

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

BACK RIVER ENERGY CENTRE PROJECT PROPOSAL

HEARING

VOLUME 2

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

February 28, 2024

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1 Proceedings taken at Community Hall, Cambridge Bay,
2 Nunavut

3

4 February 28, 2024 Morning Session

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6 NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

7 A. Ehaloak Chair of Hearing

8 H. Ohokannoak Panel Member

9 P. Omingmakyok Panel Member

10 C. Emrick Panel Member

11 P. Kusugak Panel Member

12 G. Alikut Panel Member

13

14 NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD STAFF

15 T. Arko Director of Technical
16 Services

17 R. Sinclair Executive Director

18 K. Morrison Manager Impact Assessment

19 K. Gillard Senior Impact Assessment
20 Officer

21 L. Klaasen Technical Advisor II

22 E. Koide Technical Advisor III

23 T. Meadows Legal Counsel

24

25

26

1 PROPONENT

2

3 B2GOLD CORPORATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

4 M. Keefe Manager, Environment

5 J. Kaiyogana Community Liaison Officer

6 D. Stansbury Senior Vice President,
7 Engineering and Project
8 Evaluations

9 C. Ferizovic Manager, Indigenous &
10 Northern Affairs

11 G. Sharam Consultant Wildlife
12 Biologist

13 B. Edwards Director of Development
14 at NextEra Energy

15 C. Kowbel Legal Counsel

16

17 INTERVENORS

18

19 NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

20 D. Fredlund Chief Operating Officer

21 G. Nirlungayuk Director of Wildlife and
22 Environment

23 H. Uniuqsaraq (Remote) Director of
24 Self-Determination

25 B. Dean (Remote) Assistant Director of
26 Wildlife and Environment

1	D. Lee (Remote)	Wildlife Biologist
2	P. Lavallee (Remote)	Wildlife and Environment
3		Consultant
4	N. Gonzalez (Remote)	Legal Counsel
5	A. Yuan (Remote)	Legal Counsel
6	R. Suluk (Remote)	Senior Advisor, Land Use
7		Planning and Regulatory
8		Review
9		
10	KITIKMEOT INUIT ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
11	J. Roesch	Senior Hope Bay Project
12		Officer
13	C. Chui	Consultant
14	J. Eetoolook	Vice President of Lands
15		Resources and Environment
16	J. Abouchar (Remote)	Legal Counsel
17	K. Morton (Remote)	Legal Counsel
18		
19		
20	GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
21	J. Buller	Avatiliriniq Coordinator
22	J. Waldinger	Project Manager, Research
23		& Monitoring
24	S. Ataullahjan	Legal Counsel
25	J. Azonaha	Project Manager, Impact
26		Assessment

1	L. Leclerc (Remote)	Regional Biologist,
2		Kitikmeot Region
3	S. Symes (Remote)	Consultant
4	P. Fuentes (Remote)	Project Manager, Impact
5		Assessment
6		
7	CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA	
8	(REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
9	S. Dewar	Acting Regional Director
10		General
11	J. MacInnis	Acting Environmental
12		Assessment Coordinator
13	L. Gracia Zayas	Environmental Policy
14		Analyst
15	K. Pawley (Remote)	Director
16	J. Walsh (Remote)	Senior Environmental
17		Policy Analyst
18	M. Staniewski (Remote)	Environmental Policy
19		Analyst
20	A. Chaikine (Remote)	Acting Manager Impact
21		Assessment
22	R. Bingly (Remote)	Senior Environmental
23		Assessment Specialist
24	D. Abernathy (Remote)	Regional Socioeconomic
25		Analyst
26		

1 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA (REGISTERED
2 SPEAKERS)

3 S. Mallon (Remote) Acting Senior Environmental
4 Assessment Officer

5 R. Wykes (Remote) Senior Environmental
6 Assessment Officer

7

8 DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (REGISTERED
9 SPEAKERS)

10 T. Leclerc-Beaulieu (Remote) Fish and Habitat Protection
11 Program Biologist

12 A. LaFlamme (Remote) Biologist

13

14 HEALTH CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

15 C. Dutchak Impact Assessment
16 Specialist

17 M. Goncalves Environmental Assessment
18 Coordination Specialist

19 D. Kitchen (Remote) Regional Manager

20 A. Thevenot (Remote) Senior Health In Impact
21 Assessment Specialist

22 P. Partridge (Remote) Impact Assessment
23 Specialist

24

25

26

1 NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)
2 V. Narine (Remote) Senior Environmental
3 Assessment Officer
4
5 TRANSPORT CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)
6 S. Kidd Regional Environmental
7 Advisor
8
9 NORTHERN PROJECTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE (REGISTERED
10 SPEAKERS)
11 K. Bakker Project Manager
12 M. Friesen Project Manager
13
14 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)
15 J. McHattie Legal Counsel
16
17 GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (REGISTERED
18 SPEAKERS)
19 J. Hodson (Remote) Environmental
20 Assessment/Wildlife
21 Biologist
22 J. Adamczewski (Remote) Biologist
23 N. Njerere (Remote) Environmental Assessment
24 Analyst
25
26

1 INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS

2 J. Tuktoo Language Translator

3 C. Amautinar Language Translator

4

5 COURT REPORTERS

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

7 A. Vidal, CSR(A), RPR, RMR Official Court Reporter

8

9 R. Dempster Sound Technician

10

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1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 8:59 AM)

2 Opening Remarks

3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone.

4 Welcome back. My name is Albert Ehaloak, and I am the
5 vice chair of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and I
6 will be chairing this public hearing.

7 On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome
8 you to Day 2 of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's
9 public hearing associated with the assessment of
10 B2Gold's Nunavut energy centre proposal, which is a
11 modification of the existing Back River gold mine
12 project.

13 For those of you attending in Cambridge Bay,
14 welcome, and for those of you participating over the
15 audio-video link, thank you for participating.

16 Just a quick reminder to turn off your cell phones
17 or put them on silent before we begin.

18 We are starting the meeting this morning with an
19 opening prayer given by Celine Ningark.

20 Celine.

21 Opening Prayer

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Celine, for
23 starting off the day with a prayer.

24 Today we are completing the technical
25 presentations and moving to the community roundtable, a
26 portion of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's public

1 hearing.

2 This public hearing provides a final opportunity
3 for the Board to hear evidence and pose questions to
4 B2Gold and the registered intervenors during the
5 technical session.

6 During the community roundtable, the Board looks
7 forward to hearing from the community representatives
8 and the members of the public with any knowledge,
9 questions, or concerns they wish to share with the
10 Board in relation to the potential effects of the
11 changes proposed by B2Gold in its energy centre
12 proposal.

13 For everyone's benefit, I will do a quick summary
14 of the format of this hearing and outline the parties
15 who are participating in the room and online. For
16 those of you in the hall, we ask that you sign in at
17 the table as you enter the hall for each of the day's
18 sessions today, morning and afternoon and evening.
19 This will help the Board keep an accurate record of
20 attendance.

21 Although the Board has focused on returning to
22 in-person proceedings to allow the public to
23 participate and speak to their parties and the Board
24 directly, the Board also recognizes that some parties
25 may have been unable to travel to Cambridge Bay. As a
26 result, the Board has made arrangements for parties to

1 join -- to join the proceedings on Zoom.

2 For the parties -- for the parties who are
3 participating online, when I say your name, please
4 click on the raise-your-hand button at the bottom of
5 the screen, and this will help the tech identify you
6 more quickly so that you can unmute your line and turn
7 on your camera.

8 While the Board will do our best to maintain the
9 online link, if there is any interruption to the online
10 feed, we will continue with the in-person proceedings
11 as planned while we work to restore the online links.

12 We thank everyone in advance for your flexibility
13 and patience as we work through any interruptions in
14 remote access.

15 Simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings is
16 being provided to the meetings from the interpreters
17 here in Cambridge Bay. In the Zoom feed, you can
18 choose the language feed you want to hear, but when you
19 go to speak, you may have to turn off the
20 interpretation feed to avoid feedback.

21 For the people here in Cambridge Bay, receivers
22 are available from the sign-in table, and the receivers
23 are set to -- Channel 1 is the floor sound, Channel 2
24 is English, Channel 3 is Inuktitut. If you are having
25 any trouble hearing in the proceedings, please see our
26 tech support, Ryan Dempster from PIDO, at the side of

1 the room. If you're having issues with the online
2 feed, please email Kelli Gillard at kgillard@nirb.ca.

3 Just a quick reminder to everyone participating in
4 this hearing that no one is permitted to record or
5 rebroadcast the images, video, or audio of the
6 proceedings in any form without the express written
7 consent of the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Failing to
8 follow these directions may result in sanctions by the
9 Board, including suspension, suspending access to the
10 live feed, or being asked to leave the hall.

11 The Nunavut Impact Review Board is generating a
12 transcript from the proceedings which will be available
13 following the hearing on the Nunavut Impact Review
14 Board's public registry.

15 For the benefit of the people who did not attend
16 the public hearing yesterday, I'm Albert Ehaloak, the
17 vice chairperson of the Nunavut Impact Review Board,
18 and I'm originally from Cambridge Bay and now live in
19 Iqaluit. I have served with the Board for several
20 terms starting with my first term which commenced in
21 2002.

22 As the Board's chairperson Kaviq Kaluraq is unable
23 to join us here today, I will be chairing this hearing.
24 With me today are my fellow board members, which are
25 the decision-makers for this assessment, and I will
26 turn over the mic for them to introduce themselves in

1 order starting from the far end of the table.

2 Guy.

3 G. ALIKUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Yes. I am still the same person, Guy Alikut,
5 Board member for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

6 I've -- so it's 13 years now. This is my
7 13th year of term with NIRB, and as well I am the
8 secretary treasurer. I am from Arviat as well. Thank
9 you.

10 THE CHAIR: Peter Kusugak.

11 P. KUSUGAK: INAC-appointed board member.
12 Thank you.

13 C. EMRICK: Good morning. Catherine
14 Emrick.

15 I have been a member of the Board for about six
16 years, and my home is in Calgary, and it's a pleasure
17 to be in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

18 P. OMINGMAKYOK: I'm Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut
19 Impact Review Board member, and I am from Kugluktuk.

20 H. OHOKANNOAK: Henry Ohokannoak. I am from
21 Cambridge Bay. Nunavut Impact Review Board member
22 since 2005. Good morning every one of you. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: We also have several members
24 of the Board staff and legal counsel supporting the
25 Board during the public hearing.

26 In the interest of time, I am not going to

1 reintroduce everyone, but for the parties just joining
2 us, if you need help from the Board, our staff are
3 wearing NIRB name tags and will be happy to assist you.

4 I am also not going to reintroduce everyone who
5 introduced themselves yesterday, but to ensure the
6 Board has an accurate record of all parties,
7 participants, I ask that you -- I ask that if your
8 organization has had new representatives joining the
9 hearing today, that you bring an updated list of your
10 representatives, including your primary speaker, to the
11 Board's legal counsel, Teresa Meadows, so we can update
12 our list.

13 Around the table during these technical sessions,
14 we have representatives from B2Gold, Nunavut Tunngavik
15 Incorporated, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Government
16 of Nunavut, Government of the Northwest Territories,
17 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada,
18 Health Canada, Transport Canada.

19 I would like to notify all participants that these
20 proceedings are open to the media and may be attended
21 by media representatives. If members of the media are
22 attending and in person, we ask that you check-in at
23 the front table and wear a press badge or similar
24 identification throughout these proceedings so that it
25 is clear to the parties which media outlet you are
26 representing.

1 Media participating online should provide notice
2 to Robbin Sinclaire, the Board's executive director, at
3 rsinclaire@nirb.ca, and inquiries for information from
4 the media representatives should also be sent to
5 Robbin.

6 The Board welcomes the media providing information
7 about these meetings to those who cannot attend.
8 However, I remind everyone that the Board members and
9 our staff cannot take questions or provide interviews
10 to the media or make public comments regarding these
11 meetings while we are underway.

12 Hard copies of the agenda are available at the
13 front table at the back of the room. Please pick one
14 up and follow along. All times quoted in the agenda
15 are Mountain Time. Unless I advise otherwise, we will
16 start each day at 9 AM and break at 5 PM for dinner.

17 We are starting today with the completion of the
18 remaining technical presentations today from the
19 Government of Canada departments, followed by questions
20 to presenters. We will conclude the technical session
21 of the public hearing with the review of any last
22 deferred questions or procedural matters.

23 Then we will rearrange the room for the community
24 roundtable session with the community representatives
25 from the Kitikmeot communities moving up to join us
26 around the table.

1 B2Gold will provide a brief overview presentation,
2 and then the community representatives and members of
3 the public of Cambridge Bay will have an orderly
4 opportunity to question B2Gold or any of the
5 intervenors about the Back River energy centre proposal
6 and the assessment.

7 The community roundtable will continue through an
8 evening session tonight to ensure that members of the
9 public who may be working during the day have an
10 opportunity to ask questions and share their knowledge.
11 Tomorrow we'll conclude the community roundtable with
12 one spokesperson from each community providing closing
13 remarks summarizing the comments and concerns from
14 their community and advising the Board whether or not
15 they support the proposal.

16 We will then close the public hearing with the
17 closing comments from the intervenors, B2Gold, and the
18 Board.

19 Before I turn things over to Crown-Indigenous
20 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, just some final
21 housekeeping matters. For those of you not familiar
22 with the hall here in Cambridge Bay, the washrooms are
23 located outside this room in the lobby area. Exits are
24 located through the main doors to the lobby and on the
25 side of the room at the front and the back corners.

26 Lastly, to ensure that everyone has a reasonable

1 opportunity to participate in these meetings, the Board
2 requests that everyone respects the following Board
3 directions: It is our tradition to give respect to our
4 Elders. Therefore, we invite any Elders who are in
5 attendance to let our staff know that they wish to
6 speak so that we hear comments provided. We do ask
7 that Elders wait until I say their name and our staff
8 can get a microphone in front of them before they
9 speak.

10 To make the best use of our time, please respect
11 the timeline set out in the agenda. We'll have one
12 15-minute break in the morning, afternoon, and evening
13 session. Please respect the times I have set for
14 breaks and return promptly to the proceedings. We have
15 a lot to cover during these hearings, and we cannot
16 wait for late arrivals.

17 For all the participants, please do not interrupt
18 when a person is speaking. Please wait until I say
19 your name to speak. When it is your turn to speak,
20 please use a microphone, state your name and your
21 community or who you represent, then speak clearly at a
22 reasonable pace. Also, please do not use abbreviations
23 or acronyms and be mindful that some terms may require
24 our interpreters to take time to explain in detail. So
25 please be aware of the interpreters and pause when it
26 appears that they need extra time to explain what you

1 are saying.

2 And, finally, the Board appreciates everyone
3 setting a respectful and productive tone yesterday.
4 Just a reminder that anyone who does not abide by the
5 Board rules and directions may be sanctioned by the
6 Board and may be barred from participating. We thank
7 everyone for their continued contributions to make this
8 public hearing a success.

9 We will now proceed with the agenda, Item 1, for
10 today, presentations from our intervenors, specifically
11 from the Government of Canada, Crown-Indigenous
12 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and Transport
13 Canada with the time for parties' questions between
14 each presentation.

15 Before I turn the mic over to Crown-Indigenous
16 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, the Board's
17 legal counsel will walk us through the proceedings for
18 swearing in and affirming the witnesses who will be
19 representing -- or presenting and answering questions
20 on the topic and for entering any documents filed as
21 exhibits on the public hearing record.

22 Teresa.

23 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
24 Counsel

25 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
26 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review

1 Board.

2 So if I can have the witnesses state and spell
3 their names for the record, please.

4 S. DEWAR: Spencer Dewar, S-P-E-N-C-E-R
5 D-E-W-A-R.

6 J. MACINNIS: John MacInnis, J-O-H-N
7 M-A-C-I-N-N-I-S.

8 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa Meadows,
9 legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

10 Do the witnesses wish to be sworn or affirmed?

11 J. MACINNIS: Affirmed.

12 S. DEWAR: And I'll swear.

13 SPENCER DEWAR, Sworn

14 JOHN MACINNIS, Affirmed

15 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
16 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review
17 Board.

18 So, Mr. Chair, I have the three presentations --
19 three versions of the presentation that will be
20 presented today by Crown-Indigenous Relations and
21 Northern Affairs Canada in English and Inuktitut in one
22 copy and English and in -- or in Dene and in
23 Inuinnaqtun and in French. And I propose to file those
24 three documents as the next three exhibits in the
25 public hearing.

26 And that concludes my procedural matters,

1 Mr. Chair.

2 EXHIBIT 22 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
3 Presentation, Sabina Gold and Silver/B2Gold
4 Nunavut's Back River Energy Centre Proposal,
5 Nunavut Impact Review Board Public Hearing,
6 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
7 Affairs Canada (English/Inuktitut)

8 EXHIBIT 23 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
9 Presentation, Sabina Gold and Silver/B2Gold
10 Nunavut's Back River Energy Centre Proposal,
11 Nunavut Impact Review Board Public Hearing,
12 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
13 Affairs Canada (Inuinnaqtun/Dene)

14 EXHIBIT 24 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
15 Presentation, Sabina Gold and Silver/B2Gold
16 Nunavut's Back River Energy Centre Proposal,
17 Nunavut Impact Review Board Public Hearing,
18 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
19 Affairs Canada (French)

20 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.

21 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
22 Canada, you may proceed with your presentation.
23 Presentation by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
24 Affairs Canada

25 S. DEWAR: Quana, Mr. Chair. Spencer
26 Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

1 Canada.

2 Before we get started, I just want to recognize
3 today's Pink Shirt Day. While I did not pack a pink
4 shirt, I also forgot my hat and gloves. But I did want
5 to relay it's a critical message for Nunavut that
6 united we stand up to bullying. We promote compassion
7 and celebrate diversity.

8 Good morning. I'm the director of resource
9 management at the Nunavut regional office of
10 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
11 Thank you, Chair, and all of the Nunavut Impact Review
12 Board members along with your team for giving us this
13 opportunity to present.

14 I'd also like to thank B2Gold Nunavut, community
15 representatives, fellow intervenors, and the community
16 of Cambridge Bay for welcoming us and participating
17 with us in this review.

18 Joining the meeting in Cambridge Bay today are the
19 following members of Crown-Indigenous Relations and
20 Northern Affairs Canada: Lorena Gracia Zayas,
21 environmental policy analyst; John MacInnis, senior
22 environmental assessment specialist.

23 I did want to highlight that we have fellow
24 members of not only Crown-Indigenous Relations and
25 Northern Affairs Canada attending virtually; we also
26 have members from Environment and Climate Change

1 Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, and Natural Resources
2 Canada.

3 Next slide. I will briefly outline
4 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
5 Canada's role in the Board's assessment of the Back
6 River project energy centre proposal.

7 The Minister of Northern Affairs is one of the
8 ministers responsible for the assessment of the Back
9 River project energy centre proposal and along with
10 other responsible ministers will be making a decision
11 on the proposal based on recommendations from the
12 Board.

13 As an intervenor during the environmental
14 assessment process, the department provides expert
15 advice to the Board on topics that fall within our
16 mandate.

17 The department also has regulatory
18 responsibilities for projects that are authorized to
19 proceed, which includes participating in the Nunavut
20 Water Board licencing process and issuing
21 authorizations under the Territorial Lands Act. The
22 department also conducts inspections to ensure
23 compliance with the Nunavut Impact Review Board's
24 project certificates, water licences, and
25 authorizations issued under the Territorial Lands Act.

26 In addition, the responsible ministers as

1 decision-makers acting on behalf of the Crown must
2 ensure the duty to consult with Indigenous groups has
3 been met before deciding whether or not a project
4 should proceed.

5 Next slide. The Government of Canada relies on
6 the Nunavut Impact Review Board's assessment process to
7 assist with fulfilling the duty to consult. The
8 Board's process provides Indigenous groups with
9 opportunities to express their concerns about a
10 project, including related impacts on rights.

11 The Government of Canada connects with the
12 designated Inuit organizations, Indigenous groups, and
13 the Government of Nunavut after the Board's report and
14 recommendations are issued. This is to seek any
15 further views on the Board's report and recommendations
16 as well as any outstanding concerns that may still
17 exist.

18 In addition, participant funding is provided to
19 support meaningful participation in the Nunavut Impact
20 Review Board's impact assessment of projects. This is
21 provided by the northern participant funding program.
22 Participant funding was provided to the Kitikmeot Inuit
23 Association and the Athabasca Denesuline Ne Ne Land
24 Corporation for the Nunavut Impact Review Board's
25 impact assessment of B2Gold's Back River project energy
26 centre proposal.

1 Based on Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
2 Affairs's mandate, we provide expertise on the
3 following: environmental impact assessment methodology
4 and best practices, including a cumulative effects
5 assessment; surface water and ground water quality and
6 quantity; marine water quality as affected by
7 activities on the land; permafrost; vegetation; waste
8 management; Crown land contamination, particularly
9 closure and reclamation planning; and consultation and
10 accommodation.

11 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
12 Canada has participated in every step of the review of
13 the Back River project energy centre proposal. We
14 attended community information sessions in Kugaaruk,
15 Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, and Cambridge Bay in May and June
16 of 2023. The department has also participated in the
17 technical meeting, community roundtable, prehearing
18 conference in Cambridge Bay in October of 2023.

19 The department submitted one information request
20 and ten technical review comments for review of the
21 final environmental impact statement addendum. We also
22 had two bilateral meetings with the proponent to
23 discuss concerns raised in the technical review
24 comments in September 2023.

25 Today we'll be talking about our technical review
26 comments which was submitted to the Board in June of

1 2023. There were a total of ten comments. Three are
2 considered resolved, and the remaining seven are
3 considered resolved with commitments by B2Gold.

4 I will provide an update on the status of the
5 technical review comments starting with Technical
6 Review Comment Number 1, which is in regards to
7 B2Gold's seismic activity analysis. The department was
8 seeking clarification from B2Gold on the seismic
9 activity analysis that was described in the final
10 environmental impact statement addendum. B2Gold
11 provided clarification on the seismic activity analysis
12 confirming that the property is in a location of low
13 seismicity. This technical comment is now considered
14 resolved.

15 Technical Review Comment Number 2 is about the
16 potential impacts of wind tower and solar panel
17 foundations on permafrost. The department requested
18 information on potential impacts of how -- wind turbine
19 generators and solar panel foundations on permafrost as
20 well as ways to mitigate and monitor changes.

21 B2Gold provided information on expected impacts of
22 wind turbine generators and solar panels on permafrost
23 and proposed mitigation measures for permafrost before
24 and after construction. B2Gold committed to including
25 the Back River energy centre within the Back River
26 project's thermal monitoring plan. This technical

1 review comment is considered resolved.

2 Technical Review Comment Number 3 is about
3 updating terms and conditions in the project
4 certificate. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
5 Affairs Canada reviewed terms and conditions in the
6 Project Certificate Number 7 to determine if any
7 amendments are required to reflect the proposed energy
8 infrastructure associated with the proposal.

9 The department recommended that Terms and
10 Conditions 12 and 13 of the Project Certificate
11 Number 7 be updated to include the monitoring of energy
12 infrastructure such as wind turbine generators and
13 solar panels if the proposal is recommended to proceed
14 by the Board. B2Gold indicated it'll be supportive of
15 the direction chosen by the Board. This technical
16 review comment is considered resolved.

17 Technical Review Comment Number 4 is about
18 concerns related to watercourse crossings and the
19 potential impacts on freshwater environment.
20 Originally, the department noted that insufficient
21 information was provided on the location of three
22 proposed stream crossings as part of the modified
23 project development area. The absence of this
24 information limited the ability to assess proposed
25 mitigation measures and potential effects from the
26 project on the freshwater environment.

1 The department requested that B2Gold provide a map
2 identifying locations of the three watercourse
3 crossings and update its management plans. B2Gold has
4 provided the map and has committed to updating its
5 management plans. This technical review comment is
6 considered resolved with this commitment by B2Gold.

7 Technical Review Comment Number 5 is about
8 confirmation on the direction of water flows.
9 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
10 was seeking clarification on the direction of the Queen
11 Maud watershed water flows. Confirming the direction
12 of the water flows was important to understand
13 potential impacts from the project on the receiving
14 waters in downstream locations.

15 B2Gold provided the information on the direction
16 of the water flows and committed to updating the
17 interim closure and reclamation plan with accurate flow
18 directions. This technical review comment is
19 considered resolved with this commitment by B2Gold.

20 Technical Review Comment Number 6 is about
21 B2Gold's site water monitoring and management plan, the
22 interim closure, and reclamation plan. B2Gold
23 indicated that it had developed a site water monitoring
24 and management plan, but this document was not made
25 available for review. The department recommended that
26 B2Gold provide the site water monitoring management

1 plan, and B2Gold provided the plan and committed to
2 updating it to reflect the Back River energy centre.
3 This technical review comment is considered resolved
4 with this commitment by B2Gold.

5 Technical Review Comment Number 7 is about the
6 types of vegetation in the modified project development
7 area that may be impacted by this project.
8 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
9 recommended that B2Gold provide information on vascular
10 plants, lichen species, species of conservation
11 concern, and an assessment of potential project impacts
12 to these species within the modified project
13 development area.

14 B2Gold provided information on vegetation species
15 in the modified protection development area and how
16 potential impacts to the vegetation were assessed.
17 This technical review comment is considered resolved.

18 Technical Review Comment Number 8 is about
19 B2Gold's vegetation monitoring plan. The department
20 noted that B2Gold's vegetation monitoring plan, which
21 was developed before the submission of the final
22 environmental impact statement addendum in 2023, was
23 not made available for review. The department
24 recommended that B2Gold update the 2020 vegetation
25 monitoring plan to reflect the Back River energy centre
26 proposal.

1 B2Gold committed to updating the vegetation
2 monitoring plan to reflect the proposal, and this
3 technical review comment is considered resolved with
4 this commitment.

5 Technical Review Comment Number 9 is about how
6 soils will be managed if they're contaminated with
7 hydrocarbons at the time of closure and reclamation of
8 the landfarm. The department identified that the
9 interim closure and reclamation plan did not include a
10 summary of post-closure contaminants related to
11 hydrocarbon contamination. The department recommended
12 that B2Gold identify whether monitoring or remediation
13 will occur if soils contaminated with hydrocarbons
14 remain at the time of closure and reclamation of the
15 landfarm.

16 B2Gold is committed to reviewing the risk or
17 acceptability of leaving hydrocarbon soils in the
18 landfarm. This technical review comment is considered
19 resolved with the -- this commitment by B2Gold.

20 Technical Review Comment Number 10 is about the
21 management of asbestos waste. The department was
22 seeking clarification on how non-friable
23 asbestos-containing materials would be managed, which
24 was described in B2Gold's landfill and waste management
25 plan. The department recommended that B2Gold update
26 the landfill and waste management plan to reflect the

1 Government of Nunavut's guidelines for asbestos and
2 waste management, which B2Gold has committed to doing.
3 This technical review comment is considered resolved
4 with this commitment by B2Gold.

5 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Canada has
6 identified areas of concern, and B2Gold has provided
7 the requested information or made commitments to
8 address these concerns. B2Gold's responses and
9 commitments have sufficiently addressed the
10 department's concerns for the purposes of the Nunavut
11 Impact Review Board's environmental assessment process.

12 In closing, the department appreciates the
13 opportunity to participate in this assessment, and
14 we're looking forward to continuing to work with all
15 parties moving forward.

16 Quana. Thank you. Merci.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Crown-Indigenous
18 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

19 We now turn to questions from the parties starting
20 with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

21 D. FREDLUND: Quana, Ihivautaq. Dustin
22 Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik.

23 We have no questions at this time for CIRNAC.
24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

26 J. EETOOLOOK: Qujannamiik, Ihivautaq. James

1 Eetoolook.

2 As of now, we don't have questions at the moment.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.

5 J. BULLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 No questions for the Government of Canada on the
7 presentation. Just a note that the Government of
8 Nunavut has updated its asbestos waste guidelines late
9 last year with circulation of that document occurring
10 this year. So just -- I'm not sure which version you
11 have available, but there would be an update to that.
12 That should be available within the next month or so.

13 THE CHAIR: Government of the Northwest
14 Territories online.

15 N. NJERERE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nancy
16 Njerere here.

17 We have no questions at this time. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.

19 C. DUTCHAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Cassidy
20 Dutchak, Health Canada.

21 No questions.

22 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada.

23 S. KIDD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

24 Scott Kidd for Transport Canada.

25 I have no questions for Spencer. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

1 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
2 Keefe, B2Gold.

3 No questions. And that's noted on the updated
4 guidelines.

5 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board
6 staff.

7 T. ARKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Tara Arko, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.

9 No questions at this time.

10 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board,
11 Guy.

12 Nunavut Impact Review Board Panel Questions
13 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

14 G. ALIKUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
15 you.

16 Just to get more clarification from NIRB.
17 Asbestos, about 15 years ago, they stopped using
18 these -- or we haven't really heard about asbestos.
19 Can I get more clarification about -- are they still
20 using the asbestos up to today?

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

23 S. DEWAR: Quana, Mr. Chair. I think it
24 would be more appropriate -- Spencer from
25 Crown-Indigenous -- Spencer Dewar from Crown-Indigenous
26 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

1 I think it would be appropriate to defer the use
2 of asbestos to the -- the proponent and ask B2Gold to
3 maybe speak to it.

4 Ma'tna.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

6 B2Gold.

7 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
8 Keefe with B2Gold.

9 The answer to that question is that asbestos is no
10 longer used. The language in question within our
11 existing landfill and waste management plan is that if
12 we encounter asbestos on our project site, we will
13 manage it, handle it, as per the Government of Nunavut
14 guidelines. So if we encounter asbestos, we have to
15 handle it per their guidelines. However, we do not
16 introduce asbestos to the project site.

17 Thank you. Quana.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

19 Nunavut Impact Review Board, Guy.

20 G. ALIKUT: Guy Alikut.

21 Thank -- I have the clarification now. Thank you.
22 That's all I have.

23 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board,
24 Catherine.

25 C. EMRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26 Catherine Emrick, member of the Nunavut Impact Review

1 Board.

2 I just had a question generally around reclamation
3 issues. You have discussed commitments related to
4 updating the interim closure and reclamation plan.
5 Were these issues related specifically to the wind
6 turbines and the batteries or other energy centre
7 components, or were they sort of more broadly
8 applicable to the interim closure and reclamation plan?

9 I -- I guess a related question is: Did you see
10 any issues around the energy centre proposal specific
11 to reclamation and closure?

12 Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

14 Crown-Indigenous, Northern Affairs Canada.

15 S. DEWAR: Quana, Mr. Chair. Spencer
16 Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
17 Canada.

18 So B2Gold has an interim reclamation plan that's
19 licenced. I think it's under the Nunavut Water Board.
20 And it practices progressive reclamation. To my
21 understanding, it -- it hasn't been updated to reflect
22 the wind farms, and that's sort of the commitment that
23 they'll do with -- with -- with the -- the update, and
24 that's why we believe it to be resolved. So we expect
25 that it'll be updated during the water licencing
26 process. But -- but there was no concerns.

1 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact -- oh, sorry.
2 Go ahead, B2Gold.

3 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
4 Keefe, B2Gold.

5 I just -- just wanted to clarify that the interim
6 closure and reclamation plan was updated to incorporate
7 the energy centre.

8 The -- the question for Crown-Indigenous and --
9 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada Technical Comment
10 Number 9 was about the closure of the landfarm at the
11 end of the project life. The interim and -- closure
12 and reclamation plan, which was reviewed and approved
13 during the original final environmental impact
14 statement, has requirements set within for how you
15 close that landfarm, and through the review of the
16 updated interim and closure reclamation plan,
17 Crown-Indigenous and -- Relations and Northern Affairs
18 Canada had some questions and want to continue
19 discussion on how we close that landfarm.

20 And we've committed to having those discussions in
21 advance of the next update -- or in advance of
22 providing the final closure and reclamation plan, so
23 prior to the mine life closing or within the next
24 amendment to the Nunavut Water Board Type 'A' water
25 licence which Crown-Indigenous Relations referred to.
26 So it was updated to include the energy centre.

1 However, through that review, they identified wanting
2 to have some additional discussions in advance of
3 actual and final closure specific to the landfarm.

4 Quana. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board,
6 Catherine.

7 C. EMRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Catherine Emrick, Nunavut Impact Review Board member.

9 Thank you very much, Spencer, and for your
10 responses.

11 I just wonder, could you just give us just a quick
12 overview of what the reclamation plan is for the wind
13 farm components, the energy centre components?

14 Thank you.

15 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

16 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
17 Keefe, B2Gold.

18 The interim and -- closure reclamation plan
19 handles waste in two main categories: hazardous waste
20 and non-hazardous waste. So non-hazardous waste, clean
21 metal, wood, plastic, clean rubbers that any
22 hydrocarbons or contaminants have been removed from
23 will be land fulfilled and covered and capped within
24 the existing Back-River-project-approved landfills.
25 Anything hazardous such as oils that are used or lubes
26 that are used within the spinning components of the

1 wind turbines have to be removed and have to be shipped
2 off-site to an accredited waste management facility.

3 I think I'll leave it at that.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

5 Nunavut Impact Review Board, thank you.

6 Moving on to Agenda Item 1.2, I will ask that our
7 legal counsel swear or affirm the next group of
8 presenters for Health Canada and mark the exhibits so
9 that we can begin with the presentation.

10 Teresa.

11 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
12 Counsel

13 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
14 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review
15 Board.

16 So if I can have the witness state and spell your
17 name for the record, please.

18 C. DUTCHAK: Cassidy Dutchak,
19 C-A-S-S-I-D-Y; Dutchak, D-U-T-C-H-A-K.

20 T. MEADOWS: Does the witness wish to be
21 sworn or affirmed?

22 C. DUTCHAK: Affirmed, please.

23 CASSIDY DUTCHAK, Affirmed

24 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
25 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review
26 Board.

1 So, Mr. Chair, I have three versions of the
2 presentation that Health Canada's about to present,
3 being the English and Inuktitut version, English and
4 Inuinnaqtun, and English and Dene, and I will mark
5 those three exhibits as the next exhibits in the public
6 hearing.

7 And that, Mr. Chair, concludes my procedural
8 matters.

9 EXHIBIT 25 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
10 Presentation, Back River Energy Centre,
11 Health Canada's Final Hearing Presentation
12 (English/Inuktitut)

13 EXHIBIT 26 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
14 Presentation, Back River Energy Centre,
15 Health Canada's Final Hearing Presentation
16 (English/Inuinnaqtun)

17 EXHIBIT 27 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
18 Presentation, Back River Energy Centre,
19 Health Canada's Final Hearing Presentation
20 (English/Dene)

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.

22 Health Canada, you may proceed with your
23 presentation.

24 Presentation by Health Canada

25 C. DUTCHAK: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
26 members of the Board, Elders, residents in the

1 audience, and all other final hearing participants. On
2 behalf of Health Canada, thank you for the opportunity
3 to take part in this hearing.

4 My name is Cassidy Dutchak, and I am an impact
5 assessment specialist for Health Canada. I will be
6 presenting information on the nature of Health Canada's
7 review and areas of expertise for this project. I am
8 joined today by my Health Canada colleague Matthew
9 Goncalves, environmental assessment coordinator.

10 This slide provides an overview of Health Canada's
11 presentation. In the next few minutes, I will provide
12 a summary of Health Canada's mandates in the
13 environmental assessment process, a brief description
14 of our scope of review, the limitations of our review,
15 and, finally, the recommendations that Health Canada
16 shared with the Nunavut Impact Review Board in our
17 final written submission.

18 Health Canada is responsible for helping Canadians
19 maintain and improve their health. During
20 environmental assessments, Health Canada provides
21 information and knowledge to the Nunavut Impact Review
22 Board about the potential impacts of a project on human
23 health and also makes recommendations to reduce
24 uncertainty in the project.

25 In general, Health Canada provides comments on
26 whether the conclusions about potential human health

1 effects are accurate, scientifically valid and
2 complete, and whether the proposed mitigation and
3 monitoring programs to help reduce potential risks to
4 human health are appropriate.

5 Throughout the environmental assessment of the
6 project, Health Canada reviewed sections of the 2023
7 addendum to the final environmental impact statement
8 relevant to our expertise as well as the proponent's
9 responses to Health Canada's comments and questions
10 which it had submitted during the review process.

11 Health Canada considered potential risks to human
12 health in the following areas: air quality, noise,
13 water quality, human health risk assessment, and
14 country foods.

15 In its assessment of the project, Health Canada
16 considered comments from the Government of Nunavut, the
17 community members, and others to inform the
18 department's review, which is provided in our written
19 submission and summarized in the following slides.

20 Health Canada's review of the project does not
21 cover the following considerations: First, Health
22 Canada does not review or confirm modelling, and we
23 assume the results are correct; second, Health Canada
24 is not a decision-maker or regulator of this project.
25 The department does not issue any licences, permits, or
26 authorizations for this project. Finally, Health

1 Canada does not offer comments on occupational health
2 or on the socioeconomic impacts of this project.

3 After looking at the areas of air, noise, water,
4 country foods, and human health risk assessment, Health
5 Canada submitted two comments to the proponent
6 regarding noise complaint management and Inuit and
7 Indigenous engagement processes. These comments were
8 both resolved with additional information provided by
9 the proponent.

10 In the following slides, Health Canada will
11 present its recommendations that were provided to the
12 Nunavut Impact Review Board. For more information,
13 please refer to Health Canada's final written
14 submission, which is available on the Board's registry.

15 Health Canada will now speak to the
16 recommendations put forward with respect to noise.
17 Noise levels, even those below the threshold for
18 biological damage to the ear, can cause potential human
19 health effects. Noise can, for example, negatively
20 impact an individual's ability to sleep, concentrate,
21 communicate, and enjoy the peace and quiet of a natural
22 area.

23 As part of this environmental assessment, Health
24 Canada reviewed the noise assessments for scientific
25 validity and potential risks to human health from
26 project-related changes in environmental noise.

1 Current noise levels before the project extension were
2 compared in the assessment to predicted future noise
3 levels with the project extension to examine how human
4 health may be affected within the project area.

5 It was noted by the proponent that no human
6 receptors were identified who would be impacted by
7 project noise. The proponent has an existing community
8 involvement plan that describes how it will engage,
9 communicate with, and receive feedback from the public.
10 The proponent also has a stakeholder grievance
11 mechanism to address noise-related complaints.

12 Based on its review, Health Canada recommends to
13 the Nunavut Impact Review Board that the proponent
14 maintain its public complaint response mechanism along
15 with monitoring and/or mitigation activities in the
16 event of public complaints.

17 Health Canada will now speak to the
18 recommendations put forward with respect to Inuit and
19 Indigenous engagement. The information provided
20 indicates that the proponent's regional study area is
21 not currently used for traditional land-use activities.
22 However, the proponent acknowledged in their response
23 to Health Canada -- in response to Health Canada's
24 Information Request Number 2 that these areas overlap
25 with some historic Inuit hunting areas and travel
26 routes described in traditional knowledge studies

1 previously conducted for the project.

2 The proponent detailed methods for monitoring
3 access to the site and reporting outcomes with the
4 annual monitoring report with rationale for forecasted
5 trends. The proponent committed in Term and Condition
6 Number 80 to continue to monitor for potential changes
7 in this area and will consider updating its adaptive
8 management plans if any substantial trends in
9 increasing land use or activity around the Goose
10 property are noted.

11 Based on this review, Health Canada recommends to
12 the Nunavut Impact Review Board that the proponent
13 continue monitoring land-use activities and undertakes
14 ongoing communication with traditional land users and
15 other community members to confirm that the conclusions
16 made by the proponent remain current and accurate.

17 This concludes our presentation of the issues that
18 Health Canada raised during the environmental
19 assessment process.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Health Canada.

22 Now we have questions from the intervenors on the
23 presentation.

24 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

25 D. FREDLUND: Quana, Ihivautaq. Dustin

26 Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik.

1 S. KIDD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Scott Kidd for Transport Canada.

3 I have no questions for Health Canada.

4 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

5 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

7 We have no questions.

8 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board
9 staff.

10 T. ARKO: Tara Arko, Nunavut Impact
11 Review Board staff.

12 No questions at this time.

13 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board,
14 Guy.

15 Nunavut Impact Review Board Panel Questions Health
16 Canada

17 G. ALIKUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Guy Alikut, board member for Nunavut Impact Review
19 Board.

20 This is just a -- a question that I wanted to ask
21 with regards to country food.

22 What do you consider -- that -- that you were --
23 what are you -- what traditional foods were you
24 referring to? As Inuit, when we make cheese, it's the
25 same thing. We ferment food.

26 So what are you -- what are you referring to? I

1 follow my ancestors, the way they used to ferment food.
2 It's a delicacy for us. So can you elaborate on what
3 you think -- what you were referring to as country
4 food?

5 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.

6 C. DUTCHAK: Thank you.

7 Health Canada's expertise for country foods isn't
8 saying what could be considered country foods. Its
9 concern is how to make sure that when people are
10 harvesting and taking care of their families and
11 feeding them that they could follow measures to make
12 sure that contaminants aren't entering the food chain
13 such as through projects that would put people at risk
14 from harvesting and suffering impacts due to food chain
15 contaminants.

16 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board,
17 Guy.

18 G. ALIKUT: Yes. Thank you. Guy Alikut,
19 NIRB board member.

20 I didn't really get your -- your -- your
21 explanation, but that's good enough for now.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board,
24 Phillip.

25 P. KADLUN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26 Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

1 On your reference to people no longer harvesting
2 the herd, people today still harvest that herd. The
3 people of Kugluktuk also share -- hunt that herd. And
4 the other Dene groups as well.

5 But the most important thing is the caribou are
6 migrating to their most sensitive area where -- where
7 the herd will spend time. They are heading to -- like
8 I said, they're heading to their calving ground, which
9 is of utmost importance for the continuation of the
10 herd. I'd like to get some clarity on why there is no
11 harvest -- reference to harvesting this morning and
12 yesterday.

13 Quana, Ihivautaq.

14 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.

15 C. DUTCHAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 With reference to harvesting, Health Canada looked
17 at the regional study area provided by B2Gold to see if
18 harvesting was being conducted in the area close to the
19 project. So our study was based on reported hunter
20 interactions by B2Gold. B2Gold was not reporting any
21 hunters in the area, so we were not looking at effects
22 of the caribou herd in -- overall, just in the area of
23 the project.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We have a
25 follow-up answer.

26 B2Gold.

1 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

3 I just wanted to add some additional clarity to
4 that response. In the large amounts of traditional
5 knowledge that was shared with us as well as western
6 science, it showed that the area where the Back River
7 project is and where the wind turbines will be located
8 if approved are an area that have not been used or are
9 not key areas that have been used traditionally for
10 hunting or harvesting; however, we fully recognize that
11 they have -- the areas have been used in the past for
12 hunting and harvesting and that they can be used going
13 forward for hunting and harvesting, and we fully
14 respect and appreciate that.

15 The comments and the information that has been
16 shared with us is that the specific area of the
17 Back River project is not a key area for hunting and
18 harvesting, but it absolutely has been used in the past
19 and can be used going forward.

20 Thank you. Quana.

21 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board,
22 Phillip.

23 P. KADLUN: Quana, Ihivautaq.
24 Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

25 That's all I have.

26 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Health Canada.

1 Before we go to the next -- next item, we'll take
2 a 15-minute break. 10:35.

3 (ADJOURNMENT)

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you, everyone. Welcome
5 back.

6 Moving on to Item 1.3. I will ask legal counsel
7 to swear or affirm the next group of presenters for
8 Transport Canada's presentation and mark exhibits so
9 that we can begin with the presentation.

10 Teresa.

11 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review
12 Board Legal Counsel

13 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
14 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review
15 Board.

16 So if I can have the witness state and spell his
17 name for the record, please.

18 S. KIDD: Scott Kidd. Scott, S-C-O-T-T;
19 Kidd, K-I-D-D. And I'll affirm.

20 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. So efficient.
21 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
22 Review Board.

23 SCOTT KIDD, Affirmed

24 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
26 Review Board.

1 So, Mr. Chair, I have presentation materials from
2 Transport Canada, and it is in one version, English,
3 Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun. And I will mark that as
4 the next exhibit in the public hearing. And those are
5 all my procedural matters, Mr. Chair.

6 EXHIBIT 28 - Hard Copy PowerPoint
7 Presentation, Final Hearing comments,
8 Reconsideration of Sabina/B2Gold's "Back
9 River Energy Centre" Project Proposal
10 (English/Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun)

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.
12 Transport Canada, presentation.

13 Presentation by Transport Canada

14 S. KIDD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 Good morning. My name is Scott Kidd. I'm a
16 regional environmental advisor with Transport Canada's
17 prairie and northern region. My office is in Winnipeg.

18 Thank you to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for
19 giving Transport Canada the chance to go over our final
20 comments on the board's reconsideration of B2Gold's
21 Back River energy centre project proposal.

22 Please note that each slide will be repeated. The
23 first slides are in English, Inuktitut, and
24 Inuinnaqtun. The second slides will be in English,
25 Dene, and French. Copies of Transport Canada's slides
26 and presentation are available at the back of the room.

1 Transport Canada enforces a number of
2 transportation laws and rules that apply to the
3 original Back River mine project and its marine laydown
4 area. These laws include the Canada Shipping Act, the
5 Canadian Navigable Waters Act, and the Canadian
6 Aviation Regulations.

7 When it comes to the energy centre proposal,
8 Transport Canada's role is to make sure the wind
9 turbines and -- and solar array follow the rules of the
10 Canadian Aviation Regulations. The -- these
11 regulations are sometimes called the "CARs". Among
12 other things, the Canadian Aviation Regulations
13 protects aircraft from structures that are above a
14 certain height like wind turbines.

15 Sabina -- or B2Gold is required to send an
16 aeronautical assessment form to Transport Canada so we
17 can assess the turbines and their construction plans
18 before they are built to make sure the turbines will be
19 easily seen by aircraft in the area.

20 Pilots need to be aware of structures like the
21 wind turbines so they will have time to see and avoid
22 them. B2Gold has committed to submitting an
23 aeronautical assessment form to Transport Canada before
24 constructing the turbines.

25 B2Gold also committed to follow the rules for how
26 the wind turbines have to be lighted and marked. The

1 Canadian Aviation Regulations require that wind
2 turbines be marked using red flashing lights. This is
3 the colour that pilots know.

4 Moving on to the solar array. The Canadian
5 Aviation Regulations do not allow glare near aerodromes
6 like the mine's airstrip. Reflections or glare from
7 solar panels can be a problem for pilots because it can
8 affect their ability to see during takeoff and
9 landings. Because of this, Transport Canada has
10 encouraged B2Gold to do a glare analysis study to find
11 ways to minimize glare from the solar panels.

12 I want to note that Transport Canada did not raise
13 this issue in our earlier technical comments; however,
14 since then, B2Gold has told Transport Canada they are
15 having this glare analysis study completed.

16 This ends my presentation. Transport Canada
17 appreciates the chance to take part in this assessment
18 process and looks forward to talking more with other
19 participants.

20 Thank you for listening and thank you to
21 Cambridge Bay for hosting this hearing.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Transport Canada,
23 for your presentation.

24 Now questions from the intervenors.

25 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

26 D. FREDLUND: Quana, Ihivautaq. There's no

1 questions at this time from -- Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut
2 Tunngavik.

3 There's no questions at this time for Transport
4 Canada. Quana.

5 THE CHAIR: Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

6 J. EETOOLOOK: As of now we don't have
7 questions for Transport Canada. We don't have any
8 questions. Qujannamiik.

9 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.

10 J. BULLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Justin Buller for the Government of Nunavut.

12 I have no questions for Transport Canada on their
13 presentation. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Government of the Northwest
15 Territories online.

16 N. NJERERE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Nancy Njerere for the Government of Northwest
18 Territories.

19 We have no questions. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and
21 Northern Affairs Canada.

22 S. DEWAR: Quana, Mr. Chair.

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

25 No questions.

26 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.

1 C. DUTCHAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Cassidy Dutchak, Health Canada.

3 No questions.

4 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

5 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

7 We have no questions.

8 THE CHAIR: Nunavut Impact Review Board
9 staff.

10 T. ARKO: Tara Arko, Nunavut Impact
11 Review Board staff.

12 No questions at this time.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Transport Canada,
14 for your presentation.

15 Moving on to Agenda Item Number 2, deferred
16 response to questions from technical sessions and
17 procedural matters.

18 Teresa.

19 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review
20 Board Legal Counsel

21 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
22 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review
23 Board.

24 So, Mr. Chair, we have no outstanding deferred
25 responses to questions that we've recorded so far over
26 the last day and a half; however, we do have some

1 discussion of a filing of commitments that have been
2 made throughout this proceeding immediately in advance
3 of the public hearing and that have not already been
4 filed with the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

5 So, if I can, I would like to turn the microphone
6 over to B2Gold to walk us through what they're
7 proposing to file in terms of an updated commitments
8 list, and then we'll go around the table for the
9 parties who are in that list to confirm that they are
10 satisfied with the commitments that have been prepared.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.

13 B2Gold.

14 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

16 As Teresa mentions, B2Gold provided a technical
17 review comment status and commitment list to the
18 Nunavut Impact Review Board and copied the applicable
19 intervenors when providing it.

20 This list is essentially the same list that was
21 provided at the end of the October prehearing
22 conference. There were some minor changes to the
23 commitment list specific to several of Canadian
24 indigenous relations and Northern Affairs commitments
25 just as it relates to the timeline of providing the
26 requested information or the information detailed in

1 the commitment list.

2 As a bit of an oversight, the commitment list
3 provided in October referenced a date to provide
4 information as part of this year's annual report
5 specific to the energy centre. That timeline will come
6 prior to the approval of this project, if approved. So
7 the timeline has been revised to now state that that
8 information will be provided 90 days after approval of
9 the minister, again, if approved.

10 And that summarizes the changes in the commitment
11 list since it was last provided during the October
12 prehearing conference.

13 Thank you. Quana.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

15 Teresa.

16 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 Is my understanding correct that all of the
18 parties who have been listed on the commitments list
19 are aware of the updated document and have had an
20 opportunity to look at it?

21 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

22 M. KEEFFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

24 That is indeed my understanding; however, I will
25 look to my colleagues around the room to confirm.

26 Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Teresa.

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

4 Mr. Chair, if you would be so kind as to poll the
5 parties. We'll -- we'll go around the table in order
6 and -- and just confirm with them that they have
7 received a copy of the updated commitments list and
8 that they have no objections to that being filed as the
9 next exhibit in the public hearing. Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.
12 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

13 D. FREDLUND: Quana, Ihivautaq.

14 To my knowledge -- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated,
15 Dustin Fredlund.

16 To my knowledge, we don't have an updated
17 commitments list from Nunavut Tunngavik to be involved
18 in this discussion. Quana.

19 THE CHAIR: Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

20 J. ROESCH: This is John Roesch for the
21 Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

22 We have received the updated list.

23 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.

24 J. BULLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 Justin Buller for the Government of Nunavut.

26 We've received the updated commitments list, and

1 it reflects our understanding of the commitments made
2 for the GN commitments. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Government of Northwest
4 Territories.

5 N. NJERERE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Nancy Njerere for Government of Northwest Territories.

7 Yes, we did receive the updated commitment, and it
8 is reflected of -- reflective of what we agreed. Thank
9 you.

10 THE CHAIR: Teresa.

11 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
12 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review
13 Board.

14 So I'm going to take it that the parties who have
15 confirmed that they have received it that they -- that
16 the commitments list is -- reflects what they have
17 agreed to, that they also have no objections to us
18 filing that updated commitments list as an exhibit.
19 So, John, if we can get your confirmation on the record
20 please.

21 J. ROESCH: Yes. This is John Roesch for
22 the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

23 Yes, we are satisfied, and we confirm the
24 commitments.

25 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut

1 Impact Review Board.

2 And the Government of Nunavut as well.

3 J. BULLER: Justin Buller for the
4 Government of Nunavut.

5 Yes, that is accurate, and we have no objections
6 to filing that document. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and
8 Northern Affairs Canada.

9 S. DEWAR: Quana, Mr. Chair.
10 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
11 Affairs Canada.

12 So we believe the list to be -- the list is
13 accurate, and we -- and we support it being filed.

14 I can also speak on behalf of my colleagues at the
15 Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment and
16 Climate Change Canada, and they -- they see it the same
17 way. Quana.

18 THE CHAIR: Health Canada.

19 C. DUTCHAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Cassidy Dutchak, Health Canada.

21 We're in agreement and have no issues.

22 THE CHAIR: Transport Canada.

23 S. KIDD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Scott Kidd for Transport Canada.

25 Yeah. We're in agreement with the list and have
26 no issues with it. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Teresa.

2 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

5 So for everyone here, the Board will make sure
6 that we have received the most up-to-date list. That
7 list will be circulated, and it will be on the public
8 registry, and it will be marked as the next exhibit in
9 the public hearing.

10 And, Mr. Chair, subject to any motions or other
11 procedural matters that any of the parties would like
12 to raise at this point, that concludes my procedural
13 matters that I am aware of, Mr. Chair.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.

15 That concludes the technical session of this
16 public hearing. We will now take a quick break over
17 lunch, and the intervenors around the table will move
18 back into the seats in the audience, and the designated
19 community representatives from the Kitikmeot
20 communities will move up to join the board around the
21 table.

22 We'll take an early lunch break, be back at
23 1:00 -- or 1:15. 1:15. Thank you.

24 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:15 PM)

25 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 1:15 PM)

26 Community Roundtable

1 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everybody. We
2 will now begin the community roundtable portion of the
3 public hearing. The community roundtable is focused on
4 hearing from the designated community representatives
5 who have come to Cambridge Bay to hear about the
6 Back River energy centre proposal and to share their
7 knowledge, views, questions, concerns, and issues with
8 the Board about the proposal.

9 In addition to the questions and comments from the
10 community representatives here at the table, we will
11 also continue to invite questions from the public in
12 Cambridge Bay.

13 For the members of the public who want to ask
14 questions to the proponent or intervenors, please
15 provide your name to the NIRB staff at the table as you
16 enter the room, and they will let me know you would
17 like to speak.

18 We will -- we will do our best to hear from
19 everyone who wants to speak, but please be patient with
20 us as we work through our speaking order.

21 If you don't have questions but would like to
22 provide a statement for the Board's consideration,
23 please also speak with our staff. There are many ways
24 to share your knowledge and perspective with the Board,
25 and our staff will assist you in making sure that
26 happens.

1 We will now proceed with the community roundtable,
2 Agenda Item Number 3, summary presentation by the
3 proponent.

4 Following the presentation from B2Gold, community
5 representatives from the communities and the members of
6 the general public here in the hall will have an
7 opportunity to question B2Gold and any of the
8 registered intervenors who we heard from during the
9 technical session.

10 If you are not sure who to direct your questions
11 and comments to, I may direct your question to the
12 intervenor who may be able to provide you with answers.

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

15 Teresa.

16 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review

17 Board Legal Counsel

18 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

21 So it's my understanding, Merle, there isn't a
22 separate presentation for this, so there is not an
23 additional exhibit that needs to be marked, and it's
24 also my understanding that there are no additional
25 witnesses that need to be sworn in to do this
26 presentation.

1 So with that, Mr. Chair, those are my procedural
2 matters completed.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.

4 Presentation by the proponent, introduction and
5 overview of the project. B2Gold.

6 Presentation by B2Gold Corporation (B2Gold Nunavut
7 Energy Centre Overview Presentation)

8 M. KEEFFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 Merle Keefe with B2Gold.

10 In April of last year, 2023, B2Gold acquired
11 Sabina and are now the owners and operators of the
12 Back River project. B2Gold is an international senior
13 gold producer headquartered in Canada in Vancouver.
14 The same commitments that Sabina made, the importance
15 of environmental stewardship and community and Inuit
16 engagement, remain the same.

17 On the screen in front of you, you'll see a map of
18 locations of other operating mines that B2Gold owns.
19 In the very centre we have the Fekola Mine, we have
20 Otjikoto Mine in Namibia, and the Masbate project in
21 the Philippines.

22 As I mentioned, B2Gold headquarters are located in
23 Canada in Vancouver. And, of course, the Back River
24 project is located approximately 400 kilometres south
25 of us here in Cambridge Bay. The Back River project
26 is, just to -- just to clarify, not to be confused with

1 the headwaters of the Back River which is located close
2 to Gjoa Haven.

3 The Nunavut Impact Review Board approved the
4 Back River project in 2017, and we signed the framework
5 agreement with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association in April
6 of 2018. We are currently anticipating a 15-year mine
7 life with benefits to Inuit throughout the mine life
8 including jobs and contracts with Inuit businesses.

9 We are also very proud of the strong caribou
10 protection measures that we have developed through our
11 community engagement over the years, and particularly
12 in partnership with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

13 These are many of the areas you'll see on the
14 screen in front of you, environmental or social, that
15 we have studied and addressed at the Back River project
16 and have ongoing monitoring efforts and management
17 plans for.

18 That said, we are committed to continuing to
19 improve, and that's one of the reasons we have brought
20 forward the renewable energy project.

21 Why renewable energy? Wind and solar power are
22 proven energy sources. Diavik has a wind farm and is
23 installing solar, and the Hope Bay project here in the
24 Kitikmeot includes approved wind turbines in its
25 project certificate.

26 Our studies which have been ongoing since 2019

1 show that we have a world-class wind resource right
2 beside our Goose mine. We have also considered
3 traditional knowledge and community feedback as well as
4 western science when choosing the location of the wind
5 turbine, which, from the information that was shared
6 with us and our observations, is an area of infrequent
7 caribou use as well as harvesting and hunting.

8 There are many environmental benefits to
9 introducing renewable energy at our project on the
10 screen in front of us including reducing winter ice
11 road traffic and diesel consumption. With having to
12 burn less diesel, we'll also have to handle less
13 diesel, which will reduce the risk of spills. The
14 slide doesn't want to change. I'll try now. There we
15 go. Thank you.

16 In terms of a project schedule or a timeline, if
17 approved, this timeline was the original timeline with
18 the application when we submitted it. This timeline
19 has shifted with working through this process, the
20 Nunavut Impact Review Board process, as well as the
21 acquisition of Sabina by B2Gold, and we're
22 realistically not looking at mobilization for a few
23 years.

24 How do wind turbines work? We've been engaging
25 communities since 2019 on this project, and one of --
26 this is one of the questions that we would get a lot.

1 Wind turbines work by capturing kinetic energy, so
2 capturing the energy that's created when those turbines
3 are spinning.

4 They spin similar to an airplane. The wind
5 causes -- passing over the wind turbine causes lift, it
6 creates that energy to turn the turbine, and that
7 kinetic energy is captured and converted to power.

8 In terms of the wind generation facility, it will
9 consist of up to 13 wind turbines, each with a power
10 capacity between 4 and 4.5 megawatts, so a total power
11 capacity of approximately 55 megawatts.

12 So what does that mean? Essentially if the wind
13 is blowing and the turbines are turning, there will be
14 enough electricity generated that we can turn the
15 generators off at our mine site.

16 The solar panel array is approximately 200 to
17 400 metres on an aggregate pad, a rock pad, and we may
18 also place solar panels on top of existing buildings at
19 site. There will also be a battery energy storage
20 system, the same batteries that we have in our laptops
21 or our cell phones, except there will be more of them.
22 They'll be stored within sea cans, ten sea cans, again,
23 on an aggregate or rock pad.

24 To transfer the electricity from the turbines to
25 the batteries, we will have transmission lines. They
26 will run alongside our roads, our existing roads. They

1 will be covered with -- with rock or aggregate. And,
2 as I mentioned, we will use, to the greatest extent
3 possible, the existing roads that are at the mine.

4 This is a map or a site layout of both the Goose
5 mine and where the wind turbines will be located if
6 approved. Everything within the red polygon is the
7 mine infrastructure. So an airstrip here, a camp here.
8 Again, this is within the approved mine.

9 In terms of the Back River energy centre and what
10 we're here to discuss today, you'll see two green
11 locations. This is where we plan to construct the
12 13 wind turbines. There will be roads connecting those
13 turbines to the mining roads with the transmission
14 lines laid along the road connecting to the batteries
15 which will be directly adjacent to the existing mining
16 infrastructure.

17 Again, we have been communicating with communities
18 and regulators, including the Nunavut Impact Review
19 Board, since 2019, almost five years now. What we
20 heard a lot was, Provide visuals. Provide graphics to
21 help explain and understand the wind turbines. This is
22 one of the graphics that we've created, and -- and
23 there are some posters hanging on the back.

24 This shows what I explained. The aggregate road
25 connecting the mine with the wind turbines. The
26 transmission lines you can't see because they're

1 running alongside the road and buried, connecting to
2 sea cans which house the batteries. The turbines are
3 spaced approximately 500 metres apart.

4 Again, on the theme of providing visual aid, we've
5 created an artistic impression of what the turbines
6 would look like. We've provided four images. One --
7 I'm not sure if anyone's been to the Goose exploration
8 camp, but if you were standing in the camp, what would
9 you see; if you were standing at the end of the
10 airstrip, what would you see; if you were standing near
11 the goose head or beak of Goose Lake, what would you
12 see; and then the fourth is from what we call Chair
13 Lake, and it's the closest to the turbines.

14 As you can see in this first image, if you're
15 standing within the camp, which is approximately
16 5 kilometres away from the wind turbines, you can --
17 you can just see the tip of the turbines over the
18 horizon.

19 Similarly, if you were standing at the southern
20 end of the airstrip, you would, again, just be able to
21 see the tip of the turbines on the horizon. This third
22 image is taken from a hundred metres in the air from a
23 helicopter. So this is not what you would see if you
24 were standing on the Tundra; however, you can see the
25 turbine array in the -- oh, sorry -- the turbine array
26 in the background. It's also important to note that

1 there will be mining infrastructure developed here as
2 well.

3 And the last artistic impression is from
4 approximately 2 kilometres away and is the closest we
5 have of the wind turbines.

6 One of the questions that we got a lot was -- when
7 we were doing our engagement was how noisy are wind
8 turbines. What we've provided in the top-right corner
9 is a comparison of noise levels. So at the very top at
10 100 decibels you have a helicopter, so very noisy. At
11 76 decibels, you have the Cambridge Bay generator. At
12 70 decibels, you have a windy day on the tundra.
13 Between 50 and 60 decibels is a pickup truck. And at
14 48 decibels is the wind turbines.

15 So if you were standing 50 metres away from the
16 wind turbine, it would sound a little bit quieter than
17 standing 10 metres away from a pickup truck. So not
18 very noisy. If you were 2 kilometres away from the
19 wind turbines, that's 30 decibels. It would sound like
20 a whisper.

21 In terms of a height comparison, we have the
22 tallest building in Yellowknife, Centre Square, and we
23 have the Cambridge Bay LORAN tower, which I understand
24 is not standing -- still standing but was a prominent
25 landmark here for some time. The wind turbines would
26 essentially be, in terms of height, in between those

1 two buildings or structures.

2 As previously mentioned in terms of benefits, the
3 energy centre will reduce the amount of trucking and
4 shipping to the project site and will reduce the amount
5 of fuel and greenhouse gas emissions that the project
6 creates.

7 Throughout the community engagement and the
8 regulator engagement, the two comments that we heard
9 the most related to caribou and birds. What have we
10 done about those? We have created and continue to work
11 jointly with the Government of Nunavut and the
12 Kitikmeot Inuit Association on protection measures for
13 both caribou and birds, and we are happy to report to
14 you that, with our commitments, the Kitikmeot Inuit
15 Association, the federal government participants, and
16 the Government of Nunavut have all confirmed that their
17 technical issues are resolved.

18 In terms of community engagement, it's something
19 that we take very seriously and are very proud of at
20 B2Gold. Specific to the energy centre since 2019,
21 we've had seven public meetings, ten engagements with
22 elders groups or representatives of Bay Chimo and
23 Bathurst Inlet, hamlet representatives, and, of course,
24 hunters and trappers organizations.

25 We've established an Inuit environmental advisory
26 committee, -- it's a requirement of our Inuit Impact

1 Benefit Agreement and the project certificate -- that
2 consists of seven Kitikmeot Inuit members, including
3 elders, land users, youth, and women. On the picture
4 on the top left, you can -- you can see them at our
5 project site.

6 In July they came to our site and completed a site
7 tour. That's what the picture shows. And we discussed
8 the renewable energy proposal as well as other
9 environmental management systems at our site. And as a
10 result, we received a letter of support from that
11 committee to the Nunavut Impact Review Board in support
12 of the energy centre.

13 We have currently, or at the end of December,
14 118 Inuit employees at the Back River project. It's a
15 number we're very proud of. We spent over 49 million
16 in taxes to governments and 122 million on
17 Kitikmeot-qualified business. Throughout the review of
18 the energy centre application, we received many
19 information requests and technical comments from
20 reviewers. This slide gives you a sense of where most
21 of the information requests received came from, a large
22 number from the Government of Nunavut, and I'm happy to
23 report that there are no information requests
24 outstanding.

25 This slide gives you a sense of where most of the
26 technical comments we received came from. We had a

1 total of 43, largely from the Kitikmeot Inuit
2 Association and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
3 Affairs Canada.

4 M. KEEFE: Largely from the Kitikmeot
5 Inuit Association and Crown-Indigenous Relations and
6 Northern Affairs Canada.

7 All of these technical comments and information
8 requests have been resolved with the Kitikmeot Inuit
9 Association, the Government of Nunavut, and the federal
10 family, as well as the Government of Northwest
11 Territories. And we certainly appreciate everyone's
12 dedication and willingness to work together, and I
13 think the energy centre is and -- and will be better
14 because of it.

15 As mentioned previously, this slide shows that the
16 primary focus of most of the questions were centred on
17 birds and bird habitat as well as terrestrial wildlife
18 and caribou. In terms of the comments that we did
19 receive, due to the large number, I won't explain every
20 one of them, but I will try to give a summary.

21 On birds and bird habitat, questions were raised
22 about mortality surveys and monitoring during foggy
23 conditions. We have resolved them through additional
24 commitments, to complete additional surveys for fog and
25 mortality above and beyond what is required within
26 existing Environment Canada guidelines. So we're

1 proposing to do sampling above and beyond what is
2 within the guidelines.

3 On caribou and terrestrial wildlife, questions
4 were raised about caribou monitoring, triggers for
5 shutdown measures, and behaviour monitoring of their
6 response, how do they respond? And we have resolved
7 those through working with the members of our caribou
8 technical advisory group and have jointly agreed on
9 monitoring and mitigation measures in advance of the
10 energy centre construction.

11 On the description of project, questions were
12 raised about the meteorological towers, so the weather
13 stations, and whether or not they would have guy-wires,
14 the spacing of the turbines, the distance in between
15 them, and lighting. We have resolved them by
16 committing to and preferentially selecting unguyed
17 towers, if possible, and, if not, guy-wires will be
18 marked to increase visibility for birds.

19 We have committed to spacing the base of the
20 turbines by approximately 500 metres apart to allow for
21 bird migration between, and we're having discussions
22 and will have discussions with Transport Canada and the
23 Kitikmeot Inuit Association on lighting shielding that
24 can be utilized.

25 In terms of the atmospheric environment and
26 climate change, the introduction -- introduction --

1 sorry -- of renewable energy will positively impact the
2 emissions that the project generates. Once final
3 engineering is complete, we've committed to Environment
4 Canada to update our greenhouse gas emission numbers.

5 In terms of geotechnical comments, we have made
6 commitments to conduct and complete geotechnical
7 investigations in advance of construction, so
8 understanding the base that -- that these wind turbines
9 will be constructed on, and to install thermal
10 monitoring equipment and ground temperature cables to
11 understand the thermal regime -- or -- or the
12 permafrost conditions under the wind turbines
13 throughout their operation.

14 The Back River project has a vegetation monitoring
15 program that monitors for impacts to vegetation either
16 at the marine laydown area, at the Goose mine site, or
17 along the winter ice road, and we've also committed to
18 including the renewable energy centre, if approved,
19 within that vegetation monitoring program.

20 That is a summary of the technical comments that
21 we have received and how we've addressed them and is
22 the end of my introduction and overview presentation.

23 Thank you. Quana.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you, B2Gold.

25 Now we have questions about the presentation.

26 We'll go by order.

1 Kugaaruk.

2 Questions by Community Representatives for Kugaaruk
3 (Roundtable)

4 B. IMMINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Barnaby Immingark, Kugaaruk.

6 Thanks for inviting us, our community, NIRB, and
7 thanks for your presentations for B2Gold gold mine.
8 I've got a question about the turbines.

9 A lot of us older people, we were presented metric
10 later on, so we know more about feet, miles. We still
11 use them today, like, even though we -- we set our
12 snowmobiles or ATVs to kilometres per hour, but we
13 still -- we still prefer miles or feet.

14 So I was doing a bit of homework the past two
15 days, and, like, for the wind turbines, the heights
16 are, like, 111 metres, so I calculated that to
17 244.2 feet, if I'm correct. And also for the total of
18 height with the blade, it's 180 metres with the tower,
19 and then converted to feet is 396 feet. So that's
20 fairly high.

21 And as the blades rotate -- like, the materials, I
22 believe, are very smooth to minimize friction on the
23 wind to catch the -- the energy. So due to that, when
24 there's sunlight, there will be light reflections on
25 the blades. In that distance, you guys say
26 4 kilometres, but for animals that can see further

1 distances, especially light flashing off that rotor
2 blade -- so it will make -- make flashes, especially on
3 sunny days. I'm estimating I could spot it at 10,
4 20 kilometres as that light is reflecting.

5 So that's my concern about the height of the
6 blades. Like -- like I say, a lot of us know more
7 about feet and miles, so if I'm correct, that -- that's
8 what I calculated.

9 And my other question -- or should I stop there
10 and ask for another question?

11 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

12 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
13 Keefe, B2Gold.

14 And thank you, Barnaby, for your questions. We
15 understand that these turbines will be some of the
16 tallest structures in the area, but they are going to
17 be right -- built right beside our -- our mine. It's
18 an area that -- it has -- it already has mining
19 infrastructure. We certainly believe that by building
20 these turbines we will lessen the environmental impact
21 on the project.

22 In terms of the -- the -- the -- the shadow and
23 the flicker which you mentioned, there have been lots
24 of studies completed in the south where there are
25 thousands of wind turbines that are constructed and
26 operating. The shadow -- the shadow flicker happens

1 when the -- the sun is behind the wind turbine. It
2 typically extends out to ten times the width of the
3 turbine blade. That would be approximately
4 1.4 kilometres from our project location, and B2Gold
5 has committed to shutting turbines down if 25 caribou
6 are within 2 kilometres of the turbines.

7 Thank you. Quana.

8 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

9 B. IMMINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Yes. Being said that -- talking about shutting
11 down, I've got two questions on that one. Like, how
12 long would it take to shut down a turbine blade, and
13 then how long will it take to start up again? And also
14 when you have it on, whether -- if it's windy, that
15 blade is still going to be vibrating. So that's a
16 sound concern I have too, even though if you shut down
17 the blades.

18 I still have a few more questions.

19 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

20 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
21 Keefe, B2Gold.

22 And thank you again, Barnaby. I think there
23 was -- there was two questions there in terms of how
24 quick can they shut down, and the answer is -- is
25 instant. There is -- there will be a control room at
26 the mine site with a button -- essentially, a big red

1 button that we will hit, and the turbines will stop
2 almost immediately.

3 In terms of after they're stopped and -- and
4 rotating, the equipment has mechanisms installed so
5 that can't happen, so that if there is bad weather --
6 these -- these -- these are pieces of equipment that
7 the balance is very important, and if they're not
8 operating, then they are locked in place so that they
9 cannot spin or rotate.

10 Thank you. Quana.

11 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

12 B. IMMINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (NO
13 ENGLISH FEED) HTO chair.

14 Another question about the -- you talk about
15 megawatts. A lot of us, we know voltage, amps, and
16 ohms, and then you say you have about 4 to
17 4.5 megawatts of power of a turbine, and 1 kilowatt
18 equals 1,000 volts. So you've got -- you're generating
19 about 4,000 to 4,500 volts.

20 So the reason why I'm bringing this up is just
21 that -- it's for the -- we -- us have better idea how
22 much power is going instead of about megawatts, and I
23 wasn't too sure about my calculation about the amps.
24 If I done it right -- I could be wrong on this one,
25 so at 4 kilowatts -- no. At -- 1 kilowatt is
26 6.014 amps, if I'm correct. So calculate that by 4;

1 we'll get about 24 amps at 4 megawatts. So if I'm
2 wrong, correct me, please.

3 So -- and the other one is, when you run a long
4 line, like, for your instance, your transmission lines,
5 the longer they are, you start to lose power. So
6 within that 5 to 7 kilometres, like, how much power are
7 you losing from the turbines to your mine site?

8 I still have a few more questions after that.

9 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

10 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
11 Keefe with B2Gold.

12 And thank you, Barnaby. In terms of the -- the
13 power generated by the wind turbines, you're correct,
14 4 to 4.5 megawatts, and there are a thousand kilowatts
15 within 1 megawatt. For comparison, communities such as
16 Cambridge Bay would have a total power requirement of
17 approximately 1.8 to 2.6 megawatts for -- just for
18 comparison.

19 You spoke about the power loss within the
20 transmission lines, and you are correct. That is --
21 that does occur, but it is very small. It's
22 approximately 1 percent of the power that you generate
23 is lost, and you have -- you install within your
24 generators a transformer to step that power from what
25 the wind turbines create into what your -- your project
26 or mine site needs. So it accounts for that loss in

1 that process.

2 I hope I have answered your question, Barnaby.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

5 B. IMMINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Barnaby Immingark.

7 (NO ENGLISH FEED). Like, have you studied -- done
8 studies on the turbines throughout the world that were
9 installed? Like, I know there's some in Canada. Most
10 of them are in an open field, and there's recently one
11 in Diavik mine, you said. And how much study was done
12 there, like, after they were erected?

13 And, like, my main concern is birds that flies.
14 We don't have X-ray eyes, so we -- we won't be
15 monitoring every -- every day or night, especially when
16 it's dark. Like, I have heard down south out in the
17 field, like, there were hundreds and hundreds of birds
18 killed from the blade turbines.

19 So that is why I'm afraid. Like, it's going to be
20 some small birds; it's going to be some also larger
21 birds, right? It concerns me there. So have you guys
22 done any studies on that before?

23 I have a few more.

24 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

25 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle

26 Keefe with B2Gold.

1 And thank you again, Barnaby, for your questions.
2 We have done research -- there are thousands of studies
3 that have been completed on turbines in the south.
4 Diavik turbines were studied for approximately two
5 years, and our team reviews a lot of those studies that
6 have been completed. In addition, we have committed to
7 continually studying how -- our wind turbines, if
8 approved, throughout their entire life.

9 In terms of the number of birds that we anticipate
10 may be killed from the wind turbines, we anticipate one
11 bird per turbine per year. We have committed to
12 shutting down the turbines during bird migration
13 periods and foggy conditions. We have committed to
14 monitoring for foggy conditions year-round, every day,
15 and if the visibility due to fog during migration
16 periods reduces -- it gets foggy -- then we will shut
17 the turbines down.

18 We have also committed to bird -- surveys for
19 birds above and beyond what is required with
20 Environment Canada guidelines. So we've committed to
21 doing more surveys than what is within the existing
22 guidelines.

23 Hopefully I have answered your question, Barnaby.
24 Quana. Oh, one more. Sorry. You also mentioned if
25 the turbines are in flat areas as well, the previous
26 studies, and the answer is yes.

1 As you mentioned earlier about friction, it's the
2 same with wind moving along, and you want to reduce the
3 amount of friction from the wind. So wind turbines are
4 constructed in areas where there is less friction.

5 Thank you. Quana.

6 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

7 B. IMMINGARK: Qujannamiik, Ihivautaq.

8 Barnaby Immingark, Kugaaruk, HTO chair.

9 Thank you for the reply, B2 mine. And, like, on
10 the size of the turbines, how much wind do you require
11 to run those turbines? Like, a lot of times up here we
12 have pretty mild winds. A lot of times we have calm
13 winds. So how much wind do you need to harness?
14 Because the air is not a dense air. So, like, it's not
15 dense as the water. Like, for instance, if you have a
16 turbine under water, like, for that, it's -- it's very
17 dense, and you require less energy. For a wind,
18 it's -- it's very light.

19 So that's my other question with that.

20 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

21 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
22 Keefe with B2Gold.

23 Thank you again, Barnaby, for your questions. We
24 have been studying the wind around the Back River
25 project since -- well, with the original project
26 application in 2012. So for the past 12 years, we've

1 been collecting weather data. Since 2019, we've been
2 collecting weather data specific to these wind turbines
3 at a -- at a height where these wind turbines would be
4 located, and there is a world-class wind resource
5 there. Based on our studies, when the wind is blowing
6 and the turbines are turning, they will produce enough
7 power to power our mine, and we can turn off our
8 generators.

9 In terms of the actual speed at which the wind
10 needs to travel to turn the blade, it's 2.5 metres per
11 second -- so apologies that's not in feet, Barnaby --
12 but 2.5 metres per second and up to 28 metres per
13 second. In between those two wind velocities, the
14 turbines will spin. Below that or above that, the wind
15 turbines will lock.

16 Again, wind -- and -- and bringing it back to
17 friction, wind travels slower along the ground, along
18 the tundra, and that's why the wind turbines at that
19 height, between 81 to 111 metres per second -- or
20 111 metres. At the elevation of the wind turbines,
21 there is, again, a great wind resource that we really
22 believe will be able to power the project when it's
23 blowing.

24 Thank you. Quana.

25 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

26 B. IMMINGARK: Qujannamiik, Ihivautaq.

1 Barnaby Immingark, HTO chair.

2 Thanks for the reply, B2 mine. I -- I really
3 appreciate the clean energy. It just concerns me a lot
4 about our animals 'cause we don't grow vegetables or we
5 don't have a farm to our -- and wild animals, eh? So
6 up here, our way of life is hunting and fishing for
7 ourself, for our family, our Elders. So we depend on
8 our land to hunt our food, country food.

9 So, like, mining is a good source of a job for
10 local people. It will help to get our own equipments
11 and stuff, which -- which is great, but it's a very
12 short term, 10, 15 years, 20 years tops, and after
13 that, it's done. Like, by mining, our land gets
14 damaged a lot. And even 80 years ago DEW lines came
15 up, and they just left their garbage along the north --
16 throughout north. So -- and our government is still
17 cleaning up. I know you guys will do it. You guys
18 clean up, but ...

19 And the other thing that concerns me, you guys are
20 going to bury some, which is -- that concerns me 'cause
21 it does a change on the landscape. So when we see
22 something change, it's -- it's really strange,
23 especially for animals. They'll have to go elsewhere
24 to migrate. So -- so that concerns me 'cause a lot of
25 times they'll stop when something changes. It's our
26 main source of food, so that's what concerns me.

1 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

2 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
3 Keefe with B2Gold.

4 And thank you again, Barnaby. I think there were
5 several points, so I'll try to address them all.

6 In terms of the life of mine, B2Gold and formerly
7 Sabina have always said that we don't anticipate being
8 here for the short term. We review -- or view the Back
9 River project as a district. All of our deposits have
10 not been fully explored. There's also the George Lake
11 project which went through the draft permitting stage,
12 but it hasn't gone through the final permitting stage.

13 We certainly believe that we will be here longer
14 than the 15 mine -- year mine life that you mentioned.
15 And that's what we're permitted for. If we want to
16 stay longer than the 15 years, we fully recognize that
17 there would be a permitting process to extend the
18 permits. However, it is our want and belief that we're
19 going to be here longer than that.

20 In terms of creating opportunities and jobs
21 outside of the mine itself, we have requirements within
22 our Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement to provide what's
23 called a "regional wealth creation project". So there
24 is money, \$4 million, that has been put to the side
25 that is set up to create jobs outside of mining
26 entirely.

1 So, for example -- and this is just an example --
2 it could be constructing an Elders care facility within
3 Kugaaruk and having those long-term employment
4 opportunities, nurses, et cetera, staff, et cetera.
5 That's an example, but that is a requirement of our
6 Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement.

7 You touched on closure, and -- and, as you
8 mentioned, certainly the mining of old is not -- is not
9 applicable to the Back River project, and it's not what
10 we believe in, but we have very strict requirements for
11 closure at our project site.

12 Prior to going into a new area, we have to put up
13 a reclamation security amount. The project has
14 approximately \$45 million just for reclamation
15 security, and there are very strict guidelines on how
16 you complete that closure. Essentially, everything
17 hazardous on the project site has to be shipped off
18 outside of Nunavut to an accredited waste management
19 facility.

20 In terms of caribou protection measures, which I
21 believe is -- is -- is what you also raised, Barnaby,
22 in terms of caribou interaction with the Back River
23 project and specifically the Back River project energy
24 centre, we see most of our interaction with caribou
25 along the winter ice road, not close to where these
26 wind turbines are, so north of where the wind turbines

1 are.

2 That aligns with what we see at the project site
3 and are monitoring but also with the traditional
4 knowledge that was shared with us. When we originally
5 submitted this project application, we developed very
6 comprehensive caribou protection measures throughout
7 the review process and with feedback from community
8 members in the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

9 We have staged reductions in work activities, so
10 if caribou are close to our mine site, we're not
11 blasting, we're not flying helicopters or airplanes,
12 and we're ramping down heavy equipment. We've made the
13 same commitments for the wind turbines. If caribou are
14 proximal or birds are migrating, then we have made
15 commitments to shut the wind turbines down.

16 During the original environmental impact statement
17 and the development of those caribou protection
18 measures, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the
19 regulators and -- and intervenors, and community
20 members at the time described the protection measures
21 that we developed as best in class in the north
22 representing some of the most protective measures ever
23 developed in the north, and we have made the same
24 commitments for the wind turbines as we have for our
25 other caribou protection measures.

26 Thank you, Barnaby. Quana.

1 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

2 P. IMMINGARK: If you guys go ahead with the
3 turbines -- I know clean energy is very clean for our
4 community because it's not like south. Anything that's
5 damaged will not regrow for years and years, like, for
6 the cold temperatures we have. Have you considered
7 replacing your hydro heating system to electric and hot
8 water makers for more clean energy?

9 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

10 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
11 Keefe with B2Gold.

12 Thank you again, Barnaby. The -- the short answer
13 is yes. When I first started with Sabina originally
14 and now B2Gold, most of the power -- or the heat that
15 was generated at our project site was done with Toyo
16 stoves -- diesel-burning Toyo stoves. We have
17 transitioned most of those to electricity, as you
18 mentioned, baseboard heaters, and we continue to do
19 that.

20 We are looking at that very same thing within
21 our -- our power house. However, the renewable energy
22 will, you know, reduce our reliance on the generators.
23 However, we're always looking at ways to recycle and
24 reuse energy. For example, when the generators are in
25 use, they produce heat. It -- it warms up the
26 buildings. We actually take that heat and circulate it

1 underground to warm up our underground. So we're --
2 we're taking the heat that is created by the warm
3 generators and using it to -- to warm up our
4 underground and reducing the amount of diesel that we
5 have to burn.

6 We also use used oil furnaces, as another example
7 of ways that we try to conserve our -- our energy
8 consumption and diesel burn. When oil is changed
9 within equipment at our project site, we put that
10 sometimes within a furnace that reuses that oil.
11 Instead of just shipping it off-site, we reuse it
12 and -- and -- and heat some of our other buildings
13 within our camp.

14 So we are continually looking for ways to reduce
15 our diesel consumption and -- and greenhouse gas
16 emissions by using cleaner energy, as you mentioned,
17 and -- and I think the best example of that is the
18 renewable energy project.

19 Thank you. Quana, Barnaby.

20 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

21 B. IMMINGARK: Qujannamiik, Ihivautaq. And
22 Barnaby Immingark, Kugaaruk.

23 I have a few more, but those were already answered
24 from the previous round, so I just have one more
25 question, my last question.

26 On your committee board from this area, do you

1 guys have some in the whole region, or just your local
2 committees are just from here, or where do your
3 committees come from? Qujannamiik.

4 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

5 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
6 Keefe with B2Gold.

7 And thank you again, Barnaby. Our Inuit
8 environmental advisory committee consists of -- right
9 now it consists of members from Bathurst Inlet and
10 Bay Chimo, Cambridge Bay, and Kugluktuk. The current
11 committee, the members that have been nominated for
12 this session right now, is, again, from Bathurst Inlet,
13 Bay Chimo, Cambridge Bay, and Kugluktuk.

14 Thank you. Quana.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

16 Next up we have Taloyoak.

17 Questions by Community Representatives for Taloyoak
18 (Roundtable)

19 M. ALEEKEE: Thank you, B2Gold. Michael
20 Aleekee, community rep for Taloyoak.

21 My -- my question is from the ground and from the
22 air. I just wanted to know if it's going to be a clean
23 environment for -- for the air and ground system.

24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

26 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle

1 Keefe with B2Gold.

2 And thank you, Michael, for your questions. I'll
3 answer the air aspect first. By installing the wind
4 turbines and the solar panels, if approved, we will
5 reduce the amount of emissions that we are -- that are
6 from our project. So by installing the renewable
7 energy centre, we will produce less emissions. The
8 generators will be run less, so there will be less
9 exhaust.

10 In terms of the ground, we have requirements
11 within our existing project, the mine -- I'll take a
12 step back. Before you build the wind turbines, you
13 have to build a road to the wind turbine area and a
14 pad -- a rock pad where the wind turbines will be built
15 on top of. That's it. The rock itself has to be
16 tested before it can be taken out of the pit and put
17 down on the ground.

18 So you hear of terms, acid generation or non-acid
19 generating rock. We have to use -- we're required to
20 use non-acid generating rock, so rock that will not
21 generate any acid. We have testing that we have to
22 complete before we can use it. We do that testing,
23 confirm that it is clean rock, and then we will build
24 the road and the pad after that testing has been done.

25 Thank you. Quana.

26 THE CHAIR: Taloyoak.

1 M. ALEEKEE: Thank you, B2. Michael
2 Aleekee, Taloyoak community rep.

3 I have no further questions. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Gjoa Haven.

5 Questions by Community Representatives for Gjoa Haven
6 (Roundtable)

7 J. ASHEVAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Joe
8 Ashevak, representing the HTO of Taloyoak's hunters and
9 trappers organization.

10 When you were doing your presentation, you were
11 speaking about -- about using a renewable resource to
12 harness your energy -- to harness energy. The sound
13 and the vibration is what I'm concerned about. Now,
14 they're going to be turning -- the turbines are going
15 to be turning, and you mentioned that there's going to
16 be some type of light that's going to be projecting to
17 the -- to the propellers.

18 As hunters, we know -- today we use Ski-Doos to go
19 out hunting for -- especially for those of us that are
20 from this -- our generation. I can say -- I can say
21 this: Whether we're caribou hunting or polar bear
22 hunting, the lights -- the lights of the Ski-Doos are
23 very bright. The caribou and the polar bears that we
24 hunt, they -- they quickly run off before they even see
25 us. It's from the light. Yes. The turbines are going
26 to be at a great height, and the -- it's going --

1 the -- the glare from the sun is going to -- it's going
2 to be seen by wildlife.

3 The caribou anywhere, it's very, very concerning
4 about the caribou populations up here in the north.
5 They're on the decline, and there was mention about it,
6 about the vibration. About 2 kilometres -- from
7 2 kilometres away, we can hear them, and Barney's --
8 Barnaby just said that they're -- we need to -- we're
9 still using the standard imperial system of
10 measurement.

11 Now, the vibration of the turbines and the
12 propellers and the lights are very -- are -- they're
13 going to cause a glare from the sunlight, and as
14 hunters, we all know this. From 2 or 3 miles, the
15 wildlife begin to run off before we get to them,
16 especially for -- this is going to be visible by -- by
17 caribou and as well as polar bears.

18 The -- the vibration is going to create noise.
19 The glare is -- and the reflection from a human
20 visibility, it's -- it's going to -- it's going to --
21 it's going to be visible to us, but it's going to
22 impact the -- it's going to impact the polar bears and
23 the caribou because we cannot see what animals see. We
24 don't have that type of visibility -- we don't have
25 that kind of vision. They see what we don't see. They
26 can see from miles away. They can smell -- they can

1 scent anything from miles away, and they become timid
2 and run off.

3 Caribou, there's nothing -- no mention about
4 muskoxen. There's no mention of other wildlife.
5 It's -- those animals, they -- they can detect noise
6 and smells that we don't -- we don't see and we don't
7 smell from great distances, and that's what I wanted to
8 comment on.

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

11 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
12 Keefe with B2Gold.

13 And thank you, Joe, for your questions, and I
14 think there were a few in there, so I will try to
15 address them all. Starting with sound, we have done
16 modelling of the -- the wind turbines in winter
17 conditions, and our modelling shows that caribou will
18 be able to hear slightly the wind turbines at the
19 2 kilometres, which is 1.24 miles. We have committed
20 to shutdown measures for caribou at that 1.24-mile
21 mark.

22 In terms of vibration, modelling shows that
23 vibration is -- or travels a magnitude less than noise.
24 Ten times less. So noise travels -- or vibration
25 travels much less of a distance than noise does. So
26 that would be approximately 200 metres.

1 The design of the wind turbines, they need to spin
2 smoothly and be very well balanced, so -- or they'll
3 break apart. So they are designed to minimize
4 vibration. Essentially, it's -- if -- if you think --
5 if you think of vibration, it's -- it travels through
6 the tundra, through the frozen soil, whereas noise
7 travels through air. So it has less friction and can
8 travel farther.

9 Another important point when we talk about
10 vibration is that by installing the wind turbines,
11 we'll be able to reduce or turn off the generators, and
12 that will reduce the vibration that the generators
13 themselves are creating. So we actually think there
14 will be less noise and vibration from our project due
15 to these wind turbines because we are reducing the
16 amount of time the generators are on.

17 In terms of lighting, we have committed with the
18 Kitikmeot Inuit Association and Transport Canada to
19 investigate options for light shielding. So there are
20 federal requirements to install lights on wind
21 turbines, and that's so aircraft can see the wind
22 turbines and don't fly into them.

23 So we have committed to having conversations with
24 Transport Canada and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to
25 potentially shield the bottom part of the light, so the
26 light pollution that would extend towards the ground

1 and wildlife or birds, however leave the light portion
2 on the top half and remain visible to aircraft.

3 All of that, we've committed to ongoing monitoring
4 efforts to make sure those measures that we have put in
5 place are actually working, and we will have those
6 discussions regularly with our caribou technical
7 advisory group, which consists of the Kitikmeot Inuit
8 Association and the Government of Nunavut, and we will
9 also be having those conversations with our Inuit
10 environmental advisory committee. And every year, that
11 information has to be provided within very
12 comprehensive Nunavut Impact Review Board annual
13 reports.

14 Thank you, Joe. Quana.

15 THE CHAIR: Taloyoak.

16 Questions by Community Representatives for Taloyoak
17 (Roundtable)

18 J. ASHEVAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Joe
19 Ashevak from the hunters and trappers organization of
20 Taloyoak.

21 Now, with regards to the birds, today we don't
22 have any wind turbines situated up here in our region
23 in the Kitikmeot, but I've seen wind turbines -- or I
24 have seen birds fly through -- throughout the -- the
25 fall, especially eiders, and in the falltime, they
26 start to migrate south -- southward, and it becomes --

1 when it becomes dark.

2 Sometimes we find that some birds run into or fly
3 into the wires, and then they become injured fatally,
4 and some have injuries of their bones because -- they
5 run into these wires because they're flying during the
6 night in the dark, and some run into buildings. I have
7 seen that for myself. I have seen injured birds, and
8 then they're unable to fly because they have broken
9 bird -- broken bones.

10 The wind turbines are going to be at a great
11 height. I think for sure that that's going to cause a
12 problem for migratory birds. It's going to be also
13 not -- it won't be -- it won't be good for caribou as
14 well because of the glare from the sun. So that's what
15 I wanted to bring up.

16 And from what I understand, the energy that we use
17 from power houses, they are causing emissions, causing
18 a lot of pollution. We have never used or seen power
19 house -- or wind -- wind-generated energy. It's going
20 to be clean energy, but today caribou is a concern to
21 us. They're at a very -- it's -- it's -- it's --
22 it's -- they're going through a period where it's very
23 critical for caribou populations.

24 If that's going to -- if it's not going to hinder
25 caribou or other wildlife, I'm all for seeing this wind
26 power generation, but it's very difficult to know at

1 this point how much it's going to -- it's going to
2 impact.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

5 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
6 Keefe with B2Gold.

7 And thank you again, Joe. Let's start with birds.
8 I want to clarify that the wind turbines themselves
9 will not have any wires. There will be no wires
10 attached to the wind turbines. In terms of bird
11 migrations, we have done studies for -- since 2019 and
12 going back to 2012 to identify the time that birds
13 migrate through our project site, and, more
14 importantly, we've been shared -- we've had traditional
15 knowledge shared with us about when migration periods
16 are for birds, and those two -- those timings align.
17 So our studies on our project site as well as
18 traditional knowledge shared with us have given us a
19 very good idea of when birds migrate through our
20 project site.

21 During those periods when it is foggy and
22 visibility is poor, we have committed to shutting down
23 our wind turbines. We have also committed to spacing
24 our wind turbines out by approximately 500 metres to
25 allow for migration between the wind turbines.

26 I share your comments about reducing emissions

1 from the power house. That is certainly something that
2 we agree with you on and think that is one of the
3 primary benefits of the renewable energy centre.

4 Specific to caribou and the -- and the importance
5 of their protection, we couldn't agree more, and that's
6 why we have developed and committed to, again, what was
7 stated during the last review process as some of the
8 best-in-class protection measures in the north, and we
9 have made the same commitments for the wind turbines.

10 In terms of the project's interaction with
11 caribou, the Goose mine itself and where the wind
12 turbines will be located are in an area where we don't
13 see a lot of caribou interaction. We see more
14 interaction north between the Goose project and the
15 marine laydown area when they are migrating to their
16 calving range hundreds of kilometres away, and
17 traditional knowledge has shown -- and shared with us
18 has shown that that agrees with what we have seen and
19 what our monitoring has shown and that it isn't a key
20 area for caribou or hunting or harvesting.

21 However, if caribou do approach our project site,
22 we have committed to shutting down the wind turbines
23 and ongoing monitoring throughout the life of the
24 turbines to make sure those protection measures are
25 working, and if they're not, we will work with the
26 Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Government of

1 Nunavut as well as our Inuit general advisory committee
2 to revise them and make sure they are.

3 Thank you. Quana.

4 THE CHAIR: Taloyoak.

5 J. ASHEVAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 And thank you B2Gold for your answers. I
7 understand there's no wires that are coming from the
8 turbine into the power source. What I'm trying to say
9 is before the bird migrate back where they came from,
10 they first have to learn how to fly and travel a long
11 distance before the migration. So, therefore, they
12 hang around probably two or three weeks before they
13 take off.

14 In the meantime, they have to learn how to fly, so
15 they fly around the community and -- and run into power
16 lines in the dark, and that's going to be same -- same
17 problem with the turbine. They're going to be flying
18 around. They gotta learn how to fly before they decide
19 to take off for the winter. So I just wanted to
20 mention that -- that part. Thank you.

21 And that's it from me until later on. Thank you,
22 Mr. Chair.

23 THE CHAIR: Gjoa Haven.

24 Questions by Community Representatives for Gjoa Haven
25 (Roundtable)

26 P. AKKIKUNGNAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name

1 is Peter Akkikungnak. I'm -- I'm representing from CEC
2 in Cambridge Bay.

3 With the B2Gold in Inuktitut -- and in English,
4 it's called "Back River", and it -- and we -- with this
5 Back River and the other one, the Back River is
6 called -- the other one Ookooshalee [phonetic] and the
7 other one 'cause -- and we from Gjoa Haven, we have a
8 place called -- we call it "Back River", the
9 Ookooshalee that we have. It's because at times it --
10 you know, it surprises us out of nowhere that our --
11 our Back River is being, you know, discussed -- being
12 discussed.

13 So, first of all -- first of all, perhaps it's
14 Back River, the one you're -- the one you're --
15 Cambridge Bay, it wouldn't matter to us if the Back
16 River is called "B2Gold" instead -- as the location
17 instead of "Back River". Can we -- can they change or
18 improvise the name instead of using -- maybe call
19 it Back -- maybe call it "Back River from the west".

20 And because -- and first -- firstly, what we --
21 what we consider about -- what Burnaby and individual
22 from Taloyoak that commented on -- on animals, and --
23 and what we consider, because we're not -- you know, my
24 first question will be -- is to -- to B2Gold. When the
25 wind turbines are turning about, what, six -- six -- I
26 don't know how many metres they are, but if -- when

1 they say this is -- when this meets -- the height is of
2 the metres, but I'd like to see it more displayed of
3 a -- maybe used a foot system or feet system instead of
4 metre systems.

5 Perhaps how can -- how -- can you shorten --
6 short -- make this maybe wind turbines length shorter
7 or -- just, you know, my -- my consideration. I think
8 it's about 69 metres for one -- one blade, and perhaps
9 maybe -- maybe if they could make it short -- make it,
10 you know, shorter, the blades. I wonder what B2Gold
11 will consider on that, you know, if -- if --- if they
12 were to shorten these blades.

13 Thank you. I'll have a further question later.

14 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

15 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
16 Keefe with B2Gold.

17 And -- and thank you, Peter, for your questions --
18 question. In terms of the height of the turbines, we
19 have proposed a range, so from 81 to 111 metres.
20 The -- how wind turbines work is that they have to be a
21 certain height in the air to capture the wind that is
22 moving at a -- is moving faster 'cause the wind that is
23 moving closer to the ground is slower due to the
24 friction. Moving across the ground slows it down. So
25 we are looking at a range of heights; however, for the
26 wind turbines to work, they do have to be high enough

1 to capture that quicker moving wind.

2 Thank you, Peter. Quana.

3 THE CHAIR: Gjoa Haven.

4 P. AKKIKUNGNAK: Gjoa Haven.

5 My first question was: In Kitikmeot, we have
6 two Back River now and one in -- in our area, Chantrey
7 Inlet, Back River. There's one over here. That B2
8 Back River -- Back River also.

9 You know, us, we -- from east area, when the Back
10 River's mentioned, we get excited for nothing,
11 actually, and that was my question, to change Back
12 River east or west. Our -- our -- our east in the
13 east, over here is west. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

15 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
16 Keefe, B2Gold.

17 May I ask that -- if we could pull the overview
18 presentation up on the screen, and I could -- I could
19 use the map to help with my answer in describing the
20 location discussion to Peter, Slide 4, please.

21 Right here. Thank you. Yeah. Perfect. Thank
22 you.

23 It's -- it's a hard scale. However, Peter, I
24 fully understand your question. I have been coming
25 into the communities and -- and -- and on the Back
26 River project since 2012, and it is always something

1 that has come up, especially when we go into the
2 community of Gjoa Haven and talk about the project.

3 When I -- when I first started my presentation
4 today, I did try to clarify that this project is not
5 located at the headwaters of Back River, which is close
6 to Gjoa Haven, and -- and -- and that's what you're
7 referring to, and -- and that starts to the east.
8 Again, this is a very, very small scale, but Back River
9 starts -- I'm apparently very shaky, but Back River
10 is -- the headwater starts to the east of our project,
11 as you mentioned about east versus west.

12 The original -- the reason our project was called
13 the Back River project is because, as you know, that
14 Back River runs down and west and actually comes to
15 Beechy Lake or the end of the Back River, which is
16 approximately 30 kilometres away from our project.

17 So -- so the headwaters, the start of the river,
18 is located closer to Gjoa Haven, and -- and it comes
19 all the way down and under by approximately
20 30 kilometres to -- to our location.

21 So it is certainly something that we're aware of
22 in terms of -- of the name, and -- and in communicating
23 and presenting going forward, we can certainly clarify
24 the difference and -- and -- and highlight that we are
25 located to the west, as you mentioned, and not to the
26 east. That is -- that is something that we can -- we

1 can do when we're coming in the communities and
2 presenting. We can -- we can provide that
3 clarification.

4 Thank you. Quana.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

6 Before we get on to the next question, we'll take
7 a 15-minute break. Be back at 3:15.

8 (ADJOURNMENT).

9 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everybody.

10 Before we get on to the next question of Gjoa Haven.

11 Teresa.

12 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review

13 Board Legal Counsel

14 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

17 So, Mr. Chair, I just wanted to give a reminder to
18 everybody here that you're entitled to be able to ask
19 questions of B2Gold but also to any of the intervenors
20 who are sitting in the back. If there were any
21 questions that arose when you were watching their
22 presentations and you would like to follow up with them
23 as well, please feel free to also ask questions of them
24 if -- if you would like.

25 If you don't know who could be best situated to
26 answer your question of the regulators that are here,

1 just ask your question, and then I invite any of the
2 intervenors who would be able to answer the question to
3 step up to the microphone and -- and be able to respond
4 to any of your questions. This is your opportunity for
5 them to sit on the hot seat as well. So please feel
6 free to ask questions of -- of any of the intervenors
7 here or of B2Gold.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa.

10 Questions from Gjoa Haven.

11 P. AKKIKUNGNAK: Thank you.

12 No further questions from Gjoa Haven.

13 THE CHAIR: Cambridge Bay.

14 Questions by Community Representatives for
15 Cambridge Bay (Roundtable)

16 A. GERBRANDT: Angela Gerbrandt for the
17 Municipality of Cambridge Bay.

18 I don't have any questions, but I would like to
19 make a comment to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, to
20 the staff, and to all the participants here today. You
21 have shown that collaboration and communication within
22 the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit system works. It has been
23 so impressive to see what's been happening here, and
24 I'm very pleased and proud and thank you enormously for
25 the invitation to participate.

26 Thank you. Quana.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

2 Kugluktuk.

3 Cambridge Bay.

4 P. EVALIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah.

5 Peter Evalik, EHTO, Cambridge Bay.

6 Thank you for giving me this opportunity, and
7 thank you, B2Gold and NIRB, for having us here today.

8 I have a few questions, Mr. Chair, if I may,
9 and -- and then thank you, Teresa, for noting that --
10 that about, you know, some of the intervenors may be
11 able to answer some of these questions. But first I'll
12 start with -- for B2Gold.

13 The areas in -- where the infrastructure will be
14 built, like, for all of the energy project, the -- the
15 turbines, battery banks, the solar panels and stuff.
16 Like, I know the batteries, you know, they could -- I'm
17 sure they are hazardous and could be hazardous if, you
18 know, they malfunctioned and stuff, broke apart. The
19 turbines -- I -- they're mechanical equipment, so I
20 know that they'll probably require lubrication of oils
21 and petroleum products and stuff like that.

22 So my question is, like, these areas where
23 infrastructure is to be built, are they going to be
24 lined with, you know, like, berms or, you know, rubber
25 mats or, you know -- like -- or stuff that, you know,
26 will contain if there were ever to -- for a spill to

1 occur that those harmful -- harmful stuff for -- for
2 the equipment does not get into the environment?

3 Thank you. That's Question Number 1. Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair.

5 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

6 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Merle Keefe with B2Gold.

8 And thank you, Peter, for your questions. The
9 Back River project itself has stringent management
10 plans in place for the handling and use of hazardous
11 materials. We have a hazardous waste and materials
12 management plan, and we also have a spills contingency
13 plan.

14 If a spill occurs on our project site, we have a
15 spill response team that mobilizes to clean up that
16 spill. We have spill response equipment and have
17 recently brought a spill response trailer to our
18 project site which is always hooked to a truck and
19 ready to mobilize in the event of a spill.

20 We have a very strong reporting culture at the
21 Back River project. Spills happen. We recognize that.
22 It could happen when you're filling up your ATV with a
23 jerry can. People -- unless they are acting
24 recklessly, they do not get in trouble when a spill
25 happens because we want them to come and report that
26 information to us so that we can clean it up properly.

1 It also allows us to identify leading causes.

2 For example, if we notice that we are having
3 spills from busted hoses and equipment, including a
4 wind turbine, then we can look at what type of hoses
5 are we using. Are they arctic grade? Are there better
6 hoses out there so that we can reduce those spills? So
7 we want people to report spills to us so that we can
8 fix them and mitigate them.

9 Any fuel, bulk fuel on our project site has to be
10 in secondary containment. Anything over 50 metres must
11 be within secondary containment. That is a requirement
12 of our Kitikmeot Inuit Association Framework Agreement,
13 and we have inspections multiple times a year to make
14 sure that we are in compliance with those spill
15 protection measures.

16 The batteries will be within sea cans, so the --
17 the secondary containment is the sea can, and they will
18 be on an aggregate pad. Thank you for the image. If
19 those batteries become exhausted and are no longer
20 good, they are shipped off-site outside of Nunavut to
21 an accredited waste management facility.

22 Thank you, quana, Peter.

23 THE CHAIR: Cambridge Bay.

24 P. EVALIK: Yeah. Thank you for that
25 answer, Merle.

26 I know B2Gold -- and as part of their -- I know,

1 Mr. Chair, thank you, you want -- try not to use
2 acronyms, but -- final environmental impact statement.
3 There. You know, I was only remembering it as "FEIS".
4 But in there, I know there's stringent requirements for
5 B2Gold to conduct, like, sampling programs like
6 sampling of the water table, sampling of soils if they
7 get -- become, you know, if there were spills to occur
8 and stuff like that.

9 But my question is, then, like -- okay. That's
10 work being done by B2Gold. Is there an independent
11 assessor to confirm that -- you know, like, that --
12 that they're -- that B2Gold is meeting the
13 requirements, say, like, for an independent -- for an
14 independent sampling program, for example.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

17 B2Gold and/or any of the intervenors. Thank you.

18 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 Merle Keefe with B2Gold.

20 We do have regular inspections completed by
21 several of the intervenors that are in this room. I'll
22 speak to some of those. And, certainly, I encourage
23 any of the intervenors if they wish to add. You know,
24 please do so.

25 First, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
26 Affairs Canada have water resource inspectors that come

1 to our project site multiple times of year to confirm
2 that we are in compliance with the terms and conditions
3 of our Type A water licence.

4 The Kitikmeot Inuit Association also completes
5 annual inspections of our project site. It's a
6 comprehensive review that looks at the health -- the
7 overall health of the project and -- and its employees.

8 The Nunavut Impact Review Board itself completes
9 annual monitoring trips to the Back River project.

10 In all of those instances, they produce inspection
11 or monitoring reports which are externally provided and
12 certainly shared with B2Gold to remedy any
13 recommendations that are listed in the report or fix
14 any recommendations in the report.

15 They're also posted externally on the Nunavut
16 Water Board public registry or the Nunavut Impact
17 Review Board public registry. So there are multiple --
18 I will also add, Peter -- sorry -- in 2023 we also had
19 Department of Fisheries and Oceans come to our project
20 site during one of our activities, and they are looking
21 at coming back in 2024.

22 Environment Canada has also reached out. They
23 were looking to complete an inspection in 2023;
24 however, due to the wildfires, were not able to secure
25 an aircraft, but are -- and have mentioned that they
26 are looking to come in 2024 as well.

1 Thank you. Quana.

2 THE CHAIR: Crown-Indigenous Relations and
3 Northern Affairs Canada.

4 T. MEADOWS: Mr. Chair. Teresa Meadows,
5 legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

6 I neglected to mention that there are -- there are
7 two microphones over there -- there are two microphones
8 over there, and we also have a roving mic. So we will
9 get a microphone in front of you to any of the
10 intervenors who want to step up and respond to the
11 question.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

13 S. DEWAR: Quana, Mr. Chair.
14 Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
15 Affairs Canada.

16 I can speak, I guess, specifically to some of the
17 monitoring that occurs on behalf of the Federal
18 Government. I'll stick mostly to the role of
19 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

20 So we -- we do have inspections as Merle has
21 indicated. Our water resource -- resource officers
22 inspect the terms and conditions of the NIRB -- the
23 Nunavut Impact Review Board project certificates, and
24 we also inspect the terms and -- the -- the water
25 licence terms and conditions. And if there was, we'd
26 also inspect any leases or land use permits that are

1 issued in accordance with the Territorial Lands Act.
2 So that consists of a boots-on-the-ground inspection of
3 the site. In 2003, we inspected the property twice, I
4 think once in May and then once in September. No
5 significant non-compliance was found.

6 And we also monitor -- as part of the NIRB project
7 certificate and as part of the Nunavut Water Board
8 water licence, an annual report of all the monitoring
9 that has occurred is presented by B2Gold, and we review
10 that to ensure that the monitoring is within the realm
11 of what was predicted through the modelling, and then
12 when we see things that might not be behaving as we
13 would, we would write back to the Nunavut Impact Review
14 Board or the Nunavut Water Board and highlight those
15 concerns to B2Gold for -- for action.

16 That's just the scope of sort of CIRNAC. I know
17 that Environment and Climate Change Canada has some
18 inspection enforcement capacity, the Department of
19 Fisheries and Oceans also does, and so does Transport
20 Canada and Natural Resources Canada. So we do assist
21 in the monitoring of the activities of B2Gold Nunavut.

22 Quana.

23 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I think we have an
24 answer from Transport Canada.

25 S. KIDD: Good afternoon. Scott Kidd
26 with Transport Canada.

1 I'm just going to provide a little bit of
2 information about the oil handling facility at the
3 marine laydown area and what Transport Canada's role is
4 for that.

5 For the mine area itself, there's -- my
6 recollection is there's nothing at the mine itself that
7 Transport Canada is having to deal with. There's no
8 bridges or anything like that that Canada -- Transport
9 Canada would have to deal with under the Canada
10 Navigable Waters Act so most of our work would be at
11 the marine laydown area.

12 So the -- at the marine laydown area, there's the
13 large tanks, and those are called an oil handling
14 facility. That's what we call them, at least. For
15 those oil handling facilities, the -- B2Gold has to
16 have what's called an oil pollution emergency plan, an
17 oil pollution prevention plan on-site.

18 And so Transport Canada inspects those plans or
19 reviews those plans and provides feedback on those
20 plans to the proponent. Transport Canada doesn't
21 approve those plans, but as I said, it's a -- a review
22 process to make sure that all the information and
23 details are there.

24 So that's the -- that's the plans. For the oil
25 handling facility itself, Transport Canada inspectors
26 look at those, they come out to those and inspect them.

1 So when they're at the oil handling facility, they
2 would inspect how much oil is being transferred. They
3 want to make sure that that oil handling facility is
4 the right size and type for the amount that -- that's
5 being shipped in. They look at all the procedures that
6 are going on there, so is it being run properly, is the
7 safety equipment there, all that kind of stuff.

8 They also in particular -- paid particular
9 attention to the piping, you know, so stuff coming off,
10 how the -- how the oil is being transferred from the
11 ship, is there two-way communication so that everybody
12 knows what's going on so if a spill happens, right, it
13 stops like that. And, again, they review that oil
14 pollution and prevention plan -- and -- sorry -- oil
15 pollution emergency plan. So those are some of the
16 activities that Transport Canada does at the oil
17 handling facility. Good? Excellent. Thank you.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

20 Cambridge Bay.

21 P. EVALIK: Yeah. Thank you to the
22 intervenors and B2Gold for, you know, providing all
23 that information. I just brought that up because there
24 was concerns, you know, of -- of -- you know, we're a
25 mine -- like, we're -- we're an HTO where we don't have
26 a lot of resources that, you know, could provide those

1 types of -- you know, that type of expertise and
2 sampling and testing, and -- so it's great to know
3 that, you know, we're not in it ourselves and, you
4 know, B2Gold and, you know, government agencies and,
5 you know, NIRB and the water board, you know, are
6 looking after all the environment and wildlife, you
7 know, in our areas.

8 One -- I -- I -- I don't know if -- if it was a
9 requirement of the project certificate initially, but
10 there -- there was also concerns of wildlife, fish, and
11 marine mammals in areas of -- of mining and stuff that,
12 if it's possible, or -- or maybe they've already been
13 done, that, you know, they've been tested for -- you
14 know, just to see, like, a before and after, you know,
15 kind of what I'm saying. You know, like, the, before
16 mining, these were the conditions or the -- the way
17 that the animals were, they -- they had no contaminants
18 in them, they were tested. And if they -- if animals
19 or, you know, in affected areas -- or in areas of,
20 like, B2Gold, they would be tested later on, I guess.

21 And then that's all wildlife and fish and marine
22 mammals. And I'm sure you've tested, you know, the
23 water and the land in the area and -- and -- and
24 then -- and you're -- continue -- every year, you're
25 continually testing it.

26 But, I guess, what about the -- what about the

1 wildlife, I guess? You know, have they been tested,
2 you know, to be -- you know, certain -- okay. They're
3 at this stage at the beginning of the mine; where --
4 where are the fish at right now? You know, five, ten
5 years later on down.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

8 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

10 And thank you, Peter, for your question. And the
11 answer is yes. We have to collect, multiple years, an
12 extensive amount of what we call baseline data or
13 baseline environmental information prior to a project
14 actually ever getting approved.

15 Prior -- prior to the Nunavut Impact Review Board
16 approving the original final environmental impact
17 statement, we had to collect multiple years' worth of
18 baseline environmental information on every ecosystem
19 component.

20 So fish, water quality. We have a very good
21 understanding of the water quality within all the lakes
22 around our project or the marine laydown area. Dust,
23 vegetation, air quality, wildlife migration patterns
24 and routes. We collected that information from a
25 science perspective, but we also collected traditional
26 knowledge that was shared with us from communities

1 and -- and Elders and -- and youth.

2 We had working groups during the environmental
3 impact statement which consisted of groups from the
4 major demographics within Nunavut, so youth, Elders,
5 women, and they -- they share their feedback with us as
6 well as the traditional knowledge that we collected.

7 So we have traditional knowledge and science which
8 paints a very clear picture of the way things were
9 before mining activity commenced, and then we do yearly
10 sampling on all of those things to confirm that they
11 remain the same and that we are not having a negative
12 impact on the receiving environment.

13 That information is shared annually in annual
14 reports, it's discussed within community engagement
15 sessions, and it's discussed in detail within our
16 caribou technical advisory group as well as the Inuit
17 Environmental Advisory Committee.

18 And you have what's called "adaptive management"
19 if we are noticing a change. So if we do start to
20 notice a change, because we have that "before", we can
21 tell that, and then we can adaptively manage what we're
22 doing to bring it back down. It's called a "before and
23 after". And we have -- we -- we collected the
24 "before". And we sample yearly to make sure that we
25 remain in those limits.

26 Thank you. Quana.

1 THE CHAIR: Cambridge Bay.

2 P. EVALIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 Peter Evalik, EHTO, Cambridge Bay.

4 I think my one final one, you know, kind of --
5 there was a lot of remarks on -- on the caribou
6 technical advisory committee, CTAG, not only from the
7 people that are appointed or involved with CTAG, but
8 also from people on the NIRB board, staff from the
9 NIRB -- Nunavut Impact Review Board. Sorry.

10 And mentions from, like, KIA that, you know -- the
11 caribou technical advisory committee, you know, work
12 with B2Gold and the Government of Nunavut that, you
13 know, they advise and -- you know. But from -- what --
14 they advise other regional organizations like the HTOs
15 and stuff.

16 But when we asked back in -- at the first public
17 hearing, the prehearing, about the caribou technical
18 advisory group that, you know, perhaps maybe members of
19 the HTOs should be part of that advisory group, and --
20 it was mentioned that, you know, like, No. It's too
21 technical and stuff like that or something like that.
22 But I don't know if that was the right word.

23 But, you know, we're -- you know, the -- the
24 group, you know, they're -- they're inviting
25 Environment and Climate Change Canada to -- to -- you
26 know, to work on mitigation measures and stuff like

1 that, but they're not inviting the HTOs who -- who see
2 that, you know, all the -- all the wildlife or see that
3 change day-to-day. And, you know, they're inviting
4 them from avian species and -- but there's
5 reluctance -- I feel there's a type of reluctance to
6 have the HTOs involved in such an important step in
7 this process.

8 And, you know, I never only brought it up
9 myself -- not only bringing it up myself, but I was
10 hearing it from a NIRB board member -- an impact review
11 board staff. And so I'd like to -- I guess I don't
12 know if it's a comment or if there's -- you know, maybe
13 one of the intervenors want to say something about
14 that. Thank you. I don't know.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

17 B2Gold and/or any other intervenors.

18 KIA. Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Sorry.

19 J. ROESCH: Mr. Chair, this is John Roesch
20 for the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

21 The reason why the HTO -- the hunting trapping
22 organization is not involved in CTAG, it goes back to
23 the Nunavut agreement. The hunting trapping
24 organization's responsibilities are specified in the
25 Nunavut agreement, and it is the Kitikmeot Inuit --
26 Inuit Association that is the designated Inuit

1 organization. We are the regional Inuit organization.
2 We are the landowner.

3 The caribou technical advisory group exists
4 because we requested it. Its purpose is for our
5 biologists to interact with the proponent's biologists
6 and the Government of Nunavut's biologists to discuss
7 technical matters, and it's up to the group members to
8 decide who goes on it.

9 So we view, as an organization, the hunting
10 trapping organizations are intruding into the mandate
11 and responsibilities of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association
12 'cause we are executing our mandate and we are making
13 management decisions, and that's what it comes down to.
14 It comes down back to the law and to Nunavut.

15 And this was in our opening statement today made
16 by James Eetoolook where we're emphasizing the
17 importance of the CTAG to us and its functionality to
18 us. And we tailor each group that we create to meet
19 certain needs. We created through the IIBA the Inuit
20 Environmental Advisory Committee to get local Inuit to
21 provide knowledge to the mining company on
22 environmental aspects. And what we advise all
23 proponents when running an IEAC, 'cause it's tailored
24 to the Inuit, we ask for these two basic things:
25 select an environmental topic that is relatable to them
26 because they have knowledge of the area and put it in

1 plain language, whether it be in English or Inuktitut
2 or Inuinnaqtun, so that they understand and they
3 respond because we want them to respond.

4 Because the first time TMAC had an IEAC, which I
5 attend, they -- they spoke to the people like they're a
6 bunch of scientists, and they overwhelmed them with
7 technical terms and with data, and they did not
8 respond. And if you keep doing this to people, people
9 will withdraw. So I specified to TMAC and also the --
10 Sabina, now B2Gold, is that when you engage people, you
11 tailor the meeting to the people you want there. And
12 so when we're dealing with Inuit, we want them to use
13 their knowledge, we want it to be relatable, and we
14 want it in plain language so that they provide their
15 input because we want that.

16 Now, the CTAG is for a different group of people.
17 It's specific to scientists 'cause we have biologists,
18 and our -- we want our biologists to interact with
19 B2Gold's biologists and the Government of Nunavut to
20 deal with specific issues. So it meets our need as the
21 landowner. And so B2Gold cannot just let anyone in;
22 they need our permission and permission and agreement
23 of the Government of Nunavut.

24 And I also point out that with -- the Athabasca
25 Dene wanted to be on that. And this project is on
26 Inuit-owned land, and the impact is immediate to the

1 Inuit, the environment impact. And our claim is
2 greater because it is Inuit-owned land. And if we
3 allow the Athabasca Dene on it, then any other
4 Indigenous group of the Northwest Territories will be
5 demanding the same thing.

6 And there's an old adage: Too many cooks spoil
7 the stew. So it becomes unwieldy. And then we become
8 prone as landowner to having the CTAG hijacked by other
9 people for political reasons in dealing with their land
10 claims negotiations with the Government of Canada. And
11 we are mindful to always protect and act in the
12 interests of the Kitikmeot Inuit. That's what we do.
13 We are the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. So we have to
14 defend our interests.

15 So that's what it comes down to. It's -- it's the
16 law we're abiding by; it's our decisions that we make
17 as management in the department of land. And so that's
18 why we select who we want on it and for what purpose
19 that meets our needs.

20 THE CHAIR: Cambridge Bay.

21 P. EVALIK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 Peter Evalik, EHTO, Cambridge Bay.

23 Thank you for that response, John. When you
24 mentioned that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association is there
25 for the Kitikmeot Inuit, we are Kitikmeot Inuits here
26 sitting at this table as well.

1 And then you mentioned that, you know, the
2 Kitikmeot Inuit Association wants to appoint biologists
3 who work with biologists from B2Gold, biologists who
4 work from the federal government. In the regional
5 wildlife organization, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife
6 Board, which many of my -- many -- many of these people
7 up here are part of this board, we have a biologist as
8 well.

9 Can -- can not the -- at least, very least, the
10 KRWB or, you know, you just don't want -- you're saying
11 you don't want to be hijacked from anybody else. Do
12 you think these Kitikmeot Inuit up here at this table
13 are going to hijack anything from the Kitikmeot Inuit
14 Association? I don't think so.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

17 Would you like to respond to that or no?

18 J. ROESCH: I've stated our position.
19 It's our position as an organization. Because, as I
20 said, we created CTAG in conjunction with the proponent
21 and the Government of Nunavut, and it's for a
22 particular purpose.

23 THE CHAIR: Cambridge Bay.

24 P. EVALIK: Thank you Mr. Chair. That's
25 all I have. Thank you very much.

26 THE CHAIR: Kugluktuk.

1 Questions by Community Representatives for
2 Kugluktuk (Roundtable)

3 A. DUMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Amanda Dumond, Kugluktuk HTO. I'm the manager there.

5 I think being one of the last ones to ask
6 questions, I think all of my questions and comments
7 were addressed earlier through this process but also
8 through other engagements and meetings with the
9 proponents.

10 I -- I want to go back to the caribou technical
11 advisory group. John from Kitikmeot Inuit Association
12 talked about the Nunavut Agreement, but the hunters and
13 trappers organizations are also a part of that. So
14 when it comes to caribou, Kugluktuk has made it a
15 mission to be involved in every -- pretty much every
16 group, every -- every meeting because of the
17 acknowledged decline of most of our herds.

18 I think a lot of our concern regarding this --
19 this technical group is that we are not getting the
20 information back, and we're not sure what information
21 is being shared from the community information side.
22 We acknowledge that Kitikmeot Inuit Association is the
23 landowner, but there's so much out there that is not
24 part of Inuit-owned lands, and that's why we are at the
25 table today.

26 I just want to also echo what Peter Evalik had

1 said regarding monitoring and wildlife ecosystems and
2 the importance of it. Infrastructure studies often
3 differ from other organizational studies, so it's
4 really amazing to know and to hear, again, all of the
5 inspections and everything that's -- that's going on at
6 the site. I'm just going to leave it at that.

7 Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I didn't hear a
9 question out of that. Thank you.

10 Omingmaktok.

11 Questions by Community Representatives for
12 Omingmaktok (Roundtable)

13 P. KAPOLAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 All my questions and concerns already have been
15 answered, so I won't repeat them.

16 I just got one question regarding your wind
17 turbines. Will they all have individual transmission
18 lines to the batteries or just one continuous line?
19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

21 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 Merle Keefe.

23 I'm going to ask my colleague Dennis Stansbury to
24 answer Peter's question. Thank you.

25 D. STANSBURY: Mr. Chairman,

26 Dennis Stansbury, B2Gold.

1 We are looking at the detailed engineering on
2 these right now. We're looking at the optimum voltages
3 to produce power at. If we actually -- if the wind
4 turbines actually produce power at a bit higher
5 voltage, something like 13,800, then what we can do is
6 we can bunch -- like, you can take three of the towers
7 possibly and bring them in on a single line. So it
8 would -- you wouldn't have 12 lines coming in; you may
9 only have 4 lines coming in. Those details are being
10 worked on now. And then to -- to -- to the transformer
11 which steps the power down for -- for the batteries and
12 for the rest of the plant to use.

13 So -- so that work is ongoing, but we are looking
14 at ways to try to streamline it and to try to minimize
15 the -- the amount of lines that -- that get laid beside
16 the road and -- and covered.

17 Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Omingmaktok.

19 P. KAPOLAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry.
20 I forgot to mention. My name is Peter Kapolak,
21 Omingmaktok HTO.

22 That's all the questions I have. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Kingaok, Bathurst Inlet.

24 Questions by Community Representatives for
25 Kingaok (Roundtable)

26 A. ROCHE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Anthony

1 Roche of Burnside Hunters and Trappers.

2 Over the past eight years, every year, I spend
3 about three to six months harvesting everything in
4 Bathurst Inlet. Last year, along with my family, we
5 chose to -- four months to harvest our favorite source
6 of meat. Our oral history as far back as 130 years
7 tells us that our ancestors have also harvested this
8 meat. And I'm wondering how everyone here has not
9 mentioned moose once.

10 Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you. B2Gold.

12 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

14 If I may ask, can we please pull up the
15 atmospheric and terrestrial presentation and advance to
16 Slide 21, please. It's titled "Avoidance of Wildlife
17 Areas Identified By IQ and TK".

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle Keefe with B2Gold.

19 And thank you, Anthony, for your question. On the
20 screen, you'll see a map of B2Gold's winter ice road
21 connecting the Goose Lake and the south where the
22 proposed wind turbines are located. Following the
23 winter ice road north, you have the marine laydown
24 area.

25 During the original project application, the mine
26 application, there was an area identified close to the

1 marine laydown area just east -- or -- sorry -- west of
2 southern Bathurst Inlet that traditionally was an area
3 that was important for moose hunting. When we learned
4 this, we redesigned the winter ice road to avoid that
5 area.

6 So through traditional knowledge, it was shared
7 with us that that was an important area for winter --
8 for moose hunting, so we actually redesigned our winter
9 ice road to avoid that area.

10 Additionally, when there is traffic along the
11 winter ice road, we have mitigation measures, wildlife
12 mitigation measures in place for that trucking. If
13 they encounter wildlife, they are to stop. And that
14 includes moose.

15 So we have measures in place within the area and
16 within the trucking to stop if they encounter wildlife,
17 and we have redesigned our road to avoid areas that
18 were identified through traditional knowledge as
19 important for moose hunting.

20 Thank you. Quana, Anthony.

21 THE CHAIR: Kingaok.

22 A. ROCHE: I appreciate your answer.

23 Thank you.

24 Just to be clear as one of the only people who
25 hunts moose full-time down in Bathurst Inlet, moose are
26 all over Bathurst Inlet in its entirety, and I do hunt

1 it all over the place, so your one location doesn't cut
2 it. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

4 We will now break for dinner and continue our
5 community roundtable into our evening session starting
6 at 6:30 and ending at 9. When we come back, we will
7 continue with questions from the community
8 representatives from the Kitikmeot communities and
9 members of the public to B2Gold and registered
10 intervenors. See you at 6:30.

11 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 6:30 PM)

12 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 6:30 PM)

13 Opening Remarks

14 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everybody.

15 Back to the continuation of the Nunavut Impact
16 Review Board's public hearing in relation to the
17 assessment of B2Gold's Back River energy proposal.

18 For those of you who don't know me, I'm Albert
19 Ehaloak, and I'm the vice chair of the Nunavut Impact
20 Review Board, and I am chairing this public hearing.

21 Before I move to introduce the Board and all the
22 participants in this public hearing, I want everyone to
23 know that Inuktitut interpretation of the proceedings
24 is being provided through receivers that are available
25 from the sign-in table, and the receivers are set to --
26 Channel 1 is the floor, Channel 2 is English, Channel 3

1 is Inuktitut.

2 If you are having trouble hearing in the
3 proceedings, please see our technical support, Ryan
4 Dempster from PIDO, at the side of the room.

5 To ensure we have an accurate record of
6 participation in the public hearing, please sign in at
7 the table as you enter the hall.

8 With me today are my fellow board members. We are
9 the decision-makers for this assessment. I will now
10 turn over the microphone for them to introduce
11 themselves in order starting from the far end of the
12 table.

13 Guy.

14 G. ALIKUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 I am Guy Alikut. Also, I've been a board member
16 for a total of 13 years, and I'm also the
17 secretary-treasurer for the Nunavut Impact Review
18 Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 P. KUSUGAK: Peter Kusugak, board member
20 first term. Thank you.

21 C. EMRICK: Good evening. Catherine
22 Emrick. This is my sixth year with the Nunavut Impact
23 Review Board. My home is in Calgary, and it's a
24 pleasure to be in Cambridge Bay with you. Thank you.

25 P. OMINGMAKYOK: I'm Phillip Kadlun, a Nunavut
26 Impact Review Board member, and I'm from Kugluktuk.

1 H. OHOKANNOAK: I'm Henry Ohokannoak. I'm
2 originally from Cambridge Bay. I've been -- I've been
3 on the Board since 2000. I've -- in the past, I have
4 always been a vice chair, and I have also been a
5 secretary-treasurer in the past. Thank you.

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

13 During the technical session of this public
14 hearing which we completed earlier today, the Board
15 heard from the following parties who remain available
16 to answer questions during the community round table:
17 B2Gold, the proponent; intervenors are Nunavut
18 Tunngavik Incorporated, Kitikmeot Inuit Association,
19 Government of Nunavut, Government of the Northwest
20 Territories, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
21 Affairs Canada, Health Canada, Transport Canada.

22 Tonight is the continuation of the community
23 roundtable session of the public hearing, and during
24 our time here tonight, the Board will be continuing
25 with questions from the community representatives from
26 the Kitikmeot communities, who are sitting around the

1 table, and members of the public to B2Gold and the
2 intervenors.

3 For the members of the public who want to ask
4 questions to the proponent or the intervenors, please
5 provide your name to the NIRB staff at the table as you
6 enter the room, and they will let me know you would
7 like to speak. We will do our best to hear from
8 everyone who wants to speak, but please be patient with
9 us as we work through our speaking order.

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

16 Around the table, are there any additional
17 questions or comments from the community
18 representatives from the Kitikmeot communities?

19 Kugaaruk.

20 Questions by Community Representatives for Kugaaruk
21 (Roundtable)

22 C. NINGARK: I'm Celine Ningark, and I am
23 representing my community of Kugaaruk. I am
24 representing the CEC, the community enrolment
25 committee.

26 I don't have that many questions. Yesterday Guy

1 Alikut -- I heard him mentioning about the youth. We
2 have to think about our youth and their future because
3 today we need to ensure that food security is here for
4 us and our future and -- because we don't have
5 greenhouses here to grow food and vegetables.

6 So as Inuit, we're sitting here. We're here, and
7 it's because our parents and our grandparents raised us
8 on country food. I truly believe what Guy Alikut said
9 yesterday. We need to wake up our -- our youth.

10 All animals, irregardless of the size of wildlife,
11 some have tendencies to be more timid, and they have
12 very good sensory perception, and, like I said, they
13 can -- they can smell from great distances, and we know
14 that through traditional knowledge.

15 And as of today, we hear and -- and -- and we can
16 see forest fire smoke migrate up north, and we're
17 seeing different birds coming up north as well as a
18 result of the forest fire smoke, and we are seeing more
19 and more different insects. We are also seeing birds
20 of various types that are coming up further north.

21 We have been raised by country food. I want to
22 also say this has been a concern by our Elders because
23 when prospecting and -- when our -- our land started to
24 get excavated, there are things that are starting to
25 emerge from the ground.

26 One -- one time when we were having our community

1 cleanup -- the plastic bags, when they are submerged in
2 water for a certain amount of time, they become smelly.
3 I think it was last year the hamlet -- I had mentioned
4 that to the hamlet. We have a river very close by our
5 community that has fish, and they all go up river to
6 spawn. The edge -- the edge of our community, like,
7 the seashore, we -- we -- I wanted to have a seashore
8 cleanup to ensure that the fish are not surrounded by
9 pollution.

10 There is a lot of debris that goes into our
11 shores, and then they start to biodegrade over time,
12 and I just wanted to mention that. Yes, there's that
13 concern about -- about -- we -- we need to ensure that
14 our land remains pristine as much as possible, and as
15 an Elder, I wanted to raise that -- those concerns
16 about wildlife because that's what we survive on.
17 That's what we eat on a daily basis. And food
18 security -- insecurity is a big thing up here, and the
19 cost of groceries has gone sky-high. So I think we
20 need to ensure that the wildlife that we live on is --
21 is protected.

22 And there's -- there's always mention about
23 caribou. There's other wildlife besides caribou.
24 There's foxes, wolves. Those are part of our -- our
25 economy and what we -- what we have up here.

26 And thank you very much for allowing me to speak

1 my piece. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

3 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
4 Keefe, B2Gold.

5 And thank you, Celine, for your comments. We
6 certainly echo the importance of providing
7 opportunities to youth. An Inuit-owned firm has been
8 engaged to partner and develop and construct the
9 renewable energy centre, if approved, and this will
10 ensure that economic benefits from the energy centre
11 are provided to Kitikmeot Inuit.

12 Throughout the application creation and throughout
13 monitoring efforts, we do our best, and we always
14 incorporate youth as well as Elders and women and land
15 users. We have what's called "career development
16 plans" at our project. That's where we take Inuit and
17 provide them with a clear path on how to move up and
18 take on more senior management positions.

19 For example, I have an Inuk that works for me at
20 site in the environmental department. He's currently
21 an environmental coordinator. He's gone through the
22 career development plan, and he's just been promoted to
23 an environmental supervisor.

24 Cleanup and keeping the mine site clean is
25 something you also mentioned, and you talked about
26 getting out and picking things up. Every year at our

1 mine sites when the snow melts, all the departments
2 ramp down their activities. They pick up garbage bags,
3 and they walk out, and they pick up anything that may
4 not have been visible when there was snow after it
5 melts. So we stop activities and walk around and clean
6 up anything.

7 And in terms of wildlife, yes, a lot of the
8 conversation has been focused on caribou and birds as
9 it relates to the energy centre because those are the
10 concerns that we heard over the last five years as
11 we've been engaging. However, our wildlife mitigation
12 and monitoring plan does not just apply to caribou. It
13 applies to all of the other wildlife, muskox, arctic
14 wolves, wolverines, fox, hare, et cetera.

15 Quana. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

17 B. IMMINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Barnaby Immingark.

19 You are planning to erect 13 wind turbines, and
20 each ones are not very cheap at all, like, a fair
21 amount, anywhere between 3 to 5 million. And then
22 especially up north, it costs a lot more to do
23 construction work. So the amount you're spending,
24 like, it's massive for 13 turbines. And for all that,
25 do you need all that power?

26 For each, it's, like, 4, 4.5 megawatts, so that's

1 quite a bit of power for each turbines. Why so many in
2 vast space of the land? Like -- and the life span is
3 only, like, 15, 20 years for -- for each turbines. So
4 is it well worth spending that -- the money for 13?

5 I have one more after that.

6 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

7 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
8 Keefe, B2Gold.

9 And thank you, Barnaby, for your question. And --
10 and the short answer is, yes, we do. The -- the
11 13 turbines will allow us to reduce our fuel
12 consumption significantly. Yes, it is costly to bring
13 turbines to the project site, but we think that
14 reducing the amount of emissions that the project will
15 generate, the amount of exhaust from the generators,
16 the reduction in those emissions -- plus we are going
17 to also save the cost of bringing and purchasing the
18 fuel that we would normally need, as you mentioned,
19 over those 15 years.

20 So, yes, the -- the turbines, they're not cheap,
21 and -- and it is a big commitment to purchase them and
22 ship them and truck them down to the site. But you
23 have to remember that by doing that, there is a large
24 amount of fuel that we will not have to purchase and
25 ship and truck down to site as well, so we will save
26 those costs, and we will also save the greenhouse gas

1 emissions that we would've produced from burning that
2 fuel.

3 So over the life of the mine, it actually reduces
4 the amount of money B2Gold would need to spend, and it
5 reduces the amount of fuel that we will burn.

6 Thank you. Quana, Burnaby.

7 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

8 B. IMMINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Burnaby
9 Immingark, HTO Kugaaruk.

10 Thanks for the reply, B2.

11 NIRB, my next question is to B2, and it might
12 involve Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

13 On the west side of Kitikmeot, there are fund --
14 they get fundings in their communities, and over on the
15 east side, we don't see nothing, like, between
16 Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, and Gjoa Haven. Like, are you guys
17 providing fundings or planning to provide fundings on
18 the -- like, for Inuit projects or anything else?

19 That's my question. Qujannamiik.

20 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

21 J. EETOOLOOK: James Eetoolook, Kitikmeot
22 Inuit Association.

23 I'll try and -- I'll try and answer these
24 questions. I may not properly answer it, but I just
25 came, and I just -- my first term in December with KIA,
26 and we haven't met yet. I haven't been -- I have been

1 sworn in, but I haven't been in an official meeting
2 yet. However, I'm -- what I am aware of is about
3 the -- with the KIA's -- with the Kitikmeot Inuit. It
4 has set some -- for some areas, it has some -- set some
5 fundings for some (NO ENGLISH FEED) December. We had
6 polishing procedures works up. That's about it. I
7 haven't been to the meeting yet, a board meeting, and
8 I -- I cannot answer the -- his questions, and -- and
9 I -- I'm still new to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

10 But since -- since I'm here, I'll -- I'll consult
11 with the staff and see what is -- has been spent in
12 order to give funding to the -- to the -- to the -- to
13 the communities. I think all the communities -- five
14 communities are treated the same way, and since the --
15 the mine is closer to Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay,
16 there's probably some -- a bit more funding has been
17 allocated because they have to find ways to do the
18 presentation regarding wildlife environment. And, you
19 know, everywhere about this mine being proposed, the
20 closest communities are given more -- more attention
21 even though the whole region is looked at.

22 And I'm sorry I cannot answer his question now,
23 but I can -- you know, I can follow it up with -- with
24 the staff of Kitikmeot Inuit Association, if that is
25 okay.

26 THE CHAIR:

B2Gold.

1 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
2 Keefe, B2Gold.

3 And thank you, again, Barnaby. Our -- we have
4 multiple programs and policies to provide to the
5 communities. They do not distinguish based on the
6 communities. If Taloyoak or Kugaaruk has something
7 that they want or wish to see advanced, please take it
8 to us, B2Gold, and we'd be very happy to have the
9 conversation.

10 We have just hired two new Inuit coordinators that
11 are working at site, and they are there to support
12 Inuit. They're from Gjoa Haven. We have strong --
13 we've always had strong employment numbers from Gjoa
14 Haven. We have Inuit working for us from all five
15 Kitikmeot communities. I know that we're trying to get
16 more from Taloyoak and Kugaaruk. But, again, our
17 community investment plan, our Kitikmeot wealth
18 creation program, our donations policy, they do not
19 distinguish based on community.

20 So, please, if there is something that you wish to
21 discuss with B2Gold and our community engagement team,
22 we'd be very happy to have that conversation.

23 Thank you. Quana.

24 THE CHAIR: Kugaaruk.

25 B. IMMINGARK: Qujannamiik, Ihivautaq.

26 Barnaby Immingark.

1 At this time, I don't have further questions.

2 Qujannamiik.

3 THE CHAIR: Taloyoak.

4 Questions by Community Representatives for Taloyoak
5 (Roundtable)

6 M. ALEEKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Michael
7 Aleekee, CBC (NO ENGLISH FEED).

8 Thank you.

9 J. ASHEVAK: Joe Ashevak, Taloyoak HTO
10 board member.

11 I just want to echo what Barnaby was saying about
12 the eastern Kitikmeot. We've always been left out in
13 Kitikmeot region. Like the guy from B2Gold said,
14 there's less workers at the mine in eastern Kitikmeot
15 compared with western Kitikmeot. That's why we always
16 said east and west Kitikmeot, but they don't want to
17 hear east and west. But in the east, we've -- we've
18 always been left out from Kitikmeot Inuit Association
19 job-wise. I think with this -- with this devolution,
20 somebody is going to have to start doing projects and
21 do -- and do more of training on the job, and just like
22 western Kitikmeot, we're looking forward to the future
23 as well in east Kitikmeot.

24 I just wanted to echo what -- what Barnaby was
25 saying. We're being left out, and it's a fact, and
26 nobody wants to hear about it. We want upgrading to do

1 training on the job 'cause there's too many -- too --
2 too -- too many of our young people that are willing to
3 work but can't find -- find jobs. So I think we should
4 get back to training on the job with the -- with the
5 local businesses and mines in Kitikmeot.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

8 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Merle
9 Keefe, B2Gold.

10 And thank you, Joe. We're doing a community tour,
11 a job fair in June of this year. We'll be coming to
12 all the Kitikmeot communities, including Taloyoak. We
13 will bring our human resources team which will be there
14 just to help Inuit create resumes and find them a job.

15 So I hope -- and I'll be there -- that we see a
16 strong turnout when we come to Taloyoak because we will
17 be there ready to help and create the resumes so that
18 they can have an opportunity to come to our mine and
19 work and receive training and even potentially work
20 their way up.

21 I cannot speak for the Kitikmeot Inuit
22 Association. I can speak for B2Gold, and we do not
23 treat the eastern Kitikmeot communities any different
24 than the western, and I look forward to coming to
25 Taloyoak in -- in June as part of the job fair.

26 Thank you. Quana.

1 THE CHAIR: Any further questions,
2 Taloyoak? Joe, before you start, I have KIA.

3 J. ROESCH: This is John Roesch for the
4 Kitikmeot Inuit Association. I want to point out that
5 under our IIBA with B2Gold Nunavut, there is an IIBA
6 implementation committee where two members of KIA meet
7 with two members of B2Gold to set Inuit employment
8 targets and targets for recruiting and tracking from
9 all Inuit communities. And the IIBA manager, Skye
10 Lacroix, is on the implementation community --
11 committee -- implementation committee, and the IIBA
12 manager must meet with Inuit who are hired by B2Gold.

13 And I also point out that when it comes to funding
14 for projects, there's various funding programs
15 available through the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.
16 There is business development. This is provided under
17 the stewardship of Derek Elias, and there's another
18 program for funding like crafts, and then we have
19 cultural programs which are provided to all
20 communities, and we provide, also, training assistance
21 or prework -- pre-employment training, and our
22 community liaison officers are to provide support in
23 all community, to all Inuit in applying for jobs at
24 B2Gold or anywhere else, and to assist them in resume
25 writing. That -- that exists.

26 And so when people talk about funding, there's a

1 variety of programs KIA has in its different
2 departments that provide this, and the lands department
3 is the department that generates revenue to fund all
4 these programs because to our IIBA, we get every year a
5 payment of over a million dollars for land access.
6 Plus we're going to get a net smelter royalty of
7 1 percent that goes to KIA. And this is to sustain KIA
8 and to sustain its programs that it provides to
9 Kitikmeot Inuit. So there are programs, and these
10 programs are available to all communities.

11 And for project-specific employment, the IIBA
12 manager has to go and visit all these communities too,
13 because I had been acting IIBA manager, and I did that
14 in addition to being the senior Hope Bay project
15 officer, and being on the implementation committee,
16 like with Hope Bay, we set targets, and we track who is
17 being employed from where.

18 So that's being done for the B2Gold Nunavut
19 project, the Back River project, and the IIBA manager
20 who is on this committee is responsible for that. So
21 that -- that's being covered, and you can simply bring
22 your concerns about employment directly to her.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

25 Taloyoak.

26 J. ASHEVAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Joe

1 Ashevak, Taloyoak hunters and trappers organization.

2 I don't know. It's, like, when I said east --
3 east and west Kitikmeot, we've always been treated as
4 second-class people in the eastern -- eastern
5 Kitikmeot, and it's true, and we're getting fed up.
6 It's like there's a border wall between east and west
7 of Kitikmeot. We -- we don't get nothing over in the
8 east when -- when the west side of Kitikmeot is
9 profiting from KIA, B2Gold gold -- gold mines in the
10 Kitikmeot.

11 We just recently had KIA elections, and we haven't
12 seen -- seen the KIA president after the elections in
13 our hometown. Our local HTO wrote a letter to KIA for
14 them to visit us and discuss these kind of matters, and
15 still we haven't been visited by KIA to talk about the
16 future jobs and programs, and all the while we're being
17 told that by some KIA members that east -- west
18 Kitikmeot is -- how do you call it -- benefitting from
19 KIA financially, and here in -- in east Kitikmeot we've
20 got nothing.

21 And talking about visiting our communities in east
22 Kitikmeot, don't come and visit us in springtime.
23 Everybody is out hunting and fishing. Springtime only
24 comes once a year. June, July, August everybody is out
25 gathering food for winter supplies. So springtime is
26 not a good time for anybody to visit in the communities

1 in the Kitikmeot region. And I have to point that out
2 because a lot of times we get people coming into our
3 communities in springtime when everybody is out hunting
4 and fishing, drying fish and meat for winter supplies,
5 and that is not a good time. Another time is good.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

8 Gjoa Haven.

9 Questions by Community Representatives for Gjoa Haven
10 (Roundtable)

11 P. AKKIKUNGNAK: I'm Peter Akkikungnak. I'm
12 from Gjoa Haven representing the hamlet.

13 We are helping, and we're trying to encourage our
14 community. I want to hear more about jobs being opened
15 to our youth. We want the -- our economy to -- to grow
16 in our community. There's money to be made, so I am
17 very pleased to see that the youth in our community are
18 being encouraged to apply for jobs. So that's a very
19 good opportunity for them.

20 Yes, we would like to see -- yes, we'd like to see
21 companies and associations come to our communities
22 other than springtime because we're out harvesting for
23 our -- our -- our winters. Us Inuit, we are at home in
24 the wintertime, and for those that are -- those of us
25 that are becoming Elders. So a lot of us, once the
26 dark season is -- has -- has ended and we have 24-hour

1 daylight, we go out -- out on the land to do our
2 harvesting. It's better for our -- our well-being and
3 our morale.

4 We don't have too many mechanics in our
5 communities as well, and we don't have Class 4
6 engineers or -- or drivers. There's Class 4 and 5 jobs
7 available, but we also have to abide by licences. So
8 that's a -- almost like a discouragement for people to
9 apply for those type jobs like heavy equipment jobs.

10 As Joe was saying, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and
11 Kugaaruk, we are not given the same equal opportunity
12 to -- for funding. So that's not good for our
13 communities. It's good that there's funding, but we
14 don't get any of it. We are treated like third-class
15 citizens. For those of us that are on the hamlet's --
16 hamlet councils, we need to see more jobs available to
17 our communities, more job opportunities, more career
18 opportunities.

19 On the topic of caribou, we hear that the
20 different herds are declining. It's because -- it's
21 not only because of overhunting. It's also because
22 there's predators out there that -- that -- that are --
23 are -- are some of the cause. I think there's -- we --
24 that we could maybe help with the -- maybe a wolf cull
25 or -- and I know there's organizations that are
26 against -- against culls. So we'd like to see CIRNAC,

1 NTI, KIA -- I think there should be more monitoring of
2 these predators so that the -- there's a population
3 increase on the caribou herds.

4 Thank you. It's not -- it's not too much of a
5 question but more of a comment. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

7 If there are any intervenors that would like to
8 ask a question, just come up and take your seat.

9 Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

10 Kitikmeot Inuit Association Questions B2Gold
11 Corporation

12 J. EETOOLOOK: Qujannamiik, Ihivautaq. Thank
13 you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief comment.

14 When B2Gold came to our communities and they spoke
15 to us, they did a presentation -- a presentation on
16 their most-recent project proposal. Yes, there -- not
17 too many people attend the -- when there's community
18 consultations in our communities, especially during the
19 springtime, especially for the three eastern
20 communities in our region. There was the mining --
21 there's -- there was a mine site, Lupin and then
22 Eldorado in the Northwest Territories and also
23 Nanisivik mine and Little -- and then after that,
24 Little Cornwallis. There was also -- that -- that --
25 that was mined.

26 It's -- they were totally -- they weren't against

1 mining, but they had concerns. So ever since -- I want
2 to -- my people to know if there's going to be a
3 mine -- a project proposal, there's always going to be
4 concerns even up to -- right up to today. For those --
5 there's three communities, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, and Gjoa
6 Haven, that we -- we always see. We have television
7 ads. We see job advertisements on computers about the
8 possibility of mines opening.

9 There are ways. There are career development
10 officers at our KIA office that can help with filling
11 out applications. The -- our region on Kitikmeot east,
12 it's -- they -- they are always more concerned about
13 project proposals. So they're -- the east mines are
14 situated more on Kitikmeot west side, so they have less
15 concerns. There are more benefits. There are more job
16 opportunities. It's going to be like that again
17 once -- once B2 project gets running.

18 KIA always has training opportunities, and they
19 have regular board meetings. In October, they had
20 their financial meeting recently. It's always after --
21 once -- once someone gets elected, there are some board
22 members that really don't report to their communities
23 after what KIA is -- is doing for their people. So
24 reporting is very essential.

25 There are also talks about benefits directly to
26 Inuit, but ever since mining started coming up north,

1 this has always been a big concern. It's -- yes, it's
2 our land, but there are job opportunities, and that's
3 part of the benefits. The older generation at the time
4 when mining first started, they didn't -- they were
5 totally against mining development, but it's -- it's --
6 it's right up to today, it's all -- there's still
7 concerns. There are always going to be pros and cons
8 to it. There are going to be people that are going to
9 be opposed to mining.

10 Like, as Peter was saying, there are -- there are
11 pros. If there's environmental assessment, there's
12 reviews, but if terms and conditions aren't followed,
13 then that would be -- that -- that wouldn't be good.
14 Kitikmeot Inuit Association can see it as a -- as a
15 pro. In 1975, I'm -- I'm a (NO ENGLISH FEED) in 1975.
16 I follow it right to this day, and I go back as a -- as
17 a board member last election in December.

18 You know, we have a lot of work to do, and I think
19 the Kitikmeot Inuit Association have to go back where
20 they will be before, supported by all people, and I
21 think -- I think sometimes without too much
22 communication from board of directors, it creates a --
23 I would say it creates a problem between their
24 communities and the organization that -- that is
25 supposed to represent them.

26 And I think we're going to work towards that, make

1 sure everybody gets the actual communication, what's --
2 what's going on with the organization and what's going
3 on with the mining -- mining -- mining people, and not
4 only the mining people, any project in the north that
5 can be created to -- to create jobs.

6 The -- the thing is there. There's a staff in --
7 in KIA that can help any individual with their
8 applications. If they don't know how to apply, there
9 is a person going to the communities to help with the
10 application forms, and -- and, you know, these kind of
11 things do come up, and we think -- we think they're not
12 doing enough jobs. It's probably true in some cases,
13 but there's something there that -- to us as the
14 individuals, if they want work within the industry,
15 like, such as mining and others.

16 Thank you very much.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

18 Cambridge Bay.

19 P. EVALIK: Peter Evalik, (INUKTITUT
20 SPOKEN) hunters and trappers organization, Cambridge
21 Bay.

22 We have nothing to ask at this time. Thank you.

23 A. GERBRANDT: Angela Gerbrandt from the
24 Municipality of Cambridge Bay.

25 We have no further questions. Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Kugluktuk.

1 A. DUMOND: Amanda Dumond, Kugluktuk HTO.

2 I have nothing further at this time. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Omingmaktok.

4 P. KAPOLAK: Thank you Mr. Chair. Peter
5 Kapolak, Omingmaktok HTO.

6 No more further questions. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Kingaok.

8 Questions by Community Representatives for Kingaok
9 (Roundtable)

10 C. KAPOLAK: Quana, Ihivautaq. Kingaok HTO
11 for Bathurst Inlet, Chair.

12 Quana for giving me this chance to speak to
13 2BGold [sic]. I've been here before. We've been here
14 before, but this is something new. I missed yesterday,
15 and quana for having the evening session, that I'm able
16 to forward my concerns regarding your plan to put in
17 the power windmills.

18 Like everybody else's concerns here that are
19 voiced, it's always the concerns regarding the land,
20 the wildlife, and the possibilities of something going
21 wrong. Any time something goes wrong, you can't
22 replace what goes off in the areas that you're working
23 at and put it back to its pristine's positions that it
24 was before you touched it.

25 But if it means that it's going to save on fuel,
26 it only -- like, up here, we've never had that in

1 Nunavut, so this is something new for everybody, and
2 it's going to take time to adjust to what -- what are
3 the practices of what happens in the south. The only
4 issue and concern that I have are the mess on the land,
5 the cleanup after it's all done. And, like, the rest
6 of the east community's concerns are after 20 years,
7 what do you do with all that equipment?

8 I'm grateful that you guys are close to where we
9 are living because of what happened last summer where
10 we all faced the forest fires, and to this day, the
11 government -- I met them with them last week
12 indicating -- and they labelled us as, Oh, you're the
13 one from the tundra fire.

14 So it's been really, really dry for the last few
15 years. We haven't had any rain in the last few years.
16 Like, probably just two days last summer was our rain,
17 and we don't have the equipment to do tundra fires in
18 our areas because all our willows are as tall as the
19 Billiken. People don't believe that unless they see it
20 for themselves. Like, we have a lot of valleys in
21 Kingaok, and they're about that tall from previous
22 moist years that we used to have. But then these days
23 it's so dry that we ended up with a tundra fire.

24 And to have 2BGold MLA site (INDISCERNIBLE) from
25 us no matter how smokey it was, we were able to make it
26 with all our four boats and spent the night there until

1 they figure out how else we're going to deal with this
2 tundra fire, and we stayed at the camp.

3 I know there's concerns voiced throughout these
4 meetings regarding anything that is new, whereas before
5 we have people who work in those mine sites that are
6 from the communities, and rather than hear from the
7 company themselves, things that happen, we hear it from
8 the people that work there. And then, you know, we
9 voice our concerns towards the company, and that's how
10 we work with them.

11 I just hope that if anything like this in the
12 future continues, it's a possibility for -- you know,
13 we're almost near retirement where we could move home,
14 and it's the only place that we could move home. For
15 us to move home is the plan that we had to have in
16 place for a long time, but, you know, there's risks in
17 place. There's health issues in place. And having
18 this beside Kingaok is something that is good in a way
19 where we can rely on that, but then, you know, there's
20 always risks like everybody else said.

21 As long as there's open contact and communication
22 with 2BGold or whatever future mining company that
23 would take over -- and we're okay with that as long as
24 there's open line in communication with almost anything
25 that happens. Then we -- we're here. Like, we know
26 the land. Our families know the land in and out of it,

1 all the way -- from Contoywto Lake all the way up here,
2 and any advice you would like to hear from us, then
3 we're always able to email through Anthony. Then he
4 can communicate that to us.

5 The biggest one is -- are things that we hear are
6 not okay. Then that kind of sets off things where the
7 communication is not there, so -- for the windmill that
8 you guys are planning to put in place, and we would
9 like this communication to be open as much as you guys
10 can give us that. (INUKTITUT SPOKEN).

11 Quana.

12 THE CHAIR: B2Gold.

13 M. KEEFE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I'm
14 Merle Keefe, B2Gold.

15 And thank you very much, Connie. Our relationship
16 from the Back River project, whether it's Sabina or
17 B2Gold, with your community and your family as well as
18 Omingmaktok are something that we deeply respect, and
19 those lines of communication are something that we
20 strive to keep open. And we hear you, and we'll do our
21 best to keep them open.

22 You know, due to that deep level of respect -- you
23 mentioned the wildfires. I was actually on-site. That
24 was my helicopter -- not mine, but it was for my
25 environmental programs, and the decision to send it up
26 to help fight that fire was the easiest decision I

1 made. And, yeah, just I really respect the
2 relationship there, and we'll definitely work to keep
3 those lines of communication open.

4 Thank you. Quana.

5 THE CHAIR: Are there any members from the
6 public from Cambridge Bay that would like to ask any
7 questions?

8 There's nothing. That concludes Day 2 of our
9 public hearing. Thank you all for your contributions
10 to a productive day. We'll be meeting back here at
11 9 AM for the final day of the public hearing, and we'll
12 be continuing with the community roundtable. We'll see
13 you tomorrow morning. Before you leave, please return
14 to -- your headsets to the front desk, and then we'll
15 prepare for a door prize.

16 Everybody ready? 726, 724. Sorry. Those are the
17 last three numbers. 728.

18 Goodnight, everyone. We'll see you in the
19 morning, 9 AM.

20

21 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9:00 AM, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:

2

3 We, Andres Vidal and Derek Lopez, certify that the
4 foregoing pages are a complete and accurate transcript
5 of the proceedings taken down by us in shorthand and
6 transcribed from our shorthand notes to the best of our
7 skill and ability.

8 Dated at the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta,
9 this 10th day of March 2024.

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Andres Vidal, CSR(A), RPR, RMR

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Official Court Reporter

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Derek Lopez, CSR(A), RPR

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Official Court Reporter

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