

## Meeting Report on the Issues Scoping Session for Tyhee NWT Corp's Yellowknife Gold Project Environmental Assessment

### Day I

Time of Session: 9:00 am

Date of Session: June 15, 2005

Location: Tungsten Room, Yellowknife Inn

#### *In attendance:*

Hugh Wilson – Tyhee NWT Corp

Dave Levesque – Tyhee NWT Corp

Ken Weagle – EBA (Consultant for Tyhee)

Rick Hoos – EBA (Consultant for Tyhee)

Meighan Andrews – INAC Waters

Jennifer McKay – INAC Environment and Conservation

Emma Pike – INAC Contaminants and Remediation Directorate

Kate Hearn - INAC Contaminants and Remediation Directorate

Kellie Emon – INAC Mineral Development Division

Ken Leishman – INAC Lands Administration

Colleen Roche – GNWT/ENR Env. Protection Division

Graham Veale - GNWT/ENR Env. Protection Division

Paul Cobban – GNWT/ENR Policy Legislation and Communications

Angela Plautz – Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Adrian Paradis – Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Glen MacKay – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Ivy Stone – EC Environmental Protection Branch

Mike Fournier – EC Environmental Protection Branch

Jesse Jasper – Environment Canada

Anne Wilson – Environment Canada

Ernie Watson – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Sheyl Grieve – North Slave Metis Alliance

Alistair MacDonald – MVEIRB

Camellia Zoe Chocolate – MVEIRB

Mary Tapsell – MVEIRB

Patrick Duxbury - MVEIRB

#### Introduction

The meeting commenced at approximately 9:15. Mary Tapsell of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) chaired the meeting. She stated that, among other things, the purpose of the meeting was to help the Board produce a more defined Terms of Reference (TOR) for the environmental assessment (EA), as well as to hopefully reduce some of the Information Request that are typically generated in the EA process.

She noted that such “front-end” meetings are fairly new for the MVEIRB. She also mentioned that a report of the meeting would be placed on the public registry.

Tyhee’s representative, Hugh Wilson, Vice President for Environmental and Community Affairs, gave an overview of the YGP that lasted approximately 15 minutes. A copy of the Tyhee presentation is available on the MVEIRB web site at:

<http://www.mveirb.nt.ca/asp/Results.asp?ProjectID=60&cid=24>

Tyhee’s expectations for the scoping sessions included:

- A discussion of the project components and their interactions with the environment as per the agenda;
- Listening to concerns raised by participants;
- An opportunity for participants to provide the MVEIRB with the information necessary to provide clear and concise Terms of Reference; and
- The development of a defined timeline, which can be moved along expeditiously.

Following the presentation, Mary Tapsell asked for comments from the group on the project description and its adequacy. No comments were made at this time.

#### Discussion on the **Air Quality/Noise** component

Before entering the discussion on Air Quality and Noise, Hugh Wilson briefly discussed the Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) selected for the EA and presented an impact matrix that examined the project components, their interaction linkages to the VECs and possible mitigation measures.

The presentation continued with a discussion of the YGP’s relationship to the air quality/noise environmental component. The following items were noted:

1. It is assumed that the assessment will involve the conducting of an air quality assessment where estimations of all the pollutant sources will be run through a dispersion model. It was noted that Tyhee will be conducting a dispersion modeling exercise.
2. It was stressed that Tyhee needs to ensure that the camp incinerator meets the Canada wide standards for dioxins, furans and mercury.
3. It was noted that a meteorological site has been established that will permit baseline monitoring of the area.
4. It was recommended that Tyhee resolve any potential problems by consulting with government agencies before conducting its dispersion modeling.
5. It was suggested that Tyhee look beyond meeting the minimal air quality standards and commit to keeping clean areas clean. It was stressed however that the company will adhere to the available regulations and standards.

6. A question was asked about how the distribution and quality of noise emissions from the YGP were going to be assessed. It was noted that a noise baseline will be measured this summer.
7. A question regarding how the assessment of noise will be affected by the decision to go to an all weather road to Nicholas Lake was posed.
8. A discussion ensued about how the Nicholas Lake property will be developed and what infrastructure will be required at the site. It was noted that there is an apparent lack of information concerning the Nicholas Lake deposit and the infrastructure to be constructed for it. It was stated that information regarding this is required in order to evaluate the potential impacts.
9. It was noted that arsenic content is higher in the ore at Nicholas Lake than at the Ormsby Zone. The water treatment process would have to be adjusted to address this fact.
10. A small camp may be established at Nicholas Lake to conduct mining there.
11. Using hydroelectric electricity from Bluefish plant was mentioned as an alternative to diesel generated electricity. This could be possibly considered in the feasibility study, but is likely capital cost prohibitive. The existing power line will be remediated by INAC as part of the Discovery Mine reclamation.
12. A discussion ensued about the fate of the airstrip on the Discovery Mine tailings cap. It was noted that INAC has regulatory approval to remove the airstrip as per the approved Reclamation Plan and Land Use Permit for the site. INAC's intention is to close the airstrip in September, 2005. Tyhee has made an application to the MVLWB to amend its current exploration Land Use Permit to provide continued access to the airstrip, as well as to permit land access from the camp site to the airstrip, and to facilitate geotechnical drilling and the installation of thermistors and piezometers in and around the airstrip.
13. Geotechnical drilling for the development of the tailings containment area (TCA), campsite and airstrip are required. Geotechnical drilling has to be done to confirm the adequacy of the existing capped tailings as a continued landing strip, as well as to provide required data for design purposes and inclusion of this in the DAR (TCA dam design etc..)
14. It was noted that, for the purpose of the EA, the Discovery mine airstrip needs to be examined, as well as any alternative airstrip.
15. It was mentioned that INAC Land Administration wouldn't likely lease a contaminated site.
16. The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) has referred the application to legal counsel to ensure that the application isn't in violation of Section 118 of the MVMRA. Tyhee is having their legal counsel consider this as well.
17. It was stressed that it doesn't make sense to develop an esker 3 km away for an airstrip when using the current one appears to be acceptable. It was stated that it didn't seem environmentally reasonable to have a proponent build a new airstrip when the existing one is considered adequate for the continued exploration program, considering the additional impacts and issue associated with a new airstrip that, in this case, would be constructed on an esker.

18. An estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions to be generated by the YGP was requested. This would include placing the development in the context of the NWT's total greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the nation as a whole.
19. Methods to minimize greenhouse gas contributions from the YGP were requested.
20. It was stated that an air quality assessment should include an examination of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> and their potential impact on acid deposition. The predicted emissions should be compared to the standards that are out there. Tyhee's work on the air quality baseline appears to be fulfilling the stated requirements as noted by regulators.

### Discussion on the **Water Quality** component

Hugh Wilson briefly described Tyhee's approach concerning the YGP's potential impacts on water quality. After the presentation, the following points were made:

1. It was stated that as the YGP is in the Yellowknife River water drainage basin, protection of the water source is important, and the potential of the development to impact the city's water quality should be considered. It was noted that the topic of drinking water quality is probably a big picture item for the EA. Aspects such as accidents and malfunctions, or unplanned events at the tailings pond should be considered in this context.
2. It was noted that, with the exception of Round Lake, the water quality in lakes in the YGP study area are typical of Canadian Shield lakes in the region, and in most cases, the water quality parameters are well below CCME guidelines.
3. It was observed that there isn't information or predictions on effluent quality and contingency for treatment if discharge effluent doesn't meet the water licence requirements. Based on experience in Nunavut and NWT, the water quality requirements may be going closer to what is seen in the diamond mine projects. It was mentioned that parameters limits are likely to be a lot more stringent than what the MMER is requiring. Information regarding predictions on the receiving environment concentration, predictions on where chronic toxicity will be examined and details regarding some specified receiving area or mixing zone were requested. The diamond mines were able to establish mixing zones - Diavik – 60m , Snap Lake – 240 m mixing zone for the EA.
4. Residual ammonia by-products from the cyanide destruction process and details of the treatment process were identified as issues of concern.
5. Contingencies to meet better-than-MMER parameters, as well as alternate treatment methods were requested. Tyhee will look at such possibilities, based upon the direction received in the ToR.
6. The question of mixing zones being acceptable to regulators was brought up.
7. It was stated that for the purpose of the EA, what needs to be demonstrated is how far downstream environmental effects are going to be observed, and will that be acceptable based upon site-specific analysis? It was stated that there is a

need for chronic toxicity testing and an indication as to how far chronic toxicity will extend from the discharge point.

8. It was noted that the only regulatory guidance is, at present, limited to the MMER. Mixing zones are not part of the MMER, it is end of pipe.
9. It was stated that lacustrine sediments have elevated concentrations which are available to the food chain. The EA will have to examine sediments. Impacts to benthos in Narrow Lake are a concern. Sediment should be scoped and effects should be described in the DAR.
10. It was mentioned that continued water quality monitoring is occurring, focusing on Winter Lake and Narrow Lake. Tyhee is attempting to address concerns from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and DFO; sediments are being examined.
11. Water usage in Giauque Lake and potential interactions with submerged tailings was mentioned. Hydrometric measurements of Giauque will be considered for the EA. This will include a prediction of any affects that may occur from drawdown. The location of future water intake facilities are still unclear, as is the location of any water pipes.
12. It was stated that potential impacts to the waters of Nicholas Lake were needed to be further considered, particularly from infrastructure associated with any proposed camp site, ore stockpiles or other required infrastructure.
13. It was mentioned that further Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) test work is ongoing and will be provided in the DAR.
14. It was noted that waste rock with ARD potential may be placed underground as backfill. ARD rock storage underground may become an issue for treatment.
15. A conceptual Abandonment and Restoration (A&R) Plan was requested. Particularly important is the adequacy of the plan to minimize long-term impacts from the tailings pond.
16. It was stated that a cap, similar to that which was adopted at Discovery could be possible, but this would not likely be required for the DAR. A conceptual A&R Plan will be part of the DAR, which should address ARD and tailings issues. The A&R Plan should be based on what components are known today, especially what the TCA will look like based on today's estimates of ore reserves. The conceptual A&R Plan will have a cost component to allow the MVLVB to set bonding, based upon what is known today. It was acknowledge that the A&R details are to be determined in the regulatory process, but the basics are needed to make predictions about long-term effects for the EA.
17. An opinion was offered that it isn't known what the project is today, particularly with the TCA specifications. There are questions about the final quantity of ore tailings that should be included in the DAR. Predictions about the quantity of ore to be mined should be made, otherwise another EA process could occur.
18. It was noted that the TCA can hold the amount that is currently predicted. It is difficult to make an A&R plan for unknown quantities of ore that have not yet been discovered. The water licence will probably allow for changes and improvements to the A&R Plan through their renewals - likely based on 5-year terms. The TCA is expandable to potentially deal with reserves that may be later identified.

19. It was identified that if Nicholas Lake turns out to have larger reserves than predicted in the EA, another EA may be required, such as what occurred when the Beartooth and Sabre pits at Ekati were subjected to an additional environmental assessment. However at this stage the EA must examine what is on the table.
20. It was noted that concerns about the water supply from Giauque Lake should be fairly easy to address given the size of the bodies involved and the quantity of water to be used.
21. It was mentioned that the TCA water balance will need to be examined; it was noted that the approach is appropriate, but more information is required to ensure confidence in the system's ability to function and support the discharge. Studies in the upper YK river basin were referred to as being available to help in any modeling.
22. It was stated that alternatives to using Winter Lake as the TCA should be part of the DAR. Using Round Lake in conjunction with tailings paste backfill should be considered. It was noted that alternatives were presented in the PDR, but acknowledged that more detail may be required. However, the use of Round Lake is not considered an option due to its limited size and impacts that it incurs from the Discovery site.
23. It was noted that mine water quality data is limited. While it was noted that the area isn't wet, mine water quality should be part of the assessment.
24. Alternatives to processing gold other than using cyanide were discussed; however there appears to be no practical alternatives at this time.
25. Potential impacts from the use, storage and transportation of petroleum products were mentioned.
26. A discussion of the winter road ensued. Responsibility of the winter road would be through a contractor hired by Tyhee. The road will not be as busy as the Tibbet-Contwoyto road as probably a couple of hundred trucks will use it. Controls on speed and driving behaviours will be imposed by the contractors.
27. It was stated that there are a suite of issues regarding how water is taken from lakes and stream for use in the construction the ice roads.
28. It was stated that the winter road has been in existence for a long time and should not be considered as part of the EA *per se*. Instead activities along the winter road in support of the YGP, as well as any potential expansion or improvements to the road should be the aspects considered in the EA. The DAR will identify how many vehicles, the kinds of vehicles, the frequency of movement and any significant changes or environmental impacts.
29. It was stated that the winter road should be scoped into the EA.
30. It was suggested that the Diavik Mine EA could be considered an example where additional use to a winter road was considered in an EA.
31. It was suggested that a conceptual Spill Contingency Plan, which considers the NWT guidelines, be provided as part of the DAR.
32. It was mentioned that the final location of the tank farms hasn't been finalized. Locations have been identified, but decisions are pending geotechnical work.
33. GNWT regulations regarding waste oil handling were recommended to be considered.

34. Discharge of effluent by INAC-CSO to Round Lake was mentioned. It needs to be considered in the water balance. Cumulative effects of this discharge were also mentioned.

#### Discussion on the **Fish and Fish Habitat** component

Hugh Wilson briefly described Tyhee's approach concerning the YGP's potential impacts to fish and fish habitat. The following points were recorded:

1. It was suggested that alternatives to prevent Winter Lake becoming the TCA were requested to be considered in the DAR, as it is possible that the lake is frequented by fish.
2. It was noted that if Winter Lake is found to be fish habitat or frequented by fish, then it will have to be treated pursuant to Schedule II of the MMER for tailings impoundment areas. This could have major implications on the project timelines – it could take up to a year for the approvals to be processed. Steve Harbicht was suggested as the contact for questions regarding this aspect of the MMER. The approvals however would not affect the environmental assessment timeline. DFO would have to make a decision about the quality of the habitat in regards to Schedule II.
3. It was stated that separate from the MMER, DFO has the authority to approve the use of Winter Lake as the TCA, which will have to consider the economics of using other forms of tailings management versus the value of Winter Lake.
4. It was observed that the results of the baseline data program should enable DFO to judge if Winter Lake is fish habitat.
5. The possibility of DFO concurrently working towards an assessment of Winter Lake as the TCA target, while the larger EA was carried out was noted. There was an indication is that Winter Lake isn't critical fish habitat.
6. Tailings disposal options were discussed, including paste backfill. However concerns exist due to the project timelines and how such as practice could fit into the mine schedule.
7. Paste backfill in combination with use of Round Lake as the TCA was suggested for consideration in the EA.
8. It was suggested that traditional knowledge could be used in the establishment of options for tailings management.
9. Project effects on benthos and other small organisms, as well as proposed mitigation were mentioned. This included how the Environmental Effects Monitoring (of the MMER) would link to the assessment of effects on organisms downstream of the TCA in Narrow Lake.
10. It was stressed that adaptive management needs to be included in response to results of the EEM.
11. It was noted that the EEM will likely satisfy the DFO.
12. It was mentioned that while the EEM could be considered a minimum, there is the precedent for other monitoring requirements to be added in other mining situations. This includes the analysis of phytoplankton and zooplankton as part of mining water licences. Past water licences have included zooplankton and

phytoplankton monitoring. Tyhee was recommended to examine recent mining water licences. It was noted that the water licence is a regulatory instrument. The right of proponents to question water licences that request items that are not backed up by policy or legislation was asserted.

13. It was suggested that the DAR examine the outlet between Narrow Lake and Winter Lake to examine any impacts to riparian zones.
14. It was noted that Tyhee has been examining creeks along the all-weather road alignment.
15. It was suggested that the road routes have not yet been well examined; there are implications on fish habitat along those alignments. All roads, including those linking any quarries or airstrips must all be considered. Options to minimize impacts on fish and fish habitat along the road crossings, such as building bridges or installing culverts should be considered in the DAR.
16. It was asked if there had been detailed scoping of borrow sources, including for clay. It was further suggested that the borrow sources be identified and the associated impacts be considered. Permafrost must be considered as part of this analysis
17. Water impacts from Nicholas Lake, such as water consumption were suggested to be examined in the DAR.
18. It was noted that water withdrawal from Giauque Lake is not likely to be a major concern; however, the intake structure may have some impacts. It was further noted that any infrastructure, which has the potential to impact on fish and fish habitation needs to be considered.

#### Discussion on the **Wildlife** component

Hugh Wilson briefly described Tyhee's approach concerning the YGP's potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat. The following points were recorded:

1. It was noted that the 2005 field program has been modified to examine species of concern to the CWS, including migratory birds, nesting birds and song birds.
2. The effect of dusting on wildlife habitat and vegetation was suggested to be assessed in the DAR.
3. Restricting the access to the TCA by wildlife was identified as an issue.
4. Impact to wildlife, particularly wolves and bears, through the utilization of eskers for aggregate or aircraft landing purposes was suggested for the DAR.
5. It was stated that waste management practices on wildlife need to be considered. It was noted that a wildlife monitoring plan could be developed by Tyhee.
6. It was suggested that Tyhee should attempt to locate their infrastructure in areas already impacted by development, as opposed to using areas that are more untouched.
7. An assessment of the impacts to wildlife from the winter road option versus all-weather road option to Nicholas Lake was suggested.
8. It was requested that the justification of temporal and spatial boundaries for wildlife studies be included in the DAR. Further, the boundaries for assessment should reflect any proposed infrastructure.



9. It was stated that smaller animals, such as migratory birds, should be considered in any wildlife management plan. Such a plan should be comprehensive and not concern itself with only large mammal species.
10. The consideration of Traditional Knowledge (TK) into project development was questioned. The MVEIRB has released TK Guidelines and the Board would likely be interested on how TK will be incorporated into the DAR.
11. The selection of the VECs, as well as further rationale for their selection, was requested. It was mentioned that the VECs have been selected based upon experience that has been gained through several environmental assessments.
12. Consultation with CWS about developing VECs for migratory birds and others species was suggested.
13. It was noted that *Species at Risk* was probably not going to be a major concern for this EA.
14. It was suggested that when examining species of concern, it should include the Species at Risk Act species, as well as COSEWIC and GNWT listed species; best practices suggest that all three lists should be given consideration.
15. It was suggested that the DAR include a quantification of migratory bird habitat loss. Raptors should be considered in such a way as well.
16. A discussion about depicting buffer zones occurred. They could be used to account for indirect effects, particularly in association with migratory routes. Buffer zones could be presented in a map form; however, mapping buffer zones can distort the impacts as the science is inexact.

#### Discussion on the **Vegetation** component

Hugh Wilson briefly described Tyhee's approach concerning the YGP's potential impacts on vegetation. After the presentation the following points were made:

1. The use of ATVs was questioned. It was mentioned that ATVs will be used to access the dam and take samples via existing roads. There is no off-roading intended.
2. It was noted that it would be useful to have inter-connections linking the development activities to wildlife and vegetation, such as particulate impacts on vegetation, or effects on snow cover from deposition.
3. It was stated that re-vegetation of the facility footprint will be looked for in the DAR.
4. It was noted that sometimes re-vegetation is not the best option as plants used to stabilize sites may not fit into the ecology of the region, or they may accumulate metals. Introduction of non-native plant species is a concern that has come up in the past, and is a continuing concern.
5. A native, non-invasive commercial seed mix, supplied from Alberta, is being used to restore the clay pit at Discovery with good results.
6. Rates of re-colonization of disturbed sites by vegetation may be something to consider. There is information regarding the restoration of parts of the Lupin winter road that could be drawn upon.

An open session commenced. The following items were noted:

1. It was noted that cumulative effects are required for examination. This is expected to address how the project will interact with other regional projects. As part of this assessment, the YGP's interaction with the current cumulative effects frameworks being developed (CIMP) should be considered. In particular, the action blueprint for the Slave Geological Province is something to consider.
2. It was suggested that closure and post-closure activities be factored into the cumulative effects assessment.
3. Adequate spatial and temporal boundaries, as well as their rationale, for cumulative effects assessment were suggested.
4. A discussion of cyanide destruction ensued. Cyanide destruction circuits have been developed that help to eliminate cyanide in the tailings. The MMER included gold mines and sets a cyanide discharge at 1 ppm. Technologies such as the Inco SO<sub>2</sub>/AIR process or the Caro's Acid treatment will be employed at the YGP to treat the effluent to MMER standards. It was stated that the final discharge will not be zero, but it will be treated to a level that will be safe to the environment. It was further noted that natural degradation was considered a viable option in the past and worked well at the Lupin Mine. Today's environmental regime requires active treatment.
5. It was noted that public consultation with aboriginal groups, particularly the Yellowknife Dene, will be crucial for this project given the legacy of the Giant and Con Mines. Effects of contamination on caribou will probably be a concern. There is a need to distinguish the YGP from past projects.
6. Some of the main issues will boil down to public perception, particularly around Yellowknife's drinking water.

## **Day 2**

Time of Session: 9:00 am

Date of Session: June 16, 2005

Location: Tungsten Room, Yellowknife Inn

### *In attendance:*

Hugh Wilson – Tyhee NWT Corp

Dave Levesque – Tyhee NWT Corp

Ken Weagle – EBA (Consultant for Tyhee)

Rick Hoos – EBA (Consultant for Tyhee)

Jennifer McKay – INAC Environment and Conservation

Emma Pike – INAC Contaminants and Remediation Directorate

Ken Leishman – INAC Lands Administration

Clint Ambrose – INAC Operations

Malcolm Robb – INAC Minerals

Paul Cobban – GNWT/ENR Policy Legislation and Communications

Angela Plautz – Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Adrian Paradis – Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Glen MacKay – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre  
Ivy Stone – EC Environmental Protection Branch  
Mike Fournier – EC Environmental Protection Branch  
Courtney Chetwynd – City of YK –Economic Development  
Steve Ellis – NWT Treat #8 Tribal Corporation  
Alistair MacDonald – MVEIRB  
Patrick Duxbury - MVEIRB

The meeting commenced at approximately 9:10. Pat Duxbury from MVEIRB chaired the meeting. He briefly summarized the previous days events and discussed the reasons for organizing the scoping sessions.

### **Socio-economics**

Tyhee's representative, Hugh Wilson, gave a short presentation on socio-economic components related to the YGP. The essential points were:

- The project will have approximately 135 workers on site at any one time, 240 workers altogether, working on 2 week in, 2 week out shifts;
- It was noted that there is a preference to hire as many locals as possible, provided they have the appropriate training and qualifications;
- There is a preference to source as much services and supplies from local businesses as possible, albeit within the confines of cost effectiveness and a competitive bid process;
- The development is predicted to likely be positive for the economy, with minimal impacts on the social environment; and
- The company re-iterated its opinion that this is a small gold mine, not a large diamond mine, therefore having a lesser impact on both economy and society.

Pat Duxbury then opened the floor for comments from the group on the socio-economic components.

### **Discussion on the Socio-Economic component**

The following items were noted:

1. A comment was made about where Tyhee envisions the workforce to staff this mine is to be located. There is a current shortage of qualified personnel in the North. This mine would be the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> operating mine in the region at the same time.
2. It was noted that Tyhee is looking at innovative ways to attract a qualified workforce. There is little concern about the ability to access hard rock mining personnel from the North as many who have worked in diamonds have expressed interest in getting back into gold and being closer to home at a smaller mine. Locating personnel for the maintenance side will be more difficult.

3. The Mines Training Society programs were identified as a strong start to creating a more qualified local workforce. These programs are now ongoing. There were some inferences that this is a government, and not a corporate, responsibility.
4. It was noted that accessing human resources from outside of the North will probably be required.
5. Tyhee's role to foster the local population capacity to get and maintain jobs at the YGP was questioned. It was further noted that a major issue for aboriginal people in mining is not just getting jobs, but keeping them and permitting them to move up the ladder within the organization.
6. It was observed that investment in the training of local persons has been short term in nature thus far and has generally not been in the areas of trades or professional skills development. Northern and aboriginal workers are ready for more here.
7. It was noted that Tyhee is interested in identifying 3-4 aboriginal persons that could be actively supported to move up the ladder into mining's professional ranks. Such persons would have to demonstrate ambition and motivation in order to succeed. The Dogrib Scholarship Fund was pointed out as being a good example of a similar approach as it was focused on specific skills training.
8. A question was asked about who would be doing the socio-economic work, and when this might start. Tyhee did not feel it was appropriate to mention who would be doing the work, but stated that it hasn't started yet, there are several local consultants with lots of experience doing this sort of work. This work has been ongoing for over a decade now, with the work on socio-economic issues and data collection started for the diamond mines. There is an established model for socio-economic work that could be used.
9. Concern was expressed that simply "plugging Tyhee in" to an existing assessment framework established by other analyses of regional mines, will not allow for good SEIA, with impacts, significance and mitigation identified that is specific to the project and affected communities.
10. It was stated that Tyhee did not do earlier socio-economic work for its initial development description on advice that the MVLWB does not look at these issues in preliminary screenings.
11. It was noted that there does not seem to be many animals in the area; it may not be prime traditional economy practice area.
12. It was observed that Traditional Knowledge has not yet been incorporated when looking at any socio-economic issues such as the traditional economy. Tyhee will be attempting to conduct an Elders Visit later this year; there may be some good insights from them on traditional land usage.
13. A question concerning the winter road's role in bringing more people into the area than in the past was posed.
14. It was noted that the public consultation record was included in the Development Description. There have been meetings with several aboriginal community representatives. Most of the issues explored thus far have been social, economic and cultural in nature. It was expected that more input in this area is expected from the Dettah meeting on June 22.

was attempted last year but it didn't work out. Additionally, the archeologist-consultant worked with an aboriginal assistant in 2004. It was further pointed out that having an assistant does not equate to incorporating Traditional Knowledge into the assessment.

5. It was asked how much usage the land has had in regards to the traditional economy. It was stated that the YGP area is not a high land use area, both historically and presently.
6. Visual and aesthetic resources are not perceived by any parties as a major concern. Visually, the area is already impacted by the Discovery Mine; there is at least one good fishing area but not heavily used. There is low utilization of the site by either traditional or recreational users.

### **Open Forum for Discussion**

With the main discussion concerning the socio-economic and archaeological and cultural components over, an open forum for any additional concerns was convened. The following comments were noted:

1. A question was raised concerning the regulatory issue of eliminating all buildings and reclaiming the land after mining has ceased.
2. The effects of the Discovery Mine's reclamation on cumulative effects analysis for the YGP were noted. It was mentioned that Tyhee only wants to use the existing Discovery Mine airstrip, not Giauque Lake. No water will be released into Giauque Lake; however, it will be a water source for the operations.
3. Conceptual details on what type of water quality monitoring will be in place during the mine were suggested to be included in the DAR.
4. It was stressed that it is important to characterize the nature of the waste and how it will affect ground water and surface water. This could include a consideration of a 5, 10 or 20 year monitoring plan.
5. A conceptual picture of what the site will look like after it is decommissioned was suggested as being useful.
6. Lessons learned from Discovery Mine on the permafrost issues were discussed. Geotechnical work is that is planned for this year. Tyhee requires the MVLWB to grant an LUP amendment in order to conduct geotechnical work on the airstrip, tailings structure zones and other infrastructure areas. The YGP study area is in a zone of discontinuous permafrost; however the main infrastructure proposed will be constructed on rock.

Following closing comments from Hugh Wilson and Patrick Duxbury, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15.

In the afternoon a presentation concerning the Discovery Mine reclamation was given by Emma Pike of INAC-Contaminated Sites Office. The presentation is available on the MVEIRB's web site at:

<http://www.mveirb.nt.ca/asp/Results.asp?ProjectID=60&cid=24>

15. A question concerning what are the directly affected communities in relation to this project was posed.
16. Tyhee was asked its objectives for maximizing the involvement of aboriginal groups. It was noted that such objectives are within a cost effective basis. It was noted that the mine will not generate huge revenues. The aboriginal people are wanted as a labour force and business partners.
17. It was observed that a lot of the defining employment and business relations will be done outside of the EA and permitting process.
18. The use of tools such as socio-economic agreements was brought forward as a possible method to deal with socio-economic concerns.
19. Concerns were expressed about a saturated labour market. It was pointed out that the current mines have their point of hire here in Yellowknife. It was indicated that there is no way to keep things that way if there is no labour force left available in place, or if people won't stay in Yellowknife. The larger mines have to fly people in from all over. The Fort McMurray labour crunch was pointed out as another symptom of skilled labour shortages in the region.
20. Concerns were expressed about problems of housing in Yellowknife, as well as the City of Yellowknife's infrastructure limitations.

### **Archaeology-Cultural-Heritage Resources Components**

Hugh Wilson gave a short presentation on archaeological, cultural and heritage resource components related to the YGP. The essential points were:

- Archaeological evidence indicates the area was not used extensively prior to Euro-Canadian contact.
- No archaeological sites found in the Project Footprint by company archaeologist in 2004
- 3 prehistoric sites found north of Nicholas Lake in 1989
- Historic mining implements (1950 and onwards) found strewn about the area

Pat Duxbury then opened the floor for comments from the group on the archaeological, cultural and heritage resource components. The following points were noted:

1. Significant concerns were expressed about the use of the esker as an airstrip and/or gravel source. Eskers are normally very high use landforms; more information on it, thorough increased archaeological efforts is required.
2. It was noted that Tyhee was willing to give specific instructions from PWNHC to its archaeologist-consultant. An invitation for PWNHC to go up to the site was extended.
3. It was stated that archaeological work done by the company was generally good, meeting PWNHC standards.
4. A question was posed regarding the incorporation of TK into the public consultation process. Tyhee was planning on having elders visit later this year. It