NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

AGNICO EAGLE LIMITED MINE

LIMITED SALINE EFFLUENT DISCHARGE TO MARINE ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT PROPOSAL

NIRB FILE NUMBER 11MN034

HEARING

VOLUME 3

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

June 16, 2021

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(English/Inuktitut)

Proceedings taken at Singiituq Complex Recreation Hall, Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

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P. Kadlun	Panel Member
A. Maghagak	Panel Member

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P. Lavoie Director, Nunavut Service Group

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A. Yuan	Legal Counsel
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B. Dean	Assistant Director W&E (Rankin)
R. Mercer	Resource Management Coordinator
J. Eetoolook	Vice President
K. Kabloona	Chief Executive Officer
D. Kunuk	Chief Operating Officer
P. Irngaut	Director, W&E (Iqaluit)
D. Lee	Biologist W&E (Montreal)
P. Lavallée	Consultant

KIVALLIQ INUIT ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

J. King	Legal Counsel
L. Manzo	Environmental and Engineering
D. Kuksuk	Vice President, Portfolio Lands
H. Niakrok Sr.	Chief Operating Officer
B. Osmond	Lands Administrator
M. Serra	GIS Coordinator
A. Sexton	Geotechnical
K. Poole	Terrestrial Environment (Caribou)
R. Nesbitt	Aquatic Environment

GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

E. Stockley	Legal Counsel
G. Karlik	Assistant Deputy Minister Department EDT
S. Atkinson	Caribou and Wildlife Consultant
D. Wilson	Environment Human Health Consultant
H. Gretka	Environment Human Health Consultant
C. Ott	Environment Human Health Consultant
A. Simonfalvy	Avatilirinirq Coordinator
M. LeBlanc-Havard	Environmental Protection Director
N. O'Grady	Manager, Mines & Minerals
A. Robinson	Manager, Land Use & Environmental Assessment
B. Pirie	Project Manager, Research & Monitoring
K. Sameer	Project Manager, Impact Assessment, Department of Environment

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D. Abernethy	Regional Socioeconomic Analyst
A. Vigna	Environmental Policy Analyst
K. Pawley	Manager, Environmental Assessment
J. Walsh	Senior Environmental Assessment Analyst
G. Wiatzka	Technical Expert - Arcadis Canada
T. Brown	Technical Expert - Arcadis Canada

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

V. Shore	Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
A. Wilson	Water Quality Expert

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

E. Ratajczyk	Biologist, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
J. Audet-Lecouffe	Biologist

HEALTH CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

J. Kaushansky	Environmental Assessment Specialist

P. Partridge	Regional Manager, Environmental Health Program
W. Wilson	Environmental Assessment Coordinator
C. Levicki	Environmental Assessment Technical Expert
E. Kalcsics	Environmental Engagement Specialist
T.T. Nguyen	Indigenous Engagement Specialist

TRANSPORT CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

S. Kidd	Regional Environmental Advisor
A. Downing	Regional Senior Environmental Supervisor
K. Xian Au Yong	Officer, Indigenous Relations
A. Champagne Gudmundson	Regional Manager, Environmental Programs, Prairie and Northern Region
D. Hawkes	Regional Manager, Navigation Protection Program
K. Klarenbach	Regional Manager, Indigenous Relations Unit

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P. Unger	Senior Environmental

	Assessment Officer
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KIVALLIQ WILDLIFE BOARD (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

C. Tartak	Research Coordinator
E. Greene	Research Consultant

ARVIAT HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION AND HAMLET OF ARVIAT (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

T. Ubluriak	Board Member
A. Illungiayok	Arviat HTO
P. Alareak	Elder Representative
L. Amarudjuak	KivIA Woman
S. Nipisar	KivIA Youth

ISSATIK HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION AND HAMLET OF WHALE COVE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

R. Kolit	HTO
G. Maktar	Chair, Issatik HTO
A. Noolook	Issatik HTO
P. Kabloona	KivIA Elder
L.A. Saumik	KivIA Youth

AQIGIQ HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION AND HAMLET OF CHESTERFIELD INLET (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

H. Aggark	Chairperson, Aqigiq HTO
J. Aggark	Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet
L. Mimialik	KivIA Elder
J. Amarok	KivIA Youth

BAKER LAKE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION AND HAMLET OF BAKER LAKE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

H. Putumiraqtuq	Vice Chairperson, Baker Lake HTO
R. Aksawnee	Hamlet of Baker Lake
J. Joedee	KivIA Elder
V. Joedee	KivIA Woman
J. Mannik	KivIA Youth

KANGIQLINIQ HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION AND HAMLET OF RANKIN INLET (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

A. Aokaut	Kangiqliniq HTO
T. Comer	Kangiqliniq HTO
L. Brown	KivIA Elder
G. Anawak	KivIA Woman
A. Irwin	KivIA Youth

SAYISI DENE AND NORTHLANDS DENESULINE FIRST NATION
(REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

G. Bussidor	Sayisi Dene First Nation Representative
B. Denechezhe	Northlands Denesuline First Nation Representative
K. Olson	Legal Counsel
L. Wakelyn	Wildlife Biologist
S. Kearney	Wildlife Biologist

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

Opening Remarks

THE CHAIR: Good morning. My name is Kaviq. I'm the Chairperson for NIRB, Nunavut Impact Review Board. Coming from the Board, I would like to welcome you all and the Board, Allen Maghagak and -- and our staff. Welcome to our third day of the NIRB hearing.

The last time when we had our hearing, Agnico Eagle proposal to do saline -- to Itivia from Meliadine, the NIRB 11MN034.

Thank you, again, to the community of Rankin Inlet for hosting us. We're being told -- and for those of you attending to Rankin Inlet, welcome back to Rankin, and also for those of you participating over the audio-video feeds, thank you.

We'd like to remind you all to please turn off your cell phones or put them on a silent setting, and for people on Zoom, please turn off the reminders on your devices so that we keep distractions to a minimum.

Just before we begin, we're going to have an opening prayer. I would like to ask Joedee Joedee to start off with the prayer.

Opening Prayer

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much for doing the opening prayer.

Before we return to where we left off yesterday

with the questioning of the registered intervenors, I have a few reminders of how we can all participate fully in these proceedings and some brief remarks about procedural issues -- a procedural issue that was raised yesterday.

This public hearing is being hosted by the Board to hear evidence, ask questions, and listen to comments and concerns of registered intervenors, community representatives, and members of the public in order to assess the potential ecosystemic and socioeconomic effects of the changes proposed by Agnico Eagle in the saline effluent discharge to the marine environment proposal.

To ensure that we can all be heard and understand, simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings is being provided throughout the meetings from the interpreters here in Rankin Inlet.

In the Zoom feed you can choose the language feed you want to hear, but when you go to speak, you may have to turn off the interpretation audio to avoid problems with feedback.

For those of you on the teleconference lines, there is a number to assess the English line and a separate number to access the Inuktitut line.

If you require language-specific numbers or are having trouble with the Zoom feed, please send an email

to Emily Koide at ekoide@nirb.ca, and she'll help you out.

For the people here in Rankin Inlet, receivers are available from the sign-in desk, and the receivers are set to these channels: Channel 0, floor sound; 1, English; 2, Inuktitut. If you are having trouble hearing these proceedings, please let one of the NIRB staff know, and they'll assist you.

For all speakers, please wait for me to say your name before you start speaking, as I am listening to ensure that the interpreters have finished their work before you begin.

If you are participating by Zoom, when I say your name, it is helpful if you press the "raise your hand" button to move up to the top of the list.

As Karen indicated yesterday, when the technicians switch over to you, you may have to click on the button to join the meeting as a panelist, and you may then have to authorize the use of your video feed, and you may have to unmute your microphone. If you are participating on the phone, you may have to take yourself off mute by pressing "Star 6" before you speak.

For the benefit of our interpreters and court reporters, when you speak, please make sure there is a microphone in front of you, speak directly into the

microphone at a reasonable pace, and state your name and your community or organization before you speak. Do not use abbreviations or acronyms, and be aware that our interpreters may need time to fully explain the technical terms you're using.

Please be respectful of other speakers and do not interrupt while they're speaking. The Board thanks everyone for making this public hearing a productive meeting where different viewpoints can be shared and respected.

These proceedings are open to the media and may be attended by media representatives. If members of the media are attending in person, we ask that you wear a press badge or similar identification throughout these proceedings so that it is clear to parties which media outlet you are representing.

Media participating online should provide notice to Karen Costello, the Board's executive director, and inquiries from -- information from media representatives should also be sent to her. The Board welcomes the media providing information about these meetings to those who cannot attend; however, I remind everyone that the Board staff and the Panel cannot take questions or provide interviews to the media or make public comments regarding these meetings while we are underway.

Agnico Eagle is assisting us by broadcasting the proceedings live on the radio in the community. The community members can tune in on FM Channel 89.5 to hear the live feed of the floor microphone from the proceedings.

Just a quick reminder to everyone participating in this hearing, no matter how you are participating, no one is permitted to record or rebroadcast the images, video, or audio of these proceedings in any form without the express written consent of the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

As you can see, our proceedings here in Rankin Inlet look a little different due to the public health measures we are taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the Board has modified options for access to the proceedings for those of you who are unable to join us in Rankin Inlet.

The Board also requested and has received an exemption order from the Government of Nunavut chief public health officer to allow us to have up to 75 people join us in the hall during these meetings.

I will now turn the microphone over to the Board's executive, Karen Costello, to provide a short summary of the COVID-19 protocols the Board has put in place to keep us all safe and healthy and to comply with public health orders. Karen.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for the Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.

I want to start off by saying thank you. Thank you for following the protocols the NIRB has put in place. Thank you for registering every day, making sure you wear a mask, sanitize your hands when you come into the meeting room. These simple steps contribute to all of us staying safe and healthy.

Thank you for sitting apart. We know we would all prefer to sit closer. Thank you for being patient as we move through the proceedings allowing time for those who are on -- participating through technology to connect, and thank you very much for taking the time to be here and to participate safely.

As Candice, the public health nurse, said the other day, these simple measures will help mitigate the spread of all germs, including COVID-19.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Karen.

Today we look to complete the technical sessions of this public hearing. Once that has concluded, we will take a short break to set up the community roundtable so that the designated community representatives from the potentially affected communities will join the Board around the table.

We have to set up -- looking at the agenda, once

the bodies who -- the community will be around the table this -- later on, and our staff will have to get ready for the seats.

During the community roundtable, after a short recap presentation by Agnico Eagle, designated community representatives will be able to ask questions of Agnico Eagle or the registered intervenors and will be able to share their comments and knowledge with the Panel.

Members of the public here in Rankin Inlet will also be able to ask questions and share their comments, concerns, and knowledge during the community roundtable session.

In terms of the schedule for the public hearing as set out in the agenda, there will be an evening session today between 6:30 and 9 PM. The times given in the agenda are in Central or Rankin Inlet time. Each day we start at 9 AM and break for dinner at 5 PM.

Although breaks throughout the day are flexible, we will schedule a short break about halfway through the morning and afternoon sessions. We will break for lunch around noon and reconvene at 1:15 PM. Due to COVID-19 precautions, coffee and tea services will not be provided in the hall, but bottled water will be offered upon request.

To make the best use of our time, please respect

the timelines I've set for breaks and return promptly to the meeting. We have a full agenda, and the Board cannot delay while we wait for late arrivals.

For the safety and comfort of everyone in the hall, the washrooms are located outside this room in the lobby area. Exits are located through the main doors to the lobby area and on the side of the room at the front and back corners.

Lastly, to ensure that everyone has a reasonable opportunity to participate in these meetings, the Board requests that everyone respect the following Board directions: It is our tradition to give respect to our Elders; therefore, we invite any Elders who are in attendance to let our staff indicate to me that they wish to speak. So that we hear the comments provided, we do ask that Elders wait until they are recognized by me and our staff can get a microphone to them before they speak.

The Board recognizes that many of us may be learning as we go as we ask all participants joining the proceedings be patient with each other and the Board as the technology we use may result in interruptions and limitations that are outside of the parties' and the Board's control.

Nunavut Impact Review Board Chair Addresses Procedural Issue

THE CHAIR: Yesterday morning during a deferred answer provided by Mr. Nesbitt on behalf of the Kivalliq Inuit Association made -- were several references and placed reliance on a technical memo that was prepared by Agnico Eagle's consultant, Tetra Tech, in March 2021 to assess whether surface contact water, which is freshwater, could be managed by temporarily storing it along with the saline effluent already being stored in the Tiriganiaq Pit 2.

The technical memo was filed by Agnico Eagle with the Nunavut Water Board in support of Agnico's application to amend the water licence in relation to authorizing the discharge of the surface contact water into Meliadine Lake.

The Kivalliq Inuit Association indicated that the technical memo should be filed with the Nunavut Impact Review Board and discussed in the context of this assessment of the saline effluent discharge to the marine environment proposal.

Agnico Eagle did not object to providing the technical memo to the Board, but indicated that if the Board were to file it in these proceedings, Agnico Eagle's technical experts, who prepared the document, should be permitted to speak to the content and conclusions in the technical memo.

The Board's legal counsel advised parties that the

Panel was going to take time to consider whether it is necessary for Agnico Eagle to provide the technical memo that was provided to the Nunavut Water Board previously.

In deciding whether it is necessary and appropriate for the Nunavut Impact Review Board to require this material to be filed on the public hearing record, the Panel has to consider whether the material is relevant to these proceedings, and also whether it is procedurally fair to all the participants in this public hearing for these materials to be considered by the Board even though many of the registered intervenors have not previously seen or reviewed the materials.

To assess whether this material is relevant to the Board's proceedings, the Board notes that the scope of the amendment application before the Nunavut Water Board deferred considerably from the scope of the proposed changes to the Meliadine project being considered by the Nunavut Impact Review Board during this public hearing.

In that regard, the technical memo was presented, discussed, and considered by the Nunavut Water Board in the context of evaluating proposed releases into the freshwater environment of Meliadine Lake.

Releasing it into the freshwater environment are

not proposed under the saline effluent discharge to the marine environment proposal, and alternatives to discharge into Meliadine Lake, other than by Agnico Eagle using the proposed waterline, are outside the scope of this Board's assessment of the saline effluent discharge.

Consequently, the Panel has directed the technical memo filed with the Nunavut Water Board is not within the scope of the project being accessed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board and will not require Agnico Eagle to file the technical memo in these proceedings or require parties to respond to the submissions of the Kivalliq Inuit Association that were made yesterday in reliance on the technical memo.

We will begin today by providing an opportunity for those parties needing to provide deferred responses to questions posed yesterday that have yet to be answered.

NIRB legal counsel.

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

Madam Chair, we have one deferred response, and that deferred response is from a question that was directed to Fisheries and Oceans Canada by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, and the question was in respect of char

being attracted to the discharge location and also the mixing zone, asking Fisheries and Oceans Canada whether or not they have done any analysis to confirm if there could be impacts on char within the mixing zone or near the location of the discharge of the effluent.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Edyta Ratajczyk.

Deferred Response by Fisheries and Oceans Canada Kivalliq Wildlife Board Question

MS. RATAJCZYK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Can you hear me?

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MS. RATAJCZYK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Edyta Ratajczyk, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Our understanding of the question, would Arctic char be attracted to the diffuser, which would interfere with their spawning behaviour or behaviour in general, DFO is currently not aware of any modelling of impacts of diffusers on char specifically that would -- and we expect that -- the impact of the diffuser to be negligible.

Arctic char return with high precision to their home river, as they can detect its water chemistry. They typically do not select rivers randomly and, therefore, would not particularly be attracted to the

diffuser area in terms of spawning.

DFO is aware that Agnico Eagle Mines has conducted hydrodynamic studies around the mixing zone. We will be considering this study within our regulatory review process. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: We will now continue where we left off yesterday with the questioning of registered intervenors, Health Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Transport Canada. Starting with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Bert Dean.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Questions Health Canada

MR. DEAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Bert Dean from NTI. Good morning, and I hope everyone had a good evening.

I had one question -- one question that came up during the Health Canada presentation on Slide 9 where there's reference to "no human health-based guidelines". I'm just wondering if they could elaborate a bit on that, and, for context, what we've heard from the community and we may hear over the next few days is a lot of questions about, you know, is it safe to eat the fish, is it safe to eat the mussels, or what -- you know, maybe it's just not a clear understanding of what the saline discharge is or that sort of thing. So if Health Canada is able to maybe elaborate a bit or try to give a bit of context to that

statement in Slide 9. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Joel Kaushansky.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Can you confirm that you can hear me, please?

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Joel Kaushansky with Health Canada. I'm going to ask my colleague Christine Levicki to respond to that question. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Christine Levicki.

MS. LEVICKI: Thank you, Madam Chair. Christine Levicki from Health Canada here. Thank you for the question.

So on Slide Number 9, the statement regarding "no human health-based guidelines" is referring to the fact that there aren't surface water quality guidelines for the protection of human health available to screen for the country foods pathways. So there aren't generic levels set for surface water to protect the various biota in the marine environment that may be consumed, so it needs -- it would -- the guidelines that do exist that have been used in the HHRA and discussed in the final written submission by the proponent are protective of aquatic life, and they've confirmed that. (INTERPRETER BELL)

THE CHAIR: If you can please slow down for the interpreter.

MS. LEVICKI: Would you like me to repeat any of that?

THE INTERPRETER: Maybe about the guidelines.

THE CHAIR: No. You can continue.

MS. LEVICKI: Okay. I think that concludes my response.

THE CHAIR: Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Bert Dean.

MR. DEAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Bert Dean from NTI. No further questions from NTI at this time. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association, Luis Manzo.

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

No question at this time.

THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Gabriel Karlik.

MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Gabriel Karlik, Government of Nunavut.

No questions at this time.

THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada on behalf of the Government of Canada departments, Spencer Dewar.

MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. No questions.

THE CHAIR: From the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Association, Thomas Ubluriak.

MR. UBLURIAK: Right now we have no -- no questions.

THE CHAIR: The Aqigiq HTO, Harry Aggark.

MR. AGGARK: Madam Chair, I have no question at this moment. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Baker Lake HTO, Harold Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Harold Putumiraqtuq, Baker Lake HTO vice chair. No questions at this time. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO ENGLISH TRANSLATION) Andre Aokaut.

MR. AOKAUT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Andre Aokaut. I have no questions.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

Kivalliq Wildlife Board Questions Health Canada

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

I have one question for Health Canada. Did Health Canada consider consulting with local people to determine harvesting locations?

THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Joel Kaushansky.
MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Joel Kaushansky, Health Canada. Can you confirm that you can hear me, please?
THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.
MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the questions, sir.

Health Canada received information about the harvesting locations of shellfish and mussels from the proponent. It is our understanding that the proponent met with representatives of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and Rankin Inlet community Elders in April 2021 to collect this information, and that is the information that we have subsequently been provided and presented yesterday. I hope that answers your question.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.
MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

I've got no further questions.

THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations, Geoff Bussidor.
MR. BUSSIDOR: Good morning. Are you able to hear me?
THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MR. BUSSIDOR: It's Geoff Bussidor, Sayisi Dene First Nation.

No questions at this time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Jamie Quesnel.

MR. QUESNEL: Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle. Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair.

We'll have one question for Health Canada, and our colleague Colleen Prather will ask for the clarification. Thank you.

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Questions Health Canada

THE CHAIR: Colleen Prather.

MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Colleen Prather with Agnico Eagle.

We noted in the presentation from Health Canada that there was reference made to a country foods community-based monitoring program. We just wanted to clarify with Health Canada and for the Nunavut Impact Review Board that the wording of our commitment in the commitment list is that: (as read)

Agnico Eagle has committed to a community-based monitoring program for mussels in areas from which Inuit harvest.

And this program will be defined with the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. So that's a full stop end of the commitment.

And so that commitment was made in relation to comments that were raised by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the request to conduct monitoring specifically for mussels.

I guess I just wanted to confirm that Health Canada understands that wording of the commitment.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Joel Kaushansky.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Joel Kaushansky, Health Canada.

Can you confirm that you can hear me, please?

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Agnico Eagle.

Yes. We do understand the commitment that was put forward and the language that you have just described.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Colleen Prather.

MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Colleen Prather with Agnico Eagle.

Thank you for that confirmation. No further questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Health Canada and Natural Resources Canada

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for the NIRB staff.

We have one question for Health Canada and one question for Natural Resources Canada.

For Health Canada: Would Health Canada be involved in the shellfish monitoring program, perhaps in the design of -- or the identification of what should be monitored based on its comments on ensuring no contaminants are in country food or traditional food sources? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Joel Kaushansky.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Joel Kaushansky, Health Canada. Thank you for the question.

Should the parties responsible for carrying out the follow-up and monitoring programs wish to consult with Health Canada on their design and implementation, Health Canada can review and provide advice upon request. However, it should be noted that Health Canada takes an advisory role and does not have a responsibility in the implementation of the monitoring program. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you, Health Canada.

I think the NIRB understands that Health Canada

does not have responsibilities. It's just useful to know if that might -- they may be able to provide some technical expertise and guidance to the parties, should they request it, to help inform the work and the design of the program.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Joel Kaushansky.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Joel Kaushansky with Health Canada. Thank you for the question.

Yes. Health Canada can provide technical expertise or advice upon request related to the monitoring program being discussed. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for NIRB staff. Thanks, Joel, for that response from Health Canada.

I just wanted to note -- seek clarity, Madam Chair. Can staff pose questions to the other parties? Thank you, Madam Chair.

This question is for Natural Resources Canada: Did Natural Resources Canada consider or evaluate risk to permafrost degradation from proposed storage of saline effluent in Tiriganiaq 2, and this question is being asked as the Kivalliq Inuit Association indicated

that there was no need -- there was potentially no pressing need to draw down excess saline stored in Tiriganiaq 2 in order to avoid damage to site infrastructure.

So I'm just wondering if NRCan considered any of the risks to permafrost degradation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. GENEST: Can you hear me?

THE CHAIR: Please hold. I'm waiting for interpretation to finish.

Natural Resources Canada, Maximilien Genest.

MR. GENEST: Can you hear me?

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MR. GENEST: Thank you for the question. Maximilien Genest, Natural Resources Canada.

During the initial review of the materials provided for the reconsideration, NRCan found its areas of expertise were not relevant to the information provided, and NRCan confirmed that it would not be fulfilling additional regulatory responsibilities as a result of this reconsideration. As such, NRCan did not provide a technical review during the saline effluent discharge to the marine environment reconsideration program process.

(INTERPRETER BELL)

THE CHAIR: Please slow down for the

interpreter.

MR. GENEST: Can I start off where I finished, or would you like me to go back?

THE CHAIR: Just wait. You can continue.

MR. GENEST: As such, we did not undertake a technical review of permafrost. However, we would be happy to do so and are asking at this time to defer the question -- or defer our answer. Sorry.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for the NIRB staff.

I appreciate the response from NRCan. I think it was a simple yes or no response that was needed. I'm not asking NRCan to do additional review at this point.

Thank you very much. That's all, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Are there any questions from the Board? Phillip?

Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Health Canada and Natural Resources Canada

MR. KADLUN: Good morning. Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

I have a question for Health Canada. It's on -- it's on Slide -- Slide 6 where it says: (as read)

Saline effluent discharge from the project could impact country foods in the area.

I don't know where to direct my question to, but the

question I have is whether people have harvested mussels or any marine life around the Itivia area in the past, and whether the distance around that area have been used in the past by the people of Rankin Inlet.

The question I wanted to pose was: Have people in the past -- have done harvesting in that area and will they be able to continue if they did down the road? Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Health Canada, Joel Kaushansky.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair, Joel Kaushansky with Health Canada.

Can you confirm that you can hear me, please?

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MR. KAUSHANSKY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the question, sir.

With regards -- I heard a couple of points. I'm going to try and address them one by one. If I don't collect them all -- if I don't respond to them all, please let me know, and I'll do my best. But I heard first a question about where the harvesting is taking place historically versus where it is taking place now.

In terms of that question, sir, Health Canada was provided information by the proponent about where harvesting is currently taking place. This information

was gathered by the proponent in meetings with representatives of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and Rankin Inlet community Elders in April 2021.

Locations of past harvesting in terms of locations on a map were not provided, only information about current harvesting locations were.

To your second question, sir, about is it possible to continue to harvest. Based on the human health risk assessment and the additional evidence provided by the proponent, the predicted impacts of the project on country foods are not expected to represent a health concern. I hope that answers your question, sir. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board, Phillip.

MR. KADLUN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

That's all I have.

THE CHAIR: Are there any more questions from the Board?

I just have a couple of questions for Natural Resources Canada. Is Natural Resources Canada satisfied with Agnico Eagle's assessment of the expected volumes of saline effluent and surface contact water runoff as maximum volumes to be discharged from the mine site?

Also, is Natural Resources Canada familiar with any other -- if there are any other development projects that have similar infrastructure challenges with saline effluent discharge that have had to carry out similar water management practices that we can learn from and that may have address -- and that may address community concerns about the potential for effects from this kind of groundwater and surface contact water management.

Natural Resources Canada, Maximilien Genest.

MR. GENEST: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Can you hear me?

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MR. GENEST: During the initial review of the materials provided for this reconsideration, NRCan found that its areas of expertise were not relevant to the information provided, and NRCan confirmed that it would not be fulfilling additional regulatory responsibilities --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MR. GENEST: -- as a result of this reconsideration. As such --

THE CHAIR: Please slow down for the -- please slow down for the interpreter and pause between sentences.

Can you please start over.

MR. GENEST: Yes. During the initial review of the materials provided for this reconsideration, NRCan found that its areas of expertise were not relevant to the information provided, and NRCan confirmed that it would not be fulfilling additional regulatory responsibilities as a result of this reconsideration.

THE CHAIR: Is that your answer for both --

MR. GENEST: As such --

THE CHAIR: Sorry. You may proceed. You may proceed.

MR. GENEST: As such, NRCan did not provide a technical review during the saline effluent discharge to the marine environment reconsideration process.

Yesterday, NRCan was made aware of questions related to our area of expertise. NRCan has done its best to review the material in the reconsideration that relate to groundwater in the time we had; however, we acknowledge that there may be documents we missed and are happy to review any material that may have been missed or additional material that Agnico Eagle might provide us.

Our technical experts have provided me with the following information: During our initial review of the Meliadine Gold Mine in 2014, NRCan noted that the

measured hydraulic conductivities may not be representative of the entire subpermafrost zone to be dewatered. Consequently, groundwater inflow to the underground Tiriganiaq Mine could be different than predicted.

Rather than recommending additional hydraulic conductivity measurements, which may not have greatly improved the assessment of inflows to the underground mine, NRCan recommended an adaptive management approach in which detailed monitoring of saline groundwater inflows to the underground mine could be used to better manage saline water and allow better calibration of the numerical model.

In order to better define vertical and horizontal groundwater flow and obtain data that would contribute to the verification of conceptual and numerical models, NRCan recommended that Agnico Eagle should, where appropriate, collect new hydraulic data -- example, from new monitoring wells -- in key areas during the pre-development construction and operation phases to better define vertical and horizontal groundwater flow.

In addition, in 2018, NRCan commented on the groundwater management plan included as Appendix D of the final environmental impact statement addendum, environmental assessment of treated groundwater effluent discharge into marine environment. Based on

the information provided, the maximum volume of saline effluent to be discharged from the mine site are stated to be 6,000 to 12,000 metres cubed per day.

The modelled groundwater inflow is reported to vary between 420 and 580 metres cubed per day with sensitivity analysis results suggesting flows as high as 630 --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

THE CHAIR: Please slow down for the interpreter.

MR. GENEST: Sorry.

THE CHAIR: You may proceed.

MR. GENEST: ... suggesting flows as high as 630 to 950 metres cubed per day.

Comparison of these numbers seem to indicate that groundwater inflow into the mine is not the only water to be discharged through the waterline, even when saline groundwater storage is taken into consideration.

It is not clear to NRCan how these maximum estimates were determined and how much of it originates from other sources such as surface contact water. NRCan can only comment on the groundwater inflow estimates.

The groundwater inflow estimates noted above -- noted previously, are an increase over the original estimates of 230 to 420 metres cubed per day noted in

the original final environmental impact statement.

Groundwater flow is, therefore, approximately 2 to 2-and-a-half times higher than originally estimated.

NRCan has not reviewed the updated hydrogeological modelling on which these new estimates are based, so it cannot yet comment on the credibility of these estimates.

Although estimates based on modelling are useful and important, measurements of groundwater inflow to the mine provide the real world assessment and validation of the estimates. The addendum report clearly indicates that groundwater inflow data are recorded daily and compiled into a database that "is maintained to represent the current state of mine-wide groundwater infiltration". However, NRCan has observed that only one groundwater inflow result up to 394 metres cubed per day following grouting [phonetic] is provided in this report.

Although the report states that "groundwater inflow rates are compared to modelled rates on a quarterly basis", no comparison is presented in Table 1.

Reporting groundwater inflow data to the mine in comparison to modelled results would provide a better assessment of groundwater flow -- inflow estimates.

In summary, the addendum report does not provide

NRCan with sufficient information to respond to the review panel's question.

NRCan notes that proposed maximum volumes of saline effluent are more than ten times greater than baseline groundwater inflow estimates. NRCan has not assessed the latest modelling results. Groundwater inflow data have been collected, but their results are not reported or compared to model estimates.

We can supplement this answer once our expert has had an opportunity to review and would like to ask for the Board's determination if this is currently a sufficient answer or if this should be considered a deferred response while we await supplemental information from our experts.

As for the second question, to our knowledge, the only project that might be similar and that might be worth looking at is the Hope Bay Gold Mine in western Nunavut. Similarly to this project, the Hope Bay Gold Mine has discharged to the marine environment, but that this was triggered by the technical preferences of the proponent and not by community concern. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you for your presentations.

We're going to continue on the agenda. I will ask that our legal counsel swear or affirm the next group of presenters and mark the exhibits so that we can

begin with their presentations.

It's now 10:15. We'll take a 15-minute break and then reconvene at 10:30 with affirmations.

(ADJOURNMENT)

THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone. Starting where we left off with affirming.

NIRB legal counsel.

Procedural Direction by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal Counsel

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

So, Madam Chair, I have three procedural matters. The first one is that I did want to address Natural Resources Canada's question as to whether the Board would be deferring their answer to seek more advice. And to that end, I just want to reiterate what the Board's executive director said.

The Board's questions to Natural Resources Canada were not intended to at this stage in the proceedings require them to conduct a new technical review of the project proposal. The focus of the questions were really on hearing from Natural Resources Canada in respect of any review that they had already done with respect to the project proposal --

(AUDIO FEED LOST)

MS. MEADOWS: -- no intention from the Board to defer the answer. The answer that was received provided the Board with an indication of what Natural Resources Canada had completed already.

With respect to the other two procedural matters, those are in respect of the submissions coming up from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. The first procedural matter is that I do have a copy of their presentation materials that I will file as the next exhibit in this public hearing.

EXHIBIT 18 - Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation, Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Project Proposal Final Presentation: Kivalliq Wildlife Board and Kivalliq Hunters and Trappers Organization (English/Inuktitut)

MS. MEADOWS: And I also wanted to step back and realize that I had not stated the same with respect to Transport Canada when they presented their materials.

So the Board has filed Transport Canada's presentation materials, two presentations, one in English and one in Inuktitut, in advance of them speaking yesterday, but I did not mention that on the record. So my apologies for the oversight.

And with respect to my final procedural matter,

Madam Chair, I wish to affirm the witnesses who will be presenting on behalf of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, and so I will state the oath affirmation, and then when we return to them, if they can state and spell their name for the record, and then state their name and that they affirm, then they will be able to proceed to provide their presentation.

CLAYTON TARTAK, Affirmed.

MS. MEADOWS: And those are my procedural matters, Madam Chair.

MR. TARTAK: And I'd like clarification. Will the HTO delegates be sworn in as well?

THE CHAIR: Okay. Well, in case they answer any questions, we'll also affirm the HTO witnesses. First of all, Arviat HTO, Thomas Ubluriak. Right now they're doing oath before they do presentation.

MR. UBLURIAK: Thank you. Thank you. I am coming from Arviat HTO.

Like, yesterday that was talked about -- about the caribou. Like, there was a question. I will tell the truth what I have seen and what I have heard from my dad and my grandfather. I'm going to tell you the truth. I can -- like, it's a reality.

But the caribous have been -- for those I'm supporting, the person who was coming from the mining,

like -- like, they just -- when they -- once they reach the road and then they have to turn around, this -- that question was raised yesterday.

And using Inuit IQ, it's like this. The caribou, like, they walk not only to areas. They use their nose, smelling, and the feet, the hoof -- the hoof. Like, they follow. That's how they use their hooves. Not only their hoof, but they also smell. Like, caribou know where to go. That's been the -- how they have been.

And the caribous we have been told as Inuit, our ancestors, if we're going to be hunting, harvesting, like, using the IQ, if we want to have good meat, like -- like, when they go hunting, like, they didn't want us to shoot them right away, but the -- for the meat, we have to catch it through the heart.

IQ, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, it's very important. Like, for us it's been our ancestors' way of hunting. I just wanted to let the mining companies know about how caribous do. Like, they have leaders as well, and if they go to a different trail, that's when they find out, like, they have hooves that are round.

Like, they have little ways of knowing. They smell. Like, sometimes -- they look down all the time, and they know the trail. They know the -- they know their trail.

That's what I wanted to mention and, like, other ways of hunting, harvesting, because we were born on mainland maybe 25 years when I was growing up, there was no white people there. There was no one around, but our parents, our grandparents, like, we grew up -- like, we grew up with only our parents. This is so -- like, we can tell their truth, that it's not just guessing. We have seen it. We have witnessed it because the mining companies wanted to know, so we can help them too and let them understand.

If I can say more, maybe later on, if there are any questions. Thank you for allowing me to speak. Thank you, Madam Chair.

HARRY AGGARK, HAROLD PUTUMIRAQTUQ, ANDRE AOKAUT, Affirmed

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

Presentation by Kivalliq Inuit Association and Kivalliq Hunters and Trappers Organizations (Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment Project Proposal Final Presentation: Kivalliq Wildlife Board and Kivalliq Hunters and Trappers Organizations)

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

I'd like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for providing this opportunity to make this

presentation. This presentation will summarize key concerns of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, and the Kivalliq hunters and trappers organizations. After I'm finished, I would like to allow the HTO delegates from each community to present additional oral testimony. Next slide, please.

So the mandates of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the hunters and trappers organizations are defined under Article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement with further clarification in the Nunavut Wildlife Act. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the hunters and trappers organizations represent regional and local Inuit harvesters and wildlife and natural resource management.

They also oversee and manage harvesting in the Kivalliq and around each respective community. The hunters and trappers organizations are external reviewers of the Government of Nunavut's wildlife research permit process. This is important in the context of requests made by Agnico Eagle to the Government of Nunavut through the Nunavut Impact Review Board's process. Specifically, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board does not support the Agnico Eagle request to circumvent consultation process required in order to receive wildlife research permits.

The hunters and trappers organizations through

this process often have concerns of invasive research and often come to conclusions with researchers that lead to better study design that accommodates concerns of Inuit. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the hunters and trappers organizations work to safeguard Inuit harvesting rights.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the hunters and trappers organizations have been a part of the review process for this project proposal since NIRB's initial request for comments. Comments, information requests, and technical comments have been submitted. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board and some of the hunters and trappers organizations have also participated in the technical meeting, the community roundtable, and the prehearing conference. Next slide, please.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board and some hunters and trappers organizations have outstanding concerns about the project regarding impacts on caribou, the marine ecosystem, spills into terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and impacts on Inuit harvesting.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board understands that portions of the requests are outside of the scope of this assessment, but the Kivalliq Wildlife Board would like to state that it supports the intent of the Kivalliq Inuit Association's requests for changes to the adaptive management plan under the assumption that

the analysis provided yesterday morning by the Kivalliq Inuit Association is correct.

While the Kivalliq Wildlife Board notes that this is outside of the mandate and the expertise of the hunters and trappers organizations and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, this request has been made by many community members in Rankin Inlet. Next slide, please.

There are concerns that regional impacts on caribou are not being properly monitored and that more work needs to be -- more work needs to be done to understand how this project is and will impact the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, and this is specifically beyond the immediate area around the mine and the all-weather access road along with the pipeline that is being proposed.

Large groups of the Qamanirjuaq herd migrate through the Meliadine River valleys and surrounding areas in the post-calving season when calves are still susceptible to cow-calf separation due to sensory disturbances. Communities have noticed changes since the all-weather access road was built. Hunters in Baker Lake rarely see the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, and hunters in Chesterfield Inlet have noticed additional changes to the migration as it happens through their hunting grounds.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board understands that there

are cycles where caribou might not migrate through certain areas, but it is concerning that communities have noticed these changes.

There needs to be transparency around caribou monitoring and research programs. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board thanks the Government of Nunavut for their commitment to work collaboratively on analyzing available data sets to determine the extent of the impact, but it remains unclear on how the Government of Nunavut would enforce the Wildlife Act if the analysis comes to a conclusion that validates Inuit observations.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board is supportive of the creation of a terrestrial advisory group for the project but is disappointed in the direction that the first draft terms of reference has pointed to.

While the proponent continues to request that key stakeholders provide comments on the draft -- (INTERPRETER BELL)

THE CHAIR: If you can please slow down for the interpreter or pause between sentences.

MR. TARTAK: Sorry about that.

While the proponent continues to request that key stakeholders provide comments on the draft, the KWB notes that the first draft excluded the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the Baker Lake hunters and trappers

organizations while including communities that were not involved in the technical meeting.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board also remains concerned with the wording of the draft and its -- and its acceptance from the Government of Nunavut. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board supports the Kivalliq Inuit Association's request for one memorandum of understanding and one terms of reference to be utilized for the terrestrial advisory group.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board feels that if hunters and trappers organizations are to be involved in the terrestrial advisory group, there needs to be a significant financial contribution given to the organizations to facilitate the additional capacity required to be involved in the group.

Based on questions and responses that have come during the hearing, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board is concerned that the terrestrial advisory group and its associated documentation will be hosted on the proponent's website. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board continues to recommend that this is all housed on the Nunavut Impact Review Board's registry as the terrestrial advisory group will likely be associated with terms and conditions of the revised project certificate.

As external reviewers of the Government of

Nunavut's wildlife research permit procurement process, the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers have provided sufficient evidence for denials of research permits related to this project. This is a concern and actually contradicts the statement made by the Government of Nunavut that they are not an approving -- a regulatory approval body in this assessment. Next slide, please.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the hunters and trappers organizations want reassurance that if the saline effluent does not meet regulations, that there will not be discharge of out-of-compliance effluent. It remains unclear to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board how the effluent is monitored and checked for compliance once it is treated by the saline effluent treatment plant. If it does not meet regulations, how is it returned to the storage ponds?

Monitoring can address some of the issues and concerns if the results are communicated in plain language. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board is supportive of the development of a community-based monitoring program. Based on initial conversations, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board is able to commit to assisting in the development of the program, but the conversations have been limited to a few meetings without any involvement of the funders of the program.

Based on responses to questions during this assessment process in the final hearing, it appears that applications are required and funds are not guaranteed, so the Kivalliq Wildlife Board cannot consider this issue resolved.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board would also need clarification from the Nunavut Impact Review Board regarding a term and condition that may be involved. Specifically, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board would require clarification on enforcement of terms and conditions should the community-based monitoring program capture an impact that's not mentioned under the metal diamond mineral effluent regulations such as ecosystem alteration. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board notes that the MDMER regulations require only tests for acute toxicity. Next slide, please.

Any spills from the pipeline will have an impact on freshwater ecosystems, vegetation, wildlife, and, therefore, Inuit harvesting. When spills occur, plain language reports and pictures of spills must be made available for the public.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board remains concerned that this is considered low risk. A quick look at the 2020 annual report shows that there were 126 spills on-site in 2020. Also, it remains unclear what long-term impacts would be in the case of a minor spill in low

points along the all-weather access road. Next slide, please.

With this and all other development projects, Inuit harvesting rights must be protected. There has been a lack of communication on existing terms and conditions. For example, the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization was not aware that a no-hunting zone had been created around the all-weather access road. This is problematic because the all-weather access road is built on an ATV trail that predates mining operations at the Meliadine site.

There's a need for conversations between communities and landowners and the regulators on the development of these types of no-hunting zones. In the opinion of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, there could be infringements on Inuit rights under Article 5 in cases where hunters and trappers organizations do not approve no-hunting zones as a nonquota limitation. Next slide, please.

Thank you for allowing the Kivalliq Wildlife to present. I will pass the mic on to the other HTO delegates and allow them additional oral testimony about their concerns. Afterwards, we will allow -- or we will welcome questions.

THE CHAIR: From the Arviat HTO, Thomas Ubluriak.

MR. UBLURIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Regarding what was presented from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, I have no questions, but what he -- but what was said is sometimes the first time I've heard them, and it was -- it's been a long time since we were able to meet because of this COVID-19. I would like to get clarification from the other HTOs, and when I get better understanding and clarification, I will be able to add more or have questions.

THE CHAIR: From the hunters and trappers organization -- Harry Aggark from the hunters and trappers.

MR. AGGARK: I don't have much to say, but I -- but what is -- has been written and what the concerns that have been brought up by Inuit in the Kivalliq region as they have been collected and documented and what the possibility of risks of spills are, and what impact they will have on the wildlife. I will just end there.

THE CHAIR: Baker Lake HTO, Harold Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Harold Putumiraqtuq, vice chair of the Baker Lake HTO.

The Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, we have not seen them in about ten years, and ever since -- ever since the Meliadine Mine was developing, we have not seen the

Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, but we were able to see them on the other side of the lake, but we have not seen that herd in over ten years.

I am sure there is an impact from the mining activity and with the establishment of the waterline. I wonder if we will ever see the Qamanirjuaq herd again. Also (NO ENGLISH FEED) the vegetations -- the spills -- the spills have to be analyzed, and we have a great concern about the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd because we have not seen them in a while. And I will end at this point. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Rankin Inlet HTO, Andre Aokaut.

MR. AOKAUT: Andre Aokaut, Kangiqliniq HTO.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board, our parent organization, covered all our concerns, but I would like to emphasize that our consultation not -- with not just the HTOs but the general public needs to be better. Here in Rankin, the people do not realize this hearing is happening as they are all working or fishing. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thomas Ubluriak, will you be adding any comments?

MR. UBLURIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I don't have much to say. The HTO, I'm just a regular board member. The chair and the vice chair

could not attend. I was suffering lack of health this winter, and -- and some of the issues and concerns I am hearing for the first time, but when I have better understanding -- and I will be able to add more. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Moving on to questions to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the hunters and trappers organizations from the registered intervenors, the proponent, and the Board.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Bert Dean.

MR. DEAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Bert Dean from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

We'd just like to thank Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the HTOs for their presentation. We have no questions at this time. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association, Luis Manzo.

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

No questions at this time.

THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Gabriel Karlik.

MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Gabriel Karlik, Government of Nunavut.

No questions at this time.

THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and

Northern Affairs Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada --

MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: -- Spencer --

MR. DEWAR: No questions.

THE CHAIR: -- Dewar.

Spencer Dewar.

MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik. Can you hear me, Madam Chair?

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

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

No questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations, Geoff Bussidor.

MR. BUSSIDOR: Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation, Geoff Bussidor.

No questions at this time, thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Jamie Quesnel.

Michel Groleau.

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Questions Kivalliq Wildlife Board

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I will ask my colleague Suzanne Leclair to provide questions to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, please.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico

Eagle. Thank you, Clayton, for the presentation. That was quite -- quite straightforward, and I appreciate the presentation.

Just two points before I get to -- I have four questions. Two points. Just a small comment regarding the draft terms of reference. We received a comment from the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization that as soon as they received the draft terms of reference, they requested that we forward the draft terms of reference to the other Kivalliq HTO, and we did that same day. So just a point of comment on that.

And also I just want to highlight that we have -- we have now incorporated Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, a traditional knowledge, into the existing terms of reference with the advice of our IQ advisor.

So on to the questions. First question: How will Kivalliq Wildlife Board help support the establishment of a terrestrial advisory group for local HTO?

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

This has not been discussed by the board members to date, but I would imagine that the Kivalliq Wildlife Board will be there to provide technical support for the hunters and trappers organizations at the

terrestrial advisory group.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico Eagle.

What date will you commit to provide your comments -- or I should say the Kivalliq Wildlife Board's comment regarding the terrestrial advisory group terms of reference?

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

I cannot commit to a date being that this would be -- require Board involvement, but it should be noted that the Kivalliq Wildlife Board is not included as a party in the initial -- in the first terms of reference.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico Eagle.

Just a point of clarification. Kivalliq Wildlife Board was indeed included in the distribution list as a party to the draft terms of reference regarding terrestrial advisory group, and we've made that changes upon sending out the draft terms of reference to the Kivalliq -- to the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers

Organization.

Second question -- third question, that is, regarding -- regarding the community-based monitoring program. What would be the Kivalliq Wildlife Board top two objective to be included in this program?

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And I thank Suzanne for the question, but once again, this is one that I cannot answer. That would require a budget before we could make a commitment. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Thank you, Clayton, for your answers. It is appreciated.

Just as a final note, we always welcome and we always seek the opportunity to have meetings with the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, any hunters and trappers organization. The input and the IQ that we generate is really important, and we look forward to having continuing engagement to that effect. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak. Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

I thank Agnico Eagle for their comments.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff Questions Kivalliq Wildlife Board

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for the NIRB staff.

We have a couple of questions here for the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and potentially the local hunters and trappers organization.

Question 1: How close to the community does harvesting occur -- caribou harvesting occur noting that the south end of the all-weather access road was indicated to not be surveyed by Agnico Eagle due to safety concerns and making sure it did not have community members and mining staff in the same area? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

Could the question be re-asked. It's not clear.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for NIRB staff.

How close to the community does caribou harvesting occur noting that the south end of the all-weather access road was not surveyed by Agnico Eagle due to

safety concerns as it was making sure it did not have community members and mining staff in the same area? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

That would likely be better answered by the local hunters and trappers organization, but it's important to note that harvesting happens wherever the caribou go. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION) Andre Aokaut.

MR. AOKAUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Andre Aokaut, Kangiqliniq HTO.

It all depends on the time of year (NO ENGLISH FEED). In the last few years on the bypass road right behind the airport, there's been numerous caribou spotted along the south end of the all-weather access road. So it all depends on the time of year, migration, and location.

In the past few years, there has been caribou along the bypass road right behind the airport. (NO ENGLISH FEED). And I spotted calving caribou and (NO ENGLISH FEED). So they're all coming from all directions (NO ENGLISH FEED) supposed to come when they

have a chance, but that's about it.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you (NO ENGLISH FEED). Staff have another question, Madam Chair.

(NO ENGLISH FEED) and were willing to (NO ENGLISH FEED). At the end of the day, would the HTO confirm the commencement and ending of the open-water season or marine effluent discharge each year?

Can the HTO please address whether it continues to have the capacity to engage with the proponent on the commencement and ending of the open-water season now that the discharge pipe will be relocated and a greater volume of effluent will be discharged?

And if Agnico is proposing or considering earlier discharge, such as under ice as an adaptive management strategy, would the HTO be wanting to be involved -- (INTERPRETER BELL)

MS. COSTELLO: Sorry. I was doing so well. Josie would be so disappointed in me.

If Agnico is proposing or considering under-ice discharge as an adaptive management strategy, would the HTO be wanting to be involved in the same consultation schedule, or would the HTO have the capacity to engage with the proponent on the same level? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Thomas Ubluriak, Arviat Hunters and Trappers.

MR. UBLURIAK: Thank you, Chair.

The ones that were just mentioned, listening to them, I -- I approve them or we have to be aware of the hunting grounds and also mammals, narwhals, seals. The hunters and trappers have been working with (INUKTITUT SPOKEN), with young people, and that's all I have to say. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers, Harry Aggark.

MR. AGGARK: Harry Aggark, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers, chairperson.

I just want to comment in terms of the potential impact on caribou because of the all-weather road. As you know, that we don't have mining company interests or any -- we don't have an all-weather road. These potential complaints or concerns have been brought up many times now ever since the mining started. The only two communities that were mostly complaining is Rankin and Baker because they have a mine.

In terms of caribou migrating to Chester from northern Manitoba, you have -- people of Chester have noticed that decline or absolutely no caribou migrating directly to -- close to Chester. In the handout, you see the Qamanirjuaq herd where they were located, and

they didn't go all the way up to Chester. Normally before the mine, they used to go right into town. I'm sure that the cause of effects of an all-weather road.

For Chester, our main concern has been the marine impact. Too many ships going up to inlet in and out. Other potential issues like should there be a spill of that saline water, that, again, will it effect Chester immediately?

Other than that, I don't have other concerns or comment. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Harold Putumiraqtuq, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Harold Putumiraqtuq, Baker Lake HTO, vice chair.

Just a -- to answer NIRB's question or for -- about the -- how close to the community the caribou is going, for Baker Lake, it's usually 1 kilometre away from town where they could be harvested, and, again, like somebody said, it depends on the season.

But HTO will now collaborate no-hunting zone and hamlet boundaries for safety concerns and other (INDISCERNIBLE)? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION) Andre Aokaut.

MR. AOKAUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Andre Aokaut, Kangiqliniq HTO.

I will defer that to Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank NIRB staff for the question. It is a really good question.

So to put some context into the process to date, Agnico Eagle has had to put divers in the water after the ice is gone before they could start discharge, which delayed the installation of the discharge pipe. So the HTO has not been concerned about the -- the way it has happened so far.

And there were discussions with the local hunters and trappers, with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, about the potential for under-ice discharge --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

THE CHAIR: Please slow down for the interpreter.

MR. TARTAK: Sorry about that.

So there were discussions inside of the Kivalliq -- sorry, the Kangiqliniq hunters and trappers organizations about the possibility for under-ice discharge, and they were open to it under the assumption that it meant no more emergency discharge

into Meliadine Lake and that an assessment was done by the proponent, and there was no impacts on snowmobile trails around the Itivia area. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for the NIRB staff.

I appreciate the comments and responses from all of the hunters and trappers organizations. We have nothing further for -- on this question.

There is one other question. I believe the Board already knows the answer to this but just wanted to confirm as a comment was made about restrictions on the road related to -- to quota.

This question is to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. Has the Kivalliq Wildlife Board offered guidelines or suggestions to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for hunting the Qamanirjuaq herd? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

The simple answer is, no, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board has not made any recommendations, and the reason being the latest survey had the Qamanirjuaq increase from -- I believe it was around 250,000 or so animals

to 286,000 animals. But the Kivalliq Wildlife Board is involved in the monitoring of the Qamanirjuaq herd and specifically the Qamanirjuaq -- or the Kivalliq Wildlife Board currently collects harvested samples in collaboration with the regional biologist for a program that looks to monitor stress levels of the herd in relation to changes in diet. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff.

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for NIRB staff. I appreciate the response, Clayton.

Nothing further, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Are there any questions from the Board? Allen?

Nunavut Impact Review Board Questions Kivalliq Wildlife Board

MR. MAGHAGAK: Allen Maghagak. I have two questions -- in Kivalliq -- to Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board, two questions that I would like to ask the Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board as he had stated two points that sort of piqued my thinking.

In respect to the communities that have noticed any changes in migration since the all-weather road was built in 2012, can you also -- or can you also answer if the size of the caribou herd that are still coming into the familiar migration routes are getting smaller,

or have they changed? That'll be my first question, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

That is a hard question to answer because when the Qamanirjuaq herd migrates through the area, there may potentially be 80,000 to 150,000 caribou that walk through the area, and the difference between 80,000 and 150,000 visually is next to nothing. It just looks like the -- the land is moving. Thank you, Madam Chair. I hope that answers the question.

THE CHAIR: NIRB Board, Allen.

MR. MAGHAGAK: Madam Chair, my second question is in regards to Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board's point that in respect to needing some compensation, can I also get clarification on -- on that aspect of it? What is it in relation to, and -- and how was the parameters of your questions asked on that question?

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

If I understand the question correctly, the answer

is that the Rankin Inlet Hunters and Trappers or the Kivalliq Wildlife Board would need a financial contribution from the Government of Canada in order to conduct the community-based monitoring. So it would be for potentially an IQ coordinator, lab time, staff -- field staff to collect field samples, and additional staff to do analysis and reporting of the community-based monitoring project. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Are there any more questions from the Board? Phillip?

MR. KADLUN: Quaana, Madam Chair. Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

I just have one point of clarification. It's on the last page of your presentation on the potential impacts on Inuit harvesting.

On the very last bullet there, that's where it says lack of communication on impacts to Inuit harvesting, for my clarity, is it speaking to some sort of a study or -- or harvest information, or what is it referencing to? I'm just struggling the way -- struggling with the way it's written. I'm picturing it as a -- it might be some study or something. Quaana, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank the Board member for the question.

And I'm sorry this wasn't clearly stated in the presentation, but the impacts to Inuit harvesting in this context is the creation of a no-hunting zone along the all-weather access road which goes against Inuit rights under Article 5. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: NIRB Board, Phillip.

MR. KADLUN: Thank you. That's all I have.

THE CHAIR: I only have one question for -- for the proponent, and I understand they're requesting for advisory committee so that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and hunters and trappers can be -- are they -- are the hunters and trappers more involved? Thomas Ubluriak.

MR. UBLURIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Regarding the advisory committees, us hunters and trappers organization in Arviat we're -- we're a member of, we can't fix things on our own, but Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board -- we have to go through Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board to get things such as what we're talking about. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Harry Aggark, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers.

MR. AGGARK: Harry Aggark, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers.

When this is occurring in Chesterfield Inlet, we had mentioned this a few times, but when COVID hit, we kind of stalled, and we haven't been able to meet for a while. For me, myself, I can say that Kivalliq Inuit Association and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and also Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board, we only follow what they put out to us.

For example, this saline -- if we were to get what we want, I'd say we don't want that saline water to be poured in our salt water. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION) Harold Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Harold Putumiraqtuq, Baker Lake HTO, chairperson.

Can you please repeat the question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Both the proponent and some of the other intervenors are proposing to put together a terrestrial advisory group where the -- to receive advice on terrestrial commitments from bodies, like other organizations like HTOs, and also to receive their concerns. So I was just wondering if the HTOs are supportive of that initiative or if they have any other thoughts they would like to share.

Harold Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: According to an email back in April, Baker Lake HTO wasn't in the original group.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Andre Aokaut, hunters and trappers of Rankin Inlet.

MR. AOKAUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Andre Aokaut, Kangiqliniq HTO.

It would be good for the TAG. It's just that we need additional staff full-time to be on the terrestrial advisory group. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: That's all I have to ask for the hunters and trappers in Kivalliq. We'll move on to the next -- the last intervenor presentation from the Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations.

NIRB legal counsel.

Procedural Direction by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal Counsel

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

Madam Chair, I have one additional exhibit to file in advance of this presentation, and also I will administer the affirmation, and then if -- when the microphone switches over to the presenter, if they can state and spell their name for the record, and then state their name again and that they affirm, they will be able to proceed.

EXHIBIT 19 - Hard Copy PowerPoint

Presentation, Presentation from Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation, NIRB Public Hearing - Technical Session: "Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment" Project Proposal for Agnico Eagle's Meliadine Mine (English/Inuktitut)

CARL GEOFFREY BUSSIDOR, Affirmed

MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Those are my two procedural matters.

THE CHAIR: And will there be anyone else from your party that will be presenting or answering questions, Geoff Bussidor?

MR. BUSSIDOR: They're available if there's a legal question or technical question. They're on standby or to assist when -- when need be. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Okay. You may proceed with your presentation.

Presentation by Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations (NIRB Public Hearing – Technical Session: “Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment” Project Proposal for Agnico Eagle’s Meliadine Mine)

MR. BUSSIDOR: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair. My name is Geoff Bussidor. I am a member of the Sayisi Dene First Nation.

I am providing a joint presentation today for the Sayisi Dene First Nation and the Northlands Denesuline

First Nation.

I live in Tadoule Lake, which you can see in this picture. This is where I'm joining you today. The community is on a winter range of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. My colleague Benji Denechezhe is a member of the Northlands Denesuline First Nation and is joining this meeting from Lac Rocher, which is also on the winter range of the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd.

Other members of our review team joining this public hearing --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MR. BUSSIDOR: From different locations are Kelly Olson --

THE CHAIR: If you can --

MR. BUSSIDOR: -- our legal counsel --

THE CHAIR: If you can please pause between sentences for the interpreter.

MR. BUSSIDOR: Yes. Thank you.

Other members of our review team joining this public hearing from different locations are Kelly Olson, our legal counsel; and Steve Kearny and Leslie Wakelyn, both wildlife biologists. Our team has assisted in the preparation of this presentation and our submissions.

The caribou in this photo and all the other photos we are showing today are part of the Qamanirjuaq herd,

which we have shared with Inuit and other Indigenous people from -- for many generations.

Before starting to talk about the project we are discussing today, I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for the opportunity to present to you today and the interpreters for their essential work helping us all to communicate with each other, and although -- and I'd like to also say thank you to the Elders that have opened the meetings with prayers for us. Next slide, please.

In this presentation, I will provide information on the following items on behalf of both First Nations: Background on why we are participating in the review of this project, characteristics of the project proposal that are concerning to us, Agnico Eagle's responses to our concerns, issues that could be addressed with commitments made so far by Agnico Eagle, remaining concerns that have not yet been addressed adequately from our perspective, actions required to address our remaining concerns, our recommendations to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

In our presentation today, we have tried to incorporate new information provided by Agnico Eagle in response -- in their response to our final written submission to the NIRB or Nunavut Impact Review Board. Next slide, please.

For thousands of years, our First Nations have harvested Qamanirjuaq caribou throughout our traditional territory and what is now Nunavut, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories. The existence, culture, and rights of our people are deeply connected to the caribou and its habitat. Any harm to the caribou is harm to the Dene.

For the people that I represent, the Sayisi Dene, we continue to live -- we continue to live based on seasonal ground following the movements of the Qamanirjuaq herd until 1950s. My mother, late mother, was actually born at Edehon Lake when it was still considered the Northwest Territories.

The Sayisi Dene way of life was interrupted when we were forcibly relocated by government to Churchill in 1956. This decision was based on government misinformation about the health of the herd. Although Sayisi Dene continued to live with the trauma of the relocation, our people once again use, live, and harvest throughout our traditional territory.

We are participating in this review to make sure that any potential impacts to caribou are fully understood and prevented. We know that even small impacts or changes in one spot can build up over time and cause serious problems for the herd. These impacts and changes affect not only my rights but also the

rights of my children and grandchildren and beyond.

The First Nations are provided a right to be heard at this Nunavut Impact Review Board under the Nunavut Agreement. We also have a right to be consulted on any decision by the Crown that could have -- possibly have adverse effect on our Aboriginal and treaty rights. We found out through this review that the Crown is relying in part on this process to discharge its duty to consult with our First Nations. Next slide, please.

THE CHAIR: Mr. Bussidor, it's just after 12:00, so we're going to pause your presentation and then continue it after lunch, if that's okay, because the restaurants have set hours.

So we're going to break for lunch until 1:15 and then continue with the Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline presentation, but for the awareness of the registered intervenors, because we're going to start the community roundtable right after, you'll sit in the back of the room, and community representatives will be seated around the table. We'll see everyone after lunch.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:15 PM)

(PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 1:21 PM)

THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone. Just for the awareness of the participants on Zoom and over the phone, the room has already been reconfigured and

all the community representatives are sitting around the table.

So we're going to continue with the presentation from the Sayisi and Northlands Denesuline First Nations and then go to a round of questions from registered intervenors. Once we've completed that portion, we'll move on to the community roundtable portion of the agenda.

So continuing with the presentation from Geoff Bussidor.

MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Our team feels that we should go back to (AUDIO FEED LOST) for me to start from there, if that's okay with everyone.

THE CHAIR: Okay. You may proceed.

MR. BUSSIDOR: Okay. Just hang on a second. Okay. We're at Slide 3, then.

For thousands of years, our First Nation have harvested Qamanirjuaq caribou throughout our traditional territory in what is now Nunavut, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories. The existence, culture, and rights of our people are deeply connected to the caribou and its habitat. Any harm to the caribou is harm to the Dene.

For the people I represent, the Sayisi Dene continue to live based on seasonal -- around following

the movements of the Qamanirjuaq herd until the 1950s. My mother was actually born at Edehon Lake when it was still considered the Northwest Territories.

The Sayisi Dene way of life was interrupted when we were forcibly relocated by government to Churchill in 1956. This decision was based on government misinformation about the health of the herd.

Although the Sayisi Dene continue to live with the trauma of the relocation, our people once again use, live, and harvest throughout our traditional territory.

We are participating in this review to make sure that any potential impacts to caribou are fully understood and prevented. We know that even small impacts or changes in one spot can build up over time and cause serious problems for the herd.

These impacts or changes affect not only my rights, but also the rights of my children and grandchildren and beyond.

The First Nations are provided a right to be heard in a Nunavut Impact Review Board under the Nunavut Agreement. We also have a right to be consulted on any decision by the Crown that could possibly have an adverse effect on our Aboriginal and treaty rights. We found out through this review that the Crown is relying in part on this process to discharge its duty to consult with our First Nations. Next slide, please.

To summarize, the main reasons for presenting our concerns here today are caribou have been central to the existence of our First Nations for thousands of years and continue to be crucial to our ability to maintain our culture and way of life.

Caribou are central to the exercise of our Aboriginal and treaty rights. Any negative impacts of development on Qamanirjuaq herd or the herd's habitat are a concern to us for reasons that include the size of the herd has been decreasing for more than two decades; activities that have produced more negative impacts on Qamanirjuaq caribou and habitat may reduce the ability of the herd to stay strong and healthy; and further declines in the herd could affect our culture, our way of life, and our Aboriginal and treaty rights to harvest caribou. Next slide, please.

Some aspects of the proposed project are of concern to us because of their potential effects on caribou. I will outline these concerns and some reasons for them. One, the combined road and waterline structure might increase -- or might create a barrier or change the normal movement patterns of the caribou during the post-calving migration while using the area as a summer feeding habitat. This could affect access to key survival of calves, health of cows, and herd productivity. These potential effects would be a

serious problem for the declining Qamanirjuaq herd, particularly if they occur over many years.

Two, if there are accidental spills or water leaks, pools of saline effluent might be produced. If this saline water is accessible to caribou, they may drink it. We are concerned that if this happens, caribou and especially calves might get sick.

Three, any negative effects on caribou from this project could accumulate over time and could also combine with effects from other projects in the region and across the Qamanirjuaq caribou change. Next slide, please.

Agnico Eagle responded to these three concerns as follows: For Concern Number 1 regarding the effect of combined road and waterline structure on caribou movements, Agnico Eagle's consultants conducted a limited assessment of movements of some collared caribou near the mine and its roads. They concluded that the combined road and waterline structure will have no significant effect on movement of caribou. We do not agree that this conclusion is valid based on the analysis provided so far.

Agnico Eagle committed to conduct additional analysis collected in 2020 and to describe that analysis in its results in its 2020 terrestrial management and monitoring plan report. However, Agnico

Eagle has -- was unable to provide this additional analysis.

Agnico Eagle also committed to work towards establishing a terrestrial advisory group to provide advice for planning, implementation, and reporting on their terrestrial environment management and monitoring program, hold a first meeting of the advisory group in May of 2021. We know that it has been three months since we submitted comments on the draft terms of reference, but there has been no (AUDIO FEED LOST) by Agnico Eagle to them, nor has there been a meeting. Next slide, please.

For Concern Number 2 regarding the potential for caribou to drink saline effluent resulting from spills or leaks, Agnico Eagle contacted a wildlife veterinarian whose opinion was that if freshwater was available in the area, there should be no concerns about caribou drinking saline effluent.

Agnico Eagle committed to immediately shut down the waterline if their leak detection system indicated a possible leak while caribou are in the vicinity, but they did not define what that meant exactly.

Agnico Eagle also committed to isolate any spill area to prevent access by caribou, but they have not described how this would be done.

Agnico Eagle has committed to provide a management

plan for the operation of the waterline system to be submitted to the NIRB 30 days before it begins operating. We recommend that a timeline for review of the management plan be 60 days, as we do not believe that a meaningful review of the plan can be conducted in 30 days. Next slide, please.

For Concern Number 3 regarding the potential for the project to (AUDIO FEED LOST) to negative regional and cumulative effects on caribou, Agnico Eagle had stated that the predictions they made seven years ago in 2014 still apply. Their conclusion was that the proposed project will result in no significant regional and cumulative effects on caribou. However, we are not convinced that this conclusion is valid based on the analysis provided so far.

Also, it is not clear how the monitoring program described in the terrestrial environment management and monitoring plan will detect regional and cumulative effects on caribou or identify what should be done to mitigate them. Next slide, please.

We acknowledge that Agnico Eagle has made efforts and commitments to address our concerns. However, we still have concerns for several reasons. Some of Agnico Eagle 's commitments are to conduct additional work that has not yet been done. It has been proposed that several actions could be taken by the terrestrial

advisory group, but that group has not been established yet.

Based on the information Agnico Eagle has provided so far, we do not fully understand what actions the company is proposing to prevent effects on caribou. Some terms should be defined and additional information provided to make sure their plans and procedures are clear to everyone. Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nation recognize that, if approved, ongoing collaboration will benefit the project going forward. We welcome the opportunity to work together with other members of the terrestrial advisory group and other group -- or other groups created to provide advice on the terrestrial environment management and monitoring plan for -- about any caribou-related issues. Next slide, please.

To summarize, Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nation continue to have concerns about three main issues: One, we are not convinced by the evidence provided so far that the combined road and waterline structure will not interfere with movements of caribou, especially with their ability to move freely to and around summer feeding habitat.

We are not confident that the existing plans for the waterline and leak detection system will prevent caribou from gaining access to an area where there has

been a spill or a leak. Therefore, caribou could be harmed by drinking saline water.

Three, we remain concerned that there is no plan in place specifically to monitor and access regional and cumulative effects of development on Qamanirjuaq caribou. Potential effects contributed by this project should be assessed as a part of the regional and range-wide cumulative effects assessment plan. Next slide, please.

We submit that additional actions are needed to monitor and minimize project effects that could change movement patterns of caribou, allow caribou to drink saline effluent, and contribute to regional and cumulative effects of development on caribou. Next slide, please.

Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations recommend that the following action should be taken to address our remaining concerns related to caribou: A broader and more robust analysis to be conducted to determine the effects that the road has had on movement, post-calving migration and summer season up to 2020. This analysis should be -- should also identify the potential effects of the combined road and waterline structure on caribou.

There was conflicting discussion today and yesterday about timing for Agnico Eagle to submit their

revised report describing interactions between collared caribou and all-weather road -- access road. It is our preference for the revised memorandum to be provided to all intervenors within six months of this hearing. We support the recommendations made by the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the Government of Nunavut in their final written submissions concerning reanalysis of caribou and road interactions. To -- clearer guidelines and protocols should be developed for mine staff including operators of the system for detecting leaks in the waterline to make sure they know when to shut down a waterline that might be leaking when caribou are nearby. This should include an annual report on the waterline system, including the operation and effectiveness of the leak detection system.

Actions should be planned by the terrestrial advisory group for monitoring and mitigating project effects on caribou health, productivity, movements, and distribution at the regional level to make sure they do not accumulate over the long term and cause harm to the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. Next slide, please.

We also submitted two detailed recommendations in our written -- final written response for additions to a project certificate should the proposal be approved. Our first recommendation was to revise a term and condition for the terrestrial advisory group. Our

proposed changes were intended to make sure that this advisory group will provide advice to Agnico Eagle, incorporate both science and Indigenous, not -- Indigenous knowledge, and be adequately funded to ensure that all parties can fully participate.

In its response, Agnico Eagle recommended a separate term and condition. We accept the recommendation to create a separate term and condition but make two additional recommendations.

One, we recommend the terrestrial advisory group be established before an amended project certificate is issued by Nunavut Impact Review Board. In addition, we re-state our previous recommendation that adequate funding must be provided for a meaningful participation by all parties in this advisory group.

Further, the First Nations are agreeable to the Kivalliq Inuit Association's suggestion that the parties to the terrestrial advisory group enter into a single memorandum of understanding.

Our second recommendation was to add a term and condition for operation, maintenance, and monitoring of the waterline system. This proposed addition was intended to make sure there is adequate monitoring and reporting of the system, including the leak detection system, and, two, identify any problems and changes required.

In its response, Agnico Eagle accepted our recommendation for a new term and condition about the waterline system and suggested some revised wording. We accept their suggested wording revisions except for their review time frame. We recommend a minimum of 60 days should be provided to review their plans for the operation and maintenance of the waterline system. Last slide, please.

We should note that information presented in the 2020 annual reports has not changed any concerns or recommendations made in this presentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. Masi cho.

Are there any questions?

THE CHAIR: Moving on to questions to the Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations from the registered intervenors. Do any of the registered intervenors in the back, Nunavut Tunngavik, Kivalliq Inuit Association, or Government of Nunavut have questions for the Sayisi and Northlands Dene? If so, you can use the mic in the back.

Raymond Mercer?

MR. MERCER: Yes. I'm just waiting for a response back for NTI.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Just waiting for a response back from NTI.

MR. MERCER: On behalf of NTI, no questions at this point.

THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Spencer Dewar, are there any questions or comments from any of the Government of Canada departments?

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

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Canada, we have no questions. Quaana.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO ENGLISH TRANSLATION) Any questions from the hunters and trappers organizations? Are there -- Kangiqliniq HTO, Andre Aokaut.

MR. AOKAUT: Madam, no questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Are there any questions or comments from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board? Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

No questions.

THE CHAIR: Are there any questions or comments from Agnico Eagle, Jamie Quesnel?

MR. QUESNEL: Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

No questions.

THE CHAIR: NIRB staff?

MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen Costello for NIRB staff.

We have no questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Are there any questions from the Board? Allen?

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

MR. MAGHAGAK: Allen Kadlun Omingmakyok.

Madam Chair, I just have one question for clarification in respect to the funding part of it. As I have not been involved in this process the last couple of years because of the travel restrictions and that, I just need clarification if the funding that you are currently receiving for your participation for this process, is that significant enough for Sayisi Dene First Nation and Northlands Denesuline First Nation to participate in this process?

Quanna, Iksivauta.

THE CHAIR: Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations, Geoff Bussidor.

MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the question.

The current funding that we're getting is from the

northern participants program. It is sufficient for now, but it is based on projects, I guess. We had to apply for it, and it had to be approved. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Are there any more questions from the Board? No?

I just have one question. Recognizing that there's the proposed terrestrial advisory group that would involve different interested parties, can you clarify if the Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline would be -- would consider, I guess, being members of this proposed body, and, if so, are there any current processes or practices in that region that would help provide data or information specific to caribou that would inform the terrestrial advisory group?

Sayisi Dene and Northlands Denesuline First Nations, Geoff Bussidor.

MR. BUSSIDOR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Geoff Bussidor, Sayisi Dene, Northlands Denesuline First Nation.

Regarding data and stuff, we have been collecting harvest information for the past 20 plus years, since we've moved back to the land, and there's a fair bit of accumulated data there.

Regarding the funding and participating, we welcome that and look forward to being a part of that organization.

And from the responses provided at this meeting, it's an interesting time. Because of COVID being a situation for everybody, it's difficult to meet face-to-face, but in time hopefully we will be able to get together.

We have been involved with the caribou activities like the Beverly Qamanirjuaq caribou management board. Even before the Board was created, myself and one of the team members, Steve Kearney, we went around to the northern communities, Arviat, Whale Cove, Chesterfield, Rankin, and Baker to provide awareness of the caribou at that time because there seemed to be a decrease in the herd, and then later on, the Beverly Qamanirjuaq caribou herd was created in 1982, and we were involved with that for a long time.

So, yeah, we have a good bit of background information, and we have been involved from a long time ago.

And I was raised by my grandparents and have been in, you know, a lot of contact with the Elders from our community, so, you know, we have a good bit of base knowledge from -- from way back when and also have been involved with activities such as the calving ground surveys, which we partook in.

So, yeah, we can contribute and look forward to being a part of that if it's possible. Masi, Madam

Chair.

Community Roundtable

THE CHAIR: Thank you for your presentation.

Those are all the questions for the registered intervenors and the proponent in the technical portion of the agenda. Thank you to all the registered intervenors for sharing your knowledge and expertise with the Board throughout this assessment.

We're now going to move on to the community roundtable portion of the agenda. Right now we will have the community roundtable discussion, and we will be listening from the communities -- to the communities, and the Nunavut Impact Review Board will be listening and -- what the expectations are and the people of Rankin Inlet, if they have questions or concerns of Agnico Eagle regarding this proposal for the waterline and discarding the saline water to Melvin Bay, and we would like the people of Rankin Inlet to know that if they want to go -- if they want to voice their concerns or have questions, and there are community members from other communities present right now.

After hearing questions and comments from community representatives here at the table, we will turn to questions from the public.

For members of the public who want to ask questions to the proponent or intervenors or make a statement for the Panel to consider, please provide your name to the Board staff at the front of the room, and we will put your name on the list of speakers.

And we will now proceed to the Community Roundtable Agenda Item 2, a summary presentation by the proponent. Following the presentation from Agnico Eagle, we will turn to questions or comments from community representatives and members of the general public for the remainder of the roundtable.

The registered intervenors are also all standing by for questions as well, so community representatives and the general public are encouraged to provide any questions or comments they might have for these parties as well.

You will be able to ask questions to Agnico Eagle or to any registered participant here and to anyone that is part of this public hearing either online or by telephone.

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

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

So, Madam Chair, I have a presentation that is in English and Inuktitut that is about to be presented by Agnico Eagle, and I propose to file that as the next exhibit in this public hearing.

(PREVIOUSLY ENTERED ON JUNE 14 AS EXHIBIT 1)

MS. MEADOWS: And I don't believe that there are any additional witnesses to be affirmed for this section, and so with that, Madam Chair, those are my procedural matters. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Jamie Quesnel.

You can begin your presentation unless you have other people to affirm.

MR. QUESNEL: Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Madam Chair.

There's no other individuals to be sworn in, and Michel Groleau will lead the presentation. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Michel Groleau.

Presentation by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Meliadine Project – Overview Saline Effluent Discharge to Marine Environment)

MR. GROLEAU: Thanks, Madam Chair. My name is Michel Groleau from Agnico Eagle. I will provide this presentation, which covered the overview of the waterline project.

I want to start by thanking all the participants for this community roundtable to have travelled to

Rankin Inlet to provide their comment on our project, to make this project better with your comment. So we strongly believe in this process, and we are here to hear you, answer your question, and move forward with this project with your input. So, again, thanks for showing up today and providing your comments to our project.

So today I will provide an overview first of the project, go through an introduction. We'll look at the 3D -- three-dimensional rendering video. We'll describe the different component of the project, then my colleague Suzanne Leclair will cover the consultation and the public participation we completed through the design of this project, and my colleague Colleen Prather will provide an overview of the final written submission and the commitments we made. So we'll start with the project overview.

The waterline project consists of a change on how we will move the saline water from the mine site to the ocean. Saline water is coming from the underground mine. The quality of this water is similar to the seawater. Now we are using truck to move the saline water, and we are proposing to replace the truck by a waterline. We are proposing moving the same type of water than what we are doing now with the trucks.

This is the same water that -- it's in the truck

now that we want to put in the waterline, if it's approved.

The water quality will be the same. Since 2019, we are treating the water at the site --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MR. GROLEAU: -- and the water is similar to the seawater. We will continue to do this the same way.

The discharge of the saline water will happen at the same time it's happening now, which is during the open-water season. Discharge stop during the winter and restart at the spring.

The difference is we need to move a bigger volume of water, and the truck can't catch up on the inflows we are observing in the underground mine. Now we are storing this water at site. The pond shows -- in the middle of this figure is filling up, and our professional engineer doesn't recommend us to continue with storage. We have to move the saline water, and a waterline is a sustainable way to do it.

The waterline consists of two pipes of 16-inch. We have one of those pipe at the back of the room. The waterline will be adjacent to the existing road and covered with esker material from 80 to 90 percent of its length. Again, we brought some of this esker material in the room. It's sitting in the pail at the

back of the room just beside the pipe.

The capacity of the waterline is 6 to 12,000 cubic metre per day and can be increased up to 20,000 cubic metre per day. This is the maximum capacity of the waterline.

As a reference, 6,000 cubic metre per day represent 2.5 time the room we are in today. The discharge showed at the bottom right of the slide will occur in the Itivia Harbour through a diffuser located at a depth of 20 metre. The location is the same as the one we are using now. We already have approval to discharge saline water into the Melvin Bay. We are changing the way to move this water. This is our project.

Yes, there is a lot of trucks on this slide. Just to make it clear, we are not asking for more truck. Now we use 20 to 40 trucks per day to transport the saline water to the ocean. If we do not have the waterline approved, we would need 150 to 300 trucks per day to transport the same volume of water. We do not want to use more truck. We want to use a waterline.

The benefits of the waterline are a reduction of truck on the road, so less dust, less noise, less interaction with caribou. The other benefit is to reduce our discharge to Meliadine Lake.

Since Day 1 we are working on the Meliadine

project, Rankin Inlet community was clear with us. Meliadine Lake is important, and we have to protect it. We always take that seriously, and our current discharge in Meliadine Lake is safe and respect regulation.

However, with the waterline project, we can bring this commitment to another level. We can start discharging surface water in the ocean through the waterline as well.

We plan to move most of the water into the waterline, and we will do our very best to reduce the discharge to Meliadine Lake. Sometime it's going to be zero; some other years it's going to be more, but we will maximize the use of the waterline. This is our plan.

We presented our plan to the Nunavut Impact Review Board. This plan is named the adaptive management plan. We have two priorities with this plan, discharging the saline water to avoid the storage and protect our infrastructures, and reduce our discharge in Meliadine Lake.

In this plan, we take into account different situations, when everything is going all right is one of them; big rain event that will fill our ponds is another one; mechanical problem with our pump; the time we need to open and close the line when the winter is

coming. This is a couple of example of things we need to plan for in our operation. This plan is robust, and Environment Climate Change Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relation Northern Affair support this plan.

So we'll play the video to present the project.

Video Played

MR. GROLEAU: So there is no sound on this video, and I will present the different infrastructure.

So we're zooming on the mine site. So we gonna look a bit closer to the underground ramp, so it's where we are accessing the mine. We can see the pipe going out with the saline water.

We store the saline water in saline pond. We pump the water from the pond into the treatment plant, and then this is pushed into the two waterline.

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MR. GROLEAU: The green section are the areas that will be covered with esker material, and the yellow section are the one that are not covered. We see the cover with the two pipes in blue going toward Rankin Inlet. Here, an example of a land-user crossing to facilitate ATV to cross.

We can see here a culvert where a small stream of water have to be crossed. The pipe will go above the culvert.

At the bridge, we'll attach the pipe to the bridge

just on the side of the bridge, so it's not interfering with traffic, and it's not interfering with the water flow.

Moving down toward Rankin Inlet, we use our bypass road, and then we arrive at the Itivia Harbour. From here, the pipe go underground. It's going to be under the island. We'll drill under the island, push the pipe into the hole, and it will pop out on the seabed, a 7-metre depth, and we'll attach our diffuser at this location. The diffuser will be located at a depth of 20-metre, and water will be discharged through six smaller pipe. So we'll continue the presentation.

This slide present the alignment of the waterline. So the mine site is at the top right corner and Rankin Inlet at the bottom left. The area that will not be covered are in yellow, and we may -- you know, the example why we do not cover the line are basically for the water crossing and when the terrain will be too difficult, where there's bedrock or rock going out of the road.

We adjusted our design based on community feedback. The cover of the waterline is one of those commitment we made, and we're covering the line with esker material to ensure caribou passage and facilitate the crossing of the land user.

The construction schedule have been updated. We

are planning fusioning the pipe at the mine site in 2021; building the waterline in 2022, and laying down the pipe along the road, covering it with the esker material; and then in 2023, we'll start operating the waterline.

These image illustrate the placement of the waterline relative to the road. This image show two waterlines covered with the esker material. The image at the top left is the -- is how we're going to place the line on 80 to 90 percent of the road. The one at the bottom are the areas where it's going to be more challenging to excavate the ground and place a cover. We'll do our best to excavate, to make the pipe as small as possible, but in those area, cover would be more difficult to be placed.

The -- those area are the rocky ground where the watercourse are crossing, and it's what we are planning to do.

The waterline will run just beside the road. The road is having an average height of 1.1 metres, so it's around 3 feet high. We believe that with the cover, ATV, snowmobile, caribou will easily cross the waterline.

As presented on this figure, the caribou will continue to cross the road with the addition of the waterline. The difference will be that they -- they

will now have two step downs if they're crossing the line from the left side, or two step up if they're crossing the line from the right side. We do not believe that this change will stop the caribou to cross the road.

The waterline will cross the rivers and the streams at the same location as the road. As shown in the video, it's going to go above the culvert or being attached to the bridge. Also, we're not planning using heavy machinery within the areas of the river.

We heard about the concern of the spill of the waterline. We updated our spill management plan to take into consideration the waterline. We added mitigation to prevent spill to occur. We added a leak-detection system, for example, valve to close the line if a spill happen, and we'll provide training to our employee if a spill happen so they can react fast.

In the unlikely event of a spill to occur, spill will be cleaned rapidly to limit the extent of the spill and to make sure that caribou or other animals do not drink this water.

At Itivia Harbour we will drill under the island to install the pipe as shown in the video. We'll drill from the shore, go under the island, and the pipe will pop on the other side at a depth of 7 metre under the water surface.

The benefits of this method are interesting. We reduce the disturbance to the seabed during the construction, and we protect the pipe from the ice during the winter because it's going in the ground.

During the construction, we do not expect that the drilling will produce more noise and dust than the activities already occurring at the Itivia Harbour.

At the end of this pipe, we'll install our diffuser at a depth of 20 metre. To make sure the diffuser doesn't move, it will be attached with concrete block. The new diffuser will be located right beside the existing one. With this new diffuser, we do not have to send diver each year to attach the pipe to the diffuser.

We made studies; we ran model to make sure our discharge is safe for every conditions we could operate the waterline, smaller volume of 6,000 cubic metre, the operating volume of 12,000 cubic metre, and the maximum volume of 20,000 cubic metre, higher salt concentration close from the seawater, lower salt concentration closer from the surface water. Results of those studies show that the effect are minimal, and the water will still be safe for the mussels, the shellfish, the fish, and the marine mammals.

A community-based monitoring program will be conducted to confirm those results. We want to work

with the community to understand how we develop this program. We have question to ask to the community: Where monitoring should be conducted? Which time of the year monitoring should be completed? Which species should we sample? We committed to work with the Kivalliq Wildlife Board to complete this program and rely on their collaboration to complete this program successfully.

When I was speaking of minimal effect, I meant small effect. At the end of the mine life, the waterline will be dismantled and removed as per our closure plan that we updated with the Nunavut Water Board recently.

Madam Chair, I will pass it to my colleague Suzanne Leclair for the next section of the presentation. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair with Agnico Eagle.

Our Agnico Eagle public participation and consultation approach seeks collaboration with our neighbours, hamlets, Inuit organization, regional Inuit groups, Elders, land users, women's group, and other stakeholders such as cabin owners and fish harvesters. We met with every one of these groups.

We believe in the guiding principles set out by

the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and these principles are respectful of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, such as fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming, and inclusive.

We also like and respect the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the principle where decision-making is gained through discussion and consensus. With that, when we meet with you, we now rely on more dynamic visual information, such as the video that you have just seen from my colleague Michel Groleau. Also, our Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit advisor has encouraged us strongly to use more everyday language when explaining technical terms. With this approach, we believe it is easier to actively get your input, your feedback, and your advice when we meet with you.

During the last year, we received many questions and comments during our meetings -- during consultation. These questions and comments related to the construction and design of the waterline, how to get the community involved to consult on wildlife issues, health and safety issues --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MS. LECLAIR: -- and marine sediment and water quality.

Since August of last year, there were ten more focus group with Elders, with women's group, with cabin

owners, and, of course, the hunters.

Since February of this year, we had an additional six more meetings with hunters organization and wildlife organization.

Yes, the last 18 months have been difficult, but luckily we had a strong Kivallirmiut team, local team. With our local team and supported by our -- virtually by our technical teams, we were able to meet with communities, Elders in more than 42 different visual and in-person meetings, focus group; we had radio shows; we had open house. All this to discuss the waterline project.

We had two rounds of community meetings in March and in July 2020. Our water challenges gave us an opportunity to work with Kivalliq Inuit Association, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. We worked with Environment and Climate Change Canada to try to find solutions for the discharge into the marine environment.

Last November we met with Elders. Last December we met with the women's group. Overall, since 2020 January of last year, we engaged and tried to engage 114 times with the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Association and Kivalliq Wildlife Board, and we listened.

We heard the community members are concerned about

how caribou, how ATVs and snowmobile will be able to cross the waterline. We also heard about concern on how to protect the marine environment, how to protect the caribou, and, most of all, how should the construction and the waterline and -- should be designed. We heard people wanted a waterline instead of having 150 to 300 water trucks per day bring water to the sea and create more dust.

We also heard from the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization board member that safety for snowmobilers is very important, so we should cover the waterline. We also heard from that same board member that it is important to cover the waterline with esker material, not blasted material, so to protect the hooves of the caribou so they don't get hurt.

Having those kind of discussion show how Agnico is able to listen, and that's why we know the terrestrial advisory group creates an important place for having those type of discussion.

So far, we've received comments from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We received comments from the Sayisi Dene and Northland Dene, but we're still waiting to hear comments from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization on how the TAG should work.

So we are happy to work with the Inuit

organization to facilitate those discussion --
(INTERPRETER BELL)
MS. LECLAIR: -- and, more importantly, have communities and hunters identify monitoring objectives.

Finally, about IQ, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Indigenous knowledge.

We heard Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is about learned experience. Today we have an experienced IQ advisor and soon two. We will have two IQ advisor. With our IQ advisor, we are committed to working hard to ensure the Indigenous knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit informs the terrestrial advisory group on the priority and the decision-making process.

And now I'm going to pass the next section to my colleague Colleen Prather.

THE CHAIR: Colleen Prather.

MS. PRATHER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Colleen Prather.

I'll just finish off this presentation with a summary of the final written submission and some of the commitments that have been made to date.

On Slide 20, we have a table that presents a summary of the status of the final written submission. Through this process, we received submissions and comments from many interested parties. We have

received and responded to those comments since the application was filed in August of 2020 through to preparation for this hearing.

For the final written submission, we received in total 36 comments; 31 of those are resolved, and 5 are outstanding.

The last slide I wanted to speak to a little bit is regarding the commitments. Through the presentation from my colleagues Michel and Suzanne you've heard mention of various commitments that have been made. So we've made adjustments to the initial project proposal through our consultation and commitments.

Now, this Slide 21 shows a summary of the commitments that have been made. You can see that we've separated them by themes, which include caribou, marine environment, traditional land use, and operation of the waterline. I just wanted to highlight a few of the examples of the commitments.

So, for example, under "Caribou" we've heard a little bit about the terrestrial advisory group. We've committed to forming one, and we see that this group will include representatives from interested organizations such as the hunters and trappers organizations.

For the "Marine Environment", we're required by regulation to conduct monitoring. This is required

every year while we discharge. We've heard that that discharge happens during open-water conditions, so roughly between July and mid-September, but, in addition, we committed to conducting a monitoring program after we stop the discharge for the year. The purpose of that is to confirm that our discharge water has been completely moved outside of Itivia Harbour.

For traditional land use, you saw the video that had examples of crossings, so crossings across the all-weather access road, and we committed to reviewing the locations of those crossings each year using traditional knowledge.

Under the category of "Waterline Operations", an example is that we've committed to testing the waterline each year before we use it.

And, just in conclusion, I would like to draw people's attention to the posters that are along the side wall. They provide a summary of some of these topics. We're happy to discuss those with anybody who is interested. In addition, my colleague Michel Groleau referenced information that's on the table at the back. There's an example of the pipe that would be used and an example of the esker material.

Thank you for your time. We're happy to take questions.

THE CHAIR: We're going to move on to

questions to Agnico Eagle and any of the registered intervenors.

Community Roundtable Questions and Responses

THE CHAIR: For the first round we'll go around the table, and after that we'll go to anyone that identifies themself wishing to speak.

We'll go around the table -- we'll go around the table, and then we'll have communities. As long as you let me know, and we'll go through that, whoever wants to ask or -- do you understand what I'm saying?

If it's okay, first of all, we'll start from here on my -- Thomas Comer, do you have any questions?

MR. COMER: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta. Thomas Comer.

I have a lot of questions, but the questions later on I'll be asking, if it's okay. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Levinia Brown.

MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have questions and the -- listening to these, there is more questions that I might have. There's a lot of activities, and I know -- but being an Elder and our land and our animals, our ancestors were the ones who grew -- I grew up in the mainland, and I was born in -- on the mainland. My dad -- before the government, before there was house, there was anything.

And also I can feel -- like, we knew Agnico Eagle was not -- didn't exist, even the one that is at Itigluuq [phonetic]. We used to go to that area, hunting in that area, and our hunters -- we still do have them, but I feel today that when we had a house or cabin, we would see there would be hunters fishing, people fishing. There was a lot more.

Today, there -- it's declined. There's not very many that go hunting over to those area or people go fishing there. I feel this, and I think later on -- later on I'll have some questions. I'll pause for now, and then I want to be involved. I'm coming from Rankin Inlet. I feel there's a lot more. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Richard Aksawnee.

MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Hamlet of Baker Lake. I want to thank Agnico Eagle for their presentation.

I have a few questions. My first question would be relating to employment. How many staff members are working transporting this water today versus this waterline? How many staff members will be working once this waterline is implemented and operational? I'll wait for a response from Agnico Eagle.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will let my colleague Suzanne Leclair answer this question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico Eagle.

Thank you for your question, Mr. Aksawnee. If you want to give me a few minutes, and we will give you the most up-to-date information.

THE CHAIR: Richard Aksawnee.

MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

If that information -- if this information is not readily available, if it can be presented before the hearing is done. As long as we see some numbers relating to this, I'm okay with that. I'll go to my next question.

On your presentation under "Construction", on this page 11 here. I'm not sure which slide it is, but it shows the entry point into the ground, the borehole -- the borehole into the ocean. How long is this excavation for the drilled hole going to be, and what should happen should there be a leak in between the entry point and the exit point in the ocean? What's the process should there be a leak inside the ground?

Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

So the length of the hole is around 300 metre. That's my recollection. I can validate the exact number, but it's around that range.

So this technique of drilling is similar to diamond drilling, so it's a directional hole. So it's a bigger equipment, but it's the same -- same approach.

So with the drill we're opening up the ground and we're pushing the pipe at the same time. So it's a safe way to make sure that the pipe doesn't collapse at the same time, so it's really kind of push at the same time with the equipment.

So once that's done, we'll seal the pipe making sure that the joint are tight.

The length of the HDPE, so the section in the ground is 125 metre, and then with the -- the section in the water, the total was around that total length I gave previously, but the section in the ground is 125 metre.

So if -- if a leak happen in that section, we'll have to -- in the section in the ground, it's unlikely that a leak happen. It's more with the connection, I would say, so that would be inspected at the surface, and we'll evaluate the performance of the diffuser also to make sure a leak doesn't happen in the ground

section or into the sea section. I hope this answer your question.

THE CHAIR: Richard Aksawnee.

MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair, Richard Aksawnee, Hamlet of Baker Lake. Thank you for that response.

I have one more question relating to page 21 on the formation of a terrestrial advisory group.

The community of Baker Lake has a very strong background on -- sitting on such advisory group, and during your presentation Agnico Eagle stated that you've heard from only two organizations relating to this new TAG group, the terrestrial advisory group. My question is: Who was -- which groups were originally planned to be on this terrestrial advisory group and to state that, to date, you guys received only two responses from two different organizations, I'm not sure how we can respond to such requests when the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization or the Kivalliq Wildlife Board weren't in any emails dating back to February.

So my question is: Who -- who were the original organizations invited for this proposed terrestrial advisory group? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. My colleague Suzanne Leclair will answer this question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Richard, for your question.

Last January during the technical meeting, the -- based on the input from the technical meeting, there were a few groups that asked to be involved in the terrestrial advisory group. Our understanding was that Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization did not feel the need to participate in an additional TAG.

Following a technical meeting, an email was sent to Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization with the terms of reference for the terrestrial advisory group to which they've asked that we include the other wildlife organization, which we immediately forwarded via email on that same day to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board; to the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization; the Denes, Northland and the Sayisi; Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; and we've received the comments as indicated.

I hope that clarifies a little bit of the history on how the terms of reference were submitted.

THE CHAIR: Richard Aksawnee.

MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Hamlet of Baker Lake.

Since the prehearing conference here in Rankin Inlet when the subject was brought up about terrestrial advisory group, my colleagues who are in the room with me right now from Baker who sit on the hunters and trappers organization board, we're all excited that there's another opportunity on such advisory group that we can have a voice in.

The community of Baker Lake rely on caribou. The Qamanirjuaq caribou herd used to migrate to the south shore of Baker Lake. It's been about pretty close to ten -- ten years, I think, since we've seen a real Qamanirjuaq herd migrating through the south shore of Baker Lake. So that's why the gentlemen from the HTO here were quite excited that they'll have a seat on this advisory group.

As we know, that sometimes this advisory group turns out to be an implementation group as well. So this is why we raised the concern about wanting to have full involvement as well in that Meliadine terrestrial advisory group. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico Eagle.

We would be happy to receive the comments to the terms of reference to the terrestrial advisory group by the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization. It

would be most welcome. That would -- we would be interested in hearing how you would like to participate, if possible. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Philip Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Philip Putumiraqtuq, Baker Lake HTO, secretary treasurer.

On the -- my question is on page 11, similar to -- page 12 on your presentation here. I have a question on your presentation here where it says that ice would -- the water discharge would not be impact by ice erosion during this period, but it seems that the -- looking ahead to the future there that the -- it wasn't looked at how it was going to be affected -- I mean, impacted.

The noise, the depths of how it's going to be pushing down to the sea bed. Just concerning of how the fish will -- fish habitat will have an effect on the noise. What are you looking to see that the noise won't be affected down to the seabed into the other sea mammals? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your question, Philip.

So I will start with the impact on the erosion. So to prevent erosion, what we do is we -- the pipe

goes through the ground. So it's not -- it's not a pipe that go on the shore. So the ice will not force on the pipe. It's going to be sitting on the shore. So that's how we protect the pipe. It's going into the ground. This technique was recommended by the Rankin Inlet community members. After our first installation, they recommended to do it that way so the ice at the winter doesn't interfere with the pipe.

When we look at the diffuser on the seabed, we have those concrete block that attach the diffuser and bring it down to the bottom of the sea. So it's prevent the diffuser to move. So, again, with the wave and all that, we expect that it will not cause erosion and keep the discharge pointing up. This is an important aspect also to prevent erosion.

Regarding the question on the noise, again, this is a good question. We have other type of diffuser similar to those ones in Meliadine Lake, per example, where we discharge a similar volume of water, similar flows of water, and we didn't observe any change with the behaviour of the fish in those lake.

It doesn't -- we don't hear sound, let's say, that much as the pipe is full of water. There is no air in the water, so there's no bubble, so this is how we prevent the noise. The image we were seeing on Slide 12, we -- we add a bit of white to make sure we

see the difference, but we do not expect seeing a difference when the diffuser will be in operation. I hope this is answering your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Philip Putumiraqtuq

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the response. I guess I do get it.

I guess -- well, the final question I'll have is on the pipe there that's going to be installed. There's two different sizes.

On the mine life that you're going to have, how long -- how much pressure will be pushed down the -- for the drainage when you are starting to use -- when you start to drain the saline water? How much pressure is going to be there and how many times a day? Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

Thank you for your question. So the -- the pressure that we are planning seeing in the pipe will be at the maximum at the pump, so it -- just at the beginning of the pump is where we're seeing the highest pressure, and we do not plan going above 125 psi. Sorry for the units. It's pounds per square inch. I hope this is answering your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Joedee Joedee.

MR. JOEDEE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

This has been talked about for quite some time regarding the caribou trail. Our parents knew exactly where the trails were for the caribou. Like, they have a trail all the way or this way. Like, even though -- like, this has been the trail for the caribou. Like, it's like they -- they used to know which way -- which trail to use. Sometimes they will use the trail for so -- like, within the years.

The first time if they see something new, it's like, I'm sorry. Like, we lost our trail. They let -- Inuit value those. Like, if we have a vehicle and if somebody broke, we would not be happy. We would feel -- it's just the same. Caribou too. They need animal that has a trail. Because they lost their trail, they have to find a different trail now. And other animals too. Like, well, few -- like, they -- they can -- they feel it too.

Like, we -- during our meeting, we know, and we -- the animals too have different feelings. We -- you need to know that too. Maybe through that, if they're going to go through the -- where the pipes are being put, like, there are -- like, if we're not going to see them and the other one is -- when you were talking about this, like, if the road is going to be built and they're going to cover the pipes and these will be used

by caribou, we know that caribou will go on top -- on top of that, but they will recognize, and they will see there's a difference between their trail. I just wanted to mention this to you. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you for your comment. It's much appreciated. This is good information. We -- when we were looking at this project, there was different scenarios that we were evaluating. The reason why we decided to place the waterline just beside the existing road was to limit our footprint, limit our disturbance with the caribou, and make sure we do not cover existing trail.

As you just mentioned, we know we -- we are widing [sic] the road with the waterline, but we believe that we are making our best effort to minimize this impact. Again, thank you -- I thank you for your comment, and I hope this is answering your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Vivian Joedee -- or Joedee Joedee.

MR. JOEDEE: Thank you also.

I will end here for now.

THE CHAIR: Vivian Joedee.

MS. JOEDEE: Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

On page 9, I have been thinking of this for a long time. Even though it will be buried and covered with esker material and that caribou will be able to cross it, will you be using soil or parts of the land? What will you be burying the pipeline with? And the caribou will be able to smell -- they will be able to smell the pipeline.

As I listen, I am recalling something, and this is what I'm thinking, and I will let my thoughts -- I will speak my thoughts. This morning when I was listening to the speakers, when we speak about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, I think we are not recording and communicating with Elders enough, and the youth don't seem to ask us any questions anymore, and there needs to be improvement, and while I have this opportunity to speak, I'm just thinking of what -- my thoughts, and that is all for now. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau. Thank you, Madam Chair.

So regarding the question of the smell of the -- of the pipe, in a change that we are proposing, we have a lot of monitoring ongoing on the -- on the caribou to -- to understand how our project can trigger change

with the caribou -- the behaviour of the caribou. So we're monitoring how they approach the road, if they change their ways when -- when they see the road. So we'll continue to do that monitoring with the addition of the -- of the waterline to understand if we need to adapt our project.

We have other line, other pipe, at the site. It's not the first pipe. We are -- our waterline we are installing on our project, we -- so far, we didn't recorded or -- or observed changed -- major change with -- with the addition of those -- of those waterline, but we will continue to monitor, continue to observe to try to understand better our project interfere or with -- and how the caribou are approaching our project. So thank you for your -- your comment and for your question. I think it's something we'll have to continue to -- continue to observe and understand better.

Regarding your question related to speaking with the Elders, I will let my colleague Suzanne Leclair reply to this question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair with Agnico Eagle.

The importance of having to meet and speak and dialogue with Elders is now for Agnico Eagle extremely

important. To this, we have mandated our IQ advisor to set up a group of Kivalliq Elder advisory group, which we're proud to announce we will be meeting -- all meeting this week Friday for the first kickoff meeting.

The plan is to meet with Elders on a regular basis to explain what's going on with the mine and what is the future of the mine. I hope that answers your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Vivian Joedee.

MS. JOEDEE: Thank you.

I have no further comments to make.

THE CHAIR: Judy Mannik.

MS. MANNIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. KIA youth rep in Baker Lake, Judy Mannik.

I have no questions right now. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Peter Alareak.

MR. ALAREAK: Peter from the hamlet of Arviat.

After I hear from other speakers, I will comment about what the hamlet of -- of that -- what the concerns are, and right now, I have no questions.

THE CHAIR: Andy Illungiayok.

MR. ILLUNGIAYOK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I have no questions right now.

THE CHAIR: Lucy Amarudjuak.

MS. AMARUDJUAK: I would like to ask to Agnico

Eagle: Will it be only white people that will be installing the waterline, or will they have assistance from Inuit?

THE CHAIR: Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

I will let Suzanne Leclair answer this question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico Eagle.

The answer is there will be approximately -- if the waterline is approved, there will be approximately 35 direct or indirect workers on that project. The plan is to have between 10 and 14 Inuit workers if the waterline is approved to build the project. We plan on having helpers and welders for that project. Once the line is in operation, the amount of employment opportunities will remain the same as when there were workers driving waters to the sea.

And just to answer the question from Mayor Aksawnee to that effect, you asked how many workers are involved in the water trucks, carrying the water from the mine to the sea. There are -- prior to the pandemic restriction, there were 26 operators and approximately -- depending on the service, the

26 operators were hired by an NTI firm. That NTI firm provided 26 operators where approximately 3 were Inuit. I hope that answers your question.

THE CHAIR: Lucy Amarudjuak.

MS. AMARUDJUAK: That was a question -- thank you. That was also a question I had. So thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Shelton Nipisar.

MR. NIPISAR: Thank you, Chair. I have only one question to the 'A' -- to the Agnico Eagle and then the HTO. It is regarding climate change.

Regarding climate change, the sea ice -- the sea ice is a good example. (NO ENGLISH FEED) the sea ice, which feeds off the fish, and then -- which feeds off seals and the whales, the other whales, and then the polar bears, and then us that is a part -- that is a part of food chain.

With the food chain, I mention the food chain because with people who don't have the proper hunting equipment or that -- or people for -- for people who don't have the proper transportation, it could, like, have an effect on their lifestyle, and I wanted to mention that because of this chain reaction with this whole ecosystem.

For people who don't have the proper hunting equipment, that could be hard for them to deal with

food insecurity, and people who are dealing with food insecurity, it makes me think about people who have to take their medications with food, but they're dealing with food insecurity.

So with the whole chain reaction with the ecosystem, our ecosystem, I wanted to know what you guys -- sorry. I'm a little bit nervous. But I wanted to know what you guys were going to do when it comes to climate change even though you guys mentioned that you guys were going to have a meeting on a regular basis with the Elders.

I would also want to ask the HTOs and regarding what their position is on climate change. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Before the -- Shelton's questions are answered, we will go on a 15-minute break. Thank you.

(ADJOURNMENT)

THE CHAIR: Continuing with responses to Shelton Nipisar's questions. First with Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

Thank you, Shelton, for your -- your question. I really appreciate it. It's a good one. It's a great question. So the -- I will start with the -- the question on the climate change and the -- and looking

at our project related to climate change and greenhouse gas reduction or -- or our feeling the impact of climate change at different level, and with the -- the waterline project, we see this as a benefit to reduce our greenhouse emission.

The -- to move from trucking to a pump and pipe solution will reduce our emission in greenhouse gas. Also, the previous approach we were looking at with the saline water was to treatment of the saline water and discharge in Meliadine Lake. So back in the days, that was the first thing we -- we were doing with that water, and that type of treatment required that we boil the water, so you needed a lot of energy to boil the water, and this is triggering emission in greenhouse gas.

So when we look at the waterline project, for us, it's a sustainable project in that way because this is the avenue to reduce our greenhouse gas and limit our impact on climate change as a company. So regarding the question related to the impact of the food chain -- and I will let my colleague Colleen Prather elaborate on that. And, again, thank you for your question.

THE CHAIR: Colleen Prather.

MS. PRATHER: Colleen Prather with Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your question.

And it's a really good question. It's similar

questions that were actually asked by Health Canada and the Government of Nunavut, and so what we did as part of our application is --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MS. PRATHER: -- we -- we needed to understand the quality of the water that would be discharged into Itivia Harbour. We needed to understand how that would change water in Itivia Harbour and how that may influence the aquatic life.

So under -- we're required by regulations to -- to meet certain standards with our discharge water. It needs to be safe for discharge, and we can confirm that with our current water and our future water, which will be the same, it's -- it's safe for discharge.

The second step is to understand once we discharge this water into Itivia Harbour, how will it mix, how might it change the water? And one way that we evaluate that change is to compare it to existing concentrations, and we compare that to aquatic life guidelines. These guidelines are designed to be protective of all aquatic life, so from the small plankton or the -- the fish food all the way up to the polar bears, and even if it's safe for those organisms, then we look at if that's safe for humans to then consume.

And so our studies have told us that the water

will continue to be safe, and it will not change from background conditions outside of approximately 100 metres from where we release that water into Itivia Harbour.

And there's a poster on the side wall there called "Harvesting in Melvin Bay" where we describe this a little bit more, and I'd be happy to talk to you about that if you have further questions about it. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Hunters and trappers from Arviat, Thomas Ubluriak.

MR. UBLURIAK: I think this works. I'm not wearing my hearing aid, but I thought maybe you mentioned my name.

So I'm going to talk about -- so because I'm not wearing my hearing aid, but Shelton --

MR. NIPISAR: Earlier I asked how climate change is going to affect the marine mammals. That includes plankton and those kind of things.

Due to climate change -- due to climate change, if the pipe is installed, how is that going to affect the climate change?

THE CHAIR: You can answer, Thomas, if you want to answer.

MR. UBLURIAK: I'll answer later on maybe. I'm sorry, but I can't really understand him.

THE CHAIR: Harry Aggark from Aqigiq

Hunters and Trappers.

MR. AGGARK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I want to ask about the pipe that is going to be used. The first question I want to ask (NO ENGLISH FEED) to connect the pipes, are you going to be using flanges or weld them together?

THE CHAIR: Also, do you have a response to Shelton Nipisar's question? He had a question to the HTOs, Harry Aggark.

MR. AGGARK: Thank you.

I don't understand what you're asking, Shelton.

THE CHAIR: Shelton Nipisar, can you please repeat your question.

MR. NIPISAR: I was asking AEM and the HTOs about climate change, and what -- what would you guys do if we had to deal with climate change when they're working on their projects?

MR. AGGARK: I'm kind of confused about what the question is.

THE CHAIR: You don't need to answer if you don't want to.

MR. AGGARK: I can't answer that right now, Madam Chair. I thought I was asked to go up and ask a question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization, Harold Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair.
Can you hear me? (NO ENGLISH FEED) defer that question to Clayton Tartak on behalf of HTO. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Before we go to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, Andre Aokaut.
MR. AOKAUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Andre Aokaut, Kangiqliniq HTO.
I will also defer that to Kivalliq Wildlife Board. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak. Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak. It appears that he's not online on Zoom right now.
Shelton Nipisar, do you have any other questions or comments?
MR. NIPISAR: No. I have no -- any other questions. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Janice Aggark.
MS. AGGARK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta. Janice Aggark, Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet.
I don't have any questions.
THE CHAIR: Leo Mimialik.
MR. MIMIALIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a question to Agnico Eagle.

The pipe that is going to be used was mentioned very well by the person from Baker Lake, and he mentioned that it's going to be loud enough for mammals -- sea mammals to hear. That includes seals and fish. I wonder how that's going to be.

In the water, you can hear long ways. When you shoot in the water, a guy from here heard a gunshot all the way from Corbett Inlet, I think, through Rankin Inlet, and he didn't have a hearing aid or anything to that effect. But he heard it. That guy, he's southern guy who is married to an Inuk person. But I thank the guy from Baker Lake for mentioning that.

Also, I have a question to Agnico Eagle. I also wanted to ask about the chemicals being poured into the ocean. Are you guys going to be pouring chemicals in the ocean? I will want to ask another question later on. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your question.

So first question is related to the noise with the -- the pipe. So we -- we have already a diffuser at this location. We're already discharging water since 2019 at this location. So it's going to be our third year, and we didn't observe change with the

wildlife, the seals, the whale at this moment.

We do not expect that the -- the new diffuser will generate more noise, so that's our understanding -- understanding right now of the project, and we'll continue to monitor the area and make sure this -- that doesn't occur as well.

Regarding the other question you asked related to the chemical in the water, so right now, the water we discharged is treated at site to remove chemical in the water, so the water is similar to seawater when we discharge it. So the water is a -- is clean -- cleaned at the site, and we limit our impact to the marine mammals, the fish, and the other element of the food chain. Thank you for your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Leo Mimialik.

MR. MIMIALIK: There's a few of us communities that are close together, Rankin, Baker, Chesterfield Inlet, and we all can go to each community by boat in a day. So I notice that these communities truly, truly adore their oceans and don't want it to be disturbed for our future generations, and so that's why I want to ask: Have you thought about that? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you again for your

question. It's a good question.

And, yes, we care about the impact of our project. We always trying to minimize those impact. When we look at the disturbance that could be generated with the diffuser and the waterline, we made a decision upfront to the project to locate the diffuser in the Itivia Harbour.

So it's already an area where is -- there is activities. Ships are going there. So we -- we do not want to disturb another area. We want to limit our footprint. So we take -- take that in consideration in the -- in the project at the early stage by selecting the location of the project. I hope this answers your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Leo Mimialik.

MR. MIMIALIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I got no further questions.

THE CHAIR: Johnny Amarok.

MR. AMAROK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta. Johnny Amarok. Thank you.

I've got nothing to say.

THE CHAIR: Gerard Maktar.

MR. MAKTAR: Gerard Maktar, hamlet.

I want to express my concern. Leo and the guy from Baker Lake mentioned that caribou and fish migrate through there, and any animal that goes through an

area, goes through the same way, but when -- when they see something weird or something different, they don't want to use that section anymore.

I want to ask Agnico Eagle: If the pipeline is installed, is it going to be running all the time, or are you going to stop it once in a while? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

So we are planning operating the waterline from around early July to the end of September, so we have to prepare the line at the beginning of the season to make sure it's test, it's safe before discharging.

And at the end of the season, we have to drain it, so we need about two weeks at the beginning of the summer and two weeks at the end to -- to make sure we -- we do the proper maintenance of the line. So this is the duration of the operation, so July to September. Thank you. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Gerard Maktar.

MR. MAKTAR: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I've got nothing -- no other questions.

THE CHAIR: Annie Noolook.

MS. NOOLOOK: Annie Noolook, Whale Cove community representative.

I just wondered why we didn't receive information

prior to coming here about what the meeting was about. It would be nice to have all this information before travelling. That way we have an idea for the community's questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau from Agnico Eagle.

We do not have a role to play in the preparation of the public hearing, so I would defer the question to NIRB staff. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Annie Noolook.

MS. NOOLOOK: I have no further questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Percy Kabloona.

MR. KABLOONA: Whale Cove, KIA, Elders -- representing Elders.

Are you discharging water from Meliadine too?

THE CHAIR: Meadowbank.

THE INTERPRETER: Or Meadow -- sorry.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION)

MR. GROLEAU: Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Madam Chair.

This project is only about the Meliadine project, so we are only planning discharging water from Meliadine Mine toward the Melvin Bay. I hope it's

answering your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Percy Kabloona.

MR. KABLOONA: Yes. My question is: Are you doing the same in Meadowbank, removing water from permafrost? And that's my question.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you for repeating the question. The -- Michel Groleau from Agnico Eagle.

So at Meadowbank, we do not have an underground mine. This type of saline water is -- is coming from the underground development. However, at Whale Tail project, we are planning operating an underground mine at this location, and we are expecting having underground water to manage at this location.

However, we're not looking for discharge into the ocean as the distance with the ocean is -- is too -- too great to cover, so it's not something we're --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MR. GROLEAU: -- looking at. I hope it's answering your question.

THE CHAIR: Please repeat your response.

MR. GROLEAU: For the Meadowbank project, we do not have underground mine, so no saline water. The Whale Tail --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

THE CHAIR: You can continue.

MR. GROLEAU: Okay. For the Whale Tail project, we are having an underground mine with saline water, but we are not planning discharging to the sea. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Percy Kabloona.

MR. KABLOONA: I got no more questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta. My name is Lu-Anne Saumik. I'm a youth representative of Whale Cove. I have multiple questions.

During your presentation, I was following along, and it raised some questions that I'm concerned about, and questions regarding when they circulated around the table, I have additional questions to Agnico Eagle.

And my first -- my first question is: Is there going to be minerals that can impact the sea ice during winter seasons and during the falltime for the ice to form? Because I know there's multiple communities around Rankin that travel through the sea ice during the wintertime, and I was wondering if that is going to be impacted. Qujannamiik.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Colleen Prather.

MS. PRATHER: Thank you for your question. Colleen Prather with Agnico Eagle.

So the water that we are discharging, as we described, it's similar to seawater, so it has total dissolved solids in the water that are similar to seawater. And we've also described that we're looking to discharge this water between roughly early July to about middle of September with time, both before and after, to prepare the line.

So we're looking to discharge water when it's open-water conditions, and then we'll stop the discharge, and because we're not going to be discharging while there's ice in Itivia Harbour and because the type of water that we are going to discharge will be very similar to the water in Itivia Harbour, we do not expect there to be any effect on ice formation or -- or safety of the ice. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta. Thank you, Madam Chair.

My next question is related to the question that was circulating around the table. Michel -- Michel -- is that correct -- he mentioned that there's these chemicals that are treated at their site, and to remove, that's -- the chemical that's treated for saline water to be discharged to the ocean.

I was wondering if -- wondering: Where does --

that chemical that's treated inside their -- their treatment centre, where does that chemical be discharged, or does it stay on-site? Qujannamiik.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

So during the treatment process, we're speaking of the ammonia as the primary chemical we have to treat, and during the treatment, this one will evaporate. So that's the treatment process.

Then we remove the solids in the water, so that create a sludge that we bring back into our saline pond. So it stay at site. So this is the process. So this is how we -- we deal with our treatment. I hope it's answering your question.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta. Lu-Anne Saumik from Whale Cove.

If and when the waterline is approved, there was a question or a comment with drilling to install the pipe. There's going to be vibrations and noise during the construction of the pipeline. Can it impact the wildlife and vegetation? Qujannamiik.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you for your question. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

So during the construction, the vegetation will be impacted under the -- the waterline and the cover, so the -- the section where we will cover with the esker material. On the vibration, we are not planning doing any construction activities during the caribou migration season, so we'll stop our activities to not disturb the caribou. So I hope this is addressing your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Lu-Anne Saumik. I'm representing Whale Cove as a youth.

Thank you for your response, and I have questions. Like I mentioned, I was following you while you were doing your presentations, so I'm just going to go through the papers and ask the questions.

What and who will provide support when there is a damage to one of the waterline? Will the community of Rankin Inlet be informed? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau from Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Lu-Anne, for your questions.

It's a good question. It's important to keep the community informed about our activities. We're having different ways to reach out to the community. In case

of a damage or let's say a spill event, this information is -- is communicated to the inlet and to the key player in the community.

We also have our community line engagement, and we'll -- we'll organize activities to inform the public of the situation. Even Facebook could be used at certain -- at this regard. So there's different ways depending of the event that we will reach out to the community members. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. (NO ENGLISH FEED) representative for Whale Cove.

I just want to ask again who will be involved with the damages. If there is a damage into the waterline, who is going to be there to support Agnico Eagle, and which departments will be supporting and help fix the damage? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Agnico Eagle, and then if any of the registered intervenors would also like to respond.

Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau from Agnico Eagle.

So we -- we will execute the repair on the waterline if a damage occur.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speak up.

MR. GROLEAU: If there's a damage -- a damage on the waterline, we will do the repairs. I hope this answering your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Would any of the registered intervenors in the room like to respond? Nunavut Tunngavik, Kivalliq Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut, hunters and trappers organizations.

Seeing none, would any of the registered intervenors, Zoom or phone; Government of Canada departments; or other registered intervenors like to respond? If so, please press the "raise your hand" button. None of them raised their hand.

Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: There's somebody on the phone line.

Can you please state your name.

MR. DEWAR: Did you ask me to speak?

THE CHAIR: Can you please repeat -- oh, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Spencer Dewar.

MR. DEWAR: Hello? Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: You may proceed.

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

Affairs Canada.

I just would like to highlight the regulatory role that our department would play in the event of a spill.

If the Nunavut Impact Review Board's project certificate would capture damage or spills from the pipeline, it would very well be possible that our inspectors would inspect and enforce compliance to any of the terms and conditions in the Nunavut Impact Review Board project certificate.

Further, all spills would be monitored, I'd assume, annually through the project certificate potentially, and then we would be able to follow up with -- to ensure that they were cleaned up in a timely manner. Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. (NO ENGLISH FEED) Whale Cove. Thank you, Agnico Eagle and CIRNAC, for your response.

I have another question. If the water that is discharged is similar to seawater, is it boiled water, or is it a warm water -- warm saline water? Would that attract different species to the area? Qujannamiik.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Colleen Prather.

MS. PRATHER: Colleen Prather, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your question.

So that is one of the components we've also looked

at. We've looked at the -- the temperature of the water that would be moving through the waterline. We've looked at how that water mixes in Itivia Harbour, and our studies have indicated that there would be less than a 1-degree-Celsius change in water temperature in the immediate mixing zone due to this discharge. I hope that addresses your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MR. SAUMIK: Thank you. Thank you for your response.

My next question is: Michel, you mentioned that you guys are trying to reduce the discharge to Meliadine Lake. Does that mean there will still be discharge to the lake once that water is -- the waterline is being approved? Is there an impact to Meliadine Lake when there is discharge -- water discharge? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you for your question. Thanks, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

So with the construction of the waterline, once it's built and operate, yes, there -- there -- it might happen if we have still water discharge in Meliadine Lake, but it's not the same water than the one we are sending to the sea. It's not saline water that we are discharging into Meliadine Lake.

It's a surface contact water. So it's rain and snow that melt and flow on our site that we don't let go by itself into the lake. We collect that water. Then we look if the water quality is good. If -- if it need to be treated, it's treated, and then discharged into Meliadine Lake.

So if there's big rain event and we have to move more water, then the capacity of the waterline will look to discharge again in Meliadine Lake. I hope this answer your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta, and thank (NO ENGLISH FEED) is there any impact to Meliadine Lake? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

So there will be less impact at Meliadine Lake with this approach. The initial project was planning discharging all the surface contact water, so all the rain, all the snow was going to Meliadine Lake.

So with the waterline, we reduced significantly the amount of water going to Meliadine Lake. Some years, it might be zero, and others we might have more, but less than we were originally planning. So overall the impact will be less. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta, and thank you for the response.

On page 6 of the presentation, it's the 3D rendering. I was wondering if there is going to be restrictions for Rankin Inlet for harvesting around the area and berry picking and view the land ground while they're travelling through ATV. Qujannamiik.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your question, Lu-Anne.

We don't think that the waterline change the current situation with the all-weather access road that we are having right now. So land user can use the road right now, so it's open for the community until a certain distance closer from the mine site. So we don't see a change with the project have this effect. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Iksivauta, and thank you for the response. Lu-Anne Saumik, youth representative for Whale Cove.

If the waterline is approved, how long will it be used? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau. Agnico Eagle.

So we will be using the waterline until the end of the mine life. So I think right now we're looking at 2029, if I'm correct. So it's -- it's within that range. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

(NO ENGLISH FEED) presentation I had another question, but during the presentation, it was mentioned. But that question was: End of the mine operation, how will Agnico Eagle disconstruct the waterlines? That was my question, but as we went through the presentation, that was answered on page 9 of the -- or no, but it was mentioned in the presentation.

I don't think I have any other questions, but I would like to add a comment. When activities around Inuit lands in Nunavut happen, when they occur and if there is accidents that happen during construction or activity use, everything is connected with water, land, vegetation, animals, and people.

Inuit consume these (INUKTITUT SPOKEN), and we have been using them for thousands of years to survive. If there is any small impacts that happen to everything we use on the land, it builds up, and if there's any

damages to wildlife, vegetation, water, and land, who is going to rebuild the land, and are we ever going to recover if there is any damages to everything we used around us?

I hope that I'm able to teach my kids, my grandchild -- my future grandchildren for traditional knowledge, land use, and IQ principles. We are slowly losing our language, traditional harvesting, and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is slowly not being used.

If there is damages around these areas, it's going to take time for us to relearn everything that was passed on for generations. Who will be there for us as IPGs and hamlet government, but it will have to -- we will have to heal within each other and try to teach each other all these things.

As we are still healing from the past, it takes time and effort and commitment to rebuild what we had. So I hope that I am able to make a difference here today for my voice to be heard as a youth representative not only for Whale Cove but from all the communities that are in Nunavut. I don't think I have any more questions and comments to add. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Agnico Eagle and then Nunavut Tunngavik, Kivalliq Inuit Association, and Government of Nunavut and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Agnico Eagle.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Lu-Anne.

Your message have been heard, and thank you for your comments, your question. If you have other comments and questions, they are welcome, and we'll be there to respond to them. So thank you. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Bert Dean.

MR. DEAN: Thank you -- is it working? Thank you, Madam Chair. Bert Dean with Nunavut Tunngavik.

I'd just like to thank all the communities' delegates for their questions and concerns, and we'll be continuing to track and follow along with them on the concerns that are being raised and see how we can improve that engagement and that involvement into the process. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association, Luis Manzo.

MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you all of the community members for -- for the questions.

Kivalliq Inuit Association has been monitoring very closely this project. As you commented, during the amendment of the water licence, the community

doesn't like water going into Meliadine. We -- we passed that information to the proponent. We did different things to try to address that issue because they do have a licence to discharge, and we will try to minimize as much as possible the discharge into Meliadine Lake. We are still -- we are still working in that with the proponent, and -- and in regard of the monitoring, we do have a monitoring system in place for scientific waters and also traditional knowledge.

So at this point in time, the project do not have an impact into the lake, according to the Federal standards, but we continue to monitor the lake and the ocean, the wildlife, and the vegetation to make sure impacts from this projects do not damage your wildlife. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Gabriel Karlik.

MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Gabriel Karlik, Government of Nunavut.

First of all, I would like to thank you very much for your comments. It's nice to see and wonderful to hear from youth throughout the -- the region, especially for smaller communities. It is very important to hear from the government standpoint when youth are expressing their concerns, and we take these expressions very seriously, including myself who's a

community member and relatively young compared to the Elders here.

So, again, similar to NTI and also KI, there are monitors being progressed when it comes to monitoring and accidents, and I applaud you for saying some of the things about losing the traditional knowledge, IQ principles, and we're hoping to change those and strive to include more traditional knowledge and also to improve it. So, again, thank you from the Government of Nunavut.

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

MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik.

THE CHAIR: You may --

MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair. Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. Thank you for the comments.

I'd just like to -- the Government of Canada takes its reconciliation seriously, and we're here to work with the Indigenous people of Canada to support them in self-determination. As intervenors under this process, we work with Kivalliq Inuit Association, NTI, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and Agnico Eagle and all other intervenors and participants in order to provide expert advice on the project before us.

Our effort is to make the project safe and to

mitigate potential ecosystemic impacts, and it doesn't end at this stage. If this project is to be approved by the Nunavut Impact Review Board to move forward and it's approved by the responsible ministers, we move to the regulatory phase, and there would be regulatory authorizations that would be required for this project.

Those authorizations would be inspected by members of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to ensure compliance, and we also monitor the conditions on the project to ensure that they're effective. In instances where they're not effective, we can take action to reconsider to improve the project. Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Before we go for supper break, there's a member of the public that would like to either ask questions or make a comment.

Bernard Kako.

MR. KAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I just want to ask Agnico: Like, because I go fishing every spring to Meliadine, and in front of it, there is icy ditches that they weren't drilled. I know that it's not by -- like, I could see there's a big difference, and the water at Meliadine, there was fields built before, and those -- they drained.

I think it's because of that, and for us in Rankin Inlet, we drink it because there's a river flowing from

Meliadine and lake -- what -- you said earlier. Somebody asked you: Is it only Itivia? Are you going to be drilling it, but the whole -- like, the circulation from Churchill, Whale Cove, Arviat, the sea is not staying in one place. Like, it's going around and around.

Like, it's going to affect all the community shorelines, even to Churchill. It's not going to be only Itivia. It's not only Melvin Bay. It's going to be affected -- it's going to keep going. Like, you're going to have to monitor that.

And our fish over at Meliadine, like, they were easy to catch. Today we can't even catch them because the lake -- somehow the ice is different. The water and the ice are different already, and I want to ask you: Near Baker Lake, there's a lake. They had to move fish. I'm wondering: Are you going to be doing the same? I wouldn't want to see that because we eat -- there are food too. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau from Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Bernard, for your question and comments.

So we initiated this spring as during the Rankin Inlet fishing derby a program where we collect information on the fish and fishes around the -- around

the community. So we -- we partnership with the fish derby to collect the fish, take samples of -- of meat and understand if there's a change.

So this is an example of community-based monitoring. We're looking forward to expand at -- at different level but to work in partnership with community members to understand the impacts or the change we can observe around the project.

If you notice any change on the land, a fuel spill as you mentioned, ditches, and you want to have more information on them, don't hesitate to come to our office. We have maps of the areas. We can identify them, and we'll get back to you on this, and we'll work that out with you. We take those things. It's important for us, and we take action when we need to make some changes.

Around your comment on the Itivia and the discharge in Itivia, we do not expect that the water will change on a long and large distance from our discharge because the water is really similar to seawater.

The change that we are observing are within 100 metre, 300 feet, and when we stop the discharge, we -- we see the water coming back to -- to what is -- what's the natural water of the sea. We stop discharge for nine months of the year, so the water comes back as

it is. That's what we are expecting as impact around the Itivia Bay.

So I hope it's answering your question, and we're working -- we're looking forward to work with you if there's any issues that you want to raise. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

We're going to take a supper break 'til 6:45. It's just after 5. Almost 5:10. So 6:45. Tomorrow morning (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION) -- sorry. Tomorrow morning the community roundtable will continue, and we ask that overnight the community representatives from each community around the table get together and identify one representative from your community who will provide a closing statement to the Board about their community's issues, comments, and concerns about the project.

We're going to continue the roundtable this evening and tomorrow morning and then move on to closing statements. I hope you understand.

(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 6:45 PM)

(PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 6:49 PM)

THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone. Good evening, everyone. I'm Kaviq Kaluraq. I am the Chairperson of the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Joining me tonight are my fellow Panel members for this file, Allen Maghagak and Phillip Kadlun, and we would

like to welcome you to the Nunavut Impact Review Board's public hearing to consider Agnico Eagle's saline effluent discharge to the marine environment proposal.

For the benefit of the community members who may be joining us tonight for the first time at the public hearing, I just want to give you a little background on what this evening's session of the community roundtable part of the public hearing will involve, and how you can participate.

Simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings is being provided throughout the meetings from interpreters here in Rankin Inlet. Receivers are available from the sign-in desk, and the receivers are set to the following channels: Channel 0, floor sound; Channel 1, English; Channel 2, Inuktitut. If you're having trouble hearing the proceedings, please let one of the NIRB staff know, and they'll assist you.

Secondly, you will notice that the Board has put a number of safety practices in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We're all wearing masks and have positioned chairs and tables in the hall to keep a safe distance as much as possible. We ask that everyone sign in at the sign-in desk and provide contact details for contact tracing purposes, and we request that you use hand sanitizer whenever you enter or exit the hall.

You will also see that due to travel restrictions, there are a number of people who are linked to us here through audio and video links. Thank you to everyone for following our rules so that we can all stay safe and healthy.

Tonight's session is the community roundtable part of the public hearing. During the session, the Panel will be listening to designated community representatives and members of the public here in Rankin Inlet with respect to the questions, comments, and views of the community about this proposal.

After community representatives here at the table have had a chance to ask questions of Agnico Eagle and the registered intervenors, we will turn to questions from the public. For any members of the public who want to ask questions to the proponent or the intervenors or make a statement for the Panel to consider, please provide your name to the Board staff at the front of the room, and we will put your name on the list of tonight's speakers.

So we'll continue where we left off before the supper break, questions and comments from community representatives to Agnico Eagle or any of the registered intervenors.

Be aware that even if you don't have a question, you can just share your concerns. You can share your

comments with the Board and the other parties involved in the assessment. (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO ENGLISH TRANSLATION) Levinia Brown.

MS. BROWN: Yeah. I have some comment and questions. I wanted to bring up -- bring up a concern from -- about the mine, but -- it was a concern, but it's -- because it's built now, I guess we have to accept it.

But, anyway, on -- as you -- as you enter the mine, Meliadine, Agnico Eagle Mine, past 30 -- 30 -- that 30 sign there, you pass that, you proceed to go up and up further and on -- on the right -- right-hand side, a year or two ago, there was big pipe there laying because they were going to install them, I guess. I still see the big -- big pipes.

Anyway, the caribou used to lay there because I don't think they could jump over -- over the -- over the pipe, but we didn't stay long enough to see what happened to the caribou, but now that same area over at the east, there's a big buildup of underground maybe rocks or quarry or something. That's what I've noticed.

But I mention that because I just wanted to let the community know and the people from Kivalliq know how big, how mega big the mine is. Like, it's huge, and it's something that's been approved. I'm bringing

up this because there's going to be more development, and for me to be -- for me to be shocked -- it's no longer a shock. I am amazed.

I even said in the Facebook one time, never have I ever thought in my wildest dreams that I would ever see a gold mine in Rankin Inlet big as that. It's a big operation, and we're at the west. It's grown so big that it keeps going. If you guys go visit it -- I just hope that you don't get shock and think that you're in a big city because that's what it reminded me of, a big city.

So, for me, I see a major development. I see major buildings and major things going on.

My question is that today we heard from Clayton Tartak from the wildlife, and his document -- it says that communities have noticed changes in migration since the all-weather access road was built in 2012. Yeah, that is true. That's very true because even I've noticed going back maybe three or four years where the caribou migration have drastically changed their route. Last year they couldn't even -- they couldn't even cross down the narrows where they held the road to the water pump over at the east again.

And we usually see them go across that narrows through the water and bed down on -- on the land there. And then once they bed down, they climb up -- they go

further and further, and there's thousands of them that usually go there.

But last year, for some reason, they wouldn't cross. They tried and tried. No. It failed. So we watched them go back, and then they rerouted to -- to -- towards Chesterfield Inlet. That's what I noticed, and then a few hunters told me -- they said further up north, Meliadine -- north of Meliadine Lake they watched the caribou hang around there back and forth for about four or maybe five days, and they eventually just went back.

And my last question is: I notice that -- I think hunters and trappers were supposed to -- were supposed to engage with the Agnico Eagle Mine to develop monitors. The guys -- I don't know how many they would hire, but the guys were supposed to monitor for the mine to see if the caribou are approaching or coming closer to the mine, within 5 miles radius.

My question is: Is that still happening? Three years in a row now my husband have to go and approach the mine and alert them that the caribou is within 5 miles. Last year the same thing, and my husband told them the caribou are just north here within not even 5 miles. Where? Where? They couldn't see them because they're -- they are camouflaged. They look like land sometimes. So my husband loaned them their

binoculars, and, yeah, sure enough, there is thousands of them.

So they had to set off alert -- some kind of an alert to shut the mine down right away.

So that's my concern about making sure the mine is -- live up to their agreement to shut down or set off an alert when the caribou is too close. That didn't happen just once, so ...

I mean, we want to work well with the mine. They're there now, so we might as well work together as well as we could and -- yeah. I'll leave it there. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Agnico Eagle and then Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers and Kivalliq Inuit Association.

Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just give me two minutes, and I will provide a response.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Levinia, for your question and comment.

So, yeah. The monitoring of the caribou, we have clear guideline to apply to shut down our activities when caribous approach the site. The number that trigger the stop of our operations is 50 caribous at 5 kilometre from the site.

So right now we're using the building that you were referring to. We can use those building to see further away. Our waste rock pile also, we can use them to see further away.

So with the development and where we are, we're in a better position to see the caribous coming in the way of the -- of the mine site and implement those change, so we feel that those event will not happen again.

Regarding the HTO -- the development of the monitors with the HTOs, I'll let my colleague Suzanne Leclair provide you an answer for that. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair for Agnico Eagle.

The -- Agnico Eagle has provided funding to the Rankin-based Hunters and Trappers Organization to hire a full-time wildlife monitor.

With the help of this wildlife monitor, his duties are to come to Agnico Eagle every other week and provide a report on how the caribou interacts with the road. His duties also include collaboration with Agnico Eagle during the caribou migration season and to cooperate also with other organization during the caribou migration, such as the Government of Nunavut environment employees and the Kivalliq Inuit Association lands and resources staff as well.

So there are forms for interaction and bringing up any concerns, and we've sewed those up. We've funded the position, and we're working hard in getting more interaction with the wildlife monitor for better updates on that.

We're also -- this year since the pandemic restrictions occurred, it has been also difficult to work collaboratively with the hunters and trappers organization due to the pandemic restrictions for no interaction with southerners, so the last migration season has been challenging, to say the least. We're looking forward this year, and we have asked the wildlife monitor to come and meet with us next Friday to have a better -- a better idea on how we can work together for the next upcoming caribou migration. I hope that answers your question.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association, Luis Manzo.

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

We do dedicate two staff personnel addressing Meadowbank or -- and Meliadine for the monitoring of the wildlife. We use our own resources. We also use our own truck to -- whenever to monitor the caribou during -- during migration, the same as Meadowbank.

If -- also, we -- most of the cases we have to

call for shutdown eventually when -- when the caribou has reached the mine. We notify the proponent they have to shut down the mine, and all -- until today, all those orders have being followed. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Gabriel Karlik. Do you guys also -- I forgot about Gabriel Karlik with Government of Nunavut.

MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair, Gabriel Karlik, Government of Nunavut.

Similar to KIA, Kivalliq Inuit Association and also NTI, we work collaboratively with the rest of the groups to coordinate and also plan in the coming weeks, so within those parameters, we also work with Inuit organizations and also the HTO to have a plan moving forward and better prepare every year. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization, Andre Aokaut.

MR. AOKAUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Andre Aokaut, Rankin HTO. Thank you, Levinia, for the question.

The HTO has a monitor in place, but it's restricted to monitoring from the road. The monitor provide escorts during migration season along with KIA and NTO. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Levinia Brown.

MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I just had a concern about the potential impacts on marine ecosystem. I think, for me, that's a highlight for the future, and I'd like to hear more about that, what the response would be and the potential impacts on Inuit harvesting, especially the fish in the Meliadine Lake and perhaps even the birds that are up in the air.

There's certain things that I think about and talking with some people because we do get a -- quite a bit of visitors up at our cabin past the mine, so we do have discussion and good discussions because we want to make sure there's jobs for the future for the -- for our youth.

Yeah. Just those two areas that I'm thinking about.

That's all from me. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. My colleague Colleen Prather will provide a response.

THE CHAIR: Colleen Prather.

MS. PRATHER: Thank you. Colleen Prather with Agnico Eagle, and thank you for the question.

As part of this application and as part of our current operations, we do a lot of monitoring of the water before it is released to the environment, and

that includes water that is released to Itivia Harbour and water that is released to Meliadine Lake.

We've done studies to predict how water quality will change in Itivia Harbour, and our studies have told us the water quality will be safe for the fish and the other aquatic organisms, and the area of change of water quality will be limited to a very small area in Itivia Harbour.

And we've also done those similar types of studies for Meliadine Lake. We look at the water quality, and we look at the -- the health of the aquatic organisms as well.

In terms of harvesting opportunities -- so, again, we've looked at both in Itivia Harbour, what is the potential harvesting areas. We've also looked at -- in Meliadine Lake, the fish and the health, and you may have heard earlier today we did some additional sampling in Meliadine Lake along with the fish derby that was conducted this year, just to collect a little bit more information on the fish to support the community programs. I hope that addresses your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Would any of the other registered intervenors in the room like to respond? Kivalliq Inuit Association, Luis Manzo.

MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Like I say in my last statement, KIA is having a comprehensive monitoring at the lake, two different type of monitoring. We also have a program starting this year on fish tissue. We do assess the quality of the lake and also the (INDISCERNIBLE) aspect of it with the other (INDISCERNIBLE). This program will be carried out for the next three years --

(INTERPRETER BELL)

MR. MANZO: Sorry, Madam Chairman.

THE CHAIR: If you could please slow down.

MR. MANZO: This program will carry out for the next three years, and the fish tissue also will be carried out the next two years with -- KIA is doing all these programs generally with University of Manitoba and then -- to have a strong position in terms of the water quality versus AEM data and compare and analyze those against two different baselines data. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

THE CHAIR: Would any of the registered intervenors on Zoom like to respond? If so, press the "raise your hand" button. No one put their hand up, but -- Levinia Brown?

MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Luis and Suzie, for responding well to my questions.

THE CHAIR: Peter Alareak.

MR. ALAREAK: I have one question. Agnico Eagle says to be pumping liquid during summertime. What -- what happens in wintertime? Don't the mine use water in the wintertime that they have to pump out? That's my first question.

And the second one is: I don't know who owned the land between the mine and Rankin, and if the land-use access corridor has been worked out along the road for the pipe to fit into, if that has been worked out? Those two are my questions, and, Madam Chair, when you're ready to hear from each of the community, please let me know how the (INUKTITUT SPOKEN) reps think about the pipeline. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Please know that whenever you have concerns, feel free to address them. First the questions will be answered, and then I will get back to you. I will be writing down your names, so when it's your turn, I will call out your name.

Will you respond to Peter's question?

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

So regarding the pumping of the water during the winter, so we're pumping water from Meliadine Lake during the winter for the camp, so for the workers so they can drink water.

We need also water for the -- the mill, so the

process plant where we are processing the ore and the gold. So we're using some water during the winter.

In the underground mine, the saline water, we still collect this water during the winter, and we pump it at the surface during the winter, and we store it.

So in the pond I was showing in the presentation, it's where we park the water during the winter, and during the summer we empty the pond. So this is how we manage the water during the winter. I hope it's answering your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association, Luis Manzo.

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

The status of the application. Yes. We do have a (INDISCERNIBLE) agreement at this time for the access -- all-weather access road. The proponent already sent a letter for amendment of that particular agreement, to extend the length of the road and to also place the waterline.

We're waiting for this hearing to complete to see if all the term and conditions in the certificate has captured the Inuit objectives.

We do have under NuPPAA legislation that if -- when this process is finished, we -- whatever is missing, we can actually capture the term and

condition in -- in the leases. So we're waiting also for recommendation with the proponent. In that particular file, there is soon to be presenting us, as the last email last week, and very soon going we're going to enter into negotiations to start this up (INDISCERNIBLE) lease. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Luis Manzo.

MR. MANZO: Just to clarify, our lease, it started in the Char River up to the mine site, and after the Char River, it's the municipality and the GN Government. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Peter Alareak.

MR. ALAREAK: Peter Alareak, Hamlet of Arviat.

I had a question earlier. The discharge of saline water in the summer, July, August, and September -- I think that was my understanding -- that the saline water would be flowing through the pipes. So during the winter, do you discard -- discharge the saline water, and how -- how do you deal with the saline water in the winter? I didn't really understand what you were saying.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Peter, and I'll re-explain it. Sorry about that.

So we do not discharge the saline water during

winter. We place it in a -- in ponds. So we have -- we built ponds to store the water during the winter. So it stay at the mine. We fill up the ponds, and when the summer start, we discharge the water. So I hope it's answering your question. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Peter Alareak.

MR. ALAREAK: Peter Alareak from the Hamlet of Arviat.

I understand. Part of my questions -- do you still use saline water in wintertime that have to be stored somewhere? Like you said -- the area where you have to store it, is it big enough for the whole winter because in summertime you have short months to pump out the water to Rankin, and -- for a long wintertime. Is the, whatever you call it, is it big enough to store your used water? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Peter.

So, yes, we have capacity in our pond for several winter right now because we have to build the line. We have to get it approved. So we're using pits right now to store the saline water. We have storage for about three to four years right now. So we're -- we're good. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Peter Alareak.

MR. ALAREAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Peter Alareak from the Hamlet of Arviat.

I just would like to point out who we are from Arviat, myself; and from HTO is Andy Illungiayok, Thomas Ubluriak; and for the women, Lucy Amarudjuak; and youth, Shelton Nipisar.

When talked about what we think about the pipeline, we agree that Arviat reps would be going for the pipeline along the road. If we understand that the traffic will be less if the pipeline is put on, and as the people of Rankin Inlet want less dust, the pipeline will cut it off. There will be less dust. And if the pipes are going to be put alongside of the road and they will be covered, if I -- if they put it the way they drive, it will be lower than the road itself, and it will be much easier for caribous to go over.

And the pipe -- once the pipe is put out and it goes along with the bridge over the water without -- without touching the water itself, the creek, river, whatever you call it. And if the water has been clean -- clean enough to go along with salt water itself, and if the mine will put a strong consideration -- the recommendations that were made by Kivalliq Inuit Association and Rankin Inlet Hunters and Trappers, I think it would -- worked out if the mine can work with Rankin people because we, from Arviat, we

have very little knowledge about Rankin area, harvesting areas. So the people of Rankin Inlet are the one who knows about it, and that's their hunting ground and whatever they have, a recommendation, I think it would be very wise for the mine to consider what Rankinmiut are saying. Those are the -- what we Arviarmiut came up with during our dinner.

That all for now. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.

I would like to thank -- thanks, Arviat, for -- your representative, for their comment. We took notes of your comment, and we'll -- we appreciate your comments, and we'll move forward with that. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Before we continue with questions from community representatives, questions from the Board. Phillip?

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: I meant Phillip Kadlun from the Board.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Oh, sorry.

THE CHAIR: I'll add your name to the list.

Phillip Kadlun.

MR. KADLUN: Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact

Review Board. I have two questions. They're in regard to the -- the eskers and the holding pond, surface water holding pond.

Firstly, I will ask the question on the holding pond. Once the life of the mine has come to an end and you have to reclaim everything, will that holding pond be pumped out and covered, re-covered again once you pump it out? The reason for that is if you don't pump it out, animals and whatnot will come into contact with it.

My second question is on the eskers. I'm wondering if the proponent have -- have done surveys on the eskers because the eskers are important wildlife habitat areas in terms of denning by the foxes (INUKTITUT SPOKEN), Amaroks, wolfs, and I'm wondering whether prior to choosing an esker whether the proponent has done studies on what might be there.

And also in the past the Inuit have used the eskers, no matter who we are, as the areas where -- where we live. And those eskers could contain artifacts. My question is: Prior to choosing an esker, will the proponent do a survey of what -- what's on the eskers? Quaana, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION) sometimes it's hard for the interpreter to hear you guys. So if you can either speak louder or

closer to the microphone so they can hear you clearly when you're speaking. (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION) some people speak very quietly, and they can't hear.

Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Phillip, for your question.

So I'll start with the holding ponds. So we -- we're pumping out the water from the holding ponds at closure, and then we assess if the quality of the pond is good, if we reflood it and bring water back into the pond, if the water quality would be good to be then reconnect to the system. So this is what we are having right now in our closure plan.

For the esker -- so, yes, we do surveys of the esker. Before taking any materials from the esker, we have to do an assessment of the wildlife, the archaeologies as well, so all those studies were completed as part -- in the previous year, so if we get the approval for the waterline, we will move forward with those esker that have been previously identified and assessed. So we screen the artifact and all that. So I hope that's answering your question. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board, Phillip Kadlun.

MR. KADLUN: Quaana, Madam Chair. Phillip

Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

I just wanted to get a further -- further clarification on whether those eskers, I did not hear the proponent mentioning the -- whether they will check for denning, denning such as wolves and foxes because those eskers are important wildlife habitat, you know. To rear their young in the springtime, those same animals -- as we all know, they will come to the same denning area over and over, and their young tend to use the same ones. It's like it's passed down to the family. That's why I asked the question of whether they check for denning. Quaana, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Lu-Anne Saumik.

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Iksivauta. I have additional questions. My name is Lu-Anne Saumik, youth representative for Whale Cove.

It is one of my concerns and probably around the table's concern that we need better staff to provide info before going to public hearings and to educate Inuit about events, monitoring, and mitigate impacts and share traditional knowledge.

On the handout -- in the handout we received from the beginning, if I can mention from the book? KIA's final written submission on Meliadine, it states that: (as read)

The Kivalliq Inuit Association represents

Inuit beneficiaries of the Nunavut Agreement in the Kivalliq region. In particular, the Kivalliq Inuit Association manages Inuit-owned lands in the region with the main aim of providing self-reliance and social well-being of Inuit now and in the future.

For those who want to follow -- oh, it doesn't have a page number, but: (as read)

The Kivalliq Inuit Association manages Inuit-owned lands to support sustainable economic development, opportunities for Inuit, if it is completed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

As many of us around the table, we did not have the proper information. I just want to mention this so we can be prepared on where and who and how we can get that information from for public hearings and for the Nunavut communities, as we don't have much knowledge of what's happening.

Can the HTO, hunters and trappers organizations, the Government of Nunavut, the municipal hamlets and the communities, NTI, and our representatives or MLA, and the proponent, Agnico Eagle, to provide an education for Inuit people for all ages so they can raise their concerns about what events are happening.

We do not have many government or IPG buildings in Whale Cove so that is minimal to what we know and understand or knowledge.

Also -- I also mention that everything is connected. Our education curriculum is based on Alberta curriculum, so there is minimal education on events like this and for the proponent to propose this waterline.

We also notice, as the community of Whale Cove, that we have to travel further for hunting. It does -- the impacts that are happening in Rankin will also affect other communities around Rankin Inlet. We will -- if there is damages and impacts, we, as Inuit, will live with the consequences if there is damage and impacts on wildlife, the land, vegetation, marine mammals, and sea ice. Also, not to mention that there may be archeological sites or historical sites that Elders may know about around the area. That is an additional comment to what I was speaking about earlier this evening. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Would you like any of -- the proponent or any of the registered intervenors to respond, Lu-Anne Saumik?

MS. SAUMIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes.

THE CHAIR: We'll go to Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will let my colleague Suzanne Leclair provide an answer to Lu-Anne's comments. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Good evening, Lu-Anne, and thank you for your comments and question.

One of the comments you raised had to do with understanding the regulatory process associated with development, if I heard correctly.

Agnico Eagle is quite happy to hear from youth like you, and there was another gentleman earlier that was here and interested in learning more about development and how it impacts your future. That's why we work with schools and with communities to identify opportunities that exist today and opportunities that exist in the future.

More importantly, the mine look to the youth as the next generation of leaders in the mining company, and we would love the opportunity to meet with youth, and we will meet with youth to show what the future looks like in mining in Kivalliq.

Regarding your question about learning more about the process -- regulatory process, we would look to you to provide us with ideas on how to reach out and speak to the youth about regulatory processes. We are often in communities, and we will take your advice and reach

out to the youth and spend more time educating with everyday language on what we are seeing for the future. I hope that helps.

THE CHAIR: Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Bert Dean.

MR. DEAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Lu-Anne, for your questions and your comments.

NTI -- well, Number 1, I'd just like to probably echo a lot of people. It was really good to hear your questions and to hear your concerns and the work that you've done in preparing for this hearing.

NTI's role is to support the Kivalliq Inuit Association as well as the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the HTOs so that they're able to carry out their responsibilities under the Nunavut Agreement, and part of that is participating in the NIRB process. And as you're saying, one of the big challenges is how do we get prepared or organized, or how can we be most effective to participate well in these hearings?

So we'll follow up with you, especially when there's people that have that interest. There are organizations. There's the community lands and resource committees in your community, the HTO, Kivalliq Wildlife Board is looking to coordinate a caribou workshop, and, as mentioned earlier by others, that involvement by youth is important, and how we can

communicate or share that information and work with the proponent or the company so that they're aware of why certain things are important or certain areas are important or what's going on.

So we're very supportive of what you had to say and asked for, and we will follow up with the regional organizations, with KIA and Kivalliq Wildlife Board as well as your local HTO.

The Chairperson for the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, unfortunately, wasn't able to be here this week, but he's actually from Whale Cove, so there's that opportunity to take advantage of meeting with him as well in your community in helping to prepare.

And even though this hearing is going on now for this waterline, and so it sort of focuses our attention on a lot of concerns, what we've been hearing from the public in the pre- -- like, in the technical meetings and the public consultations that have happened in the weeks and months before this have related to that waterline. But as Levinia was saying, there's other things that come up, that when -- because people live next to the mine, there's things they see or have concerns about. They may not be related directly to the waterline, but they do want to have a chance to bring up those concerns and talk about them. And there is an annual report that the mine produces that goes to

NIRB. It's one thing that we've talked about, how can we do a better job of reviewing that annual report and working with the communities so if there are concerns, they can be brought up and shared with the company.

One of those opportunities, we feel, will be with that terrestrial advisory group, or TAG, and so your local HTO would be participating in that working group, if we can get organized and get that happening, as well as the Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

There's exploration going on, so even though this particular hearing is about this waterline, companies are going out and looking for deposits, whether it's gold or other things, and so I know there's a lot of exploration going on around Whale Cove, and that's -- your community has been asked for input or comments on that, and I know Kivalliq Wildlife -- or -- sorry, Kivalliq Inuit Association has had meetings, and I'll leave that for them to talk about, but there is so much work that we need to do as communities and regions, and, unfortunately, there's not a big public turnout from Rankin tonight, but I know at earlier meetings for the technical meeting and when the Nunavut Water Board was here a number of residents from Rankin were here to voice their concerns.

So how we can educate each other or support each other in being prepared for those meetings is something

we'd like to follow up on, and we'd be working with the KIA and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board on that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association, Luis Manzo.

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

Yes. The statement is big responsibility for KIA. It's huge when you actually read the mission statement. Like Bert bring out, it's a huge process to establish under the land claims agreement, and, yes, it's somehow -- unfair to bring you into a meeting without having the whole entire picture when you want to say what you want to say, but the intent of this is for you to bring those comments out and for all officials here and myself and my staff to take notes. And if it's something about the scholarships and benefits -- and we have Article 26 under the IBA that we can tackle for future generations and also for the actual generations who are in development of the project.

As a director of lands, I have a huge responsibility in actually reviewing the project, to contract people who have the expertise that are qualified to actually review the project and bring the best for the whole entire project.

We cannot review the project in pieces. We have to review the project as a whole, so it's a bigger responsibility to certain other departments. And on top of that, I need to collect data -- baseline data to make sure the proponent is doing what he say he's doing in the paper.

And if you have any specific concerns that you want to really bring it out, officials are here tonight. If there is any particular issue that you may have, I'm open to sit down with your side and explain how we can tackle those issues. We do -- did a very good review on this project since the beginning of the project until today, and we're still doing what we're supposed to do and -- with the support of our officials with a benefit to our officials and to the class committees that we have established in the communities, and also in cooperation with NTI and GN in terms of caribou. And in terms of water, we have also working group under the water license who also review some of the issues related to water, including the proponent and their working group.

We're sitting on different committees and different projects, and we also bring the expertise to assess it. And, yes, I -- I found that -- and it was very difficult for you sitting there not knowing the whole picture of the project, but we're here. We're

here for you. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Gabriel Karlik.

MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Gabriel Karlik, Government of Nunavut.

Similar to Bert and also Luis Manzo's answers, again, my -- I'll be honest with you, the Government of Nunavut and also all the proponents, intervenors, should and will do better to inform the communities as this is a learning experience for not just yourself, but also community members, Elders, and myself.

Some of the things that you brought up when it came to archeological sites, education, all these concerns, we bring back to our colleagues and also our officials. You also mentioned that a collaborative effort should be made between municipalities, governments, HTOs, and MLAs. Similar to your views, we agree with that. The MLAs set the mandate for the Government of Nunavut, and the people select the MLAs to lead them to what they would want to see the communities thrive on.

So we are working for you guys -- and also that a lot of these issues are coming in all directions when it comes to education, when it comes to traditional knowledge, when it comes to language, all at the same time while still trying to have a western knowledge,

and the balancing act that the youth, Elders -- especially the Elders within the last 50 years have been tremendous, and, again, I applaud you for coming here and bringing those concerns. I wish there would be more people like that in all communities to come up and say those words. It's not easy.

But, from my perspective, I agree that we should do better and my -- my goal and also our goals from the MLAs all the way down to the workers, that we plan on doing better from now on. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Before we continue with questions and comments from community representatives, we're going to take a 15-minute break.

(ADJOURNMENT)

THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.

Just for the awareness of the participants, I have five names on the list, five people who wish to speak. And before I continue on the list, there's -- the Kivalliq Wildlife Board is prepared to respond to a question from a community representative from today. So we'll go to their response first and then continue with the list of community representatives and the public.

Kivalliq Wildlife Board, Clayton Tartak.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

I'd like to apologize to Shelton for the technical issues earlier. I was approximately halfway through a response before I realized nobody could hear me.

And to his original question, it is a hard question to answer because as far as I'm aware, none of the hunters and trappers organizations have a formal position on climate change. We certainly acknowledge that the climate is changing. It's an observation that I, like many, have made with my own eyes. It is one of the reasons that the Kivalliq Wildlife Board has begun a long-term ecosystem's research program.

We are currently running the program with local to Rankin Inlet researchers. It is not directly related to the project, but the project does look at linkages between ice algae and everything from ice algae to polar bears and Inuit. Thank you, Madam Chair.

And if it's all right, I'd like to also respond to Lu-Anne's comments and questions.

THE CHAIR: Yes. You may proceed.

MR. TARTAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Clayton Tartak, Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

Thank you, Lu-Anne, for the questions, and I'd like to commend you for the comments that you've made earlier. It is extremely refreshing to see enthusiasm for the hearing from youth such as yourself.

I'd like to echo your comment in stating that it

is extremely important that participants are afforded the opportunity to know what is happening on their land. This was stated in the Kivalliq Wildlife Board's presentation and a question and comment from the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization.

Early in the process, so back in the prehearing conference, I believe, it was requested that plain language summaries are made available for participants prior to the hearing. I thought it was something that you might like to know. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: There's also Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Spencer Dewar.

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

We'd just like to applaud Lu-Anne for her comments as well. I know she didn't reference the Government of Canada specifically. But -- you know, I won't go over what many others have already said, but we do recognize this is complex stuff that we're looking at, and it can be overwhelming, and -- and the Government of Canada would be happy to share our mandate and our roles and at the same time take the opportunity to learn from the communities directly.

So we're more than open in a post-COVID environment to -- to looking for opportunities to

connect and share. Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Next on the list, Harry Aggark.

MR. AGGARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. My name is Harry Aggark, Aqigiq HTO, chairperson.

I just want to carry on what our friend from Arviat was asking earlier before supper about climate change. Sorry. I didn't understood his question earlier, and I had -- we were asked to ask Agnico Eagle any kind of question. So I ended up asking them. I'm not going to ask them this time.

To the question about global warming, living in Chester for all my life, I notice that global warming do have effects in our environment. In terms of ice condition, in the mid '60s, we used to be able to go across the inlet by snowmobile when it's safe enough, which used to be beginning of November. But after ten decades later, like 2020, '21, this year, we have to wait until almost middle of January to be able to cross. I'm sure that is affected by the global warming.

And the other thing we noticed too is we started to have earlier breakup. Like this spring, the surface of the snow was hard due to cold weather, but we know this was -- the ice was dissolving from underneath us, and it was starting to get dangerous. Just four days

ago, there was some hunters that were able to go across about 5 kilometres of the community.

Today my son sent me a satellite image. The -- in it brokes up. It was in four days. It was just about 50 kilometres off to the inlet. That's how fast it's going.

And the other thing that we noticed, that the animals like seal, fish, we're finding -- we're finding some -- some kind of a disease in them now. For example, the seals' skins are thinner, and you have -- they have an infection on them. Just last week my son found a dead seal, a baby seal. That was probably from last fall. I don't know what killed it. He was frozen in the ice, and when the snow melted, he was on top of the ice with a skin disease on it.

And I never seen the walrus. We're catching more walrus with infected disease. I believe it's caused from the global -- global warming with the water conditions.

Another thing is a known factor that in the late '70s, I believe it was the University of Manitoba or Fisheries and Oceans set out a program called testing the saltwater condition where there's getting more salt or less salt. They noticed that over the years when they test the salt water, it's starting to get less salt in it, and after they keep getting less salt.

Personally, I don't know. It's probably from more snow or more permafrost melting. Personally, I don't know that myself. It could be caused by global warming.

The technical side I do not have knowledge about. Testing the microbiotic substance in the salt water, I'm sure the Department of Fisheries and Oceans might have the full answer. That's the reason why I wanted to come back up here and answer our young friend from Arviat. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Philip Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

To Agnico, I guess that earlier that we mentioned on the TAG issue, yeah, we gotta work together to collaborate with the -- our neighbours here because at -- with the TAG group back home, working with Agnico, it wasn't very easy, but it's getting somewhere now.

But in the beginning, we were kind of left out for the Meliadine project, and that wasn't -- that was kind of disappointing 'til we started to discuss it more. I'm glad the other organizations like KIA and NTI gave an input towards HTO with Baker Lake with little experience with TAG.

So maybe we can work together with this to fix up our memorandum and term of reference. That would be

great. Because with -- we don't want to be left out. Mitigation towards our communities has really changed. It's part of our culture. Our caribou comes through here before reaching our -- the destination and to stay where they're going to be as they continue.

So we really like to be very involved with what the -- with the TAG, terrestrial advisory group, to hear. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau for Agnico Eagle. Thank you, Philip, for your comment.

We're hearing Baker Lake TAG representative. They want to be -- HTO representative. They want to be a part of the terrestrial advisory group, and we're welcoming them to be part of the Meliadine terrestrial advisory group. We're waiting for your feedback to learn from your experience with the Meadowbank terrestrial advisory group so we can be more effective and making sure we can learn from every community members, harvesters about how optimizing our -- our project and making sure our monitoring and understanding of the caribou interaction with our project is better.

So I invite you to provide comments on the terms of reference, and if you need support with the revision

of those, don't hesitate to reach out to us. Mat'na.

THE CHAIR: Philip Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you for your response.

I think the other question I might have is with the -- towards Agnico is: When this gets set up, I see that they are close to the sea here. Is there -- the fish habitat, are they going to be involved in that too? Are you going to include that with the THMOU? Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for your question, Philip.

We don't -- we don't plan to include the community-based monitoring with the terrestrial advisory group. Our understanding is those two things are -- are separated and as they are addressing different topics such as the caribou and the country food with the mussel and the shellfish, so we plan to keep them separated. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Philip Putumiraqtuq.

MR. PUTUMIRAQTUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for your response.

That's all I have, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Jackie Nakoolak.

MR. NAKOOLAK: Can I sit down?

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION)

MR. NAKOOLAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm Jackie Nakoolak. I'm from Rankin Inlet.

I just recently moved here. I've been in and out of Rankin a few times, but I pretty much know the community and the surrounding areas and the hunting grounds and stuff like that. I don't really have any questions. I'm just going to say a few of my comments and maybe some questions that you can ponder on.

For me, I don't mind this pipeline being inserted because -- I mean, the only concern I have is that that water over there that is being removed is exact same thing as our salt water on the ocean or in the ocean. For that reason, because I'm told, I believe them.

But when you're discharging the salt water to the ocean, if I'm shrimp or cod or any kind of sea mammal, I would want to say that that water that's being discharged is okay. If they -- if the sea mammals can talk, I would want to understand that.

I'm not really concerned about this pipeline being inserted. The only concern I had was already answered where in the wintertime you dispose that water into the ocean 'cause then it'll freeze, and it'll be different.

And in the summertime when the sea is -- or the sea ice is gone, it'll be okay, but when it's -- when

it's freezing, is it still going to remain the same as the ocean water? These are the questions I have.

The thickness of ice is changing every year, and the salt water is not in one place. It's circulating all the time. For that reason, that's my only concern, and I wanted to mention that.

However, I don't mind you, Agnico Eagle, disposing that water in the summertime and when the summer is coming. Please don't lie to us that you're going to dispose that water when the ice is gone.

And also this is -- this has always been my concern. In 1950s or 1960s, around there, when southern -- western -- or southern people start coming, they introduced us to a lot of new things. They wanted to fix us to the way they want us to be, including our hunting style and that sort of thing and how we live.

That girl who was speaking, young girl, I'm so proud of her. The gold mine that you're on right now has been used a lot in the past by our ancestors. Our ancestors lived there, and there's tent -- old tent frames and sawed houses and that sort of thing, but now they're gone because the mine is over there now.

Today our young people are our future is what we always say. When we are not documenting stuff like this, that may be historical sites or hunting grounds our where our ancestors lived, where they fished when

they didn't have Ski-Doos back then, when they had to walk everywhere, they used to use that area a lot way before when the mine started. That's where they used to hunt caribou. If I go there, there -- there would be caribou all the time. Now that the mine is there, you can barely ever find caribou over there.

Here's my concern: When the mine started, the greenhouse gas emissions that are coming from the mine are coming in to our land, and we're breathing it in. It almost always goes to our community as well. It might be 4 to 5 miles of the surrounding area is black from the mine from the gases or smokes that are occurring over there. I'm sure there's salt over there too.

The wildlife could be eating from that or off of that, sik sik, caribou, musk ox, lemmings, all those kind of things that eat from the land. These wolves, they eat other animals. So my concern is those that eat off of the ground, wildlife animals, I want that to be monitored more carefully to ensure that they're not eating off of the, you know, greenhouse gas emissions that are coming from the mine.

And this isn't good for us because we don't have a lot of caribou anymore. I don't know, but those are my questions. If I'm going to eat something, they add pepper and salt. Ones that I didn't put on, I cannot

eat it. If I put salt and pepper on my own food, I can eat it.

The wildlife animals that eat from the ground like the veg -- you know, plants and stuff like that, we never, ever thought that they would eat dirty food until the mine started. That young lady who was talking about Inuit old ways and that -- we know of them, but we don't have them written on paper. These things have to be written down. These things have to be written down so that we can protect ourselves.

For example, these old ayaks [phonetic] that are on the lands that you might be able to see, they're no longer visible because they're being vandalized or disturbed. So for that example, we don't want to come across that kind of situation, and I wanted to mention that.

If there are any committees that has to do with heritage and stuff like that, national parks, please monitor that much more than you are already. I used to be a committee member for the Parks Canada, and we wanted to protect our land by allowing Parks Canada to document everything that exists on the land so that in the future we know where they are and that sort of thing, and I would like for you guys to do the same.

The mining companies that are coming for minerals or gas, they're disturbing our land. These lands or

hunting grounds, campsites, were where our ancestors lived on, and that's why it's important for me to have everything documented and that we just agree verbally. Nothing's ever going to change. We can be stronger if we have things on paper and that they are agreed upon.

Us Inuit, we live by eating wildlife, and our ancestors survived out on the land, and we want to continue doing that. We can't just hear people now and just agree on things. There are so many Inuit who are starting to get more education, and -- and we are getting stronger in promoting our Inuit identity and what we eat and that sort of thing. We just can't grow plants and that sort of thing, so when we can't do that, what are we going to eat, and how are we going to survive?

These are things that I wanted to remind you of and that you consider them and make them important part of your everyday life at the mine site that you are working.

And to the Inuit here, you can't just agree on things anymore. You need to raise your voice and think about how we can better our land and what -- the things that we do. These young people are our future. Let's do our part and work harder to improve things. Qujannamiik. Thank you. I'm done.

THE CHAIR: Just for the awareness of

participants, it's almost 9:00, but if you guys don't mind, there's three more people on the list. If we can get through the list here, the other participants that would like to speak will go just past 9, if that's okay. There are three more people that would like to speak. I know it's almost 9, but if you don't mind being patient to hear the three speakers.

MS. STRICKLAND: Hi. I don't really want to touch this because of the COVID-19. I just want to say to the Agnico Eagle Mine, I want to honour you, and they -- you are working well with the community of Rankin Inlet and the Kivalliq region. I am originally from Pond Inlet, and -- but I have been in Rankin for 20 years.

In Pond Inlet area, the -- Baffinland and looking at the two mining regions that -- mining companies, it is -- it seems evident to me that the Agnico Eagle mine is way better and doing better than the other mining company. I know regarding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and what Elders have told us, that if we respect other people and show them respect, that you will -- you will be given and shown respect back, and because -- because you have shown respect -- and that is why the Board and the delegates are giving you respect back, and that is just one of the things I wanted to say.

And we will not be returning to the past, the past

lifestyle of our grandparents. We cannot return to the past of our ancestors. I know that in some way it is regrettable, but -- but thinking of -- forward to our future, we live in a life where we rely on money. The youth are getting more educated, and they can have more control. We will not be going back to our ancestors' lifetime. One of the things that I wanted to say, the -- the -- we will be impacted. The Elders will be impacted. The Inuit in Nunavut.

I think it was Phillip that spoke -- Mr. Nakoolak spoke, if you respect the agreement, we would be protecting yourselves, and for that reason, I just wanted to remind everybody, for whatever is written down and the proposal for the waterline, and if it will be respected according to what is written down.

And the seawater and the saline water, been saying that it's like seawater, and because of that, I wanted to say those, and I want to thank you for working well, the Agnico Eagle working well and the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the comment of the two past presenters.

So we had Jackie. Thank you a lot for your comments and your inputs. It's meaningful for us also

the -- what we heard about respect and paying respects from the lady that was just on the microphone. So we really appreciate the comments. We're learning also from working with the communities about all -- all those values that you're transferring to us, and -- and the trust that you're having for us is meaningful, and we want to respect that trust.

So just to get back on a couple of points regarding the archeology and the protection of the sites, where -- it's part of our planning. It's part of our activities, and we have to report to the Government of Nunavut when we find those sites before we build our infrastructure. So this is part of our plan.

Regarding the monitoring of the wildlife, the dust monitoring, all that we have to report, report back to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, report back to the Nunavut Water Board, and all the intervenors from the governments are reviewing our monitoring data. So there's a process in place that we have to respect, and we -- we are proud of respecting that process as well.

And our commitment that we're making to no discharge in the winter, we'll keep it, and we'll work in collaboration with the hunters and trappers association to make sure we are having their approval before starting the discharge in the summer as it's

included in our terms and condition.

So, again, I want to thanks everybody for their comments. They are meaningful for us. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Bernadette Dean.

MS. DEAN: I would like to comment as well. I wrote my notes in English.

I am a grandmother of nine, and so many -- being here, I was part of the Nunavut Water Board before, and one of the things I just wanted to comment to many of you was trust, because trust is a very precious thing. It's a very important thing.

Our parents, our ancestors did not have trust with the newcomers, and so many of us still don't have that trust, and that is something personally I always have to work on because trust is something that gives you a sense of safety, and trust cannot be written into a clause or subsection. It's an exchange between human beings, and seeing you as a human being and you see me as a human being, that's where it begins.

And English is just a language. It's not -- it's not something that should be based how intelligent you are or not. It's just -- it shouldn't be use as a basis for intelligence.

While I was listening, I was thinking of late Aupilardjuk where he used to say that our ancestors

respected the land so much, and many of us Inuit, we have such a deep connection to the land. Our ancestors did not dwell in one area for a long period of time because they had to give the land time to heal, but the government and Canada forced our parents and grandparents to live in permanent communities, and it's been a time of adjustment.

And one of the things that was mentioned about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and -- you were quoting those principles that the government established some years ago. To me, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is -- and I'm going to give you an example. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is something that is instilled in us and something that we learn over time.

The example I'm going to use is a few years back -- I don't know how many years back -- the Canadian Armed Forces had a winter exercise outside of Rankin Inlet, and this involved local hunters and local Inuit that are part of the Canadian Rangers.

So for almost two weeks, they were out on the land, the Canadian Armed Forces and the Rangers, and when the -- it was about learning to survive, I think, and when the exercise was done, the general or the one in charge of the Canadian Armed Forces decided, We're done. We can head back to Rankin Inlet now. And they're going to catch their flight.

But one of the Canadian Rangers -- I think it was the late Paul Kanayok -- said, No. He said, No, because what -- his Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, he knew there was a storm coming, and so the Rangers stayed behind because we know that you don't travel when there's a storm. So they waited out the storm for about two or three days, and when the storm cleared up, they returned to Rankin.

But the general from the Canadian Armed Forces disregarded the knowledge of this man, this hunter. Didn't respect it. He took off, came to a storm, and he got lost. So when the Rangers went back into Rankin, they discovered that the general and the other army never reached Rankin Inlet. So the Rangers and the search and rescue had to go searching for them three or four days later.

To me -- what Paul Kanayok and what Inuit know about respecting weather conditions and about having knowledge about the land, to me, that is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and -- that's what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is to me.

And also the Agnico Eagle mine, to my knowledge, has a lot of guidelines and rules that they have to follow when they're operating, and they have to monitor. But then there's other agencies, maybe like the CIRNAC, DFO, and Environment Canada, or Health

Canada. I don't know. I know they have a responsibility to do monitoring, and they have to do their jobs, and they have to be accountable for monitoring because if I were told to monitor myself, I think I would give myself, like, a great big passing marks. I don't know, but that's dishonest.

But also I want to tell the younger people here I'm very proud of you. And for everybody, we all have a responsibility to educate ourselves. I am grateful to the people that negotiated the Nunavut land claims agreement. This Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Water Board, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, they are all under the -- they are all part of the articles in the Nunavut land claims agreement. They wouldn't be here if they were not negotiated into the land claim, and they are known as institute of public governments.

And part of the things, like the exploration companies and the mining companies, they have to go to the Kivalliq Inuit Association to apply for a permit, to apply for a licence, to do exploring, and to mining.

We have a responsibility to educate ourselves, and I encourage each and every one of us to do that. And I encourage the mining companies and the federal government departments, you have to do yourself -- you have to do your part too to educate the public to be

transparent with what you are doing because that breaks down the barriers of lacking trust, and it is respectful because you are guests on this land. You are the guests on the land of my great, great grandchildren. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau. Suzanne Leclair.

MS. LECLAIR: Suzanne Leclair, Agnico Eagle. Bernadette, what can we say? You said two things that impressed me immensely. We hear the word "trust" often, but somehow your description of trust and how it's earned, I don't know what words you use, but that had a significant impact on us here.

Yes, trust is earned, and at the end, you mentioned that trust comes from being transparent and educating. We're learning how to be -- we're learning how to use plain language. After all these years, we're learning how to use plain language, and that to us is a big step towards earning your trust.

You also mentioned that someone's English is not perfect, it's not a sign of being less or more, and I heard you, and we heard you. So that -- I want you to know that your words will resonate for a very long time.

I think Agnico, when we go back home, we will make a list of all the things we've learned from the Inuit

from you welcoming us on your land. We learned so much. So I want to thank you. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Richard Aksawnee.

MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Richard Aksawnee, Baker Lake.

I know we've -- we've discussed terrestrial advisory group over and over and over. What I'm about to say might shock some people around the tables from the neighbouring communities, but I think it's time that Nunavut Impact Review Board staff or Board should monitor instead of having a terrestrial advisory group.

For hunters and trappers organizations to attempt such groups, it's very hard. We don't have the capacity to stay on top of any monitoring. We don't have the capacity to fill out the necessary document -- legal documentations, whereas the KIA, NTI, GN all have all these resources. Agnico Eagle.

I don't know. This might be a step backwards by asking Nunavut Impact Review Board to do such a thing. For a number of years, the hunters and trappers organization in Baker Lake has been pushing our territorial government, our designated Inuit organization, NTI that we need help so that we're not falling behind in any terrestrial advisory group meetings.

So this is a comment that I wanted to make, and I

have one question. I know it's a late night tonight, but I want a clarification from yesterday's technical hearing where the Kivalliq Inuit Association suggested mixing groundwater with the saline.

So if I can get some type of clarity from either the proponent or from 'K' -- Kivalliq Inuit Association, because I too -- myself, I'm not -- I'm -- I don't really understand their scientific terminology of the salinity. So if -- like, I was trying to grab -- like, I was trying to get this around my head yesterday to try and understand what Kivalliq Inuit Association was pushing for. It was to mix fresh groundwater with the saline before discharging it, so I -- I'm just seeking clarification here. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE CHAIR: Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau.

MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for your comment and question, Peter.

So regarding the clarification, the co-mingling of the surface water and the saline water, so at site we split our water in two. So all the precipitation, the snow, the rain are going in different pounds than the water that it's reporting to the underground mine.

So we have water that is -- is not saline. So it's similar to freshwater or -- or waters we will find in a lake, and the other source of water coming from

the underground mine is salty like the -- the seawater.

So what we're looking at with the Kivalliq Inuit Association is to mix those two water together and send -- send it into the waterline to discharge into the Melvin Bay. So by doing this -- this mix of water, the water in the waterline will be less salty than the seawater.

So what we did with all those model -- and we -- we look at the impact of discharging less salty water into the Melvin Bay. What we observed is in hundred -- in less than a hundred metre, so less than 300 feet, the water returned to the same salinity than the seawater. So the -- the impact is limited, you know? It's not a large area. It's a hula-hoop of 100 metre around the discharge.

So based on our understanding and the understanding of the Kivalliq Inuit Association, we feel that going forward with this approach will minimize the discharge in the Meliadine Lake, so sending less of the -- the water that get in contact with our mine site with the precipitation and the snow and bring this water back into the Melvin Bay instead of discharging it in Meliadine Lake.

So it's what we're trying to -- to work together. I think we're getting close from an agreement with the Kivalliq Inuit Association on this, and I hope this is

clarifying our intent. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Richard Aksawnee.

MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for that clarification.

I have no further questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION). Someone dropped their glasses. If they lost their glasses, they can -- someone can get their glasses from the staff.

Thank you to everyone for asking questions and sharing your knowledge with the Panel. You have given us a great deal to think about. That concludes Day 3 of this public hearing. Thank you all for your contributions to a productive day.

Before you leave, if you can please collect your garbage and throw it into the bin by the -- outside the door.

Tomorrow is the last day of the public hearing. We'll resume the hearing tomorrow morning at 9 AM Central Time, and we are going to continue with the community roundtable focusing on hearing questions and comments from community representatives as well as the general public directed to the proponent and intervenors in the morning.

And in the afternoon, we'll finish with closing remarks from the communities, registered intervenors,

the proponent, and the Board. Have a good evening, and we'll you see you tomorrow. Good night.

PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9:00 AM, JUNE 17, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:

We, Sandra Burns and Andres Vidal, certify that the foregoing pages are a complete and accurate transcript of the proceedings taken down by us in shorthand and transcribed from our shorthand notes to the best of our skill and ability.

Dated at the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta, this 29th day of June 2021.

Sandra Burns, CSR(A), RPR, CRR
Official Court Reporter

Andres Vidal, CSR(A)
Official Court Reporter

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