calving and summer periods. For
17 reference, the local study area is 0.2 percent of the
18 post-calving range over this period. The predicted
19 cumulative effects are not expected to decrease
20 resilience and increase the risk to wildlife population
21 maintenance and opportunities for traditional use.

22 The cumulative effects are not considered
23 significant for all wildlife-valued ecosystem
24 components. The conclusions for the Meliadine
25 extension are consistent with the 2014 assessment.

26 Transboundary effects from the Meliadine extension

1 are defined as those that extend outside of Nunavut.
2 Residual incremental direct and indirect effects are
3 both less than 1 percent at the scale of the caribou
4 effect study area which is smaller than the annual
5 range of Qamanirjuaq caribou herds' annual range.

6 The residual direct and indirect effects on
7 habitat from the Meliadine extension will be even
8 smaller at a larger annual range scale and unlikely to
9 be measurable on caribou survival and reproduction.

10 I would now like to pass the presentation to
11 Jennifer.

12 THE CHAIR: Jennifer Range.

13 MS. RANGE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
14 Jennifer Range with Agnico Eagle.

15 In the Nunavut Impact Review Board's April
16 prehearing conference decision report, Agnico Eagle was
17 requested to provide additional information with
18 respect to caribou and the wind farm location.
19 Significant progress was made to advance studies and
20 resolve technical comments, which are provided in the
21 next slides.

22 Agnico Eagle made Commitment 24 during a November
23 technical meeting to bring members of the terrestrial
24 advisory group to an existing and representative wind
25 farm location. We hosted a tour to a wind farm on
26 February -- February 14th. Unfortunately, due to

1 weather, the plane was unable to land at the wind farm
2 location. However, while in Rankin Inlet, Agnico Eagle
3 took the opportunity to present videos and photos from
4 the wind farm, hear feedback, and answer questions.

5 We reflected on the importance of facilitating
6 another tour to the wind farm and arranged a second
7 visit on June 28th. The visit allowed participants to
8 stand underneath and at various distances of the
9 operating turbine and hear noise generated as well as
10 ask questions about the turbine operations. We have a
11 video to share now from the wind farm visit that was
12 held on June 28th.

13 THE CHAIR: There's no audio coming
14 through right now, and they're just trying to fix it.
15 Video Played

16 THE CHAIR: Jennifer Range.

17 MS. RANGE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 Following the wind farm visit, Agnico Eagle took
19 members of the terrestrial advisory group and
20 interested parties on a site tour of Meliadine on
21 June 28th; however, due to the caribou migration, the
22 all-weather access road was open with restrictions.

23 The decision taken between the hunters and
24 trappers organization, Kivalliq Inuit Association, and
25 Agnico Eagle was to bring participants up to the
26 gatehouse at Kilometre 12. Going further would have

1 carried the risk that participants get stuck on the
2 other side should caribou start approaching the road.

3 Although the site visit could not continue to the
4 mine site, participants were able to witness how
5 monitoring and mitigation as outlined in the
6 terrestrial environment management and monitoring plan
7 is adhered to by Agnico Eagle.

8 On this visit, participants were transported first
9 to the Itivia laydown area as this is the starting
10 point of our convoys during the migration. Our convoys
11 are typically led by the hunters and trappers
12 organization or the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

13 At Kilometre 12, monitoring and mitigation
14 measures were presented. We observed small groups of
15 caribou and calves crossing the road in the distance.

16 In the April prehearing conferencing decision
17 report, Agnico Eagle was encouraged to work to resolve
18 caribou matters through workshops. Two workshops were
19 held, one in April held in Winnipeg and the second in
20 June held in Rankin Inlet.

21 April's meeting was arranged for responsible
22 parties to be part of the outstanding review of
23 technical comments, to be part of the discussion on
24 additional studies to be completed, and to be present
25 to confirm acceptance on the approach.

26 In April, the studies for Commitment 38, habitat

1 loss and heat maps, were validated with responsible
2 parties. On May 23rd, the additional heat maps,
3 habitat loss, and wind farm management plan were
4 provided. This gave parties a month to review in
5 preparation for the June workshop.

6 The goal of the June workshop was to capture
7 outstanding comments. Agnico Eagle has addressed the
8 concerns raised by parties through the technical
9 comments and considers issues resolved.

10 Another request from the April prehearing
11 conference decision report was for Agnico Eagle to
12 provide more information regarding the criteria
13 applicable to the selection of the location of the wind
14 farm, including any alternative locations closer to
15 Rankin Inlet based on the hunters and trappers
16 organization recommendation. As mentioned in the
17 overview presentation, the preferred location is near
18 Meliadine Mine.

19 This map shows the Subblu area in yellow, which
20 was part of the May 23rd submission for the alternative
21 location.

22 In subsequent discussions with the hunters and
23 trappers organization since the May 23rd submission,
24 the area identified in blue on this map was also
25 flagged as a potential area for the wind farm. As
26 mentioned, the preferred location based on criteria

1 identified is still near the Meliadine Mine.

2 This slide shows the restrictions around the
3 Subblu area. I will now pass the presentation to
4 Victor Young.

5 THE CHAIR: Victor Young.

6 MR. YOUNG: Thanks, Madam Chair.

7 My name is Victor Young, and I am an acoustic
8 scientist with WSP Canada.

9 Stakeholders were concerned that the noise
10 assessment for the Meliadine extension was focused
11 mainly on human receptors and that caribou may hear
12 noise differently than humans.

13 At the April caribou workshop, some stakeholders
14 suggested that Agnico Eagle consult a study by Perra
15 and others from 2022 which provides information on
16 caribou hearing. Perra and her colleagues studied
17 hearing thresholds for reindeers at frequencies from
18 30 hertz or 30 cycles per second to 16,000 hertz.

19 Hearing thresholds represent the smallest noise
20 level that a reindeer could detect against an
21 effectively silent background. The study found a wide
22 range of hearing thresholds for individual reindeer.
23 Some reindeer hear different -- or -- I'm sorry -- some
24 reindeer hear much better than others.

25 Please note that the study by Perra only
26 established hearing thresholds. It did not provide

1 information about the behavioural response to noise.
2 Caribou may hear a noise without being annoyed by it,
3 and this study only looked at what caribou can hear.
4 It did not consider what level they might be annoyed
5 by.

6 Based on our review of the study, it appears that
7 at low frequencies, caribou may hear better than
8 humans -- or some caribou may hear better than humans,
9 but caribou appear to hear worse than human beings at
10 higher frequencies. Next slide, please.

11 The wind turbines proposed at Meliadine are not
12 any louder than noise sources that are already present
13 in the environment. For example, the proposed wind
14 turbines are much quieter than a snowmobile operating
15 at full throttle.

16 In addition, the way that the turbine's noise
17 energy is distributed with frequency is not much
18 different than other sources present in the
19 environment.

20 In response to a specific -- stakeholder concerns,
21 Agnico Eagle asked me to analyze potential effects from
22 low-frequency wind turbine noise on caribou. The
23 analysis concluded that caribou are unlikely to hear
24 the lowest frequency noise from wind turbines at
25 distances more than 1 kilometre from the base of the
26 turbine, and they're unlikely to hear any noise from

1 the wind turbines at distances more than 2.5 kilometres
2 from the base of the turbines.

3 Agnico Eagle has committed to shutting down the
4 wind turbines when caribou are observed within
5 5 kilometres of the wind farm, which is well before the
6 caribou could detect noise from the wind farm based on
7 our analysis.

8 With respect to ground vibration, scientific
9 research shows that operation of modern wind turbines
10 does not create substantial ground vibration. For
11 example, measurements of ground vibration levels at a
12 wind farm in New Zealand where the turbines are mounted
13 directly to bedrock showed vibration levels less than
14 0.01 millimetres per second at a distance 100 metres
15 from the base of the turbine. For context, this
16 level's about 5 percent of the ground vibration level
17 at which a human being would experience annoyance from
18 ground vibration, so 100 metres from the base of the
19 turbine the -- the vibration level is only 5 percent of
20 the level required to -- to create annoyance.

21 I will now pass the presentation back to my
22 colleague, Dan Coulton. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Dan Coulton.

24 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Dan Coulton, WSP.

26 The Government of Nunavut requested new -- new

1 habitat assessments for the calving, post-calving, and
2 summer ranges for the 2012 to 2022 period. The
3 Government of Nunavut also requested different zones of
4 influence used for the all-weather access road. Agnico
5 Eagle completed these additional assessments in
6 responses to GNTRC05 and the February 2023 and May 2023
7 submissions.

8 Each of the separate assessments support the
9 conclusion of the 2014 assessment and Meliadine
10 extension addendum which is that the residual effects
11 to caribou habitat are not significant. Next slide,
12 please.

13 The wind farm management plan is complementary to
14 the mine's existing terrestrial environment management
15 and monitoring plan, or TEMMP. Mitigation includes
16 shutting down the wind turbines when caribou are within
17 5 kilometres, which is well before when sensitive
18 caribou would hear them at an appropriate and
19 conservative threshold.

20 Long-term monitoring at Diavik Mine shows no
21 strong response by barren-ground -- by barren-ground
22 caribou to its wind farm. Agnico Eagle updated this
23 plan following recommendations from the Nunavut Impact
24 Review Board and interested parties.

25 The wind farm management plan includes
26 pre-construction, construction, and post-construction

1 monitoring periods at near and far areas from the wind
2 farm.

3 The plan includes monitoring in different ways
4 which will provide multiple lines of evidence on
5 caribou responses. Agnico Eagle will refine this plan
6 in collaboration with the terrestrial advisory group
7 before construction of the wind farm. As mentioned by
8 my colleagues, wind farm construction would not occur
9 for another two to four years after all permits are
10 received.

11 The wind farm management plan includes different
12 adaptive management action levels or thresholds. After
13 three years of post-construction monitoring, Agnico
14 Eagle will analyze the information which will inform
15 adaptive management.

16 Raglan's mine was the first -- first -- Raglan
17 Mine's first wind turbine has been on the landscape
18 since 2014, and the second wind turbine was erected in
19 2018. Caribou frequent this area. Raglan does not
20 shut down turbines when caribou approach the wind farm.

21 Diavik wind farm has been around since 2012, and
22 caribou also frequent this area. Diavik does not shut
23 down turbines when caribou approach the wind farm. At
24 Hope Bay, no shutdown would be required.

25 Agnico Eagle's commitment to a 5-kilometre wind
26 farm shutdown is above and beyond what is done at other

1 wind farms and is protective of caribou.

2 Now some terrestrial updates. Agnico Eagle
3 collaborated with about a dozen subject matter experts
4 and IQ holders from the KIA, the NTI, Baker Lake HTO,
5 the GKD, and the Government of Nunavut on the design of
6 the waterline's Commitment 38 analysis. All of these
7 subject matter experts had equal input to the scope of
8 the study.

9 In addition to the objectives, the participants
10 contributed to the study area definition, the
11 definitions of deflection, paralleling and crossing
12 steps, the methods used, and the spacial scale of the
13 analysis.

14 Agnico Eagle has meaningfully and transparently
15 engaged with responsible parties to execute the studies
16 and maintains its position, that being the scope of the
17 study, included input from parties. The scope was
18 agreed to by parties. The scope was executed -- or
19 implemented. The analysis was presented and -- and
20 discussed with parties. The report was provided to
21 parties, ultimately fulfilling Commitment 38.

22 The results of the Commitment 38 analyses indicate
23 that the 2014 final environmental impact statement
24 residual effects predictions were conservative and
25 support the assessment conclusion of nonsignificant
26 impacts to caribou. The study showed that caribou

1 paralleling, deflection, and crossing steps are in
2 response to caribou habitat and not mine-related
3 activities. A caribou zone of influence was not
4 measurable within 10 kilometres of the mine and
5 all-weather access road. In other words, caribou are
6 not changing their movement behaviour in response to
7 the mine and AWAR, and the mine is not impeding caribou
8 movements.

9 The results support that the predictions of the
10 2014 final environmental impact statement and Meliadine
11 extension assessments are conservative and overestimate
12 the predicted effects to caribou. No strong adverse
13 responses to mine-related activities were identified
14 and support that the existing work suspension
15 mitigation is conservative and protective of caribou.

16 The Commitment 38 study design and analyses were
17 completed in collaboration with the interested parties
18 and in time for their submissions and is now complete.

19 I will pass the presentation to Matt Gillman to
20 review some of the key mitigation and monitoring that
21 occurs at Meliadine Mine and that would continue with
22 the Meliadine extension as they are protective of
23 caribou.

24 THE CHAIR: Just a reminder not to use
25 abbreviations. We can't assume that the interpreters
26 know what you're talking about, so use the full term

1 instead.

2 Matt Gillman.

3 MR. GILLMAN: Madam Chair. My name is
4 Matt Gillman, environment superintendent at the
5 Meliadine Mine.

6 For the next few slides, we will review monitoring
7 and mitigation that takes place at the Meliadine Mine.
8 Next slide, please.

9 The existing work suspension protocol used to
10 protect caribou is key to minimizing sensory
11 disturbance for mining activities including
12 mine-related traffic on the all-weather access road.
13 Monitoring and mitigation are intensified as caribou
14 get closer to the mine and the all-weather access road.

15 At those times, three surveys per day are
16 completed to map the locations of the caribou. After
17 each survey, appropriate mitigations and work
18 suspensions are implemented based on predefined action
19 responses that are identified throughout the
20 terrestrial environment management and monitoring plan
21 as well as through discussions with the terrestrial
22 advisory group prior to the migration season.

23 When action is initiated or being decided upon, we
24 collaborate closely with the Kivalliq Inuit Association
25 and Rankin Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organization
26 field staff to identify the proper path forward. This

1 collaboration and ongoing communication and
2 decision-making has been a key to the success at
3 Meliadine over the past years.

4 After the appropriate mitigation is identified,
5 the decision is then communicated to the Meliadine Mine
6 management and the mine site as a whole. The
7 terrestrial advisory group is also notified via email.

8 For example, when caribou reach 10 kilometres'
9 distance from the mine site, mine staff are warned to
10 get ready for caribou, and field surveys take place
11 every two days. When caribou of 50 or more are within
12 5 kilometres of the mine, mining activities are
13 suspended, and field surveys take place three times per
14 day until caribou have left the area.

15 It is worth noting that we typically increase the
16 monitoring frequency to three times per day when
17 caribou are within 10 kilometres of the mine site or
18 the road as a proactive measure.

19 In the past years, we have had great success
20 working with the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the
21 Rankin Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organization during
22 the migration. I would just like to take this
23 opportunity to thank them for that successful
24 relationship. Their import and support during the
25 migration is extremely valuable to us. Next slide,
26 please.

1 This photo, taken by one of our cameras installed
2 near Kilometre 11 on the all-weather access road, and
3 it was taken in July 2022. During the time of this
4 photo, the work suspension protocol ensured the
5 all-weather access road was closed.

6 For those who have not had the chance to witness
7 the caribou migration as it passes through the road, we
8 would like to show you a couple of videos.

9 Video Played

10 MR. GILLMAN: What this video is showing is
11 a large group of caribou passing the road near
12 Kilometre 11 on the all-weather access road from the
13 direction of east to west and, similar to the photo we
14 saw earlier, was taken in July 2022.

15 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

16 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 So unfortunately we are having internet issues
18 with slow speed for the people on Zoom, so what
19 we're -- what I'm recommending that we do is we'll
20 transfer the video directly to that computer; we'll
21 play it in the room here. My apologies to the people
22 on Zoom, but they're not going to be able to see the
23 motion of the video because it's so laggy when it's
24 loading. So if you can just give us a minute or two to
25 transfer the video, we'll play it directly on the
26 screens here.

1 Madam Chair. It's Teresa Meadows, legal counsel
2 for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

3 And these -- it's my understanding that these
4 video clips are also on the registry, and so anybody
5 who is in -- in areas that have higher speed internet
6 will be able to access the video directly from the NIRB
7 registry themselves.

8 MR. GILLMAN: Thank you.

9 As I was mentioning, this video we're seeing now
10 was taken in July 2022 and is showing a large group of
11 caribou passing across the road from kilometre --
12 sorry -- from east to west near Kilometre 11 on the
13 all-weather access road. And we'll just play a second
14 video here as well.

15 Matt Gillman, Agnico Eagle. Thank you. This
16 second video is also showing caribou moving across the
17 all-weather access road in a different spot from the
18 first video. In this video we're looking at a location
19 close to Kilometre 9 on the all-weather access road,
20 again, moving from east to west. If we could please go
21 back to the slides, we'll continue that aspect of the
22 presentation. Thank you.

23 Matt Gillman, Agnico Eagle. This table shows the
24 mine activity and road traffic restrictions related to
25 the implementation of the work suspension protocol
26 since 2020. For example, in 2022 from early June to

1 mid July, caribou were migrating through the mine site
2 area. In this period, the all-weather access road was
3 closed for 24 days, the waterline development stopped
4 for 28 days, and the 11 charter flights and the
5 associated crew changes were cancelled.

6 These closures and delays ultimately have direct
7 impacts to the production at the mine, to the morale,
8 and the well-being of the mine personnel and their
9 families back home, however reflects the commitment
10 Agnico Eagle has made and continues to make to adhere
11 to the work suspension protocols outlined in the
12 terrestrial environment management and monitoring plan.

13 There are a number of different monitoring
14 programs that are used at the mine and outlined in the
15 terrestrial environment management and monitoring plan
16 such as caribou habitat and behaviour monitoring, which
17 includes field observations and remote cameras.

18 As noted earlier, the collaborations with the
19 Kivalliq Inuit Association and the Rankin Inlet Hunters
20 and Trappers Organization have been key to the
21 monitoring, field efforts, and mitigations. We are
22 very appreciative for these collaborations.

23 Importantly, there are also established programs
24 for the collection of IQ including validation. The
25 monitoring programs have shown that measured effects on
26 caribou are lower than predicted. Shutting down mining

1 activities creates logistical challenges, disrupts
2 mining activities, and adds significant costs. We have
3 demonstrated that our measures are effective to protect
4 caribou. Mining and caribou protection can coexist.
5 Adding additional restrictions would very likely add
6 significant cost to the operation and have further
7 impact on the morale of the mine personnel. Next
8 slide, please.

9 The mine collaborates with the terrestrial
10 advisory group made up of the Kivalliq Inuit
11 Association, Rankin Inlet Hunters and Trappers
12 Organization, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
13 Organization, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Sayisi
14 Dene First Nation, Northlands Denesuline First Nations,
15 Government of Nunavut, and Elders.

16 The terrestrial advisory group provides advice on
17 caribou mitigation, monitoring, and adaptive management
18 at the mine. The group was formed in spring 2022 and
19 has been meeting about every three months since that
20 time. This slide outlines the interactions held with
21 the terrestrial advisory group and the various topics
22 discussed at each meeting. Agnico Eagle appreciates
23 the collaboration with all parties.

24 Since its inception, the terrestrial advisory
25 group has made great progress and is a well-functioning
26 group. We acknowledge the comments made by responsible

1 parties and the final written submissions to continue
2 discussions of Meliadine extension with the terrestrial
3 advisory group.

4 I will now pass the presentation back to
5 Dan Coulton.

6 THE CHAIR: Dan Coulton.

7 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
8 Dan Coulton, WSP.

9 The Meliadine extension is a small change from the
10 approved mining activities and does not change the
11 conclusions of the 2014 assessment. The additional
12 assessments requested by parties, such as the
13 Commitment 38 analysis, new direct and indirect habitat
14 loss assessments, the caribou heat maps, all support
15 the assessment conclusions for the Meliadine extension
16 and that the assessment was conservative.

17 Adverse significant impacts for continued
18 traditional and nontraditional use of wildlife are not
19 anticipated. The existing terrestrial environment
20 management and monitoring plan will include the
21 Meliadine extension. Adaptive management and
22 monitoring and mitigation are part of these plans.

23 This concludes the presentation on terrestrial
24 wildlife, and I will pass the presentation to
25 Colleen Prather.

26 THE CHAIR: Are we continuing with

1 freshwater, or are we going to questions first?

2 Okay. Colleen Prather.

3 MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good
4 afternoon. Colleen Prather with Agnico Eagle.

5 We'll now switch to freshwater environment. Next
6 slide, please.

7 For the freshwater environment, we will summarize
8 the Meliadine extension assessment and additional
9 information and studies provided since the March
10 prehearing conference. Next slide, please.

11 The environmental assessment overview. Next
12 slide. Thank you.

13 As a reminder, the freshwater environment includes
14 the valued components of hydrogeology or groundwater,
15 hydrology, water quality, fish, and fish habitat. The
16 Meliadine extension activities represent a very small
17 change from the previously assessed and approved
18 2014 assessment. The study area for freshwater is the
19 same area considered in the 2014 assessment. Next
20 slide, please.

21 This slide summarizes guiding principles for water
22 management at the Meliadine Mine. These principles
23 were incorporated into the water models and our
24 assessment. Next slide, please.

25 The main driver for the assessment of water
26 quantity is related to water management at the mine.

1 We developed a water balance model to cover operations,
2 closure, and post-closure phases. The -- the total
3 water to be withdrawn from Meliadine Lake and the total
4 water to be discharged to Meliadine Lake are within the
5 ranges assessed in 2014. The Meliadine extension will
6 have an overall small reduction in flows and negligible
7 effects on water levels in Meliadine Lake. Next slide,
8 please.

9 This figure illustrates the updated water balance
10 and predicted discharges. The orange lines represent
11 predicted discharges of contact water to Meliadine
12 Lake. The blue lines represent predicted discharges of
13 saline and contact water to Itivia Harbour. The key
14 aspect to observe in this figure is that predictions
15 for the Meliadine extension are less than the
16 2014 assessment and less than the waterline assessment.

17 The discharge predictions have also taken into
18 account predicted future climate change and years where
19 higher runoff may occur. Finally, discharge of surface
20 contact water to Itivia Harbour is prioritized whenever
21 possible with the remainder discharged to Meliadine
22 Lake. Next slide, please.

23 As part of the 2014 assessment and the Meliadine
24 extension assessment, water quality modelling was
25 completed to predict changes in concentrations in the
26 receiving environment. This slide shows predicted and

1 measured total dissolved solids in Meliadine Lake.

2 Water quality is predicted to change for the
3 Meliadine extension, no different than in the
4 2014 assessment. For the assessment, predictions were
5 compared to the red line, which is the guideline to
6 protect terrestrial life, aquatic life, and human
7 health. Predictions are also compared to the orange
8 line, which is considered an action level. So if
9 measured concentrations get close to this line,
10 management actions will be taken.

11 As we can see in the top two figures, there is
12 monitoring results represented by dots. The measured
13 concentrations are well below guidelines meant to
14 protect terrestrial life, aquatic life, and human
15 health. We can also see that the monitoring data are
16 below the predictions.

17 Once mining stops, water quality is predicted to
18 return to background conditions. This is an example
19 for one parameter. We currently measure water for more
20 than 70 parameters across 25 stations and four times
21 per year. This comparison to guidelines and the twenty
22 four assessment -- 2014 assessment is done for all
23 parameters and provided in the annual report.

24 I will now pass the microphone to my colleague,
25 Ed. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Which name did you say? I

1 didn't hear you clearly.

2 MS. PRATHER: I'll pass the microphone to
3 Ed Malindzak. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Okay. Ed Malindzak.

5 MR. MALINDZAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Edward Malindzak, fisheries permitting specialist for
7 Agnico Eagle.

8 Agnico Eagle completed extensive fish and fish
9 habitat studies from 1997 to 2019 that were focused on
10 the distribution of fish species or what fish are in
11 which lakes, the existing fish habitat on or near the
12 site such as spawning or overwintering habitat, and
13 movement of fish between seasons.

14 Fishery studies from 2018 to 2021 confirmed that
15 fish in the area of the mine were not affected by the
16 mine, and the water in Meliadine Lake near the site is
17 safe for fish and the insects that fish eat.

18 Agnico Eagle continues to collect information on
19 fish to compare historical information with the current
20 conditions. This information -- this information helps
21 us avoid, mitigate, and compensate for possible impacts
22 to fish and fish habitat.

23 Additional fishery studies were completed between
24 2020 and 2022 to continue and compare the historical
25 information with the current conditions. Studies
26 undertaken in 2023 are meant to look at the impacts of

1 the Meliadine extension project on fish and fish
2 habitat by gathering information related to specific
3 areas that may be impacted by the extension, streams
4 and water features that are only connected to other
5 water features during specific times of the year, and
6 has satisfied new requirements of the Fisheries Act.

7 Meliadine extension fish habitat losses are
8 consistent with the 2014 assessment, but some ponds are
9 going to be isolated -- excuse me -- some ponds that
10 were going to be isolated will now be dewatered. These
11 ponds have been accounted for in the final fish habitat
12 offsetting plan submitted to the Nunavut Water Board.

13 I'll pass the microphone back to my colleague,
14 Colleen Prather. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIR: Colleen Prather.

16 MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 Colleen Prather. Next slide, please.

18 Significant progress was made between April and
19 this public hearing to advance studies and resolve
20 technical comments. Next slide, please.

21 In-pit deposition. At the technical meeting in
22 November 2022, responsible parties had questions about
23 the alternative proposed by Agnico Eagle for use of
24 pits for deposition of tailings or waste rock. Agnico
25 Eagle completed an assessment for this alternative. We
26 provided details on the in-pit tailings properties, and

1 we analyzed effects to permafrost, groundwater, water
2 balance, and water quality.

3 The assessment concluded there would be no
4 significant adverse impacts on the freshwater valued
5 ecosystem components from this activity. Next slide,
6 please.

7 Various meetings were held in February through
8 April 2023. Parties acknowledged that this alternative
9 activity is unlikely to result in significant adverse
10 impacts. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
11 Affairs Canada recommended there should be a term and
12 condition for this activity. A term and condition has
13 been drafted for the Nunavut Impact Review Board's
14 consideration. Next slide, please.

15 The Kivalliq Inuit Association and
16 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
17 had technical comments and concerns regarding the
18 discharge to Meliadine Lake. Agnico Eagle has made
19 significant progress and provided supplemental analyses
20 to parties since the technical meeting. Based on
21 comments, the water balance and water quality model was
22 updated.

23 For example, by prioritizing poor quality water to
24 saline ponds, increasing the storage capacity of the
25 saline pond, and ensuring full utilization of the
26 capacity of the waterline first with saline water and

1 second with surface contact water, Kivalliq Inuit
2 Association indicated that adoption of these
3 recommendations would significantly improve the quality
4 of water discharged to Meliadine Lake. Next slide,
5 please.

6 Agnico Eagle would like to reiterate that the
7 water balance and water quality model submitted for the
8 Meliadine extension represents an upper-bound estimate
9 with conservative assumptions. The results showed
10 there was no change to the results we saw from the
11 2014 assessment. Next slide, please.

12 During meetings with Kivalliq Inuit Association,
13 discussions surrounding water quality and the health of
14 Meliadine Lake led to the idea of a visit to the mine.
15 In May 2023, Agnico Eagle arranged two visits to the
16 mine to explain how water is managed at the site.
17 Participants included Elders, cabin owners, members of
18 the hunters and trappers organization, community land
19 and resource committee, and the Kivalliq Inuit
20 Association.

21 The purpose of the visit was for Agnico Eagle to
22 provide further clarification on how water is
23 collected, treated, discharged, and monitored at the
24 mine and also to answer any questions or concerns.

25 In addition, we also discussed concerns around
26 water colour and tea colour. We collected water from

1 Meliadine Lake and the camp accommodations. No
2 negative comments were made on either type of water.
3 Some participants concluded that many things such as
4 the -- such as steeping time or the type of tea could
5 influence the colour. We submitted to the Nunavut
6 Impact Review Board in May 2023 a short video
7 summarizing this activity. We will now watch this
8 video.

9 MS. MEADOWS: Madam Chair.

10 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

11 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
13 Review Board.

14 So recognizing the difficulty that we had with
15 playing this for the people on Zoom, we are going to
16 play the video clip live here in the room, and the
17 people who are joining on Zoom are advised to check it
18 out. It is on the public registry for the file, and
19 they can watch it at their leisure.

20 Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 Video Played

22 MS. PRATHER: Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle.

23 If we could bring the presentation back up. Okay.
24 And I will now pass the microphone to Ed Malindzak, who
25 will conclude the freshwater presentation. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Edward Malindzak.

1 MR. MALINDZAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Ed Malindzak, Agnico Eagle.

3 In 2023, multiple -- multiple in-person and both
4 virtual meetings occurred with the Department of
5 Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Kivalliq Inuit
6 Association to work collaboratively through technical
7 comments related to habitat losses and changes in flow
8 to downstream lakes. Additionally, the work planned
9 for the 2023 fisheries and data collection program to
10 support fish habitat offsetting plans were reviewed and
11 implemented with consultation with the Department of
12 Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

13 In summary, the 2014 assessment for freshwater was
14 updated for the Meliadine extension. Key activities
15 included in the Meliadine extension with the potential
16 to change the freshwater valued ecosystem components
17 include an additional 11 years of mining, an extension
18 of underground mining of previously assessed deposits.

19 Key conclusions of the 2014 assessment included
20 the activities will occur in the previously assessed
21 area; there will be negligible effects on water levels
22 in the Meliadine Lake; water quality at the edge of the
23 mixing zone is not predicted to exceed aquatic life,
24 terrestrial life, or human health guidelines.

25 Potential effects to fish and fish habitat have been
26 accounted for and are similar to those described in the

1 2014 assessment.

2 The majority of effects to freshwater and fish and
3 fish habitat will be reversible at closure through
4 reclamation of lost habitat and reconnection of flows.
5 Agnico Eagle will continue to work with the Department
6 of Fisheries and Oceans through the parallel regulatory
7 process to finalize the fish and fish habitat
8 offsetting plan. Monitoring and mitigation will
9 continue as part of the existing management plans.

10 I'll now pass the microphone to Jennifer to
11 continue with the presentation. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Jennifer Range.

13 MS. RANGE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 Jennifer Range with Agnico Eagle.

15 In summary for the marine environment, there are
16 no proposed changes related to Meliadine extension
17 regarding shipping activities and marine
18 infrastructures in Rankin Inlet, including the
19 discharge of treated saline effluent into Itivia
20 Harbour.

21 The key disturbance to the marine environment
22 valued component is the discharge of treated saline
23 effluent. The model indicated that this area will be
24 effectively mixed on a daily basis during the discharge
25 window, which is June to October. Annual monitoring
26 data has been collected -- that has been collected

1 supports the predictions of negligible changes to
2 marine water quality.

3 Effects monitoring will continue as part of
4 existing monitoring programs. Shipping activities are
5 not proposed to change with Meliadine extension from
6 current operating conditions and are considered
7 negligible to the marine wildlife. Mitigation measures
8 outlined in the shipping management plan will continue
9 to be followed.

10 There is an understanding that accidents can
11 occur, but with proper prevention and mitigation
12 measures, emergency response planning, training, and
13 preparation, the risk frequency and severity of such
14 incident is reduced.

15 Agnico Eagle is committed to protecting the health
16 and safety of all of its workers, community members,
17 and the environment. It is important to highlight that
18 the wind turbines at Meliadine Mine are safe.

19 Preventive maintenance on the proposed wind
20 turbines is done about two times per year. During this
21 maintenance, the wind turbine is stopped, and all
22 critical items are inspected, and parts like filters
23 and oils are changed. In addition, the turbines are
24 equipped with instrumentation to be able to monitor the
25 wind turbines. The data is continuously analyzed to
26 predict failures.

1 This slide is intended to show the level system
2 approach that we implemented to facilitate
3 communication on the range of details or changes
4 required to ensure mitigation applicable to Meliadine
5 extension was applied.

6 Given the established and functioning operational
7 plans for the Meliadine Mine, we feel the new
8 activities associated with the extension can be managed
9 under one of the 30-plus existing management plans for
10 Meliadine Mine; therefore, most plan updates were
11 identified as Level 1 whereby minor updates were made
12 to include the Meliadine extension components.

13 Following the technical meeting in November and
14 subsequent prehearing conference in March and the
15 decision -- decision report issued in April, Agnico
16 Eagle made great strides to work with responsible
17 parties and the community to resolve outstanding
18 comments and commitments particularly on caribou,
19 in-pit deposition, and water management.

20 As we have heard throughout this presentation,
21 multiple additional studies were completed to address
22 the needs from the responsible parties, for example,
23 caribou studies including Commitment 38 analysis, which
24 tell us the mine and caribou can coexist. The results
25 of Commitment 38 study and other additional studies end
26 to the same conclusion as was presented in the

1 Meliadine extension assessment. There will be no
2 significant adverse impacts to valued ecosystem
3 components.

4 Madam Chair, this concludes our presentation.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your
6 presentation.

7 Before we move on to questions from intervenors,
8 we're going to take a 15-minute break.

9 (ADJOURNMENT)

10 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.
11 Continuing with questions to Agnico Eagle on their
12 presentation. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Gabriel
13 Nirlungayuk.

14 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Questions Agnico Eagle
15 Mines Limited

16 MR. NIRLUNGAYUK: Qujannamiik. I've got one
17 question referring to the -- the wind turbines. There
18 was a statement from AEM that it's not expected to
19 reduce traditional use, and it will not reduce
20 opportunities for traditional use, the location. I
21 want to get more clarification on -- on that statement.
22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

24 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Dan Coulton, WSP.

26 That was part of the assessment end point is that

1 it wouldn't significantly affect wildlife populations'
2 ability to be maintained and available for traditional
3 and non-traditional use. And so through the
4 assessment, we assessed different primary pathways such
5 as direct habitat loss, indirect habitat loss, changes
6 to migratory routes. And so the conclusions of the
7 assessment were that the measurement indicators, which
8 I just listed, the changes to those wouldn't be enough
9 to significantly alter wildlife populations and,
10 therefore, traditional and non-traditional use.

11 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Tunngavik
12 Incorporated, Gabriel Nirlungayuk.

13 MR. NIRLUNGAYUK: Thank you.

14 The other question I had referred to wind farms in
15 Diavik and Raglan. The caribou, when they're migrating
16 to the mines, do not stop. Which population is Diavik
17 and Raglan Mines of caribou, and are there as many as
18 (INDISCERNIBLE) herd?

19 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

20 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
21 Dan Coulton, WSP.

22 The main herd that interacts with Diavik is the
23 Bathurst caribou herd in the Northwest Territories.
24 There's also some interaction from Ahiak and Beverly.
25 The Bathurst herd is currently less than 10,000
26 caribou.

1 In terms of Diavik, the Bathurst caribou herd and
2 the Ahiak and Beverly herds have winter ranges now that
3 overlap the Ekati Diavik complex, which includes the
4 Diavik wind farm. I believe Beverly Ahiak also is
5 about 200,000 animals combined, because they're a
6 combined herd.

7 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
8 As for Raglan, we don't have the information in front
9 of us right now.

10 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Tunngavik
11 Incorporated, Gabriel Nirlungayuk.

12 MR. NIRLUNGAYUK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
13 That's all the questions we have. Qujannamiik.

14 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association
15 Luis Manzo.

16 Kivalliq Inuit Association Questions Agnico Eagle Mines
17 Limited

18 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
19 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

20 One of the questions I would like to know -- and
21 maybe you can put them up later -- is what kind of
22 traditional knowledge -- or how traditional knowledge
23 was used to select the wind power site. That's one.
24 And also, the roads or the paths, who's going to
25 connect -- maintenance, I will say, in the wind power
26 and how those roads will affect the caribou crossing.

1 Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

3 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

4 Thank you for your questions, Luis.

5 For the first question, how we've integrated
6 traditional use into the selection of the turbines, so
7 since -- prior even to construction of the mine, we had
8 conducted numerous engagement activities to understand
9 better where's caribou harvested, how are people using
10 the land, cabins in the area.

11 As we developed Meliadine extension, we completed
12 additional engagement activities to validate if there
13 was anything that had changed compared to baseline, and
14 we have also worked with our Kivalliq Elders advisory
15 committee. David has worked with them to identify
16 that.

17 And the second question: How are the roads going
18 to the wind turbines: How will they affect caribou
19 crossing? We are going to build the road -- use the
20 same design as we have for the all-weather access road,
21 so low profile, proper slopes, using esker material
22 based on discussions. That's what we -- and studies.
23 That's what we've found works the best. So we're --
24 we're confident that the road will let caribou pass as
25 it does for the rest of the all-weather access road.

26 Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
2 Luis Manzo.

3 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
4 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

5 Thank you, Manon, for the response. Probably you
6 quite didn't understand my question properly. When you
7 collect the traditional knowledge, right, how do you
8 use that traditional knowledge to select your site? So
9 you had to develop some sort of methodology, some sort
10 of -- or formula in how you will select the base in
11 Inuit uses. The herds, transport -- I mean, back to
12 the herds and mapping the path to the -- mapping the
13 hundred miles in the area, and hunters have been in
14 that area. So how do you use that traditional
15 knowledge and -- and to the extension? Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

17 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
18 Thank you for clarifying your question.

19 So basically what we did is once we had identified
20 the traditional land use information, polygons were
21 created and were sent to Nicholas and his team for
22 integration into the design.

23 So as Nicholas was explaining, he went to the
24 different experts and -- asking for constraints for
25 positioning the turbines, and traditional land use and
26 land use activities, cabins, were all inputted into

1 polygons that were integrated into some of the
2 constraints for the turbine positioning. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
4 Luis Manzo.

5 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
6 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association. I will now
7 pass any questions to Anne Gunn.

8 MS. GUNN: Anne Gunn, consultant to the
9 Kivalliq Inuit Association. Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 My question is in -- is about the movement study,
11 which is Slide 30 in the handout, and assures we will
12 know that caribou live in a complex world. It varies
13 every year like the mosquitoes, the food. So their
14 response is to -- the roads to the mine site will be in
15 a complex variable world. This means that it takes a
16 large number of samples, such as the number of collars,
17 in order to be able to detect their responses because
18 it's a variable background. So my question to Agnico
19 Eagle is how confident are they in their conclusion,
20 and their conclusion was that caribou move in response
21 to habitat more than the road, the access road, or the
22 mine site. And, specifically, I'd like to know their
23 confidence in terms of, say, based on statistical
24 significance. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

26 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Dan Coulton, WSP.

2 Thank you for the question. It will take me a few
3 minutes to get you the sample sizes because there were
4 a number of different analyses that were done, and so
5 there were different datasets that were available to
6 use in terms of collared years, but that information is
7 included in the report.

8 In terms of statistical significance, we use a
9 modelling approach based on information theory to
10 select models against a competing set of models that
11 represent a different hypotheses that we worked out
12 with the terrestrial advisory group in advance and then
13 inferences based on those models -- so those compete
14 from -- for support from the data -- are then derived
15 based on which ones have measurable effects. So when
16 I'm talking about "measurable effects", I'm talking
17 about confidence intervals that don't overlap zero
18 because confidence intervals that overlap zero aren't
19 any different than zero. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
21 Anne Gunn.

22 MS. GUNN: Anne Gunn, consultant for the
23 Kivalliq Inuit Association. Thank you for the reply.

24 I didn't hear really a reference to the impact of
25 sample size on the confidence in your conclusion. I
26 think we will be addressing this in the Kivalliq Inuit

1 Association's presentation subsequently. Rather than
2 keep the discussion going now, perhaps we should come
3 back to it.

4 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
5 were there more questions?

6 MR. MANZO: For freshwater, Matthew
7 McDougall.

8 THE CHAIR: Matthew McDougall.

9 MR. MCDUGALL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Matt
10 McDougall for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

11 The project certificate requires Agnico Eagle to
12 minimize or eliminate discharge to Meliadine Lake, and
13 in the 2020 saline waterline hearings, Agnico Eagle
14 testified that some years would see zero discharge to
15 the lake with the extension.

16 THE CHAIR: Can you please slow down.

17 MR. MCDUGALL: Apologies. Yes.

18 THE CHAIR: The interpreter. If you can
19 go back.

20 MR. MCDUGALL: Of course.

21 In the 2020 saline waterline hearings, Agnico
22 Eagle testified that some years would see zero
23 discharge to the lake. With the extension, how many
24 years will have zero discharge to Meliadine Lake?

25 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.
26 Colleen Prather.

1 MS. PRATHER: Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle.
2 Thank you for the question.

3 There's a couple of things to consider with that
4 aspect. The waterline application at the time was
5 looking at the current operations, so it was focused on
6 the Tiriganiaq deposit operations only. What we're
7 looking at here with this application, the Meliadine
8 extension, the water balance that we're talking about
9 is much more similar to the 2014 assessment, so where
10 we're looking at mining of all five deposits.

11 So it's -- it's not possible to do a direct
12 comparison of the Meliadine extension water balance to
13 the 2020 waterline.

14 One thing we can add to that is -- and what we've
15 said in numerous meetings is the waterline itself was
16 initially designed to manage our saline water
17 discharge, but we've also looked at fully optimizing
18 the full capacity of the waterline and directing as
19 much surface contact water as possible through the
20 waterline. Thank you.

21 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
22 Matt McDougall.

23 MR. MCDUGALL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Matt
24 McDougall for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

25 As for minimization, you state in the final
26 written submission that the total cumulative discharge

1 volume will be reduced by 49 percent relative to the
2 2014 final environmental impact statement. This number
3 assumes a constant 2.6 million cubic metre discharge
4 from 2025 to 2043 with a more realistic annual
5 discharge volume and the original project end date of
6 2032. Would the expected cumulative discharge to
7 Meliadine Lake be more or less with the proposed
8 extension?

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.
10 Colleen Prather.

11 MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
12 Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle. And thank you for the
13 question.

14 The other component to consider with your question
15 is what we looked at, what I summarized in the
16 presentation in terms of the predictions of discharge
17 to Meliadine Lake and the predicted water quality in
18 Meliadine Lake.

19 We looked at that in the 2014 assessment, and
20 we've updated that for the current Meliadine extension
21 assessment as well. What we can see from our model
22 predictions is with the extension, we have overall
23 lower loads predicted in our discharge. Our water
24 quality concentrations are predicted to be lower than
25 what we saw in 2014. We also completed the overall
26 risk assessment around that as well.

1 And I guess I would just like to end that
2 statement as we see further discussions on this topic
3 through the Nunavut Water Board licencing process.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Before we continue with
6 questions, we're going to take a five-minute break.

7 (ADJOURNMENT)

8 THE CHAIR: Please take your seats and
9 we'll continue with questions.

10 Kivalliq Inuit Association, Matt McDougall. And
11 when you're speaking, slow down and pause between
12 sentences for the interpreters.

13 MR. MCDUGALL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
14 you for the reminder. Matt McDougall for the Kivalliq
15 Inuit Association. We have no further questions.

16 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
17 Atkinson.

18 Government of Nunavut Questions Agnico Eagle Mines
19 Limited

20 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
21 Apologies.

22 So my first question -- I have four questions, and
23 my first one is with respect to -- sorry. Stephen
24 Atkinson on behalf of the Government of Nunavut.

25 So my first question is with regards to Slide 13
26 of the presentation on terrestrial and freshwater. If

1 we could pull that up.

2 So in reference to this particular slide, you
3 mentioned that the average time that caribou spend
4 within the project's regional study area over the last
5 30 years has been about 13 days per year, the average
6 caribou over -- during that 30-year window.

7 I'm noting that you also referred to the fact that
8 the project overlapped -- the regional study area
9 overlapped with about .2 percent of the Qamanirjuaq
10 herds post-calving range on average during that 30-year
11 period.

12 Now, I'm also noting that you've submitted a memo
13 in May of this year entitled "The Meliadine Mine
14 Caribou Movement Mapping Brownian Bridge Movement
15 Models". And in that memo at Table 3.1, it indicates
16 that for the period 1993 to 2012, the Qamanirjuaq
17 herd -- the regional study area overlapped with
18 0 percent of the calving range and .1 percent of the
19 post-calving range. In that table, it also indicates
20 that in recent years, from 2018 to 2022, the overlap
21 has been 14.5 percent of the calving range and
22 37 percent of the post-calving range.

23 So my question is that given that there's -- that
24 memo clearly demonstrates that there's been a dramatic
25 increase in the extent to which the project overlaps
26 with post-calving and calving range of this herd, do

1 you think that -- or did you calculate the average
2 residency time -- the annual residency time of the
3 average caribou within the project's regional study
4 area during the last five years for that -- for the
5 current window in order to reflect what the average
6 caribou does now as opposed to over the last 30 years?
7 If not, would you agree that it's likely to be much
8 greater than 13 days? Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Just remember to pause between
10 your sentences for the interpreters.

11 Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

12 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
13 We'll work as a team to answer that question. Greg has
14 not been sworn in and will be helping with the answer.
15 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
16 Counsel

17 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

18 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 If I can have the new witness state and spell
20 their name for the record, please.

21 MR. SHARAM: Hello. My name is Greg
22 Sharam, G-R-E-G S-H-A-R-A-M.

23 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
25 Review Board.

26 Do you wish to be sworn or affirmed?

1 MR. SHARAM: Greg Sharam for ERM.

2 Affirmed, please.

3 GREG SHARAM, Affirmed

4 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
6 Review Board.

7 Madam Chair, those are my procedural matters.

8 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

9 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 Dan Coulton, WSP.

11 So the numbers that are referred to in the
12 presentation are based on entry and exit dates of
13 collared caribou from the Qamanirjuaq herd between that
14 period of time and then averaged. So they represent
15 the average of the collared caribou that went through
16 those times.

17 That's the same thing with the local study area,
18 so the dates that caribou entered and then exited on
19 whatever side or whatever -- whenever it left the area.
20 So those are -- that's one thing, and then I'm going to
21 pass the mic to Greg to answer the second part.

22 MR. SHARAM: Thank you. Greg Sharam for
23 ERM.

24 Just a point of clarification. There was a memo
25 released in May of this year called "Meliadine Mine
26 Caribou Movement Mapping" on -- in May of this year.

1 There was an error made in that memo, and so that memo
2 was updated and released again in August of this year,
3 and that memo updates the values of how much of the
4 calving, post-calving, and summer ranges of the
5 Qamanirjuaq herd overlap with the regional study area
6 and local study area.

7 The updated memo indicates that the current
8 overlap with the calving area is approximately
9 2.6 percent for the RSA, a regional study area, makes
10 up about 2.6 percent of the calving range, about
11 5.6 percent of the post-calving range, and about
12 2.6 percent of the summer range. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
14 Atkinson.

15 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
17 Nunavut.

18 I was not aware of that updated memo. Regardless,
19 my question was: Did you calculate the residency time,
20 the in-and-out time on average for the more recent
21 years as opposed to using a 30-year average? And if
22 you did so, or didn't so, would you suspect it is
23 higher or lower than the average of 13?

24 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

25 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

26 Yes. We've seen in the field that caribou are in our

1 area a longer time, and based on our terrestrial
2 ecosystem management plan, we had to close the road and
3 the mine longer than in previous years. So, yes, we
4 see more, but we've adapted based on field observations
5 and the discussions with the experts in the field.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
8 Atkinson.

9 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
10 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
11 Nunavut.

12 My next question refers to statements that you
13 made while Slide 26 was up on the screen. Not
14 specifically to the information on the slide, but while
15 it was present.

16 You presented verbal information that there were
17 wind turbines at other mines in the north, Raglan,
18 Diavik, and you also mentioned Hope Bay. You stated at
19 one point that caribou -- barren-ground caribou at
20 Diavik showed no response to wind turbines or are not
21 disturbed by the wind turbines and similarly for the
22 Raglan mine. My question is: Was that your opinion or
23 are there actual analytical studies that demonstrate
24 this that we could be directed to? Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

26 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

1 Thank you for your question.

2 The reference for the Diavik analysis was provided
3 in our final written submissions to the Athabasca
4 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

5 And as for the Raglan, it's basically based on --
6 based on discussions with Tugliq, who is operating the
7 wind farm, and the environmental department at Raglan
8 and their observations in the field. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
10 Atkinson.

11 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
12 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
13 Nunavut. Thank you for that answer, Manon.

14 My understanding is that the -- the response to
15 the -- the -- regarding the Diavik wind farm was simply
16 a map and a statement saying that the lines on the map,
17 which represented caribou movements, didn't appear to
18 show any -- any effects. Is that the extent of the
19 analysis, that, in fact, it was just a map, or is there
20 actually a statistical analysis that demonstrated that?
21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

23 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
24 Dan Coulton WSP.

25 The Belanger et al. 2021 paper was referenced. In
26 that paper there's a table of annual zone of influence

1 estimates based on collared caribou that cover the time
2 period before the wind farm at Diavik was on the
3 landscape.

4 The Diavik wind farm was constructed in 2012 and
5 became operational in fall of 2012 and operates for
6 365 days a year. The table shows that there is no
7 systematic increase during a construction -- or after
8 the wind farm became on the landscape. In fact, they
9 decreased from the previous year, and they show years
10 of attraction. So our conclusion was that there was no
11 strong evidence for a strong response of caribou as a
12 result of the wind farm on the landscape, which has
13 been a concern that we've heard.

14 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
15 Atkinson.

16 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
17 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
18 Nunavut.

19 Thank you for that response, Dan. So I take it
20 that there was no specific wind farm -- specific study
21 of caribou movements at Diavik. It was a study of the
22 mine and all of its components, which is -- I
23 understand that now.

24 My next question, Number 3, refers to some of the
25 statements that were made throughout the presentation
26 and also in the final environmental impact statement

1 itself. In -- you refer to studies of -- sorry. There
2 are studies of domesticated reindeer and
3 semi-domesticated reindeer which demonstrate that they
4 will show avoidance behaviour towards wind turbines at
5 distances in the order of up to 5 kilometres. In your
6 Slide 26, you have a shutdown -- operational shutdown
7 for things like the wind farm and other components of
8 the project when more than 50 caribou are within
9 5 kilometres.

10 So by using a distance of 5 kilometres as a
11 shutdown distance, you are -- it seems to me you are
12 equating -- you are suggesting that semi-domesticated
13 reindeer would be similarly disturbed by wind turbines
14 similar to semi-domesticated reindeer. Are you
15 suggesting that barren-ground caribou are -- will be --
16 will behave like semi-domesticated reindeer, or would
17 they be more -- would you expect them to be more
18 disturbed by -- by wind farms than a semi-domesticated
19 animal? Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

21 If I'm looking down, just say something because I'm
22 usually taking notes too. Who is going to talk?

23 Dan Coulton?

24 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Dan Coulton, WSP.

26 Just a point of clarification about Diavik and

1 when the wind farm -- so the wind farm was an
2 additional operational infrastructure that was added
3 during that study. Thank you.

4 MR. YOUNG: Victor Young from WSP Canada.

5 So just in regard to the zone of influence or the
6 sensory disturbance of the caribou from the wind
7 turbines, we were asked to -- WSP and me specifically
8 was asked to have a look at a paper on the hearing
9 threshold of reindeer to try and determine the likely
10 distance at which caribou could potentially hear noise
11 from the wind turbines.

12 Based on the analysis, which we described in a
13 memo from May 2023, we concluded that caribou were
14 unlikely to hear the wind turbines -- or hear noise
15 from the wind turbines at distances more than
16 2-and-a-half kilometres from the turbines, which is
17 sort of well within the 5-kilometre buffer at which
18 they're going to shut down the wind turbines. And so
19 based on that analysis, we concluded that from -- from
20 the perspective of acoustics and hearing, that there
21 would be -- unlikely to be an effect to the caribou.

22 Likewise with ground vibration. We did not do a
23 detailed study of ground vibration because, as I had
24 mentioned in the presentation, measurements conducted
25 of modern wind turbines show that they do not result in
26 substantial ground vibration. So likewise with ground

1 vibration, we don't expect there to be any potential
2 impact to caribou at anything close to 5 kilometres.

3 So based on those two pieces of analysis,
4 acoustics and ground vibration, we think the
5 5-kilometre buffer is more than protective. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
7 Atkinson.

8 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
9 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
10 Nunavut.

11 Thank you for that answer. I understand and I
12 agree that your acoustic and vibration work is very,
13 very good. It seems very reliable. The -- but sound
14 and vibration are only two sources of potential
15 disturbance. The one that is perhaps most important in
16 this case would be the visual appearance of a turning
17 wind turbine or 11 of them. And, in fact, in the
18 studies on domesticated reindeer, they show that the
19 reindeer actually react adversely to the wind turbines
20 when they can see them. In other words, when they're
21 in wooded habitat and they break into a clearing where
22 they have line of sight is when they react. So my
23 original question was: Do you consider
24 semi-domesticated reindeer -- sorry -- barren-ground
25 caribou to be at more or the same -- have the same
26 sensitivity to wind turbines as a semi-domesticated

1 reindeer? Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

3 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 Dan Coulton, WSP.

5 So the one that you've referred to is Skarin et
6 al. -- I think 2018 -- which is this in-sight effect.
7 So that same author along with -- produced the paper in
8 2014. Skarin and Alhman, 2014, is the citation. It
9 compared the responses of semi-domesticated reindeer
10 while reindeer and caribou are two different
11 developed -- human development disturbance types, and
12 they concluded that caribou -- semi-domesticated
13 caribou and wild reindeer all respond comparatively.
14 They also noted that semi-domesticated reindeer are not
15 particularly tame.

16 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
17 Atkinson.

18 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
20 Nunavut. Yeah. The details of that study are a little
21 more in-depth than we can get into here.

22 My question wasn't really answered. It was really
23 just are they more or less sensitive in your opinion,
24 and -- but I will move on because I think I've asked
25 that several times.

26 So my final question relates to Slide 32. The --

1 your provisions for ongoing mitigation of caribou --
2 effects on caribou with respect to the wind farm and
3 other components of the project is primarily to shut
4 down operations and -- including the wind farm when 50
5 or more caribou are within 5 kilometres. My question
6 has several parts. The first part is: Can you explain
7 how you came up with the number "50 or more", the
8 threshold? What data was it based on, and how is it
9 protective of a majority of caribou? How have you
10 demonstrated that in terms of the data that are
11 available?

12 The final part of the question is: Have you
13 analyzed any of your ground-based caribou observation
14 data from the project itself that you have been
15 collecting since, I believe, probably 2015, to actually
16 look at what group size -- what group sizes caribou are
17 occurring in and, therefore, what group size threshold
18 you should be using, similar to the way we -- it is
19 done at your Meadowbank project? Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

21 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

22 So the threshold, 50 caribou and 5 kilometres, was
23 developed in the earlier years and during advanced
24 exploration in discussions with the local stakeholders,
25 people that are in the field regularly.

26 And the results of the monitoring that we've done

1 in the past years, including Commitment 38, shows that
2 it's working. And we also received good comments from
3 people in the field after the migration seasons that
4 they're -- they're satisfied with how it's working.
5 Matt could elaborate a bit more than me on that, but
6 since we've worked on the migration monitoring, we've
7 had a really good relationship and good comments and
8 we've continued to improve over the years. So this
9 shows that the current threshold is working. Thank
10 you.

11 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
12 Atkinson.

13 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
14 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
15 Nunavut.

16 So I take it that the 50 or more was based on a
17 series of opinions rather than observational data,
18 numbers; is that correct?

19 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

20 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
21 It came from discussions that we had with primarily the
22 Kivalliq Inuit Association in the earlier years of the
23 Meliadine Mine. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Stephen
25 Atkinson.

26 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
2 Nunavut.

3 Thank you for that answer, Manon. I did have one
4 final part of that question I had missed asking. We
5 know -- it's very well known that caribou travel in
6 different-sized groups depending on the season. They
7 are in the smallest groups typically during calving
8 and, in some cases, spring migration and in the largest
9 groups later in the summer. So my question is: Is it,
10 therefore, appropriate to have a single group-size
11 threshold applied to all periods during the year, or
12 should you not have season-specific group-size
13 thresholds? Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

15 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

16 Just a clarification. I'd say the 50 -- it's not a
17 group size. It's whenever we see 50 caribou, we shut
18 down. So not when there's 50 caribou as part of a
19 group but, yeah, 50 caribou in total that we see in the
20 area.

21 And I would like to mention that -- you're
22 mentioning that the groups are smaller earlier in the
23 season, but I would like to mention that we are
24 shutting down earlier. We have shut down as well, so
25 we -- you know, we have responded to that. So, again,
26 the terrestrial plan takes that into account.

1 That's -- yeah. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.

3 MR. ATKINSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 Stephen Atkinson on behalf of the Government of
5 Nunavut. No further questions. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and
7 Northern Affairs Canada, Spencer Dewar.

8 MR. DEWAR: Spencer Dewar,
9 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
10 I have no questions, but I do understand that my
11 federal colleagues do.

12 THE CHAIR: Environment and Climate Change
13 Canada, Victoria Shore.

14 MR. SHORE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
15 Victoria Shore, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
16 We don't have any questions. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
18 Paul Harper.

19 MR. HARPER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
20 Paul Harper, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

21 We'll defer our comments to our presentation at a
22 later time. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Julie Anderson.
24 Health Canada Questions Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

25 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

26 Julie Anderson, Health Canada.

1 Just one clarifying question, please. During the
2 freshwater presentation, it was stated that the water
3 quality thresholds for the aquatic environmental
4 monitoring program were protective of human health in
5 addition to fish and other organisms. Could Agnico
6 please confirm which water quality guidelines are used
7 in the monitoring program to support conclusions
8 related to human health? Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle. Colleen
10 Prather.

11 MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
12 Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle, and thank you for the
13 question.

14 In the aquatic effects monitoring program, there's
15 a variety of environmental guidelines that are used to
16 evaluate water. These are a combination of the most
17 recent aquatic guidelines, terrestrial guidelines,
18 drinking guidelines, and the Canadian environmental
19 federal guidelines. So there's a combination of all
20 those different guidelines that are used to evaluate
21 individual sample results and seasonal and annual
22 results. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Julie Anderson.

24 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
25 Julie Anderson, Health Canada. Thank you for the
26 response. No further questions.

1 THE CHAIR: Natural Resources Canada,
2 Peter Unger.

3 Natural Resources Canada Questions Agnico Eagle Mines
4 Limited

5 MR. UNGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Peter
6 Unger, Natural Resources Canada.

7 My questions are related to the freshwater
8 environment. Natural Resources Canada agrees that the
9 thermal data and modelling information provided is
10 adequate for this stage of development; however, we had
11 made recommendations for future stages. These include
12 that Agnico Eagle should refine thermal modelling as
13 design progresses to incorporate new data, address
14 limitations and uncertainties raised in the Ardent and
15 Lorax technical memo, and inform final decisions
16 regarding storage ponds and underground operations.

17 Could Agnico Eagle please confirm whether or not
18 it intends to accept these recommendations? Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Colleen Prather.

20 MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
21 Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle, and thank you for the
22 question.

23 I guess I would like to start off by just
24 confirming which final written submission comment
25 number Natural Resources Canada was referring to before
26 I complete the answer. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Natural Resources Canada,
2 Peter Unger.

3 MR. UNGER: Thank you. I'm referring to
4 Technical Review Comment 9 and Technical Review
5 Comment 11 where Agnico responded it appreciates our
6 comments but did not acknowledge or respond whether it
7 would accept those recommendations or not. So I am
8 following up on that. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Colleen Prather.

10 MS. PRATHER: Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle.
11 Thank you for the clarification on the comments.

12 Our typical approach with models is we'll continue
13 to collect data and update models on a timeline that's
14 appropriate, and updated models would be provided
15 through the annual report or if there's other studies
16 that are required where updated model results are
17 required. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Natural Resources Canada,
19 Peter Unger.

20 MR. UNGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Peter
21 Unger, Natural Resources Canada. I'm going to move to
22 my next question.

23 A significant point that came out in technical
24 meetings with Agnico Eagle but was not evident in the
25 presentation nor in other documents is that the
26 conceptual groundwater model should also include lakes

1 of intermediate elevation with open taliks? The
2 significance of these lakes is that lakes of
3 intermediate elevation can both receive groundwater
4 flow from lakes of higher elevation with open taliks
5 and/or be the source of groundwater flow to lakes of
6 lower elevation with open taliks. Could Agnico Eagle
7 please confirm that the conceptual hydrogeological
8 model includes consideration of the lakes of
9 intermediate elevation with open taliks. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

11 MS. TURMEL: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

12 We'll defer that question just so we provide the proper
13 answer, Peter, if you don't mind. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Natural Resources Canada,
15 Peter Unger.

16 MR. UNGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Peter
17 Unger, Natural Resources Canada.

18 Final question, although it's a bit of a compound
19 one. Natural Resources Canada also made some
20 recommendations related to climate change
21 considerations. Specifically, these included that
22 Agnico should consider more recently published and
23 various climate scenarios and that climate change
24 should be included in thermal modelling as design
25 progresses. Can Agnico Eagle please confirm whether or
26 not future modelling will include climate change to

1 refine assessments and whether future thermal and
2 groundwater modelling will incorporate the most recent
3 and varying climate scenarios? Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

5 MS. PRATHER: Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle.
6 Thank you for the question.

7 We've had to do a little bit more conferring on
8 some of these questions because as we understood from
9 Natural Resources Canada's final written submission,
10 that all technical comments were resolved. So I guess
11 that was the first point we just wanted to make.

12 The second piece, climate change has been
13 considered and incorporated into the designs at the
14 mine site and in future projections of water balance to
15 help us design and manage the mine. And I'll pass on
16 to Matt to continue the answer.

17 MR. GILLMAN: Thanks, Colleen. Matt
18 Gillman, Agnico Eagle.

19 And just a bit of additional detail from the
20 operational side. We do apply industry standards for
21 climate change into our operation, notably at Meliadine
22 and many of our other operations, but at Meliadine,
23 this includes the Mining Association of Canada's
24 Towards Sustainable Mining Climate Change Protocol.
25 That is how we structure our climate change application
26 to our site. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Natural Resources Canada,
2 Peter Unger.

3 MR. UNGER: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
4 thank you for those responses. I have no further
5 questions. That was Peter Unger from Natural Resources
6 Canada. Apologies.

7 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada,
8 Adam Downing.

9 Transport Canada Questions Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

10 MR. DOWNING: Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 Adam Downing with Transport Canada.

12 So I just have a point of clarification on the
13 location of the wind farm as it was referenced in
14 yesterday's presentation that Transport Canada didn't
15 think it was prudent to construct the turbines in the
16 Subblu area, and I do have a question on Slide 20 of
17 the most recent presentation.

18 So Agnico Eagle and Transport Canada did meet in
19 May of 2023 to discuss the Subblu area as an
20 alternative location of the wind farm. At this
21 meeting, Transport Canada noted that generally it is
22 better to build tall structures away from aerodromes as
23 tall structures, such as wind turbines, are not
24 permitted within the buffer zone or approach zone.

25 The Subblu area, however, is outside of the
26 4-kilometre airport buffer zone and adjacent to the

1 15-kilometre approach zone, and Transport Canada does
2 not exclude the use of areas outside of these
3 restricted zones.

4 Additionally, within Transport Canada's Technical
5 Review Comment Number 3 of the July 26th Government of
6 Canada final submission, Transport Canada stated that
7 Transport Canada reviewed both the Subblu and location
8 near the mine site, and the department does not have an
9 opinion on which location is preferred.

10 Both locations are proposed -- as proposed are
11 considered outside of any airport zoning regulations,
12 and should the project proceed, Agnico Eagle, for both
13 locations, must submit an aeronautical assessment form
14 to Transport Canada for review.

15 Additionally, if the wind farm is to be
16 constructed in the Subblu area, Transport Canada
17 encourages Agnico Eagle to consider conducting a glare
18 analysis report that studies the potential effect of
19 the project may have on aircraft transiting the area or
20 using their Rankin Inlet airport, and any mitigation
21 measures to reduce glare to acceptable levels
22 identified in the report should be utilized to ensure
23 aviation safety.

24 Agnico Eagle has since responded in its
25 August 9th, 2023, response to final written submissions
26 that it is not constructing the wind farm in the Subblu

1 area.

2 So, given that, Transport Canada does not have a
3 position on the location of the turbines where the
4 results shown in the table on Slide 20 of the
5 terrestrial wildlife update presentation, the main
6 factors used to determine the decision to have the wind
7 farm at the Meliadine Mine.

8 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

9 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

10 Thank you for your clarification. You were
11 mentioning that the Subblu area is not within the
12 4-kilometre restricted zone around the airstrip, but we
13 see on Slide 12 that there's a portion of the blue
14 polygon that is inside the restricted zone.

15 Additionally, when we drew the blue polygon, we
16 kept it to the north. We kept it to the 15-kilometre
17 length restricted area for landing and take-off. So we
18 did make it smaller to stay outside of that area. So,
19 just to clarify, we could have had a bigger polygon,
20 but we kept it out of that zone, and, yes, that was our
21 understanding from our discussion that you had no
22 opinion, but it was more prudent if we had a choice,
23 but not -- it's not the only criteria, but it was one
24 criteria amongst others. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada,
26 Adam Downing.

1 MR. DOWNING: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 Adam Downing with Transport Canada, and thank you
3 Agnico Eagle for the clarification.

4 I do note that the southern portion of the Subblu
5 zone is within the 4-kilometres area. Nevertheless,
6 the remaining portion would be open should Agnico Eagle
7 make that decision to build the wind farm there. Thank
8 you.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

10 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. I
11 have nothing else to add. Thank you.

12 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization Questions
13 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

14 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
15 Trappers Organization, Noel Kaludjak.

16 MR. KALUDJAK: Noel Kaludjak, hunters and
17 trappers organization. Thank you for this opportunity
18 to present our concerns and comments about the planned
19 wind farm. As you know on 21, Kangiqliniq Hunters and
20 Trappers recommended locating the wind farm closer to
21 Rankin Inlet in the Subblu area. I am sure the
22 location was advised due to the area being used less by
23 anyone and away from the caribou migration.

24 Also, there is a comment from one of the
25 past members that once Agnico ceases to use the wind
26 farm, the community can utilize the wind farm for their

1 own use.

2 I will end my comment at this time, but I will add
3 more questions and comments after I have a response
4 from the mine. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

6 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

7 Would you please clarify what is your question. I
8 understood your comments, your two comments, but I'm
9 not sure what your question is. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
11 Trappers Organization, Noel Kaludjak.

12 MR. KALUDJAK Thank you. Noel Kaludjak,
13 hunters and trappers organization.

14 You mentioned earlier that speaking to Transport
15 Canada with your response that it was not feasible to
16 locate the windmill at Subblu area due to some reasons
17 we do not know, and you said you would recommend
18 these -- build the wind farm near the mine, but the
19 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers recommended to the
20 mine to locate the wind farm in the Subblu area.

21 Please explain to us why you would not want to locate
22 the windmill in the Subblu area. Why did you not want
23 to install them there? Why did you choose the mine
24 area where the caribou migration is the most active?

25 And, like I said earlier, after the mine ceases to
26 use or operate from these windmills, if it's located in

1 the vicinity of Rankin Inlet, the community can utilize
2 these windmills after the mine ceases to use them.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

5 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

6 Thank you for clarifying your question, Noel.

7 Basically in our May 23rd submission, we provided
8 the criteria we used to select the preferred location.
9 So in that submission we show the different criteria we
10 use and how they were weighted, one option versus the
11 other, and we presented it earlier as well, primarily
12 it's for technological reasons. Also, wildlife is
13 also -- was weighted equal, Meliadine Mine versus
14 Subblu. We also looked at land-use activities,
15 presence of cabins, archeological sites including
16 others. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
18 Trappers Association, Noel Kaludjak.

19 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
20 Noel Kaludjak, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers
21 Association.

22 My other comment is about the water that is --
23 that was tested in the Meliadine Lake area. We local
24 people are very sensitive to our tea. We are very,
25 very sensitive to the tea and from the water we get
26 from the land. We prefer our water to be most purest

1 when we pick it up to use it.

2 In the recent years, some Elders that we helped to
3 get water from -- refuse to take water from the
4 Meliadine River anymore. That used to be our favourite
5 spot to pick and use the water from that river to have
6 our tea.

7 As a local Inuk, we love our tea, and we love it
8 to be pure. We like it clean, but we have refused to
9 use the water from the Meliadine River because it gets
10 dark right away, and we can taste the contaminated
11 water.

12 The Meliadine Lake pours into the Meliadine River
13 into the small Meliadine. It also pours into Peter
14 Lake and onto Diane Lake and to Diane River. That is
15 our main source of char year-round. It is -- it
16 doesn't seem to be contaminated now like the Meliadine
17 River, but down the road in a couple years, few years,
18 it will be contaminated like the Meliadine River. We
19 know that. The community members know that.

20 You presented the samples taken with the local
21 Elders and their tea, but it was not detailed. You did
22 not show us what the results were. You showed us the
23 animals -- the fish that were tested, but we have no
24 results.

25 Please explain to us your water samples, animal
26 fish samples, and the results, and who does the

1 sampling? Just to add, you -- you expect to expand the
2 mine to the -- between the Meliadine Lake and Itirlak
3 area further east -- southeast. That will make more
4 contamination to the waters in those two lakes where
5 there are fish, and we take our water from there.
6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Before we go to Agnico Eagle
8 for a response, we're going to take a supper break, but
9 a couple of reminders, please turn off your receiver to
10 help save the battery during the supper break. It
11 helps save the battery power.

12 And just so everyone is aware, there won't be
13 refreshments this evening, so bring your own
14 refreshments or snacks for the evening session.

15 We'll reconvene at 6:30 with a response from
16 Agnico Eagle and then continue with Kangiqliniq Hunters
17 and Trappers Organization.

18 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 6:30 PM)

19 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 6:35 PM)

20 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone. For
21 those of you who might just be joining us this evening,
22 we're on Agenda Item 8. We left off with a question
23 from the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization
24 to Agnico Eagle.

25 Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

26 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

1 So to answer the question that was asked
2 previously before dinner, we know water quality and tea
3 is really important for the community. We've heard
4 that through engagement activities and while in
5 discussions with the Kivalliq Inuit Association. So
6 following that -- those activities, we -- we had the
7 idea of organizing a water management site visit which
8 we presented to basically explain how we're handling
9 water at site and monitoring. During that first
10 engagement activity, people brought up the concern
11 about the colour of the tea.

12 So we hired a tea expert, a real tea expert, and
13 what he did is he took some samples of water in Rankin
14 and from site as well and followed the same process
15 with the different batches of tea to understand is it
16 the tea or is it the water that's changing colour. And
17 it's primarily the -- the tea and the -- the leaves
18 that's impacting the colour of the water, so -- 'cause
19 sometimes it's not the same leaves from the same years.
20 The variation was not significant, but it was primarily
21 related to the leaves.

22 So with those results, we organized a second visit
23 with most of the same people that attended the first
24 visit to present the results and make sure it was
25 known.

26 The second part of the question was related to

1 water quality monitoring downstream, potential impacts
2 to Meliadine River, and I'll have Matt from environment
3 take that part of the question. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Matt Gillman.

5 MR. GILLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Matt Gillman, environment superintendent at Meliadine.

7 So I'll give a -- a relatively brief
8 somewhat-detailed overview of the water sampling that's
9 done at Meliadine, who does it, and what the results
10 have been telling us to capture the three components of
11 the question from the hunters and trappers
12 organization.

13 Water sampling is done both on-site and in
14 Meliadine Lake, and all samples are analyzed by a
15 third-party lab. The sampling is done through various
16 programs, including the Nunavut Water Board licence
17 requirements and Environment Canada and Climate
18 Change's metals and diamond mining effluent
19 regulations.

20 The on-site sampling is done to confirm that the
21 water that leaves the site is safe for the environment,
22 and the sampling that is done on Meliadine Lake is done
23 to confirm compliance with regulations and that changes
24 in water within Meliadine Lake are within predicted
25 ranges.

26 The question we had focused on Meliadine Lake

1 water quality, so I will focus the remainder of this
2 response on that.

3 Sampling on Meliadine Lake is completed, as I
4 mentioned, under requirements of the water licence.
5 Specifically within that, the aquatic effects
6 monitoring program, and under Environment Canada and
7 Climate Change's metals and diamond mining effluent
8 regulations, the environment effects monitoring
9 program.

10 All of this work is done in collaboration with a
11 consultant, and all samples are analyzed by an external
12 lab. The samples are collected by a qualified
13 environmental staff with strict procedures in place for
14 quality control, and these qualified environmental
15 staff are comprised of both the Meliadine environment
16 team and a third-party consultant, depending on the
17 samples that are being collected, whether they be water
18 or fish or benthic communities.

19 As I noted, part of the question asked about
20 results, so I will now focus on an overview of
21 Meliadine Lake monitoring results.

22 The aquatic effects monitoring program is
23 specifically in place to assess Meliadine Lake water
24 quality with a focus on mine-related impacts.

25 The results of this program are compiled and
26 analyzed by our third-party consultant, and results

1 have shown that changes in water quality align with the
2 predicted changes that were within the FEIS and are
3 below predictions at the edge of the mixing zone, as
4 was shown on Slide 46 of the Agnico Eagle valued
5 ecosystem components presentation that was provided by
6 my colleague, Colleen Prather, earlier on.

7 The environmental effects monitoring program is
8 designed to determine if effluent discharge to
9 Meliadine Lake is affecting fish health, pop -- pardon
10 me -- health of fish populations or fish habitat. This
11 program has been designed to meet monitoring
12 requirements specified in Schedule 5 of the metals and
13 diamond mining effluent regulations, and results of the
14 latest cycle have shown that, overall, the differences
15 observed between lake trout populations in Meliadine
16 Lake and reference lakes do not indicate that effluent
17 is adversely affecting fish health, fish habitat, or
18 usability of fisheries.

19 The results and reports I've just discussed are
20 reviewed annually by regulators and indigenous groups,
21 the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the Northlands Dene,
22 and the -- and the Sayisi Dene during the annual
23 reporting process. During this time, we welcome
24 questions and discussions on the results through these
25 platforms, and we look forward to those discussions
26 moving forward with the -- with the project.

1 Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
3 Trappers Organization, Roger Pilakapsi.

4 MR. PILAKAPSI: Thank you, Chair. Roger --

5 THE INTERPRETER: Roger --

6 MR. PILAKAPSI: The other question was -- no,
7 he's not here. But the question was, like, when you --
8 when you get that water sample, do you guys pick it
9 publicly so that people will know it's okay to drink?
10 And I know it's okay to drink, but people can tell it's
11 different taste now in -- 'cause -- 'cause it's black,
12 and there wouldn't be -- the fish -- you guys ever had
13 fish samples? Like -- and that -- like (INDISCERNIBLE)
14 but during the falltime when it's pretty thin, you --
15 you can -- I -- I always try different places. Like, I
16 notice that fish are super, super skinny now. Like,
17 even the heads are -- they look humongous on some of
18 them. But I know some of them are healthy that are a
19 little bit farther away from the camp. That's --
20 that's my question there.

21 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

22 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

23 For your first part of the question, yes, all the
24 data are public.

25 And I will let Matt answer the second part. Thank
26 you.

1 THE CHAIR: Matt Gillman.

2 MR. GILLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 Matt Gillman, Agnico Eagle.

4 So with respect to fish sampling we do, that's the
5 main component of the environmental effects monitoring
6 program, is to understand the fish health and
7 populations in Meliadine Lake and how that compares to
8 reference lakes.

9 You talked a little bit about fish size, and the
10 aquatic -- or -- sorry -- the environmental effects
11 monitoring does assess that. From the report that
12 Manon mentioned is public, the monitoring found that
13 lake trout collected from Meliadine Lake tended to be
14 both longer and heavier at a given age than lake trout
15 connected from either Peter Lake or Atulik Lake.
16 Matna.

17 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
18 Trappers Organization, Roger Pilakapsi.

19 MR. PILAKAPSI: Thank you, Chair.

20 My other question is, like, ever since the mine
21 opened, I know there -- there's quite a bit of --
22 come -- come -- I mean (INUKTITUT SPOKEN) comes out of
23 that mill that goes into their tailing area.
24 There's -- I know there's some strong -- there might be
25 some strong chemicals. Like, there would be -- quite a
26 bit of caribou go that way, and when they go that way,

1 like, how is that area -- how is that area where that
2 tailing -- your tailing is -- is it still -- ever since
3 you guys started, is it healthy plants and stuff like
4 that, the vegetation stuff? Are they good for the
5 caribous still, or is it going -- the landscape?

6 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

7 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

8 I just want to reiterate that as part of Meliadine
9 extension's scope, we're not planning on changing
10 anything related to milling activities; this will stay
11 similar. However, Matt can provide just a brief
12 summary of what we are doing on that end. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Matt Gillman.

14 MR. GILLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 Matt Gillman, Agnico Eagle.

16 As we saw yesterday, the -- the tailings storage
17 facility is a dry stack in nature, which minimizes the
18 footprint and prevents the possibility of caribou from
19 interacting with the tailings pond, which is beneficial
20 for caribou protection in that sense. With the
21 surrounding area and whether we see caribou interacting
22 with the tailings -- we don't see them on the tailings
23 facility or in the site infrastructure where they could
24 interact directly with it. We have a program in place
25 that monitors vegetation and soil quality. It's done
26 under the terrestrial environment management and

1 monitoring plan, specifically for the -- the question
2 you had to understand the -- essentially the health of
3 the vegetation and how that might relate to wildlife
4 and human use.

5 At a high level, again, that is public, the
6 report. And at a high level, what the results have
7 shown is generally and especially where caribou pass
8 through the area, the vegetation quality and soil
9 quality is very similar or is comparable to the
10 baseline conditions. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
12 Trappers Organization, Roger Pilakapsi.

13 MR. PILAKAPSI: Those are all my questions.
14 Thank you.

15 Northlands Denesuline First Nation Questions Agnico
16 Eagle Mines Limited

17 THE CHAIR: Northlands Denesuline
18 First Nation, Benjamin Denechezhe.

19 MR. DENECHYZHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 I would like to mention based on the -- the
21 presentation that's been provided, I -- I'll speak on
22 the -- what I know about caribou.

23 The mine here has provided information that
24 pertains to some of the answers we seek; however, based
25 on the windmill that we're talking about provided to
26 informations of Diavik mine and the Raglan Mine. There

1 was two mines that pertained with the -- the windmill.

2 What we're talking about here, the Meliadine Mine,
3 is the camping ground of the caribou -- the Qamanirjuaq
4 caribou that we rely on. They've been migrating past
5 the -- the -- the birthplace of -- of the caribou,
6 where they always migrate every year, versus what you
7 have provided on two locations of the windmill. I
8 don't know if they have the same activities, like,
9 caribou. The birthplace of the caribou. But that's
10 what we're talking about here, and that's the
11 difference.

12 And when we talk about caribou -- I mentioned it
13 before -- it's a very sensitive topic for us because we
14 rely on -- on caribou. That is our main source of
15 food. So based on the information provided on all
16 aspects of what's been presented, what we're talking
17 about is two different things that's happened with the
18 caribou.

19 In one area, the analysis showed that there's very
20 limited activity, and on this part of the -- the -- the
21 topic of the Meliadine Mine, we're talking about the
22 birthplace of these caribou, and they migrate for
23 thousands of years.

24 And the other thing that I'm thinking about
25 sitting here is we don't know what or how the caribou
26 are going to behave once those windmills are up. We

1 don't know. You haven't proven that. And that's just
2 something that -- that we speculate that we might think
3 that's going to happen, but actually nobody knows. And
4 that's my concern, is the location of -- of the -- the
5 windmill and how the caribou are going to react or
6 behave. We don't know 'cause Qamanirjuaq caribou herd
7 hasn't encountered those windmill. So that is my
8 concern. Masì.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

10 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

11 Thank you for your comment, Benji.

12 So right now our -- our mine does not overlap with
13 calving range. It might be getting closer, but there's
14 no overlap. But recognizing that it's important,
15 caribou's important, the Qamanirjuaq herd is important,
16 that's why we proposed the 5-kilometre shutdown. If we
17 look at the other turbines, there's no other turbines
18 that shut down for caribou. We will be shutting down
19 our turbines when they're inside the 5-kilometre buffer
20 from the turbines, so we think this is a good measure
21 to reduce impact, and we've also developed a wind farm
22 monitoring plan. We've integrated ideas that have been
23 shared by the different intervenors including looking
24 at collars, behaviour monitoring, trail cameras to make
25 sure that impacts are mitigated.

26 If you look at some of the alternative close to

1 town, the one that was in blue, a bit closer to the
2 mine site, not Subblu, it's an important caribou
3 migration corridor. Just this year we saw hundreds of
4 thousand caribou going through that area. And the
5 Subblu area, when we look at caribou passing in the
6 area, it's a bit similar to the case at Meliadine. So
7 that's why we weighted them equally. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Northlands Denesuline
9 First Nation, Benjamin Denechezhe.

10 MR. DENECHZHE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ben
11 Denechezhe, Northlands First Nation.

12 Yes. I understand what you're saying. But my
13 question to you is: Do we have any information of the
14 caribou, especially the Qamanirjuaq herd, experience a
15 windmill? That is my question.

16 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

17 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
18 Dan Coulton, WSP.

19 So you're correct that there are no wind farms in
20 Qamanirjuaq caribou range, and that's an uncertainty.
21 And so what we do is we draw on experience from other
22 studies that are available that give us a sense of what
23 those effects might be. That includes a number of
24 studies from Europe where wind farms are in isolation,
25 which is a little bit different than this circumstance
26 where there's an existing mine that's already affected

1 some of the landscape.

2 And so I've referenced the paper that kind of
3 gives us some confidence that there might be some
4 similarities between how caribou might be expected to
5 respond based on studies of semi-domesticated reindeer,
6 wild reindeer, and caribou responding similarly to
7 similar types of developments.

8 There's mitigation that Manon referenced where the
9 wind farm will be shut down when 50 or more caribou are
10 near, and that means that there will be no noise
11 generated from the wind farm. The turbines won't be
12 turning, so there will be no motion observed. It'll
13 just be the structure, the wind turbine structure
14 itself stationary, and that will remain until the --
15 the triggers are met that allow it to resume operation.
16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Northlands Denesuline
18 First Nation, Benjamin Denechezhe.

19 MR. DENECHÉZHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 But where I am trying to address this problem is
21 the birthplace; the camping ground is close by this
22 mine. And when you have -- when you have some
23 activity, especially the caribous that are so
24 sensitive, and if you bring these windmills, we're not
25 sure of how the caribou will react. We don't. None of
26 us here in this room know how they're going to react.

1 So they might even move away somewhere else. We don't
2 know.

3 And that's our concern because the camping ground
4 is the birthplace of how we understood by our ancestors
5 that these caribou migrate year after year to their
6 birthplace. They travel. But if we have put something
7 in place that affects that, we don't know how or where
8 they're going to react. That is my concern.

9 Like I said before, we can work together and
10 address. There is some alternative that's been brought
11 forward by the members here living in this area. I am
12 deeply concerned about the caribou, and I have some
13 concerns and hoping that both levels can have a mutual
14 understanding of working and collectively move forward.
15 But as it is right now, there's uncertainty based on
16 your location. Masì.

17 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

18 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle. I
19 understand your point. Thank you for your -- your
20 comment. Nothing further to add.

21 Sayisi Dene First Nation Questions Agnico Eagle Mines
22 Limited

23 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
24 Geoff Bussidor.

25 MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Geoff
26 Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation.

1 I just have -- the preferred windmill sites that
2 were selected -- just a question whether archeological
3 studies were -- were carried out in those areas before
4 the selections were made, or how was that usually
5 carried out, and whether the Inuit organizations are
6 aware of these sites and whether there's historic use
7 of it in -- for some manner that may be a concern for
8 them. Just a question there. Masì.

9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

10 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

11 Just to make sure I understand. Did you mention
12 archeological sites? Is that what you mentioned?
13 Okay.

14 Yes. Earlier when we were discussing the
15 different constraints that were presented to Nicholas'
16 team to select the proper location, this was one. We
17 sent an archaeologist in all the area around Meliadine.
18 It's not just for the wind farm. It's for any new
19 development. But we did one specifically for the wind
20 farm, and, as a result, some of the towers had to be
21 moved. So, yes, it was included.

22 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
23 Geoff Bussidor.

24 MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Dan Chranowski has another question.

26 THE CHAIR: Dan Chranowski.

1 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Good evening, everyone. I have two questions.
3 One is a -- well, both are follow-ups. But just a
4 clarification. It was indicated when we were talking
5 about the caribou protection measures that 50-plus
6 caribou -- well, it's my understanding that the
7 protection measures state it's groups of 50-plus
8 caribou is the trigger for the immediate -- for the
9 initial shutdown; however, your statement was that
10 individual or smaller groups that all add up to 50 is
11 the trigger for the shutdown. I'd like that clarified,
12 please. Is it groups of 50 plus, or is it just two or
13 three or four or five, six different groups that all
14 add up to 50? What is the actual trigger, please?

15 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

16 If you could, yeah, turn your mic off.

17 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

18 So I will quote the terrestrial environment
19 monitoring plan here. So basically if you have a
20 group -- you're along the road or close to the mine
21 site, you have a group of 20 and you have a group of
22 30 -- that's 50 -- within 5 kilometres. We shut down.
23 Even though the groups are less than 50, so ... It's
24 50 included. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
26 Dan Chranowski.

1 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 I just -- I think that there should be a bit more
3 clarification in those measures. I -- I think -- thank
4 you, though, for the clarification.

5 Following up on the -- the wind farm, on pages 23
6 and 24 regarding the -- the wind farm noise. Your
7 modelling assessments predict that wind turbine noise
8 would not likely be detected by caribou. But these are
9 not actual measurements. They are the models. I've
10 been hearing so much about models today which are --
11 sometimes validate, sometimes not. They're just
12 models.

13 Actual field measurements can actually validate
14 these predictions, and so our -- in our -- one of our
15 November technical comments identified that we would
16 like to see actual measurements in the remote locations
17 and close to the mine to actually validate the models.
18 It seems like the models were put together in 2014, and
19 then the 2020 assessment. And I know you have noise
20 monitors for human effects, concerns, but we've always
21 felt that measuring thresholds that -- thresholds that
22 caribou can hear would be more important to measure.

23 When we talk about this, we'd then like to be able
24 to say that you have actually measured actual baseline
25 conditions instead of modelled conditions so that you
26 can validate what you're saying. It would be nice to

1 actually say that.

2 Then it would also be quite important to do these
3 measurements at low wind conditions. It seems that
4 high winds always seem to cause a problem for
5 measurements, but low wind conditions could very well
6 really tell us one way or another how caribou may --
7 well, at least measure those -- those frequencies so
8 that we have something to work with instead of models.

9 If we collected -- if Agnico Eagle collected this
10 data, they would then be able to use it for adaptive
11 management and -- instead of relying on models. So
12 then we would know for sure if we had any potential
13 noise impacts that caribou would respond to. So I --
14 at this point I'd just like to ask if -- and -- and in
15 our November comments on this, the Agnico Eagle
16 response was that they expressed interest in actually
17 developing some sort of measurements like this. So I
18 will ask if you would be willing to commit to this
19 additional noise monitoring program. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

21 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 Victor Young from WSP Canada on behalf of Agnico Eagle.

23 I'll -- I'll respond partly, Dan, to your
24 question, and then Manon has some -- some additional
25 notes around -- around -- around the monitoring.

26 So there was sort of two parts, I think, to -- to

1 what you were saying. One was that you have concerns
2 about the use of modelling as -- as the basis for --
3 for the assessment, and then the second part was that
4 you would like to see additional monitoring to help
5 sort of validate some of that modelling.

6 So as regards to the -- the modelling, I just want
7 to sort of make clear that, for sure, there is
8 uncertainty inherent in any modelling exercise, but the
9 modelling of environmental noise, including noise from
10 wind turbines, is completed in accordance with an
11 international technical standard. That's the
12 international organization for standardization, or ISO,
13 Standard 9613-2, which is a well-established modelling
14 standard. So it's not as if the modelling that was
15 done for the FEIS or for the additional analysis that
16 was presented in -- in May of 2023 is based on some new
17 or untested standard. It's a well-established
18 modelling standard.

19 And the role of the standard is to predict how the
20 noise will propagate from the -- the source into the --
21 into the environment. And the inputs to that model are
22 noise emissions or sound power level, and that data
23 comes from the -- the equipment vendor, so from the
24 turbine vendor, so their requirements in North America
25 and in Europe for the manufacturers of industrial wind
26 turbines to -- to specify noise emissions at a high

1 degree of precision, and we use that in our -- in our
2 modelling to -- to -- to predict what the noise levels
3 from the turbines are going to be.

4 And, in addition, the modelling incorporates a
5 number of conservative assumptions so that we can be
6 comfortable that we are not underpredicting the -- the
7 noise effect from these turbines. So there is
8 uncertainty in any type of modelling, and the way that
9 we address that uncertainty is to err on the side of
10 overestimating what the impacts will be.

11 So some of the conservative assumptions -- I'll
12 just list them briefly, and then -- and then I'll pass
13 it to Manon -- include that we assume the turbines are
14 emitting their maximum noise at all times even though
15 the noise emitted will vary with wind speed. So they
16 don't emit maximum noise at all times, but we treat
17 them as if they are in our analysis.

18 We also assume downwind conditions which tend to
19 enhance noise propagation. So the wind is always in
20 our model. The wind is always blowing from the
21 turbines to each of the receptors, be that a cabin or
22 a -- a caribou location in the environment.

23 And then the third conservative assumption I'll
24 just mention is the -- when we looked at the caribou
25 effects in the -- in the May analysis, the May 2023
26 analysis, we did the assessment based on the most

1 sensitive caribou's hearing threshold from the Perra
2 paper. So as I mentioned when I was presenting
3 slide 23 earlier today, there was a large range of
4 sensitivities reported in that Perra paper. Some
5 caribou hear much better than others, and our analysis
6 is for the most sensitive caribou, so the one that
7 hears the best, basically, and when we did that
8 analysis, our prediction was that they would not hear
9 the noise within 2-and-a-half kilometres of the
10 turbine. Once they were farther than 2.5 kilometres,
11 it would be very, very unlikely that they would hear
12 the noise from the turbines.

13 So that is just sort of my explanation of how the
14 modelling works, and then Manon has some comments on --
15 on the part of the question about the monitoring. So
16 I'll pass it to her. Thank you.

17 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
18 Thank you for your question.

19 Do we currently have a noise monitoring program in
20 place and the noise monitor that we utilize have the
21 capacity to measure those low frequency that you are
22 interested in? 'Cause right now what is being reported
23 is the higher frequencies which was related to the
24 existing mine activities, so what I suggest is we can
25 discuss further as part of the terrestrial advisory
26 group and with other interested parties as to how we

1 can, I guess, report those data 'cause they are being
2 collected as part of our existing program. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
4 Dan Chranowski.

5 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
6 you, Victor and -- and Manon.

7 Yes. I missed mentioning that there had been
8 three recent positionings of -- of noise monitoring
9 that had been identified to us, however, very extremely
10 recent. It -- it wasn't really part of the -- the
11 plans in the overall final environmental impact
12 statement, and so I guess -- and then the -- the other
13 point is that still I feel that actual baseline
14 measurements need to be done to finally validate what
15 the model is predicting.

16 We -- I understand you feel very confident about
17 these things, but I think there's still a reservation
18 in some people's minds that we don't know everything
19 about what caribou hear. We don't know everything.
20 Predictions are -- sometimes only go so far. Actual
21 would be much more definitive.

22 And so I will take your comment as far as going
23 further with this as a commitment. That's what I would
24 like to think because there is still uncertainty, as
25 Victor has mentioned, and I would like to see this
26 determined in a -- a more clear fashion than just

1 models. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

3 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

4 Thank you for your comment. I have nothing to add
5 at this -- this point.

6 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation Questions
7 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

8 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
9 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

10 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie
11 Rasmussen, Athabasca -- consultant for Athabasca
12 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

13 I have a few questions here just to follow up on
14 the questions about the overlap of the calving grounds.
15 I'd like to just point to two analyses that were shared
16 by Agnico Eagle. The -- so one is the Meliadine Mine
17 caribou movement mapping, the Brownian Bridge models
18 that were shared on May 23rd, and the other is
19 additional technical questions from the Kivalliq Inuit
20 Association, Agnico Eagle's responses which were given
21 on May 23rd.

22 In the Brownian Bridge models, you were -- Agnico
23 Eagle's analysis shows a 14.5 percent overlap of the
24 calving grounds with the regional study area. Can you
25 confirm that? Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

1 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

2 We submitted an errata on August 18. The error in
3 the May 23rd report was that the size of the RSA was
4 not -- 28 kilometres, as in the final environmental
5 impact statement was erroneously put as 50 kilometres.
6 So in the August 18th errata document, the new
7 percentage is 2.6 percent. So -- yeah. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
9 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

10 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie
11 Rasmussen, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

12 Thank you for the response. And I -- I would just
13 like to reiterate that the -- the number has changed,
14 and there is still confirmation that there is overlap
15 with the calving grounds. And I'd also like to point
16 to the additional technical questions from the Kivalliq
17 Inuit Association document that -- that your analysis
18 shows that there were collared caribou present within
19 the regional study area and the local study area during
20 calving. Thank you.

21 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

22 MR. COULTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 Dan Coulton, WSP.

24 I'm going to answer the question related to the
25 KIV response. The KivIA requested that we evaluate the
26 different seasons as defined by the Government of

1 Nunavut, and those seasons are just dates. They're not
2 necessarily actual calving events. So what we showed
3 in the response -- in the same package to GNTRC05 is
4 that the calving events have a different distribution
5 in the seasons. There's some -- none of the calving
6 events or calf mortalities took place within the RSA,
7 although there was some overlap with the boundary of
8 the distribution of those events of the -- of the
9 calving events with the RSA. And that -- that amount's
10 described in the response to the GNTRC05.

11 THE CHAIR: Just a reminder not to use
12 abbreviations and stick to common terms because the
13 interpreters are trying to help people that don't speak
14 English understand.

15 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation,
16 Katie Rasmussen.

17 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
18 Katie Rasmussen, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
19 Corporation.

20 I think that that response I'm trying to
21 respectfully respond to. It seems that Agnico Eagle
22 is -- is splitting hairs to -- to not have to
23 acknowledge that the calving grounds have moved within
24 the regional study area of the mine. The -- I'm
25 looking at Table 3, "Proportion of Collared Individuals
26 Exposed to Local Study Area By Season".

1 And in 2022, there is a value of .04 in the calving
2 season. Given the importance of the calving grounds
3 and Agnico Eagle's commitments in their own documents
4 to adaptive management and working collaboratively,
5 acknowledging these important shifts is essential to
6 protecting caribou.

7 Can Agnico Eagle respond to our concerns that --
8 that you do not seem to want to acknowledge that this
9 significant and important shift is happening? Thank
10 you.

11 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

12 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

13 I will let Greg answer the first part, and I'll --
14 I'll answer it after.

15 MR. SHARAM: Greg Sharam for -- from ERM
16 for Agnico Eagle.

17 In terms of the -- the current location of the
18 calving grounds, the calving grounds have been moving
19 north for the past approximately 20 years, possibly
20 longer. They've moved potentially up to over
21 60 kilometres north from roughly west of Whale Cove to
22 northwest of Rankin Inlet, and we note that through our
23 monitoring program with the height of land monitoring
24 and road monitoring that's being done that, during the
25 last five years after calving, the caribou are moving
26 towards the coast, and we see caribou at that time

1 typically in July, although as time goes on, it's been
2 getting slightly earlier. That information is tracked,
3 included in the annual report, and shared with the
4 terrestrial advisory group for discussion on the
5 terrestrial environment mitigation monitoring plan. So
6 it's well understood where the caribou are and when
7 they interact with the mine.

8 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

9 And, as a result, we have continued to apply our
10 terrestrial monitoring plan which requires us to shut
11 down the mine activities, which means vehicles are
12 stopped, personnel goes inside the buildings, nobody is
13 allowed to go on the road except for monitoring of
14 caribou. So the mine is shut down, and the number of
15 days has increased as they're getting closer to the
16 mine. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
18 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

19 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 Katie Rasmussen, consultant for Athabasca Denesuline Ne
21 Ne Land Corporation.

22 Thank you for the responses. I -- I don't believe
23 they addressed our questions; however, we will be
24 speaking about this more in our presentation, so for
25 the sake of time for now we'll move on.

26 I have another question about -- you presented on

1 your Commitment 38 to analyze caribou movement, and in
2 Agnico Eagle's presentation, they stated that they have
3 met that commitment. The Athabasca Denesuline have not
4 been allowed to take part in the terrestrial advisory
5 group to date so have not been a part of that
6 discussion; however, we did request an overview as part
7 of the analysis that took place on Commitment 38,
8 the -- the caribou movement through the mine site, and
9 we disagree that the commitment has been met. We have
10 outstanding concerns about the analysis.

11 And because we were not able to take part in the
12 discussions with the terrestrial advisory group, we
13 have questions for the members of the terrestrial
14 advisory group because my understanding is that
15 possibly a number of members don't agree that the
16 commitment has been met.

17 So right now we'd like to ask the Government of
18 Nunavut, who is a member of the terrestrial advisory
19 group, do you agree that Commitment 38 has been
20 completed? And can you explain your concerns if not?
21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: I know for some people it's
23 their first time participating in a NIRB hearing.
24 Normally any questions for other intervenors are
25 reserved for when they give their presentation. The
26 Government of Nunavut representatives are also not

1 sworn in, so I would -- you know, if you have a
2 question for the members of the terrestrial advisory
3 group, to ask them after their presentation when it
4 comes -- after their intervention when it comes to your
5 turn to ask questions. So right now the questions are
6 directed to Agnico Eagle.

7 Katie Rasmussen.

8 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 Katie Rasmussen, consultant for Athabasca Denesuline Ne
10 Ne Land Corporation. Thank you for the clarification
11 on the order.

12 I just have one final question before I pass it
13 along. With the wind farm analysis, I wanted to
14 acknowledge a few things -- or speak to a few things
15 that were mentioned. One is that the -- in the Perra
16 analysis that was cited by Agnico Eagle, the lowest
17 threshold for caribou hearing was limited by
18 technology. So there still is not an answer in western
19 science as to how caribou can hear.

20 I'd like to ask Agnico Eagle to -- to explain if
21 they used indigenous knowledge and Inuit
22 Qaujimajatuqangit to inform the zone of influence for
23 the wind farm management thresholds. In the answers
24 given so far, it sounds like those thresholds were
25 based on western science which, as we've heard, leaves
26 a great deal of uncertainty. And it seems to me that

1 uncertain studies from Europe are likely not as good of
2 a source of information as people here who have been
3 living with caribou since time immemorial. The
4 Athabasca Denesuline have shared their concerns about
5 the wind turbines, but those don't seem to be reflected
6 in the current management plan. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

8 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

9 I would just like to come back to the previous
10 comment before this question regarding Commitment 38.

11 So Commitment 38 was done as part of the water
12 line process, and the interested parties identified for
13 this commitment was the Government of Nunavut,
14 Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene First Nations, and the
15 Kivalliq Inuit First Nation. And discussions regarding
16 the development of that study were initiated in
17 December of last year and were finalized in -- in April
18 of this year.

19 Regarding the Perra analysis, Katie, you mentioned
20 that it was saying that the lowest -- it was limited by
21 technology, that's -- that's what the report says, and
22 why did we use this analysis.

23 Basically in April, Dan Chranowski recommended
24 that we use this paper to complete additional analysis
25 of the potential impacts of low frequency on caribou
26 due to the wind farm. So we followed recommendations

1 from the Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene First Nation.

2 As for the -- how did we use indigenous knowledge
3 for the development of the thresholds, the mitigation
4 measures, it was developed in collaboration with the
5 Kivalliq Inuit Association. And also since then we've
6 also worked collaboratively with the Kangiqliniq
7 Hunters and Trappers Organization through the different
8 migration season to -- to constantly adapt. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
10 Land Corporation, Katie Rasmussen.

11 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
12 Katie Rasmussen, consultant for the Athabasca
13 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

14 Thank you, Agnico Eagle, for your responses. I
15 will pass it over to Chief Bart Tsannie. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Before we continue with
17 questions, we're going to take a 15-minute break.

18 (ADJOURNMENT)

19 THE CHAIR: If you can please return to
20 your seats and we'll continue with questions.

21 Continuing with questions to Agnico Eagle. Bart
22 Tsannie.

23 MR. TSANNIE: Good evening. I wanted to say
24 to all -- good evening to all the people that are here
25 right now. I want to thank the Rankin that have
26 invited us to your community and the surrounding

1 communities. I'm very honoured to be here.

2 THE CHAIR: They need to switch the
3 language feed. You can continue.

4 MR. TSANNIE: Okay. I'm just going to speak
5 my language for a while too, so ...

6 I want to thank you all that we have the honour of
7 gathering here. For the reason why that we have come
8 here, there's a big important event for us. We came
9 back from south -- from Saskatchewan.

10 As a chief from the three communities, we work
11 together in working for the people. We have -- we have
12 worked as three communities for about 17,000, as chiefs
13 working for the people. The wind turbines are being a
14 big topic right now, and the -- our survival are
15 dependent on the caribou. The caribou will not talk
16 for itself and for us, so we have to put in a big word
17 on it because this is -- that is our source of food.

18 Our people in my community live off land, how the
19 people live off land here. From Manitoba, we all know
20 each other and what we survive on. And with this
21 regarding to the mine here, us, as people, we have
22 three -- three mines that are across our community on
23 the Treaty -- Treaty 10 area. We know how it is.

24 Back in 2016, we signed the (NO ENGLISH FEED) with
25 the mine. They promised us -- not promise, but, you
26 know, about jobs, the business -- business and other

1 opportunities. You know, like I said, we signed it in
2 2016, but there is a lot of gaps since that. There is
3 a lot of gaps that needs to be fulfilled because the
4 mines has been around since mid '70 in our area.

5 We took the tour yesterday, and it was 20 --
6 20-some kilometres. But from where I live in
7 Athabasca, there is a mine right across the lake by the
8 shoreline, the east -- the west shoreline, and we're on
9 the east of Wollaston Lake, and those other two mines
10 that's close by too.

11 So, you know, we have to -- they have to hear us
12 too, and we have to work together too. The reason why
13 I'm saying today is different than the days that we
14 come from, so -- so you have to -- so we have to look
15 at them, and they have to look at us too, how we can
16 work this together. And this is -- the caribou is our
17 main source of survival, and we have to be respectful
18 to it.

19 On my land, where -- how -- how we work for the
20 people, it was required in a lot of -- a lot of topics
21 regarding caribou, and if there's a disagreement, they
22 would like to -- us say it.

23 (NO ENGLISH FEED) it's about the discharge of the
24 wastewater. You know, we have -- there's about ten of
25 us that have come to -- to the hearing today and all
26 week, and a few of them has worked for the mine for

1 quite some time, and especially myself. In the early
2 '90s, I had worked for the mine in underground for at
3 least three years, and I experienced how much water
4 they use, even an open pit. And after the treatment,
5 the discharge running to our lake, which is Wollaston,
6 but the sample that they do is not good enough for us.
7 They need more samples on the waters.

8 Just like the trappers organization has stated
9 that, you know, there is -- they don't want to drink
10 water out of the Meliadine River. We were facing the
11 same issue too when the mine was there. Still today I
12 don't think anybody wants to drink the water from where
13 they're discharging to our lake there. But they were
14 saying that they're not discharging, but where are they
15 storing the wastewater because I seen a lot of mining
16 and experience. Like I said, we came from the
17 surrounding mines in our area -- in our area, and we do
18 understand, and we seen lots. We don't know
19 everything, but, yes, we seen lots and understand lots
20 about the mine that's happening in our area.

21 So the question is: The discharge is going to
22 happen sooner or later because -- and also the runoff
23 from the waste that they store in that area. I
24 appreciate that you have listened to me on this night.
25 Marsi.

26 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

1 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
2 And thank you for your comments and explanation. (NO
3 ENGLISH FEED) We have two discharge points, one in
4 Meliadine Lake by the exploration camp. During the
5 tour, I believe I pointed the exploration camp, so
6 it -- just off of that area. As a note, our camp water
7 intake is approximately 300 metres downstream of that
8 discharge point, and our second discharge point is at
9 Itivia Harbour, where we started our visit. Where we
10 saw on the fuel farm and lay-down area, that's our
11 second discharge point.

12 But, as mentioned earlier, we're not proposing any
13 changes to the quantities or discharge points. Thank
14 you.

15 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
16 Land Corporation, Bart Tsannie.

17 MR. TSANNIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Chief
18 Bart Tsannie of Hatchet Lake. Thank you for your
19 response, and I'm going to pass on to our colleague
20 Diane McDonald. Masi cho.

21 THE CHAIR: Diane McDonald.

22 MS. MCDONALD: Masi, Madam Chair. Diane
23 McDonald, Athabasca Denesuline Corporation, chair,
24 board of director.

25 So just a few questions, one related to the wind
26 turbines. For a wind turbine to operate, a substation

1 and a main power grid would have to be built to operate
2 the wind farm and distribute the power to the source.
3 Am I correct with that?

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

5 MR. ALLEN: Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

6 Actually, there is already a substation for the
7 existing power plant, so the wind turbines would
8 connect with a distribution cable to this existing
9 substation, so the design of the existing power plant
10 is already done to connect the wind turbines.

11 THE CHAIR: Can you actually repeat that.

12 The Inuktitut was on a different feed. Nicholas Allen.

13 MR. ALLEN: Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

14 So I was saying there's already a substation at
15 the existing power plant that some of you have seen
16 yesterday. So all we have to do is connect the wind
17 turbines to that existing substation.

18 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
19 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

20 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
21 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

22 So you have an existing substation that's already
23 built, so you're looking at 11 turbines to be put in
24 place. So that would mean that you would need to -- to
25 build a power grid to each of those turbines for -- for
26 it to feed back to operate those turbines; correct? So

1 you're going to be building power lines from the
2 substation to the turbines so the turbines can operate.
3 So am I correct on that?

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Nicholas Allen.

5 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

7 So I just want to clarify. From each of the wind
8 turbine, there will be a cable and a collection system,
9 so a cable on the ground going from the wind turbines
10 to the existing power plant, if I understand your
11 question correctly. So there will be one cable going
12 to each of the turbines and then to the existing power
13 plant.

14 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
15 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

16 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
17 Dene.

18 So when you say a cable connecting to the
19 turbines, is that going to be an above cable or
20 underground cable that you would run for that distance
21 between your substation? I'm not sure exactly the
22 distance of each of those turbines. There's 11, so can
23 you clarify that?

24 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Nicholas Allen.

25 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

26 So it will be a cable on the ground, and the cable

1 is approximately this size. So it will be along the
2 ground, not underground or not above -- on poles,
3 really, like, on the surface alongside the road. Thank
4 you.

5 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
6 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

7 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
8 Dene.

9 So I just want to reflect back to your comments in
10 terms of when the caribou passes through the mine site,
11 and you mentioned that you would shut down the mine
12 site if 50 -- if the numbers come up to at least 50
13 caribou. From the time that the caribou passes and for
14 the mine to shut down, there's a process time from
15 shutting down your mill to get -- what's the timeline
16 and advancement that your employees would be notified
17 for the shutdown? And I just want to add to just that.
18 If a future underground mine is going to happen,
19 whether -- if it's approved, how are you going to
20 operate that when you shut down the mine underground,
21 because all your power source is coming from your
22 turbines, and you -- in an underground operation, you
23 require fresh air exchange, so how do you manage that
24 so there are no safety impacts to your workers?

25 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

26 MR. GILLMAN: Matt Gillman, Agnico Eagle.

1 So I will provide a bit more explanation on how
2 the terrestrial environment management and monitoring
3 plan manages the shutdowns or work suspensions on-site
4 when 50 or more caribou are within 5 kilometres.

5 Within that document what's outlined is that all
6 non-essential surface mining activities as well as all
7 blasting activities will be stopped. All essential
8 activities for environmental management and health and
9 safety and indoor activities do continue during those
10 shutdowns. What is suspended is all vehicle traffic,
11 surface mining traffic, and anything non-essential to a
12 health and safety environment that happens outside on
13 the surface as well as blasting practices. Thank you.

14 Oh, I missed a part of that question. Normally it
15 takes about -- anywhere from 30 minutes to one hour
16 from the observation of caribou to have everybody
17 completely shut down and back to their indoor stations
18 depending on where they're working. Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
20 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

21 MS. MCDONALD: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
22 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

23 So thanks for your response on the surface, but on
24 your proposed project for an underground mine in the
25 future, whether if it's approved or not, and in terms
26 of the operation to power the mine through the wind

1 turbines, you did not answer my question about fresh
2 air exchange when you have to shut down underground and
3 to get your workers up to surface. Is that sort of
4 detailed information in your assessment report?

5 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.
6 Nicholas Allen.

7 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
8 Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

9 The wind turbines we can stop in one minute, and
10 we also have batteries that can last for one hour. So
11 as soon as we have to stop the wind turbines, we stop
12 them very quickly. We use the batteries so that what
13 my colleague Matt was talking about we can do, and then
14 after -- if it takes more than an hour, we can start
15 the diesel gen sets that we have. But the wind
16 turbines we can stop in one minute, and then the rest
17 of the power is from batteries. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
19 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

20 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
21 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

22 I understand that, but you still haven't answered
23 my question. But the other -- the other concern that I
24 would probably raise in terms of, you know, there's
25 been other wind turbine syndrome explanations and
26 solutions where people who live close to -- in

1 proximity of wind turbines have experienced some
2 issues, sleep disturbances, headaches, and
3 concentration problems. These syndromes, is there any
4 plans in doing any health studies with the local
5 people?

6 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

7 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Victor Young from WSP Canada on behalf of Agnico Eagle.

9 So with respect to the question about human health
10 impacts from wind turbines, I'm not a health expert,
11 and I don't want to give the wrong impression, but I am
12 an expert in noise, and I did the noise modelling, and
13 I know that there are Health Canada thresholds related
14 to noise from industrial developments that includes
15 wind turbines, and there's a Health Canada study of
16 potential effects from wind turbine noise, and my
17 understanding of the study is that for wind turbine
18 noise levels at -- at dwellings, at human houses or
19 residences, the study found that for noise levels up to
20 47 A-weighted decibels -- and that's a unit used to
21 measure noise levels, basically, the A-weighted
22 decibel. So for noise levels up to 47 A-weighted
23 decibels, the only human health impact that was found
24 was annoyance. So people can be annoyed by the noise
25 from a wind turbine.

26 Health Canada guidance provides a method for

1 assessing impacts associated with noise annoyance, and
2 in the human health risk assessment component of the --
3 of the FEIS addendum, we applied that annoyance metric
4 from Health Canada guidance and concluded, based on the
5 criteria from Health Canada guidance, that the -- that
6 the noise levels would be acceptable.

7 So, in particular, the way the Health Canada
8 guidance sets it out is that if the noise level -- or
9 if the change in noise levels is predicted to be above
10 a certain threshold, that mitigation would be required
11 or recommended to reduce the noise, and the noise from
12 the wind turbines and from the Meliadine Mine as a
13 whole, including the wind turbines, wasn't predicted to
14 exceed that Health Canada noise annoyance threshold at
15 any of the cabin sites in proximity to the mine or the
16 road or the wind turbines.

17 And so based on that analysis, we're confident
18 that there won't be health-related impacts to -- to
19 people living or recreating, you know, using the cabin
20 sites that are located near the wind turbines or near
21 the mine. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
23 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

24 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you. Thank you for your
25 response. Diane McDonald, Athabasca Denesuline Land
26 Corporation.

1 In the wintertime, noise travels further versus in
2 summer conditions. The vibrations are much -- are
3 heard too in the winter, and certainly with 47 decibels
4 or the wavelengths, the noise level. So has there been
5 any assessment from the current turbines in the winter
6 versus summer and spring as to what the wave levels are
7 in terms of the noise from the turbines within the
8 facility of the mine site?

9 And just lastly one question on the -- on the
10 turbines is: Do the wind turbines leak oil, and are
11 there major failures to that that could cause
12 environmental damages within that particular site?

13 And then after that, I just want to lead on to the
14 environmental monitoring as my last questions.

15 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

16 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair.
17 Victor Young from WSP Canada on behalf of Agnico.

18 I'm going to -- there was sort of two parts to
19 your question, so I will speak to the -- to the noise
20 question, the issue of wintertime noise, and then my
21 colleague, Nick, will speak to the -- to the issue of
22 oil.

23 So for the Meliadine extension FEIS addendum, we
24 did not model separately a wintertime condition. There
25 are, as you noted in your question, propagation
26 differences during the wintertime. So the ground is

1 frozen, which can affect how the noise propagates over
2 the ground. In addition, there can be less activity
3 associated with birds or with wildlife, for instance,
4 which can influence the background noise levels, and
5 all of that can have an effect on how noise is
6 perceived in the environment.

7 However, when it comes to noise impacts on human
8 beings, the regulations that apply in other
9 jurisdictions -- so Nunavut doesn't have an
10 environmental noise regulation specifically, but the --
11 the noise regulations that apply in other
12 jurisdictions -- for example, in Alberta, the noise
13 regulation applicable to wind turbines and the separate
14 wind -- or noise regulation applicable to oil and gas
15 developments, they allow the permissible sound level to
16 be higher during the wintertime because people who are
17 sleeping or -- people who are sleeping or using their
18 homes or cabins will tend to have their windows closed,
19 their doors shut, and so be less susceptible to noise.

20 So in Alberta, for example, the permitted sound
21 level during wintertime conditions is 5 decibels, and
22 as I mentioned in my previous answer, a decibel is just
23 a way -- the unit that we use to measure noise so that
24 the noise limit is 5 decibels higher during the
25 wintertime than during the summertime, and so by
26 assessing the noise impacts during the summertime,

1 we're actually conservative relative to the higher
2 noise limit that would tend to apply in wintertime
3 conditions, although, again, we did not -- we did not
4 do a wintertime assessment here, and there isn't a
5 particular requirement to do so in Nunavut. But our
6 view would be that the impacts would -- would be less
7 from the -- from the noise during the winter than
8 during the summer, so our assessment has captured the
9 maximum potential impacts to the people using the
10 cabins around the mine site.

11 And then I'll pass it to Nick to speak to the
12 other part of your question.

13 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
14 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald. Or was Agnico Eagle
15 going to answer more? Sorry. Nicholas Allen.

16 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
17 Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

18 Concerning the question on the oil, the model and
19 make that we chose for this model -- for this project
20 is well adapted to the arctic, and one of the main
21 things is there's little to no oil. It's a direct
22 drive, so it's grease. They don't have the oil systems
23 like other products, so this makes it much safer, and I
24 want to repeat also that they do maintenance twice a
25 week -- twice a year where they stop and make sure
26 everything is okay.

1 But to address your concern, it is mainly grease
2 that they use and very little oil.

3 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
4 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

5 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
6 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.

7 So my next questions leads into the environmental
8 monitoring program that is done on-site by your staff
9 and contracted.

10 Just for -- being that the caribou is within the
11 close proximity of the mine site, has there been --
12 throughout your operations, has there been any health
13 studies done on the caribou?

14 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

15 MR. SHARAM: Gregory Sharam from ERM for
16 Agnico Eagle.

17 To answer the question about health studies for
18 caribou, in general, there are two types of studies
19 which are being done which look at different aspects of
20 caribou health. The first looks at caribou food on the
21 landscape, so the lichen and vegetation that they eat,
22 and that study looks at whether there is dust or metals
23 accumulating in the vegetation that the caribou
24 consume. And that study has several parts to it, but
25 the main result from that study is that the caribou
26 food surrounding the mine site is safe for the caribou

1 to eat. It meets guidelines.

2 The second component of caribou health that is
3 studied is caribou behaviour. The behaviour study
4 looks at the different types of behaviors that caribou
5 have both near and far from the project and in response
6 to any disturbances, disturbances such as ATVs driving
7 by on the road or vehicles, and that study reports that
8 caribou will respond to disturbances like ATVs or
9 vehicles by becoming either alert and looking at the
10 vehicle or by trotting, but they return to their -- the
11 behaviour that they had before within about three to
12 six minutes. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
14 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

15 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
16 Denesuline land corporation.

17 So with my closing comments and question, so your
18 study refers to the food on the landscape, the
19 vegetation, whatever dust particles, metals that
20 through the wind that carries either from the -- the
21 dry sack of tailings that is on-site. So you do
22 studies for that, but there is no direct health studies
23 related to the caribou in terms of the health of the
24 caribou? Is that something that the mine would
25 consider in terms of studying the caribou for making
26 sure they are healthy to consume by people that are

1 reliant on as a food source?

2 And -- and I guess just -- just to move into my
3 last comments in terms of the -- where we come from, we
4 always say "effluent discharge", which is water
5 discharge from a mine site. And -- and Chief Tsannie
6 had spoken to it, that certainly when you have caribou
7 passing through a mine site, they feed off and drink
8 off what's available, the aquatic and however -- how
9 many days it takes for it to pass through. I guess
10 that's where I'm leading -- my question leading to the
11 health study would be beneficial for -- as aboriginal
12 people making sure that the caribou is healthy for us
13 to consume so that we are not faced with potential
14 health problems in the future by consuming caribou that
15 may be migrating through the mine site without knowing
16 the health of the caribou that may have potential
17 risks. As an individual person or persons, I think it
18 would be very beneficial for both the aboriginal and
19 the Inuit and the mine site to consider that sort of
20 study to ensure the health and safety of our -- of the
21 people is a priority. Masi.

22 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

23 MS. PRATHER: Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle.
24 Thank you for your question.

25 It's an important question and something that was
26 considered and was also part of the guidelines for

1 doing the impact assessment. So as part of the
2 2014 assessment, the 2020 waterline assessment, and the
3 current Meliadine extension assessment, Agnico Eagle
4 completed a human health and ecological risk
5 assessment. So, for example, it considered the
6 different ecological receptors such as caribou. We
7 considered what they might be exposed to when they're
8 in the study area around the mine, so if they are
9 consuming water or consuming vegetation. Then we
10 looked at how those pathways interacted, so how they
11 could consume potential water and vegetation.

12 All of that was incorporated into our ecological
13 risk assessment. Like I said, considering how long the
14 animals are in the particular study area for their life
15 span, for their age and their condition, and what we
16 were able to conclude from that type of a study is
17 there would be insignificant effects to any of the
18 receptors, particularly the caribou type of receptors,
19 in the study area. I hope that answers your question.
20 Thank you.

21 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
22 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

23 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
24 Denesuline land corporation.

25 So thank you for your response, but I guess
26 we're -- my question is leading to sampling parts of

1 the caribou such as the kidneys, where the kidneys --
2 when -- when you consume something as a human being, it
3 goes through your body system, and the caribou would
4 have the same thing -- and the filtering system, and
5 kidneys is one of them. And if that is something that
6 the local communities have an interest in understanding
7 the potential health risk related to caribou as it
8 passes through the mine site year after year. Over the
9 years, period of that, there's going to be consumption
10 of many contaminants that the caribou may carry, and
11 certainly doing health studies as sampling, you know,
12 the kidneys or something like that, blood -- blood of
13 the caribou, those types of studies could help, you
14 know, address potential health risks to humans, and
15 that is some sort of a -- it could be possible of an
16 independent study that the communities in the local
17 community areas can consider in working with the Agnico
18 Eagle Mines and certainly that gives us, as Athabasca
19 Dene, as we are -- rely on the caribou as the main food
20 source for us, it would give us certainty as well.
21 With that, thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

23 Perhaps Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, I don't
24 know if they have a new monitoring program or the
25 northern contaminants monitoring program, if that's a
26 part of it, you can include that in your intervention,

1 or if there is something from the Government of Nunavut
2 on caribou monitoring -- for regional caribou
3 monitoring.

4 Agnico Eagle.

5 MR. SHARAM: Thank you. Greg Sharam, ERM
6 for Agnico Eagle.

7 One detail which I think is important to cover is
8 that the -- the wildlife health study that was
9 conducted for the assessment found that there would be
10 no effects of the project on caribou. Caribou are in
11 the regional study area for the project for a very
12 short time, typically only a few weeks. And so the
13 project would have a very small effect on any caribou
14 populations.

15 In terms of monitoring caribou health, this would
16 be a territorial or federal type of project that would
17 look at the caribou herd as a whole, and there have
18 been several studies conducted recently. The Beverly
19 Qamanirjuaq management board has conducted several
20 caribou health studies to determine whether the meat is
21 safe to eat. There's also -- there has also been a
22 program through the National Wildlife Program called
23 the "Arctic Caribou Contaminant Monitoring Program",
24 and recently there has been a regional wildlife health
25 study carried out by the Canadian High Arctic Research
26 Station. So there are several territorial and federal

1 bodies currently conducting this type of research.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
4 Land Corporation, Diane McDonald.

5 MS. MCDONALD: Diane McDonald, Athabasca
6 Denesuline Land Corporation. It is 9:00 PM, and I
7 think that will conclude my questions and comments
8 for -- thank you for your response.

9 THE CHAIR: Tomorrow we'll continue with
10 questions to Agnico Eagle from the NIRB staff and the
11 NIRB board.

12 That concludes Day 2 of the technical discussions.
13 Thank you all for your contributions to a productive
14 day. We will be meeting back here at 9 AM to start
15 Day 3 of the technical session and continue to hear
16 intervenor presentations.

17 _____
18 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9 AM, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:

2

3 We, Sandra Burns and Derek Lopez, certify that the
4 foregoing pages are a complete and accurate transcript
5 of the proceedings taken down by us in shorthand and
6 transcribed from our shorthand notes to the best of our
7 skill and ability.

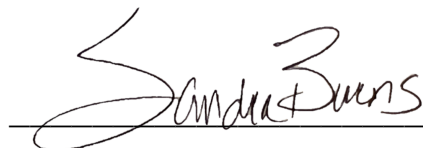
8 Dated at the City of Edmonton, Province of
9 Alberta, this 9th day of October 2023.

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Sandra Burns, CSR(A), RPR, CRR

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Official Court Reporter

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Derek Lopez, CSR(A), RPR

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Official Court Reporter

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