

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING

VOLUME 6

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

September 18, 2023

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

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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

15

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1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 9:05 AM)

2 Opening Remarks

3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. My
4 name is Kaviq Kaluraq, and I'm the chairperson of the
5 Nunavut Impact Review Board or NIRB.

6 On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome
7 you back to Day 6 of the NIRB's public hearing
8 associated with the NIRB's assessment of Agnico Eagle
9 Mines Limited Meliadine extension proposal, which is a
10 modification of the Meliadine Gold Mine project. Thank
11 you to the community of Rankin Inlet for hosting us
12 during the public hearing.

13 A quick reminder, please -- I want to remind you,
14 please turn off your cell phones or put them on
15 "silent" before we begin. Prior to starting our
16 morning with an opening prayer -- will be given by
17 David Owingayak. Please stand.

18 Opening Prayer

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, David Owingayak,
20 for the opening prayer to the start of our day. Guy
21 Alikut just lost his nephew -- or his niece, so we will
22 think of people who have lost their loved ones during
23 their stay here during the hearing. We'll think of
24 them. We're going to have a moment of silence.

25 Moment of Silence

26 THE CHAIR: Yes. Keep those in -- keep

1 the loved ones that we've lost in mind throughout the
2 day.

3 The Nunavut Impact Review Board is holding this
4 public hearing to hear evidence, ask questions, and
5 listen to comments and concerns of registered
6 intervenors, community representatives, and members of
7 the public in order to assess the potential ecosystemic
8 and socioeconomic effects of the changes to the
9 existing Meliadine Gold Mine project proposed by Agnico
10 Eagle under the extension proposal.

11 This morning we will be picking up where we left
12 off on Saturday from Agenda Item 10, Subsection 11,
13 with questioning to the Sayisi Dene and Northlands
14 Denesuline First Nation and then the final intervenor
15 presentation from the Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
16 Corporations, which will wrap up the technical session.
17 Then we will start the community roundtable.

18 Thank you to the community representatives for
19 your patience in attending throughout the technical
20 sessions. We hope you have found it to be informative,
21 and we look forward to hearing from you.

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

1 Although the Board has designed this public
2 hearing to take place in person, the Board has also
3 provided an audio-video link for this hearing so that
4 parties providing support to the representatives in the
5 room can view the proceedings remotely.

6 We will do everything we can to ensure that the
7 remote link remains stable; however, if the online link
8 is disrupted, the Board will continue with the
9 in-person proceedings.

10 Simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings is
11 being provided throughout the meetings from
12 interpreters here in Rankin Inlet. In the Zoom feed
13 you can choose the language feed you want to hear, but
14 when you go to speak, you may have to turn off the
15 interpretation feed to avoid feedback.

16 For the people here in Rankin Inlet, receivers are
17 available from the sign-in table, and receivers are set
18 to: Channel 1 is the floor sound; Channel 2, English;
19 Channel 3 is Inuktitut; and Channel 4 is Dene. Please
20 have patience as we shift between speakers, and for the
21 sake of our interpreters, sound techs, and court
22 reporters, please wait until I call your name before
23 you speak.

24 If you're participating by Zoom, when your name is
25 called, please click on the "raise your hand" button at
26 the bottom of the screen, and this will help the techs

1 identify you more quickly so that they can unmute your
2 line and turn on your camera.

3 If you are having trouble hearing the proceedings,
4 please see our technical support, Ryan Dempster, from
5 Pido at the side of the room. If you're having
6 troubles with the online feed, please email Emily Koide
7 at ekoide@nirb.ca.

8 The Board reminds everyone participating in this
9 hearing that no one is allowed to record or rebroadcast
10 the images, video, or audio of these proceedings in any
11 form without the express consent of the Nunavut Impact
12 Review Board. Failing to follow these board directions
13 may result in sanctions by the Board, including
14 suspending access to the live feed or being asked to
15 leave the hall.

16 The NIRB is generating a transcript from these
17 proceedings, which will be available following the
18 hearing on the NIRB's public registry. If your
19 organization has had new representatives join the
20 hearing today, please advise the Board's legal counsel,
21 Teresa Meadows, so we can make sure to update our list.

22 As you may have noticed, these proceedings are
23 open to the media and are being attended by media
24 representatives. To members of the media attending the
25 meetings in person, we ask that you check in at the
26 front table and wear a press badge or similar

1 identification throughout these proceedings so that it
2 is clear to parties which media outlet you're
3 representing.

4 Media participating online should provide notice
5 to Ryan Barry, the Board's interim executive director,
6 at rbarry@nirb.ca, and inquiries from media
7 representatives should also be sent to Ryan.

8 The Board welcomes the media providing information
9 about these meetings to those who cannot attend;
10 however, the Board members and our staff cannot take
11 questions or provide interviews to the media or make
12 public comments regarding these meetings while we're
13 underway.

14 Before we return to our agenda, I have a few quick
15 housekeeping matters. The washrooms are located
16 outside this room in the lobby area. Exits are located
17 through the main doors to the lobby on the side of the
18 room and at the front and back corners.

19 As you see from the agenda, today's session is
20 scheduled for 9 AM to 5 PM central time, with an
21 evening session from 6:30 to 9 PM. There will be a
22 mid-morning break, a lunch break around noon central
23 time, a mid -afternoon break, a supper break, and then
24 one break -- one health break during the evening
25 session.

26 When you're leaving the hall for breaks or at the

1 end of the day, please turn off -- the interpretation
2 receivers off and return them to the table as you enter
3 the hall. The Board appreciates everyone continuing to
4 comply with the Board's directions for the public
5 hearing. I'm not going to restate them but remind
6 everyone to be aware of our interpreters and court
7 reporters when you're speaking so that we can ensure
8 everyone is heard and understood.

9 Before we return to questions to the Sayisi Dene
10 and Northlands Denesuline First Nation, they have a
11 clarification to make. Benjamin Denechezhe.

12 MR. DENECHZHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 I say good morning to everyone here. Benjamin
14 Denechezhe, Northlands First Nation.

15 We had a quick clarification. I would like to
16 direct you to Slide 16 in our presentation. During our
17 presentation on Saturday, we indicated that Sayisi Dene
18 First Nation and Northlands First Nation do not support
19 the building of the wind farm as currently proposed.
20 When we said "as currently proposed", we meant that
21 Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands Denesuline
22 First Nation do not support the wind farm in the
23 current proposed location. Thank you, Madam.

24 THE CHAIR: Now we'll return to the
25 technical session. Questions to the Sayisi Dene and
26 Northlands Denesuline First Nation. If any of the

1 parties in the audience have questions, please raise
2 your hand, and we'll get you the microphone from the
3 intervenors. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Gabriel
4 Nirlungayuk.

5 MR. NIRLUNGAYUK: Thank you. Good morning.
6 Gabriel Nirlungayuk from Nunavut Tunngavik
7 Incorporated.

8 I would like to thank the presentation done by our
9 Dene friends from Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I really
10 appreciate the presentation that you have. We don't
11 have any questions for them. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
13 any questions? Luis Manzo.

14 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
15 Good morning, everyone. Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit
16 Association.

17 Thank you for the presentation to the friends of
18 Saskatchewan and Manitoba. No questions at this time.

19 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, any
20 questions? Daniel Haney.

21 MR. HANEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
22 Daniel Haney, Government of Nunavut.

23 Thank you, Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands
24 Denesuline First Nation, for your presentation. We
25 have no questions. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Government of Canada

1 departments, Spencer Dewar.

2 MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair,
3 Spencer Dewar.

4 On behalf of the Government of Canada, thank you
5 for the presentation. We have no questions.

6 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
7 Trappers Organization. Any questions, Noel Kaludjak?
8 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization Questions
9 Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands Denesuline
10 First Nation

11 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Noel
12 Kaludjak, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers
13 Organization. Good morning, everyone. I look forward
14 to this day of these sessions.

15 I have a couple questions to our fellow neighbours
16 down south of us. They are also affected by activities
17 around their communities, and they have been seeing
18 this effectiveness affected and introduction to mining
19 longer periods than we have in the Kivalliq. I would
20 like to hear if the caribou migration and animal
21 movement around their area is affected by foreign
22 activities such as mining and movement of equipment and
23 human population. I understand they have more
24 experience than we do, and also we are more isolated,
25 and our caribou migration has been less affected so
26 far, and I would like to hear the -- our potential of

1 being affected and the caribou migration and animal
2 movement in our area if the expansion goes ahead.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Sayisi Dene,
5 Geoff Bussidor.

6 MR. BUSSIDOR: Good morning. Thank you for
7 the question.

8 The mining activity is south and east and west of
9 us, so we don't have any mine activity around our area,
10 but there is a concern because the -- well, there's
11 several lodges and outcamps that are permitted to
12 provide hunting to big-game hunters, and we have no
13 control over those activities. So it does affect the
14 migration coming to us, but occasionally we do get the
15 caribou coming to our communities, and we've had some
16 experiences that were not appreciated, and it was the
17 lack of respect that was shown to us during those
18 negative experiences that we didn't appreciate when we
19 did -- we were blessed with caribou, and I'm sure the
20 caribou felt the same.

21 But other than that, we don't have any other --
22 we're isolated as well, and we're also relying on
23 diesel generation of power in our communities, and we
24 don't have direct power from Manitoba Hydro or -- nor
25 our satellite community as well. Marsi.

26 THE CHAIR: Benjamin Denechezhe.

1 MR. DENECHÉZHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Thank you for your question. Speaking about the
3 history of the caribou, as I remember being told by my
4 father and my grandfather, before our time, caribou
5 used to migrate by the thousands, and during those days
6 those caribou used to migrate further to Reindeer Lake
7 and along the Cochrane River, and that's how many
8 caribou used to migrate around that area. But caribou
9 movements can never be predicted how and when they
10 travel. A few years back in the fall, I believe it was
11 about two thousand -- 2013 or so or somewhere around
12 that area in the fall, there was a cleanup being done
13 in Ennadai Lake, and there was a chopper that landed at
14 the airport, and I happened to see that chopper, and
15 there was a -- Kelly. His name is Kelly. He's a -- I
16 heard he's from this area, and he's a pilot now. He
17 was one of the people that I met there, and he told me
18 there's caribou up ahead not too far from here. So I
19 asked him to show me the location, and it's just a few
20 miles north of Cochrane River. The reason I'm telling
21 you is because caribou can migrate any time.

22 As a result of that information, we seen caribou
23 that fall, the first time in many years. There was
24 lots of caribou that fall before freeze-up. And then
25 the following year it never came again. It never
26 happened again.

1 So caribou can move anywhere, and there's no
2 boundaries or nothing to hold them wherever they want
3 to go.

4 So as far as mining activities in our area, we are
5 very careful because the leadership in our community,
6 especially Lac Brochet, they want to maintain and
7 protect the land as it is, and they've made it clear
8 that they'll continue to do that.

9 But our relatives, only 25 miles -- 25 minutes air
10 ride, which is Saskatchewan, they have a better
11 understanding of mine activities because they're just
12 next door to them. The caribou used to migrate in
13 around the northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba
14 in our area, but lately they haven't -- their migration
15 route have changed over the years.

16 But mining activity does affect caribou. It does.
17 And when we look at -- look into our solutions how we
18 can better understand and preserve for the long term in
19 the future, like my colleague had mentioned that a lot
20 of activities in our area, we have no control. That
21 has been going on for -- for some time now, but we're
22 trying to hear our voices, and we're trying to do our
23 best to be heard because that is our livelihood.

24 So, yes, it does affect because we experience it,
25 and we've seen and we know about it. Masi.

26 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and

1 Trappers Organization, Noel Kaludjak.

2 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Noel
3 Kaludjak, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers
4 Organization.

5 My next -- thank you for your answers. Thank you
6 very much. My next question is about the lakes and
7 rivers around our area. Do you think they will be
8 affected by increasing activities of the mining and
9 surrounding areas? Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
11 Geoff Bussidor.

12 MR. BUSSIDOR: Good morning, again. Geoff
13 Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation.

14 There is mention of all the things that can be
15 done to make sure they're -- you know, the diffuser was
16 mentioned as -- to break down the -- to catch all the
17 nasty contaminants in the effluent and everything like
18 that, but there's still -- while there's indication by
19 the community members that the water is no -- is no
20 longer the same and tea is no longer the colour it used
21 to be and the -- and now there's a -- you know, the
22 community-wide drinking water avoidance message. And
23 so it seems like there is something that -- I don't
24 know if that's the internal system or whether that --
25 if the water does come from Meliadine Lake and this is
26 happening, I would think there is some influence, and

1 it needs to be, you know, thoroughly checked out and
2 investigated, I guess. So ...

3 And the river systems, I guess, is all connected
4 together, and so there's got to be better monitoring
5 and have more involvement in checking and monitoring
6 it. That's what I would recommend. Masi.

7 THE CHAIR: Benjamin Denechezhe.

8 MR. DENECHYZHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 Thank you for your question, Noel. Whenever you
10 look at something or you do something, the Canadian
11 Government has a regulation that pertain to the safety
12 and wellness of all Canadian citizens. There's a law
13 in place to protect. But when you have activities and
14 start taking the land apart and you use water to
15 discharge and attract and put everything in what you're
16 getting at, it will never be the same. Certainly there
17 will be stats indicating -- samples indicating the
18 testing of the water and everything, but the result is
19 it will never be the same.

20 As indicated by the Elders, the knowledge keepers
21 of this land also notice the changes that's taken place
22 with their water as they have seen it firsthand with
23 the tea. They are the ones that notice those changes
24 because they are the ones that live around these areas,
25 and they know.

26 So as far as water connecting the river system and

1 also carries on to the fish, I know that in the long
2 term it is going to change -- it will -- but we don't
3 know the extent of how the results would be and if
4 there will be any other associated impacts that will be
5 in the long-term effects.

6 I believe that water is important for all of us,
7 and we have to put ways because the Elders are already
8 noticing the difference, and we have to listen to them.

9 So my thoughts regarding the changes to the water
10 system, the lakes and the rivers, it will have an
11 impact. Masi.

12 THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and
13 Trappers Organization, Noel Kaludjak.

14 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Noel
15 Kaludjak, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers
16 Association -- Organization.

17 Thank you for your answers. One final question:
18 Does the Sayisi Dene Nation and the Northland
19 Denesuline First Nation have the same visual aspect of
20 us as the caribou can see -- would see those large
21 objects that are turning in the path of their
22 migration? Do you have the same concern as the people
23 of the Kivalliq, how it will affect the migration when
24 they see the turbines turning in the distance? A
25 simple question: Do you agree with the Kangiqliniq
26 Hunters and Trappers Association that the caribou can

1 see a quite far distance and the large objects that are
2 turning? Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
4 Geoff Bussidor.

5 MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Thank you for the question. Caribou are sensitive
7 animals. They go by scent, noise, and seeing is also
8 one of their ways of sensing. And they go down into
9 the treed areas, and I don't know how tall the tallest
10 trees are where they go, but there are caribou that are
11 down into the woodland areas too that inhabit dense
12 forest where trees are taller.

13 But if the plans that are put in place of stopping
14 the wind turbines from turning when the caribou are at
15 a certain distance and it is followed, it may not be
16 such a negative impact, but the distance that's going
17 to be required will need further investigation. The
18 idea of extending the 5-kilometre threshold to 10 is
19 good, but further may be required depending on their
20 reactions.

21 But I do agree with the Rankin Hunters and
22 Trappers Organization. If they feel like it's going to
23 be impacting in a major way, they would know. They're
24 the hunters and trappers, and they're
25 the on-the-land-based organization.

26 And being out on the tundra, one of the Elders

1 from back home, she says that when you're out on the
2 tundra, even small objects seem huge, and it's true.
3 Sometimes you'll mistake a swan that's sitting out on
4 the tundra for a bear because of the way the vision is
5 of -- when you're out there, and -- so when you have a
6 huge turbine, I guess it would affect the caribou
7 because it will seem even bigger. Masi.

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

10 MR. DENECHÉZHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 Thank you for your question. We have --
12 Northlands First Nation have the same understanding
13 about the caribou, the way the hunters and trappers
14 feel about it. Caribous are a very sensitive animal
15 that we depend on.

16 In the Woodlands, in the tree lines, caribou
17 are -- they know -- they know the area when it pertain
18 to the woodland, the tree line. They see rocks here on
19 the lake and so forth. But they also know -- notice
20 danger right away when they hear noise, because I'm a
21 hunter myself. No matter how far the distance is on
22 the lake, that you approach them and hear that
23 snowmobile, they are already alert. On many occasions
24 they already know that you're present. So they have a
25 good vision and a good hearing.

26 So imagine if you have a big wind -- windmill

1 standing up. And I've seen those windmills in Northern
2 Ontario, and they're pretty big. They're massive. And
3 to bring that in the area where there's no trees, only
4 tundra as far as your eyes can see, if you bring an
5 object like that, you'll see it from a distance. And
6 the noise that they make are tested, and they say it's
7 very low, but we cannot say that it does not affect the
8 caribou because we don't know.

9 In my comments when I said a couple days ago these
10 are speculations that we think based on the Diavik Mine
11 and the other one is the Raglan Mine, but they don't
12 know about that here because it hasn't -- it hasn't
13 been seen. We haven't had the experience yet.

14 But all those stats and information they're
15 providing are only speculations. What I do know is --
16 what I do know is about the caribou, is as soon as they
17 see something in the distance, they are already alert,
18 and they already know what is there, any movements.

19 So I do agree with the hunters and trappers that
20 this kind of object, windmill, wind farm that goes in
21 our area, it will affect the caribou. But, like I
22 said, we don't know how they're going to react because
23 it has never been proven in reality in this area
24 because it's close to the calving ground, and these
25 calving ground, year after year, the caribou know where
26 the calving ground is. So I do agree with the hunters

1 and trappers. Masi.

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

4 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Noel
5 Kaludjak, Hunters and Trappers Organization.

6 Thank you very much for your response. My
7 colleague, Roger Pilakapsi, will ask a couple
8 questions. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Roger Pilakapsi.

10 MR. PILAKAPSI: Thank you. Roger Pilakapsi,
11 Rankin HTO -- Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers
12 Organization.

13 As a hunter -- well, actually I have a few videos,
14 but I won't be showing them. When I was out fishing --
15 and they knew I was there, and when I went to go meet
16 them where they -- where they were going through -- and
17 they were behind the hill, and they already sense me
18 that I was already there, and they took a different
19 route right away. I'm pretty sure it's going to affect
20 quite a bit with the windmill that goes -- that will be
21 going on around here, especially when it's close to the
22 mine -- the mining camp.

23 My solution would be the -- close by Rankin here,
24 and how this year's -- there's no -- there's probably a
25 few around the area, but not always. This way we can
26 all work together and see -- see what's happening

1 around the stuff that goes around with the windmill,
2 and I'm pretty sure it made a sure big difference what
3 route they take about the windmill.

4 But -- but the thing is, like, when I was out
5 hunting, those caribou notice me right away. I was in
6 the area. Even though I wasn't showing, just by the
7 sound of it, and, like, I could see them from a
8 distance, and I'm pretty sure it's going to make a big
9 difference what -- when we have -- when we have
10 windmill up here by the camp.

11 The other -- the other one is -- like, my question
12 is: Some years it's pretty hard to get fuel. Like,
13 when you're at Rankin -- more than one community ran
14 out of fuel. That was from the ship on different
15 timing and everything. I guess you've got to go to
16 other communities and stuff. There was a lot of
17 vehicles that weren't running because we ran out of
18 fuel. Would it -- like, I'm pretty sure it will be the
19 same as Agnico for the fuel -- getting fuel supply.
20 And if they have -- miss that one year, everything runs
21 on fuel, and we would -- they would have a windmill
22 that would still generate electricity.

23 But I'm pretty sure you can find a solution
24 where -- at least where the caribou goes, and, like,
25 it's -- everything what -- what's happening around the
26 camp now, it's pretty big, big, very big. We never

1 used to see -- we could see from -- right from town
2 now. That's how much difference it make.

3 But I -- but we have to work together for the
4 whole roundtable and everybody that's trying to support
5 what the hunters and -- the organization up here are
6 trying to do, but that's -- that was my question.
7 Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Roger, can you please repeat
9 your question.

10 MR. PILAKAPSI: Yeah. This -- this -- with
11 the windmill, it would make a big difference. Like I
12 said, one time Rankin ran out of fuel, gas, and that
13 was the only community ran out of gas so that if the
14 Agnico miss it one year, there will be shortage of
15 fuel, and everything runs on fuel. This -- if they put
16 up the wind -- wind farm, they still would have power
17 because it doesn't run on fuel, and I'm pretty sure the
18 roundtable can work together and -- find a solution and
19 work together. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: So, just to clarify, that's a
21 comment, not a question? Or were you asking someone
22 specifically?

23 MR. PILAKAPSI: That was my comment and my
24 suggestion what the windmill would do --

25 THE CHAIR: Okay.

26 MR. PILAKAPSI: -- with the wind.

1 THE CHAIR: So no more questions from the
2 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization?

3 MR. KALUDJAK: Noel Kaludjak, Kangiqliniq
4 Hunters and Trappers Organization. Those are our
5 questions and comments. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: I didn't hear a clear
7 question. I heard a comment in the -- from Roger's
8 statement, so I'm going to move on to the Athabasca
9 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation, Diane McDonald. Any
10 questions?

11 MR. BIGEYE: Madam Chair, I would like to
12 apologize for Diane not being with us this morning due
13 to her problem. My name is David Bigeye, Denesuline Ne
14 Ne Land Corporation. No question.

15 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

16 MS. TURMEL: Good morning, Manon Turmel,
17 Agnico Eagle. We just have one quick question. Thank
18 you.

19 THE CHAIR: Brad Armstrong.
20 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Questions Sayisi Dene First
21 Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madam Chair. Brad
23 Armstrong, legal counsel for Agnico Eagle.

24 This question is for Mr. Chranowski. We do thank
25 you for going through in your presentation the concerns
26 and how Agnico Eagle has attempted to respond to the

1 concerns. You make some recommendations about caribou
2 protection measures, and we just wanted to confirm --
3 and I think you'll agree, Mr. Chranowski, so the Board
4 understands that -- that you have not been involved, I
5 think, on the ground with respect to monitoring the
6 caribou on the site or -- or seeing how the caribou
7 protection measures are working on the site. I think
8 that's correct. You haven't had personal experience in
9 that matter.

10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene and Northlands
12 Denesuline First Nation. Dan Chranowski?

13 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 And thank you for the question, and the simple
15 answer is, no, I have not been on the site to be
16 involved with the caribou protection measures.

17 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Brad Armstrong.

18 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

19 Thank you for your response. Thank you for your
20 presentation. That's all the questions we had.

21 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff, Tara Arko.

22 Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions Sayisi Dene
23 First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation

24 MS. ARKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tara
25 Arko, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.

26 Two very quick questions. In the same thing as

1 we've been asking the other groups, can you comment on
2 whether the terrestrial advisory group is essentially
3 working? Is it able to achieve the goals for which it
4 was recommended?

5 Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation,
7 Geoff Bussidor. Dan Chranowski.

8 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 And thank you for the question. The terrestrial
10 advisory group is just that, an advisory group and not
11 a decision-making group. We believe it's not the
12 proper avenue to answer important issues, including
13 matters that may potentially have adverse impacts to
14 aboriginal and treaty rights and/or environmental and
15 socioeconomic impacts.

16 Was there anything else in that question that I
17 missed?

18 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff, Tara Arko.

19 MS. ARKO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 I believe that's enough information. A second
21 quick question: Do either of your groups have an
22 impact benefit agreement with Agnico Eagle?

23 MR. BUSSIDOR: Good morning, Geoff Bussidor,
24 Sayisi Dene First Nation.

25 The answer to that question is no. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Was that for both Sayisi Dene

1 and Northlands Dene? Geoff Bussidor.

2 MR. BUSSIDOR: Yes. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff, Tara Arko.

4 MS. ARKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tara
5 Arko, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff. That's all
6 the staff questions at this point.

7 THE CHAIR: Any questions from the Board?
8 Guy Alikut.

9 Nunavut Impact Review Board Panel Questions Sayisi Dene
10 First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation

11 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Chair. Guy Alikut,
12 NIRB board member.

13 Thank you, Bussidor. In 1980, that's when I saw
14 them, and now it's 2023 and I see them again, and we're
15 still dealing with caribou. I'm glad that we're
16 working together.

17 These caribou, there's no map around here that's
18 big enough to show where the caribou go, but what does
19 Manitoba government do to monitor -- monitor the
20 caribou migration? That's the question I wanted to
21 ask, and I'll ask another question after. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: (NO ENGLISH FEED) caribou
23 management and monitoring in your -- in Manitoba? Are
24 you guys involved, or is that taken care of by the
25 province? Sayisi Dene First Nation, Geoff Bussidor.

26 MR. BUSSIDOR: Back at the time Guy is

1 referring to -- thank you for the question, and thank
2 you, Guy.

3 We were involved with aerial surveys and on-ground
4 caribou surveys. Way before the BQ board was even
5 formed, we were doing flyovers and monitoring through
6 winter -- winter and springtime, but that was with
7 the -- when I used to work with the province back then.

8 Currently, I'm not sure if there is any surveys
9 being done, but when the caribou do come down into
10 Manitoba and the road -- the winter roads are open,
11 that's when the provincial government monitors more
12 closely. They go up and down the roads, and then they
13 come by snow machines to the areas where the caribou
14 are to -- because when the roads are open, big-game
15 hunters, they get their tags, and then they go up north
16 and they bring their trailers and they camp out there
17 and then they go by snow machine and go out to where
18 the caribou are, and this is what's been going on for
19 the past several years.

20 Other than that, I don't know how -- how else
21 they're actually monitoring. They may be doing it by
22 helicopter, I'm not sure, but I think the
23 Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Management Board may have more say
24 on the monitoring of caribou in a different region.
25 Masi.

26 THE CHAIR: NIRB board, Guy Alikut.

1 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Guy
2 Alikut, NIRB board member.

3 Do you know the population in your region as to --
4 can you give us an estimate as to what the caribou
5 population is? For those of us -- for those of us that
6 are -- that often go out caribou hunting, we don't even
7 get any information as to how many -- or what the
8 caribou population is, especially speaking to the
9 Beverly-Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. Can you give us a
10 rough estimate?

11 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene and Northlands
12 Denesuline First Nation, Geoff Bussidor.

13 MR. BUSSIDOR: I'm sorry. We cannot provide
14 an information -- like, information on the current
15 numbers. We don't know. The BQ board would have that
16 information, so, no, we don't have that information.
17 Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: NIRB, Guy Alikut, NIRB board
19 member.

20 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. That's all the
21 questions I have. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Any more questions from the
23 Board? I have a question.

24 Nunavut Impact Review Board Chair Questions Sayisi Dene
25 First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation

26 THE CHAIR: During your presentation, I'm

1 not sure what the slide number is, but it was in the
2 recommendations section. When you were providing the
3 recommendations in your presentation, you had mentioned
4 that you recommend -- if you could clarify if I
5 understood what you meant that you're recommending that
6 seasonal -- that there should be seasonal date --
7 dates, shutdowns, based -- rather than the current
8 monitoring measures that are in place.

9 Based on the presentations early last week, it was
10 presented that there's usually collaboration between
11 Agnico Eagle, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and
12 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization where
13 they collaborate to decide on when to shut down the
14 road based on the status of caribou within the project
15 area, and can you clarify if you're recommending that
16 this is inadequate and insufficient and should be done
17 using negotiated seasonal shutdown dates rather than
18 active monitoring on the road? I'm trying to
19 understand if that's what your recommendation is.

20 Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline, Dan
21 Chranowski.

22 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair,
23 for the request for clarification.

24 Yes, it is important to collaborate and discuss
25 the effectiveness of ground observations. Certainly it
26 plays a part in all -- a key -- quite an important part

1 in all of the assessments of using the caribou
2 protection measures.

3 My suggestion is that, that there are other
4 methods as well that could also be effective or even
5 enhanced the way caribou protection measures are put in
6 place, and the seasonal date shutdown that has been
7 suggested is another method that can be used where
8 knowledge of when caribou turn up at certain times in
9 the year and when they leave could be a window where
10 there could be -- it would cause the mine to shut down
11 so that in that period of time there would -- would be,
12 in my mind, greater protection to reduce disturbance.
13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that
15 clarification, and thank you for your responses. Thank
16 you for your presentation.

17 Now we'll turn to the presentation of the
18 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation. David
19 Bigeye.

20 I will ask that our legal counsel swear or affirm
21 the next group of presenters and mark the exhibits so
22 that we can begin with presentations. NIRB legal
23 counsel.

24 Oh, sorry. Before we -- I just realized what time
25 it is. We'll take a 15-minute break.

26 (ADJOURNMENT)

1 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
2 Counsel

3 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.
4 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 can have the next panel of witnesses state
9 and spell your name for the record, please.

10 MR. BIGEYE: David Bigeye, Athabasca
11 Denesuline Corporation. D-A-V-I-D B-I-G-E-Y-E.

12 MS. RASMUSSEN: Good morning.
13 Katie Rasmussen, consultant for the Athabasca Dene Ne
14 Ne Land Corporation. K-A-T-I-E R-A-S-M-U-S-S-E-N.

15 MR. MERCREDI: Louie Mercredi, Athabasca
16 Dene. L-O-U-I-E M-E-R-C-R-E-D-I.

17 MR. LABAN: Good morning. My name is
18 James Laban. I'm with the Athabasca Denesuline
19 First Nation. J-I-M-M-Y L-A-B-A-N.

20 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you -- oh, sorry. My
21 apologies.

22 MS. DENECHZHE: Elizabeth Mary Denechezhe with
23 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation.
24 E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H M-A-R-Y D-E-N-E-C-H-E-Z-H-E.

25 DAVID BIGEYE, LOUIE MERCREDI, Sworn

26 ELIZABETH MARY DENECHZHE, KATIE RASMUSSEN, Affirmed

1 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa Meadows,
2 legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

3 So, Madam Chair, I have two hard copies of the
4 PowerPoint presentation about to be presented by the
5 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation, and those
6 are my procedural matters.

7 EXHIBIT 42 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
8 Presentation, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
9 Corporation Technical Session Presentation
10 for the NIRB Public Hearing for Agnico Eagle
11 Mines' Meliadine Extension Project Proposal,
12 (English/Inuktitut)
13 Presentation by Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
14 Corporation (Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
15 Corporation Technical Session Presentation for the NIRB
16 Public Hearing for Agnico Eagle Mines' Meliadine
17 Extension Project Proposal)

18 THE CHAIR: David Bigeye.

19 MR. BIGEYE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 First of all, I would like to thank each and every
21 one of participants around the table. I'd like to
22 introduce where we come from. We are known as a
23 nomadic people, as caribou followers in time
24 immemorial. I myself was raised in a tundra around
25 Ennadai Lake and Kasba, Snowbird, Wholdaia. I have a
26 great experience in hunting and trapping that was

1 taught onto me by my dad. Caribou is the most
2 important part of our lives since we were known as
3 nomadic people. I have seen and experienced the
4 caribou migrating through -- through northern
5 Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories.

6 Today, my heart is hurting from what's happening
7 around Rankin regarding mining industry and what is
8 proposed to us. It doesn't matter what culture we come
9 from, but we are all land keepers. We are the voice
10 for the animals. And water is life. Without water,
11 we'll never survive. That's why we're here. The land
12 and the caribou connect us here today.

13 The Athabasca Denesuline Land Corporation
14 represents the three Athabasca First Nation: Fond du
15 Lac, Black Lake, Wollaston. Our community are in
16 northern Saskatchewan -- and our land's called
17 "Nuhenene" in our Denesuline language -- includes
18 portion of southwest Nunavut and southeast Northwest
19 Territories.

20 Our communities have lived with the Qamanirjuaq
21 caribou herd for thousands of years. We are caribou
22 people, nomadic. The caribou come to our lands during
23 the winter and return here in the spring and summer.
24 We are grateful to be here this week with people from
25 across the range of the great movement of the caribou.
26 We are all connected by this caribou and land and

1 coming together to have these conversation, and share
2 our knowledge and experiences is important.

3 MS. RASMUSSEN: Sorry for the interruption.
4 Katie Rasmussen.

5 We had a translated version, so we're just
6 connecting if it's too late to put that one up. And
7 appreciation to the NIRB because we did give the
8 translated version just last week, so ...

9 MR. BIGEYE: Being here, visit -- sorry
10 about that. Being here, visiting the mine site, and
11 listening to all of the information from the community
12 and Elders, we remember that we must speak for the
13 caribou and for our future generations. The mine is
14 looking at extending their lifetime for 11 more years.
15 We think about -- many years ahead to how any impacts
16 to caribou today and the future may impact our future
17 generation and their ability to continue our way of
18 life as Denesuline people.

19 Our communities are fundamentally interconnected
20 with the Qamanirjuaq caribou. We rely on these caribou
21 for our food, clothing, for our -- our cultural, for
22 our physical and spiritual health, and to continue our
23 way of life. Any impacts that may contribute to the
24 ongoing population decline of the herd will have an
25 impact on our people.

26 We were deeply troubled to see a mine developed so

1 close to where caribou are calving and in the route of
2 important post-calving movement corridors and
3 freshwater crossing. In our Denesuline knowledge, we
4 are taught that freshwater crossing, the post-calving
5 grounds, and the calving grounds are sacred places that
6 must be respected and not disturbed. These are
7 locations where caribou are known to be the most
8 vulnerable.

9 In the collar movement animation, we can see that
10 one important crossing has already likely been impacted
11 by this development. And we are concerned about
12 long-term impacts to movement to calving and
13 post-calving caribou. Athabasca Denesuline communities
14 have already experienced loss due to the declining
15 Bathurst, the herd from the west, and Beverly caribou
16 herds -- herd from the north.

17 The Qamanirjuaq herd is the last and only herd
18 that the Athabasca Denesuline people can depend on. We
19 must ensure that the precautionary approach is used
20 when considering developments that may impact the
21 caribou. In an interview with one Athabasca Denesuline
22 member about this project, he said: (as read)

23 The western herd and the northern herds are
24 gone. They don't come to our territories
25 anymore. If the eastern herd goes, I don't
26 know what would happen. If the caribou

1 disappear, we have a hard time surviving. We
2 need to protect the east caribou.

3 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, David. I'll talk a
4 bit about our specific comments and recommendations
5 now. Oh, Katie Rasmussen.

6 The Athabasca Denesuline has stood strongly to
7 prevent developments in critical habitat where caribou
8 are calving and post-calving and at this time do not
9 have enough information about how the cumulative
10 impacts of an extension of the life of the mine may
11 impact caribou and, in turn, the Athabasca Denesuline
12 people.

13 Our next slides will speak about -- are three
14 specific areas: the shifting, calving, and
15 post-calving grounds; the location of the proposed wind
16 turbines; and the Athabasca Denesuline request to join
17 the terrestrial advisory group.

18 We have seen from the evidence presented in
19 technical documents submitted as part of this process
20 and heard from local land users during this hearing
21 that the calving and post-calving grounds have been
22 shifting and have greater overlap with the regional
23 study area and the mine site infrastructure for the
24 post-calving. In a memo released by Agnico Eagle on
25 August 18th of this year, their analysis shows that
26 overlap between calving and the regional study area has

1 gone from 0 percent when the project was first approved
2 to 2.6 percent now.

3 We have also heard from local harvesters
4 observations of caribou calving at the north end of
5 Meliadine Lake, and the caribou collar data from 2023
6 from the Government of Nunavut agreed with those
7 observations. The original 2014 and updated 2022 final
8 environmental impact statement from Agnico Eagle did
9 not acknowledge or address the impacts of this new and
10 important overlap. We now have a baseline condition
11 where more caribou are interacting with the mine and
12 regional study area and at a more vulnerable time. Yet
13 no new adaptations or planning have taken place to
14 address this important change. The calving grounds are
15 both culturally and ecologically significant, and this
16 important change, we believe, needs to be addressed
17 before any new extensions are approved.

18 We had four recommendations to address this. As
19 Denesuline knowledge teaches us that the calving
20 grounds are places where the caribou should not be
21 disturbed, and there is general consensus that caribou
22 are most vulnerable on the calving grounds and leaving
23 the calving grounds, specifically we need to have a
24 better understanding of how the mine is currently
25 impacting caribou movement. We've heard a lot about
26 this already about Commitment 38. There is potential

1 for heightened avoidance, vulnerability, and distance
2 that needs to be considered in determining appropriate
3 thresholds and triggers with the new information of the
4 overlap with the calving grounds.

5 When we met here for a technical meeting at the
6 end of June of this year and Athabasca Dene members saw
7 the maps showing the movement of the calving caribou
8 from Agnico Eagle's Brownian Bridge analysis, Athabasca
9 Denesuline requested a meeting of Elders from all
10 potentially impacted communities to discuss this
11 important change and provide guidance on how to move
12 forward. We also made this request in our written
13 submission.

14 Seeking guidance from Elders is fundamental to
15 understanding how to approach the overlap of the
16 calving grounds with the regional study area and, from
17 the view of the Athabasca Denesuline, is a necessary
18 first step to begin charting a path forward. We do
19 have an update and would like to thank Agnico Eagle for
20 reaching out to us yesterday to start discussions about
21 having Athabasca Denesuline Elders meet with Elders
22 from the Kivalliq region; however, at this time we
23 still do not have that guidance we need.

24 Our final two recommendations on caribou
25 protections are to name the calving grounds as a
26 stand-alone valued ecosystem component and that a

1 specific protocol be developed to trigger heightened
2 caribou protections when the calving grounds are
3 overlapping with the project area. Naming the calving
4 grounds as a valued ecosystem component would ensure
5 that as they shift and overlap potentially more with
6 the mine site in the future that important change is
7 being monitored proactively and proactively
8 communicated to potentially affected communities.

9 We would like to note that there is precedence in
10 Nunavut for developing a calving -- a calving caribou
11 protection plan. The Back River gold mine in the
12 Kitikmeot region has a plan in place in the event that
13 calving grounds of the Bathurst or Beverly, Ahiak
14 caribou herds should shift into their regional study
15 area. This plan ensures that they are monitoring the
16 shifting calving grounds, that they communicate with
17 potentially impacted parties and management authorities
18 if the calving grounds are moving close within the
19 regional study area, and has planned operational
20 shutdowns for if the calving grounds do overlap. We
21 believe that something like that may be needed here,
22 but we have not made specific recommendations at this
23 time as we are waiting for guidance from Elders.

24 We've already heard a lot about wind turbines at
25 this hearing. There is great uncertainty about how the
26 Qamanirjuaq herd may respond to wind turbines. While

1 we appreciate the efforts of Agnico Eagle to develop a
2 management plan in response to reviewers' concerns for
3 caribou, Athabasca Denesuline do not have confidence
4 that the mitigation proposed will be sufficient.

5 Denesuline knowledge teaches us that caribou are
6 very sensitive to new visual disturbances, sounds, and
7 vibrations. Also that caribou see, hear, and perceive
8 things in ways that humans do not understand. So
9 studies seeking to understand how caribou may hear,
10 feel, or perceive the wind turbines still contain a
11 great deal of uncertainty. And there are no measures
12 that can address the visual disturbance of the turbines
13 themselves.

14 Given the importance of this habitat and the fact
15 that caribou are currently calving at the north end of
16 Meliadine Lake in close proximity to the proposed
17 location of the wind turbines, this is not the location
18 to experiment with something so uncertain.

19 At this time, Athabasca Denesuline do not support
20 the wind turbines in the proposed location. And I'll
21 read a quote from one of -- a member of Athabasca
22 Denesuline during an interview about this project:
23 (as read)

24 When you are in the barren lands, you can see
25 for a long ways. Even a small tree is
26 visible from far away. These wind turbines

1 will be huge on this landscape. The caribou
2 are sensitive to that. They sense things
3 that humans can't. They have sensory
4 abilities beyond what we do.

5 Our final comment and recommendation is about the
6 terrestrial advisory group. We have heard a lot about
7 this group and its importance as part of developing,
8 monitoring, management, and adaptation for caribou
9 protection measures as well as for including indigenous
10 perspectives, knowledge, and experience. It is also an
11 important venue for collaboration and sharing of
12 knowledge.

13 The caribou travel from Chesterfield Inlet to the
14 trees of northern Saskatchewan and Nuhenene, the lands
15 of the Athabasca Denesuline people. Having
16 representatives from all potentially impacted regions
17 not only to provide input but also to share and listen,
18 to -- to learn from each other is an important part of
19 ensuring an ongoing dialogue that will influence better
20 caribou protection. In order to ensure that the
21 Athabasca Denesuline can take part in this important
22 group, we are requesting that the Term and
23 Condition 132 is updated to include the Athabasca
24 Denesuline.

25 So in our conclusion we want to clarify the
26 Athabasca Denesuline position. The Athabasca

1 Denesuline stress the importance of supporting the
2 local Inuit in making decisions about your lands and at
3 this time have serious concerns about impacts --
4 potential impacts to caribou. We do not have enough
5 information to understand how an extension of the life
6 of this mine, particularly in the context of the
7 calving grounds overlapping with the regional study
8 area and uncertainty about future overlap, potentially
9 even more overlap with the calving grounds. This
10 important change has not been addressed, and -- and we
11 believe strongly that it needs to be before any
12 approvals are given. If the project is approved, we
13 have recommended a number of actions to improve caribou
14 protections, important -- most importantly an Elders'
15 meeting and the creation of a calving ground -- calving
16 caribou protection plan.

17 Due to great uncertainty and relying on Denesuline
18 knowledge of caribou behaviour, we do not support the
19 wind turbines at the proposed location. And finally we
20 request that Term and Condition 132 be updated to
21 include Athabasca Denesuline.

22 MR. BIGEYE: (as read)

23 I remember one winter when the caribou did
24 not come into our area. They stayed further
25 east. The forest was so quiet. When the
26 caribou didn't come, the other animals don't

1 come either. It's so quiet. There is no
2 life in a tundra without the caribou and in
3 the forest. I know what it feels like when
4 the caribou don't come. And I don't want
5 that experience again, and I don't want that
6 experience for my grandchildren in the future
7 generation or their children. If something
8 happens on the calving grounds, our entire
9 way of life will be impacted, and our people
10 will suffer.

11 There was a -- a lot of concern regarding the turbine.
12 I want to -- I want to bring up one thing based on my
13 experience. A reminder to our neighbours, Inuit. I
14 have greatly respect for you settling here. Long
15 before the modern ways of changes, we had connection in
16 our ancestors. We visit each other. We help each
17 other with food, clothing. I know that for a fact
18 because I seen that with my eyes, and my great
19 grandfather taught us. We are always told, The land is
20 our life. The water is our life. We got to protect
21 what we believe in. We can never be blind by money.
22 Money is beautiful. Comes and goes. But the losses of
23 our ancestors is not replaceable. But the knowledge
24 and what was brought up to us by their teachings. We
25 are the Elders now. The one that pass their knowledge
26 are gone. They all remain in our hearts. And we --

1 when we look into the tundra, you see their way of
2 life. And when I say "the way of life", I'm pretty
3 sure you understand what I mean. That's the life of
4 animal and the water. That's our tradition.

5 In the old ways when there was no ammunition or
6 gun existed when we hunt, we had spears and arrows. It
7 was so difficult to hunt. Our ancestors -- if there's
8 tracks of caribou, a pathway, our ancestors used to
9 line up markers, elzen in our language. And the
10 markers are cut trees right on the line where the
11 caribou's passing. They line it up towards where they
12 are going to sit for them, come in close to them.

13 You know, that -- that way of life today still
14 exists 'cause when I go hunting, I see caribou
15 crossing, and I start a fire, and I put those trees
16 there. As soon as the caribou comes up to it, it
17 follows the tree along to a location where I'm waiting
18 for them.

19 These turbine are 152 metres. If you do
20 calculations, 500 feet up in the air. During our tour,
21 we are told it's the width -- the height of the blade
22 is the height of the arena, Agnico arena. And one
23 blade is two times the length of that. And the first
24 turbine that was established was in China. Same
25 height, same project. I Googled it; I studied it. But
26 based on that information, it gives me a broad idea how

1 the structure's going to look.

2 When I come to think about those markers, those
3 are just little trees laying down, and caribou never
4 cross that. Imagine 11 of these around Meliadine. I
5 don't know what's going to happen, but through the
6 knowledge, I think there'll be great impact of the
7 caribou, especially the sound too. They're so
8 sensitive.

9 Just -- I come to think about it, I don't know
10 what else to think but to feel sorrow. We need to
11 remind ourselves what is the best possibility to work
12 together, not against each other. Scientific evidence
13 is not always accurate, but knowledge from the land, we
14 know what we're talking about. And we got to come up
15 with a solution at the end of the day how we can better
16 ourselves to work. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you to the Athabasca
18 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation for your
19 presentation.

20 Now to questions from the intervenors. Any
21 questions? Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Gabriel
22 Nirlungayuk.

23 MR. NIRLUNGAYUK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
24 Gabriel Nirlungayuk.

25 I want to thank the Athabasca Denesuline coming up
26 here to Rankin Inlet and explain what they're -- we're

1 seeing. They -- it really puts into perspective our --
2 the importance of caribou. Here in Nunavut, the
3 Qamanirjuaq herd, as we all know, is very important
4 for -- to providing calving so that our future
5 generations will continue to enjoy the caribou, and we
6 share the caribou with our neighbours down south. It's
7 not just us. We -- we know that. Like the Elder from
8 hunters and trappers said, We -- we need to take care
9 of the caribou. We have been told that there are other
10 people that depend on the caribou. So I really
11 appreciate the explanation that -- we better understand
12 it now. Qujannamiik. No questions.

13 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association,
14 Luis Manzo.

15 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

17 Thank you for that important information from
18 Saskatchewan Dene. No questions at this time, Madam
19 Chair.

20 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut,
21 Daniel Haney.

22 MR. HANEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
23 Daniel Haney, Government of Nunavut.

24 Thank you, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
25 Corporation, for your presentation. We look forward to
26 working with you in the terrestrial advisory group.

1 Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Government of Canada

3 departments, Spencer Dewar. Nothing?

4 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization,
5 Noel Kaludjak.

6 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 Noel Kaludjak, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers
8 Organization.

9 Thank you for your presentation. Very
10 informative. I apologize on behalf of Kangiqliniq HTO,
11 Hunters and Trappers Organization, as our secretary has
12 just started, and we don't have very much paperwork
13 coming through, very slowly.

14 And I have something to say. Thank you for your
15 report. Very -- information -- very good information,
16 and it strengthened my explanation and -- and what I
17 have been saying all week. Caribou have very good
18 vision. On the land -- when we travel on the land and
19 when we come across a crossing area where the caribou
20 cross the waters like the narrows that you talk about,
21 along -- along the way, on little hills, we see these
22 little rocks put on top of boulders, little rocks.
23 Hardly noticeable. And they're all lined up along this
24 little hill where the caribou cross. Little rocks.
25 Not -- not much bigger than my cap. All lined up.
26 Ancient markers. They divert the caribou to where they

1 have their kayak. The caribou sees those little rocks
2 all lined up, and it diverts the caribou crossing
3 towards where the hunters await so they'll have a
4 better chance with their bow and arrows, their spears,
5 and their kayak.

6 That is solid information. When I hear the
7 report, one of the Elders say they -- they build a fire
8 when the caribou are crossing. The caribou are very,
9 very sensitive visually, by sound, and by smell and
10 feel.

11 I can imagine -- I do not have proof, but along
12 the narrows there might have been some of those little
13 inukshuks that were placed long, long ago. That used
14 to be a major crossing area for caribou and for the
15 people that hunted them during those times because they
16 did not have rifles. And those were the important
17 areas to catch their annual caribou for clothing and
18 food and tools.

19 Our monitor along the all -- all-winter road,
20 Nathan Kaludjak, works for HTO, and he monitors the
21 road from Rankin Inlet to the mine and the area. We do
22 have the reports at our office, but due to our
23 secretary just starting a few days ago, we do not have
24 them in hand.

25 But I ask, Did you see any caribou crossing the
26 narrows during the migration in 2023? He said no.

1 Maybe one or two. That was about it. The caribou did
2 not cross the narrows around the mining camp area.
3 They diverted east -- west past Meliadine Lake to where
4 the new expansion area is between Itirlak and Meliadine
5 Lake. I will have another comment after the presenters
6 have something to say about what I just said. Thank
7 you.

8 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline Land
9 Corporation, David Bigeye.

10 MR. BIGEYE: David Bigeye, Athabasca
11 Denesuline Corporation.

12 Thank you, Noel. The crossing -- it's not a
13 question but a comment. But I'll relate that to the
14 comment.

15 Sacred crossing, my son -- sacred crossing, you're
16 not supposed to leave any markers or cut a tree.
17 That's where our ancestors, which are the caribou,
18 they'll never leave that crossing if it's not
19 disturbed. That's what -- were the words that was
20 brought to me by my dad. When we come to crossing, me
21 and my dad, we used to go there in a canoe with a spear
22 to try and preserve the ammo. And now when we make a
23 little shelter to disguise ourselves, we used to bring
24 trees, sit there, and the caribou would come up. To
25 me, that knowledge of teaching is not to disturb the
26 crossing or put markers because they'll spot it a long

1 ways.

2 In terms of the windmill at that location, as Noel
3 stated that the caribou use their nostrils for scents
4 and also to block the glare of brightness 'cause they
5 have night vision eyes, better eyes than us, UV,
6 meaning that they can spot a very bright light from a
7 long distance.

8 And when I think about the turbine, it reflects
9 back to the markers that we're talking about and with
10 the sound. And due to transportation safety
11 regulation, I assume that it has to have lights. One
12 of them has to be red, I think, and the other one is
13 white. In cloudy days, you can see that for miles on a
14 tundra. With the sight of a caribou, I am pretty sure
15 it can be sensed far away.

16 Thank you, Noel.

17 THE CHAIR: It's getting close to the
18 lunch break, and like Leo Mimialik said, he lost his
19 brother a few days ago, and he's going to be leaving
20 the -- he's going to be leaving. We are hoping that --
21 that, you know, that he would be able to join us for
22 the community roundtable, but it looks like he might
23 leave before the technical sessions are over.

24 And he does have questions and comments, so we're
25 going to pause the intervenors asking questions and
26 making comments for now and get Leo Mimialik to ask his

1 questions and share his thoughts 'cause he is going to
2 be travelling today.

3 Leo Mimialik.

4 Questions by Community Representatives for Chesterfield
5 Inlet (Roundtable)

6 MR. MIMIALIK: Thank you, Ms. Chair.

7 These First Nations people have gone through the
8 same situation as us. For example, Arviat, Whale Cove
9 haven't really been touched, or -- I really understand
10 what the Dene are saying. We are in agreement with
11 what you are saying. I want this to be understood. I
12 have to go home. I do have question. I wonder if
13 there is -- you can ask questions to them.

14 There's a -- an area where we set nets. We heard
15 that they are pouring salty -- salty water out into the
16 sea. And why is that? I wonder if people from CIRNAC
17 can answer me or if any of the government departments
18 can answer me with that question that I just raised.

19 THE CHAIR: He's asking about (NO ENGLISH
20 FEED) water or oil or spill where they put out nets
21 near Chesterfield Inlet. Maybe Fisheries and Oceans
22 Canada or Transport Canada.

23 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
24 Canada and Northern Affairs Canada, Spencer Dewar.

25 MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.
26 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern

1 Affairs Canada.

2 Thank you for the question. When it comes to the
3 discharge of ballast water, we'd like to defer that
4 question to Transport Canada.

5 When it comes to the -- the discharge to the
6 marine environment, I think we'd like to refer that
7 question to Environment Canada and Climate Change.

8 THE CHAIR: Environment and Climate Change
9 Canada, Victoria Shore.

10 MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.
11 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
12 Affairs Canada.

13 With your permission, we'd like to defer the
14 portion to Transport Canada first.

15 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada,
16 Adam Downing.

17 MR. DOWNING: Thank you, Madam Chair.
18 Transport Canada, Adam Downing speaking.

19 I'm not sure I caught the exact question through
20 translation. Would you be able to restate it?

21 THE CHAIR: Leo Mimialik, can you re --
22 re-ask your question.

23 MR. MIMIALIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 Where is this discharge of ballast water --
25 where -- where is it being dumped? Is it the mining
26 company or another company that's discharging ballast

1 water out into the sea near our community? I wonder --
2 I have not heard as to which company is discharging
3 ballast water out into the ocean. I'd like some
4 information, please.

5 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada,
6 Adam Downing.

7 MR. DOWNING: Thank you, Madam Chair.
8 Adam Downing with Transport Canada.

9 So when we refer to ballast water being dumped in
10 the sea, this is water that's retained by the ships and
11 the ship vessels, and it's -- it's used to balance the
12 ships when they're out on the water. And so when
13 referring to ballast water, it's the release and -- and
14 capture of that water to balance the ship.

15 As for the ballast water regulations, we do have
16 strict regulations on what can be captured and
17 released. These new regulations came into effect by
18 the minister of transport on June 23rd, 2021. And so
19 these regulations strengthen existing rules for vessels
20 on international voyages and the introduction of new
21 rules for Canadian vessels that don't voyage
22 internationally. And so on ballast water, I hope that
23 answers your question.

24 As for the discharge from the mining companies,
25 Transport Canada's role in the discharge and the
26 discharge of the pipeline in -- in -- in the Itivia

1 Harbour was simply approving the structure, and -- and
2 we don't have any imp -- or -- implications on the
3 water or the -- what's being discharged. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Leo Mimialik.

5 MR. MIMIALIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 I don't think that any of our -- the people in our
7 community have heard about the discharge of ballast
8 water. We -- we have no idea where the ballast water
9 is -- why it's being discharged into our ocean near our
10 community of Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Do you have any other further
12 questions?

13 MR. MIMIALIK: I have another question. I
14 have a question to Transport Canada and to the mining
15 company, Agnico Eagle, about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
16 I want a precise answer.

17 Our community of Chesterfield Inlet, ever since
18 mining started, we are losing the whale population in
19 our -- in our -- in the vicinity of our community. I
20 would like to ask this question to Transport Canada and
21 for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit knowledge holders. I'm not
22 the only one concerned about the whale population on
23 the decline. I think it's due to the way -- the ships
24 coming in. There's a lot of -- there's -- there's an
25 increase of ships that are coming through our -- our
26 community. There's ships that are carrying supplies to

1 Meliadine -- I mean Meadowbank, and so I need to get
2 some answers. I think we are one of the most impacted
3 communities by these supply ships coming into our --
4 our -- our harbour. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: First, we'll go to Fisheries
6 and Oceans Canada and then Agnico Eagle.

7 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Jose Audet-Lecouffe.

8 MR. AUDET-LECOUFFE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jose
9 Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

10 I'd like to -- I'd like to thank Leo for -- for
11 his question. Thank you.

12 I would like to mention that we have -- Fisheries
13 and Oceans Canada has recommended to the Board to
14 vary -- to vary or add two terms and conditions, one
15 related to the introduction of aquatic invasive
16 species.

17 Aquatic invasive species can be introduced to the
18 marine environment through ballast water. Fisheries
19 and Oceans would like to include monitoring of those
20 species to make sure the measures in place are working.

21 Second, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has
22 recommended adding and varying terms and conditions to
23 add monitoring of shipping noise for the protection of
24 whales. There's new -- new scientific evidence that
25 show that there's a great impact from ships on whales,
26 and that could cause behaviour change and

1 displacements.

2 So thank you for your question. I think this is
3 one aspect of this project that was not discussed much,
4 but it does affect some communities. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

6 Pujjut Kusugak.

7 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Pujjut Kusugak, Agnico Eagle.

9 The -- we met with Transport Canada. We had a
10 meeting about the transportation corridor, and they met
11 over in Chesterfield Inlet at one point, and as well as
12 the community were at the meeting. We had discussed as
13 to where the transportation corridor should be routed
14 and rerouted.

15 For the topic that we're discussing now, the
16 number of ships will not change. And we met with --
17 and we haven't heard from the Kangiqliniq HTO about
18 the -- the topic of -- the population of whales being
19 on the decline. I think we're going to look into this
20 some more. We're going to check to see about the
21 transportation corridor to see what can be done. We
22 need more information. We have a wildlife officer as
23 well or a biologist. We want to share from your
24 community. We're going to keep that open to your
25 hunters and trappers organization, and we're going to
26 meet with them to -- to discuss how we can maybe --

1 maybe help. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Leo Mimialik.

3 MR. MIMIALIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 Thank you very much for that clarification and for
5 that answer. Ever since mining began, we are noticing
6 that every summer we are not seeing as many whales.
7 The ships are coming in from -- from Chesterfield
8 Inlet, and then they go through our community and by
9 Whale Cove, and they anchor down by Marble Island. So
10 thank you for that clarification, Pujjut.

11 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization Questions
12 Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation

13 THE CHAIR: Continuing with intervenor
14 questions and comments before the lunch break.

15 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization,
16 Noel Kaludjak.

17 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you. Thank you, Madam
18 Chair. Noel Kaludjak, hunters and trappers
19 organization.

20 Thank you, Leo Mimialik, for your comments. And
21 thank you for the replies. Those are very informative.

22 On to the caribou sensitivity. We already talked
23 about how sensitive caribou are to hearing, seeing, and
24 smelling. My last question to the presenters is the
25 smell of the caribou is very, very sensitive. The
26 caribou follow each other by smelling the leaders'

1 hooves. Between the hooves, there is a -- a gland that
2 drips to the land during their -- their walk, their
3 migration, and the caribou follow that by smell.

4 All week I have been talking about the water and
5 contamination -- possible contamination of the
6 Meliadine Lake. When the caribou come into contact
7 with -- on -- at the narrows on the water, they can
8 smell the water. Agnico Eagle claimed at one point
9 that the ice might be diverting the caribou to a
10 different crossing.

11 I reiterate that the caribou can also smell the
12 contaminated water. In turn, it does not want to get
13 in the water and cross the normal, ancient crossing at
14 the narrows.

15 One, it's the sight of the mine and the
16 possibility of the wind turbines diverting their
17 migration route. Second is the hearing. They can hear
18 the rumbling of equipment at the mine, and the wind
19 turbines will not help at all. Three, they smell.
20 They can smell the air -- contaminated air from the
21 mine, contaminated waters.

22 My colleague here -- he left -- sorry --
23 Nathaniel Kaludjak. I talked to him for a bit, and he
24 confirmed my knowledge that the caribou will rest right
25 where the mills -- wind turbines are planned to be
26 installed. That area is also where they rest during

1 their long migration.

2 So my question is to the presenters, Athabaskan --
3 Athabaskan Dene. Are these true what we say? They are
4 long knowledge of our ancestors and for our future and
5 are very important. Thank you. And my final questions
6 and comments.

7 THE CHAIR: Before we go to a response
8 from the Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation,
9 we're going to take a lunch break, and we'll reconvene
10 at 1:15 and continue with questions.

11 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:15 PM)

12 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 1:14 PM)

13 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.
14 Continuing where we left off before the break, a
15 response from the Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
16 Corporation. Louie Mercredi.

17 MR. MERCREDI: Thank you, Madam Chair. Louie
18 Mercredi, Fond Du Lac First Nations.

19 First of all, I'd like to acknowledge the Elder
20 that did the opening prayer this morning. I'd also
21 like to thank the community of Rankin Inlet for
22 allowing us here in this community, taking part in this
23 hearing. I'd also like to acknowledge the Elders that
24 we have sitting at the table here. The Elders bring a
25 lot of knowledge to the table. There's a lot of things
26 that our Elders and the local Elders can work together

1 and sit on at a few days of meeting sessions. There
2 will be a lot of knowledge exchanged.

3 I'll give a little background on myself. I was
4 born and raised in Fond Du Lac. We -- as Fond Du Lac
5 and Athabasca basin communities, we grew up with
6 industry. The uranium industry has been in our
7 traditional territory for many years. There's a lot of
8 destruction from it. There's good social economic
9 benefits that come from it, but at the same time our
10 way of life is impacted by it, our water quality. We
11 have impacts on both ends of our lake, which is ashore
12 Lake Athabasca. We have impacts upstream, which is the
13 mining -- uranium mines.

14 Downstream from us into Alberta, there is another
15 big impact at that end of the lake, which is coming
16 from the development of tar sands. Our way of life has
17 been impacted for many years. Our people diagnosed
18 with cancer, the rate is increasing over the years.
19 Our people are slowly dying off with cancer. The
20 cancer rate is increasing, and the age is getting
21 younger.

22 So these are serious thoughts that we face with
23 industry. We are not here to oppose to the current
24 operation, but we can work together, dialogue together,
25 make things a little better understanding. We bring a
26 lot of knowledge to the -- to the community here with

1 mining industry.

2 I myself worked at the mines for 13 years. I went
3 through three different mines from a manual operation
4 to today's technology operation. Either/or, manual or
5 automated, the destruction still happens.

6 As we all know, our knowledge as First Nation and
7 Inuit people of northern Canada, we've been here living
8 with caribou since time immemorial. We know the
9 changes. We know the impacts. We do not rely on
10 western science. Western science has just been
11 recently discovered; our knowledge has been around for
12 tens of thousands of years.

13 And, yes, I also have a cabin on the tree line in
14 the Northwest Territories called Rennie Lake. I
15 trapped there for 17 consecutive years. During my
16 harvesting, I've encountered Inuit there at one time
17 about ten years back, and then again back in 2020, I
18 met a group of harvesters from this area just east of
19 Rennie Lake. There was six of them. There we all met.
20 We had a good visit, and left, and, you know, we had a
21 little gift exchange. I got a pair of polar bear mitts
22 from them, and it was good. You know, it was good
23 seeing people, and we talked.

24 And when I came here last week, my buddy
25 Jonathan -- I forget. I don't know how to pronounce
26 his last name here, but he walked up to me here. He

1 said, Louie. I kind of looked at them, Jonathan, he
2 said. That meant a lot to me seeing someone again that
3 I've seen during harvesting.

4 I've seen some changes during my time trapping in
5 the barren lands. Changes include environmental
6 changes, caribou behaviours, musk ox behaviours, seeing
7 herds of musk ox numbering from 20 to 50 at different
8 times. You see the musk ox migrating into the trees.
9 They never come back out. They never return back to
10 the barrens. We currently have musk ox in the
11 Saskatchewan boreal forests, so we know there's impacts
12 up there. Something is chasing them away.

13 Prior to development in the gold -- in the diamond
14 minds there in Diavik area, we used to get Beverly and
15 Bathurst caribou prior to development every year.
16 These two herds used to come winter range within our
17 area.

18 After the start of the development, populations
19 had decreased. The caribou stopped coming to our area.
20 There are three -- three different herds that we relied
21 on, and Qamanirjuaq is one of them as well.

22 Back in the day, Qamanirjuaq used to come to our
23 region a little later than the Bathurst and the
24 Beverly. They used to come, say, January from the
25 east, but, nowadays, they come right at freeze-up.

26 So with that being said, the herds, Beverly and

1 Qamanirjuaq -- Bathurst, I talked about this numerous
2 times. I'm a former chief as well from a community.
3 We know there's tens of thousands of stake and flags on
4 the barren tundra that are not picked up after it's
5 been used. That holds up our caribou from reaching
6 their destination, flagging, exploration flagging.

7 When we -- I've seen numerous copies of printouts
8 from caribou migration collars over the years, the
9 caribou who start heading south. Once it reaches --
10 it's a fast movement. Within a week they cover a lot
11 of distance, but once you get to the Diavik area, they
12 just stop there, hang around there and go in circles,
13 and they are vulnerable to predators.

14 And back to the Qamanirjuaq herd now. Yes, I
15 strongly believe there is impacts on the caribou.
16 There will be impact on the caribou herd with the
17 development of the wind turbines. Why I say that?
18 There was a power grid that's been strung across
19 northern Saskatchewan from the middle of Lake Athabasca
20 called Charlot River, strung right across the north
21 right into Rabbit Lake Mine area and tied into the rest
22 of the province now.

23 Prior to that, in 1986, that's when -- that's when
24 they brought it in. Prior to 1986, the caribou used to
25 go further south for winter range. As a kid growing
26 up, I remember the caribou used to migrate back from

1 the south in the springtime. A lot of people used to
2 go out harvesting. The stories that we gather from our
3 parents and our ancestors -- our Elders -- sorry --
4 they said the caribou used to go as far as Cree Lake
5 back in the 1950s, winter range there. That's right in
6 central Saskatchewan. That's a long way.

7 After the power line had been put in, that
8 migration south has stopped. The caribou has not
9 crossed that power source, the power lines. Now the
10 winter range has changed. It's north of the calving --
11 the power lines now.

12 Then comes forest fires. Forest fires also cause
13 a lot of winter range habitat loss. If this turbine
14 development is not relocated to a different area, there
15 will be major impacts to the caribou herd. We're not
16 opposed to the development; we just need to find a
17 suitable location for it so it does not affect the
18 caribou migration.

19 And also the water discharge line that's in
20 construction right now, the caribou will never cross
21 that water line as well. Every kilometre or so there's
22 a booster pump there. What that booster pump station
23 does is maintaining a certain pressure of the water
24 that's being discharged, one pump after another
25 throughout the whole length of the power line. It's
26 going to create vibration. It's going to create noise

1 and potential spills. We seen major spills with water
2 discharge lines in the past.

3 The water quality, without water, there's no life.
4 We need to have our water. One of the Elders had
5 indicated there -- the foaming in the base never used
6 to be there prior to a development. One thing can
7 cause that is chlorine or sodium, a high concentration
8 of it. I've worked in water treatment plants as well,
9 and we also need to understand what other things
10 contained in the water that's being discharged. We're
11 dealing with gold extraction here. There's borax.
12 There is cyanide. Cyanide is a really, really
13 poisonous chemical, and we also need to know what pH
14 levels are sent back to the environment.

15 And caribou water crossings, Agnico Eagle's
16 presentation indicated the caribou will not cross when
17 there's ice. I really strongly disagree with that.
18 I've seen caribou cross ice or no ice. If they need to
19 cross, they'll cross regardless if there is ice or not.

20 And the sacred crossing areas, if you see caribou
21 crossing, if you're on the opposite side, as soon as
22 they sense you, they will not hesitate. They'll just
23 turn right back where they started swimming from.
24 They'll never reach the other side of the -- where the
25 danger is. They're going to be relaxed once they
26 approach the water, a little cautious, but they know if

1 it's safe, they'll go. As soon as they sense danger,
2 they're coming back out the same way they got in. And
3 when they do come out, it's a big stampede. They're
4 going to run.

5 These are the knowledge that we have as First
6 Nation Inuit people. We don't rely on western science.
7 These are the true facts of our people. It's who we
8 are. With that, I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

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

11 MR. KALUDJAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
12 Noel Kaludjak, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers
13 Organization.

14 Thank you very much for your comments. Yes, we
15 agree with you a hundred percent on the sensitivity of
16 the caribou and their migration routes.

17 Again, we concur that the caribou are very
18 sensitive to noise, to smell, and sight, and we still
19 stand to our word that once you have obstacles in their
20 way, they will take a different route, and it is very
21 important to their health and to our health as humans,
22 as Inuit and local people who use the caribou for their
23 livelihood. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene First Nation.
25 Northlands Denesuline First Nation and Sayisi Dene,
26 Geoff Bussidor.

1 MR. BUSSIDOR: Masi, Athabasca Denesuline.

2 (DENE SPOKEN - NO ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

3 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Manon Turmel.

4 MS. TURMEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Manon
5 Turmel, Agnico Eagle.

6 Thank you for your presentation. I would just
7 like to mention that in the June workshop that we had,
8 it was agreed by all parties that at the next
9 terrestrial advisory group meeting, there would be a
10 vote on Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation
11 presents as part of the terrestrial advisory group. I
12 just wanted to mention that it's part of the agenda of
13 the next meeting.

14 I also want to mention in regards to some previous
15 comments that as part of the Meliadine extension
16 application, we have completed human health and
17 ecological risk assessment, so basically looking at
18 risks for health and the environment, and it concluded
19 that there was no potential cancer risks, and it was
20 reviewed by the Government of Nunavut and Health
21 Canada.

22 And one last thing just to say that cyanide is
23 destroyed. So there's no cyanide on-site, just to
24 clarify. I have no -- no further questions. Thank you
25 again for your presentation.

26 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff, Tara Arko.

1 Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions Athabasca
2 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation

3 MS. ARKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tara
4 Arko, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.

5 One quick question: Does the Athabasca Denesuline
6 Ne Ne Land Corporation have an impact benefit agreement
7 with Agnico Eagle?

8 Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 THE CHAIR: Athabasca Denesuline, David
10 Bigeye.

11 MR. BIGEYE: Athabasca Denesuline Land
12 Corporation, David Bigeye.

13 Simple question, no.

14 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff, Tara Arko.

15 MS. ARKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tara
16 Arko, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff. No more
17 questions from staff at this time.

18 THE CHAIR: Any questions from the Board?

19 I have one question similar to Guy's question to
20 the Sayisi Dene and Northlands Dene.

21 Nunavut Impact Review Board Chair Questions Athabasca
22 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation

23 THE CHAIR: Do the Athabasca Denesuline Ne
24 Ne Land Corporation, are they involved in any other
25 caribou management and monitoring programs in your
26 region besides the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou

1 management board, and are there any reports publicly
2 available? Katie McDonald -- Katie Rasmussen.

3 MS. RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Katie
4 Rasmussen. My mom's last name is actually McDonald, so
5 that works too.

6 Yes, the Athabasca Denesuline are involved with
7 the Bathurst caribou advisory committee. So that's a
8 committee that works with quite a large group of both
9 public governments, indigenous organizations, both
10 First Nations and Inuit, and there are public reports
11 available. The Bathurst caribou management plan and
12 range plan were both created with significant input
13 from the group.

14 The group also does a yearly annual review, and I
15 think that's publicly available.

16 The other work that the Athabasca Denesuline is
17 involved with, we do a lot of caribou work within the
18 three communities, so harvest survey. We're in the
19 process of developing a community-driven caribou
20 relationship plan, which could also be called a
21 stewardship plan. Athabasca Dene communities used to
22 do health studies in collaboration with harvesters, and
23 we are in the process of seeking funding and
24 collaboration to start that again.

25 And I think the only other one I'll mention is
26 that the -- the Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land

1 Corporation has a sister organization that works more
2 on the south of 60 work, so that group is called the
3 Ya'Thi Ne Ne Lands and Resources, and they also do a
4 lot of caribou work. So we collaborate with them at
5 times as well. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your responses,
7 and thank you for your presentation.

8 As I indicated on Saturday, in the interest of
9 time, Agnico Eagle is going to address Item 11 in their
10 closing remarks, and Item 12, the outstanding
11 procedural matters and deferred questions is going to
12 be deferred until tomorrow night or Wednesday morning.
13 So, for now, that concludes the technical sessions of
14 this public hearing.

15 Community Roundtable

16 THE CHAIR: We will now begin the
17 community roundtable portion of the public hearing.
18 The community roundtable is focused on hearing from the
19 designated community representatives who have come to
20 Rankin Inlet to hear about the Meliadine extension
21 proposal and to share their knowledge, views,
22 questions, and concerns and issues with the Board about
23 the proposal.

24 In addition to the questions and comments from
25 community representatives here at the table, we will
26 also continue to invite questions from the public in

1 Rankin Inlet.

2 For members of the public who want to ask
3 questions to the proponent or intervenors, please
4 provide your name to the NIRB staff at the table -- at
5 the sign-in table as you enter the room, and they will
6 let me know that you would like to speak, and I'll add
7 your name to the list.

8 We will do our best to hear from everyone who
9 wants to speak, but please be patient with us as we
10 work through our speaking order.

11 If you don't have questions but would like to
12 provide a statement for the Board's consideration,
13 please also speak with our staff. There are many ways
14 to share your knowledge and perspective with the Board,
15 and our staff will assist you in making sure that
16 happens.

17 We will now proceed with the community roundtable
18 Agenda Item 1, a summary presentation by the proponent.
19 Following the presentation from Agnico Eagle, community
20 representatives from the Kivalliq, Manitoba, and
21 Saskatchewan, followed by members of the general public
22 here in the hall will have an opportunity to question
23 Agnico Eagle and any of the registered intervenors who
24 we heard from during the technical session.

25 If you're not sure who to direct your questions
26 and comments to, I may direct your question to the

1 intervenors who may be able to provide you with
2 answers.

3 I also want to remind the community
4 representatives that tomorrow at the close of the
5 community roundtable session, a single spokesperson
6 chosen by each community will have an opportunity to
7 provide short closing remarks summarizing if their
8 community's concerns have been addressed and if the
9 community supports the proposal going ahead or not.
10 Please take some time today to choose your spokesperson
11 and talk with them about your thoughts for the closing
12 remarks.

13 I will ask that our legal counsel mark the
14 exhibits so that we can begin with the presentation.

15 NIRB legal counsel.

16 Procedural Matters By Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
17 Counsel

18 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
20 Review Board.

21 Madam Chair, there is no one else that needs to be
22 sworn in or affirmed, so I'm just going to mark the
23 PowerPoint presentation in hard copy about to be
24 presented by Agnico Eagle as the next exhibit in this
25 public hearing, and those are my procedural matters,
26 Madam Chair.

1 EXHIBIT 43 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
2 Presentation, "Meliadine Extension -
3 Community Roundtable" (English/Inuktitut)

4 EXHIBIT 44 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
5 Presentation, "Meliadine Extension -
6 Community Roundtable" (Dene)

7 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle. Who is going to
8 give the presentation?

9 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
10 Pujjut Kusugak will be leading the presentation. Thank
11 you.

12 THE CHAIR: Pujjut Kusugak.
13 Presentation by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Meliadine
14 Extension Community Roundtable)

15 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 My name is Pujjut Kusugak with Agnico Eagle. I am
17 from Rankin Inlet. I am with Krittterdlik and Sophie
18 Lacourse.

19 I will be doing the presentation in English, and I
20 would like to thank the -- and the translators as we
21 can speak in English. They speak -- they speak
22 Inuktitut better than I do, so I will speak in English,
23 but perhaps I might just speak in my language so I just
24 want you to know ahead of time.

25 And to everyone here of the people visiting from
26 other places, welcome. And welcome to the indigenous

1 peoples and to the other people from outside of
2 Rankin Inlet -- there are many of you -- and the Elders
3 that are here with us, you continue to teach us all the
4 time about our culture and our way of life so that it
5 could continue into the future, the Nunavut Impact
6 Review Board that are holding this hearing here, and to
7 all the people from the Kivalliq communities and as
8 they -- to provide comments and inputs to us.

9 Before I begin, I think it's obvious I am Inuk
10 first of all. I grew up in Rankin Inlet. I was born
11 in Arviat, and I am also from Nunavut, our land.

12 What we will talk about, we want you to know they
13 have been compiled, and we incorporated Inuit
14 Qaujimagatugangit, traditional knowledge, and we also
15 incorporated western science, and we tried to create a
16 balance and what they -- and what it states regarding
17 caribou, the water, and our land.

18 David will speak regarding the Elder advisory
19 committee and how they are involved. Also, we
20 represent Inuit as well, and there are many Inuit that
21 are working that have work to do, that they are able to
22 provide for their families because of their employment.

23 And to the businesses in Kivalliq, they are able
24 to get opportunities at the mine. 2011 and '12, I was
25 the mayor of Rankin Inlet when Agnico was here and just
26 prior to the time they built the mine. They would ask

1 us if we support the mine. We said -- we said that the
2 land is our gift, but if our Inuit will benefit from
3 it, we want the Inuit to have employment and to gain
4 income, so we -- we sacrificed the land so that the
5 people in Rankin Inlet will benefit.

6 And let's not forget that Rankin Inlet and the
7 Kivalliq will continue to grow and develop, and we will
8 continue to build roads, and that is what we want. We
9 have requested the road to -- roads to be built by the
10 Government of Nunavut and Canada, and many Inuit know
11 that we cannot go back. We cannot return to the life
12 of our ancestors. We want to continue living and not
13 lose our language, not lose our Inuit identity and our
14 culture and way of life, but we have to move forward
15 because the world -- we cannot be left behind by the
16 world.

17 David and I and Alex as well are from Kitikmeot.
18 He's Inuk like us. We work for the man because we want
19 to assist fellow Inuit and to inform and how it can
20 benefit your communities.

21 This I will speak in English now. I just want the
22 interpreters to be aware.

23 The focus of this presentation will be to review
24 what the Meliadine extension is, including a
25 description of the differences compared to what was
26 approved in 2015 and presenting and monitoring that is

1 in place. We will also discuss how we have engaged
2 with community members and organizations. Lastly, we
3 will present where we stand regarding the questions and
4 recommendations made by intervenors as part of the
5 Nunavut Impact Review Board process.

6 When we first proposed the Meliadine Mine, we
7 studied how it could affect Nunavut's environment and
8 communities and how it could also benefit the region.
9 We also studied the different ways we could manage and
10 reduce the mine's impacts. We summarized those studies
11 in the final environmental impact statement, which we
12 submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board in 2014.
13 Nunavut Impact Review Board recommended that the
14 minister approve the Meliadine Mine, which the minister
15 did in 2015.

16 Agnico Eagle made amendments to the final
17 environmental impact statement in 2018 and 2020 for the
18 discharge of treated water to Itivia Harbour, and these
19 amendments were approved by NIRB in 2019 and 2022.

20 Agnico Eagle provided this final environmental
21 impact statement addendum to outline what the proposed
22 Meliadine extension includes and what its benefits and
23 potential impacts are. It also outlines consultation
24 with communities and how we plan to monitor and
25 mitigate the project's effects, and the final addendum
26 is intended to guide NIRB's review of the proposed

1 Meliadine extension.

2 And Meliadine Mine brings significant economic and
3 social benefits to the region. This includes
4 employment, education and training, community programs,
5 and more.

6 The 2014 final environmental impact statement
7 assessed and included the potential for five deposits
8 or mining areas including the deposits called
9 Tiriganiaq, Pump, F Zone, Wesmeg, and Discovery. These
10 deposits are shown in yellow on this map, which is from
11 the 2014 FEIS project description. The approval
12 approach in the project certificate was described as a
13 multi-phase approach, and this means not all of the
14 deposits or mining areas would be developed at once.
15 However, the impacts associated with all of the
16 deposits and associated infrastructure have been
17 evaluated. Tiriganiaq was the only mining area to
18 include underground mining.

19 This map also shows us the location and size of
20 the area where the rock that doesn't contain gold is
21 stored and presented and approved by the Nunavut Impact
22 Review Board in 2015, and this is shown in orange. And
23 in the 2015 application to the Nunavut Water Board,
24 Agnico Eagle included underground and open-pit mining
25 of the Tiriganiaq deposit and associated
26 infrastructure, which includes a process plant, camp,

1 tailings storage facility, and waste rock storage
2 facilities. It was also planned that the other mining
3 areas were going to be included in the Nunavut Water
4 Board's permit at a later stage, which is what we are
5 doing now.

6 The proposed Meliadine extension is not a new
7 project, and, in fact, most of the Meliadine extension
8 was already assessed in 2014 and approved in 2015.
9 Those parts have just not been built yet.

10 The biggest changes we propose that have been of
11 interest to the community include the new wind farm and
12 the extension of life of the mine and economic benefits
13 until 2043. Overall, the mine site would be only
14 slightly larger to account for the wind farm, and the
15 areas where the rock that doesn't contain gold is
16 stored and will be smaller than originally anticipated.

17 The area where the rock from which the gold has
18 been extracted will be stored and also be smaller than
19 anticipated back in 2014. And, just to make clear,
20 with the Meliadine extension, there will be no
21 intensification of activities. And we heard this many
22 times during the week, so we wanted to make sure that
23 we address this point.

24 Our power plant is currently running on diesel
25 fuel, just like every other community in Nunavut and
26 similar to other mines in the arctic, but we would like

1 to reduce our reliance on diesel fuel by using wind
2 energy. Our proposed wind farm includes up to
3 11 turbines. The wind turbines would be built as
4 needed and not all at once. We are looking at three to
5 five turbines that would be erected in the first phase,
6 and these are turbines circled in green on the slide.

7 Alternative scenarios to power generation have
8 been evaluated, and these include nuclear, solar power,
9 hydro power, and power grid connections, but these are
10 not considered feasible at this time.

11 There have been 6,000 turbines installed in Canada
12 since 1993. There are currently four turbines
13 operating at the Diavik Mine in NWT, and two turbines
14 operating at the Raglan Mine, and they are looking to
15 install more.

16 I would like to highlight a few key facts
17 following questions and concerns we heard during the
18 consultation activities. The tip of each wind turbine
19 blade would be about 144 metres. In comparison,
20 approximately two wind turbines would fit horizontally
21 on Williamson lake. And if you're not familiar with
22 Williamson Lake, it's the lake right in the middle of
23 town. So two could fit on there. The turbines can be
24 shut down very quickly and in a matter of minutes
25 should weather or caribou warrant it.

26 It is expected that 1 kilometre away from the

1 turbines you will hear more of the natural environment
2 than the noise generated by the turbines, and the
3 turbines will be connected to our power -- power plant
4 through electric cable installed along the access
5 roads, and the cable will be laid directly over the
6 ground surface. The proposal includes the installation
7 of batteries between the turbines and the power plant,
8 and the battery basically looks like a sea-can.

9 The batteries will allow storage of a bit of
10 energy but also help while transitioning from usage of
11 diesel at the power plant and usage of the turbines.
12 For comparison, one wind turbine at full capacity can
13 provide enough electrical power for all of Rankin in
14 the winter.

15 The selection of the wind turbine locations
16 presented in black on this map was the result of years
17 of field investigation and studies and wind resources
18 maps. This is where the wind -- to know where the wind
19 comes from and where to go to maximize where the wind
20 is caught, also with archeological resources, cabin
21 locations, caribou migration corridors, raptor nests,
22 and vegetation.

23 Through engagement activities and IQ shared, Inuit
24 Qaujimagatuqangit, we also heard that community members
25 prefer that we keep the area of land disturbance for
26 our activities to a minimum.

1 A number of alternatives provided by some of the
2 community members, local organizations, and intervenors
3 has also been looked at, and these are areas identified
4 on the map to the -- to the left here you see yellow
5 and then the green polygons, and we also looked at
6 positioning the turbines within the footprint of the
7 mine site, and this is between waste rock piles on top
8 of the waste rock piles, so various places around
9 site -- around the Meliadine site, and our mine site is
10 currently very compact to reduce impact on the land,
11 and that just means we're putting buildings as close as
12 possible together to make sure that we're not taking up
13 so much. So this means there's very limited room in
14 between infrastructures at site.

15 So the Subblu area, as shown in the yellow
16 polygon, was proposed by a number of intervenors, and
17 this area is located near the airport and is a
18 restricted buffer zone defined by the airport needs,
19 and this has to be taken into consideration in addition
20 to the 500-metre buffer away from infrastructure.

21 In addition to the airport buffer zone, a
22 500-metre clearance from the other infrastructures and
23 cabins is also required, and this limiting -- so this
24 means that there's some limits to the area's
25 accessibility.

26 The following additional discussions with the

1 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization and
2 intervenors during the June workshop regarding
3 constraints at the Subblu area were submitted, and the
4 green area in the above was also proposed, and this is
5 behind Thompson Island along the coast.

6 This area located is at an important distance from
7 the mine site, adding significant cost, but
8 additionally there are a number of cabins close to this
9 area and its proximity, and we have heard from local
10 organizations and intervenors they would prefer the
11 turbines be installed in town or close to the coast to
12 be more protective of caribou.

13 Just for your reference, the blue area on this
14 map, there were over -- estimated over 150,000 caribou
15 that were seen migrating through that proposed
16 location. For reference, 11 wind turbines would take
17 up about three Williamson Lakes. This is including
18 construction of the foundation pads and solar panels to
19 produce the same amount of energy, it would take up
20 four Nipisar Lakes. If you're not familiar with
21 Nipisar Lake, it's our water source, which is much
22 bigger than Williamson Lake.

23 To further understand the effects that the wind
24 farm could have on wildlife, Agnico Eagle prepared a
25 visual simulation of wind turbines at the Meliadine
26 site, and here's a picture we took from about --

1 between about 4 and 5 kilometres from the proposed
2 location on the other side of Meliadine lake, so there
3 are -- here it shows there is no turbines.

4 And in these pictures, just to let you know too
5 what's missing from this visualization, is the tailings
6 storage facility, and this would be part of the
7 Meliadine extension. The height of the tailings
8 storage will be about half of the turbine height, and
9 there's a display in the corner of what the tailings
10 storage facility will be compared to the turbines.

11 Now, this next picture, if you can see, this is
12 with the turbines at the same distance and the
13 difference of how you can see the existing mine versus
14 what it would look like with the turbines.

15 Now, for reference, if you stand at the healing
16 facility, which is just about 500 metres down the road
17 from here, from the healing facility to Char River
18 Bridge, that's 5 kilometres, for your reference.
19 That's how far this picture is.

20 Now, on the next slide, this one is approximately
21 6 kilometres, and this is without the turbines.
22 6 kilometres, for your reference, if you stand outside
23 the healing facility here in Rankin, from the
24 healing -- healing facility, 6 kilometres is to First
25 Landing Lake's dock. That's how far it is. So this is
26 the picture of 6 kilometres out with the turbines.

1 This next picture is from 8 kilometres out. This
2 is without the turbines. 8 kilometres is from the
3 healing facility out to Ijiralik, and if you're not
4 familiar with Ijiralik, it's at the territorial park,
5 which is also a historic site and where many people
6 still get water from.

7 And then 9 kilometres out is from the healing
8 facility out to Sandy Lake where we -- many of us
9 learned how to swim but also where there is a picnic
10 site. So, for your reference, that's 9 kilometres out.

11 If you have not done so yet, I would suggest
12 taking a ride out on the road to get familiar with how
13 far these places are that we're referencing: Char
14 River Bridge, the dock at First Landing Lake, Ijiralik,
15 and Sandy Lake.

16 And the last one is from almost 13 kilometres out,
17 and this is from the Healing Centre all the way out to
18 the Elders' cabin. So if you're going for a drive and
19 you get to Sandy Lake, go a little further and you'll
20 see the Elders' cabin, and that's about how far it is.
21 So this first one is from almost 13 kilometres out, and
22 the next picture shows with the turbines there.

23 So on to the next slide. The proposed Meliadine
24 extension also includes a new portal to access the
25 Tiriganiaq mining area and from a different location
26 called "Tiriganiaq-Wolf". The Meliadine extension also

1 includes other infrastructure to support this existing
2 portal. These changes would increase the life of the
3 mine.

4 As an option for the future, Agnico Eagle proposes
5 to use less fresh water and restrict the overall site
6 footprint by storing tailings and waste rock in
7 exhausted pits, and exhausted pits are open-pit mines
8 that are no longer in use, so we would have to provide
9 more detail to the Nunavut Water Board before we move
10 forward with these options.

11 As part of this application, there are many things
12 that will not change, and from what the Nunavut Impact
13 Review Board approved in 2015, this includes caribou
14 protection measures, the all-weather access road,
15 utilization of the power plant, lay-down activities,
16 and shipping activities.

17 We collected data on soils, on permafrost,
18 chemistry of the rock, noise, how water is moving in
19 the area, what is the composition of the water in the
20 lakes that are in the area and at Itivia Harbour.

21 We also collected data on vegetation, wildlife
22 that lives on the land and in water, birds and where
23 they live, and also fish and other organisms that live
24 in the water. Finally, we collected data on Inuit
25 Qaujimaqatugangit, archaeology, and socioeconomics.

26 Based on that information collected, we have

1 developed 40 plans to monitor and report on our
2 environmental performance. We would take corrective
3 action if any unusual or unforeseen environmental
4 impacts occur, and this is what we mean by "adaptive
5 management". We must follow the terms and conditions
6 outlined in the project certificate.

7 The wind farm management plan was developed for
8 this application and revised based on comments made by
9 intervenors, and it includes environmental and caribou
10 protection and mitigation measures that are intended to
11 address anticipated environmental conditions or events,
12 and that can occur during the wind farm construction
13 and operation phases. We have also developed triggers
14 so that we can adjust our plans should things not go as
15 planned.

16 Agnico Eagle has a monitoring plan called the
17 "Terrestrial Environment Management and Monitoring
18 Plan". Some of you here know as TEMMP. And this plan
19 includes monitoring and mitigation of birds,
20 vegetation, wildlife, and caribou, and the focus of
21 this slide is to present the work suspension protocol
22 Agnico Eagle implements at site, and some of you may be
23 familiar with this.

24 To know where caribou are, we conduct surveys of
25 the mine at site or road. We also rely on information
26 relayed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association and

1 Government of Nunavut or the Rankin Inlet Hunters and
2 Trappers Organization. If there are more than
3 50 caribou within 5 kilometres of the mine site or more
4 than 50 caribou seen within 100 metres of the road, we
5 shut the road and the mine down. No activity.

6 Throughout the process we work collaboratively
7 with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the Government of
8 Nunavut, and the hunters and trappers organization, and
9 the feedback we heard from these parties in the last
10 years was positive, and we always build on lessons
11 learned, and we're very appreciative of the successful
12 collaboration we've developed over the years, and
13 that's why it's so important for Agnico Eagle to be
14 able to work with organizations like the Kivalliq Inuit
15 Association and the hunters and trappers organization.
16 We are constantly learning from each other.

17 This photo was taken by one of our installed
18 cameras in July of 2022 when the work suspension
19 protocol on the AWAR was implemented. So this means
20 there was no traffic allowed on the all-weather access
21 road. For those who have not had a chance to witness
22 the caribou migration as it passes through the road, we
23 would like to show you a couple videos of this.

24 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.
25 Procedural Matter by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
26 Counsel (Roundtable)

1 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

4 It's just to advise the people on Zoom that we are
5 actually running these on the computer here but not on
6 the Zoom feed because of the delay that we have, and to
7 advise people on the Zoom feed that these animations
8 are available on -- this video is available on the
9 NIRB's public registry. So please seek that out if you
10 would like to look at them, but we are not going to be
11 able to run them on the Zoom feed. Thank you, Madam
12 Chair.

13 Video Played

14 MR. KUSUGAK: As it has been stated a few
15 times where it was said that there were no crossing at
16 the narrows at Meliadine, we have colleagues that were
17 at the narrows witnessing the crossing on June 29,
18 2023, and June 30, 2023. We had 50 or more caribou
19 crossing the narrows, and this meant shutdown of all
20 activities at site.

21 And any time there's a shutdown or any caribou
22 that are within the distance limits, all parties
23 involved with the caribou monitoring, such as the
24 Government of Nunavut and the Rankin Inlet HTO, they're
25 always informed and kept in contact up to three times a
26 day.

1 Now, this slide here, it presents the road and
2 mine shutdowns in the past years. In 2023 the
3 all-weather access road had been shut down for 24 days
4 to date. Eleven flights were rescheduled, which means
5 employees had to stay longer than anticipated at site,
6 and I think all of us here can appreciate when a flight
7 is cancelled, especially from Rankin where you need to
8 connect anywhere. No planes means no food or a way out
9 of the community, and we all know how stressful and
10 anxious we can get when we can't fly out, and this is
11 what happens to our employees at site. And they
12 understand. They know it's part of the job, but that
13 doesn't mean they can't be anxious as well to get home
14 to their families just like we all would like to do.

15 In May of 2022, the terrestrial advisory group for
16 Meliadine was initiated, and this group provides
17 technical oversight on management, mitigation, and
18 monitoring measures related to the protection of
19 terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat based on
20 Inuit Qaujimaningit and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit,
21 traditional community knowledge and knowledge from
22 western science perspectives. Since then five
23 additional meetings have been held, and various topics
24 have been discussed. Progress has been made on
25 multiple fronts, and we are looking forward to future
26 meetings.

1 As part of our monitoring activities along the
2 road and mine site, we have also installed jars that
3 collect dust, and they are set up on 2-metre posts, and
4 the metal cone controls wind speed around the jar, and
5 the spoke on top of the post keeps birds from landing
6 in it. After 30 days these jars are removed and sent
7 to a laboratory for analysis, and we compare the
8 results with what was predicted would happen. To
9 reduce generations of dust along the roads, we apply
10 dust suppressant, and we also ask road users to limit
11 their speed.

12 Since construction of the mine, what we have seen
13 in terms of dust is in line with what was predicted.
14 Agnico Eagle has several management and monitoring
15 plans in place to manage and monitor potential effects
16 on water, and Meliadine Lake has been identified by
17 community members as an important drinking source --
18 water drinking source important for fishing, and based
19 on that the importance of clean water and health of
20 fish, such as lake trout and char, has been emphasized
21 in our monitoring programs, and monitoring has shown
22 that the water is safe for humans and the environment.

23 The aquatic effects monitoring program is a
24 monitoring program designed to assess whether
25 activities at the mine are causing changes in the
26 aquatic environment, and this program was designed in

1 consultation with the community, regulators, and other
2 stakeholders. It incorporates traditional knowledge,
3 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and western science to assess
4 water quality and the health of Meliadine Lake.

5 Monitoring the freshwater environment at Meliadine
6 Lake includes water quality; phytoplankton, which is
7 algae; benthic vertebrates that live in the sediments
8 and provide fish their food, so these are things like
9 small larvae that live in the sediments at the bottom
10 of the lake; and small fish species, so three-spined
11 sticklebacks and large fish species, lake trout.

12 Water quality is monitored annually and multiple
13 times during the year. Fish and benthic invertebrates
14 communities respond more slowly to changes in the
15 environment and require less frequent monitoring. So
16 both are monitored on a three-year cycle.

17 The results of the studies conducted to date show
18 that the water is safe to drink, the fish are safe to
19 eat, and the lake is healthy for fish and other
20 organisms. If there were ever any concerns, Meliadine
21 would be shut down. If there were any concerns,
22 organizations like the Kivalliq Inuit Association or
23 the Government of Nunavut would say something and so
24 would we. And the water at Meliadine Lake is not
25 contaminated, and the monitoring that has been done
26 shows this.

1 The earliest water samples were collected to
2 understand baseline conditions prior to development of
3 the mine. This data was used to support the 2014
4 Meliadine final environmental impact statement and are
5 now used to evaluate how much water quality has changed
6 over time due to activities at the mine and other
7 factors, which also includes climate change.

8 Since 2015, water quality monitoring in Meliadine
9 Lake has been conducted at least four times each year,
10 once in winter, usually around April, and then monthly,
11 July, August, September when the lake is free of ice.

12 Samples are collected close to the mine, which is
13 about 250 metres from where the water is released and
14 at locations near the outlet of Peter Lake, the outlet
15 at the Meliadine River, and a secluded bay in the
16 northern part of the lake, and the water quality
17 results are summarized in an annual report that is
18 reviewed by the Nunavut Water Board to ensure Agnico
19 Eagle is meeting the conditions of the water licence.
20 And in the map you can see the different places where
21 samples are collected.

22 And this slide is to show the water quality before
23 mining and the predicted results. The monitoring
24 results show we are well below predictions and
25 thresholds determined to be safe for fish, wildlife,
26 and human health. To put into context, what our

1 monitoring results has shown over the past years of
2 monitoring, things such as total dissolved solids,
3 which is a composite parameter that includes things --
4 major ions such as calcium, sodium, magnesium, and
5 chloride, and the range is around 70 milligrams per
6 litre, and this is 100 metres away from the diffuser in
7 Meliadine Lake.

8 And, in comparison, natural spring water found in
9 a bottle, such as Eska and these other water that you
10 have on your table, is usually around 85 milligrams per
11 litre, and this is very similar to the edge of the
12 mixing zone. And at our reference station in Meliadine
13 Lake near the outlet where it flows to Meliadine River,
14 the total dissolved solids concentration were at
15 70 milligrams per litre, which is similar to the
16 baseline conditions, and is more pure than most bottled
17 water.

18 Agnico Eagle has developed committees to address
19 socioeconomic concerns, and there is an Inuit impact
20 benefit agreement in the socioeconomic monitoring
21 committee.

22 In these committees, we discuss employment and
23 investments. Agnico Eagle and other agencies as well
24 as the Kivalliq Inuit Association can mobilize to
25 address the barriers to the workforce. Based on
26 lessons learned operating in Nunavut over a decade, we

1 have recently launched a Sanajiksanut program, and this
2 new recruitment approach will be more inclusive with
3 better work opportunities available for all.

4 Also, Agnico Eagle launched a virtual meeting
5 room, as shown on this slide, and this was to foster an
6 open, transparent, and respectful dialogue with all
7 communities of interest and mitigate challenges of
8 consultation during the pandemic, which created many
9 barriers for us.

10 Agnico Eagle conducted a social media and radio
11 campaign to raise awareness for the virtual meeting
12 room before it was launched in June 28 of 2021. The
13 community engagement program for the Meliadine
14 extension final environmental impact statement
15 encompassed over 30 engagement activities, including
16 one-on-one meetings, coffee and chats, local Elders
17 meetings, focus groups, public consultations, and open
18 houses. Some of those engagement activities will be
19 provided when David does his part of the presentation.

20 I'm going to hand it over to David.

21 THE CHAIR: David Kritterdlik.

22 MR. KRITTERDLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 First of all, we've met many times within the
24 communities with us through Agnico Eagle. There are
25 many concerns that are raised often every time we have
26 community input sessions and an event such as this at

1 public hearings, and the concern is always about
2 caribou. This is -- caribou is the country food of
3 indigenous people.

4 There is a committee that's set up by two groups
5 that discussed the caribou herd, the Beverly caribou
6 management board here in -- which is established for
7 the communities of the Kivalliq region.

8 So we meet with them with Pujjut and Janice in
9 attendance. We are sometimes kind of the -- like, the
10 middleman, and sometimes we do have some disagreements
11 in some cases, but we have to always think about our
12 people, and they come first. So that's -- that is --
13 is okay.

14 First of all, I'd like to tell a little bit about
15 myself. I was born and raised in Arviat. The first
16 miners that were here are when the north Rankin nickel
17 mine was established. There are some people that
18 worked for -- for that mining company. So we're very
19 pleased that me and Pujjut are working for Agnico
20 Eagle, and we're -- so we work collaboratively together
21 about what -- what we should maybe make plans for
22 before we do presentations.

23 Yes. We need -- there's always a need to hire
24 more people. If there's a -- we need the calving
25 grounds of the caribou to -- the caribou herd that
26 migrate year after year, and one of the changes in

1 their migration pattern has changed, that the -- it is
2 obvious that the calving ground was closer, and the
3 migrating caribou have been -- their migration patterns
4 have been changing since the mine was constructed.

5 And the other thing, those of us that -- Inuit
6 that work there for a mining company, they communicate
7 with us, and they instruct us. They are happy to work.
8 They want to work with Inuit. We want to collaborate
9 and involve the Inuit. This has been the goal and
10 focus of our agreed -- and from those that assert the
11 rights.

12 We have to collaborate with the communities, and
13 those are the instructions that have been given to us.
14 And we collect Inuit knowledge, traditional knowledge,
15 and what Inuit know regarding mining, and we want the
16 Inuit traditional knowledge to be incorporated in the
17 mining companies.

18 We have many -- in this respect of Inuit values
19 and -- Inuit values and Inuit traditional knowledge has
20 to be respected by all, not just the mining companies.
21 We have created groups in the Kivalliq region, the
22 Kivalliq Elders, to consult with and to gather
23 information from Inuit and the traditional values of
24 Inuit. We gather information from them.

25 But one thing that we have to -- we have been
26 cautioned, we Inuit, those of us that have asserted our

1 land, this land does not belong to us. It also belongs
2 to the animals in the rivers, in the lakes. They own
3 the land too. We have to think about them first. If
4 we're going to use the land, we have to be aware that
5 we share this land. The land is also the home of the
6 wildlife and the fish.

7 One of the things I've been working on, I have
8 been working for five years now and have been
9 instructed to collaborate with communities and to
10 consult with people in the communities.

11 One of the -- one of the -- one of our focus has
12 been the behaviour of wildlife and Inuit
13 Qaujimagatuqangit or Inuit traditional knowledge
14 sometimes and regarding the wildlife. That is the
15 focus of my work and to consult with the communities
16 and report to the mining company or the government or
17 if there's any questions, yeah. If there's questions
18 from the communities, I have to try and consult them.

19 We have advisory committees now because those that
20 are knowledge keeper, and we remember when we were
21 negotiating the Nunavut Land Claim, and some of us, we
22 work -- we were there negotiating the land claim, but
23 now we are just catching up, and Inuit are getting --
24 are catching up and learning still. Where is the
25 document? Where is the written documents? Inuit --
26 the Inuit would reply, We don't have a pen or a paper,

1 but we hold on to our traditional knowledge. We have
2 not written down our knowledge of the land, but the
3 land we dwell in, the land -- the landscapes, the
4 inuksuit, they are our indicators. That's how they
5 used to reply.

6 They have nothing written down, and we didn't have
7 a writing system because -- but we learned from the
8 land, and we -- the nuclear suit all have a meaning and
9 purpose, and that is how they wanted us -- this to
10 continue.

11 But the committees we formed, and it is evident
12 the Elders in the communities, they -- they have more
13 concern for the future generation and what rights the
14 future generation will have. Their children and their
15 grandchildren, how will they benefit? That is the
16 biggest concern Elders have.

17 In any communities, not just Inuit but other
18 indigenous people too, the concern for the future
19 generation and so that the future generation are
20 capable and strong because we cannot always live the
21 traditional way.

22 One of the things -- one of the meetings we have,
23 there is -- what can we do to approve or make positive
24 improvements? We have been told, and we have to be --
25 all the -- the education and the training required to
26 be qualified to work. You get your Grade 12 education

1 or beyond. Inuit have always said, All our lives we
2 are going to be learning, and it's lifelong learning.
3 Even if we get older or become Elders, we are still
4 learning. Learning never ceases. Lifelong learning --
5 we learn something every day, and there is something
6 new every day.

7 That is all I'm going to share, and what I will
8 be -- they were given to me to present to you. I'm
9 going to read what was given to me, and I will speak in
10 English, the prepared document.

11 In 2021, Agnico Eagle developed Kivalliq Elders
12 Advisory Committee comprised of 21 Elders from Baker
13 Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and
14 Arviat to identify. The main idea to create this group
15 of people, Elders, was to avoid not having to go to a
16 computer for every information, that we need to get the
17 information locally, to get the knowledge from local,
18 not a computer, because we have so much in our own
19 mind, and that was the main reason to create Kivalliq
20 Elders Advisory Committee, to get the local knowledge
21 from the community.

22 The purpose of that is to identify, validate,
23 propose the various means to how to integrate Inuit
24 Qaujimajatuqangit, traditional knowledge, Inuit
25 societal value, community knowledge into exploration,
26 planning, workforce, wellness, and operational plans.

1 Selection of the committee members was led by
2 Agnico Eagle's IQ coordinator through consultation with
3 the wildlife organizations and local Elders.

4 In 2022, two meetings took place with Kivalliq
5 Elders Advisory Committee to discuss the Meliadine
6 extension topics included in the removal of the
7 proposed airstrip from the project proposal and
8 additional information on the wind farm such as noise
9 level, positioning of the turbine, and alternative
10 resource that were evaluated.

11 Since November 2021, Agnico Eagle has met with
12 cabin owners several times to discuss topics such as
13 Meliadine extension, cabin identifications on maps,
14 road to Discovery, information sharing, the water
15 management at the Meliadine Mine.

16 And on this slide, Kivalliq Elders committee
17 members have met a number of times, and they have
18 advised that it would be very beneficial for the
19 Kivalliq Elders Advisory Committee and any Elders in
20 Kivalliq to meet with other jurisdictions from
21 Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan to do a joint meeting
22 and discuss themselves what they have in mind for the
23 future.

24 That is the end of my presentation, but I'd like
25 to advise that Kivalliq Elders Advisory Committee
26 chairperson is Harry Aggark. He's here, and he will be

1 open to any discussions or questions, or he will have
2 his own comments that he wants to make. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Pujjut Kusugak.

4 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
5 Pujjut Kusugak.

6 Thank you, David. During our meetings with the
7 Kivalliq Inuit Association, discussions surrounding
8 water quality and the health of Meliadine Lake led to a
9 collaborative idea of a site visit to Meliadine Mine,
10 and in May of 2023, Agnico Eagle arranged two visits to
11 the Meliadine Mine, and this was to explain how water
12 is managed at site.

13 Participants included members of the hunters and
14 trappers organization, municipal officials, Elders,
15 cabin owners, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and
16 there were a total of 25 participants attend this
17 session.

18 The purpose of the site visit was for Agnico Eagle
19 to provide further clarification on how water is
20 collected, how it is treated, how it is discharged and
21 monitored at Meliadine, and also to answer any
22 outstanding questions or concerns.

23 In addition, water colour, tea colour were also
24 observed and discussed. Water was collected from
25 Meliadine Lake and the mine accommodations complex.
26 From these sessions no negative comments were made on

1 either type of water. Some participants concluded that
2 many things could influence the colour of tea, such as
3 steeping time, type of tea, type of kettle, presence of
4 residue in the kettle, temperature of boiling,
5 et cetera.

6 We submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board on
7 May 23, 2023, a short video summarizing this
8 consultation activity, and we would like for you to
9 watch this.

10 Video Played

11 MR. KUSUGAK: Apologies that there's no
12 sound.

13 Following a commitment meeting during the (NO
14 ENGLISH FEED), we attempted to visit the wind farm at
15 Raglan in February. There was no luck as fog played a
16 factor, so we couldn't land at Raglan, and we tried
17 again in June, and this time with some success, some
18 hurdles. Over 33 participants, including Elders,
19 intervenors, Rankin Inlet hamlet council and deputy
20 mayor, and the Rankin Inlet community members took part
21 in this visit. And this demonstrates our commitment to
22 show community members and organizations what a wind
23 farm feels like so they can see for themselves and make
24 their own judgments about it.

25 And we would like to show a video of -- a short
26 video of this visit, and you will see some participants

1 that wish not to be filmed, so they were blurred out.

2 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

3 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
4 Counsel (Roundtable)

5 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Teresa Meadows for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

7 So, Madam Chair, with this video, the same as the
8 others, we're not going to play it on the Zoom feed
9 because it's -- it isn't a video on the Zoom feed. It
10 ends up being essentially stills out of the picture,
11 and we're currently just setting up the sound so that
12 we can play the sound. So you will be able to hear the
13 sound but not -- not view the video.

14 Video Played

15 THE CHAIR: Pujjut Kusugak.

16 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 Pujjut Kusugak for Agnico Eagle.

18 After our visit to Raglan, we attempted to visit
19 the Meliadine Mine with the participants in the June
20 caribou workshop. Unfortunately, as the migration was
21 ongoing, we only made it to Kilometre 12 on the road,
22 and this is where our gatehouse is located.

23 During the visit, participants were able to
24 witness first-hand what a convoy looks like, caribou
25 monitoring, caribou crossing the all-weather access
26 road, and road design. And we saw two times caribou

1 and a calf cross the road a few hundred metres of
2 where -- from where we were, and this was a
3 once-in-a-lifetime occasion for some participants.

4 By listening to community members throughout
5 engagement activities, Agnico Eagle is taking a
6 proactive approach, and this is by adopting traditional
7 place names into our plans and seeking advice from
8 Kivalliq Elders Advisory Committee, by designing the
9 Meliadine extension to be almost entirely within the
10 same footprint as the approved Meliadine Mine, and by
11 ongoing support for community programming, training
12 opportunities and educational initiatives, and by
13 continuing to comply with monitoring and management
14 plans to protect the environment and by adjusting plans
15 where required for the Meliadine extension.

16 And significant work was done with intervenors and
17 community members to address concerns that were shared
18 during the technical meeting, and this slide shows the
19 topics of interest for intervenors and status of
20 resolutions, and the latest discussions revolved around
21 caribou protection, fish and fish habitat, and
22 greenhouse gas reduction plan.

23 Thank you all for listening to our presentation
24 and coming to this hearing. We will now be open to
25 questions, and we will try our best to make -- give you
26 comments and answers. And I want to thank the

1 interpreters that were -- that were interpreting while
2 we were making our presentation. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your
4 presentation. Before we move on to questions from
5 community representatives, we're going to take a
6 15-minute break.

7 (ADJOURNMENT)

8 THE CHAIR: Right now we're going to hear
9 from the community of Rankin Inlet and the delegates,
10 intervenors from here. I'm also letting you know
11 there's no participation from Naujaat, Arviat, and
12 Whale Cove. (NO ENGLISH FEED) Naujaat, Repulse Bay --
13 will be alternating -- asking -- I mean, will be asking
14 questions around -- around the table. You can ask any
15 person or any organization that was presenting.

16 First of all, we're going to hear from Rankin
17 Inlet, Aline Kabvitok.

18 Questions by Community Representatives for Rankin Inlet
19 (Roundtable)

20 MS. KABVITOK: Can you hear me?

21 I want to talk about the water. I grew up with my
22 grandparents in Char River. She had a sod house at
23 Char River, and we used to drink good water from there.
24 Now I don't drink water from there anymore, but I do
25 get water from Meliadine River. I choose my water very
26 carefully, and it has to be good water.

1 When I was growing up -- I was 5 years old when
2 there used to be lots of caribou in Char River, and we
3 would be told to not do anything when the caribou came
4 around. Don't -- we would always be told that we can't
5 leave things around 'cause the animals or the caribous
6 can be disturbed if we do. So I believe those Dene
7 First Nations people when they were speaking about
8 their knowledge. I even felt like crying because I
9 understood them.

10 My adoptive parents are gone now. They passed
11 away a long time ago, but I have been practicing by
12 myself. I live with my husband. Quite often I fish --
13 I like fishing, and sometimes I get angry when I don't
14 get to go out hunting with my husband. But I am very
15 thankful that Dene First Nations were speaking from
16 experience, and I am so thankful, and I will never
17 forget what they said because I can relate to them.

18 The first herd we are to leave alone and not to
19 harvest them. These are teachings, and we -- those
20 have been with us. We can harvest the ones that are
21 behind, not the leaders of the herd. I don't -- that's
22 all I have to say. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Martha Hickes.

24 MS. HICKES: If I scream (NO ENGLISH FEED)
25 there is flies flying around.

26 I'm just going to read the comments and concerns I

1 wrote. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you to NIRB for
2 coming to Rankin to do the hearings. Welcome,
3 everyone.

4 Or I should say my name first. My name is
5 Martha Hickes, deputy mayor for the hamlet of Rankin
6 Inlet. My colleagues are not available, so here I am.
7 Welcome, everyone, to Rankin Inlet, and thank you,
8 Nunavut Impact Review Board, for having the hearings in
9 our community. Good to see familiar faces and new
10 friends. Hope to hear good results from this
11 meeting -- from this hearing for our environment and
12 all that is to come with it. Thank you to our
13 translators for keeping us informed.

14 I'll do a short history of Meliadine and
15 acknowledge my late father, Luke Siksik, who worked
16 hard during the 1940s and '50s for the exploration
17 company around Meliadine area. He travelled by dog
18 team in the spring, walked in the summer months
19 staking -- staking claims. If he didn't do the work
20 that he did, none of us would be around this table
21 today. You made -- you made Meliadine Mine a reality.
22 For that, he should be recognized. I brought his
23 photo. It's here if people want to see it.

24 Thank you to First Nations for attending this
25 hearing. We have same values in life, fought many
26 battles to protect our environment; therefore we will

1 continue. The comments and presentations we heard make
2 us all that more willing to do what we can for Rankin
3 Inlet and surrounding communities, listening to
4 comments around the table with many concerns on
5 Meliadine extension in regards to the wind farm.

6 Our hamlet was invited to tour the wind farm at
7 Raglan mines in June of 2023. No Inuit from the
8 community close to the mine were present. We would
9 have asked questions on the two turbines we saw. If I
10 remember, I think we saw one caribou on our way to the
11 mine. No sign of wildlife around the area. The Elders
12 that came with us from Rankin Inlet mentioned that the
13 turbines were noisy and would not be appropriate on our
14 land.

15 More work and planning should be done if the mine
16 wants to install the turbines. Next time, invite
17 hunters and trappers organization from Salluit,
18 Nunavik, get information from them, see what their
19 thoughts are about the turbines at their mine. It
20 would have been great to hear from Rankin Elders
21 Advisory Committee their views on the turbines too.

22 The terrestrial department with Agnico should hire
23 wildlife advisors that are bilingual and have knowledge
24 of the land, water, and animals. We're talking about
25 animals, Dene areas in that area, foxes, people trapped
26 in those parts in the '70s. Foxes are having their

1 young ones in the spring. Dens will be damaged plus
2 other rodents. These are all part of our ecosystem.
3 All living things are nature's way of balance our
4 environment.

5 Another item. Caribou used to cross through the
6 narrows. Their routes are diverted further from their
7 migration route. As long as the mine is in full force,
8 the caribou will be driven further away from the
9 migration routes they once used to use.

10 Water quality. We hear from different members
11 regarding the water quality. No longer fresh. This
12 issue will keep coming up from Elders and concerned
13 members. We are going further out to fetch fresh water
14 and ice. It's not helping the Elders that love to
15 drink tea on a daily basis. Most do not have
16 transportation, and Elders have limited mobility.
17 Somehow we need a solution on this issue; otherwise
18 we'll keep bringing it up.

19 If saline water is being dumped in the lakes,
20 that's another problem. Our fish that we eat will be
21 affected with toxins. We are running out of fresh
22 water. Once the saline solution is being dumped into
23 our sea at Itivia, living things will be affected.
24 People set nets at Itivia during the summer. They
25 catch char or seals in their nets. That will all
26 disappear. Our livelihood is being depleted very

1 quickly both on the land and sea.

2 The last few years, the hunters and Elders noticed
3 the caribou have no fat. Inuit love the fat on the
4 caribou. It's our delicacy. Their food chain is
5 disappearing. From what, we have no clue. It might be
6 the climate change or the particles in the air falling
7 on the ground. Not enough nutrients for the lichens to
8 grow. If saline water is being dumped into the lakes,
9 the caribou might be drinking that, causing them not to
10 gain the fat they store in their meat to keep them
11 healthy. Many factors to our questions.

12 Inuit rely on country food to survive. They've
13 hunted all their lives. It's our livelihood. Without
14 country food, our bodies lose its nutrients to stay
15 healthy. With high cost of food in the stores, most of
16 us cannot afford to keep buying store-bought groceries,
17 especially people that have no income. Many young
18 families depend on food banks or from hunters and
19 trappers. Everything ties back to our environment. It
20 gives us life and food. We grew up on country food.

21 Inuit, like the First Nations, tried to be erased
22 from our land, tried to make us into people we were
23 not. We will keep voicing and stand for what is ours,
24 our Nunavut, our land, for the generation that we will
25 leave behind to enjoy what is theirs that God our
26 Father created for us. Thank you for giving me the

1 opportunity to say what my parents taught me.

2 Qujannamiik.

3 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

4 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair,
5 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

6 I have a few questions from the proponent in
7 regards to preferred -- the Rankin HTO's preferred wind
8 farm location, the Subblu. The proponent mentioned
9 that there was a buffer around the airport of
10 5 kilometres along with a buffer of 500 metres around
11 cabins that prevents Subblu from being the site for the
12 proposed wind farm. Where does the 500-metre buffer
13 come from?

14 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

15 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 Thank you, Clayton for asking. (NO ENGLISH FEED)
17 buffer is the standard buffer from the -- from the
18 industry we have. If you have any follow-up questions,
19 then -- regarding the buffer, then we'll -- we'll look
20 into it and hopefully give you the answer you're
21 looking for. Matna.

22 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

23 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
24 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

25 Has the proponent consulted with cabin owners in
26 the Subblu area to see whether or not this 500-metre

1 buffer is appropriate?

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

3 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 No, we have not (NO ENGLISH FEED) consult with
5 cabin owners regarding the wind farm. And with
6 regarding the buffer zone, the 500 metres is for any
7 infrastructure that would be around a wind farm. Thank
8 you.

9 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

10 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

12 They also mentioned that there was a 5-kilometre
13 buffer around the airport. I'm curious to know if
14 this -- and maybe Transport Canada could answer this as
15 well. Would the proposed wind farm be -- would the
16 Canadian aviation regulations permit a wind farm in the
17 Subblu area as proposed by the hunters and trappers
18 organization?

19 THE CHAIR: Can you repeat your question
20 for the interpreter?

21 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 Would the proposed wind farm -- or can the
23 proposed wind farm be permitted in the Subblu area
24 under the Canadian aviation regulations?

25 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada,
26 Adam Downing.

1 MR. DOWNING: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Adam Downing with Transport Canada.

3 And -- and thank you for the question. So
4 Transport Canada reviewed both the wind farm at the
5 mine site and the Subblu area. Transport Canada didn't
6 have an opinion on which -- which location was
7 preferred.

8 The -- the 4-kilometre buffer around the airport
9 and the 15-kilometre approach zone at the end of the
10 runway are the only excluded portions of the Subblu
11 area under the Transport Canada regulation that the
12 wind farm cannot be located. Outside -- and the
13 remaining area within the Subblu are outside of those
14 restricted zones. And if the wind farm was to be built
15 there, an aeronautic assessment form would be required
16 as well as potentially a glare analysis review to
17 determine how the wind farm would impact incoming
18 aircraft. Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

20 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 Pujjut Kusugak. (NO ENGLISH FEED) comments.

22 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

23 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

25 Has the proponent conducted the glare analysis
26 that Transport Canada would require? And have they

1 completed the aeronautical form that Transport Canada
2 just mentioned?

3 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

4 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
5 Pujjut Kusugak.

6 We haven't done the glare test that's required,
7 and this is only needed if and when construction would
8 happen. So we're basically waiting for further
9 instructions. Matna.

10 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

11 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
12 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

13 I disagree with the statement. I would assume
14 that should be included in -- in the alternative
15 assessment analysis that was requested of Agnico Eagle.
16 But I'll move on.

17 Has the proponent assessed what the impacts of a
18 12-kilometre avoidance on caribou would have on
19 indirect caribou habitat loss?

20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

21 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 Dan Coulton is going to answer the question.

23 MR. COULTON: Dan Coulton, WSP.

24 The assessment of the extension assumed a
25 14-kilometre zone of influence.

26 THE CHAIR: Can you repeat that for the

1 interpreter.

2 MR. COULTON: Dan Coulton, WSP.

3 The Meliadine extension assessment included a
4 14-kilometre zone of influence, and that included the
5 area associated with the wind farm.

6 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

7 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Thank you for the answer. Being that the analysis
9 included a 14-kilometre zone of influence, is there a
10 particular reason why you continue to use a 5-kilometre
11 threshold for triggering mitigation measures?

12 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

13 MR. COULTON: Dan Coulton, WSP.

14 Most of the disturbance associated with the
15 14-kilometre zone of influence occurs within the first
16 5 kilometres of that zone of influence, so most of the
17 habitat is reduced by 50 percent or more. The existing
18 monitoring program shows that it's adaptive and
19 effective at protecting caribou. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

21 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

23 So is that the conclusion of Agnico Eagle
24 specifically, or has there been consensus from the
25 terrestrial advisory group on that?

26 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Dan Coulton.

1 MR. COULTON: Dan Coulton, WSP.

2 I would say that the existing evidence that we've
3 presented here at the hearings shows that it's
4 effective. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

6 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

8 I'm curious if the other members of the
9 terrestrial advisory group agree with that statement.

10 THE CHAIR: Terrestrial advisory group
11 members. Do any of them want to respond to Clayton
12 Tartak's question? Raise your hand or stand up.

13 Government of Nunavut, Daniel Haney.

14 MR. HANEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
15 Daniel Haney, Government of Nunavut.

16 In the opinion of the Government of Nunavut, the
17 5-kilometre threshold is not sufficient. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Any other members of the
19 terrestrial advisory group?

20 Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline,
21 Dan Chranowski.

22 MR. CHRANOWSKI: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.
23 Dan Chranowski, wildlife advisor with Sayisi and
24 Northlands Denesuline First Nation.

25 Similar to the Government of Nunavut, we have
26 concerns about that 5-kilometre threshold and would

1 like to see some discussion on changes.

2 THE CHAIR: Are there any other members of
3 the terrestrial advisory group that would like to
4 respond? Seeing none.

5 Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization,
6 Eva Elytook.

7 MS. ELYTOOK: My name is Eva Elytook from
8 Baker Lake. I am on the terrestrial advisory
9 committee.

10 The Government -- what the Government said, I
11 repeat. I agree with them. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

13 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
14 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

15 Can the proponent let us know whether or not the
16 local hunters and trappers organization has signed on
17 to the terrestrial advisory group?

18 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

19 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization has
21 signed and agreed to join the terrestrial advisory
22 group but has not attended a meeting as of yet. Thank
23 you.

24 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

25 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

26 I'll move on. The proponent states that they have

1 integrated Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into their
2 assessment of impacts on caribou. Can the proponent
3 explain the methodology that they've used to do this?

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

5 MS. LACOURSE: Sophie Lacourse, Agnico Eagle.

6 Thank you for your question. As mentioned
7 previously in the slides, we have established a
8 Kivalliq Elders Advisory Committee. Part of the
9 mandate of that committee is to review IQ that has been
10 collectively shared through engagement activities. So
11 as David has taught us, IQ is not owned by one
12 individual but should be shared and is reviewed by the
13 Kivalliq Elders Advisory Committee.

14 So those statements, the committee goes through,
15 and then they advise Agnico Eagle on if that should be
16 considered as IQ. If so, it is entered into a -- into
17 a database as validated by our Elders advisory group.
18 You can find statements that were validated by the
19 Kivalliq Elders Advisory Committee through the
20 assessment in the consultation section and then in the
21 specific valued component as well. Every component has
22 an IQ section. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Just remember to slow down and
24 pause for the interpreters.

25 Clayton Tartak.

26 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Just a quick clarification. So it's a social
2 science approach to integrating IQ into their
3 assessment of impacts on caribou?

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Sophie Lacourse.

5 MS. LACOURSE: Sophie Lacourse, Agnico Eagle.

6 Could you please repeat the first part of the
7 question.

8 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

9 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
10 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

11 So it's similar to a social science approach to
12 integrating IQ into their assessment of impacts on
13 caribou?

14 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

15 MR. KUSUGAK: Pujjut Kusugak, Agnico Eagle.

16 So from the Elders advisory group and also with
17 meetings and community consultations that we've had
18 with community members, so from -- from here, being
19 able to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, being able
20 to use Inuit societal values, being able to validate
21 them. Maybe the -- what we're trying to clarify is --
22 like, what do you mean by having to categorize them
23 when we're collecting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit from
24 various people, Elders, hunters, community members?

25 If you can explain the categorizing of it, it --
26 it -- we'll clarify on how we can answer that one too,

1 because from what we understand, the advice we get and
2 the teachings we get -- from you, I don't see where the
3 categorizing part if we're using Inuit
4 Qaujimajatuqangit and Qaujimaningit. It will just help
5 us try to answer you better, Mr. Tartak. Matna.

6 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

7 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

9 What I'm looking for is more of an explanation on
10 the methodology used, especially going from the dataset
11 that Sophie mentioned into a final determination. It
12 appears that that would be a -- like, anthropology,
13 maybe, approach to analyzing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
14 But I'll move on from that.

15 Being that they're claiming to integrate Inuit
16 Qaujimajatuqangit into their decision-making process,
17 it's fair to say that a lot of research goes into
18 collecting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Does the proponent
19 have the appropriate research permits to conduct this
20 kind of research?

21 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

22 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 Pujjut Kusugak from Agnico Eagle.

24 It is required that we use Inuit traditional
25 knowledge, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit societal
26 values. And this is where people like David, myself,

1 Alex, and other people that we are working with to
2 interview, collect, categorize, if we have to,
3 regarding place names or historic sites. But what
4 we're doing is asking questions from our own people and
5 trying to make sure that Inuit are contributing into
6 the work that we're doing, which is a requirement in
7 making sure that we're interpreting it properly and
8 making it relevant.

9 And -- and I think people can understand there are
10 some things that you can't really use Inuit
11 Qaujimaqatugangit for, but where it is relevant and
12 useful, then we do make sure that we have contributions
13 coming from our Elders advisory group, community
14 members, HTO -- hunters and trappers organization --
15 sorry, and the necessary things like monitoring, having
16 people from the Kivalliq Inuit Association as well to
17 be able to help us better understand and make
18 adaptations where needed and when necessary. Matna.

19 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

20 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

22 I'll take that as a "no" and move on.

23 You mentioned that Agnico Eagle conducts water
24 monitoring around site. In certain years, the
25 monitoring has shown elevated levels of nutrients
26 downstream from site. Has the proponent assessed what

1 these elevated nutrient levels has on tea colour?

2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

3 MR. KRITTERDLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. David
4 Kritterdlik from Agnico Eagle.

5 This has been a question all the time, what -- how
6 are we applying Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit? Like I said
7 earlier today, we have a committee, about four from
8 each community, that we will meet with, an Elder
9 advisory committee. And what Inuit -- what we gather,
10 what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit from them.

11 These -- Agnico Eagle -- Agnico Eagle is not
12 influencing the Elders advisory committee, and Agnico
13 Eagle does not suggest to the Elders advisory
14 committee. But when we are going to be public hearing,
15 we -- I just want to explain that the Elders in each
16 community, we know what the concerns are. We -- we --
17 our focus is to collaborate -- the Elders advisory
18 committee's focus is to collaborate and work with
19 Agnico Eagle. That's all.

20 MS. LACOURSE: Sophie Lacourse, Agnico Eagle.

21 So I would just like to go back, before I answer
22 to your water question, to the question you had on the
23 social licence study. So basically what we're doing
24 and what is requested as part of the impact assessment
25 process is to do public consultations, which we are
26 doing. So to answer your -- your question, it's part

1 of that process.

2 Now to get back to the water -- water monitoring
3 question and if -- you know, and the tea colouring. So
4 I would just like to provide a bit of background on
5 that activity that we -- we've hosted.

6 So basically the idea came in discussion with the
7 Kivalliq Inuit Association to host public engagement at
8 the mine site to explain water management, which we
9 did. You also saw a video earlier that was shown that
10 was that site visit. During the visit with the Elders,
11 we got the question on why tea might change colour
12 using Meliadine Lake. At that time, what we said is
13 that the water is safe for human and for fish. That's
14 what we know. About tea, as you can imagine, Agnico
15 Eagle is not specialized in tea, per se, so we took
16 that recommendation from the Elders. They raised a
17 concern --

18 THE CHAIR: (NO ENGLISH FEED). Back to,
19 We took advice from Elders.

20 MS. LACOURSE: So the Elders raised a
21 concern, we listened to the concern, and we've
22 investigated. How did we do that? We found a botanist
23 which is specialized in tea blends because we felt that
24 this is the expertise that was required to answer this
25 question.

26 So based on an experiment using different type of

1 waters including Meliadine Lake, tap water, bottled
2 water, and several sample of tea from the same brand,
3 what the expert found out is that the actual
4 composition of the tea itself was influencing more the
5 colouring than the water types.

6 So, for instance, a tea sample could have a bit
7 more of red pigments which would then create a cup of
8 tea that was more orange. We've hosted community
9 engagement following that experiment and presented the
10 results to the community; the same group of people that
11 attended the water management site visit were invited.
12 Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

14 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 That seems fairly complex considering the question
16 was around nutrient levels and the impact that that
17 might have on tea colour, but I digress. So
18 essentially the answer is that instead of addressing
19 the concerns of the Elders, you hired a tea expert to
20 discredit the opinion that they've been giving you?

21 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

22 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair,
23 Pujjut Kusugak.

24 "Discrediting", I think, is actually the wrong
25 word here. It's not about discrediting. It's about
26 finding -- getting information, trying to find as many

1 angles as possible to help explain, and I think it's
2 the purpose here about seeing and hearing different
3 views, obviously, opinions, comments to hear all angles
4 to come up with a decision that people can hear or to
5 have a decision based on all the information that is
6 available and has nothing to do with discrediting
7 Elders. Matna.

8 THE CHAIR: Clayton Tartak.

9 MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
10 Clayton Tartak from Rankin.

11 No further questions.

12 Questions by Community Representatives for Baker Lake
13 (Roundtable)

14 THE CHAIR: From Baker Lake,
15 David Owingayak.

16 MR. OWINGAYAK: I am David Owingayak from
17 Baker Lake. I have two concerns or two reasons -- from
18 the hamlet -- I represent the hamlet of Baker Lake.
19 And regarding the idea of wind turbines -- and if I can
20 say -- if I can say something.

21 I was born around here on the coast, and I was
22 born at Qairngniq, and I was born at Sandy Point. I
23 had a -- Elder adopted. They would only travel by dog
24 team at that time. And we would look for -- we would
25 trap for foxes around here, and we would go -- go
26 trapping where -- at Meliadine where the mine is now.

1 And we would travel that far from Baker Lake to trap.
2 And my adopted father -- but I don't -- they -- they
3 often talk about him and -- my biological father,
4 Savikataaq.

5 Here a big thanks to the Dene -- Sayisi Dene
6 First Nations and all you First Nations. I listened to
7 you. Your words were -- I will not forget. And this
8 is our food. The caribou is our food. And when we eat
9 white man's food, we don't like it all the time. And
10 if we -- we crave our foods, the fish, and when the
11 food -- our traditional foods are nutritious for us.

12 And that time it used to keep us warm. We could
13 not easily enter a warm house because some of us were
14 born in snow houses. They would age meats to feed the
15 dogs because we used the dog team so much. There was
16 no ATVs, no snowmobiles. We never even imagined, what,
17 ATV or skidoo, but it is the way it is right now.

18 I thank you very much for all the good words that
19 were spoken here. But we have to work together to move
20 forward. That is something I want to -- this is
21 something I wanted to say. I thank the people of
22 Rankin Inlet. They are very welcoming. This is --
23 this is not very pleasant, but, our youth, we have to
24 continue to communicate and educate our youth.

25 There are many of us now. We only -- we don't
26 have enough time now. What have you thought? What --

1 the mining companies, they are helping in some way, but
2 what will happen when the mine close? And as the mine
3 goes through closure -- they are saying -- the
4 Meadowbank is almost at closure.

5 We also have to think about the future. We will
6 not live the way our ancestors live now. The youth are
7 not -- are not -- don't have the knowledge that we did.
8 And if I spoke in a wrong way, I'm sorry.

9 Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

11 MR. KUSUGAK: Pujjut Kusugak, Agnico Eagle.

12 Thank you, Owingayak, for your comments. All
13 truthful and clear. Yes. We are thinking along the
14 same lines. Yes. And we are thinking about closing
15 the Meadowbank mine soon. Yes. And then there is --
16 going to -- the employees that are working there are --
17 will probably be taking work, so we're -- we can't just
18 make plans. We need people to help us make plans for
19 the future.

20 We have to think about the next generation because
21 they have to -- to -- to work. There's more and more
22 youth and young people. We give to the land. We
23 have -- we have to find ways to find jobs for those
24 that will be employed -- unemployed soon. And I'm
25 wondering -- we're wondering if there's going to -- if
26 we're going to need to maybe find ways. We need to --

1 we need to find ways.

2 There are many things that could be impacted like
3 the wildlife, the land. We need to find ways on how to
4 make -- make sure that the land stays pristine as much
5 as possible and that there isn't a -- a big footprint.
6 So the -- the -- it's -- the -- the times have changed
7 in mining -- in the mining sector. Back then, there
8 was no rules or regulations in place. There was no
9 environmental assessments. But now, today, it's -- we
10 can't even set nets over there or look for mussels or
11 clams because back then -- that was back then. There
12 was some type of spill that occurred when the nickel
13 mine was opened. But today there are rules and
14 regulations on how to protect the environment.

15 There are taliks. There is historical water that
16 is salty. We can't just dump salty water into lakes.
17 So what we do is transport the salt -- the historical
18 salty water into the Itivia area, into the Itivia
19 Harbour. So when the salinity is about the same, then
20 it's discharged into the ocean.

21 I think I'm just starting to ramble, so I'm just
22 going to stop here. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: David Owingayak.

24 MR. OWINGAYAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Yesterday something stood out for me. I was going
26 to mention it, and I forgot. But we were talking about

1 the inukshuks, the stones that are -- are piled up.
2 They never -- we never used maps back then. The -- the
3 way that -- that inuksuit are being built is very
4 wrong. They're all over the place and amongst the
5 boulders.

6 Back then, they were used for identifying which
7 areas were good for fishing and which way the -- the
8 communities or settlements were pointing. We knew
9 exactly which way to -- to use these as -- almost like
10 a GPS but, you know, to -- to find us a way.

11 So, if you see, we -- we used to -- we used to
12 line up the -- the rocks, piled up, so that we could
13 use them for caribou when the caribou were migrating,
14 and then they would -- the caribou would follow the --
15 the rocks that were piled up called "inuksuit", and
16 that's -- that's how they used to hunt. That's
17 information right there. That's knowledge. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

19 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

21 We're not going to -- we have no comment because
22 that's information that you just put out there. Thank
23 you.

24 THE CHAIR: Owingayak, do you have any
25 additional comments or questions?

26 MR. OWINGAYAK: No. Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 THE CHAIR: Eva Elytook.

2 MS. ELYTOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
3 Eva Elytook. I'm from Baker Lake. I am representing
4 the hunters and trappers organization. I am the vice
5 chair.

6 Our parents -- my parents used to live here when
7 there was a nickel mine. I was born here in Rankin
8 Inlet, but I grew up in Chesterfield Inlet. In 1975
9 moved over to Baker Lake. And up to today, I live
10 there in Baker.

11 I have three questions to the different
12 departments or -- I have a question to Agnico Eagle.
13 The -- the windmills, the wind farm, if your project
14 proposal is approved and built and -- I mean,
15 constructed and built. There's an abundance of ravens
16 in our communities, and they nest during the winter.
17 In Baker Lake, they tend to hang out in areas where the
18 hills are higher.

19 Now, if your project is approved and once you
20 start to construct and use the windmills around
21 Meliadine, I'm pretty sure that there's going to be
22 ravens that are going to be over there. Will the
23 windmills continue to be used even though there's a
24 large flock of ravens around in that area where you
25 tend to construct and operate your windmills -- or wind
26 farms -- or wind farms? Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

2 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 Pujjut Kusugak, Agnico Eagle.

4 If there's a flock of ravens, they -- they -- the
5 flock of ravens won't be in that area, and there is
6 probably going to be more research done as to how to
7 deter them. We need to find deterrence on how to keep
8 the ravens away from the wind farm. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Eva Elytook.

10 MS. ELYTOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 And thank you, Pujjut, for that answer.

12 Second question is to the Government of Nunavut.

13 The other day, one of the board members on the NIRB
14 board, Guy Alikut, had asked in regards to the
15 migration of caribou -- about the collared caribou.
16 Where they're -- which direction -- where they're
17 coming from, and where do they calve.

18 No one said anything about where, exactly where,
19 like, the names of the place it was. Do you know where
20 the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd go to calf in 19 -- during
21 the 1980s and '90s and during the '20s? When we
22 listened to the orange radios, people in our community
23 were expecting caribou to migrate towards our community
24 coming from Arviat, but it looks like today they're not
25 migrating to Arviat these days. So can anyone specify
26 exactly where these caribou are calving? I'd like to

1 get an answer.

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 THE CHAIR: Can the Government of Nunavut
4 (NO ENGLISH FEED) using the place names where caribou
5 have been known to calve based on the information that
6 they have?

7 Before we get to Eva's question -- before we go to
8 a response from the Government of Nunavut, we're going
9 to take a supper break and reconvene at 6:30, and we'll
10 continue with questions from community representatives.

11 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 6:30 PM)

12 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 6:39 PM)

13 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone. We
14 will now continue with the community roundtable with
15 where we left off before the supper break, a response
16 from the Government of Nunavut.

17 Daniel Haney.

18 MR. HANEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 Daniel Haney, Government of Nunavut.

20 I think the best way to respond to this question
21 would be with a figure. These figures come from the
22 proponent's report on Brownian Bridge movements. I
23 think it's being -- yeah. So here we have three
24 periods that are represented: 1993 to 2011, which is
25 the pre-construction period on the left.

26 THE CHAIR: Can you please slow down for

1 the interpreter?

2 MR. HANEY: Apologies.

3 On the left we have the pre-construction period
4 which was between 1993 and 2011; in the centre the
5 advanced exploration stage, 2012 to 2017; and finally
6 on the right construction operations between 2018 and
7 2022. And what is being displayed on the figure is
8 density of caribou. And as you can see, the calving
9 distribution has been slowly going to the north and
10 east. And based on our collar data this year, the
11 caribou calved to the northeast of Meliadine Lake.

12 As many of you are aware, calving distributions
13 change over time due to natural factors and possibly
14 human interactions. But the reality is we do not know
15 exactly why the calving -- the calving distribution has
16 changed in this manner, and we are also not quite sure
17 the reason why caribou don't go near Arviat anymore.
18 These type of -- the reasons will be hopefully
19 discovered as more research is conducted. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Eva Elytook.

21 MS. ELYTOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 The caribou -- the Beverly, Qamanirjuaq herd used
23 to travel west. The -- Arviat used to be the first to
24 see them, and they would head towards Baker Lake and
25 arrive at Baker -- why are they coming from the east?
26 I don't know. The caribou that we see, are -- are they

1 really the Beverly, Qamanirjuaq herd? It is so
2 confusing now, and we don't know where they are now.

3 In the 1980s, 1990, and the beginning of 2000, I
4 said earlier we used to listen to those HF radios -- HF
5 radios before we had cell phones. We Baker Lake --
6 people from Baker Lake, we would be happy as we would
7 be expecting the caribou.

8 Yeah. I don't know -- I don't know how and why
9 they would just be far away from Arviat or skip over --
10 Baker Lake has not seen the Qamanirjuaq. They don't
11 come in the last eight years now. We don't even expect
12 them anymore. Where are they now, and which migration
13 route are they using? We didn't know that Arviat does
14 not see them anymore. You rely on collar data, so
15 therefore you should know -- you people from the
16 Government should know where are they. The people of
17 Arviat and Baker Lake -- the people of Baker Lake have
18 lost the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. Thank you, Madam
19 Chair.

20 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut,
21 Daniel Haney.

22 MR. HANEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
23 Daniel Haney, Government of Nunavut.

24 In the area around Baker Lake, it would probably
25 not be the Qamanirjuaq herd. That would be the Beverly
26 caribou, and they would be coming from the west to the

1 east towards Baker Lake.

2 Again, I'm not quite sure why Qamanirjuaq are not
3 going near Arviat. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Eva Elytook.

5 MS. ELYTOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
6 forgot to mention my name. I am Eva Elytook from the
7 Baker Lake hunters and trappers.

8 The Beverly here, we see those across from Baker
9 Lake. We can see that they are heading south. But
10 Qamanirjuaq herd, we never see now. Thank you, Madam
11 Chair.

12 Representatives from Chesterfield Inlet Question
13 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
14 and Government of Nunavut

15 THE CHAIR: Chesterfield Inlet.

16 MR. SAMMURTOK: Thank you, Madam Chair, from
17 Chesterfield Inlet. I'm representing the hamlet.

18 They've been asking me for three years. I am
19 finally here and participating. They've often asked me
20 to go. The issues and concerns of Chesterfield Inlet,
21 how -- how can we get more support? We have many
22 barriers, and we try and get our -- to have them
23 addressed. We appreciate the support from Kivalliq
24 Inuit Association with the cultural centre. We are
25 grateful for that.

26 But in the past and in the future, 2011 to 2018,

1 '17, the amount of ship traffic through the
2 Chesterfield Inlet heading to Baker Lake around
3 Pitsiulartok, the big ship would wait there, and they
4 would transport stuff into a smaller ship to go to
5 Baker Lake. It was -- it has been difficult, and the
6 stuff we used to see in the -- the sea mammals -- the
7 sea mammals, seal, bearded seals, none of them were
8 around because of the ships because there would be many
9 ships going up the Chesterfield Inlet transporting
10 goods to Baker Lake. It is a big concern for us.
11 The -- why -- how can we be supported? We would ask
12 for help, but no one had an answer for us. We want
13 something to be done about this. We want to get
14 support. Who can answer this? Is it Agnico Eagle, or
15 is it Fisheries and Oceans? Maybe they do some work,
16 but we never hear about them or what they are doing.
17 But I'm just saying that -- how can you help us? I
18 will comment more later on. Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Fisheries
20 and Oceans Canada, Jose Audet-Lecouffe.

21 MR. AUDET-LECOUFFE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jose
22 Audet-Lecouffe from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

23 And thank you for your question. I -- we heard
24 about Chesterfield Inlet's concerns. You -- it's
25 mostly related to Baker Lake and Meadowbank and Whale
26 Tail, if I am correct. And -- but we have the same

1 concerns for Meliadine Mine. We share that concern
2 with you.

3 We are asking -- during this hearing, we've been
4 asking to monitor the noise to understand the impact of
5 those -- the noise from those ships and be able to
6 understand what is the impact on marine mammal and
7 propose measures to address that. We will see during
8 this process if that is a concern that is also shared
9 by Agnico. If not, more actions will be taken. Thank
10 you.

11 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

12 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 Thank you, Simeonie. What I -- what we
14 understand -- the ships -- ships -- the ships around
15 Kivalliq, only 6 percent of the ships go to -- come
16 here for the Tasirjuaq. We know that the ships are to
17 blame. Only 6 percent of the ships are going to our
18 supplies for the Meliadine Mine. I don't know how else
19 to answer you. But we have to continue to meet with
20 Chesterfield Inlet and the hunters and trappers and the
21 hamlet, and you have to communicate with us too. I
22 don't know how else to help it or tell us how you want
23 help.

24 Regarding the ships, they bring in supplies by
25 ship, and we have to meet with them once in a while.
26 And we -- we tell them which way -- which route to

1 take, and it became a regulation. If you can hear us
2 again so that they could be monitored, the ships, we
3 know that the Government will be monitoring. We have
4 to be informed too. I want you to know -- and what we
5 said earlier that the number of ship will not increase.
6 There -- there will not be an increase in shipping.
7 Should the expansion be extended to 2043, nothing will
8 change. That is all I can say for now. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Simeonie Sammurtok.

10 MR. SAMMURTOK: Thank you. One of the things
11 that I heard, there's cabin owners up the -- along the
12 coast of Chesterfield Inlet around Stony Point. People
13 spend time on the land camping there. They hear --
14 they can hear the ships going back and forth. Some --
15 one cabin owner has a cabin from 30 kilometres away
16 when it's nice outside in June and July.

17 There's a place called Helicopter Island around
18 Back River. There was a big ship that cannot enter
19 those waters, but the smaller boats, they go back and
20 forth, that used to have a lot of tuktu up the
21 Chesterfield Inlet. And the Chesterfield Inlet waters,
22 when there was no heavy traffic of ships, there used to
23 be caribou abundant around our coast because they were
24 closer to the coast to be -- to cool off. And -- but
25 now they spend more time inland now when it's in the
26 fall. When the ships return, the caribou return to the

1 coast for a little while, and even people from this
2 area, Rankin Inlet, go hunting to our area.

3 Last year when the ships were leaving, maybe there
4 was four or five of them, and there was a barge, six of
5 them. Those -- they go back and forth. There was a
6 lot of ships that we could see. We didn't know there
7 could be that many. Maybe they travel up there in the
8 dark. Those are the impacts.

9 We don't have seals anymore. There were harp
10 seals. There's no more harp seals. There's been no
11 whales. But today they were able -- the whales arrived
12 there, so thank you. We have impacts. I want to work
13 with you, Agnico Eagle, DFO, and Nunavut Government.

14 When we are a really small community, the cost of
15 living is so -- and the small communities have not
16 caught up. Because of this concern and the request of
17 my community, I am here to help them, to help the
18 people of Chesterfield Inlet. I was hesitant because I
19 have a condition, but it is my community, and therefore
20 I said yes. And because I want to help my fellow
21 community, I will comment later. And if any of you
22 could respond. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Government
24 of Nunavut and then Fisheries and Oceans and Agnico
25 Eagle.

26 Daniel Haney.

1 MR. HANEY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Daniel Haney, Government of Nunavut.

3 I'd like to pass it to Robert Connelly, director
4 of Kivalliq community operations, to respond to this.
5 Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Robert Connelly.

7 MR. CONNELLY: Robert Connelly, Government of
8 Nunavut.

9 Thank you very much for the question. Although I
10 can't speak to the impacts of necessarily marine
11 shipping in the area, one of the things that the
12 Government of Nunavut does to support the community of
13 Chesterfield Inlet, like other Kivalliq communities, is
14 to assist with the summer fishery that's operated
15 through the Iqalukpik Fish Plant, for example, whereby
16 local fish that's harvested through commercial quotas
17 is harvested, processed -- or packaged, and then
18 shipped to Kivalliq Arctic Foods for further
19 processing.

20 This year the summer fishery has been expanded to
21 include the harvesting of 25 beluga whales, which I
22 understand is underway at the moment from Chesterfield
23 Inlet. As well, the Government of Nunavut delivers a
24 country food distribution program whereby each Kivalliq
25 community can access up to \$30,000 a year to support
26 the harvesting of local country food which is then

1 redistributed within the community. That includes, in
2 Chesterfield Inlet's case in past years, the harvesting
3 of fish, seals, and whales.

4 Lastly, as well, the Government of Nunavut also
5 supports marine harvesting activities through the
6 provision of infrastructure that supports harvesting
7 activities. And by "infrastructure", I mean a local
8 community freezer, which is expected to be upgraded. I
9 know it's about 13 years old in Chesterfield Inlet.
10 But it's expected to be upgraded this -- this year,
11 and, as well, upgrades to the Iqalukpik Fish Plant,
12 which we are overdue. Matna.

13 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
14 Jose Audet-Lecouffe.

15 MR. AUDET-LECOUFFE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jose
16 Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

17 Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be happy to work
18 with the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Agnico and
19 other partners to investigate this concern. Agnico
20 Eagle already meets, I think, annually with the people
21 of Chesterfield Inlet to present the shipping
22 management plan or the annual report too. I think that
23 could be a start to -- to start the conversation on how
24 we could manage better the issue of -- of underwater
25 noise and marine mammals. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Sophie Lacourse.

1 MS. LACOURSE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Sophie Lacourse, Agnico Eagle.

3 So Agnico Eagle currently has the marine mammal
4 and sea observer program which basically is a
5 monitoring program that observes marine mammal and
6 birds. So for 2022, for 92 transects surveyed for
7 marine mammal, and 163 birds survey were completed.
8 We're happy to say that no incidents with marine
9 mammals or seabird were reported for the 2022 shipping
10 season. Matna.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

12 Simeonie Sammurtok.

13 MR. SAMMURTOK: Thank you.

14 When you don't hear from any organizations or
15 whatever, it's kind of hard to know, so ... And then
16 we start to get more confused about what -- what the
17 organizations are doing even though we want to work
18 well with the organizations. But it is always hard to
19 know everything.

20 But for this Meliadine Mine, for the wind
21 turbines, I am kind of opposed to it because those
22 caribous, when they -- when they go through north --
23 when they used to go through north, they now go through
24 south. So they're turning towards the southbound over
25 the years.

26 And for that reason. And knowing that our

1 ancestors used to know of that, the routes of the
2 caribou herd, there's trails for caribou, but they
3 don't use -- the caribou doesn't use the trail anymore.
4 It could be climate change, but I'm not too sure.

5 And also our fish seems -- seems like they're
6 getting smaller and smaller, and the skin doesn't look
7 healthy anymore.

8 I think these things should be more monitored in
9 our communities, and maybe research can be done in
10 terms of the -- those things I'm talking about for the
11 communities because we are concerned about those. I
12 often talked with people from around here, and
13 sometimes I talk to people who oppose, who don't oppose
14 regarding Agnico Eagle, but maybe I can talk more about
15 these things later on. Perhaps tomorrow too. Thank
16 you.

17 THE CHAIR: Harry Aggark.

18 MR. AGGARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
19 Harry Aggark. I'm from Chesterfield Inlet hunters and
20 trappers. I'm the chairperson.

21 Today when Agnico Eagle had their presentation,
22 they talked about a few things. And I have one or two
23 questions, but I want to tell a little story before I
24 ask the question. And these Elders -- Agnico Eagle has
25 Elder advisory committee, and I want to add a little
26 bit into that.

1 Since I've been in the -- in my position as the
2 chairperson, I've pretty much always been with hunters
3 and trappers since the beginning of the development of
4 Agnico Eagle. And I'm learning about them as I work.
5 And someone asked earlier if the Elders are being
6 treated like slaves, and I want to confirm that they
7 are not being treated like that. They are -- the Elder
8 advisory committees are put together for the Agnico
9 Eagle so that they -- they comply with Inuit
10 Qaujimajatuqangit. And if they have some concerns,
11 they include the Elders to know more about the land,
12 the archaeology of the land. They include the Elders
13 in that way.

14 For example, Agnico Eagle, when they requested for
15 airstrip and -- when they requested for the airstrip
16 and the expansion -- when they started requesting for
17 expansion, Elders advisory committee was informed first
18 right away. And then they started having meetings, and
19 it was obvious that they are not going to build the
20 airstrip. And this is because we used to meet, and we
21 didn't really understand why they would want such an
22 airstrip like that. But now that we understand, people
23 were in agreement with it. But Rankin Inlet didn't
24 want the airstrip, so they stopped it. And now
25 with the wind turbines -- is -- is requested.

26 I would like to ask to Agnico Eagle: How big is

1 the wind turbine? Like, one wind turbine, how big is
2 it?

3 Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Pujjut Kusugak.

5 MR. KUSUGAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Agnico Eagle -- Pujjut Kusugak with Agnico Eagle.

7 The wind turbine's -- the blade -- the height of
8 the blade are 144 metres to the end, from one end to
9 the other. And the thickness is 115 inches of the
10 width.

11 And the -- I was giving an example about the --
12 this pond over here, Williamson Lake. The -- the size
13 of that -- that -- the size or space that it would use
14 is about the same size as Williamson Lake. I hope that
15 clarifies your question.

16 THE CHAIR: How (NO ENGLISH FEED)?
17 Pujjut Kusugak.

18 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair.
19 Victor Young from WSP Canada.

20 So the -- the sound power level of the turbine
21 which is the total amount of noise that they emit when
22 they're operating at their -- at their loudest is -- is
23 106 A-weighted decibels. For comparison, I think
24 the -- the comparison that the -- that the chair had
25 asked for earlier during the hearing was to a -- a haul
26 truck that's used at the mine.

1 So that's the turbine when it's making the most
2 noise. The wind turbine, when it makes its maximum
3 noises, is 5 decibels quieter than the -- than a haul
4 truck.

5 Another sort of noise source that we've -- that
6 we've talked about with -- with community members
7 before is a -- is a snowmobile. When a snowmobile or
8 snow machine is operating at -- at full throttle, that
9 would be about 3 or 4 decibels louder than the wind
10 turbine. So I hope that helps. The wind turbine is --
11 is basically quieter than a -- than a snowmobile,
12 quieter than a haul truck. And its -- yeah. Its sound
13 power level is 106 decibels.

14 THE CHAIR: Harry Aggark.

15 MR. AGGARK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 This isn't a question, but I just want to inform
17 you what I know. I'm pretty sure that you are aware of
18 it already. There's a place called "nallu" where
19 they -- the caribou cross, and they don't cross through
20 that way anymore, the narrows.

21 Elders have -- Elders have been appointed to build
22 a cabin over there in the -- at the narrows.
23 Apparently the Elders or the Elder wasn't originally
24 from these -- or -- these communities. We know they're
25 originally from Qairngniq. There was a group of Inuit
26 called the Qairnirmiut that used to live in that area

1 historically. And it wasn't really a favorite place to
2 build a -- a cabin, so it was kind of a late -- too
3 late in the season to build the -- the cabin, so ...
4 It's very -- sometimes we do make mistakes. We learn
5 from our mistakes. And that was a spot that was
6 originally decided upon to -- to -- to build a cabin,
7 but they decided not to. So the Elders that -- their
8 parents and their great -- their grand -- great
9 grandparents lived in that area near the narrows at --
10 at some point.

11 I have sons, and I have grandchildren. We have to
12 move forward. There are some errors that have been
13 made, but it -- that's the past, and we have to learn
14 from our mistakes, so we need to think of our -- our
15 future generations so that they can have a future, a
16 better future. We need to help -- we have to progress.
17 We have to make progress.

18 This is not a question. The -- one of the
19 comments that I just wanted to also bring up about
20 caribou, about the herds. They migrate from Manitoba
21 up to near Baker Lake, and sometimes the caribou are so
22 abundant that they have to stop traffic for hours.
23 It's been more than -- at -- at -- more than once that
24 the mine had to shut down because of the migration --
25 migrating caribou. I've been a chairperson for two --
26 two years, and this is what I noticed.

1 About two weeks ago, there was a group that was
2 supposed to go up -- up to see the migrating caribou,
3 but -- the -- the herds that are passing through in the
4 springtime. It's just, they come in by the thousands,
5 and -- and they are -- when -- it comes to a point
6 where they're blocking the road of the haul trucks.
7 Agnico Eagle was showing us a photograph -- or a video
8 of the migrating caribou, and the road is not that
9 wide. It's sort of narrow. The hunters and trappers
10 organizations, KIA, and the Government, they are
11 looking after almost similar -- similar projects where
12 they're doing surveys on caribou. Around the
13 wintertime, the caribou are going to start migrating
14 south. So it's going to be difficult for those that
15 are trying to -- that are working at the mine site.
16 Sometimes the caribou -- all of the caribou are
17 migrating. They have to wait 'til the migrating
18 caribou pass so that they can get on the plane to get
19 home. But sometimes -- right now, presently, there are
20 no caribou in our -- in our surrounding community of
21 Chesterfield Inlet.

22 We haven't seen any caribou in our community ever
23 since mining started at Meliadine. I think it was --
24 about 2020 was the last time we saw caribou, and then
25 they migrate along the coast, and then they go towards
26 Southampton -- or the south side. They migrate with

1 their calves returning south. Sometimes we have to
2 wait for the last herd. But, again, we haven't seen
3 them in a long time.

4 Anyway, that's just more of a comment. Thank you,
5 Madam Chair.

6 Representative from Whale Cove Questions Agnico Eagle
7 Mines Limited

8 THE CHAIR: Whale Cove, Percy Kabloona.

9 MR. KABLOONA: Percy Kabloona, hamlet, Whale
10 Cove.

11 I have nothing written to show, but I would like
12 to say that in Whale Cove -- people in Whale Cove often
13 say they want employment opportunities in the
14 community. They haven't said anything about the wind
15 turbine. But if that -- wind turbine -- if there's --
16 if the project proposal is approved, we would like to
17 see employment opportunities for our community members.
18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Will the -- will the line, the
20 cable, the power cable, be buried or on the ground?
21 How will it be placed if the turbines were put up?

22 Agnico Eagle.

23 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
24 Nicholas Allen, Agnico Eagle.

25 So there would be electrical cables that would be
26 on the ground. These cables are already installed in

1 Meliadine right now. So they go from the main site to
2 the exploration camp and other areas also. So they're
3 about this big on the ground, and very, very solid
4 cables. Thank you. Matna.

5 THE CHAIR: Percy Kabloona.

6 MR. KABLOONA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

8 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry. Go ahead.

9 MR. KABLOONA: I was trying to say in
10 December, January, around Baker and Whale Cove, I'm not
11 hunting around there, but the caribou -- usually
12 there's no caribous around the area even in the
13 springtime. We only see musk ox, and we don't see
14 caribou -- we don't see caribou between Baker Lake and
15 our community. And we don't see caribou on the shores
16 in the wintertime, Peter Lake, Byron Bay.

17 Sometimes I -- we went out -- we'd go out caribou
18 hunting, but we didn't see too many. I know there's
19 proper caribou monitoring in place. I want to thank
20 the Government, and we want to thank that there's
21 safety precautions put in place. But when we speak
22 about caribou, sometimes we have to almost think for
23 the caribou. Thank you very much for giving this
24 opportunity to voice my concerns of -- and members of
25 our community. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: From Tadoule Lake, Kyle

1 Clipping.

2 MR. CLIPPING: Hello, Madam Chair. My name
3 is Kyle Clipping. I'm from Tadoule Lake, Manitoba.

4 As a young hunter and trapper, I live off the
5 land, and I depend on the caribou. And for this thing
6 to keep -- to be built and going, it's going to put
7 devastation on our youth, our younger generation, our
8 children, the Elders for our community, and everyone
9 else around us. That's all I have to say.

10 THE CHAIR: Ernest Bussidor.

11 MR. BUSSIDOR: Good afternoon, Madam Chair.
12 Ernest Bussidor, Tadoule Lake.

13 I have been sitting here for 10 days now, it
14 seems. It's been rough. Lots of information. But
15 caribou is what ties us together here in this room.
16 And we're fortunate the last five years we've had
17 caribou every winter, and where the trouble is for us
18 is the southern hunters when the winter road opens. We
19 get hundreds of hunters, white -- all races of hunters
20 with resident tags that come up and hunt in the summer
21 and winter. So in right now, September, the border
22 line is full of caribou camps run by white people and
23 American hunters. And the winter hunt is usually done
24 by a winter road where we get so many hunters coming
25 up.

26 The world is hungry. Caribou is -- is -- is a

1 food source that more and more people are finding
2 easier to attain. And we try our hardest to control
3 the kind of hunting that goes on in our community, but
4 it's very difficult when the -- the treaty right to
5 hunt is for all aboriginal people in Canada. So we
6 can't chase hunters away if they're treaty, and we get
7 so much hunting -- I think it was 2017 that all the
8 cows and calves came into our community within a 6-mile
9 radius. A hundred thousand caribou. And none of
10 them -- not very many of them left. They were
11 harvested by people from all walks of life. That's our
12 problem with caribou. The disruptions that we create
13 by industry is much more far-fetching in this
14 destruction of our cultural lifestyle than we realize.

15 I've lived in Tadoule for 49 years, 50 years. I
16 see the trend with caribou. And the kind of fall
17 weather we get now, early winter, is wet slushy snow
18 that sticks to the ground, and it freezes the lichen
19 that the caribou eat, and they can't penetrate that
20 ice, and they go elsewhere. In 2017, 2018, the whole
21 Qamanirjuaq herd -- I don't know if any of you people
22 noticed -- they went along the coast to Churchill, and
23 they went up the Churchill River. The Churchill River
24 has been dammed at Missi Falls, and the caribou
25 survived that winter on the tall grass in the Churchill
26 River. A hundred thousand caribou, maybe.

1 Our Cree friends from the south, South Indian
2 Lake, they hunted those caribou. And they found spruce
3 needles in their stomachs, and they were skin and
4 bones. It makes you realize the little things you do
5 against the environment that could destroy the world.
6 Climate change is real, and it could take one bad
7 winter in the arctic, in the north. You could lose all
8 the caribou. That's where things are at now in this
9 world.

10 Only 13 percent of the animals in the world are
11 wild. 77 percent -- 87 percent of the animals are all
12 domesticated and on farms. That's how we live. And if
13 everybody had caribou the way they wanted, there would
14 be none left, which makes it hard for us as a small
15 community.

16 We were accused of killing too much caribou once
17 in the '50s. Not true. But they relocated us and
18 moved us to Churchill, and we lost over 133 people in
19 16 years because they thought we killed too much
20 caribou.

21 We are probably the most protective of caribou.
22 We respect them. We had to learn that the hard way.
23 We're very cautious how we hunt. We set the young boys
24 up two weeks ago. The health department did. They
25 harvested 30 animals -- 25 animals. Nice, fat caribou.

26 So the caribou are running away from disturbances.

1 Even a piece of plastic blowing in the wind will scare
2 a herd away. We know that. It's -- it -- it's
3 difficult to -- to watch when the winter road opens and
4 the amount of hunters that we get in our territory.

5 We live along the border, and we have a land team.
6 We have land. We have resources. We have fish. We're
7 very luckily to have those things. But caribou is --
8 is -- they're like a litmus test on -- on us, on all
9 the land. The more activity we do, it affects them.
10 And once you break up a herd, they break up into too
11 small of a group. They become disoriented. They
12 venture into new territory. They become vulnerable to
13 wolves and other predators. We could lose all the
14 caribou in our lifetime if we're not careful. And the
15 higher the price of goods in the stores, the more
16 desire there is for caribou. That's just the way it
17 is.

18 But -- it's troubling, but I -- I want to tell a
19 story of a man. He goes back in history before
20 settlers came to this land. When the caribou were so
21 plentiful for our people, the people started putting
22 ribbons on them. They said, When these caribou come
23 back next fall, this one will be mine. And they
24 claimed ownership of caribou. And for that reason, the
25 caribou disappeared for our people according to the
26 stories of our ancestors and our Elders that tell the

1 stories. That's how our history is passed down.

2 It took a man who had spiritual connection with a
3 caribou worm that lived inside the antler of a caribou
4 far, far away. He communicated with that little spirit
5 animal that was a bug. But that little bug, he
6 listened to it, he communicated with it, and he found
7 the caribou for the Dene people again. And he said he
8 found them under the ground. But he brought the
9 caribou back to our people.

10 And the lesson in all this was that we cannot ever
11 claim ownership of wildlife. We're blessed to have it.
12 So it's kind of a paradox. We're talking about mining
13 and all these things, and -- and the disturbances on
14 caribou. You just got to be careful.

15 Kudos to Agnico Eagle for trying to clean up its
16 act, to have a clean mine. But still when you mix --
17 mix arsenic and cyanide and acid and all these
18 wonderful things that go with mining, you can never
19 have a clean mine. There's always going to be
20 pollution.

21 In this country up here, the scars you put on the
22 land, they stay for a long, long time. That's the only
23 bad thing about living in the far north is that you
24 can't hide the destruction that you put on the land,
25 and the animals see that too.

26 But it's not all doom and gloom. I think there's

1 opportunities and there's ways to fight climate change.
2 But it takes a whole world, a village to make that
3 happen. And all we can do is try.

4 As a community, small community, we took the
5 environmental route. We want to protect our rivers.
6 We want to protect our caribou. We're trying to create
7 an indigenous protected area in our watershed to -- to
8 keep mines out and to keep hydro from damming or
9 diverting our rivers. And that's the other alternative
10 to mining, is just going the other route and be
11 environmentalist. But you got to eat. You got to
12 live. We got kids. It's difficult. All we can do is
13 keep trying to improve how we live with these animals
14 that are so important to us.

15 I want to thank a friend I met online,
16 Mr. Clayton Tartak. He's the reason why the Dene are
17 here. He alerted us about the developments up here a
18 few years ago, and I sit on as a representative for
19 Tadoule Lake on a caribou management board. It
20 surprises me that, the survey they did last summer.
21 Not this past summer but the summer before, I believe.
22 We need to know how much is in that herd of ours.
23 Maybe we'll find out in November. We have a meeting in
24 Churchill.

25 But I find it surprising that that information is
26 not forthcoming at a meeting as important as this.

1 What is the herd size? And I think the fear is that if
2 it becomes -- the level of population of caribou, it
3 goes below a certain threshold, then the mining company
4 starts sweating. All the industries in the north will
5 start scrambling. So it's a very powerful information
6 that's going to be forthcoming within the next 30 days.
7 What is that herd size? We don't know. We weren't
8 told. But we will hopefully.

9 And I think there's institutes of government that
10 step in when the population of the caribou goes below a
11 certain point. And there's restrictions put in place
12 on all kinds of developments. So all we can do is hope
13 and wait and pray that the numbers are stable. Because
14 with all the herds in Canada, they're all more or less
15 depleted except our herd, the herd that we live on.
16 And if -- it's only a matter of time before that
17 population goes down, and then we'll be in serious
18 trouble. But let's just hope and pray next month that
19 the information we get from the Nunavut Wildlife Board
20 on the tagging and the population survey they did is
21 decent numbers that we can live with for the next
22 little few years.

23 So with that, I don't really have a question for
24 anybody. Just that -- just to be weary and to -- to be
25 careful, I guess, how we develop our territories.
26 Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: From Lac Brochet,
2 Napoleon Denechezhe.

3 MR. DENECHÉZHE: Hello. My name's
4 Napoleon Denechezhe.

5 Madam Chair, we don't know how long we're going to
6 be here and discuss this issue. And what we're talking
7 about right now today, we're all aware of it. And the
8 people that -- talking about today and how they live on
9 the caribou, they made a really good presentation, the
10 Athabasca Dene. We live that way, living on caribou.
11 Even in our hardship, we never feel our hardship when
12 we see caribou.

13 Even -- even you hear about the word "caribou", it
14 makes you feel happy in the heart. People learn
15 trapline that I remember. Far away into the barren
16 lands we put trap. People travel into the land, up to
17 the barren lands, to hunt for caribou. Doing right
18 now. It is -- it is true how the Inuit people talk
19 about it. Also see the way -- that was your
20 livelihood. And that's your livelihood, the lifestyle
21 they live. If it's going to be impact like that in the
22 future -- of course, the industry right now is -- is
23 only after one thing, is -- industry -- is money.

24 Us. You don't really care much about our
25 traditional way of life. They live off the farm animal
26 and chicken and everything like that. We're not like

1 that.

2 Yes. I remember back long time ago when I was a
3 child, I remember. I didn't go to school. I journeyed
4 back to -- to trapline -- to the north to the trapline.
5 It got so cold, and it freeze up. Nothing. There was
6 nothing. There was nothing to -- people were paddling
7 and everything, no motor. It was hard paddling all the
8 way back to the -- to the homeland. It was quite a
9 ways. They were going from Brochet all the way to the
10 territories, the barren land, and it froze up before
11 they get to their destination. I remember very well.
12 It was hardship. It was very hardship. I remember.
13 It was four homes that -- that froze up before they go
14 to the destination. They're only in a tent. It wasn't
15 a fishing lake. It was a kind of a small -- just a
16 river, settling pond. The only fish that was available
17 was a jackfish. Whitefish was some but very skinny.
18 People used to harvest fish before they are trapped.
19 They harvest fish in the falltime and put it on a rack
20 in the fall before they go trapping in the fall. They
21 used to do that.

22 After it freeze up, there was really not that much
23 to do. So even -- we cut off the fish from that rack,
24 even with kids, you know it's spoiled, we still eat it
25 as a kid.

26 Right now, ever since I start making a living on

1 my own, I go trapping the land. I try not to have
2 things -- shortage of my supplies. I trap in 50 years
3 of my life. I remember it all the time. I don't want
4 to be short on my food supplies. Even though caribou
5 if I hear are a long ways, I journey for it. Not far
6 for me to go and get the caribou. People used to live
7 like that, live on the caribou, many years ago.

8 Right now caribou is a big agenda item. Anywhere
9 where we go. Without the caribou, we won't be here.
10 This industry right now, whenever, the way they see fit
11 for them, the company -- we'll also have to get
12 together and work together, how we want to work
13 together, how we can work together and get into an
14 agreement.

15 Even this industry right now, of course, they want
16 it -- they want us, the First Nations people that were
17 here today from Lac Brochet, Manitoba, and also a
18 further Dene nation -- I work with a board member of
19 caribou management board along with Ernie here, Jimmy.
20 We know how the caribou is discussed at a caribou
21 management board and how people -- how people harvest a
22 caribou and look for a caribou. If it's going to be
23 some kind of an impact on that, we develop a protocol.
24 We're going to be -- start putting down regulations, a
25 hunting regulation, together. And once that's put
26 together -- once that's put together, then we're going

1 to make our own laws for our own people. That's what
2 we're waiting on right now.

3 The sports hunting right now that's happening,
4 that non-First Nations that's hunting on our territory,
5 they're also going to be -- cut that out too as well.
6 We'll see what happens. About four, five years, we're
7 going to be looking at -- put -- put the plan together.
8 And with that and what I'm talking about right now,
9 that industry, that industry right now today, we -- all
10 the communities and all the Elders got to get together
11 down the line somewhere in the future, how we want to
12 see work for the -- for aboriginal people. We have to
13 also -- to raise a voice for our land and caribou.
14 People -- voices are strong. When we vote and took a
15 treaty, we were very hardship. Even though I speak
16 English very well, but I speak the Dene language. I
17 say what I could say in English too right now.

18 Why does the -- the wildlife where our calving
19 ground -- why you're setting that development right
20 now? That's not the only spot there. When we went and
21 toured, there's a big area where the harvesting, where
22 the calving ground, post-calving. There's also a
23 couple areas that been -- are -- been post for.

24 But why that calving site? I want to talk about
25 that, but it's emotional for me right now. When I was
26 a child -- when I go back to what I was telling you

1 about, the story where -- where a lake froze over
2 before we get to our destination, about 4 kilometres
3 where our destination was, back then from where the --
4 the lake froze over, me and my late dad and friends and
5 our brothers, and -- we start -- we walk along the
6 esker. About three days' walk before we got to the
7 destination, looking for caribou, and we're just
8 looking for caribou then. There was nothing. But they
9 still walked back to where we were.

10 People worked that hard to find food. Yeah. But
11 they didn't have anything when they walked on that day.
12 Shot one beaver. Sometimes -- in two small kits and
13 with my dad's friend. For a journey for the caribou.
14 There was nothing back then. There was no caribou.
15 Caribou were livelihood for us. We had to raise our
16 voices for the caribou.

17 Things that we live on in this world to live on,
18 now kind of been messed around with. Since I remember
19 when I was a child a long time ago and the resource
20 conservation officer. People -- I -- I don't --
21 there -- there was no communication with our -- our
22 people, their words been passed on. So when -- you're
23 not supposed to feed the caribou meat to -- caribou --
24 but the -- the dog is your transportation. If you feed
25 the caribou meat to your dog, you go to jail. That's
26 how it was a long time ago. I remember that. They

1 will put on a chore, and we had to clean all the
2 caribou bones from a dog (INDISCERNIBLE) somewhere.
3 What for? Why -- that was our own transportation, our
4 dog food. If they're not fed, how are they going to
5 work, and how we're going to get -- and use for
6 transportation? And it wasn't right at all.
7 Disrespecting our way of life, the non-First Nations
8 people.

9 They would not done -- they wouldn't be like that
10 in this day and age. So people -- before the resource
11 people come in, they -- they used to set net. There's
12 no ice chisels, so you had to use an axe. About 3 feet
13 of ice, how thick that ice were. And it took them
14 three days to set one net using an axe. There was no
15 chisel. They have to put -- move a stick, distant to
16 distant.

17 To even live today, we're still struggling against
18 our regulations. But today is not like before. Things
19 are there right now today. Even right now. And the
20 only way we're struggling right now -- the regulations
21 been put in place. That's -- only -- make this
22 suffering against it.

23 I seen many things. I work many places. Even
24 though very little I have, sometimes things are okay
25 and sometimes not. I work -- I work hard. I work
26 hard, and I struggle too as well. I even have a

1 massive heart attack from that. And when I went
2 through that, and I had a stroke. Twice. Twice I
3 had -- had a stroke. And right now I -- I heard --
4 my -- hard on my vision right now due to that. It's
5 still today.

6 Last week I went up to Stephens Island with a
7 youth, went on a journey for a caribou. For the
8 longest time, I hunt for people on my reserve.
9 Everybody looks up to me from my reserve. They look up
10 to me. They won't let me go on because I work for
11 them. Even I do the same thing today. I'm 74 years
12 old right now. That's how we work. If we work like
13 this, you gain knowledge. Even I go alone, I -- I plan
14 how I'm going to do things.

15 Even right now -- I've given a lot of thought what
16 we're discussing today right now. And mining industry
17 right now, the development, I never know anything about
18 it before. The Board -- I missed one meeting one time.
19 Maybe that's a time that it was mentioned about this --
20 this development. Before that I didn't know anything
21 about this development. Now we're talking about an
22 agenda, about the caribou. The Board member should be
23 informed. And they said that we were advised, the
24 board member. I didn't hear nothing, me.

25 If you want to be working behind closed doors,
26 that's not right. If you want to tell the people, you

1 want to show the members, we understand. If you wrote
2 us a letter, we would know about it. If I start
3 talking about issues, I don't want to quit talking.
4 But if I get another opportunity like that, I will
5 share some more. For now, thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Before we continue with the
7 community roundtable, we're going to take a 15-minute
8 break.

9 (ADJOURNMENT)

10 THE CHAIR: If you can please take your
11 seats, and we'll continue.

12 There's some participants who are leaving in the
13 morning, so we're going to change the order a little
14 bit to give an opportunity to people that are leaving
15 in the morning to either ask questions or make
16 comments, and we'll go back to the order of the
17 roundtable that we started with once we get through
18 those participants.

19 First, Coreen Sayazie. Is that ...

20 Questions by Black Lake First Nation Athabasca
21 Denesuline Ne Ne Land Corporation (Roundtable)

22 MS. SAYAZIE: Good evening. Thank you,
23 Madam Chair. I'm Chief Coreen Sayazie of Black Lake
24 First Nation. Thank you to the elder for the prayer
25 today. Welcome to all. Thank you, NIRB staff, board
26 of directors staff, and all the Elders, and everyone

1 here. We are thankful to be here today to provide our
2 concerns.

3 One of the most important aspects to us is the
4 caribou and the lands that sustain them. The
5 barren-ground herds have their calves in Nunavut and
6 travel into our territories for fall and winter.
7 Through these migrations of the caribou, we are
8 connected to the lands and people across Nunavut.

9 Our homes, our families, our communities are built
10 on a foundation of our relationship with the caribou.
11 Our bodies, mind, spirits are fed by the caribou. We
12 are the caribou, so having the opportunity to speak
13 today is very important to all of us.

14 We are all fortunate to be here today to plan for
15 our future. A future where we want to see large
16 healthy herds of caribou following their ancient
17 migration routes and shaping the lands with their
18 movement. A future where our great great grandchildren
19 continue -- will continue to follow our cultural
20 tradition in a relationship with the caribou, a caribou
21 where the -- a future where the caribou may once again
22 be flourishing enough to come into our communities.

23 This is a unique opportunity to decide what kind
24 of future we want before the land is covered with
25 developments and before the caribou population start to
26 truly crash.

1 Right now here today, we can stand up and say that
2 we want a future with caribou, and now is an
3 opportunity to make that happen.

4 In our communities, teaching our children our
5 traditional way is very important to us. We have youth
6 caribou camps where Elders teach youth about the
7 caribou, how to harvest and how to properly respect the
8 caribou and use every part of the caribou.

9 We teach them our ceremonies, which are a very
10 important part of our relationship, and the drum -- our
11 drums come from the caribou. That's how we show our
12 respect to the caribou.

13 We are thinking of these children and hold them
14 with us here today as we make our comments and the
15 future of caribou.

16 I am a '60-scoop survivor. I am a residential
17 school survivor, but before I knew residential school,
18 we only ate what we hunted. That's all. None of our
19 food were bought from breakfast to supper.

20 In the '70s as a little girl, this one winter we
21 come home from the residential school, and people were
22 yelling happily, families getting together. There was
23 caribou right on our lake, and I was a little girl.
24 And that's the last time we seen that, and this was in
25 the late '70s. Oh, it was a happy event in our
26 community.

1 Language. I'm proud to say my community is one of
2 the far north communities where our language is still
3 strong. Our young ones know our language. We talk
4 fluently with our children. Being a residential school
5 survivor from kindergarten all the way up to high
6 school, I lost my language. I lost my Dene. But I'm
7 proud to say when I come home, I needed to talk to my
8 grandma. I relearned it. Once it's instilled in you,
9 it's always going to be in you, is what the Elder said.
10 And I got it all back. I talk fluently to my family,
11 my community. That's how our community support each
12 other, through our language and our culture.

13 And I used to be embarrassed. I didn't know how
14 to cut up a caribou. I didn't know how to make dry
15 meat, and I was shy, and girls younger than me knew
16 more of the caribou than I did because they were lucky
17 to stay home. But after residential school, I got
18 married young. I was a child and relearned my
19 language, relearned my culture. Now I'm proud to say I
20 can cut up a whole caribou and make dry meat, and it
21 makes me proud of who I am today.

22 But when they were trying to make us believe to be
23 embarrassed about our culture, it took me a long time
24 for reconciliation to happen. And, yes, alcohol and
25 drugs has taken over our people, and it was never like
26 that. The way our ancestor tells the stories, there

1 was nothing unknown, and now that's what we live in.

2 Seeing that as a little girl made me look at my
3 future. I don't want my kids to see me that way. I
4 want to break that generation of drinking, and I kept
5 my promise, and I raised four boys. They're all adults
6 now, as I had them when I was pretty young, and I
7 raised them, and now they're all on their own, and
8 hopefully I've taught them -- and I'm still teaching
9 them. We're still learning from each other our
10 culture, but that's what we need to sustain in our
11 communities.

12 We don't want to lose the caribou. We don't want
13 to lose our tradition. We don't want to lose our
14 culture. It's time for reconciliation, as everybody is
15 talking reconciliation. We need to help our northern
16 Dene, Nunavut, Inuit. We all need to reconcile
17 together what they did to us back in the days, and this
18 is not those days anymore. We can speak up for our
19 children, our communities.

20 Our ancestors fished, hunted, and trapped, and we
21 want to keep our traditional lifestyle like that. Now
22 in my community I see lots of young couples going back
23 onto the land building cabins. Like, now it's
24 mandatory families have cabins. They're teaching their
25 young ones fishnet setting. Things -- everything is
26 out on the land again. We're coming back. Our

1 tradition has come back, and I'm proud to say we're
2 coming along, and we don't want to lose our caribou.

3 So I wanted to tell you my little story, and to me
4 it's a big story, but that's where I come from, and
5 thank you. Thank you for all hearing our stories here.
6 Thank you, Madam Chair, and my name is Coreen from
7 Black Lake First Nation, Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne
8 Land Corporation. Our land (DENE SPOKEN). Mahsi cho.

9 THE CHAIR: Bart Tsannie.

10 Questions by Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation
11 (Roundtable)

12 MR. TSANNIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Chief
13 Bart Tsannie of Hatchet Lake, Denesuline Nation from
14 Saskatchewan.

15 And, first of all, I want to say my condolence to
16 the family that they lost and the surrounding
17 community, I think, so my condolence to the family.
18 It's very hard to lose a family and especially the
19 Elders.

20 I'm going to probably say a few -- a few words in
21 English, and then I'm going to go in Dene.

22 Anyway, I want to thank everyone around the table,
23 the presenters, and the people that attend this
24 hearing. It's a very important hearing that needs to
25 be heard for the industry and for the land users
26 because, you know, the reason why we're here is just --

1 like myself, I didn't know much information about
2 what's happening in the calving ground and the
3 migration of the caribou, and my council has informed
4 me -- that's sitting beside me -- has said there is
5 things happening in Rankin, and they're going to have a
6 hearing today, this week, so that's why I'm here.

7 And also I want to thank the Elder for this
8 morning prayer. (DENE SPOKEN). And, you know, for our
9 nation, you know, when we have a big meeting like this,
10 we usually have the drum sound too, and I have a
11 colleague here that has the drum. David has the
12 caribou drum. So every time the -- you know, when we
13 have meetings, especially Tadoule and Northland Dene
14 and -- you know, we utilize the drum for any meetings
15 and the closing too.

16 The -- you know, I myself, I've been out on the
17 land too and also with the youth since I becoming a
18 leader 14 years ago, and I have served my community for
19 close -- close to 15 years as chief.

20 You know, on this drum here -- we took the youth
21 hunting in April, the first week in April, because we
22 took the youth out to -- like, for them to learn what
23 it means to us and what it means to them too. But
24 the -- you know, in the morning one of my cousin, you
25 know, the youth asked him and said, You know, maybe you
26 can drum, and we'll probably see caribou. So he did

1 drum, and we were getting ready to take the kids out --
2 the youth out, and all of a sudden there's two caribou
3 coming along, you know. So that's how strong the drum
4 is, you know, and there was two caribou, and the youth
5 were very happy to see that caribou.

6 From the south that we came here and join -- and
7 what we're going to talk about today, it's about
8 caribou. It's a very serious issue for us -- and us,
9 we are raised on the caribou. Everybody around the
10 table right here said they -- without the caribou, we
11 won't be here today. That's what I heard all week.

12 I also work with people as a leader myself. The
13 caribou, if they journey and come back to us and work
14 with us when you go hunting, please respect the
15 caribou. We say that a lot. We stress it. It's not
16 for us. It's for the generation that we speak for.
17 I'm sure it's like that today, the people in Rankin.
18 And you also speak and plan for the protection of the
19 caribou. If we don't talk for the generation, then the
20 young generation cannot talk for themselves today. We
21 have to plan ahead for the generation.

22 This mining industry right now is not going to be
23 there forever. It's not going to be there -- when
24 they're done what they need to take, and they're gone.
25 Us, the people that's here right now, you'll be here
26 for a long time, and your generation will be here. And

1 the ones who are not even born here will still be here
2 on the land.

3 With all these mine development right now, you've
4 got to listen to us too. Today is not like the old
5 days. A lot of things are different now than it
6 was before. And the way I work for -- we also -- I
7 look towards economic development. We look at a lot of
8 areas in our economic development for the people, and
9 the reason why we -- that -- that government that fund
10 us for a program is not enough. I have a lot of people
11 on my reserve right now. Even people out here from
12 Manitoba is like that too. We look at economic
13 development. We look for jobs for people. That's --
14 I'm really looking towards that development.

15 This wind turbine right now, you know, what we're
16 discussing right now today, if the location is changed,
17 of course, it may be better, but not on the area where
18 calving ground or post-calving ground. Maybe not there
19 it may be better. Even my people from Manitoba and
20 Saskatchewan and Elders who go back to our community,
21 they will think the same way. We have to speak one
22 voice.

23 With that -- and also we came here: five
24 communities, Manitoba members, and Saskatchewan First
25 Nations. It's right here, our next door. Lac
26 Brochet -- as well in Brochet there are caribou. These

1 are (INDISCERNIBLE) as well. We're not far apart from
2 one another. There's another -- and Stanley Mission to
3 Ceylon Park, they're also people hunting. Ernie also
4 spoke about that. And treaty people, we cannot tell
5 them not to go hunting because they're treaty rights to
6 hunt. If all we can manage and protect and work
7 together towards the caribou protection.

8 Tomorrow we're going to go back as the three
9 chiefs from Athabasca. We've got things to do on our
10 reserve. The people that we are here today -- that
11 came with us to make their -- and made their
12 presentation, I'd like to thank them all and work with
13 us on my reserve, and also Black Lake and Fond du Lac,
14 I'd like to all work together as one. If we don't work
15 together, we know we'll be having some hard times.

16 And the people that we'll be leaving behind here,
17 I'd like to thank them all too. We've got to go home
18 tomorrow, and I'm very happy that I'm here and spend
19 some time and listen to all of you and took the
20 positive words from here and how we can work together
21 towards the caribou, the caribou all the time.

22 And we would not -- without the caribou, we
23 wouldn't be -- we rely on caribou. Even on my home
24 reserve we are happy to get caribou, but right now the
25 caribou meat is low, and we don't know when the caribou
26 will be coming back. Will it always come back to us in

1 the wintertime?

2 Now I came here, and all the people at the Board
3 right now, they're the ones -- the decision-making
4 body, and they take a really serious look at how are
5 you going to make the decision. And when it comes to
6 the point and they work together and make a positive
7 decision, we have to work together as a nation.

8 Right now I listen to me tonight, and I thank you
9 and God bless every one of you. Thank you very much.

10 THE CHAIR: From Rankin Inlet, Krista
11 Zawadski. Are you leaving? Okay. I'll go back.

12 Questions by Krista Zawadski (Roundtable)

13 MS. ZAWADSKI: Hi. Thank you. I'm from
14 Rankin Inlet. (NO ENGLISH FEED) for allowing me the
15 opportunity to speak.

16 I want to thank everyone that's here. It's been
17 really good to hear all of your comments and feedback
18 from across Inuit and Dene land.

19 My comments are -- have to do with the quality and
20 ethics of Agnico Eagle Mines research methods and
21 protocols. This has been nagging at me since I first
22 heard about the research that you did, which is posted
23 on the walls there, the research with the cameras.

24 Last week you did not provide specific evidence of
25 tuktu crossings at nalluit sadlik when questioned by a
26 biologist despite having claimed tuktu did cross

1 because you had pictures. I want to use this as an
2 example to point out that this is a downfall of your
3 research.

4 Inuit know about tuktu by watching and learning
5 and sharing stories of what we have observed. You
6 failed to share any stories of how tuktu are crossing
7 since the mine was built despite the mine being right
8 next to the narrows.

9 I would hope that you would take a broader
10 approach than what you have done as your methods are
11 narrow-minded and rooted in western methodologies
12 without considering how Inuit do research. It's as
13 though Agnico Eagle is striving for the bare minimum to
14 conduct quality and respectful research.

15 Further, I'm not hearing enough about how Inuit
16 are included. Did you get local permission to conduct
17 your research projects? If not, you are disregarding
18 and disrespecting proper protocols on Inuit land. I
19 have heard repeatedly Inuit and Dene asking about
20 visual impact of the wind farm on tuktu. Now, if you
21 had seriously taken into consideration Inuit expertise
22 in your research and your analysis, you would know that
23 tuktu obviously would be affected visually by the wind
24 turbines. Inuit use inuksuit to aid in hunting and to
25 guide tuktu to specific areas, as both Inuit and Dene
26 have shared. An inuksuit are not even very large

1 structures. Take that into account, and Inuit will
2 tell you through their experience on the land that
3 gigantic wind turbines will affect the tuktu.

4 You are also failing at including Inuit and
5 indigenous research methodologies and protocols. It is
6 clear to me that your data collection analysis and
7 interpretation is rooted in western or qallunaat
8 methodologies. This is concerning because it leaves
9 out the voices of Inuit and other indigenous peoples,
10 those of which are affected by mining and its impacts.

11 It also means that Inuit and indigenous
12 researchers are not given the opportunity to
13 participate in aspects of the research. If you did, I
14 believe you would have a more comprehensive research
15 that provides quality and respectful outcomes.

16 You have said you draw on the expertise of Elders
17 through your Elders advisory committee yet you have not
18 provided details on what members of that group have
19 said about the wind farm and proposed extension and
20 whether they expressed concerns with the proposal.

21 Based on my conversations in the community, I find
22 it hard to believe that Inuit would not be concerned
23 about the impacts of wind turbines in mining on tuktu.
24 These concerns are clearly being expressed at this
25 hearing.

26 You have talked about supporting Inuit in

1 industry, supporting Inuit families and well-being, and
2 supporting Inuit economically. I have not heard
3 anything about supporting Inuit in research. I think
4 Agnico Eagle needs to be more aware of the implications
5 of not including Inuit and indigenous people more in
6 the research process. Do you have Inuit in any aspects
7 of the research? Are there Inuit involved in the data
8 analysis and interpretation? Did you get local
9 permission to conduct your research projects? Apart
10 from your Elders, are you involving younger Inuit in
11 research?

12 In closing, I want to share something that
13 Bernadette Dean shared before on a panel on Inuit
14 research methodologies. She shared with us an
15 (INUKTITUT SPOKEN) saying that goes something like
16 (INUKTITUT SPOKEN), and it means during times of
17 scarcity, there is a need for innovative thinking. So
18 that's my challenge for you is to be more like Inuit
19 and think in innovative ways. Qujannamiik.

20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle. Pujjut Kusugak.
21 Manon Turmel.

22 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
23 Thank you for your comments and questions. Thank you
24 for your interest in youth getting more involved in the
25 research activities that are being conducted at
26 Meliadine.

1 I would agree that we can always do more, but I
2 will explain a few things that we're doing at site.

3 First of all, you pointed -- you asked the
4 question about the research permits, if we're pulling
5 research permits for our monitoring and activities.
6 Yes. We do so yearly through the Government of
7 Nunavut, and prior to requesting a permit, we have to
8 go and discuss with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and
9 Trappers Organization to gain their support and collect
10 any feedback.

11 As for if we're involving Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
12 into -- and traditional knowledge into our studies, the
13 hunter harvest study that's been in place for the past
14 three years is conducted by the Kangiqliniq Hunters and
15 Trappers Organization, not by Agnico Eagle. And,
16 additionally, the terrestrial advisory group includes
17 traditional knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. So
18 I would say we can do more to involve youth in
19 research, but we're doing our part.

20 Finally, during the caribou migration, as my
21 colleague Matt pointed out earlier in the technical
22 session, the surveys and decisions are made in
23 collaboration with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the
24 Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, and we
25 have Inuit as part of the environment department that
26 are out in the field. So really it's based on local

1 knowledge that we make the observations and decisions
2 as to what activities will be closed -- when the road
3 will be closed and opened. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Kevin Mercredi.

5 Questions by Fond Du Lac First Nation (Roundtable)

6 MR. MERCREDI: Good evening, everybody.

7 Thank you for having us here.

8 I'd like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board
9 and the big job that they do have ahead of them and a
10 lot of the work that you guys have to do and the
11 balances of just making sure that everything -- the
12 decisions you guys make are right.

13 My name is Kevin Mercredi. I'm chief of Fond du
14 Lac First Nation. I wanted to acknowledge my mother's
15 maiden name, which is White Caribou. Caribou has
16 always been important to my family and also to my
17 community. My community members of Fond du Lac have
18 been referred to as (DENE SPOKEN), caribou eaters, and
19 sometimes lightheartedly called "caribou meat". You
20 are what you eat, I guess.

21 But, in all seriousness, we may have been
22 indoctrinated into western religions, practices, but
23 the intrinsic mental, spiritual, physical, cultural
24 relationship we have with the caribou and its habitat
25 has remained in our hearts and in our blood. We all
26 have a responsibility to protect what has given us life

1 for years, the caribou and the important habitats like
2 calving grounds that sustain the caribou.

3 Caribou have very acute sensory abilities, and the
4 effects of industrial development and how it impacts
5 the caribou is not fully understood by western science.
6 We can't begin to have the understanding that our
7 Elders have. They have knowledge passed to them from
8 over thousands of years. They have a knowledge and an
9 understanding beyond the written word of the land that
10 we call home.

11 It is our responsibility now to protect the land
12 and caribou. We have to understand the true
13 consequences of our actions because the caribou have
14 sustained us for a millennia, and now we must make the
15 right decisions to protect them from the threat of
16 extinction. If the caribou don't exist, we won't
17 exist.

18 It would be a systemic genocide of a people,
19 livelihood, and culture, similar to what happened to
20 the bison and the indigenous groups that depended on
21 them. Yes, we are progressing and developing, but we
22 also have a responsibility to protect the important
23 caribou habitats.

24 All the developments in the north have already
25 impacted us and our territory, the migration of caribou
26 and -- caused declines in their populations. We owe it

1 to our children and the future generations to make
2 responsible decisions. In my time, I would not want to
3 be responsible for the irresponsibility of man in
4 destroying what sustains us and its habitat.

5 We have become desensitized to much of the harm
6 that developments have on all living things and their
7 habitat. We, all of us here, must respect and protect
8 the living beings within the land irrespective of
9 boundaries because our identities as distinct cultures
10 can and will be adversely impacted.

11 Ongoing consultation and involvement in this
12 processes and recommended processes by all the
13 intervenors here must continue past this hearing.
14 Anything that is relevant to us, we need to be kept
15 informed and updated to make sure that our interests
16 and rights are protected.

17 I'm going to end this with a quote from one of our
18 past scholars the late Leon Fern: (as read)

19 The same blood that spills in the calving
20 grounds during calving is the same blood that
21 flows and flows through my veins. In order
22 for our people to survive, we must protect
23 the caribou and where the caribou calf.

24 I thank you all for hearing me, and I'm very
25 appreciative of the hospitality here in Rankin. Thank
26 you.

1 THE CHAIR: Brian Zawadski, are you --

2 MR. ZAWADSKI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 It's almost 9:00, and I have about -- a few pages
4 here. I don't think we want to be here till midnight,
5 so can I defer till tomorrow?

6 THE CHAIR: Yeah. I wasn't sure if you
7 were travelling or not. We've got a list of people who
8 are travelling and won't be here tomorrow, so that's
9 okay.

10 So as it was mentioned, it's almost 9:00. Thank
11 you to everyone for your contributions today throughout
12 the community roundtable, for your questions, your
13 comments, your concerns and your responses. We're
14 going to continue tomorrow with the roundtable, and
15 we'll start where we left off with the community
16 representatives. And for those of you that are
17 travelling tomorrow, I hope you all have a safe -- safe
18 travels wherever you're going, whether it's home or
19 elsewhere.

20 Just remember to please turn off your headsets
21 before you leave, put them on the table, and clean up
22 your seating area.

23 We'll be back here tomorrow at 9 AM to continue
24 the community roundtable in Day 7 of the public
25 hearing.

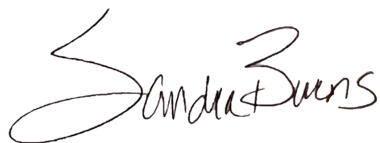
26 _____

1 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9 AM, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

2 _____
3 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:

4
5 We, Sandra Burns and Derek Lopez, certify that the
6 foregoing pages are a complete and accurate transcript
7 of the proceedings taken down by us in shorthand and
8 transcribed from our shorthand notes to the best of our
9 skill and ability.

10 Dated at the City of Edmonton, Province of
11 Alberta, this 9th day of October 2023.

12
13 
14

15 _____
16 Sandra Burns, CSR(A), RPR, CRR
17 Official Court Reporter

18
19
20 
21

22 _____
23 Derek Lopez, CSR(A), RPR
24 Official Court Reporter

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