NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOA	RD
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WHALE TAIL PIT EXPANSION PROJECT PROPOSAL

NIRB FILE NUMBER 16MN056

HEARING

VOLUME 2

Baker Lake, Nunavut
August 27, 2019

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2	Baker Lake, Nunavut	
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4	August 27, 2019	Morning Session
5		
6	NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW	I BOARD
7	K. Kaluraq	Chair of Hearing
8	P. Kadlun	Vice-Chair
9	G. Alikut	Panel Member
10	C. Emrick	Panel Member
11	U. Puqiqnak	Panel Member
12		
13	NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW	I BOARD STAFF
14	T. Meadows	Legal Counsel
15	R. Barry	Executive Director
16	T. Arko	Director of Technical Services
17	S. Granchinho	Manager, Impact Assessment
18	E. Reimer	Technical Advisor I
19	L. Atatahak	Secretary/Receptionist
20	A. Omilgoitok	Environmental Administrator
21	B. Beattie	Environmental Technologist
22		
23	INTERVENORS	
24		
25	AGNICO EAGLE MINES LI	MITED
26	C. Kowbel	Legal Advisor

1	K. Bergner	Legal Advisor
2	J. Quesnel	Regional Manager, Permitting
3		and Regulatory Affairs
4	P. Lapointe	Superintendent Permitting and
5		Regulatory Affairs
6	M. Groleau	General Supervisor, Permitting
7		and Regulatory Affairs
8	M. Turmel	Permitting Lead, Nunavut
9	C. Kennedy	Technical Specialist
10	C. Squires	Senior Coordinator
11	C. Ramcharan	General Supervisor Community
12		Relations
13	R. Allard	General Supervisor Interim
14	S. Leclair	Community Affairs
15		Superintendent
16	L. Chouinard	General Manager Meadowbank
17	M. Beaucage	Nunavut Senior Community
18		Coordinator
19	G. Côté	General Supervisor
20	B. Boucher	Superintendent, Human
21		Resources
22	C. de la Mare	Environmental Specialist
23		(Golder)
24	J. Faithful	Principal, Senior Water
25		Quality Specialist (Golder)
26	C. McNaughton	Environmental Engineer

1		(Golder)
2	C. Stevens	Associate, Aquatic Biologist
3		(Golder)
4	J. Range	Project Coordinator (Golder)
5	A. Amendola	Senior Risk Assessor (Golder)
6	M. O'Kane	Senior Technical Advisor (OKC)
7	M. Setterington	Senior Terrestrial Biologist
8		(EDI)
9	A. Franke	Principal Investigator (Arctic
10		Raptors Project)
11	G. Sharam	Technical Director (ERM)
12		
13	KIVALLIQ INUIT ASSOCIATI	ION
14	K. Gilson	Legal Counsel
15	L. Manzo	Director of Lands
16	K. Poole	Wildlife Biologist
17		
18	BAKER LAKE HUNTERS AND T	TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION
19	R. Aksawnee	Chairman
20	Dr. W. Bernauer	Consultant
21		
22	GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT	
23	E. Stockley	Legal Counsel
24	S. Pinksen	Deputy Minister
25	E. Taylor	Project Manager Socioeconomic
26		Monitoring

1	D. Haney	Project Manager Impact
2		Assessment
3	B. Pirie	Project Manager Research and
4		Monitoring
5	A. Robinson	Acting Director Environmental
6		Protection Division
7	Dr. S. Atkinson	Technical Wildlife Consultant
8		
9	CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATION	ONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA
10	S. Dewar	Director of Resource
11		Management
12	F. Ngwa	Manager of Impact Assessment
13	D. Abernethy	Regional Socioeconomic Analyst
14	S. Qazi	Senior Environmental
15		Assessment Specialist
16	R. Tookoome	Social Policy Officer
17	J. Walsh	Senior Environmental Policy
18		Analyst
19	T. Brown	Senior Technical Advisor for
20		Arcadis
21	S. Gruda-Dolbec	Department of Justice
22		
23	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE	CHANGE CANADA
24	M. Pinto	Senior Environmental
25		Assessment Coordinator
26	B. Asher	Senior Air Quality Analyst

1	FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA	
2	M. D'Aguiar	Senior Biologist
3	M. Janowicz	Regional Manager for
4		Regulatory Reviews
5	B. Tracz	Biologist
6		
7	HEALTH CANADA	
8	P. Partridge	Regional Environmental
9		Assessment Specialist
10		
11		
12	NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA	
13	P. Unger	Senior Environmental
14		Assessment Officer
15	J. Quinn	Senior Environmental Advisor
16		
17	INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS	
18	J. Tucktoo	Language Translator
19	M. Angoshadluk	Language Translator
20		
21	C. Longacre, RPR, CSR(A)	Official Court Reporter
22	A. Vidal, CSR(A)	Official Court Reporter
23		
24	(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED A	T 9:00 AM)
25	THE CHAIR:	Good morning. (OTHER LANGUAGE
26	SPOKEN)	

- 1 Can someone please bring her a mic? If she can
- 2 come up with the mic.
- 3 Opening Prayer
- 4 Opening Remarks
- 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Eva.
- 6 Perhaps you remember my name is -- I'm the new
- 7 chair for the Nunavut Impact Review Board. The NIRB
- 8 Board -- as the NIRB Board, we want to welcome everyone
- 9 on our second day of the hearing of Agnico Eagle's --
- 10 NIRB's review of Agnico Eagle's expansion project
- 11 proposal. 16MN056 is the project proposal file number.
- I want you to -- let you -- let the audience know
- 13 that there will be interpretation available. And upon
- 14 arrival, please write your name at the table by the
- 15 door. There is -- the channels is 0, floor; 1,
- 16 English; and 2 is Inuktitut. Before we begin, please
- 17 be advised to shut off all your cell phones.
- Welcome to Day 2 of the public hearing. I would
- 19 like to notify all participants that these proceedings
- 20 are open to the media should they choose to attend. If
- 21 there are any members of the media in the room, I would
- 22 like -- I would ask that they please take a moment to
- 23 introduce themselves now.
- 24 We have Jordan Kunni from CBC.
- 25 The Board welcomes the media providing information
- 26 about this public hearing to those who cannot be in

- 1 attendance in person. However, I remind everyone that
- 2 the Board members and staff cannot and will not take
- 3 questions or provide comments to the media, the parties
- 4 or anyone else regarding these proceedings until the
- 5 Board makes its determination and issues its written
- 6 report and recommendations publicly.
- 7 Today, we will continue the technical sessions
- 8 with the presentations from registered intervenors.
- 9 Tomorrow we expect to finish up the technical sessions
- 10 and begin the community roundtable during which
- 11 community representatives and members of the general
- 12 public will have the opportunity to ask questions
- 13 directly to the proponent and intervenors.
- 14 For all speakers, whenever you are speaking,
- 15 please speak directly into the microphone and at a
- 16 reasonable pace and state your name and your community
- 17 or organization before you provide the comment. Please
- 18 be respectful of other speakers and do not interrupt.
- 19 The Board appreciates everyone's commitment to
- 20 establishing a respectful and productive atmosphere at
- 21 this hearing.
- 22 We will begin today by providing an opportunity
- 23 for those parties needing to provide deferred responses
- 24 to questions posed yesterday that have yet to be
- 25 answered.
- 26 Legal counsel.

1 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

- 2 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 3 Review Board.
- 4 Madam Chair, we have -- there are some materials
- 5 that have been attempted to be filed by Agnico Eagle
- 6 yesterday, circulated last night that -- in answer to
- 7 the construction and design of the haul road. Those
- 8 materials have been printed out and have been
- 9 circulated amongst the parties here. The Board and
- 10 Agnico Eagle will work together to try and get those
- 11 posted on the registry as one response to a deferred
- 12 question.
- There is one more deferred question that we do
- 14 have listed, and it was Agnico Eagle -- a question to
- 15 Agnico Eagle from the Kivallig Inuit Association, and
- 16 it was: Provide information on convoys that would have
- 17 been allowed on the road during the spring migration
- 18 this year. And I do not know whether or not Agnico
- 19 Eagle is prepared to answer it, but that is the -- the
- 20 one deferred question that I still have on the list.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, do you have a
- 22 response?
- 23 MS. KOWBEL: Madam Chair, just -- just one
- 24 moment, please.
- Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, we are prepared to
- 26 answer that deferred question now.

- 1 Response to Deferred Questions by Agnico Eagle Mines
- 2 Limited
- 3 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
- 4 So I have the details here on the convoys that
- 5 occurred in the spring migration of 2019. So there are
- 6 mainly two types of convoys. The first one is for
- 7 crew -- moving crew and food, and the second type is --
- 8 and less frequent, is to move spare parts between the
- 9 sites, emulsion, to move sewage, so waste management
- 10 from Amaruq to Meadowbank. So those are the two types
- 11 of convoys we've had.
- In terms of frequency, we've had, I would say,
- 13 convoys for three days in a row, then one day without a
- 14 convoy, then four days with a convoy, then one day
- 15 without a convoy. And as we keep progressing with the
- 16 road shutdowns, the need for convoy increases, but
- overall, it's less than a convoy per day.
- And just as -- to complement this, the two sites
- 19 are not independent. They work together. So even if
- 20 we stockpile and we plan well, as the closure lasts --
- 21 extends, there might be an equipment that needs
- 22 maintenance, need a part, so that's why there's more
- 23 convoy as the extended road closures.
- 24 And the last question was on the number of
- 25 equipment per convoy. So the convoy -- it varies a
- lot, but it is between three pieces of equipment and 12

- 1 that we've had. And so all the equipment are together
- 2 very close with the environment department in front
- 3 leading the convoy.
- And the time in the day where the convoy occurs is
- 5 selected as per caribou distribution. So we try to
- 6 select the best time in -- in the day. So this
- 7 addresses -- this was my response to the -- the
- 8 question from the Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 9 THE CHAIR: Legal counsel.
- 10 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 11 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 12 Review Board.
- 13 Madam Chair, those are the deferred questions that
- 14 were still outstanding that I had listed, and that
- 15 closes the deferred questions for today.
- 16 THE CHAIR: We will now continue to Agenda
- 17 Item 5, technical presentations from registered
- 18 intervenors. I will ask that our legal counsel swear
- 19 or affirm the next group of presenters and mark the
- 20 exhibits so that we can begin with the presentations.
- 21 We'll start with the Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 22 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 23 If I can have the witnesses state and spell their
- 24 name for the record, please.
- 25 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
- 26 name is Luis Manzo, L-U-I-S M-A-N-Z-O, director lands,

- 2 MR. POOLE: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
- 3 name is Kim Poole, K-I-M P-O-O-L-E.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 6 Review Board. Do you wish to be sworn or affirmed?
- 7 MR. MANZO: Affirm.
- 8 MR. POOLE: Affirmed.
- 9 LUIS MANZO, KIM POOLE, Affirmed
- 10 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 11 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 12 Review Board.
- 13 Madam Chair, I have a copy of the PowerPoint
- 14 presentation that the Kivalliq Inuit Association has
- 15 filed with the Board that is being presented in this
- 16 hearing, and I propose to mark that as the next exhibit
- 17 in the public hearing. And those are all my procedural
- 18 matters. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 19 EXHIBIT 32 Hard Copy PowerPoint
- 20 Presentation Whale Tail Expansion Project
- 21 Proposal KIA-NTI Final Technical Review
- 22 (English/Inuktitut)
- 23 EXHIBIT 33 Hard Copy Executive Summary of
- 24 Technical Review Comments (English)
- 25 EXHIBIT 34 Hard Copy Executive Summary of
- 26 Technical Review Comments (Inuktitut)

- 1 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 2 Kivallig Inuit Association, you may proceed.
- 3 Presentation by Kivalliq Inuit Association
- 4 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Luis
- 5 Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- The presentation will have the two components, the
- 7 introduction to KIA role and responsibilities, the
- 8 issues still outstanding, which is caribou and -- and
- 9 some water issues. Kim Poole will -- I will pass the
- 10 microphone to Kim Poole during the -- the caribou
- 11 presentations just to make sure we -- we address all
- 12 our issues. So I will proceed.
- 13 KIA represent -- thank you. KIA represent Inuit,
- 14 administer and monitor certain provisions of the
- 15 Nunavut Final Agreement in the Kivallig region. KIA
- 16 mission is to represent Inuit in a fair and democratic
- 17 manner in the development, protection, administration,
- 18 and advancement of the rights and benefits and to
- 19 promote the economic, social, political and cultural
- 20 well-being.
- The aim of Inuit-owned lands management to
- 22 administer IOLs so as to promote self-reliances and
- 23 cultural and social well-being of Inuit now and into
- 24 the future.
- Inuit-owned lands must be managed in such a way as
- 26 to sustain and enhance the values of that -- of those

- 1 lands.
- 2 The purpose of the technical review was to ensure
- 3 that the potential impacts and benefits was
- 4 comprehensively assessed through scientific,
- 5 socioeconomic, and impact assessment best practices, to
- 6 ensure the IQ values and traditional knowledge were
- 7 incorporated into impact determination, mitigation,
- 8 project design, and monitoring.
- 9 Submissions to the Nunavut Impact Review Board. A
- 10 technical review of the environmental impact statement
- 11 was submitted to Nunavut Impact Review Board in [sic]
- 12 May 14, 2019. This review outlined 64 areas that
- 13 required clarification in the proposed project
- 14 extension [sic].
- 15 At the technical hearings in June 11 and 13, 2019,
- 16 six issues was remaining in which were four -- four
- 17 issues related to caribou, two issues related to
- 18 mercury concentrations in fish and the alternative
- 19 discharge locations, and nine -- nine terrestrial
- 20 commitments were provided by the end of the technical
- 21 hearings.
- I will pass now the microphone to Kim Poole for
- 23 the caribou slides.
- 24 MR. POOLE: Kim Poole for the Kivalliq
- 25 Inuit Association.
- The expansion project is proposing a haul truck

- 1 every six to eight minutes on the Whale Tail haul road,
- 2 and the expansion project is extending this traffic
- 3 from the current approved four years to eight years.
- 4 This level of traffic is -- is -- is almost
- 5 unprecedented in the Canadian Arctic, especially where
- 6 it intersects caribou migration. The current evidence,
- 7 notwithstanding the movements detected during the 2019
- 8 migration, suggests that the project may be causing
- 9 some delay and deflection of caribou as they try to
- 10 migrate during spring and fall. Recently, in the last
- 11 few weeks, there's been a series of informations and
- 12 reports that have been released, so the evidence that
- 13 would support how the Kivalliq Inuit Association would
- 14 be assessing this project is -- is developing quite
- 15 rapidly.
- 16 We have reviewed the additional information and
- 17 commitments provided by Agnico Eagle and the Government
- 18 of Nunavut about caribou crossing the roads. This
- 19 additional information has been extremely helpful, but
- 20 there are still some uncertainties about the impacts of
- 21 the haul road on caribou.
- The Kivalliq Inuit Association is concerned that
- 23 the monitoring may not be adequate to trigger
- 24 mitigation, although we are confident with -- in
- 25 discussions with Agnico Eagle that there is -- there
- 26 are ways that -- that this can be rectified.

- 1 The physical design of the expanded road will
- 2 influence caribou response to haul road traffic.
- 3 Agnico Eagle has provided information on crossing
- 4 locations and has proposed sections of the road that
- 5 will be made more caribou-friendly. A draft of this
- 6 report was available -- has been available for the last
- 7 two, three weeks, and a revision of this report which
- 8 is a fulfilment of Commitment 8A and B from the
- 9 technical hearings was released about half an hour ago,
- 10 actually. So we have not had the opportunity to review
- 11 this, but we will, and we're optimistic that it will
- 12 help clarify some of the uncertainty.
- Cari -- sorry, the Kivalliq Inuit Association
- 14 looks forward to seeing an analysis to determine the
- 15 effects of the physical aspects of the road on caribou
- 16 movement, and this is Commitment Number 13 from the
- 17 technical hearings that will be provided to the
- 18 terrestrial advisory group for their October meeting.
- 19 As noted, Agnico Eagle and the Government of
- 20 Nunavut have provided additional information addressing
- 21 Commitments 8, 12, and 15 from the technical hearings
- 22 with information on haul road interactions, the
- 23 behaviour of caribou -- collared caribou as they
- 24 approach the road, and alternatives for traffic
- 25 management, including convoys.
- 26 We have reviewed the alternatives to traffic

- 1 management document, and we suggest that more details
- 2 are required. This is in fulfilment of Commitment 12
- 3 from the technical hearings. AEM has tentatively
- 4 proposed a pilot study for the fall of this year for
- 5 haul truck convoys to be used during migration with
- 6 monitoring using drones and satellite imagery. These
- 7 monitoring techniques, while innovative, are untested,
- 8 and the Kivalliq Inuit Association is concerned that
- 9 this pilot project go ahead. We are recommending
- 10 postponing the pilot study until a study design is
- 11 presented and approved by the terrestrial advisory
- 12 group and that the monitoring is tested and proven to
- 13 be effective.
- One of the concerns of the Kivalliq Inuit
- 15 Association is the additional disturbance to caribou
- 16 during the upgrading and widening of the Whale Tail
- 17 haul road. Agnico Eagle has stated that they will
- 18 comply with the terrestrial ecosystem management plan
- 19 with regards to monitoring and mitigation of caribou
- 20 approaching during construction activities related to
- 21 the haul road.
- 22 Widening of the haul road must be avoided when
- 23 caribou are migrating through the area, and we suggest
- 24 that specific mitigation is required to ensure that
- 25 road widening construction is halted when the first
- 26 caribou are approaching to let the lead caribou cross

- 1 the road.
- 2 Agnico Eagle has committed to this in -- has
- 3 committed to address this in Commitment Number 14,
- 4 which is going to be released to the terrestrial
- 5 advisory group in the second quarter of 2020.
- 6 The expansion project will increase the duration
- 7 of effects on caribou from four to eight years, and it
- 8 is highly likely that more work and more exploration in
- 9 the Amaruq area will -- will result in more expansion
- 10 and -- and an extended life, so our main concern is
- 11 that we get this road construction and monitoring right
- 12 now so that it's in place for the future.
- 13 When the Kivalliq Inuit Association presented
- 14 their written submissions in July, we did not propose
- 15 any terms and conditions because we were waiting on
- 16 three or four reports that were going to be made
- 17 available from Agnico Eagle and the Government of
- 18 Nunavut. And the Kivalliq Inuit Association
- 19 acknowledges the efforts of both Agnico Eagle and
- 20 Government of Nunavut for -- for providing these four
- 21 commitments since the technical sessions in June.
- 22 While the information has been extremely useful and
- 23 has -- and perhaps we have not fully digested it. We
- 24 have provided some comments on the remaining issues in
- 25 reviewing the commitments.
- 26 The Kivalliq Inuit Association concludes that

- 1 there is still some uncertainty remaining about the
- 2 impacts of the expanded road on -- on caribou. These
- 3 are related especially to the observations of
- 4 monitoring at the road level, and we also have -- at
- 5 both -- on both the all-weather access road and the
- 6 haul road. We strongly suggest that better monitoring
- 7 of short and medium distances from the project and
- 8 greater frequencies of surveys are required. And in
- 9 discussions with Agnico Eagle this morning, we seem to
- 10 be on the same page in our -- in our discussions, and
- 11 we would be looking for some sort of a commitment from
- 12 Agnico to pursue this further.
- 13 We also suggest that either a commitment or a term
- 14 and condition is necessary to ensure that there is
- 15 adequate adaptive management of the expanded haul road.
- 16 The Kivalliq Inuit Association thinks that there is
- 17 need for further collaboration among parties to
- 18 integrate the timing and locations of caribou crossings
- 19 relative to traffic frequency and road closures and to
- 20 better integrate these different types of monitoring
- 21 into mitigation.
- 22 We suggest that Agnico Eagle should work through
- 23 the terrestrial advisory group to update the
- 24 terrestrial ecosystem management plan to integrate this
- 25 information from all of the recent commitments. The
- 26 revised terrestrial ecosystem management plan should be

- 1 submitted then to -- to the Nunavut -- Nunavut Impact
- 2 Review Board within six months of issuance of a project
- 3 certificate.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 MR. MANZO: Aquatic and water issues.
- 6 Aquatic environment, mercury -- mercury concentrations
- 7 in fish. The proponent has committed to revisit the
- 8 predictions for mercury concentrations in the project
- 9 area and update these predictions as needed to account
- 10 for the additional time that Whale Tail Lake would
- 11 be -- Whale Tail Lake will be flooded due to the Whale
- 12 Tail expansion.
- 13 Agnico Eagle has presented a document in -- in
- 14 August 20, 2019, as a part of that commitment at the
- 15 technical hearings. We are in the review of those, and
- 16 the specifics of that document we can deal during the
- 17 water licence.
- 18 Aquatic environment alternative discharge
- 19 location. The Kivalliq Inuit Association has
- 20 recommended that the proponent commit to collect at
- 21 least two years of data both under ice and in
- 22 open-water season in the water bodies with the
- 23 discharge -- with the discharge locations. The
- 24 proponent has committed to sampling the alternative
- 25 discharge locations following the Kivalliq Inuit
- 26 Association's recommendations.

- 1 This issue may be resolved. The samplings was
- 2 carried on in 2019. Those samples are, today, in lab
- 3 analysis, and we believe that we can resolve this issue
- 4 during the water licence.
- 5 Aquatic environment updated river baseline data.
- 6 AEM has committed to collecting additional water
- 7 quality and quantity samples for the stream sites in
- 8 the project area, Mammoth Lake, Whale Tail, and Nemo
- 9 Lake. AEM has further committed to provide the
- 10 Kivallig Inuit Association with the proposed 2020 field
- 11 program for aquatic environment data collection for --
- 12 for the Kivalliq Inuit Association to review and
- 13 approve on September 2, 2019.
- 14 The field program has yet to be provided, but this
- issue we believe is resolved after the 2019 sampling
- 16 season.
- 17 Water quality modelling accuracy and sensitivity.
- 18 The proponent has committed to update the water quality
- 19 model refining predictions concentrations and
- 20 phosphorus, arsenics, and other parameters of concerns
- 21 in the receiving environment. The proponent further
- 22 committed to update the water quality model to include
- 23 cryoconcentrations.
- The refined water quality model has been provided
- 25 as part of the water licence application and will be
- 26 review as part of the licence process. However, the

- 1 water quality model has not yet been updated to include
- 2 cryoconcentrations. We request AME provide the updated
- 3 water quality model by August 30 such that it can be
- 4 reviewed during the water licence technical review
- 5 period.
- 6 Socioeconomic impacts. The Kivallig Inuit
- 7 Association has reviewed the Government of Nunavut --
- 8 GN comments and support their concerns regarding the
- 9 socioeconomic impacts in proposed project.
- 10 Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, IIBA.
- 11 Kivalliq Inuit Association has an IIBA with the
- 12 proponent, Agnico Eagle, for the Whale Tail project.
- 13 The proposed expansion has been found by the Nunavut
- 14 Impact Review Board to include circumstances relating
- to the proposed project that are significantly
- 16 different from those anticipated when the original
- 17 project certificate was issued. Therefore, a material
- 18 change will occur and a review of the Inuit Impact and
- 19 Benefit Agreement, IIBA, will be triggered if the
- 20 extension application is granted.
- 21 Matna.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Moving on to questions to the
- 23 Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization.
- 25 Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization Questions
- 26 Kivalliq Inuit Association

- 1 MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 2 Richard Aksawnee, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 3 Organization, and I want to thank KIA for their
- 4 presentation.
- I have a question, and I would like to -- I would
- 6 ask: Is there a reason why CLARC committee was not
- 7 involved in KIA's assessment of this project? The
- 8 effects of -- on wildlife most affects hunters of Baker
- 9 Lake, and through community involvement of our regional
- 10 organization's assessment, we -- we have would -- like
- 11 to ensure that we, the community that is most impacted,
- 12 are appropriately compensated. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 13 THE CHAIR: Kivallig Inuit Association.
- 14 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Luis
- 15 Manzo, Kivallig Inuit Association.
- 16 We do include the CLARCs in -- in the project. We
- 17 do make the presentations. And -- and also we engage a
- 18 big committee, traditional knowledge and also aquatic
- 19 knowledge, in a big monitoring program in which these
- 20 projects are located.
- 21 And to do with your second portion of the question
- 22 which is the compensation, I would like to defer that
- 23 question for -- for later to consult, Madam Chair.
- 24 Thank you.
- 25 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 26 Trappers Organization.

- 1 MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
- 2 thank you, Luis, for that response.
- 3 Yeah. We've had this Meadowbank mine in operation
- 4 about ten years now, and we've been negatively impacted
- 5 on our caribou. We -- as the Baker Lake Hunters and
- 6 Trappers Organization, we've been seeking support on
- 7 the regional -- at the regional level. As -- as how
- 8 you guys know, the Hunters and Trappers Organizations
- 9 and the whole territories, staffing is a really big
- 10 issue. So I wanted to raise that concern, that during
- 11 the permitting stages of the expansion, I -- I just
- 12 wanted to say that the CLARC committee is more
- 13 involved. Thank you.
- 14 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 15 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 16 And, yes, the CLARC will be more involved in the
- 17 whole entire monitoring program. We're looking for
- 18 funds because, as you know, also KIA doesn't have the
- 19 funds. We design in the last 12 years a complete -- a
- 20 cumulative effect assessment program in which we have a
- 21 scientific committee and also traditional knowledge
- 22 committee.
- 23 And when you talk about IQ and traditional
- 24 knowledge, it's not just one thing. There's many
- 25 things in there. We are bound [sic], and we assess.
- 26 We also table scientific papers. The -- the scientific

1 committee -- or technical committee recommend to the --

- 2 to the secretariat. And these were the whole -- not
- 3 just the CLARCs, but the community the CLARCs appoint
- 4 for traditional knowledge in the specific locations
- 5 will be involved in that consultation.
- 6 And if you -- if I can respond to the deferred
- 7 question. The IIBA encompasses seven communities when
- 8 we negotiate the IIBA, and I'm very sure you have
- 9 access to that IIBA. And -- and those have been
- 10 distributed to the seven communities. It encompasses
- 11 all the impacts. But if you -- if you have any other
- 12 concerns that you may want or a benefit that you may
- 13 have, please write to the executive director of KIA as
- 14 soon as possible. I will recommend that to the HTO
- 15 because that review of this project haven't been
- 16 established yet.
- 17 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 18 Trappers Organization.
- 19 MR. AKSAWNEE: I have no further questions.
- 20 Thank you.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.
- 22 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Steve
- 23 Pinksen, Government of Nunavut. We have no questions
- 24 for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 25 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.
- 26 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Madam Chair. Spencer

- 1 Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 2 Canada. No questions.
- 3 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 4 MS. PINTO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 6 We have no questions at this time.
- 7 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 8 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
- 9 D'Aguiar with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Thank you
- 10 for your presentation. We have no questions.
- 11 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 12 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Paul
- 13 Partridge with Health Canada. We have no questions at
- 14 this time.
- 15 THE CHAIR: NRCan.
- 16 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, Natural
- 17 Resources. Thank you, Madam Chair. No questions.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 19 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Questions Kivalliq Inuit
- 20 Association
- 21 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 22 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 23 Just a few clarifications and some comments
- 24 related to the request for a commitment for additional
- 25 monitoring related primarily to monitoring from the
- 26 road as -- as we discussed. We can commit to working

- 1 with the Kivalliq Inuit Association to improve that
- 2 aspect of the monitoring along the road.
- 3 Just dealing with the -- as Kivallig Inuit
- 4 Association alluded to, a pilot program for the fall
- 5 migration related to other technologies such as drone
- 6 and satellite imagery, I just want to provide a little
- 7 bit more clarification that the work plan is being
- 8 finalized, and, as we discussed within the terrestrial
- 9 advisory group, that work plan will be circulated to
- 10 the members of the terrestrial advisory group to review
- 11 it and hopefully approve the -- the work plan.
- And what we're trying to do is just add a few
- 13 additional tools in the toolbox to support the caribou
- 14 collaring program. Albeit, the technologies have to be
- 15 approved. What we're trying to establish this fall
- 16 with that pilot program is to have proof of concept
- 17 with those technologies. Then hopefully take the
- 18 learnings from that pilot program, incorporate that
- 19 into the spring migration to support the -- the
- 20 collaring program, the monitoring in the field with
- 21 operations. So that's what we're trying to establish,
- just at a high level. But, like always, we will
- 23 provide that -- that information to the TAG and work
- 24 through that.
- Dealing with the paper -- the revised paper, we
- 26 tried to get it out last night, just some challenges

- 1 with internet and timing of that, but it's a revised
- 2 paper, and we're willing to listen further with any
- 3 additional changes. And also we would advise that
- 4 hopefully the members of the TAG would commit to a
- 5 meeting in the field to review the information that we
- 6 provided to finalize the -- the options and the -- the
- 7 type of construction that could occur in the field. So
- 8 hopefully the members of the TAG could commit to a
- 9 field visit, and then we can finalize things. Thank
- 10 you.
- 11 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Organization
- 12 [sic].
- 13 MR. POOLE: Kim Poole with the Kivalliq
- 14 Inuit Association.
- 15 Yes, we would be pleased to be in the field,
- 16 depending upon timing, to look over how the road can be
- 17 modified to make it more caribou-friendly. I'm sure
- 18 other members of the TAG would be equally appreciative
- 19 of that.
- 20 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 21 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 22 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- Thank you for that, and we'll circulate the
- 24 proposed times, and then we'll take it from there.
- 25 Thank you.
- 26 THE CHAIR: Any more questions from Agnico

- 1 Eagle?
- NIRB staff.
- 3 Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions Kivalliq
- 4 Inuit Association
- 5 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 6 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff. We do have
- 7 just a couple of questions for the Kivalliq Inuit
- 8 Association.
- 9 The first, Kim, the Kivalliq Inuit Association
- 10 describe how they work to address the potential adverse
- 11 socioeconomic impacts of mining on Inuit and maximize
- 12 benefits such as training employment, and specifically
- 13 here we're wondering if you can identify or describe
- 14 any particular successes or significant areas of
- 15 improvement resulting from your experience to date with
- 16 negotiating and administering several Inuit Impact and
- 17 Benefit Agreements with Agnico Eagle.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 19 MS. GILSON: Thank you. Good morning,
- 20 Kimberley Gilson for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 21 As you know, the arrangements with respect to
- 22 impacts and benefits are guided by the Inuit impact
- 23 agreements that are negotiated between the proponent
- 24 and the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Because there are
- 25 several projects in the region, Meadowbank, Meliadine,
- 26 Whale Tail, we have three Inuit Impact Benefit

- 1 Agreements, and over the course of the years, we have
- 2 learned that, of course, impacts and benefits are
- 3 similar from -- for all of the projects.
- 4 So the first thing that we had realized was that
- 5 it would be necessary to have them as aligned as
- 6 possible, so comments with respect to one IIBA are
- 7 generally applicable to all of the IIBAs.
- 8 What we did learn was that we needed better
- 9 monitoring and participation by both Kivalliq Inuit
- 10 Association and Agnico Eagle Mines, and, therefore, we
- 11 set up various committees that I believe Ms. Squires
- 12 referred to yesterday, which are the employment and
- 13 culture committee and the business opportunities
- 14 committee, as well as an implementation committee.
- The first two committees I referred to are more
- 16 on-the-ground working committees that review all
- 17 aspects of the implementation of the impact benefit
- 18 agreement. So we learned that we needed more
- 19 on-the-ground monitoring through these committees.
- 20 As well, we have an on-site working committee in
- 21 each of the -- with respect to each of -- of the
- 22 projects. And, again, the idea there is to have
- 23 on-site representation to ensure that Inuit are able to
- 24 express and convey concerns that they may have and that
- 25 those concerns are addressed, that they have access to
- 26 somebody who is designated on behalf of the Kivalliq

- 1 Inuit Association and that counterpart in Agnico Eagle
- 2 Mines to move the issue forward. So we've learned a
- 3 lot of lessons along the way about how to translate a
- 4 document which is fairly complex into some real
- 5 benefits.
- 6 We continue to push AEM -- Agnico Eagle Mines on
- 7 things like ensuring that the ways in which Inuit are
- 8 trained are effective, are adaptable to ensuring that
- 9 the training is -- is suitable, that people are put
- 10 through a process that allows them to access the jobs.
- 11 The process for having them going through work
- 12 readiness continues to evolve as we learn where
- 13 barriers might be to Inuit employment, either gaining
- 14 employment or retaining employment.
- So it's -- it's a big question that you've asked,
- 16 and I can -- I've just sort of summarized some of the
- 17 big-picture amendments that we've made to the impact
- 18 benefit agreements. Of course, there's a lot of work
- 19 that's done along the way to ensure that we all learn.
- 20 The implementation committee itself is -- I'll
- 21 call it an "overarching committee" that tries to
- 22 identify either issues that don't get resolved because
- 23 there's a difference of view at the business
- 24 opportunities committee or the employment and culture
- 25 committee, as well as tasked with looking at the
- 26 overall picture so that we can see trends and repeated

- 1 concerns and address those concerns.
- 2 And the final comment is that -- that the
- 3 implementation committee along with all of the other
- 4 committees and individuals who are working on
- 5 implementation are currently in a process of -- I'll
- 6 call it "renewing" the ways in which things are done so
- 7 that we can further improve to achieve the benefits
- 8 that we are hoping to get from the impact benefit
- 9 agreement. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 10 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 11 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
- 12 thank you very much for that response. That is what we
- 13 were hoping to get at.
- A follow-up to that -- and this is, I think, what
- 15 I alluded to yesterday in terms of understanding the
- 16 opportunities to learn from mining projects in other
- 17 regions. Can you comment on whether any coordination
- 18 occurs between the Kivallig Inuit Association and the
- 19 other regional Inuit associations regarding the
- 20 negotiation and administration of benefit agreements
- 21 and regulation of mining projects on Inuit-owned lands?
- 22 And here specifically we're wondering if you can
- 23 describe any efforts to ensure that there is
- 24 information exchange and learning which is occurring
- 25 between the regions regarding both successful or
- 26 problematic approaches to mining developments on

- 1 Inuit-owned lands.
- 2 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 3 MS. GILSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 4 Kimberley Gilson, Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 5 There are efforts being made to coordinate
- 6 information between the Inuit associations. Nunavut
- 7 Tunngavik Incorporated has coordinated meetings in the
- 8 past, not very many; I will acknowledge that. That is
- 9 an ongoing process.
- 10 We have differences of view between the Inuit
- 11 associations and the mining companies as to
- 12 confidentiality. And so we have not a full and open
- 13 dialogue. However, having said that, the issues
- 14 pertaining to employment, training, contracting, and
- 15 those kinds of matters are more easily shared.
- 16 For the purposes, I think, of your question, we
- don't necessarily need to share financial information
- in order to achieve some coordination amongst the
- 19 regions. So we are making efforts under the impact
- 20 benefit agreements. The Kivallig Inuit Association has
- 21 posted its Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements online. We
- 22 are hopeful and encouraging other Inuit associations to
- 23 do the same. There is a difference of approach in --
- 24 in the other regions, but a lot of similarities. So
- 25 we're learning. We are working on coordination. The
- 26 Kivalliq Inuit Association sees that as a beneficial

- 1 approach. We would like to see more cooperation and
- 2 coordination, but there are, necessarily, barriers
- 3 simply because the regions do things differently, and
- 4 the proponents do things differently. So impact
- 5 benefit agreements are not, perhaps, as cookie cutter
- 6 as you might want to see them in order to have a more
- 7 coordinated or consistent approach. Thank you.
- 8 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 9 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 10 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 11 Thank you very much for those responses, Kim. We
- 12 have no further questions.
- 13 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Kivalliq Inuit
- 14 Association
- 15 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board.
- 16 Guy.
- 17 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Guy
- 18 Alikut, NIRB Board member.
- 19 Kivallig Inuit Association, I -- I have a question
- 20 to them. The Inuit of Kivalliq region -- you are the
- 21 voice, and you are representing the Inuit. What types
- 22 of -- in what ways are you communicating and informing
- 23 the communities? We do have local radio stations in
- 24 each of the communities. Which form of communication
- 25 tool are you using? And we hear from individuals who
- 26 work at the mine site, and that's the only way we kind

- 1 of hear what's going on at the mine. So what type of
- 2 tool are you using? What type of communication
- 3 equipment are you using to inform the communities about
- 4 the progress of the mine or how you associate with
- 5 the -- the mining company? We'd like to get an answer.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 8 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Luis
- 9 Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 10 We have different ways to notify the communities.
- 11 One of the means is the newsletters of KIA, the
- 12 website. We also use online applications to notify,
- 13 but more importantly, every year in the technical
- 14 component of the aspects of water, fish, terrestrial,
- 15 we come and do a radio show jointly with the federal
- 16 government, Nunavut Water Board, and the secretary of
- 17 our monitoring, NGMP, Nunavut general monitoring
- 18 program secretariat.
- 19 That's been very successful in informing basics or
- 20 the importance of monitoring in -- in -- in fish
- 21 habitat and water quantity and quality of --
- 22 quantity -- quality, quantity, and flow of the year.
- 23 We would take samples -- we take samples twice a year.
- 24 We cover four watersheds, and we've been doing that --
- 25 it -- it started 2004, a formal program, but we really
- 26 started in 2002. So the historical data that we

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1 collect in -- in -- in centre Baker Lake is -- is -- we
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- 2 will be in contact with them. We have a committee --
- 3 traditional knowledge committee that when we have an
- 4 issue we consult them in terms of how we need to
- 5 approach that.
- 6 That same program that we call it -- it's called
- 7 the "Inuu Tuti program" -- has been the tool or the
- 8 venue to inform directly not just the community here in
- 9 open houses, radio shows, but, more importantly, in
- 10 collecting the data that you require to collect your
- 11 baseline for inform our decisions. And that's how
- 12 everything started. And we've been -- we've been doing
- 13 that since 2004.
- I would let the legal counsel talk about the
- 15 communities' meetings that we do in the IIBA component.
- 16 MS. GILSON: Thank you. Kimberley Gilson,
- 17 Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 18 With respect to the Inuit Impact and Benefit
- 19 Agreement, there is a lot of reporting that is required
- 20 by Agnico Eagle, and Kivalliq Inuit Association both
- 21 monitors and participates in the monitoring and the
- 22 reporting. And those reporting requirements include
- 23 reporting to the community and having a relationship
- 24 that ensures that the community is not only able to
- 25 hear what is going on from Agnico Eagle, but to
- 26 participate in the discussions and provide feedback.

1 So we -- we participate with Agnico Eagle Mines in

- 2 those sessions to ensure that there's a two-way
- 3 communication.
- 4 I'll also mention that prior to the negotiation of
- 5 the Whale Tail Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement, we were
- 6 here in the community in an open meeting to gain
- 7 insight and information from community members as to
- 8 what issues they saw of concern, and we worked with the
- 9 community to reflect those concerns in the updated
- 10 Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement that we negotiated.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 THE CHAIR: Seeing that there are no more
- 13 questions from the Board, let's take a 15-minute break,
- 14 and then we'll move on to the Baker Lake Hunters and
- 15 Trappers Organization.
- 16 (ADJOURNMENT)
- 17 THE CHAIR: We shall reconvene.
- 18 Legal counsel.
- 19 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 20 Teresa Meadows, Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- 21 If I can have the witnesses state and spell their
- 22 name for the record, please.
- 23 MR. AKSAWNEE: Richard Aksawnee,
- 24 R-I-C-H-A-R-D A-K-S-A-W-N-E-E.
- 25 MR. BERNAUER: Warren Bernauer. W-A-R-E-N
- B-E-R-N-A-U-E-R.

1	MS.	MEADOWS:	Thank	you,	Madam	Chair.
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- 2 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 3 Review Board.
- 4 Did the witnesses wish to be sworn or affirmed?
- 5 MR. AKSAWNEE: Affirmed.
- 6 MR. BERNAUER: Warren Bernauer.
- 7 Affirmed.
- 8 RICHARD AKSAWNEE, WARREN BERNAUER, Affirmed
- 9 MS. MEADOWS: Teresa Meadows, legal counsel
- 10 for the Nunavut Impact Review Bird. Madam Chair, I have
- 11 two exhibits to file in association with this
- 12 presentation, being the presentation materials in
- 13 English and Inuktitut, and I propose to file those as
- 14 the two next exhibits in this public hearing, and those
- 15 are my procedural matters.
- 16 EXHIBIT 35 Hard Copy PowerPoint
- 17 presentation by the Baker Lake Hunters and
- 18 Trappers Organization (English)
- 19 EXHIBIT 36 Hard Copy PowerPoint
- 20 presentation by the Baker Lake Hunters and
- 21 Trappers Organization (Inuktitut)
- 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you. You can begin your
- 23 presentation.
- 24 Presentation by the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 25 Organization
- 26 MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

- 1 Richard Aksawnee, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 2 Organization.
- Good morning. The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 4 Organization is an organization created by the Nunavut
- 5 Agreement. Under our land claim, the Hunters and
- 6 Trappers Organization is given the responsibility to
- 7 manage hunting and represent hunters' rights in our
- 8 community. We have participated in several Nunavut
- 9 Impact Review Board reviews and appreciate the
- 10 opportunity to present to you today.
- 11 Participation in Whale Tail project or Amaruq
- 12 project. The Hunters and Trappers Organization has
- 13 participated in the Amaruq project in several ways. We
- 14 were an intervener in the original review of the Whale
- 15 Tail Amaruq project. We are a member of Agnico Eagle's
- 16 terrestrial advisory group. The Hunters and Trappers
- 17 Organization employs a wildlife monitor funded by
- 18 Agnico Eagle to monitor wildlife on the haul road
- 19 between the Amarug project and Meadowbank site.
- 20 We also meet regularly with Agnico Eagle staff to
- 21 discuss their operations. The Hunters and Trappers
- 22 Organization has participated in this review of the
- 23 proposed Whale Tail expansion in several ways.
- In April, we held a workshop with hunters and
- 25 Elders who have expertise with that project area.
- 26 Based on this workshop and other information the board

- 1 received, the Hunters and Trappers Organization
- 2 submitted technical comments in May, attended technical
- 3 meetings in June, and submitted final written comments
- 4 in July.
- 5 The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
- 6 supports Agnico Eagle's plans to extend the life of the
- 7 Whale Tail mine. Most of the people we spoke to,
- 8 including our hunters and Elders, supported the mine
- 9 because of employment opportunities. The relationship
- 10 between Agnico Eagle and the hunters and trappers has
- 11 also improved significantly over the past few years.
- 12 Communication between our office is very good, and we
- 13 appreciate all of the hard work that went into making
- 14 this happen.
- That said, we still have several outstanding
- 16 concerns with the Whale Tail project's impact on
- 17 caribou. At this point, there are still a lot of
- 18 unknowns. We cannot say for sure that this project
- 19 won't have a significant impact on caribou. Right now,
- 20 there is simply too much uncertainty. Our consultant,
- 21 Warren Bernauer, is going to discuss some of our
- 22 outstanding concerns.
- 23 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you. Warn Bernauer for
- 24 the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization.
- The first outstanding concern is the ongoing
- 26 effects of the Meadowbank project on caribou. Baker

- 1 Lake hunters have repeatedly told the Hunters and
- 2 Trappers Organization that caribou migrations are
- 3 delayed and diverted because of the mine, access road,
- 4 and haul road.
- 5 The Government of Nunavut has also shared a
- 6 technical report and animations with the terrestrial
- 7 advisory group that shows that the road is causing
- 8 migrations to be delayed and diverted. It is our
- 9 understanding that the Government of Nunavut will be
- 10 presenting this material later today.
- In its final written submission, the Hunters and
- 12 Trappers Organization argue that these documented
- 13 impacts on caribou mean that we should be implementing
- 14 stricter caribou protection measures. In Agnico's
- 15 response, they argued that these changes to caribou
- 16 migration would not have a significant effect on the
- 17 caribou population, so further mitigation is
- 18 unnecessary.
- 19 I think the response gets to the heart of a major
- 20 conflict in a lot of these impact assessments. There's
- 21 a tendency for biologists to focus entirely on
- 22 population-level dynamics and changes at the population
- 23 level. However, local hunters are obviously concerned
- 24 with smaller changes to caribou migrations and
- 25 distribution because these can affect hunter access to
- 26 caribou and affect just hunting productivity. As a

- 1 result, the Hunters and Trappers Organization continues
- 2 to recommend stricter caribou mitigation measures for
- 3 the Whale Tail project.
- 4 The second outstanding concern deals with
- 5 construction during migratory seasons. Please note
- 6 there's a typo on our PowerPoint presentation. It
- 7 should read "fall and spring migrations", not just
- 8 "fall migrations".
- 9 So the Hunters and Trappers Organization is
- 10 concerned that Agnico has not clearly committed to
- 11 schedule road widening and construction outside of the
- 12 sensitive migratory seasons. This concern was
- 13 originally raised by the Kivalliq Inuit Association in
- 14 its technical comments. In response, Agnico Eagle said
- 15 it would consider scheduling construction outside of
- 16 the sensitive migratory seasons and that it would
- 17 provide more information to us on this matter sometime
- 18 next year.
- 19 Now, while it's encouraging that Agnico Eagle is
- 20 committed into looking into this and doing further
- 21 studies, the lack of a clear commitment and clear
- 22 information on this issue is a source of concern
- 23 because it does continue to create uncertainty.
- 24 Without clear information about construction timelines,
- 25 it -- it makes the impacts on caribou more uncertain
- 26 than they otherwise would be.

- 1 The third concern is increased traffic during road
- 2 closures. In a technical brief sent to members of the
- 3 terrestrial advisory group, Agnico Eagle outlined plans
- 4 to stockpile or -- and use convoys to ensure that
- 5 caribou migrations do not interrupt mine operations.
- 6 The Hunters and Trappers Organization is concerned that
- 7 some aspects of these plans would substantially weaken
- 8 the caribou protection measures contained in the
- 9 terrestrial ecosystem management plan.
- 10 The biggest source of concern is Agnico's proposed
- 11 pilot project to haul or end convoys during road
- 12 closures. Under the current terrestrial ecosystemic
- 13 management plan, a road closure means only essential
- 14 vehicles, which it very clearly states means no
- 15 vehicles related to mining or hauling of ore. So
- 16 there's some concern that this is opening the door to
- 17 really weaken the caribou protection measures around
- 18 this project.
- 19 So the Hunters and Trappers Organization raised
- 20 this concern in our written comments. In response,
- 21 Agnico Eagle suggested that this issue should be
- 22 discussed during terrestrial advisory group meetings
- 23 rather than these proceedings here. Ultimately, the
- 24 fact that Agnico Eagle is proposing to alter these
- 25 caribou protections adds further uncertainty to the
- 26 project's impact on caribou, if there's plans to start

- 1 hauling ore when the road should technically be closed.
- 2 Our next outstanding concern has to do with
- 3 wildlife harvesting on the Meadowbank access road. In
- 4 April, the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
- 5 held a workshop with hunters and Elders that have
- 6 expertise with the project area. Many of the Elders
- 7 who attended were concerned that some younger hunters
- 8 are not following traditional Inuit hunting rules and
- 9 values. For example, there's a traditional rule that
- 10 Inuit do not hunt the first group of caribou that
- 11 migrate through the area. They let the leaders pass to
- 12 ensure that the migration routes will not be altered.
- But today, some hunters are ignoring rules like
- 14 this. The Elders were concerned that this was playing
- 15 a major role in changing caribou migrations near Baker
- 16 Lake. Managing hunting is the Hunters and Trappers
- 17 Organization's responsibility under the Nunavut
- 18 Agreement. However, we believe that Agnico Eagle bears
- 19 some responsibility on this matter. If Agnico Eagle
- 20 had not built a long road, we wouldn't be faced with
- 21 this problem today. The increased harvester access as
- 22 a result of this road is ultimately what's creating
- 23 this problem. At present, the Hunters and Trappers
- 24 Organization does not have the capacity to manage
- 25 hunting on the Meadowbank access road.
- In our written submission, the hunters and

- 1 trappers indicated that it would like to do more to
- 2 promote responsible hunting on the Meadowbank access
- 3 road. The HTO would like to ensure that the lead group
- 4 of caribou is allowed to pass and that other
- 5 traditional rules are upheld. However, it would
- 6 require significant resources to do so, including
- 7 funding for additional staff, Elders' workshops, and
- 8 research to make a program like this a success.
- 9 In response to our comments, Agnico Eagle
- 10 suggested that this issue should be discussed further
- in the terrestrial advisory group. While this is
- 12 helpful and promising, the fact that we have no
- 13 committed resources to manage harvesting moving forward
- 14 adds another layer of uncertainty to the impacts that
- 15 this project might have on caribou.
- 16 Our next outstanding concern is the Hunters and
- 17 Trappers Organization's participation in project
- 18 monitoring. The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 19 Organization currently employs a wildlife monitor
- 20 funded by Agnico Eagle. This monitor monitors the haul
- 21 road between the Whale Tail, Amaruq, and Meadowbank
- 22 projects. The Hunters and Trappers Organization would
- 23 like a second monitor to work on the access road
- 24 between Meadowbank and Baker Lake. This could allow
- 25 the hunters and trappers to play a more meaningful role
- 26 in adaptive management. It would also provide the

- 1 additional staff needed to manage hunting on the
- 2 Meadowbank road.
- 3 Agnico Eagle has indicated that it is willing to
- 4 discuss the role of the hunters and trappers and
- 5 project monitoring and that there may be opportunities
- 6 for further funding. However, no clear commitments for
- 7 funding have been discussed as of yet. And, again, the
- 8 fact that the Hunters and Trappers Organization
- 9 continues to lack the resources to fully participate in
- 10 monitoring adds another layer of uncertainty for us.
- Our next issue is the way in which Agnico has
- 12 deferred so many caribou-related issues to the
- 13 terrestrial advisory group. Most of the concerns the
- 14 Hunters and Trappers Organization has raised through
- 15 this process have been kind of diverted towards the
- 16 terrestrial advisory group, which is a small advisory
- 17 group kind of managed and -- by the industry. This is
- 18 a cause of concern for the hunters and trappers. While
- 19 we are a member of the terrestrial advisory group, the
- 20 Hunters and Trappers Organization's ongoing capacity
- 21 issues make it difficult to participate meaningfully.
- Now, this problem of capacity is not limited to
- 23 Baker Lake. This is a Nunavut-wide problem. For
- 24 example, I was reading the transcripts from the Nunavut
- 25 Impact Review Board's strategic environmental
- 26 assessment in the Qikiqtani region. At that meeting,

- 1 representatives from most of the Hunters and Trappers
- 2 Organizations identified huge barriers to participating
- 3 in all technical processes due to a lack of technical
- 4 staff.
- 5 In any case, deferring so many issues of
- 6 mitigation to outside of the NIRB process to the
- 7 terrestrial advisory group does add further uncertainty
- 8 to the impact this project will have on caribou. It
- 9 limits our ability to say with any certainty that the
- 10 mitigation measures are enough because we can't discuss
- 11 them all here.
- 12 Finally, mining in caribou calving grounds is one
- of the biggest concerns the Baker Lake Hunters and
- 14 Trappers Organization has had with the mining industry
- 15 to date. For decades, this organization has been
- 16 pushing to have calving grounds protected along with
- 17 several other hunters and trappers organizations, as
- 18 well as several Dene, Cree, and Metis communities who
- 19 hunt from a Qamanirjuag and Beverly caribou herds. The
- 20 fact that these sensitive areas remain open to mining
- 21 exploration is a source of concern. And if a mine were
- 22 to open in the calving grounds, it could create
- 23 cumulative effects and interact with this project in
- 24 that way.
- 25 So if Agnico Eagle publicly committed to staying
- 26 out of the caribou calving grounds, it could help

- 1 reduce the uncertainty with regards to the cumulative
- 2 effects this project could have on caribou.
- 3 MR. AKSAWNEE: So in conclusion, to be clear,
- 4 this is not a list of demands. We don't need every
- 5 last one of these issues checked off right now, but
- 6 until we see clear commitments on a few of these
- 7 issues, we can't say with certainty that this project
- 8 will have no significant impacts on caribou.
- 9 When the Whale Tail project was first reviewed
- 10 back in 2017, I told the Nunavut Impact Review Board
- 11 that the Whale Tail project is a major development with
- 12 the potential for serious harm to caribou and caribou
- 13 hunting. The long haul road with heavy traffic could
- 14 seriously disturb caribou migrations. That doesn't
- 15 mean we oppose the project. It means we need to get
- 16 the mitigation measures right.
- 17 Right now, we still don't know enough to say
- 18 whether or not Agnico's mitigation measures will be
- 19 enough to protect our tuktu.
- 20 Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Moving on to
- 22 questions from (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN).
- 23 Kivalliq Inuit Association Questions the Baker Lake
- 24 Hunters and Trappers Organization
- 25 MR. POOLE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Kim
- 26 Poole for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

- 1 Thank you for that presentation. That was -- that
- 2 was good. One question: There is fairly substantial
- 3 evidence that suggests that the potential impacts of a
- 4 road to delay or deflect caribou varies quite
- 5 significantly whether that road is hunted or not
- 6 hunted. Hunted roads seems to have a larger deflection
- 7 zone, zone of influence, than non-hunted roads.
- 8 There has been some work done along the Dempster
- 9 Highway in the Yukon where local hunters are being
- 10 encouraged to only hunt caribou after they have crossed
- 11 the road on their direction of travel, and I'm
- 12 wondering if the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 13 Organization would support or would be able to
- 14 encourage their members to -- to do that kind of
- 15 hunting so that depending whether we're talking about a
- 16 spring or a fall migration, that the hunting would only
- 17 occur on the downstream side of the road after the --
- 18 after the majority of the caribou have crossed it so
- 19 that the caribou may not associate the road itself as
- 20 a -- as a threat and cause greater delay or deflection
- 21 of caribou. So I just put that out there as something
- 22 to consider, if -- if that could occur. Thank you.
- 23 THE CHAIR: (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN)
- 24 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 25 Warren Bernauer for the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 26 Organization.

- 1 Thank you very much for that suggestion, Kim.
- 2 That's exactly the type of thing that the HTO wants to
- 3 look into doing. We just currently lack the capacity
- 4 to really meaningfully encourage the people to do that.
- 5 And I would add that the mitigation measure that you
- 6 just suggested is actually -- it sounds very consistent
- 7 with traditional Inuit methods of managing water
- 8 crossings. We have held several workshops with Elders
- 9 here, and the Harvaqtormiut Elders have told us that
- 10 when they would hunt at water crossings, they wouldn't
- 11 hunt them before they crossed the water. You'd hunted
- 12 them afterwards. If you hunt them before they cross,
- 13 it diverts the migration route. So that could
- 14 potentially be an interesting way to start to seriously
- implement some of these IQ principals in the modern
- 16 day, but we would obviously have to discuss that
- 17 further with Elders to see if that makes sense to them.
- 18 THE CHAIR: (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN)
- 19 MR. POOLE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Kim
- 20 Poole for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 21 No further questions.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Nunavut government.
- 23 MR. PINKSEN: Madam Chair, Steve Pinksen for
- 24 the Government of Nunavut.
- We have no questions for the Hunters and Trappers
- 26 Organization. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.

- 2 MR. DEWAR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 3 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 4 Affairs Canada.
- 5 No comments.
- 6 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 7 MS. PINTO: Thank you, Madam Chair,
- 8 Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 9 We have no questions.
- 10 THE CHAIR: DFO Canada.
- 11 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
- 12 you for the presentation. We have no questions.
- 13 Mark D'Aquiar with Fisheries and Oceans.
- 14 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 15 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Paul
- 16 Partridge with Health Canada.
- We have no questions at this time. Thanks.
- 18 THE CHAIR: NRCan.
- 19 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, National
- 20 Resources Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- We have no questions.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 23 Comments by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
- 24 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 25 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 26 I'm just going to add a little bit of -- make a

- 1 few comments and add some clarification on the comments
- 2 we just received from -- heard from the Baker Lake
- 3 Hunter and Trapper Organization, but, also, we will
- 4 talk with Warren and Richard about a few of the items
- 5 that were mentioned.
- Just with the -- with the road with the hunting,
- 7 as probably some of us can recall, the original
- 8 all-weather access road in the original application was
- 9 a private road. However, based on input from the
- 10 community and others, we had a reconsideration hearing
- 11 with the Nunavut Impact Review Board to open up the
- 12 road for Inuit traditional activities up to -- from
- 13 Baker Lake up to Kilometre 86. So I just wanted to
- 14 provide a little bit more colour and some clarity
- 15 regarding the process of the road to allow Inuit
- 16 traditional activities to occur on the all-weather
- 17 access road from Baker Lake up to Kilometre 86.
- 18 Also, just dealing with the -- some of the
- 19 comments regarding the terrestrial advisory group, it's
- 20 been a process that we have been working on with
- 21 multiple stakeholders, including the Hunters and
- 22 Trappers Organization. We do have a terms of reference
- 23 that was circulated to all the members and -- and
- 24 signed by the Baker Lake Hunter and Trapper
- 25 Organization on the process, what information should be
- 26 discussed within that advisory group.

- 1 It is not an advisory group that is controlled by
- 2 Agnico Eagle. You referred to "industry", but I think
- 3 you were just mentioning focusing on Agnico Eagle. So
- 4 it's not controlled by us. It's based on the -- the
- 5 agreed to terms of reference.
- 6 So we do have a process we all agreed to to share
- 7 information, to look at improvements related to our --
- 8 our management plans as associated with terrestrial
- 9 activities but, primarily, caribou. And there's been
- 10 many examples where this plan, since the terrestrial
- 11 advisory group has been established with input by many
- 12 parties -- approximately eight times. So different
- 13 monitoring programs, looking at the group size
- 14 threshold, things like that.
- And it's not just western science and biologists
- 16 in general. The Hunters and Trappers Organization has
- 17 a major role to provide the traditional knowledge and
- 18 IQ and understand -- so we understand the hunting
- 19 practices better. We can incorporate how they manage
- 20 caribou, the concerns about caribou, and how we
- 21 incorporate that into our plans. So I just wanted
- 22 to -- to mention that.
- 23 Dealing with the -- with the increased traffic and
- 24 the pilot project, it is a -- we've been proposed --
- 25 just proposed a pilot project related to the activity
- 26 during the migration when the road -- road is closed.

- 1 It -- we still want to discuss that. We understand the
- 2 concerns, but it's a process of communication and
- 3 discussion to have this balanced approached that we're
- 4 trying to achieve with all parties.
- 5 And, also, just dealing with general comments
- 6 regarding calving grounds, our operations are now
- 7 located in calving grounds. We are providing input and
- 8 comments to the draft land use plan that's in
- 9 circulation, so it's a process that we're going
- 10 through. So we're providing comments with other
- 11 industry members and also with -- a lot of people in
- 12 this room are providing comments, so we're working
- 13 through that process and continue to be a willing
- 14 participant in providing comments.
- But, again, we'd like to discuss this further with
- 16 the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization on
- 17 some of the comments about funding, but we feel
- 18 that's -- that's just not an obligation to Agnico
- 19 Eagle. The participation funding is very important to
- 20 ensure we hear from all parties. So I think others
- 21 might be able to support the Baker Lake hunters and
- 22 trappers organizations so they can fulfill their
- 23 obligation, and so we have a better project with their
- 24 input. Thank you.
- 25 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 26 Trappers Organization.

- 1 Comments by the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 2 Organization
- 3 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 4 Warren Bernauer for the Baker Lake Hunters and
- 5 Trappers.
- 6 Thank you for your comments, Jamie, and your
- 7 clarifications. Maybe I'll just clarify some -- a
- 8 couple of your clarifications, and I think the TAG
- 9 terms of reference is a really great example. When
- 10 those were developed, I presume you had your legal
- 11 counsel look over them, probably several lawyers on
- 12 your team had a glance at them before you signed.
- I presume the Government of Nunavut had a lawyer
- 14 look at them before you signed that document as well.
- And probably the Kivalliq Inuit Association's
- 16 lawyer looked at it too.
- 17 The HTO doesn't have a lawyer. It really --
- 18 they're at a disadvantage when it comes to
- 19 participating in these maters. And this isn't about
- 20 finger pointing at Agnico Eagle. It's just about being
- 21 realistic about how much say the HTO really has in
- 22 these committees that they sit on. Thank you.
- 23 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 24 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 25 Quesnel. Agnico Eagle.
- Thank you for your comment.

- 1 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 2 Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions the Baker
- 3 Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
- 4 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 5 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 6 And I'm still chuckling at the thought of having
- 7 the advantage of all these lawyers, if it's an
- 8 advantage at all sometimes. Sorry. I'm still getting
- 9 it in here.
- 10 But, first, I would like to recognize the --
- 11 Agnico Eagle raised this, but the funding support made
- 12 available by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 13 Affairs Canada through their new participant funding
- 14 program, and I recognize that that helped support the
- 15 hunters and trappers intervention in this process.
- 16 Our board, I know, really appreciates having the
- 17 opportunity to hear the perspectives of hunters and
- 18 trappers organizations directly in our assessments as
- 19 it -- as it lends a lot of information about the local
- 20 knowledge and experience working with these
- 21 developments.
- 22 So my first question is: Following approval of
- 23 the Meadowbank gold mine and the Whale Tail Pit gold
- 24 mine, was any additional funding support provided to
- 25 the Hunters and Trappers Organization by government in
- 26 acknowledgement of your organization's role in

- 1 monitoring and management of these approved projects?
- 2 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you. Oh, sorry.
- 3 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 4 Trappers Organization.
- 5 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you. Warren Bernauer
- 6 for the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization.
- 7 As far as we know, no.
- 8 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 9 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 10 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 11 Thank you for that response. So my next question,
- 12 my final question: Can you be more specific? What
- 13 specifically do you feel is required to ensure that the
- 14 Hunters and Trappers Organization has sufficient
- 15 capacity to fulfill all that's being asked of it,
- 16 specifically, the coordination and management functions
- 17 that are being requested of it for the approved Whale
- 18 Tail Pit and Meadowbank projects as well as for this
- 19 proposed amendment, if you have any thoughts of that
- 20 that you can share?
- 21 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 22 Trappers.
- 23 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 24 Warren Bernauer for the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 25 Organization.
- I think at minimum to really meaningfully do

- 1 what's being expected of it, the Hunters and Trappers
- 2 Organization would need two additional employees. They
- 3 would need technical staff to facilitate participation
- 4 in the terrestrial advisory groups, monitoring, the
- 5 very likelihood that this will be re-assessed, and
- 6 we'll be sitting around this table again in four years.
- 7 Hopefully, the life of the mine will increase.
- 8 And, also, staff to have a presence on the
- 9 Meadowbank road and to encourage responsible hunting in
- 10 accordance with Inuit traditional values and rules, at
- 11 minimum.
- 12 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board.
- 13 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions the Baker Lake
- 14 Hunters and Trappers Organization
- 15 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Guy
- 16 Alikut, NIRB Board member.
- 17 My question is with regards to the word "convoy".
- 18 Half -- when half the herd is -- is -- is off the road,
- 19 now, will the convoy begin to move towards or away
- 20 from -- from the mine site? That's my first question.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 22 Trappers Organization.
- 23 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you very much. Warren
- 24 Bernauer from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 25 Organization.
- 26 I think Agnico Eagle would probably be in a better

- 1 position to answer those specifics about how their
- 2 convoys are operating, if I understood your question
- 3 correctly. I apologize if I didn't.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Guy.
- 5 MR. ALIKUT: Yes. Thank you.
- 6 After the caribou -- that caribous are passing
- 7 through, and they're -- what does that mean? Half of
- 8 the caribou herd has not passed through that trail. Is
- 9 that what you mean? What's "convoy" mean?
- 10 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 11 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 12 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- When we use the term "convoy", we have our lead
- 14 vehicle to advance the other vehicles within the convoy
- 15 at a reduced speed along the haul road, and the lead
- 16 vehicle would be observing for caribou, and if caribou
- 17 are close to the road, on the road, they would stop the
- 18 convoy and allow the caribou to cross, and then the
- 19 convoy would continue.
- This is based on information from collar
- 21 information but, also, from the monitoring that's
- 22 happening along the road related to height-to-land
- 23 surveys and monitoring from -- from certain areas along
- 24 the road.
- 25 But the convoy will be made up of -- of some
- 26 vehicles related to -- as per our -- Manon provided

- 1 some additional information this morning on the type of
- 2 vehicles that would be related to some employees in a
- 3 bus, some food, some essential parts, emulsion, and
- 4 other items like that.
- 5 So maybe three or four vehicles; maybe nine
- 6 vehicles within a convoy. It would be basically bumper
- 7 to bumper, minimal space between the vehicles. They
- 8 would have communication within all the vehicles, and
- 9 the vehicles will slowly travel along the haul road
- 10 with the lead vehicle monitoring the situation related
- 11 to caribou and other activities during that time.
- 12 Hopefully, that provides additional context for -- for
- 13 a convoy.
- 14 THE CHAIR: Guy.
- 15 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. The HTO, would HTO
- 16 be over there? If you had more funding, would they --
- 17 are you saying that -- would HTO be over there?
- 18 Because you have no such resources and funding that you
- 19 don't have anyone staying over there; right? Is that
- 20 what I understood? Thank you.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake HTO.
- 22 MR. BERNAUER: Warren Bernauer for the Baker
- 23 Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization.
- 24 At this time, the Hunters and Trappers
- 25 Organization does have a monitor between the Meadowbank
- 26 and Whale Tail sites. So we do have somebody there to

- 1 monitor their convoys. Our major concern is that we
- 2 don't have anybody between Baker Lake and Meadowbank,
- 3 the older road, and that's the road where Inuit hunt,
- 4 where that needs to be managed.
- 5 And it remains a regularly used road that produces
- 6 noise and dust, and according to information that's
- 7 been shared to the terrestrial advisory group, it
- 8 appears that that road is still deflecting and delaying
- 9 caribou migrations. So our big concern is getting
- 10 somebody on that Meadowbank to Baker Lake road.
- 11 THE CHAIR: Phillip.
- 12 MR. KADLUN: Good morning, Madam Chair.
- 13 Phillip Kadlun.
- 14 A couple of areas of clarification. Firstly,
- 15 yesterday, we heard Agnico Eagle failed to -- ceased
- 16 operation on the road, and my question to the HTO is
- 17 whether there are ongoing dialogue to address those
- 18 kinds of issues in terms of how you might better --
- 19 better monitor the caribou movement on the road on
- 20 their migration routes.
- 21 And, secondly, I'm wondering if whether Baker Lake
- 22 hunters and trappers are -- have worked together with
- 23 the local wildlife office because they do have
- 24 responsibility about hunting on the road themselves.
- 25 I'm wondering whether they can work together, address
- 26 what the hunters might not know regarding hunting on

- 1 the roads.
- 2 (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN), Madam Chair.
- 3 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake HTO.
- 4 MR. BERNAUER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Warren Bernauer for the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
- 6 Organization.
- 7 The Hunters and Trappers Organization certainly
- 8 hopes that our ongoing dialogue with Agnico Eagle can
- 9 help address issues with road closures and ensuring
- 10 that the road is closed in a timely manner so the lead
- 11 group of caribou doesn't get disturbed.
- 12 As to your second question -- yeah. Like, the
- 13 wildlife officers are involved during road closures,
- 14 and they do help with monitoring, and they maintain a
- 15 presence there, and they do encourage responsible
- 16 hunting.
- 17 That said, I think we need to do more research to
- 18 look into ways to do this more effectively, and that's
- 19 one of the things that we just don't have the funding
- 20 and capacity to do right now. Given the concerns that
- 21 we've been hearing from Elders at our workshops, more
- 22 needs to be done to encourage hunters to follow
- 23 traditional rules and values. Thank you.
- 24 MR. KADLUN: Madam Chair, Phillip Kadlun,
- 25 Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- That's all I have.

- 1 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your
- 2 presentation.
- 3 Moving on to the next presenter on the agenda.
- 4 We're going to move the Government of Nunavut down, and
- 5 we'll start with (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN).
- 6 Legal counsel.
- 7 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 8 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 9 Review Board.
- 10 If I can have the witnesses state and spell their
- 11 names for the record, please.
- 12 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Madam Chair. Spencer
- 13 Dewar, S-P-E-N-C-E-R D-E-W-A-R.
- 14 MR. NGWA: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 15 Felexce Ngwa, F-E-L-E-X-C-E N-G-W-A.
- 16 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you.
- 17 Do the witnesses wish to be sworn or affirmed?
- 18 MR. NGWA: Sworn.
- 19 MR. DEWAR: Sworn.
- 20 SPENCER DEWAR, FELEXCE NGWA, Sworn
- 21 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you.
- 22 Mr. Dewar, it's my understanding that -- that
- 23 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 24 has updated their presentation materials to reflect the
- 25 most current discussions at this public hearing, and so
- 26 the presentation materials that were available and were

- 1 filed with the board previously have been updated.
- 2 There are some hard copies of the updated presentations
- 3 at the back. I will be distributing them here, and we
- 4 will be filing that as an exhibit in the public
- 5 hearing, but we also do not yet have the updated
- 6 interpretation or translations for this. And so the
- 7 translations will be provided to the board as soon as
- 8 they're available, perhaps during the public hearing,
- 9 if not, shortly thereafter. Is that correct?
- 10 MR. DEWAR: Spencer Dewar,
- 11 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- 12 That's correct. The board does have a copy of
- 13 the -- the presentation that we are going to deliver.
- 14 Do you have a hard copy for you to see, though? That's
- 15 correct?
- 16 MS. MEADOWS: Yes, Mr. Dewar. They will.
- 17 As soon as I've marked it as an exhibit, I will be
- 18 providing it to them. In addition, I also have the
- 19 previously filed presentation materials that I will be
- 20 marking as the exhibits, as well as the executive
- 21 summaries provided with respect to your technical
- 22 review comments, and I will be marking those as the
- 23 next exhibits in the public hearing.
- Thank you, Madam Chair. Those are all my
- 25 procedural matters.
- 26 EXHIBIT 37 Hard Copy PowerPoint

1	presentation of Crown-Indigenous Relations
2	and Northern Affairs Canada's on Agnico Eagle
3	Mine Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion
4	Project (English)
5	EXHIBIT 38 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
6	presentation of Crown-Indigenous Relations
7	and Northern Affairs Canada's on Agnico Eagle
8	Mine Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion
9	Project (Inuktitut)
10	EXHIBIT 39 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
11	presentation of Crown-Indigenous Relations
12	and Northern Affairs Canada's on Agnico Eagle
13	Mine Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion
14	Project (French)
15	EXHIBIT 40 - Hard Copy of Executive Summary
16	of Final Written Submission on Agnico Eagle
17	Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion
18	Project (English)
19	EXHIBIT 41 - Hard Copy of Executive Summary
20	of Final Written Submission on Agnico Eagle
21	Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion
22	Project (Inuktitut)
23	EXHIBIT 42 - Hard Copy of Executive Summary
24	of Final Written Submission on Agnico Eagle
25	Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit Expansion
26	Project (French)

- 1 THE CHAIR: Thank you. You may proceed
- 2 with your presentation.
- 3 Presentation by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 4 Affairs Canada
- 5 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Madam Chair.
- 6 Good morning. My name is Spencer Dewar. I'm the
- 7 director of resource management with the Nunavut
- 8 regional office of Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 9 Northern Affairs Canada.
- 10 It's my pleasure to be with here -- with you here
- 11 today and present on the behalf of our department.
- 12 (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN) Chair and all the board
- 13 members, along with your staff, for giving us this
- 14 opportunity to present here today. I would also like
- 15 to thank the fellow interveners, Agnico Eagle, the
- 16 community of Baker Lake for welcoming us, and our
- 17 fellow interveners for participating in this review.
- 18 I'll reintroduce those that are with me today from
- 19 the Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs staff. Sworn
- 20 in Felexce Ngwa, the manager of impact assessment; in
- 21 the audience, we have David Abernethy, regional
- 22 socioeconomic analyst; Saba Qazi, senior environmental
- 23 assessment specialist; Robert Tookoome, social policy
- 24 officer; Tony Brown, senior technical advisor with
- 25 Arcadis; Jennifer Walsh, senior environmental policy
- 26 analyst; and Simon Gruda-Dolbec, legal counsel with the

- 1 department of justice.
- 2 I would like to take a moment to touch on
- 3 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 4 Canada's role in the board's review of the proposed
- 5 Whale Tail expansion project. The minister of
- 6 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 7 is a responsible minister in the review of the project,
- 8 and she, along with other responsible ministers, will
- 9 be making a decision on the proposed Whale Tail
- 10 expansion based on a recommendation from the board.
- 11 As an intervener during the environmental
- 12 assessment process, Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 13 Northern Affairs Canada provides expert advice to the
- 14 board on environmental and socioeconomic topics that
- 15 fall within our mandate. If the proposed expansion is
- 16 authorized to proceed, Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 17 Northern Affairs Canada will have to have a regulatory
- 18 role. We will also monitor the NIRB project
- 19 certificate and participate in the inspection and
- 20 enforcement of the water licence.
- Today, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 22 Affairs Canada has participated in every stage of the
- 23 review of the proposed Whale Tail expansion, including
- 24 attendance at the board-led scoping meetings and
- 25 community information sessions that were held in all
- 26 seven Kivalliq communities.

- 1 Today, we will be presenting our final comments
- 2 and recommendations submitted to the board in July
- 3 2019. There are a total of 11 concerns of which 6 are
- 4 completely resolved and require no follow-up. Two are
- 5 resolved with recommendations for the board's
- 6 consideration, and three are resolved for the purposes
- 7 of environmental assessment but will be reviewed in
- 8 more detail during the regulatory water licencing
- 9 phase.
- 10 The first resolved concern relates to the water
- 11 quality modeling. Specifically, Agnico Eagle did not
- 12 provide a comparative analysis of the potential water
- 13 quality impacts of the approved project compared to the
- 14 proposed expansion. This made it difficult to assess
- 15 the potential water quality impacts of the proposed
- 16 expansion. Upon request, Agnico Eagle provided the
- 17 information. The analysis supports Agnico Eagle's
- 18 conclusions that the proposed Whale Tail expansion is
- 19 not expected to result in significant environmental
- 20 impacts. CIRNAC is satisfied with the response and
- 21 considers this issue resolved.
- 22 Our next resolved concern relates to the effluent
- 23 mixing zone in the receiving water bodies, in
- 24 particular, Mammoth and Whale Tail Lake. Agnico Eagle
- 25 concluded the water quality impacts associated with the
- 26 proposed Whale Tail expansion would be similar to the

- 1 approved project. However, they did not specify the
- 2 size of the effluent mixing zone in the receiving water
- 3 bodies or the severity of the impacts within those
- 4 areas.
- 5 Without this information, Crown-Indigenous
- 6 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada was unable to
- 7 validate Agnico Eagle's conclusions. To address this
- 8 concern, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 9 Affairs Canada asked Agnico Eagle to characterize the
- 10 size of the effluent mixing zone for all receiving
- 11 water bodies where contamination could exceed water
- 12 quality objectives as a result of both controlled and
- 13 uncontrolled discharges.
- 14 Agnico Eagle was also asked to identify potential
- 15 environmental impacts. Agnico Eagle has provided the
- 16 requested modelling revisions which support their
- 17 conclusions that the proposed expansion will not result
- in significant and adverse impacts to the receiving
- 19 water bodies. CIRNAC is satisfied with the response
- 20 provided by Agnico Eagle and has no further comment.
- The next resolved concern relates to the human
- 22 health and ecological risk assessment. The original
- 23 summary of the assessment indicated that chemical
- 24 exposures due to the proposed Whale Tail expansion
- 25 could result in elevated risks to humans and wildlife.
- 26 Given the incremental risks described in the summary,

- 1 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 2 requested and received a full copy of the report from
- 3 Agnico Eagle.
- We have reviewed the full report and agree with
- 5 Agnico Eagle's conclusions that the proposed Whale Tail
- 6 expansion poses little risk of adverse effects on
- 7 people and wildlife in the area. Crown-Indigenous
- 8 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is satisfied with
- 9 the responses and considers this issue resolved.
- 10 The next resolved concern relates to the impacts
- 11 of new water discharge and intake points. The proposed
- 12 Whale Tail expansion includes a number of substantive
- 13 changes to the water management strategy. Although
- 14 Agnico Eagle provided a general overview of these
- 15 changes, CIRNAC, Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 16 Northern Affairs Canada, requested additional details.
- 17 In particular, Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 18 Northern Affairs Canada asked Agnico Eagle to justify
- 19 all proposed changes to water intake and discharge
- 20 locations, including why the requirements have changed
- 21 since the approved project. We also requested Agnico
- 22 Eagle identify and describe the environmental impacts
- 23 associated with these changes.
- 24 Agnico Eagle addressed these requests through
- 25 their technical review submissions as well as
- 26 supplemental modeling associated with commitments made

- 1 at the technical sessions in Baker Lake in June of
- 2 2019. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 3 Canada is satisfied with the responses and considers
- 4 these issues resolved.
- 5 The next concern relates to the -- relates to
- 6 community involvement. Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 7 Northern Affairs Canada wanted clarification on how the
- 8 issues identified through Agnico Eagle's community
- 9 liaison system are monitored and reported.
- 10 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 11 and Agnico Eagle have discussed this concern and agree
- 12 that community involvement measures are adequately
- 13 captured in Agnico Eagle's socioeconomic management
- 14 plan for the Whale Tail Pit expansion project, which
- 15 was submitted with the addendum, as well as Agnico
- 16 Eagle's June 2019 Kivallig project socioeconomic
- 17 monitoring program that was prepared pursuant to
- 18 condition -- Project Certificate Condition Number 46
- 19 for the existing Whale Tail site. Crown-Indigenous
- 20 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada is satisfied with
- 21 the approach taken by Agnico Eagle to encourage
- 22 community participation and considers this issue to be
- 23 resolved.
- 24 The next resolved concern relates to the
- 25 submission of a socioeconomic monitoring program. At
- 26 the time, it was unclear to Crown-Indigenous Relations

- 1 And Northern Affairs Canada if Agnico Eagle submitted a
- 2 socioeconomic monitoring program pursuant to Term and
- 3 Condition Number 46. Agnico Eagle confirmed the
- 4 socioeconomic program was submitted in June of 2019.
- 5 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 6 is satisfied with the response and considers this issue
- 7 resolved.
- 8 The next two concerns are considered resolved with
- 9 recommendations for the board's consideration. The
- 10 concern relates to the contamination of waste rock
- 11 cover with elevated acid rock drainage and metal
- 12 leeching potential. Agnico Eagle's water quality
- 13 predictions assume that waste rock covers for the mine
- infrastructure will be exclusively of non-potential,
- 15 acid-generating material.
- 16 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 17 Canada is concerned that this would be difficult to
- 18 achieve and recommended that Agnico Eagle assess the
- 19 water quality impacts associated with 1 percent
- 20 contamination with metal leeching material.
- 21 Agnico Eagle provided the requested assessment,
- 22 concluded that the 1 percent contamination would result
- 23 in minor increases of arsenic concentrations that would
- 24 remain below water quality objectives. While
- 25 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 26 acknowledges that the water quality predictions are not

- 1 expected to exceed water quality objectives, the water
- 2 quality predictions were limited to 30 years and did
- 3 not extend far enough into the future to determine
- 4 long-term water quality impacts.
- 5 The margin of error and conservatism associated
- 6 with the assessment was also uncertain. As this is
- 7 Crown-Indigenous Relations' and Northern Affairs
- 8 Canada's primary concern regarding the proposed Whale
- 9 Tail expansion, we are seeking assurances that efforts
- 10 are made to reduce this uncertainty surrounding the
- 11 waste rock storage facility design.
- 12 Therefore, in the interim reclamation and closure
- 13 plan, we are recommending that Agnico Eagle provide an
- 14 outline explaining the work and/or research that has
- 15 been done to minimize this uncertainty regarding the
- 16 long-term, post-closure water quality impacts due to
- 17 the waste rock storage facility.
- In addition, if the project is to advance,
- 19 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 20 is open to discuss and collaborate with Agnico Eagle
- 21 and other interested parties, such as the Kivalliq
- 22 Inuit Association, to identify research opportunities
- 23 that could reduce the above-mentioned risk and
- 24 uncertainty.
- 25 The next concern relates to the inclusion of
- 26 socioeconomic considerations in Agnico Eagle's project

- 1 closure plan. It is important for stakeholders,
- 2 especially the community of Baker Lake, to prepare for
- 3 changes in employment, contracting, and business
- 4 opportunity before Meadowbank and the Whale Tail
- 5 project -- projects eventually close.
- 6 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 7 Canada and Agnico Eagle have discussed the need for
- 8 continued socioeconomic closure planning, and we're
- 9 very close to an agreement. You almost had the
- 10 pleasure of me reading a term and condition. However,
- 11 we'll have to pause that, but we do commit to putting
- 12 it on the record what the proposed term and condition
- 13 would be before the record closes.
- 14 The final three concerns are generally considered
- 15 resolved by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 16 Affairs Canada at the environmental assessment stage
- 17 but will require follow-up during the regulatory phase,
- 18 particularly, the water licencing process.
- The next concern in this category relates to
- 20 groundwater characterization. Crown-Indigenous
- 21 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada concluded that
- there are gaps in knowledge about the groundwater
- 23 regime of both the proposed Whale Tail expansion and
- 24 the approved project.
- 25 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 26 Canada was concerned that these knowledge gaps could

- 1 potentially lead to significant changes to the
- 2 predicted environmental impacts at the proposed
- 3 expansion site. Further discussions with Agnico Eagle
- 4 during the technical sessions in Baker Lake in June
- 5 2019, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 6 Canada determined there's currently sufficient evidence
- 7 to support Agnico Eagle's conclusions, that the
- 8 groundwater pathway is unlikely to represent a
- 9 significant source of contaminant loadings under most
- 10 scenarios.
- On this basis, Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 12 Northern Affairs Canada concluded that further analysis
- 13 was no longer required for the purpose of environmental
- 14 assessment process.
- 15 However, additional effort will be required during
- 16 the water licencing process to validate environmental
- 17 quality predictions through all phases of the proposed
- 18 expansion. These mechanisms should include but are not
- 19 limited to water quality monitoring and management
- 20 plans.
- 21 The second concern relates to the margin of error
- 22 associated with water quality predictions. The water
- 23 quality monitoring was highly conservative, and as a
- 24 result, some of the predicted contaminant
- 25 concentrations into receiving water bodies exceeded
- 26 quality objectives.

- 1 In June 2019, Agnico Eagle provided
- 2 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 3 with advised -- with revised water quality predictions
- 4 that were prepared for the water licencing process.
- 5 The reduced conservatism used by Agnico Eagle in these
- 6 revisions was acceptable and resulted in significant
- 7 reduction in the predicted contaminated concentrations.
- 8 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 9 Canada has concluded that further actions to address
- 10 these concerns are not needed at the environmental
- 11 assessment stage.
- 12 The last concern relates to revised management
- 13 plans. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 14 Canada conducted detailed reviews of Agnico Eagle's
- 15 management plans for the approved project and
- 16 recommended changes to address potential environmental
- 17 impacts. We asked Agnico Eagle to provide a table
- 18 summary of if and how our comments were incorporated
- 19 into the revised submissions for the proposed Whale
- 20 Tail expansion.
- 21 Agnico Eagle requested that further evaluation of
- 22 the revised management plans be deferred into the water
- 23 licencing process and that the management plan
- 24 submitted to the board in December of 2018 should be
- 25 considered sufficient for the environmental assessment
- 26 process.

- 1 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 2 Canada accepts Agnico Eagle's proposal and considers
- 3 this issue resolved for the purposes of the
- 4 environmental assessment process. However, we will
- 5 pursue the issues further during the water licencing
- 6 process.
- 7 To conclude, Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 8 Northern Affairs Canada conducted a review of the
- 9 environmental impact statement addendum that fall
- 10 within our mandate and found the analysis and
- 11 presentation of the material to be adequate.
- 12 In our final written submission, we identified
- 13 11 concerns pertaining to the assessment of the
- 14 biophysical and socioeconomic aspects of the proposed
- 15 Whale Tail expansion.
- 16 Agnico Eagle's responses and commitments have
- 17 addressed our concerns for the environmental assessment
- 18 process. However, there is follow-up on certain
- 19 concerns that will be done during the regulatory phase
- 20 and the water licencing process. If expansion is -- if
- 21 the expansion is approved, Crown-Indigenous Relations
- 22 and Northern Affairs Canada will continue to review and
- 23 provide input on updated plans throughout the
- 24 regulatory process to help minimize potential impacts
- on the people and the environment.
- 26 In closing, Crown-Indigenous Relations and

- 1 Northern Affairs Canada appreciates the opportunity to
- 2 participate in this review, and we are looking forward
- 3 to working with all parties involved throughout any
- 4 remaining review. Thank you. (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN)
- 5 THE CHAIR: Questions to CIRNAC.
- 6 MR. MANZO: Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit
- 7 Association. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 8 No questions at this time.
- 9 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 10 Trappers Organization.
- 11 MR. BERNAUER: Warren Bernauer for the Baker
- 12 Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization.
- No questions at this time. Thank you.
- 14 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.
- 15 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Steve
- 16 Pinksen for the Government of Nunavut.
- We have no questions.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 19 MS. PINTO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 20 Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 21 We have no questions.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 23 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
- 24 D'Aguiar with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- We have no questions, and thank you for the
- 26 presentation.

1 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.

- 2 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Paul
- 3 Partridge for Health Canada.
- 4 We have no questions. Thank you.
- 5 THE CHAIR: NRCan.
- 6 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, Natural Resources
- 7 Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 8 No questions.
- 9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 10 Comments by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
- 11 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 12 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- Just -- just one point of clarification. Final
- 14 Comment Number 6 on the old slide deck was Slide
- 15 Number 18. I just missed the slide number on the
- 16 revised deck.
- Just a comment regarding the water quality
- 18 monitoring and management plans. With the approved
- 19 Whale Tail project, we do have approved management
- 20 plans, approximately 21 plans with the Nunavut water
- 21 board, and we do have approved water quality monitoring
- 22 and a management plan that we are using right now with
- 23 the approval -- with the approved Whale Tail project.
- 24 So I just wanted to provide that clarification. Thank
- 25 you.
- 26 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.

- 1 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Chair. Spencer Dewar,
- 2 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- 3 We -- we agree with that statement.
- 4 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 5 Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions
- 6 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 7 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 8 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 9 We do have a couple of quick questions. The
- 10 first -- I think this was on your slide, but it would
- 11 be helpful if you clarified. Can you confirm that
- 12 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 13 also has a role in enforcing the application of the
- 14 terms and conditions of Nunavut Impact Review Board,
- 15 Project Certificate Number 008, for the approved Whale
- 16 Tail Pit project?
- 17 MR. DEWAR: Madam Chair, Spencer Dewar,
- 18 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- 19 Yes. We do have inspection and -- and enforcement
- 20 responsibilities under the Nunavut Planning Project
- 21 Assessment Act, and that includes the project
- 22 certificates issued by the Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- 23 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 24 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan,
- 25 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- Thank you, Spencer, for that. We recognize that

- 1 your minister, as you mentioned, is a responsible
- 2 minister for this proposal. In approving major
- 3 development projects to proceed with terms and
- 4 conditions that include monitoring and management
- 5 responsibilities for local hunters and trappers
- 6 organizations, what mechanism does Crown-Indigenous
- 7 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada use for, then,
- 8 ensuring that these hunters and trappers organizations
- 9 are provided with adequate funding to fulfill their
- 10 assigned duties?
- 11 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.
- 12 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Madam Chair. Spencer
- 13 Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 14 Canada.
- 15 Thank you for the question, Ryan. I would -- I
- 16 would have to take that question under deferment to
- 17 provide specifics. I do know that, you know, other
- 18 sections of our minister's responsibility do provide
- 19 funding for various organizations, whether it be
- 20 institutions of public government, money for the
- 21 Nunavut wildlife management board, which I do
- 22 understand does go to hunters and trappers
- 23 organizations. So to provide specifics, I would need
- 24 to consult with members of our department. So I'll --
- 25 I'll -- I'll defer that and provide you some specifics.
- 26 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

- 1 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 2 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 3 Thank you, Spencer. We'll -- we'll note that.
- 4 And, perhaps, when you bring back your deferred
- 5 response, if you could also look at any concrete
- 6 examples where this has occurred where a project has
- 7 been assessed and approved with conditions that assign
- 8 responsibilities for hunters and trappers
- 9 organizations, that that, then, was considered in
- 10 increases in funding for hunters and trappers
- 11 organizations with those responsibilities.
- 12 Example that springs to mind, for our assessments
- 13 relates to the Meliadine gold mine, for example. There
- 14 might be something to look at there.
- So, Madam Chair, my -- my final question is on
- 16 the -- another topic.
- 17 Can you clarify whether your department's
- 18 consideration of the assessment provided by Agnico
- 19 Eagle related to the potential impacts of acid rock
- 20 drainage and metal leeching, considered the potential
- 21 for impacts to plants and wildlife and associated
- 22 potential uptake of contaminants through harvesting of
- 23 these species?
- 24 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.
- 25 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Madam Chair. Spencer
- 26 Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

- 1 Canada.
- 2 Our assessment is -- particularly focuses on the
- 3 aquatic as a pathway. We -- we -- we don't focus on
- 4 the terrestrial or the floor of fauna of the acid rock
- 5 drainage.
- 6 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 7 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 8 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 9 Thank you. We have no further questions.
- 10 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board. Uriash.
- 11 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Agnico Eagle
- 12 Mines Limited
- 13 MR. PUQIQNAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am
- 14 Uriash Puqiqnak, NIRB Board staff. I'm a NIRB Board
- member.
- 16 I had a question with water quality predictions
- 17 and that you had concerns with that -- that there may
- 18 be contaminants. That was a question that was brought
- 19 up, and I had already heard the answer. It would be
- 20 very dangerous should -- if there were to be
- 21 contaminants in the water, and the predictions -- and
- 22 that there may be contaminants going into the receiving
- 23 waters outside the entire -- there -- we saw many lakes
- 24 there. There were lakes that were close to and further
- 25 away from the -- the mine site. So have you had any --
- 26 do you have any idea how far the -- the plumes would go

- 1 from the NO2 and even how far contaminants would go
- 2 from the mine site? Do you -- do you have -- does
- 3 anyone know the predictions that were -- that were
- 4 made? Do you know how far these contaminants would go
- 5 into the environment into the receiving environment?
- 6 THE CHAIR: Thank you. CIRNAC.
- 7 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Madam Chair. Spencer
- 8 Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 9 Canada.
- 10 That question may be better answered by Agnico
- 11 Eagle themselves as they have done the analysis, and we
- 12 have provided input on our, you know -- our expert
- 13 review of what they have put forward. So we could
- 14 defer it to Agnico Eagle to provide a response, if
- 15 that's acceptable.
- 16 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 17 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 18 Quesnel with Agnico Eagle.
- 19 We just need a couple minutes to just gather some
- 20 information.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Okay. It's almost 12:00, so
- 22 we'll defer that response. We'll break for lunch 'til
- 23 1:15, continue with the response from Agnico Eagle, and
- 24 move on to Environment and Climate Change Canada's
- 25 presentation.
- 26

- 1 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:15 PM
- 2
- 3 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 1:16 PM)
- 4 THE CHAIR: Good afternoon. We'll
- 5 reconvene. We had the deferred response from Agnico
- 6 Eagle.
- 7 Agnico Eagle.
- 8 Response to Deferred Questions by Agnico Eagle Mines
- 9 Limited
- 10 MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 11 Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.
- So to answer your question for the water quality
- 13 and the mine contact water, is treated before it is
- 14 discharged to Mammoth or Whale Tail Lake. The treated
- 15 effluent is expected to meet guidelines and
- 16 site-specific water quality objective for protection of
- 17 aquatic life, as well as human and wildlife health
- 18 within an hundred [sic] metre of the discharge. So
- 19 this is approximately two times the length of the room
- 20 here. And this distance have been approved as part of
- 21 our approved project. So we already need to comply
- 22 with that distance. And no change is expected with the
- 23 expansion project.
- Our assessment is in agreement with
- 25 Crown-Indigenous and Relation Northern Affair Canada
- 26 [sic] responses to the Final Comment Number 2, that

1 predicted effluent discharge will be sufficiently mixed

- 2 in the receiver lake and will not result in ecological
- 3 impacts.
- 4 Related to NO2 and dust, the mine infrastructure
- 5 are few kilometres wide. The property boundaries is
- 6 about 5 to 10 kilometres from the mine infrastructure.
- 7 So NO2 and dust generated at the mine is transported to
- 8 the property boundary, but concentration at that
- 9 location are already below the Nunavut Ambient Air
- 10 Quality Standard, which are protective of human health
- 11 and the environment.
- 12 The emission are carried by the wind for days and
- 13 week, but we couldn't distinguish from background
- 14 outside the 60 by 60 kilometres grid that we presented
- 15 below -- before. It take less than an hour to travel
- 16 to the edge of that grid.
- 17 Thank you for your question.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Okay. Moving on to the next
- 19 item on the agenda, a presentation from (OTHER LANGUAGE
- 20 SPOKEN).
- 21 Legal counsel.
- 22 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair. If I
- 23 can have the witnesses for Environment and Climate
- 24 Change Canada state and spell their name for the
- 25 record, please.
- 26 MS. PINTO: Melissa, M-E-L-I-S-S-A, Pinto,

- 1 P-I-N-T-O.
- 2 MR. ASHER: Brian Asher, B-R-I-A-N
- $3 \quad A-S-H-E-R$.
- 4 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 6 Review Board.
- 7 Do the witnesses wish to be sworn or affirmed?
- 8 MS. PINTO: Affirmed, please.
- 9 MR. ASHER: Affirmed, please.
- 10 MELISSA PINTO, BRIAN ASHER, Affirmed
- 11 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 12 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 13 Review Board.
- 14 Madam Chair, I have exhibits -- three exhibits to
- 15 file in this -- in advance of this presentation, being
- 16 the presentation of Environment and Climate Change
- 17 Canada in English and Inuktitut, both on one -- one
- 18 slide, and the executive summaries in English and
- 19 Inuktitut and English and French. And the third
- 20 exhibit is -- or fourth exhibit -- my apologies -- is
- 21 Environment and Climate Change Canada, it's my
- 22 understanding, will be providing some suggested text
- 23 for an air quality term or condition, and they have
- 24 circulated hard copies of that to other participants at
- 25 the table today. But I will be marking that as an
- 26 exhibit in this public hearing. And those are my

1	procedural matters, Madam Chair.
2	EXHIBIT 43(a) - Hard Copy PowerPoint
3	Presentation Environment and Climate Change
4	Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Impact
5	Review Board Respecting the Whale Tail Pit
6	Expansion Project (English/Inuktitut)
7	EXHIBIT 43(b) - Hard Copy PowerPoint
8	Presentation Environment and Climate Change
9	Canada's Presentation to the Nunavut Impact
10	Review Board Respecting the Whale Tail Pit
11	Expansion Project (English/French)
12	EXHIBIT 44 - Hard Copy Executive Summary
13	Technical Review Comments of Environment and
14	Climate Change Canada (English/Inuktitut)
15	EXHIBIT 45 - Hard Copy Executive Summary
16	Technical Review Comments of Environment and
17	Climate Change Canada (English/French).
18	EXHIBIT 46 - Hard Copy Environment and
19	Climate Change Canada Suggested Text for Air
20	Quality Term and Condition (English)
21	THE CHAIR: Thank you.
22	You can proceed with your presentation.
23	Presentation by Environment and Climate Change Canada
24	MS. PINTO: Thank you.
25	Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Board members,
26	Elders, community members, board staff, and parties

- 1 that have joined us here today. My name is Melissa
- 2 Pinto, and I'm a senior environmental assessment
- 3 coordinator with Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 4 With me today I have Brian Asher, our senior air
- 5 quality analyst.
- In this presentation, we will summarize the
- 7 department's final written submission along with any
- 8 relevant discussions with the proponent since the
- 9 submission was submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review
- 10 Board on July 26th noting whether issues have been
- 11 resolved.
- 12 To start off, I will go through Environment and
- 13 Climate Change Canada's mandate and then briefly touch
- 14 upon the relevant acts and legislation. For each
- 15 topic, atmospheric, terrestrial, and aquatic
- 16 environments, we will have a slide on the status of
- 17 each of the department's concerns from the technical
- 18 review submission with outstanding concerns and
- 19 associated recommendations outlined in Environment and
- 20 Climate Change Canada's final written submission to
- 21 follow.
- 22 Under the Department of the Environment Act, the
- 23 powers, duties, and functions of the Minister of
- 24 Environment and Climate Change Canada extend to matters
- 25 such as the preservation and enhancement of the quality
- 26 of the natural environment, including water, air, and

- 1 soil quality, and the coordination of the relevant
- 2 policies and programs of the Government of Canada;
- 3 renewable resources, including migratory birds and
- 4 other nondomestic flora and fauna; meteorology; and the
- 5 enforcement of rules and regulations.
- 6 Environment and Climate Change Canada's mandate is
- 7 governed by the Department of the Environment Act, the
- 8 Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the pollution
- 9 prevention provisions of the Fisheries Act, the
- 10 Migratory Birds Convention Act, and the Species at Risk
- 11 Act.
- 12 For atmospheric environment, Environment and
- 13 Climate Change Canada currently has two unresolved
- 14 issues from the technical review, which have now been
- 15 combined into a single issue within the department's
- 16 final written submission. I will highlight a couple
- 17 commitments made by the proponent after the technical
- 18 meeting which address the department's concerns with
- 19 respect to dust fall sampling technique and road dust
- 20 mitigation and adaptive management.
- 21 For Technical Comment 3, dust fall sampling
- 22 technique, the proponent committed to dust fall
- 23 sampling at a sampling height of 2 metres.
- For Technical Comment 5, road dust mitigation and
- 25 adaptive management, the proponent committed to revise
- 26 the air quality and dust fall monitoring plan and

- 1 include a summary of community concerns related to haul
- 2 road dust that will be included in the annual report,
- 3 report and evaluate community concerns surrounding the
- 4 haul road dust and the effectiveness of mitigation
- 5 strategies on an annual basis, and if these concerns
- 6 warrant additional measures, the proponent will
- 7 consider enhanced monitoring of haul road dust.
- 8 Both of these commitments will be implemented
- 9 after project certificate issuance should the project
- 10 be approved.
- 11 Technical Comment 1 and 2, Canadian Ambient Air
- 12 Quality Standards and sampling for nitrogen dioxide,
- 13 are currently unresolved. Environment and Climate
- 14 Change Canada affirms its position that the proposed
- 15 expansion project's predicted and monitored ambient
- 16 pollutant concentrations should be compared to the
- 17 Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- The standards for nitrogen dioxide were introduced
- 19 in December 2017 after Environment and Climate Change
- 20 Canada's review of the approved Whale Tail project.
- 21 These standards are based on the most recent scientific
- 22 information on the effects of nitrogen dioxide on human
- 23 health and the environment. These standards are not
- 24 intended to be used as an enforceable standard at the
- 25 project perimeter. The department relies on the
- 26 comparison with the Canadian Ambient Air Quality

- 1 Standards in determining the nature and severity of the
- 2 project's impact on air quality levels and the
- 3 resulting monitoring and mitigation measures that may
- 4 be required to maintain good air quality levels.
- 5 The proponent has cited the proposed expansion
- 6 project's relative remoteness and distance from large
- 7 communities as a reason to not apply the Canadian
- 8 Ambient Air Quality Standards. These standards are
- 9 based on the principles of keeping clean areas clean
- 10 and continuous improvement and were developed in
- 11 consideration of both human health and the environment.
- 12 The lack of a nearby human population within the
- 13 estimated impact area of a project is not a reason to
- 14 discount use of these standards during environmental
- 15 assessment.
- 16 The proposed expansion project will result in
- 17 substantially increased diesel emissions, primarily due
- 18 to increases in power generation or hauling activity
- 19 and blasting, resulting in an 81 percent increase over
- the approved project's emissions. Due to concerns
- 21 related to nitrogen dioxide pollution, a robust and
- 22 effective air quality management program which
- 23 incorporates continuous nitrogen dioxide monitoring
- 24 should be implemented.
- 25 A single passive nitrogen dioxide sampler as
- 26 proposed by the proponent would be inadequate for

- 1 informing mitigation and adaptive management decisions.
- 2 THE TRANSLATOR: She's going too fast.
- 3 MS. PINTO: These samplers have potential
- 4 problems with accuracy, particularly in cold climates.
- 5 This issue has not been addressed by the proponent. In
- 6 addition, data generated by the 30-day samplers cannot
- 7 be compared directly to the one-hour Canadian Ambient
- 8 Air Quality Standards or the one-hour Nunavut
- 9 standards.
- 10 Earlier in the hearing, the proponent was asked by
- 11 the Nunavut Impact Review Board about the feasibility
- 12 of conducting a study to compare continuous versus
- 13 passive monitoring techniques. In their response, the
- 14 proponent reiterated their statistical analysis of
- other monitoring sites data, which they presented at
- 16 the technical meeting. To be clear, this was not a
- 17 study that compared passive versus continuous
- 18 monitoring co-located in the field. Instead, they
- 19 relied upon a conversion factor from the Ontario
- 20 modelling guideline.
- 21 Environment and Climate Change Canada disagrees
- 22 with the application of this factor for multiple
- 23 reasons which are outlined in our final submission. It
- 24 is the department's view that the proponent has not
- 25 provided adequate justification for not employing
- 26 continuous nitrogen dioxide monitoring.

- 1 The proponent has cited the technical difficulty
- 2 in establishing continuous nitrogen dioxide monitoring
- 3 at the mine site; however, this monitoring technology
- 4 has been demonstrated to be feasible at numerous other
- 5 sites, including remote research stations and other
- 6 mine sites in Nunavut.
- 7 Terms and conditions requiring continuous nitrogen
- 8 dioxide monitoring have been considered and accepted by
- 9 the Board for both the TMAC Hope Bay and Baffinland
- 10 Mary River mines.
- 11 Environment and Climate Change Canada recommends
- 12 that the proponent implement continuous monitoring of
- 13 nitrogen dioxide downwind of mining activities. This
- 14 monitoring should be incorporated into an adaptive
- 15 management strategy which identifies thresholds for
- 16 monitored ambient nitrogen dioxide concentrations and
- 17 associated mitigation measures to reduce nitrogen
- 18 dioxide emissions if necessary. These components of
- 19 the strategy should be outlined in the mine's air
- 20 quality and dust fall monitoring plan and reported
- 21 annually.
- 22 Environment and Climate Change Canada proposes the
- 23 following term and condition to address this issue.
- 24 The proponent shall update the air quality management
- 25 plan to include continuous nitrogen dioxide monitoring
- 26 for the purposes of comparing the monitoring results

- 1 with the levels predicted in the impact assessment and
- 2 relevant guidelines. The proponent shall also update
- 3 the air quality management plan to include an adaptive
- 4 management strategy which identifies thresholds for
- 5 monitored ambient nitrogen dioxide that will trigger
- 6 appropriate mitigation measures.
- 7 For terrestrial environment, all of the
- 8 outstanding issues from the technical meeting have been
- 9 resolved. Technical Comment 10 will be addressed in
- 10 the next slide, as it was included as an unresolved
- 11 issue at the time the department's final submission was
- 12 submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- 13 For Technical Comment 11, displacement of
- 14 migratory birds, the proponent has revised the bird
- 15 displacement estimates for the expansion project.
- 16 Revised estimates increase the range in absolute value
- 17 of bird displacement but not magnitude, as magnitude is
- 18 based on the amount of habitat altered, which remains
- 19 unchanged. Environment and Climate Change Canada is of
- 20 the opinion that the revised displacement estimates are
- 21 more accurate and therefore reduce uncertainty related
- 22 to the impact assessment; therefore, the department
- 23 considers this issue resolved.
- Technical Comment 10, exposure to contaminants has
- 25 been resolved.
- 26 Environment and Climate Change Canada provided

- 1 advice to the proponent to refine some of the
- 2 assumptions of the ecological risk assessment including
- 3 residency times and site-specific bird weights.
- 4 The proponent agreed to revise the ecological risk
- 5 assessment and considered ingestion of water, sediment,
- 6 and invertebrates at the tailings storage facility as a
- 7 pathway of contamination for all wildlife receptors, as
- 8 well as assess semipalmated sand piper contamination
- 9 risks for all pathways of contamination.
- 10 The proponent provided the updated risk assessment
- 11 to the department on August 6th. Environment and
- 12 Climate Change Canada is satisfied with the updated
- 13 analysis and notes that the results of the revised
- 14 ecological risk assessment may lead to a revision to
- 15 current mitigation practices and on-site monitoring.
- 16 For aquatic environment, Environment and Climate
- 17 Change Canada had two unresolved issues carried over
- 18 from the technical review and two issues that will be
- 19 carried to the regulatory or water licence phase.
- 20 will highlight the discussions that occurred to resolve
- 21 these issues.
- For Technical Comment 15, Schedule 2 listing and
- 23 water body use by fish, the mining and processing
- 24 division of Environment and Climate Change Canada met
- 25 with the proponent on June 27th to discuss the
- 26 Schedule 2 amendment for Lake A53 and the possibility

- 1 for other water bodies. The department confirmed that
- 2 Lake A53 will need to be listed on Schedule 2 of the
- 3 metal and diamond mining effluent regulations.
- 4 There are other water bodies affected by the
- 5 proposed expansion project which may also need to be
- 6 added to Schedule 2 if they are determined to be fish
- 7 frequented. Additional information submitted by the
- 8 proponent is currently being assessed to make that
- 9 determination. For purposes of the environmental
- 10 assessment, the department considers this concern
- 11 resolved.
- 12 For Technical Comment 17, water quality
- 13 predictions, the proponent provided a technical
- 14 memorandum outlining high-level analyses performed on
- 15 representative data sets from both Meadowbank and
- 16 Meliadine mines and rationalizing the use of
- 17 10 milligrams per litre of total suspended solids for
- 18 runoff from the waste rock storage facilities as an
- 19 assumption in the Whale Tail site and downstream water
- 20 quality model. The department accepts this assumption.
- 21 For Technical Comment 18, water quality prediction
- 22 scenarios, the proponent provided clarification
- 23 regarding water quality prediction scenarios. Any
- 24 further discussion on this topic will be deferred to
- 25 the water licencing process.
- 26 Technical Comment 16, alternative effluent

- 1 discharge locations, is currently resolved. In the
- 2 final written submission, Environment and Climate
- 3 Change Canada noted that the use of a previously
- 4 unaffected watershed as an additional discharge
- 5 location is not a preferred option for managing levels
- 6 of effluent-associated parameters. Any available
- 7 mitigation measures should be implemented in order to
- 8 limit aquatic effects of the project to Mammoth Lake
- 9 and Whale Tail Lake south basin, including source
- 10 control and treatment optimization.
- The potential effects to Lakes D1 and D5 were not
- 12 evaluated for water quality, but some changes to water
- 13 quality in these lakes would be anticipated. As the
- 14 potential effects to Lakes D1 and D5 and the downstream
- 15 environment were not evaluated for aquatic effects,
- 16 including water quality, the potential magnitude of
- 17 change, spatial extent, and duration of any aquatic
- 18 effects are unknown.
- 19 There is a need for a clearly defined process to
- 20 quantify and evaluate potential aquatic effects to
- 21 Lakes D1 and D5 and the downstream environment, which
- 22 should be done well in advance of deciding whether to
- 23 use these proposed alternative discharge locations.
- 24 Environment and Climate Change Canada recommended
- 25 that the proponent prioritize source control and
- 26 treatment optimization for managing effluent quality

- 1 and quantity over the use of alternative effluent
- 2 discharge locations and describe how this will be
- 3 accomplished.
- 4 Environment and Climate Change Canada also
- 5 recommended that the Nunavut Impact Review Board
- 6 develop conditions to address the effects assessment
- 7 gap described, including terms that require the
- 8 proponent to provide a full evaluation of the potential
- 9 aquatic effects, including water quality to Lakes D1
- 10 and D5 and downstream that may result from the
- 11 discharge of treated effluent to alternative discharge
- 12 locations. This evaluation should be provided well in
- 13 advance of deciding whether to use these proposed
- 14 alternative discharge locations. Develop alternative
- 15 effluent management plans to be used in place of the
- 16 alternative effluent discharge locations in the event
- 17 that the predicted aquatic effects to Lakes D1 and D5
- 18 and downstream are not acceptable.
- 19 Environment and Climate Change Canada and the
- 20 proponent came to an agreement on the proposed wording
- 21 for the term and condition related to this issue and
- 22 agrees with the wording proposed by the proponent in
- 23 their response to final written submissions with an
- 24 addition to the first sentence which reads as follows:
- 25 (as read)
- 26 ... if the contingency to discharge treated

1	effluent to one or both of D1 and D5 lakes is
2	required based on the thresholds established
3	as per the Whale Tail Expansion Project water
4	management decision tree.
5	Technical Comment 19, model inputs in water balance in
6	climate change, has been resolved. In the final
7	written submission, the department noted that the
8	proponent should consider a range of projections from
9	different climate models for a range of plausible
10	emission scenarios and recommended that the proponent
11	clarify how the proposed waste rock storage facility
12	cover systems would perform long term under the full
13	range of plausible emission scenarios, including
14	representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 considering
15	the potential effects of climate change on temperature.
16	Environment and Climate Change Canada reviewed the
17	information provided by the proponent in their response
18	to final written submissions and is satisfied with the
19	climate change analysis conducted.
20	Thank you to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for
21	allowing us to present today. We welcome any
22	questions.
23	THE CHAIR: Questions to Environment
24	Canada, Kivalliq Inuit Association?
25	MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Luis

26 Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association. No questions.

1 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and

- 2 Trappers Organization.
- 3 MR. AKSAWNEE: Richard Aksawnee, Baker Lake
- 4 Hunters and Trappers Organization. We have no
- 5 questions.
- 6 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.
- 7 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 8 Steven Pinksen, Government of Nunavut. We have no
- 9 questions.
- 10 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.
- 11 MR. DEWAR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 12 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 13 Affairs Canada. No questions.
- 14 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 15 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
- 16 D'Aguiar with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Thank you
- 17 for your presentation. We have no questions.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 19 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Paul
- 20 Partridge from Health Canada. We have no questions.
- 21 THE CHAIR: NRCan.
- 22 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, Natural Resources
- 23 Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair. No questions.
- 24 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle Limited [sic].
- 25 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Questions Environment and
- 26 Climate Change Canada

- 1 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 2 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- Just have a -- I think one question and a few
- 4 clarifications. So the -- the first question we have:
- 5 Do you agree with the model results indicating that the
- 6 expansion project remains compliant with the applicable
- 7 Nunavut Ambient Air Quality Standards at the project
- 8 boundary?
- 9 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 10 MR. ASHER: Brian Asher, Environment and
- 11 Climate Change Canada.
- We do agree with the model results. We don't have
- 13 any outstanding issues with the model results. Thank
- 14 you.
- 15 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 16 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 17 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- Just a follow-up with that. We just ask: Do you
- 19 agree with the model results that are compliant to the
- 20 applicable Nunavut Ambient Air Quality Standards at the
- 21 project boundary? Thank you.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 23 MR. ASHER: Brian Asher, Environment and
- 24 Climate Change Canada.
- 25 I think it's worth clarifying that our role as --
- 26 as Environment and Climate Change Canada is not to

- 1 assess compliance with air quality standards. We leave
- 2 that to other parties in terms of assessing compliant
- 3 [sic] with standards. Our input relating to the
- 4 Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards has been clear
- 5 that we do not expect that the Canadian Ambient Air
- 6 Quality Standards -- sometimes called "CAAQS" -- are
- 7 not to be used as enforceable standards at the project
- 8 perimeter. Thank you.
- 9 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 10 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 11 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 12 As we presented with the results, just for
- 13 clarity, the results are below the Nunavut Ambient Air
- 14 Quality Standards at the project boundary. I just
- 15 wanted to clarify that.
- 16 Just with the continuous monitors, it also ties
- 17 into the -- the question related to the human health
- 18 ecological risk assessment. We did consider the
- 19 Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards at Environment
- 20 Canada and Climate Change's [sic] request during the
- 21 assessment, but based on our risk assessment which we
- 22 presented earlier -- yesterday, the outcomes -- based
- 23 on those outcomes being very low, we did not carry that
- 24 forward. So it was considered, but as the results were
- 25 low, it was not carried forward.
- Now, just tied into the monitoring piece, just for

- 1 clarification, like, we evaluated -- we looked at some
- 2 of the continuous monitors that are operating. And as
- 3 we mentioned some of the challenges yesterday to --
- 4 first of all, we don't agree that we should install one
- 5 based on our results with the -- we feel, more of an
- 6 applicable standard, being the Nunavut Ambient Air
- 7 Quality Standard. We evaluated the operational
- 8 effectiveness of these units in the north, as we do
- 9 have challenges with power and other -- other things
- 10 that we mentioned yesterday.
- 11 But just as an example, there is one in Iqaluit,
- 12 so it has a larger population. It's -- it has schools
- 13 and hospitals, things like that, where there's one unit
- 14 running. But over a three-year period, the -- the data
- that's produced from this unit is in the range of 33 to
- 16 44 percent. So it's not at 100 percent over three
- 17 years. It's providing the one-hour data in a range of
- 18 33 to 44 percent of the time. So I'm not too sure
- 19 about the effectiveness of the -- of the units, first
- 20 of all, and also the applicability of the Canadian
- 21 Air -- Air -- Ambient Air Quality Standard related to
- 22 our project where we are complying with the Nunavut
- 23 Ambient Air Quality Standard as we have demonstrated in
- 24 our models.
- 25 And, finally, at break or after today's session,
- 26 if anyone's interested about -- or interested about the

- 1 type of monitors, we do have -- we call them "pucks"
- 2 and the dust fall monitor canisters. They're at the
- 3 table at the back of the room by the 3D model, and
- 4 we'll have someone there to explain those two units.
- 5 Thank you.
- 6 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada and Climate
- 7 Change.
- 8 MR. ASHER: Brian Asher, Environment and
- 9 Climate Change Canada.
- 10 We have no further questions or response to Agnico
- 11 Eagle at this time. We will confer the questions by
- 12 other parties. Thank you.
- 13 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, any more
- 14 questions?
- NIRB staff.
- 16 Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions Environment
- 17 and Climate Change Canada
- 18 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 19 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 20 Thank you again for your -- your presentation. I
- 21 do want to get into this issue a little bit more --
- 22 everyone's favourite -- of passive versus continuous
- 23 monitoring. You referenced -- and I appreciate you
- 24 referenced to the approved Mary River iron mine and the
- 25 Doris North mine as well as having continuous
- 26 monitoring programs. For the benefit of the Board, can

- 1 you maybe elaborate on what Environment and Climate
- 2 Change Canada would see as the advantage of -- of those
- 3 type of continuous systems versus the passive system
- 4 that we've been describing, just for context?
- 5 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada and Climate
- 6 Change.
- 7 MR. ASHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 8 Thanks for the question.
- 9 There are -- we outlined a lot of these
- 10 differences between continuous and passive in our
- 11 written submissions, so -- but I can explain, and I
- 12 think it would be helpful to everybody.
- There are a couple main weaknesses related to the
- 14 passive samplers. The main -- one of the main problems
- in terms of their limitations on the applicability of
- 16 monitoring air or their -- their limitations in
- 17 monitoring air is that the -- as Jamie mentioned, they
- 18 are pucks. There's no active mechanism in terms of
- 19 pulling air into the puck. It's a puck that has a
- 20 sample medium inside of it. And that sample medium
- 21 absorbs NO2. And -- and the way that they're used is
- 22 you -- you put them out and you leave them for 30 days
- 23 and then you collect them and you send them to a lab.
- 24 And the lab knows that there's a -- a rate of how much
- 25 you sample -- how much air or how -- the -- the --
- 26 the -- the lab knows the relationship between the

- 1 concentration on the puck and the concentration in the
- 2 air.
- A big problem with that is that what you get is a
- 4 single data point which is effectively the average NO2
- 5 concentration over a 30-day period. The standards that
- 6 we're very much interested in, both for the Government
- 7 of Nunavut and the Canadian Ambient Air Quality
- 8 Standards, that is the -- there's the Nunavut Ambient
- 9 Air Quality Standards and the Canadian Ambient Air
- 10 Quality Standards. They have one-hour values, one-hour
- 11 metrics. So that, effectively, is: What is the
- 12 concentration of nitrogen dioxide averaged over a
- 13 one-hour period?
- Near pollution sources, especially near mines,
- 15 concentrations of NO2 vary significantly, and -- and
- 16 you have circumstances where there are periods of time
- 17 where concentrations are very high, and then they'll
- 18 drop off. And that varies due to multiple factors,
- 19 time of day, sunlight, but, very importantly, the
- 20 amount -- the emissions.
- 21 The -- what you get if you're sampling over
- 30 days is effectively you're missing all of those
- 23 peaks, and those peaks are important in terms of their
- 24 impact -- health impact. So that's -- effectively,
- 25 you're just missing the high concentrations, and that's
- 26 a problem with the passives.

- 1 A second problem with the passives is that they
- 2 have not been adequately assessed for the field
- 3 conditions in which they are used. Those field
- 4 conditions around here in the winter, as you know, can
- 5 get average temperatures of about 35 degrees Celsius
- 6 below zero. And, of course, temperatures can drop
- 7 below that.
- 8 I looked into the specific passive sampler that
- 9 the proponent has been employing, and, unfortunately,
- 10 the sampler itself -- and the sample medium is a
- 11 proprietary medium, so we don't know what's in it. But
- 12 that's okay, as long as there is adequate data that
- 13 validates that these samplers are useful at minus 35 or
- 14 below. There isn't adequate field validation for these
- 15 samplers.
- 16 I realize I have not said my name at the top of
- 17 this, so I'll say now it's Brian Asher, Environment and
- 18 Climate Change Canada. Thank you.
- 19 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 20 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 21 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff. And thank
- 22 you, Brian, for that response.
- 23 Maybe just -- I realize we're going to hear from
- 24 Health Canada next as well, and you referenced -- I
- 25 think this is in your -- in your response, Brian, but
- 26 can you speak to what -- what are the environmental

- 1 consequences of concern regarding nitrous dioxide,
- 2 this -- these emissions that we're talking about?
- 3 Again, very broadly, we've heard a lot of
- 4 back-and-forth about why it's important to monitor and
- 5 what the best monitoring method is, but could you
- 6 explain in a high level why it's important to monitor
- 7 nitrous dioxide?
- 8 THE CHAIR: Environment and Climate
- 9 Change.
- 10 MR. ASHER: Thank you. Brian Asher,
- 11 Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 12 There are a number of consequences related to
- 13 nitrogen dioxide pollution. I won't go into the
- 14 details on the health aspects because I'll leave that
- 15 to my colleague at Health Canada. But suffice to say,
- 16 there are health impacts related to exposure to
- 17 nitrogen -- nitrogen dioxide. There are also
- 18 environmental impacts. NO2 -- this has been assessed
- 19 by the proponent in terms of acid deposition. We're
- 20 not immediately concerned with the potential for acid
- 21 deposition, but excessive NO2 pollution can contribute
- 22 also to acid deposition concerns.
- NO2, like any pollutant, has the potential to
- 24 affect people, as well as wildlife. And so there --
- 25 our overall -- overarching idea is that the proponent
- 26 assessed specific receptors around the mine site, and

- 1 they've identified that they don't expect that the
- 2 receptors -- people -- are going to be close enough to
- 3 the mine site to adequately be affected or to be
- 4 affected adversely.
- 5 Our position is that the mine site -- prior to the
- 6 introduction of the mine site, the air was clean.
- 7 There was no major sources of NO2. Now, with the
- 8 introduction of the mine, there are very substantial
- 9 emissions of NO2. And the principles that Environment
- 10 and Climate Change Canada operates in terms of the --
- 11 how we -- we wish for air quality and air resources to
- 12 be managed is the -- as Melissa had mentioned, keeping
- 13 clean areas clean and continuous improvement. So we
- 14 have an area of land where people should have a right
- 15 to be, and maybe they're not there right now, but that
- 16 air is now -- has diminished air quality. And in our
- 17 view, it's a reasonable outcome to have NO2
- 18 monitoring -- effective NO2 monitoring to have an idea
- 19 of how much pollution you're really generating from
- 20 this mine. Thank you.
- 21 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 22 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
- 23 think the proponent, Agnico Eagle, is hoping to
- 24 interject as well if you would like to give them the
- 25 floor.
- 26 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.

- 1 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 2 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 3 I just wanted to -- just picked up on a few things
- 4 that was mentioned by Environment Canada about the
- 5 applicability of the Canadian Ambient Air Quality
- 6 Standard.
- 7 Based on our review of the standard and our --
- 8 also our review of other public documents for other
- 9 environmental assessments that has occurred in Canada,
- 10 the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standard is not
- 11 applicable to individual facilities. It's regionally
- 12 based. Now, it deals with air sheds and air zones, and
- 13 the air shed for this area is northern Canada, and the
- 14 air zone is the territory -- is -- is Nunavut. Other
- 15 locations in the country -- let's say British Columbia,
- 16 for example -- it may be broken down into little
- 17 slivers, different air zones. So I just wanted to
- 18 provide that clarity.
- 19 And also dealing with the other operators -- let's
- 20 say Doris -- I -- our understanding is to be
- 21 implemented. It's not operational. So I just wanted
- 22 to provide that additional clarity related to
- 23 Environment Canada and Climate Change response to Ryan.
- 24 Thank you.
- 25 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.
- 26 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan

- 1 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 2 Thank you for the clarification and the further
- 3 explanations. We have no further questions.
- 4 Madam Chair, I apologize. Legal counsel has
- 5 pointed out one matter we do wish to raise just before
- 6 we end this topic.
- 7 THE CHAIR: Legal counsel.
- 8 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 9 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 10 Review Board.
- 11 Madam Chair, we just noted that the presentation
- 12 that was actually spoken to differs slightly from the
- 13 one that has been marked as the exhibit. I see that
- 14 there were a couple of updated slides. So just for the
- 15 record, I wanted to make it clear that the version that
- 16 has been marked as the exhibit differs slightly in
- 17 terms of the unresolved and resolved issues, and it
- 18 contains a summary slide in the exhibit that was not
- 19 included in the -- in the one that was presented. So
- 20 if someone is following along in the transcript, they
- 21 may be a bit confused by the exhibit -- the differences
- 22 between the exhibit and the -- the presentation that
- 23 was presented.
- 24 What we will do is we will put the updated
- 25 presentation as well marked as the subsequent exhibit
- 26 to this so that someone would be able to follow along

- 1 with the updated electronic version of the exhibit as
- 2 we saw it presented. So thank you, Madam Chair.
- 3 EXHIBIT 47 Updated Electronic Copy of
- 4 Exhibit Number 43 PowerPoint Presentation
- 5 Environment and Climate Change Canada's
- 6 Presentation to the Nunavut Impact Review
- 7 Board Respecting the Whale Tail Pit Expansion
- 8 Project (English/Inuktitut)
- 9 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Environment and
- 10 Climate Change Canada
- 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 12 Questions to -- Guy, from the Board.
- 13 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. Board member for
- 14 NIRB.
- I have a question to Environment Canada. When you
- 16 said there could be -- we could be facing danger and
- 17 there's no time that we -- we won't know until -- I
- 18 would like to get a clarification on is it not so big
- 19 that we cannot -- you cannot be more concerned? We
- 20 know that there can be -- we could face -- like,
- 21 because these are not running all the time. How is it
- 22 that -- what -- you didn't know -- how are we going to
- 23 know with Nunavut? Like, is it going to be just going
- 24 ahead? Or I'd like to get a clarification on that.
- 25 How safe and how unsafe are we? Maybe it's not so
- 26 unsafe. Maybe -- we -- are you saying that Agnico can

- 1 go ahead and do whatever they want because they --
- 2 we -- it feels like we are not [sic] in danger on this
- 3 issue. Thank you.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 5 MR. ASHER: Brian Asher, Environment and
- 6 Climate Change Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair, and
- 7 thank you for the question.
- 8 I want to clarify -- maybe ask you a follow-up
- 9 just to find out precisely what you're asking. Are you
- 10 wondering what would be the implications if we do not
- 11 do the continuous monitoring for NO2?
- 12 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. Guy Alikut.
- 13 Yes, that is a question I'm raising. And you
- 14 mentioned earlier there might be some danger that --
- 15 because we might not know because you only do some -- a
- 16 few assessments or -- that's how I understand it.
- 17 Thank you, Ms. -- Ms. Chair -- Madam Chair.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 19 MR. ASHER: Brian Asher, Environment and
- 20 Climate Change Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
- 21 you for the clarification.
- 22 Regarding the impact of NO2, it is understood that
- 23 NO2 -- and I won't go into too much detail because this
- 24 is my colleague Paul's territory, but it's -- it's
- 25 understood that NO2 is a non-threshold contaminant,
- 26 meaning that there is no established safe level of NO2.

- 1 Any reduction that can be made for NO2 in terms of
- 2 exposure, if you can reduce it, you'll have a health
- 3 benefit.
- We do have an idea of what the potential NO2
- 5 concentrations are going to be based on the proponent's
- 6 modelling. So it's not a total guess. We -- we have a
- 7 sense of what the concentrations will be. In
- 8 Environment and Climate Change Canada's view, it is
- 9 good practice to confirm those model predictions with
- 10 real measurements, and in our opinion, those real
- 11 measurements would be in the form of continuous NO2
- 12 monitoring because there has not been adequate
- 13 justification or there hasn't been adequate evidence to
- 14 show that the passive monitoring will be adequate in
- 15 terms of informing adaptive management and informing
- 16 the -- also it won't be able to be used effectively to
- 17 confirm the predictions that were made in the
- 18 modelling. So that's generally why we're asking for
- 19 the continuous monitoring. Thank you.
- 20 THE CHAIR: Phillip.
- 21 MR. KADLUN: Thank you. Phillip Kadlun.
- The question I have is use of explosives, whether
- 23 it's an open pit and/or -- or underground. Have you
- 24 done any studies what kind of effect it would have on
- 25 the environment, meaning on the land and on the --
- 26 nearby lakes and -- and on human health? The reason I

- 1 use -- ask you about the underground part is because
- 2 there will be continuous air exchange in that they may
- 3 be blasting underground in that -- whatever -- whatever
- 4 is in the explosion will come out into the air from --
- 5 from the -- from the tunnel. And I'm wondering whether
- 6 there -- there are any studies done in terms of
- 7 cumulative effects around the vicinity of the mine, be
- 8 it on the open pit or on the -- on underground.
- 9 (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN), Madam Chair.
- 10 THE CHAIR: So I'll flag those two
- 11 questions for Health Canada. If you can comment on
- 12 Guy's question and Phillip's question after your
- 13 presentation on the human health -- human health
- 14 impacts.
- 15 Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 16 MR. ASHER: Brian Asher, Environment and
- 17 Climate Change Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
- 18 you for the question.
- 19 The proponent did include blasting in their air
- 20 quality model as an input into the model. So in our
- 21 view, the -- the blasting was taken into account in
- 22 terms of impacts to air.
- 23 For clarity, blasting is a contributor to nitrogen
- 24 dioxide, but in our view, it has been adequately
- 25 included in the air quality model. Thank you.
- 26 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Moving on to the

- 1 next item on the agenda, presentation from Health
- 2 Canada.
- 3 Legal counsel.
- 4 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 6 Review Board.
- 7 If I can have the witness state and spell his name
- 8 for the record, please.
- 9 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge, P-A-U-L
- 10 P-A-R-T-R-I-D-G-E.
- 11 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 12 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 13 Review Board.
- Do you wish to be sworn or affirmed?
- 15 MR. PARTRIDGE: Affirmed.
- 16 PAUL PARTRIDGE, Affirmed
- 17 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa Meadows,
- 18 legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- 19 I have six additional exhibits to file in
- 20 association with this presentation, being the
- 21 presentation materials from Health Canada in English,
- 22 Inuktitut, and French, and also the summary of their
- 23 technical review comments as well in English,
- 24 Inuktitut, and French. And I propose to file those as
- 25 the next six exhibits in this public hearing, and those
- 26 are my procedural matters, Madam Chair.

1	EXHIBIT 48 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
2	Presentation Health Canada Presentation to
3	the NIRB for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion
4	Project (English)
5	EXHIBIT 49 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
6	Presentation Health Canada Presentation to
7	the NIRB for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion
8	Project (Inuktitut)
9	EXHIBIT 50 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
10	Presentation Health Canada Presentation to
11	the NIRB for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion
12	Project (French)
13	EXHIBIT 51 - Hard Copy Executive Summary of
14	Technical Review Comments Health Canada
15	(English)
16	EXHIBIT 52 - Hard Copy Executive Summary of
17	Technical Review Comments Health Canada
18	(Inuktitut)
19	EXHIBIT 53 - Hard Copy Executive Summary of
20	Technical Review Comments Health Canada
21	(French)
22	THE CHAIR: You may proceed with your
23	presentation.
24	Presentation by Health Canada
25	MR. PARTRIDGE: Health Canada, Paul Partridge.
26	Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the Board,

- 1 Elders, community members of Baker Lake and -- in the
- 2 audience, and all other hearing participants.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to present Health
- 4 Canada's view on the environmental assessment review of
- 5 the proposed Whale Tail Pit project or "WTPE". My name
- 6 is Paul Partridge. I am a regional environmental
- 7 assessment specialist for Health Canada. I will be
- 8 presenting information on the nature of Health Canada's
- 9 review and areas of expertise for this project.
- 10 To begin, here is an out -- here is the outline of
- 11 Health Canada's presentation today. I will be speaking
- 12 about the nature of Health Canada's review and areas of
- 13 knowledge, expertise, and limitations and Health
- 14 Canada's recommendations with regard to the WTPE
- 15 project. Specifically, these recommendations focus on
- 16 air quality health effects and contamination of
- 17 traditional foods.
- 18 Health Canada is responsible for helping Canadians
- 19 maintain and improve their health. One way this is
- 20 done is through participating in federal review
- 21 processes of major development and infrastructure
- 22 projects. Health Canada provides expertise and
- 23 knowledge of project propose -- sorry, proposed
- 24 projects' impacts to human health and makes
- 25 recommendations to reduce the risk from these projects.
- In general, Health Canada provides comments on the

- 1 accuracy, scientific validity, and completeness of
- 2 conclusions concerning human health effects, the
- 3 suitability of actions that may be taken to help
- 4 mitigate the health impacts of the project, the
- 5 appropriateness of proposed follow-up action or
- 6 programs to help reduce risks to human health.
- When reviewing environmental assessments, Health
- 8 Canada does not audit the proponent's models and
- 9 assumes that the modelling yields correct results. And
- 10 I'd like to emphasize that Health Canada does not make
- 11 any decisions or issue any licences, permits, or
- 12 authorizations in relation to the projects in the
- 13 environmental assessment context. Lastly, in the
- 14 environmental assessment context, Health Canada does
- 15 not offer comments on occupational health or on
- 16 socioeconomic impacts.
- 17 Throughout the environmental assessment of this
- 18 project, Health Canada reviewed all human health
- 19 relevant aspects of the addendum to the final
- 20 environmental impact statement or "FEIS", the
- 21 proponent's response to information requests and
- 22 technical comments. The items that we reviewed include
- 23 air quality, for which we considered potential
- 24 contaminants in ambient air from predicted
- 25 project-related impacts; traditional foods, for which
- 26 we considered potential contaminants in traditional

- 1 foods from predicted project-related impacts; noise,
- 2 for which we consider the effects of noise from
- 3 predicted project-related impacts; water quality, for
- 4 which we consider potential contamination of
- 5 recreational and drinking water quality from
- 6 project-related impacts. However, this presentation
- 7 and our written submission focuses only on air quality
- 8 and traditional foods, as Health Canada has noted that
- 9 outstanding concerns remain in these two specific
- 10 areas. Health Canada considered comments from the
- 11 Kivallig Inuit Association, the Baker Lake Hunters and
- 12 Trappers Organization, the Government of Nunavut, the
- 13 communities and others to inform the department's
- 14 review -- I apologize for not advancing the slides --
- 15 to inform the department's review provided in our
- 16 written submission NIRB Document Number 326119 and
- 17 summarized in the slides that follow.
- 18 Everyone is exposed to air pollution. Air
- 19 pollution, even at low levels, has an impact on human
- 20 health. Science has clearly showed that air pollution
- 21 can lead to disease, lung and heart issues, and even
- 22 premature death. Health Canada reviewed the documents
- 23 provided by the proponent as well as comments by other
- 24 groups to examine risk of human health -- or to human
- 25 health from exposure to air pollutants using various
- 26 tools, guidelines, and standards.

- 1 Health Canada compares current air quality before
- 2 the project exists to predicted future air quality
- 3 conditions with the project and examines how
- 4 individuals or populations may be affected.
- 5 The Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards or
- 6 "CAAQS" are health and environment based environmental
- 7 quality guidelines established under the Canadian
- 8 Environmental Protection Act of 1999, also known as
- 9 "CEPA". The CAAOS are a benchmark which the Government
- 10 of Canada and provincial and territorial governments
- 11 can use to inform risk management decisions, as well as
- 12 report on progress to reduce health in environmental
- 13 health effects or environmental effects of air
- 14 pollution. In 2020 and 2025, the new CAAQS for
- 15 short-term and long-term exposure to NO2 will come into
- 16 effect. These were published in the Canadian Gazette
- 17 on December 9th, 2017.
- Nitrogen dioxide or "NO2" is a gas that is mainly
- 19 released from combustion sources such as diesel
- 20 engines. Health Canada considers NO2 to be a
- 21 non-threshold, meaning that health effects may occur at
- 22 any level of exposure. Both short-term and long-term
- 23 exposure to NO2 has been associated with respiratory
- 24 effects, including reduced lung function and the
- 25 development of asthma and allergic responses. Everyone
- 26 is at risk; however those with pre-existing respiratory

- 1 conditions such as children with asthma are more
- 2 sensitive to the effects of NO2 and other air
- 3 pollutants.
- 4 NO2 concentrations are expected to increase with
- 5 the proposed Whale Tail Pit expansion, and predicted
- 6 concentrations are likely to exceed the one-hour CAAQS
- 7 for NO2. In order to collect suitable NO2 measurements
- 8 including measurements for a one-hour average time that
- 9 can be evaluated against the CAAQS, continuous monitors
- 10 should be used, and Health Canada encourages the use of
- 11 continuous monitoring of air contaminants when
- 12 exceedances or near exceedances of the CAAQS are
- 13 predicted.
- 14 Health Canada has an issue with the proponent's
- 15 current approach of passive sampling for NO2. Health
- 16 Canada encourages the use of continuous monitoring for
- 17 air contaminants when exceedances or near exceedances
- 18 of the CAAQS are likely, as passive NO2 sampling only
- 19 allows for measurement of 24-hour or annual average
- 20 concentrations. Continuous measurement allows for
- 21 one-hour averaging to be evaluated against the CAAQS.
- Polyaromatic [sic] hydrocarbons, "PAHs", and
- 23 petroleum hydrocarbons, "PHCs", were not considered in
- 24 the health risk assessment. The PAHs are fuel-like
- 25 substances naturally found in the environment, but they
- 26 are also released during combustion emissions such as

- 1 from engines, diesel generators, power generation, and
- 2 even campfires or barbecues. Many PAHs are
- 3 carcinogenic, meaning that, over time, human exposure
- 4 to PAHs can lead to cancer. People are typically
- 5 exposed to PAHs by breathing them in or by eating them
- 6 when they're on food such as foods charred over a
- 7 barbecue. PAHs and PHCs were not included as a
- 8 potential contaminant by the proponent for this
- 9 project.
- 10 Health Canada received information from the
- 11 proponent on August 23rd which further explains the
- 12 exclusion of PAHs and PHCs as a chemical of potential
- 13 concern in their health risk assessment. The Board's
- 14 consideration of Health Canada's recommendation 3.1-2
- 15 is no longer suggested.
- 16 Most effects from iron inhalation are hard to
- 17 separate from exposure to other chemicals, making it
- 18 difficult to isolate iron as a cause of adverse health
- 19 effects such as cancer. However, Ontario Ministry of
- 20 the Environment, Conservation and Parks has a
- 21 health-based standard of 4 micrograms per metre cubed.
- 22 Effects of iron inhalation on humans is currently
- 23 unknown. Health Canada is supportive of a
- 24 precautionary approach where individuals may be at
- 25 increased risk of iron inhalation. Health Canada is
- 26 satisfied with the proponent's August 9th response and

- 1 its consideration of health risks from iron and air.
- 2 The Board's consideration of Health Canada's
- 3 recommendation 3.1-2 is no longer suggested.
- 4 Traditional foods, also known as "country foods",
- 5 are considered to be food sourced outside of the
- 6 commercial food chain. This includes any food that is
- 7 trapped, fished, hunted, harvested, or grown for
- 8 subsistence or medicinal purposes.
- 9 Arsenic may increase in areas that are impacted by
- 10 the project such as in the environment surface water,
- 11 as well as in fish. However, there is uncertainty
- 12 about the potential for increased risk to human health
- 13 from arsenic in areas impacted by the project. Health
- 14 Canada suggests arsenic -- an arsenic monitoring
- 15 program should be implemented, and predicted arsenic
- 16 concentrations in fish are lower than the typical
- 17 arsenic concentrations available on the Canadian
- 18 market; however, the project may be a possible source
- 19 of inorganic arsenic, which is the toxic form of
- 20 arsenic and has the potential to increase levels in the
- 21 environment and in fish. If inorganic arsenic
- 22 concentrations in fish exceed those predicted by the
- 23 proponent -- that is, assuming 10 percent total arsenic
- 24 concentration is inorganic -- the potential impact to
- 25 human health may need to be reassessed.
- 26 Health Canada received information from the

- 1 proponent in their final written response August 9th,
- 2 as well as some additional information on August 23rd
- 3 which clarified how the project is currently monitoring
- 4 arsenic in the environment. Health Canada recommends
- 5 that the existing arsenic monitoring and surface water
- 6 and soil be used to ensure the predictions of arsenic
- 7 in the environment and in fish tissue are not
- 8 underestimated. If concentrations are higher than
- 9 predicted, then further analysis and mitigation may be
- 10 required. If fish in the area is frequently caught and
- 11 eaten or if fishing is expected to increase as a result
- 12 of the project, Health Canada also recommends
- 13 monitoring for inorganic arsenic in fish tissue to
- 14 confirm predictions because the nature of the project
- 15 may cause increases of inorganic arsenic.
- 16 Thank you. This concludes our presentation.
- 17 THE CHAIR: Questions to Health Canada
- 18 from KIA?
- 19 MR. MANZO: Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit
- 20 Association. Thank you, Madam Chair. No questions.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 22 Trappers Organization.
- 23 MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 24 Richard Aksawnee, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers. No
- 25 Ouestions.
- 26 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.

- 1 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Steve
- 2 Pinksen, Government of Nunavut. We have no questions.
- 3 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.
- 4 MR. DEWAR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 6 Affairs Canada. No questions.
- 7 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 8 MS. PINTO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 9 Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 10 We have no questions at this time.
- 11 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 12 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
- 13 D'Aguiar with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Thank you
- 14 for your presentation. We have no questions.
- 15 THE CHAIR: NRCan.
- 16 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, Natural Resources
- 17 Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair. No questions.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 19 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 20 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 21 We just need a couple of minutes to finalize a few
- 22 questions. I'm wondering if we could just have two to
- 23 three minutes?
- 24 THE CHAIR: Let's take a 15-minute break.
- 25 MR. QUESNEL: Okay. Thank you.
- 26 (ADJOURNMENT)

- 1 THE CHAIR: Let's continue. Questions for
- 2 Health Canada from Agnico Eagle.
- 3 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Questions Health Canada
- 4 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 5 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 6 Just for some -- some clarification on, I think,
- 7 it's slide -- is it 11 -- on Slide 11 regarding the
- 8 petroleum hydrocarbons and -- all hydrocarbons, as we
- 9 provided additional information related to that, it is
- 10 our understanding that item is resolved. Is that
- 11 correct?
- 12 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 13 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge, Health Canada.
- 14 That is correct. Health Canada considers that to
- 15 be resolved.
- 16 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 17 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 18 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 19 Slide -- on Slide 15, I just wanted some
- 20 clarification just based on our discussion and the
- 21 information that was provided to Health Canada
- 22 regarding the environmental effects monitoring program
- 23 that we have established at the Whale Tail project
- 24 which would continue if we do receive approval for the
- 25 expansion project. But based on our discussion and the
- 26 review of that program and dealing with the fish

- 1 studies that would be completed as part of that
- 2 program, do you consider this item related to arsenic
- 3 result?
- 4 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 5 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge, Health Canada.
- 6 Yes. Based on our conversations and the
- 7 identification of fish tissue monitoring as part of the
- 8 aquatic effects monitoring plan looking at arsenic, as
- 9 long as that's occurring to confirm the results of --
- 10 of the model, then that -- that would be acceptable to
- 11 us, for sure. Thank you.
- 12 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 13 MS. KOWBEL: Just one moment, Madam Chair.
- 14 Thank you.
- 15 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 16 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 17 So just based on Health Canada's presentation -- a
- 18 question for Paul, just dealing with the issue of NO2,
- 19 is this something that you would consider not a big
- 20 concern for hunters in the area? Would that be a
- 21 correct assumption?
- 22 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 23 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge from Health
- 24 Canada.
- 25 The information available related to NO2 indicates
- 26 that there -- there are some potential health effects

1 that occur with various levels of exposure related to

- 2 things like a little shortness of breath or -- or
- 3 possibly asthma at certain levels.
- 4 With regards to this specific project and the
- 5 levels that have been projected, we were interested in
- 6 taking a look at monitoring to confirm levels for
- 7 things like one-hour exposure to ensure that any of
- 8 those risks are considered in any management decisions
- 9 for the project and that the -- the population as a
- 10 whole is -- is -- is in a better state.
- 11 The guidelines for the -- the CAAQS are set up as
- 12 a -- as a population-based guideline to try and improve
- 13 quality of -- of -- of things and reduce adverse
- 14 effects or potential adverse health risks. So I think
- 15 that -- that -- it -- if we can look at something like
- 16 that, then we would be able to -- yeah.
- 17 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 18 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 19 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 20 As the Whale Tail Pit project was approved
- 21 approximately 17 months ago and approved by Health
- 22 Canada and based on the comments made from Health
- 23 Canada today, in Agnico Eagle's assessment, are you
- 24 comfortable traditional foods can be consumed and
- 25 enjoyed in the project area?
- 26 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge from Health

- 1 Canada.
- 2 Yes. Based on the results of the assessment that
- 3 have been put forward, there's no unacceptable risks
- 4 that were identified from -- from the -- the health
- 5 risk assessments that were put forward.
- 6 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 7 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 8 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 9 My final question and as an overall comment on
- 10 this presentation. Other than the sampling
- 11 methodology, we have -- we have found a path forward in
- 12 all the other issues. Would that be correct?
- 13 THE CHAIR: I listen for the
- 14 interpretation, so just please wait until I say your
- 15 name before you speak.
- 16 Health Canada.
- 17 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge, Health Canada.
- 18 Yes. With the exception of the NO2 monitoring
- 19 methodology, I think we've resolved all of the --
- 20 the -- the issues or -- or outstanding issues Health
- 21 Canada had.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 23 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 24 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- Those are all our questions. Thank you.
- 26 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

- 1 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 2 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- Actually, that last exchange answered the
- 4 questions from the board staff, so we have no
- 5 questions, and I appreciate the attendance and
- 6 participation of Health Canada.
- 7 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board. Uriash.
- 8 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Health Canada
- 9 MR. PUQIQNAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 10 Uriash Puqiqnak, NIRB Board member.
- I wonder if you could give me some clarification
- 12 with regards to country food and -- and to fish.
- 13 There -- you had spoken about a threshold of
- 14 10 percent. Assuming 10 percent of the total arsenic
- 15 concentration is inorganic, there is a lab that you
- 16 send the -- can -- what is the total? How are you
- 17 assuming that 10 percent is the total arsenic
- 18 concentration? Is that a threshold? Can you elaborate
- 19 on that a little bit more so that we can get some more
- 20 clarification? Page 14.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 22 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you very much for your
- 23 question. Paul Partridge, Health Canada.
- 24 10 percent of total arsenic, being arsenic, is a
- 25 fairly standard -- sorry. 10 percent inorganic
- 26 arsenic, as part of total arsenic, is -- is a standard

- 1 that's used and applied. It generally represents
- 2 natural composition of inorganic arsenic in a sample of
- 3 arsenic.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Uriash.
- 5 MR. PUQIQNAK: Thank you. Uriash, NIRB Board
- 6 member.
- 7 This is a total 10 percent. We can continue to
- 8 eat country food, fish anything that's -- we can hunt
- 9 and trap. Health Canada, has there been studies done
- 10 on country food, traditional foods, that are considered
- 11 to be food? Has -- has there been any studies done as
- 12 to how much concentration of different chemicals there
- 13 are in the country food that's harvested out there and
- 14 for medicinal purposes?
- 15 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 16 MR. PARTRIDGE: Health Canada, Paul Partridge
- 17 speaking.
- I will defer to AEM to speak to the extent of
- 19 their risk assessment. I will mention that they did
- 20 consider wildlife, as well as specifically aquatic
- 21 fish, that would be impacted by the project site, but
- 22 if that's acceptable, then I think they're in a better
- 23 position to speak to the risk assessment.
- 24 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 25 MS. AMENDOLA: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 26 Andrea Amendola, Golder Associates.

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1 To answer the question about country foods and if
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- 2 they're safe to eat and if there have been studies on
- 3 country foods, there have been many studies of country
- 4 foods in terms of both consumption, as well as uptake
- of contaminants into country foods, so into the food
- 6 that people will eat.
- 7 That kind of information was included in the risk
- 8 assessment. So when we looked at the changes in
- 9 concentrations in the environment, we use that
- 10 information to help us understand what people would be
- 11 exposed to, and -- and looking in the risk assessment,
- 12 that told us that -- that country foods continued to be
- 13 safe to eat. Thank you.
- 14 THE CHAIR: Before Environment and Climate
- 15 Change Canada was doing their presentation, there were
- 16 some questions from board members.
- 17 Health Canada, do you have a response to Phillip's
- 18 question?
- 19 Response to Deferred Questions by Health Canada
- 20 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Paul
- 21 Partridge, Health Canada.
- 22 I'm going to have to apologize. I -- I want to
- 23 make sure I'm correct here, and I have mis -- misput
- 24 the question for the wrong individual, I do apologize,
- 25 Phillip. If I -- if -- could I perhaps have the
- 26 question repeated?

1 THE CHAIR:	Phillip.
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- 2 MR. KADLUN: (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN), Madam
- 3 Chair. Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- 4 My question was the use of explosives, whether
- 5 it's in the open pit or underground. I was wondering
- if there were any assessments or studies that might
- 7 indicate whether the use of explosives can be -- how
- 8 you might say, that's a health hazard to the humans.
- 9 (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN), Madam Chair.
- 10 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 11 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you very much for that
- 12 clarification. Health Canada, Paul Partridge speaking.
- With regards to -- to the explosives and the
- 14 assessment of potential health risk associated with the
- 15 blasting material coming out, I'll emphasize what my
- 16 colleague from Environment Canada had mentioned, that
- 17 the -- the modeling that was done for air quality
- 18 included blasting, and that information was fed into
- 19 the health risk assessment in order to take a look at
- 20 potential health risks associated with exposure to
- 21 chemicals in the air, and the assessment indicated that
- 22 there were no risks that -- that would be of -- of
- 23 significant concern.
- 24 THE CHAIR: Phillip.
- 25 MR. KADLUN: (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN), Madam
- 26 Chair. Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

- 1 Not only on the humans but, also, on wildlife as
- 2 well, and I would like -- and, also, I would like to
- 3 get an answer from -- from the proponent, whether there
- 4 are studies related to use of explosives in terms of
- 5 what it might cost on the environment, meaning on the
- 6 land and nearby lakes as well around the -- the -- the
- 7 mine site. (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN), Madam Chair.
- 8 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 9 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge, Health Canada.
- 10 I'm probably not the best person to speak to
- 11 the -- the impacts on -- on wildlife from blasting and
- 12 blasting studies. I -- if it's all right, I wouldn't
- 13 mind deferring that possibly to the proponent to speak
- 14 to that aspect.
- 15 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 16 MS. AMENDOLA: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 17 Andrea Amendola, Golder Associates.
- Just to expand a bit on the NO2 from blasting,
- 19 we -- we did in the final environmental impact
- 20 assessment use a very conservative approach where we
- 21 looked at the blasts happening every hour. This is not
- 22 realistic in terms of how the mine will operate. So
- 23 the approach that we took was very conservative, and
- 24 the -- the information that we used to interpret those
- 25 predictions consider effects to vegetation from
- 26 blasting. So that's included in all of the information

- 1 that was reviewed. Thank you.
- 2 THE CHAIR: Catherine.
- 3 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Health Canada
- 4 MS. EMRICK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Catherine Emrick, NIRB Board member.
- I understand from the exchange that there's been
- 7 agreement on proceeding with the inorganic arsenic
- 8 monitoring in fish. I'm just wondering if you could
- 9 clarify for me -- and I appreciate your patience on
- 10 this -- what has changed from Slide 15? If you could
- 11 just go over with me what is being implemented. Thank
- 12 you.
- 13 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 14 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you for the question.
- 15 Paul Partridge, Health Canada.
- 16 So a number of things have changed -- I shouldn't
- 17 say "changed", but the proponent was able to, in their
- 18 final response from August 9th, provide a list of
- 19 monitoring plans that indicated that monitoring was
- 20 occurring in sediment and in water for arsenic
- 21 specifically. It wasn't highlighted as part of the
- 22 HHRA, but being able to draw that connection was
- 23 important for us, and that was the first portion of our
- 24 question or request related to making sure that we had
- a method of being able to appropriately monitor the
- 26 concentrations in environmental media.

- And the second portion relates to confirming the predictions for the uptake of arsenic from the water
- 3 and the environment into the fish based on the results
- 4 that were put forward by the company. To be very
- 5 clear, health -- the company uses a bioconcentration
- 6 factor that predicts no risk with the consumption of
- 7 fish at the site. The prediction that comes out is
- 8 actually better than the -- the Canadian market values,
- 9 and so we wanted to confirm that the levels that are
- 10 being predicted are the actual levels that are being
- 11 observed.
- 12 And -- and what's been clarified during
- 13 discussions is that there is actual monitoring of fish
- 14 tissue for inorganic arsenic as part of the -- the --
- 15 the monitoring program. I believe it's on a one and
- 16 every three years, and that should be sufficient, I
- 17 think, to confirm that the model's predictions are
- 18 accurate. And if not, then there would be an
- 19 opportunity to examine how that might change things.
- 20 THE CHAIR: Catherine.
- 21 MS. EMRICK: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- Thank you.
- 23 THE CHAIR: We also had a deferred
- 24 question from Guy.
- 25 Guy.
- 26 MR. ALIKUT: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

- 1 Guy Alikut, NIRB Board member.
- I had a question with regards to Environment
- 3 Canada, and I was deferred to ask this question to
- 4 Health Canada. Sometimes there are low concentrations
- 5 of some of the things that are being monitored or
- 6 tested. How -- why is there some uncertainty to
- 7 increased risk to human health? You were speaking to
- 8 puck. You had said that it was almost -- almost hard
- 9 to predict and hard to monitor.
- 10 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 11 Response to Deferred Questions by Health Canada
- 12 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you. Thank you, Guy.
- 13 Paul Partridge, Health Canada.
- 14 With regards to the predictions, I think Brian
- 15 said it best, but I -- I will talk about the idea that
- 16 we have both the Nunavut Ambient Air Standards, as well
- 17 as the Canadian Ambient Air Standards make use of a
- 18 one-hour average in -- in considering concentrations
- 19 of -- of NO2 in the environment.
- 20 And the use of continuous monitoring would provide
- 21 that information for one-hour averaging, whereas the
- 22 passive monitoring would only provide 24-hour, 30-day
- 23 averages from my understanding, but I'll defer to
- 24 Environment Canada to -- to speak more to the -- the
- 25 monitoring aspects or technology, if that's all right.
- 26 THE CHAIR: Guy.

- 1 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you.
- 2 Yes. It's more clear. The equipment -- that
- 3 equipment that's being used and the instruments that
- 4 are being used, sometimes the instruments are -- are --
- 5 may be -- may not be -- maybe they're inaccurate at
- 6 times.
- 7 My second question is to -- to -- well, CIRNAC is
- 8 reporting directly to -- to you, to the mining company.
- 9 Who can make it more information? We are not -- I had
- 10 asked KIA: Who do they report to, and what types of
- 11 reporting -- or how do you disseminate information? We
- 12 need to know if there are maybe potential risks at
- 13 times. We need to know who is going to disseminate
- 14 information should there be a risk or a potential risk.
- 15 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 16 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, again, for that
- 17 question. Paul Partridge from Health Canada.
- 18 With regards to information sharing, I -- I can't
- 19 speak to all the aspects of the companies approached to
- 20 engage in communities through various community
- 21 organizations, but there is reporting that occurs, as
- 22 part of project certificates, to take a look at things
- 23 like the monitoring, and Health Canada does participate
- 24 in those reviews to take a look and provide whatever
- 25 expertise or support it can in the review of that
- 26 material to ensure that the best possible decisions

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1 can -- can benefit from the information available.
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- 2 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Health Canada
- 3 THE CHAIR: Going back to the presentation
- 4 that you gave when you talked about frequency in
- 5 harvesting and the risk to exposure to contaminants.
- 6 Can you clarify when you say frequently caught and
- 7 eaten? What specific values are you referring to as
- 8 "frequent"? Like, every day, your primary diet, once a
- 9 month? Can you clarify what you mean when you say
- 10 "frequently"?
- 11 Health Canada.
- 12 MR. PARTRIDGE: Paul Partridge from Health
- 13 Canada.
- I don't have a specific term for "frequently". I
- 15 think there's some room for some interpretation on
- 16 that. I do know that there was some consideration of
- 17 how frequently individuals who may be in the vicinity
- 18 of the project area may be harvesting, and that was
- 19 used for the basis of the health risk assessment
- 20 which -- which didn't identify any risks with the --
- 21 the level of consumption in that assessment.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you for your
- 23 presentation.
- 24 Moving on to the -- Agnico Eagle.
- 25 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 26 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

- 1 We can provide, if you wish, a little bit more
- 2 information based on your question. And, also, to add
- 3 a few items related to the board member regarding
- 4 the -- the monitoring and sharing information. So I'll
- 5 just respond quickly. Based on all our monitoring
- 6 information, it's provided in the annual report every
- 7 March, and we have all our information related to the
- 8 past years monitoring and all the results. So that's
- 9 one way we -- we share the information, and that
- 10 information's available in our communities. It's
- 11 available online. It's available on the Nunavut Impact
- 12 Review Board public registry, and I'll just have my
- 13 colleague, Andrea, talk about the duration.
- 14 MS. AMENDOLA: Thanks, Jamie.
- 15 Andrea Amendola, Golder Associates.
- 16 So with respect to the duration of country food
- 17 consumption, so what we were looking at in the risk
- 18 assessment was based upon traditional knowledge and
- 19 consultation, information for the area. What we --
- 20 what we knew about the area and what we understood from
- 21 those consultations was that people are generally not
- 22 using the area very often for hunting, trapping,
- 23 catching, or fishing activities these days.
- With that in mind, we still looked at potential
- 25 exposure for visitors of the area for brief periods of
- 26 time, and for that, I mean two weeks per year over the

- 1 course of a lifetime of exposure to country foods and
- 2 fish in the area. So -- oh, sorry. A correction.
- 3 "Lifetime", I should correct that to say 60 years,
- 4 which is the life of the project.
- 5 THE CHAIR: So to clarify, your -- the
- 6 model that you predicted where there's no impacts to
- 7 health from consumption of country food in the --
- 8 within the project area is based on 60 years eating
- 9 food from that area, 14 days over 60 years? Can you
- 10 clarify?
- 11 MS. AMENDOLA: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 12 Assuming that every year for 60 years a person can
- 13 be eating fish or country foods for 14 days, so 14 days
- every year, every 365 days for 60 years.
- 15 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that
- 16 clarification.
- 17 Moving on to the next item on the agenda, a
- 18 presentation from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 19 Legal counsel.
- 20 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 21 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 22 Review Board.
- 23 If I can have the witnesses state and spell their
- 24 names for the record, please.
- 25 MR. JANOWICZ: Thank you.
- Marek Janowicz, M-A-R-E-K J-A-N-O-W-I-C-Z.

- 1 MR. D'AGUIAR: Mark D'Aguiar, M-A-R-K 'D',
- 2 apostrophe, A-G-U-I-A-R.
- 3 MR. TRACZ: Boyan Tracz, B-O-Y-A-N
- 4 T-R-A-C-Z.
- 5 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 6 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 7 Review Board.
- 8 Do the witnesses wish to be sworn or affirmed?
- 9 MR. JANOWICZ: Marek Janowicz, affirmed.
- 10 MR. D'AGUIAR: Mark D'Aguiar, affirmed.
- 11 MR. TRACZ: Boyan Tracz, affirmed.
- 12 MAREK JANOWICZ, MARK D'AGUIAR, BOYAN TRACZ, Affirmed
- 13 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you.
- 14 Thank you, Madam Chair. Teresa Meadows, legal
- 15 counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- 16 Madam Chair, I have hard copies of the
- 17 presentation materials that will be presented by
- 18 Fisheries and Oceans Canada here today, and I propose
- 19 to mark those as the next exhibits in this public
- 20 hearing, and those are my procedural matters.
- 21 EXHIBIT 54 Hard Copy PowerPoint
- 22 presentation of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- on Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail
- 24 Pit Expansion Project (English)
- 25 EXHIBIT 55 Hard Copy PowerPoint
- 26 presentation of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- on Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail
- 2 Pit Expansion Project (Inuktitut)
- 3 EXHIBIT 56 Hard Copy PowerPoint
- 4 Presentation of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- 5 on Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail
- 6 Pit Expansion Project (French)
- 7 THE CHAIR: Thank you. You may proceed
- 8 with your presentation.
- 9 Presentation by Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- 10 MR. JANOWICZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Marek
- 11 Janowicz, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 12 Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the -- and
- 13 staff of the board, the community of Baker Lake, the
- 14 proponent, and other community members joining us here
- 15 this week.
- 16 My name is Mark Janowicz, and I am the original
- 17 manager, regulatory review, fish and fish habitat
- 18 protection program, central and arctic region,
- 19 Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 20 With me is Mark D'Aquiar, senior biologist with my
- 21 program, and Bogdan -- Boyan Tracz, a biologist also
- 22 with the program.
- 23 I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review
- 24 Board for providing Fisheries and Oceans Canada with
- 25 the opportunity to present our final written submission
- 26 comments and recommendations in respects to Agnico

- 1 Eagle Mines Limited Whale Tail Pit expansion project
- 2 proposal, a proposed amendment to already approved
- 3 Whale Tail Pit project.
- 4 We hope that our comments will be helpful to the
- 5 Board by providing expert advice on the potential
- 6 impact to fish and fish habitat and marine mammals.
- 7 In terms of our presentation today, first, I will
- 8 provide brief overview of our mandate, applicable
- 9 legislation, and policies.
- 10 Second, I will provide an overview of our final
- 11 written submission and recommendations that we provided
- 12 to the Nunavut Impact Review Board with regards to
- 13 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Whale Tail Pit expansion
- 14 project proposal.
- And, third, I will present our conclusion.
- 16 Finally, I will take time to answer any questions
- or comments related to our presentations.
- 18 For the remainder of the presentation, I will also
- 19 refer to Fisheries and Oceans Canada as "DFO".
- 20 The mandate of the -- of Fisheries and Oceans
- 21 Canada, fish and fish habitat protection program, is to
- 22 maintain the sustainability and ongoing productivity of
- 23 commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries.
- 24 DFO noticed that this project proposal was
- 25 reviewed under this mandate. However, DFO notes that
- 26 the recently passed Bill C-68, a federal act, has

- 1 resulted in changes to the Fisheries Act, and these --
- 2 these changes will be discussed in the upcoming slides,
- 3 and the changes will occur once the bill comes into
- 4 force tomorrow, actually, August 28 of 2018 -- '19.
- 5 I'm sorry.
- 6 Fish and fish habitat protection program is
- 7 responsible for ensuring that projects in or near water
- 8 are undertaken following the requirements of Fisheries
- 9 Act and the Species At Risk Act. Fish and fish habitat
- 10 protection program provides, also, guidance to
- 11 proponents on how to avoid, mitigate, or offset impacts
- 12 to fish and fish habitats. The program is also the
- 13 main program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada involved in
- 14 the environmental assessment process.
- DFO notes that the wording on the slide represents
- 16 the current Fisheries Act provision for which this
- 17 project was reviewed, but, of course, as of August 28,
- 18 2019, those provisions will be updated to reflect the
- 19 new modernized Fisheries Act.
- 20 Our regulatory role is defined by the Fisheries
- 21 Act, particularly, Section 35, which prohibits serious
- 22 harm to fish that are part of a commercial,
- 23 recreational, or Aboriginal fishery or to fish that
- 24 support such fishery. Serious harm is identified in
- 25 the Fisheries Act as the death of fish, permanent
- 26 alteration of habitat, or destruction of fish habitat.

- 1 The Act allows for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
- 2 to issue a Fisheries Act authorization in order for the
- 3 project to proceed.
- 4 As I mentioned in the previous slides, I will
- 5 discuss some of the recent relevant changes to the
- 6 Fisheries Act and legislation. Bill C-68 on -- on
- 7 February 6th, 2018, the Government of Canada introduced
- 8 in parliament Bill C-68, titled: (as read)
- 9 An Act to Amend Fisheries Act and Other Acts
- in Consequence.
- 11 As of June 21st, 2019, the new modernized Fisheries Act
- 12 received royal assent and became law with fish and fish
- 13 habitat protection provisions of the new Fisheries Act
- 14 coming into force tomorrow, August 28, 2019.
- I need to note that this coming-into-force date
- 16 was announced after the final written submission to the
- 17 board, and after our presentation, we were provided,
- 18 and as such, it was not reflected in our submission.
- 19 Our program continues to prepare for the implementation
- 20 of those provisions.
- 21 The fish and fish habitat protection program, in
- 22 effect up until tomorrow, was guided by two policies:
- 23 The fisheries protection policy statement and the
- 24 fisheries productivity investment policy, a proponent
- 25 guide to the offsetting. As of August 28, 2019, the
- 26 fish and fish habitat provision of the Fisheries Act

- 1 associated regulations, and guides will change.
- 2 DFO has considered the Fisheries Act in its review
- 3 to determine what aspect of the project could impact
- 4 fish and fish habitat. Our written submission and
- 5 recommendation to the board focused on following four
- 6 areas: Fish passage, fish bearing status of
- 7 watercourses and waterbodies, downstream environment,
- 8 and marine mammals observations.
- 9 In this presentation, DFO will bring to the Board
- 10 attention only to the key points recognizing that our
- 11 written submission provided complete details.
- 12 Our first technical comment was related to fish
- 13 passage. DFO notes that fish need access to habitat
- 14 and the ability to move among habitat types in order to
- 15 complete one or more of their life cycles -- life
- 16 processes. Sorry. As such, it's important that all
- 17 crossings allow for fish passage for all flow scenarios
- 18 and all life stages. For fish species, that required
- 19 passage to complete their life history processes.
- 20 DFO notes that Agnico Eagle Mines flow/velocity
- 21 calculations that were used to inform culvert sizing
- 22 were based on limited historical rainfall data from
- 23 years 2016 to 2018. Rather than field base stream flow
- 24 data, DFO noted that field base flow measurements
- 25 during peak flow events, such as during the freshet,
- 26 should be used to make final decisions on appropriate

- 1 culvert sizing.
- Therefore, DFO recommended that the proponent
- 3 provide site-specific detail to design plans for all
- 4 water crossings and provide site-specific flow
- 5 information based on field observations and provide
- 6 calculations which clearly indicated a percent of fish
- 7 expected to pass unimpeded at each water crossing.
- 8 DFO also recommended that Agnico Eagle Mines
- 9 provide additional rationale for use of
- 10 15-centimetre-size fish and additional clarification on
- 11 how use of 15-centimetre fish accounts for all the fish
- 12 for which passage might be a challenge. And another
- 13 recommendation, that Agnico Eagle Mines ensure fish
- 14 passage requirements are met.
- In their responses to DFO final written
- 16 submission, Agnico Eagle Mines has agreed to those
- 17 recommendations and committed to provide the
- 18 information to DFO as part of the regulatory review
- 19 phase, should the project be approved to proceed by the
- 20 Board. DFO is satisfied with this response. DFO will
- 21 work with Agnico Eagle Mines during the regulatory
- 22 phase to ensure fish passage requirements are met.
- 23 DFO's next technical comments relates to the fish
- 24 bearing status of watercourses and waterbodies. We
- 25 noted uncertainty with the fish bearing status of
- 26 several waterbodies and watercourses resulting from

- 1 unclear or inconsistent information among the various
- 2 documents provided for the expansion project.
- We note that it is important to understand and
- 4 accurately determine which waterbodies and watercourses
- 5 contain fish and fish habitat that have the potential
- 6 to be adversely affected by the proposed expansion
- 7 project.
- 8 DFO notes that Agnico Eagle Mines provided updated
- 9 results from the 2019 field sampling, field season,
- 10 during our July 3rd, 2019, meeting. Lakes A50, A51,
- 11 A52, which were previously considered by Agnico Eagle
- 12 Mine to not have fish based on 2014 to 2018 field
- 13 surveys, were found to contain small-bodied fish,
- 14 nine-spine Stickleback based on the 2019 survey.
- We need to reiterate the assertion that annual
- 16 variability in hydrological conditions, for example,
- 17 flow, may change a condition such that waterbodies and
- 18 watercourses currently viewed as not being fish
- 19 bearings may actually be better fishes under certain
- 20 conditions, such as high-flow, high-precipitation
- 21 years.
- 22 So DFO recommended to the proponent to update the
- 23 consolidated table of all waterbodies and waterways
- 24 impacted by project activities with regards to fish and
- 25 fish habitat status and areas considered in calculation
- 26 of habitat losses.

- 1 In their final written statement response, Agnico
- 2 Eagle Mines provided an updated consolidated table.
- 3 Agnico Eagle Mines stated the least of waterbodies and
- 4 watercourses and their fish bearing status will be
- 5 finalized through discussion with DFO during the water
- 6 licence amendment process of the project as part of the
- 7 Fisheries Act authorization application stage. Data
- 8 collected during summer 2019 will also be included in
- 9 the final offsetting plan.
- 10 DFO is satisfied with this -- with this response.
- 11 Also, DFO will work with Agnico Eagle Mines during the
- 12 regulatory phase, should the project be approved, to
- 13 ensure fish and fish habitat impacted by expansion
- 14 project activities are adequately accounted for and
- 15 offset or compensate.
- 16 Fisheries and Oceans Canada's next technical
- 17 comment related -- is related to the downstream
- 18 environment. Agnico Eagle Mine has indicated that a
- 19 decrease in water level was expected to occur in
- 20 waterbodies downstream of Mammoth Lake, lake --
- 21 particularly, Lake A16. DFO requested clarification
- 22 respecting the quantification of water level changes
- 23 expected rather than the qualitative assessment.
- 24 DFO notes that it is important to understand and
- 25 quantify impact to fish and fish habitat resulting from
- 26 potential flooding of downstream environments as a

- 1 result of Whale Tail Expansion Project.
- 2 DFO recommended to the proponent that they provide
- 3 detailed quantitative information on the changes to
- 4 water levels and surface area to downstream waterbodies
- 5 and waterways, as requested in DFO Technical
- 6 Comment 347.
- 7 DFO also recommended that the proponent provide an
- 8 update per -- that provide an updated quantitative
- 9 assessment of impact to all waterbodies associated with
- 10 the discharge scenario to D1 and D5, should the
- 11 scenario be considered.
- 12 DFO notes and reiterates the importance of
- 13 quantification of impacts. Agnico Eagle Mines in
- 14 response to the above, committed to provide the
- 15 requested additional information to DFO during the
- 16 water licence amendment process of the project and as
- 17 part of the Fisheries Act authorization application,
- 18 should the project be approved by the board. DFO is
- 19 satisfied with the response.
- 20 DFO final technical comment relate to the marine
- 21 mammal observation program. In our final written
- 22 submission, DFO noted Nunavut Impact Review Board
- 23 reporting of community constants regarding potential
- 24 impact of shipping on marine mammals and the change in
- 25 distribution.
- 26 DFO further noted that lack of 2018 marine mammal

- 1 observations may indicate that mammal distribution have
- 2 changed or that the lack of siting was a function of
- 3 ineffective marine mammal monitoring. DFO submits that
- 4 appropriate, adequate, and effective marine mammal
- 5 monitoring programs are essential to properly assess
- 6 the potential negative impacts on marine mammals from
- 7 Agnico Eagle Mines' required shipping activities.
- 8 DFO recommended to proponent that Agnico Eagle
- 9 Mines work with DFO and interested parties to improve
- 10 the marine mammals and seabird observer program,
- 11 including their implementation, training, and potential
- 12 improvement that can be made to increase effectiveness.
- In Agnico Eagle Mine's response to our final
- 14 written submission, Agnico Eagle Mine's committed to
- 15 comply with Condition 40 of Nunavut Impact Review Board
- 16 Project Certificate Number 008 and revise its shipping
- 17 management plan in consultation with DFO and
- 18 communities and to revise its plans 90 days prior to
- 19 shipping activities.
- 20 Agnico Eagle Mines expressed also that they look
- 21 forward to continue working with DFO and other
- 22 interested parties to improve the marine mammal
- 23 management and monitoring plan.
- 24 DFO is satisfied with this response and would like
- 25 to acknowledge that Agnico Eagle Mine has already
- 26 initiated conversation with DFO with respect to

- 1 training materials and guidelines for marine mammal
- 2 observation that could compliment their existing marine
- 3 mammals and seabird observation program.
- 4 DFO acknowledges Agnico Eagle Mine commitment
- 5 yesterday to be invited to annual consultation meetings
- 6 in communities of -- for example, Chesterfield Inlet as
- 7 this will aide discussion how to improve the marine
- 8 mammal and seabird observation program. DFO will work
- 9 with Agnico Eagle Mines during the regulatory phase,
- 10 should the project be approved to proceed, to ensure
- 11 marine mammals' monitoring is adequate.
- 12 In conclusion, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will
- 13 continue to work with the proponent and stakeholders,
- 14 including potentially affected communities, to ensure
- 15 that all constants related to fish passage, fish
- 16 habitat status, offsetting and marine mammals are
- 17 addressed, and all negative impacts are accounted for
- 18 and offset, and appropriate site-specific mitigation
- 19 measures, follow-up, and monitoring programs are
- 20 implemented.
- 21 Thank you very much. We are ready to answer
- 22 questions.
- 23 THE CHAIR: Questions to DFO.
- 24 Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 25 MR. MANZO: Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit
- 26 Association. Thank you, Madam Chair.

- 2 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 3 Trappers Organization.
- 4 MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 5 Richard Aksawnee, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers.
- 6 No questions.
- 7 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.
- 8 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Steve
- 9 Pinksen, Government of Nunavut.
- 10 We have no questions.
- 11 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.
- 12 MR. DEWAR: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 13 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 14 Affairs Canada.
- No questions.
- 16 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada.
- 17 MS. PINTO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 18 Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- We have no questions.
- 20 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 21 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Paul
- 22 Partridge from Health Canada.
- We have no questions at this time.
- 24 THE CHAIR: NRCan.
- 25 MR. QUINN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jason
- 26 Quinn, NRCan.

- 1 No questions.
- 2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle Mines Limited.
- 3 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 4 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 5 No questions.
- 6 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board staff.
- 7 Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions Fisheries
- 8 and Oceans Canada
- 9 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 10 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 11 We do just have a couple of quick questions. The
- 12 first one: We're wondering if Fisheries and Oceans
- 13 Canada can clarify whether there are any potential
- 14 implications for the marine shipping associated with
- 15 this proposal which are resulting from your Minister's
- 16 recently announced designation of an area of interest
- in the waters surrounding in South Hampton Island.
- Now, we recognize this was just announced
- 19 yesterday, so this is putting you on the spot a bit.
- 20 You may need to defer, and we also understand that this
- 21 is just the first step in the development of a
- 22 marine-protected area.
- 23 However, as the whole of the Chesterfield narrows
- 24 and much of proponent's current shipping route has been
- 25 included, we are curious of any possible implications
- 26 that you can identify.

- 1 MR. JANOWICZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Marek
- 2 Janowicz, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- We're going to have to defer that. To be honest,
- 4 we didn't even hear about that. Thank you.
- 5 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board staff.
- 6 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan,
- 7 Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 8 And thank you. I can certainly appreciate that.
- 9 The -- the next question we have is really just a
- 10 more general question. Again, recognizing that both
- 11 your department and fish -- or Canadian Coast Guard
- 12 have been developing a new arctic region, which is
- 13 intended to improve your respective delivery of
- 14 services throughout the Canadian arctic. We're
- 15 wondering if you can comment on whether this has any
- 16 implications for your department's availability to
- 17 participate in the oversite and regulation of this
- 18 proposed project, if it could change in any way from
- 19 what you currently have been able to do for the
- 20 approved project.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 22 MR. JANOWICZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Marek
- 23 Janowicz, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- The creation of arctic region, the intention was
- 25 to improve the delivery of the programs and almost the
- 26 point of customizing delivery of the program

- 1 recognizing that north is a little bit different place
- 2 than the south, and although I don't have any specifics
- 3 about that, I can only comment on the intention of this
- 4 initiative, and that's pretty much it. Thank you.
- 5 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board staff.
- 6 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 7 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 8 And thank you again for that response. I -- I
- 9 think we -- we raise this recognizing also that we'll
- 10 be going into a community roundtable over the next two
- 11 days, and, typically, as some of you have participated
- in -- in these events in the past, community members
- 13 are often very adept and upfront about bringing forward
- 14 concerns in areas that they feel can be improved that
- 15 are relevant for the delivery of services by various
- 16 government departments.
- 17 And so I think I'll just leave with the comment
- 18 that we would hope to see that any of those comments
- 19 that are brought forward could be brought back by
- 20 yourselves into your departments -- for your
- 21 department's consideration.
- Thank you, Madam Chair. No further questions.
- 23 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 24 MR. JANOWICZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Marek
- 25 Janowicz, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 26 Definitely we're going to be listening to all

- 1 comments and ideas tomorrow, and I promise that all
- 2 those comments and ideas is going to find -- find its
- 3 way to the group of people that are working on
- 4 organizing the arctic region. Thank you.
- 5 THE CHAIR: Guy.
- 6 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Fisheries and
- 7 Oceans Canada
- 8 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Guy
- 9 Alikut, NIRB Board member.
- The monitors that are going to be aboard the
- 11 shipping vessels, where will they be from? Who are
- 12 they going to report to if -- should they see mammals
- while they're aboard these vessels?
- 14 THE CHAIR: DFO.
- 15 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
- 16 D'Aguiar with Fisheries and Oceans.
- 17 With respect to the marine mammal observers, I
- 18 will defer to Agnico Eagle to currently talk about what
- 19 their current plan is for reporting noting that our
- 20 intent is to work with Agnico Eagle and other parties,
- 21 should this project be approved to -- with an intent to
- 22 update and standardize more of the protocols for the
- 23 marine mammal observer program.
- 24 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 25 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
- 26 So there are two types of monitors. The ones that

- 1 are monitoring on a Chesterfield narrows are from both
- 2 Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet, and the marine
- 3 mammals that are on board the ships from the Hudson
- 4 strait to Helicopter Island are hired by the shipping
- 5 company. So it is with them to identify the best
- 6 person to complete the monitoring.
- 7 THE CHAIR: Guy.
- 8 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. Guy Alikut, NIRB
- 9 Board member.
- 10 Were -- are these people going to be -- where's
- 11 the point of hire, and who is going to be the monitors?
- 12 Do we know exactly which community are you hiring from?
- 13 MR. ALIKUT: Agnico Eagle.
- 14 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
- So for the monitors, in the Chesterfield narrow on
- 16 board the barges, we hire through our community liaison
- 17 officers, or when we visit Chesterfield Inlet during
- 18 our annual visit, we always ask around for interested
- 19 people and ask for the monitoring in Hudson Bay. As I
- 20 mentioned, it's with the shipping company to decide who
- 21 will take part in the monitoring.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Guy.
- 23 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. Guy, NIRB Board
- 24 member.
- 25 So you -- so a monitor would be hired. Would
- 26 they -- will there be -- will the person that's hired

- 1 as a monitor get on in Montreal, or will they get on in
- 2 which of the communities? Where will the starting
- 3 point be when they begin to monitor? Where do they
- 4 start from?
- 5 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 6 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, Agnico Eagle.
- 7 So for the monitors for the Chesterfield narrows,
- 8 they board the ship in Baker Lake, board the barges, do
- 9 the back and forth between Helicopter Island. Just
- 10 to -- as a clarity, the mother ship leaves Quebec, goes
- 11 all the way to the Chesterfield narrows, and at the
- 12 point where it gets too narrow, supply are transferred
- 13 into a barge, and the barge go back and forth between
- 14 Baker Lake and that area.
- So the monitor on those barges are boarding in
- 16 Baker Lake and going back and forth until the mother
- 17 ship is empty. So for this type of monitoring, they
- 18 are boarding in Baker Lake, but for the monitoring in
- 19 the Hudson Bay, which is a separate process, they would
- 20 board -- they are boarding in Becancour or the Montreal
- 21 area on the ship, do all the travelling and coming back
- 22 to Montreal. So approximately 14 days; 21 days of
- 23 travelling.
- 24 THE CHAIR: Guy.
- 25 MR. ALIKUT: Guy Alikut.
- 26 I finally understood what is said. It's only

- 1 between Baker -- I'm not actually -- I wasn't just
- 2 asking Baker. I was asking you about Hudson Bay, where
- 3 they were coming from. I -- thank you for your answer.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Moving on to (LOST AUDIO
- 5 FEED OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN) presentation from (OTHER
- 6 LANGUAGE SPOKEN).
- 7 Legal counsel.
- 8 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 9 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
- 10 Review Board.
- If I can have the witnesses state and spell their
- 12 names for the record, please.
- 13 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, P-E-T-E-R
- $14 \quad U-N-G-E-R$.
- 15 MR. QUINN: Jason Quinn, Natural
- 16 Resources.
- 17 J-A-S-O-N Q-U-I-N-N.
- 18 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you.
- 19 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut
- 20 Impact Review Board.
- Do you wish to be sworn or affirmed?
- 22 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, Natural Resources
- 23 Canada.
- 24 Affirmed, please.
- 25 MR. QUINN: Jason Quinn, Natural Resources
- 26 Canada.

1	Sworn, please.
2	PETER UNGER, Affirmed
3	JASON QUINN, Sworn
4	MS. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa Meadows,
5	legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.
6	Madam Chair, I have the presentation materials in
7	English and Inuktitut for Natural Resources Canada as
8	well as their executive summaries of their technical
9	review comments that I will be filing as the next
10	exhibits in this public hearing.
11	And those are my procedural matters, Madam Chair.
12	EXHIBIT 57 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
13	presentation of Natural Resources Canada on
14	Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit
15	Expansion Project (English)
16	EXHIBIT 58 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
17	presentation of Natural Resources Canada on
18	Agnico Eagle Mines Limited's Whale Tail Pit
19	Expansion Project (Inuktitut)
20	EXHIBIT 59 - Executive Summary of Technical
21	Review Comments, Natural Resources Canada
22	(English)
23	EXHIBIT 60 - Executive Summary of Technical
24	Review Comments, Natural Resources Canada
25	(Inuktitut)
26	EXHIBIT 61 - Executive Summary of Technical
1	

- 1 Review Comments, Natural Resources Canada
- 2 (French)
- 3 THE CHAIR: Thank you. You may proceed
- 4 with your presentation.
- 5 Presentation by Natural Resources Canada
- 6 MR. UNGER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- Good afternoon. My name is Peter Unger, and I am
- 8 a senior environmental assessment officer with Natural
- 9 Resources Canada, also known as "NRCan".
- 10 Natural Resources Canada has a mandate to enhance
- 11 the responsible development and use of natural
- 12 resources providing a source of jobs, prosperity, and
- 13 opportunity while preserving the environment and
- 14 respecting Indigenous peoples.
- In laboratories and offices from coast to coast to
- 16 coast, NRCan leads science and technology in the fields
- 17 of earth sciences, energy, forests, and minerals and
- 18 metals.
- 19 Specific to this project, NRCan's role has been to
- 20 provide expert advice in the fields of permafrost and
- 21 terrain stability and hydrogeology or groundwater as it
- 22 relates to the Whale Tail Expansion Project. This
- 23 advice has been provided by experts from the Geological
- 24 Survey of Canada.
- 25 I'm going to start with permafrost and terrain
- 26 stability. Information on terrain and permafrost

- 1 conditions is essential to adequately design project
- 2 components to ensure that they perform as intended.
- 3 NRCan raised four issues on the subject of permafrost,
- 4 and I'm going to go through these individually.
- 5 So as I said, information on terrain and
- 6 permafrost conditions is essential to adequately design
- 7 project components. In particular, knowledge of ground
- 8 ice conditions where thawing could have impacts on
- 9 water management, such as dams or dikes.
- 10 NRCan asked about field investigations conducted
- 11 to provide detailed information on permafrost
- 12 conditions, such as ground ice content. NRCan also
- 13 asked for information on plans to address uncertainties
- 14 with respect to layer thickness and ground ice
- 15 conditions.
- 16 The proponent responded the field investigation
- 17 programs were carried out to characterize permafrost
- 18 conditions at the project site. These site
- 19 investigations included establishing the temperature
- 20 profile of the ground by installing thermistors,
- 21 collecting soil samples for visual identification of
- 22 the ice lenses, and classification of the frozen soils,
- 23 and laboratory testing to determine the moisture
- 24 content of the soils.
- 25 Agnico Eagle further referred NRCan to Appendix A,
- 26 which contains a summary of permafrost conditions based

- 1 on the available thermistor data -- sorry that was
- 2 quick -- thermal modeling results of predicted thermal
- 3 conditions under the Whale Tail and IVR pit lakes
- 4 post-closure, and a characterization of the active
- 5 layer thickness, which is assessed through thermal
- 6 modeling. NRCan is satisfied with this response and
- 7 has no further questions on this point.
- 8 So much like permafrost, baseline soil
- 9 characteristics are also important for the stability
- 10 and performance of mine infrastructure. Existing
- 11 information on soil types, characteristics, and
- 12 distribution in the region are limited, and, therefore,
- 13 Agnico Eagle mapped an additional 195 hectares to
- incorporate the road corridors to Lake D1 and D5.
- 15 NRCan asked for information regarding this
- 16 detailed soil mapping. The proponent clarified where
- 17 this information is and provided additional figures
- 18 depicting additional terrain mapping covering the
- 19 corridors to Lakes D1 and D5. NRCan is satisfied with
- 20 this response.
- 21 So permafrost can provide an impermeable barrier
- 22 to groundwater flow. However, unfrozen zones, also
- 23 known as taliks as shown in the diagram, can exist
- 24 beneath large waterbodies that do not freeze to the bed
- 25 in winter. If lakes are larger than a critical size,
- 26 an open talik will exist, providing a hydraulic

- 1 connection between the surface and the groundwater.
- 2 The proponent has indicated that after 11 years of
- 3 closure, the base of the Whale Tail Pit lake is
- 4 predicted to be hydraulically connected to the deeper
- 5 groundwater flow system, and after 50 years, the full
- 6 put -- full pit footprint is predicted to have
- 7 completely melted. There is expected to be thawing
- 8 under the IVR pit as well. NRCan wanted to know if
- 9 analysis of thawing under the IVR pit accounted for the
- 10 thawing of the Whale Tail Pit beside it.
- 11 NRCan also wanted more information on thermal
- 12 analysis predicting thawing between the two pits.
- 13 Agnico Eagle replied that, yes, analyses did account
- 14 for the thawing of the Whale Tail Pit and lateral
- 15 effects from this, and NRCan is satisfied with this
- 16 response.
- 17 The last issue related to permafrost was the waste
- 18 rock storage facilities at the Whale Tail Pit. The
- 19 proponent has indicated that they will take advantage
- 20 of the cold conditions and have adopted freeze control
- 21 and climate control strategies for the waste rock
- 22 storage facilities. There are no thermistors currently
- 23 in the footprints of the Whale Tail and IVR waste rock
- 24 storage facility footprints, but they will be installed
- 25 progressively in the thermal cap during construction to
- 26 assess the effectiveness of the cover in isolating

- 1 potentially acid-generating rock.
- 2 Agnico Eagle had indicated that they may consider
- 3 supplemental thermal modeling to evaluate the long-term
- 4 performance of this cover. NRCan wanted to know what
- 5 specific conditions or circumstances would require this
- 6 supplemental modeling, and if any adjustments were
- 7 required as a result of this modeling, if these
- 8 adjustments would be applied to all of the waste rock
- 9 storage facilities or just to one specific waste rock
- 10 storage facility.
- 11 Agnico Eagle responded that thermal modeling data
- 12 will be collected regularly and reported on annually
- and that modeling will be adjusted based on these
- 14 annual updates. They also responded that covers will
- 15 be evaluated on a facility-by-facility basis because
- 16 not all waste rock storage facilities are the same and
- 17 each have site-specific considerations. NRCan is
- 18 satisfied with this response.
- Moving on to hydrogeology or groundwater.
- 20 Groundwater models help predict how mine infrastructure
- 21 could change groundwater movement, and NRCan asked
- 22 questions relating to four issues related to
- 23 groundwater.
- 24 First, NRCan asked why refinement of model input
- 25 parameters would not affect conclusions. Agnico Eagle
- 26 responded that because of the conservative nature of

- 1 the model, there is a high level of confidence that
- 2 potential effects to groundwater have not been
- 3 underestimated. This is mostly because groundwater
- 4 discharged to lakes is negligible compared to the
- 5 annual surface water exchange.
- 6 NRCan accepts this response and has no further
- 7 comments on this topic. Secondly, NRCan noted that
- 8 there was some uncertainty regarding the distribution
- 9 of hydraulic conductivities. For those of you who are
- 10 not hydrogeologists, like me, hydraulic conductivities
- 11 are how easily water can move through different
- 12 materials.
- NRCan asked Agnico Eagle to show the effect of
- 14 varying hydraulic conductivities on modeling results.
- 15 Agnico Eagle provided a figure that indicated that the
- 16 hydraulic conductivities assigned in the EA scenario
- 17 are conservatively high, and that below the permafrost,
- 18 the hydraulic conductivities were below the ability of
- 19 their testing equipment to detect. NRCan accepts this
- 20 conclusion and has no further comments on this topic.
- 21 A complete conceptual model helps to understand
- 22 groundwater dynamics and their relation to permafrost
- 23 and surface water. NRCan was unable to locate a figure
- 24 showing a conceptual model that includes the IVR pit,
- and, therefore, NRCan requested a complete conceptual
- 26 model of the Whale Tail pits and the IVR pits at their

- 1 maximum depths.
- 2 The proponent responded by providing three figures
- 3 outlining the conceptual models, including the IVR and
- 4 Whale Tail pits at the end of mining, at closure, and a
- 5 thousand years after closure, respectively. I have
- 6 only put two of these up. The arrows indicate the
- 7 inferred groundwater flows, and the light beige is the
- 8 bedrock, and the darker beige is the permafrost. NRCan
- 9 considers this to satisfy the information requests and
- 10 has no further comments on this topic.
- 11 So when designing a hydrogeological model, you
- 12 have to set boundary conditions. These represent the
- 13 relationship between your model and the external system
- 14 and can induce the flows of water coming and going out
- 15 of your model.
- 16 NRCan asked for recharge and discharge rates for
- 17 the water bodies in the project area based on the
- 18 boundary conditions set in the model. Agnico Eagle
- 19 provided this figure that I have up here, as well as a
- 20 table, including the recharge and discharge rates.
- 21 NRCan is satisfied with this response and has no
- 22 further comments on this topic nor for this assessment
- 23 process.
- Thank you very much for your time. I very much
- 25 appreciate it.
- 26 THE CHAIR: Questions to NRCan from

- 1 Kivalliq Inuit Association?
- 2 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Luis
- 3 Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association. No questions for
- 4 this topic.
- 5 THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and
- 6 Trappers Organization.
- 7 MR. AKSAWNEE: (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN). We
- 8 have no questions. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 9 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.
- 10 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Steve
- 11 Pinksen, Government of Nunavut. We have no questions.
- 12 THE CHAIR: CIRNAC.
- 13 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Madam Chair. Spencer
- 14 Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 15 Canada. No questions.
- 16 THE CHAIR: Environment Canada and Climate
- 17 Change.
- 18 MS. PINTO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 19 Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 20 We have no questions.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 22 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
- 23 D'Aquiar with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We have no
- 24 questions, and thank you for the presentation.
- 25 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.
- 26 MR. PARTRIDGE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Paul

- 1 Partridge, Health Canada. We have no questions.
- 2 THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle.
- 3 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
- 4 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle. No questions.
- 5 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board staff.
- 6 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
- 7 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.
- 8 You will be a little disappointed that I also have
- 9 no questions. I would like to, however, compliment
- 10 Natural Resources Canada in particular for bringing
- 11 some illustrations (LOST AUDIO FEED OTHER LANGUAGE
- 12 SPOKEN) I know it's something that often does help with
- 13 (LOST AUDIO FEED OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN) for us
- 14 non-hydrogeologists and (LOST AUDIO FEED OTHER
- 15 LANGUAGE SPOKEN) very much appreciate it. Thank you.
- 16 Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Natural Resources
- 17 Canada
- 18 THE CHAIR: NIRB Board members.
- 19 Guy.
- 20 MR. ALIKUT: Guy Alikut, NIRB Board member.
- 21 It's not a question, per se. Our Elders -- the Elders
- 22 that are from here, they are well-versed in knowing the
- 23 traditional place names, and we have to -- I think all
- 24 Inuit organizations should recognize that they know the
- 25 traditional place names for every area that's in the --
- 26 in this region. Thank you.

- 1 THE CHAIR: In your presentation -- I
- 2 think you were on Slide 6 -- you said "195 hectares".
- 3 Can you explain what -- what 195 hectares looks like?
- 4 MR. UNGER: Peter Unger, Natural Resources
- 5 Canada. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- So in this specific situation, they've mapped the
- 7 entire road corridor all the way until Lakes D1 and D5.
- 8 I'm going to be 100 percent honest with you, and I'm a
- 9 little bit spatially challenged, so I have a difficult
- 10 time comparing that to this. I am going to see if my
- 11 colleague Jason Quinn has a better grasp of spatial
- 12 comparisons and see if he can answer this.
- 13 MR. QUINN: I can't speak to -- it's Jason
- 14 Quinn, NRCan -- can't speak to 195 hectares outside of
- 15 the fact that -- sorry for speaking quickly -- outside
- 16 of the fact that 1 hectare is 100 metres by 100 metres,
- 17 and then you can scale it.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you for that
- 19 explanation.
- 20 It's almost 5:00. That concludes Day 2 of this
- 21 public hearing. Thank you all for your contributions
- 22 to a productive day. We will resume the hearing
- 23 tomorrow morning at 9 AM, but before we leave for the
- 24 night, we have a quick draw for door prizes. For those
- in attendance, please get out your tickets, and I hope
- 26 to see you back here tomorrow. Tomorrow morning we'll

	move on to				
PROCEEDINGS	ADJOURNED U	JNTIL 9:00	AM, AUG	UST 28,	2019

1	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:
2	
3	We, Christy Longacre and Andres Vidal, certify
4	that the foregoing pages are a complete and accurate
5	transcript of the proceedings, taken down by us in
6	shorthand and transcribed from our shorthand notes to
7	the best of our skill and ability.
8	Dated at the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta,
9	this 9th day of September 2019.
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13	Cloturingocu
14	C. Longacre, RPR, CSR(A)
15	Official Court Reporter
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19	Applesalle
20	A. Vidal, CSR(A)
21	Official Court Reporter
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