

## **EA0607-002: Tamerlane Pine Point Project**

Meeting Report from the Hay River Scoping Session

Compiled by: the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (“MVEIRB” or “Review Board”)

Location: Chief Lamalice Complex, Hay River Reserve

Date: August 16, 2006

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Review Board hosted scoping sessions in Hay River and Fort Resolution on August 16-17, 2006, to gather issues and concerns from all parties about the proposed Tamerlane Ventures’ Pine Point Project, 45 km east of Hay River. The Review Board will be using this meeting report, the report from Fort Resolution, all of the information on the Public Record (available at [www.mveirb.nt.ca](http://www.mveirb.nt.ca)), and any follow-up comments from any interested parties, to develop the *Draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan* for this Environmental Assessment.

While this meeting report is as comprehensive as Review Board staff could make it, this is not a verbatim document. It is based on notes by Review Board staff. Unlike the official statements made at Review Board hearings toward the end of the Environmental Assessment process, scoping sessions are less formal dialogues.

People’s names (other than in association with Developer’s responses) have not been associated with the individual statements they made at the session in this document unless they were invited to give a specific comment. If any inaccuracies are identified, feel free to submit a comment to be placed on the public record of the Environmental Assessment. Digital (Hay River) and digital/analog (Fort Resolution) tapes were made of most of the dialogue at these sessions and will be stored in the Public Record.

Contact Alistair MacDonald at the Review Board with any questions or comments:

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### **ATTENDEES**

*In attendance (only those people who signed in or made their names known):*

Alistair MacDonald – MVEIRB

Patrick Duxbury – MVEIRB

Renita Schuh – MVEIRB

David Swisher – Tamerlane Ventures

Jerry DeMarco – Tamerlane Ventures

Rick Hoos – EBA

Godfrey McDonald – CMS

Joel Holder – GNWT Environment and Natural Resources

Lionel Marcinkoski – INAC Environment and Conservation

Catherine Mallet – INAC Waters  
 Kellie Emon – INAC Mineral Development Division  
 Arthur Beck – NWTMN, Fort Resolution  
 Cec Heron – NWTMN, IMA Coordinator  
 Jack Bird – GNWT ENR, South Slave  
 Michael Mageean – GNWT ITI, South Slave  
 Wayne Starling – INAC, Fort Smith  
 Paul Wiedrick – GNWT ITI, South Slave Region  
 Anne Wilson – Environment Canada  
 Vern Jones – Hay River Metis Government Council  
 Paul Smith (?) – NWTMN, Fort Resolution  
 George Lafferty – Hay River Metis Council  
 Gladys Bloomatrand (?) – Hay River Metis Council  
 (?) Mandeville – Hay River  
 Ken Hudson – NWTMN  
 Robert Tordiff – NWTMN  
 Paul Harrington – NWTMN, Hay River  
 Frederick Beaulieu – Hay River  
 Elsie Bouvier – NWTMN, Hay River  
 Carol Collins – IMA, Deninu K’ue  
 Dave Pierrot – IMA, Deninu K’ue  
 Chief Robert Sayine – DKFN, Fort Resolution  
 Kandice Thomas – Councillor, WPFN, Hay River  
 Jim Thomas – Elder, WPFN, Hay River  
 Chris Heron – NWTMN, Fort Smith  
 Rosy Bjornson – Deninu K’ue First Nation  
 Al Browning – Resource Manager, KFN  
 Clara Lafferty – KFN  
 Elaine Lamalice – KFN  
 Pat Simon – DKFN  
 Linda Peterson (?) – Visitor (used to live in Pine Point)  
 Roy Fabian – KFN  
 Chief Alec Sunrise - KFN  
 Darrell Dean – Stan Dean & Sons  
 Lyle Fabian – Hay River  
 Jack Rowe – Hay River  
 Andrew Tofflemire – Crosscurrent Associates  
  
 Translator – Alex Tambour, Hay River

## **SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED**

### **Missing or inadequate information was identified in regards to the following:**

- Employment details (hiring policies, job descriptions, local preference policy?)
- Training initiatives
- On-site medical service availability and any impacts on local health service provision
- The need for a larger local study area including highway corridor
- Inadequate baseline biophysical assessment
- Include northern leopard frog and moose in assessment

- The level of use of the highway and its engineering for large trucks and current conditions
- Alternative land uses on site and along the transportation corridor (esp. harvesting)
- Spill contingency plans for transportation components of the development
- Whether or not a hunting buffer would be imposed along the highway
- Additional information on the DMS process and additives to the circuit
- A determination of the exact size of the proposed infiltration system
- Disposal plans for any hazardous wastes
- Better cumulative impact assessment, including assessment of industrial activity effects on water systems flowing into Great Slave Lake, woodland caribou
- Analysis of the development's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions
- Description of municipal plans for waste disposal from development
- Post-mining closure and reclamation plans and monitoring, and info on "thaw effects"
- Comparison of alternatives: \
  - power generation opportunities – "grid" vs. diesel
  - ore transportation corridors (road, railroad bed to road, railroad)
- On site fuel spill contingency plan
- Total amount of land to be cleared, and estimates of vegetation losses
- Information on local seismic activity
- Information on animal migration patterns through the area
- An accurate assessment of how much water will be pumped to the infiltration basin
- More information on air quality impacts
- More information required on freezeway technology, risks and contingency plans
- Incorporation of historic water quality and quantity data into assessment
- Predictions of the quality and quantity of all waters flowing from development to Great Slave Lake
- Need for Traditional Knowledge studies, including on archaeology, wildlife patterns, hunting and other land uses
- Maps of land use patterns
- Better information on underlying geology and affects on water flows and permeability

**Public concerns about the following issues were identified:**

- Lack of adequate consultation between developer and communities
- The local mining history of Pine Point is controversial, with environmental problems, the loss of land, and little in the way of jobs for (esp. aboriginal) communities
- Impact equity (the fear that wealth will be drained to the South)
- Availability of training to maximize long-term employment from development
- Lack of local business competitiveness
- Cumulative impacts on a "healing land" and on the waterways feeding Great Slave Lake
- Contamination of the old rail bed

**Specific potential impacts identified included:**

- Menial jobs that don't contribute to long-term career building
- Loss of animal habitat
- Contamination of highway
- Lower public safety and greater maintenance costs of highway

- Loss of harvesting capacity along highway and near site
- Health effects due to respiratory ailments
- Pressures on Hay River through immigration and increased industrial activity, especially considering potential Mackenzie Gas Project
- Contribution to cost of living increases
- Effects of burning hydrocarbons on local fish and wildlife
- Freezeway – will it block underground water flows?
- Potential for refrigerant leakage
- Dust and noise impacts on plants and animals
- Loss of hunting and trapping success and access to land
- Lower water quality on site and in Great Slave Lake
- Accessibility of wildlife to waste water
- Impacts on fish runs in the Buffalo River

## **MEETING REPORT**

The meeting commenced at 1:30pm.

Opening Prayer by Alex Tambour

A presentation was given by Alistair Macdonald regarding the environmental assessment process and the role and goals of scoping sessions. It is available at [http://www.mveirb.nt.ca/upload/project\\_document/1156278807\\_process\\_description\\_for\\_tamerlane\\_EA\\_and\\_scoping\\_sessions.pdf](http://www.mveirb.nt.ca/upload/project_document/1156278807_process_description_for_tamerlane_EA_and_scoping_sessions.pdf). Alistair identified that the purpose of these meetings during the early “scoping” stage is to find information gaps in the work done so far, to identify the right questions to ask during the Environmental Assessment, and to raise concerns about how the development might impact the environment.

A Presentation was given by Dave Swisher of Tamerlane Ventures on an overview of the development. All Tamerlane slides are available at [http://www.mveirb.nt.ca/upload/project\\_document/1156278953\\_Scoping%20Presentatio n%20Afternoon%20Aug%202006.pdf](http://www.mveirb.nt.ca/upload/project_document/1156278953_Scoping%20Presentatio n%20Afternoon%20Aug%202006.pdf) []

David Swisher introduced his associates, including Jerry DeMarco – Public relations; Rick Hoos – Environmental Consultant (EBA Engineer); and Godfrey Macdonald consultant (mineral/ Dense-Media Separation). He stressed that Tamerlane was not considering reopening the Pine Point Mine that was east of the Buffalo River. All the activities of Tamerlane at present are west of the Buffalo River.

Questions and comments followed.

An elder stated that his mother was raised around the Little Buffalo River. He noted that he had had one meeting with the developer and that he (“we”) wanted you to meet again with the developer because further down the line the development is going to go to the other side of the river. He felt that the company was going about gaining community support in the wrong way. He also wanted to see Hay River and Ft. Resolution talking together/working together.

David Swisher responded by saying that Tamerlane had contacts with the communities ;but expressed that it was hard to make everyone happy.

A participant expressed concerns that things were moving ahead too quickly and that there hadn't been enough time to absorb the information. Stated that there hadn't been a lot of meetings, and his membership (Hay River Metis) hadn't had much time to discuss the issues. He expressed the opinion that the timelines should follow the community timelines and follow their pace, not to adhere to business 's interest to have things done yesterday. Also expressed concerns about the development being like Pine Point and what the people would be left with.

David Swisher responded that Tamerlane hadn't had as much opportunity to meet with current [Hay River Metis] leadership as with Danny Beck (former president). In response to concerns about Pine Point, David noted that Tamerlane is different in that it intends to mine underground so as not to disturb the land.

A person identified as a KFN Band counsellor spoke. He wanted to know how many people would be employed at the project and where the camp would be located. He expressed the opinion that he believed the company was working too quickly. He stated the Dene have lived in the area for ever. He expressed the opinion that the developers coming from the south will be the principal beneficiaries from the development and that the dirty work will be given to northerners. He didn't want the jobs to just be construction and labour. He said that he travelled the Pine Point area and it is now not fit for animals. He finally noted that he would like to see white people and Dene work together.

David Swisher re-emphasized that there will be no camp at the site, and that people will likely be bussed in from other communities. He noted that because the project is a pilot project to determine feasibility; they are trying to minimize up-front expenses.

A participant noted that he wanted the Review Board to examine the surrounding areas around the project site; including support activities associated with the project, such as use of the highway, including its importance for ambulance travel, shopping, hunting, harvesting wood. He noted that people from Ft. Resolution use the area and that it provides access to Ft. Resolution and Ft. Smith. He stated that Aboriginal people have rights to near to hunt near the road and that the project may effect harvesting with 140 trucks per/day. He had concerns about the engineering of the road and bridges, spill plans and possible contamination along the highway. He also wondered if silica was a possible danger to human health (pulmonary system effects). He wanted to know if there would be a no-hunting buffer around the project and how large would it be.

A participant had a variety of questions, including.

- How many times can the process additives be recycled?
- What is the proposed size of the infiltration basin east of the development?
- How will the company dispose of left over hazardous waste - will they go south or to Hay River?
- What will the demographics of Hay River be after this project, especially since no camp is proposed; how will this affect taxes and housing.

She also noted that she did not see anything related to power generation in the Developer's Project Description Report.

A participant took issue with the statement by the Developer that no cumulative effects are likely with this project. He wanted to know how this project relates to generation of greenhouse gasses and Kyoto compliance. He also was concerned about the effects of burning hydrocarbons on fisheries and wildlife in the area.

A participant was interested to know how municipalities deal with batteries and stated concerns about waste fuel disposal. He stressed highly the importance of safety for people in the communities. He also expressed concerns about whether there were adequate municipal spill action plans if barging is to be used in relation to the development.

A participant expressed concerns about the freezing of the ground and wondered about the potential impact on underground water flow and the potential to block flow and create pressures. He was worried about the type of refrigeration system that may be used and the potential for leaks from it.

David Swisher responded and stated that the area is in a vast aquifer and blockage is unlikely and the system will be monitored for leaks. The refrigeration system is self-contained.

#### **SUPPER BREAK: 5PM-6:15**

After a break, David Swisher responded to questions about truck transportation, stating that the number of trucks has been reduced by work from Godfrey Macdonald's firm from 140 to 30 or 40 per day and that trucks could run on a graveyard shift to avoid interfering with the public. His estimate was that potentially 4 trucks an hour would be transporting ore to Hay River during these time periods. He also responded to the concerns about the infiltration basin saying that it is smaller than the photo in the presentation; which show the entirety of an old gravel quarry. The infiltration system is only planned to be the northern part of that quarry.

Godfrey Macdonald, working for Tamerlane, said that ferrosilicon will be captured by a magnet in the DMS process because it will be expensive; \$2000/tonne makes it important to recycle this thing. Some very small amount may be lost in cracks in the ore and float products and in the fines reject which are used in the backfill underground.

A participant asked about how ferrosilicate will be stored. Godfrey Macdonald responded saying that at Nanisivik it was left in tote bags outside. It is an inert substance that won't break down or cause environmental damage. The participant questioned the relevance of the Nanisivik example to the current proposal. Godfrey Macdonald responded that it proved that the material was OK in a more severe climate.

David Swisher of Tamerlane said that he talked to the town of Hay River about disposal of batteries or additional waste, but given the short amount of time of the development, a lot of batteries are not expected. Tamerlane expects to use 100% of waste oils in furnaces. If problem with hazardous materials occur, they can ship things down south.

Concerning power, he noted that a power line would have to be tapped from a sub-station at Pine Point in the long term in the project expands. In the interim, diesel power would be considered as an alternative energy source for the pilot project.

Regarding housing, David Swisher stated that the town of Hay River is preparing itself for the Mackenzie Gas Project and hasn't expressed concerns. He said that through training, he hopes to have a significant portion of local persons employed.

A participant spoke regarding training, hoping that people trained by Tamerlane would have the opportunity to work on other projects.

An Elder asked: What happens after the Pilot Project is completed? What will happen to the freeze curtain and will they put a fence around the site?

David Swisher stated that Tamerlane does not intend to fence because it isn't a large area and it isn't an open pit. When finished, Tamerlane will seal the hole, allow it to flood and remove the freeze pipes.

An Elder asked: What happens to the surface? Will there be re-vegetation?

David Swisher said that they plan to re-vegetate the project with native species and that Tamerlane intends to operate in a different manner than what happened at Pine Point.

Rick Hoos, on behalf of Tamerlane, then presented information on the Environmental Assessment process they have started and individual environmental components likely to interact with the development, *which are available in the same presentation as listed above.*

A participant wanted to know if aboriginal communities had been consulted on the issue of the study parameters – how large an area should be considered in the “local study area”.

Rick Hoos explained that aboriginal communities were contacted for assistance on the (Fort Resolution Metis, DKFN, KFN) studies, for help on the studies; however there was a challenge in communication. He expected that if the project were approved, future work would be conducted in a more systematic and organized in a consistent year-round way.

A participant stated concerns about the potential effects of dust, and how it would settle down on everything; smothering plants and covering berries. Rick Hoos said that water spray would be used to reduce dust.

A participant had a comment on who speaks to the health of the animals regarding air quality. Rick Hoos responded by saying that the project aims to protect air quality underground where people are operating and where the impact is potentially greatest. He believed that air quality concerns will be less at surface when the emissions are dispersed and diluted.

A participant expressed the opinion that making noise such as through blasting could disturb the animals. Rick Hoos responded saying that he believed that blasting isn't expected to have impacts as it will happen hundreds of feet underground.

A participant was concerned about potential for the mined material to be spilt or dispersed while in transport. David Swisher responded that trucks will be covered with

special tarps to prevent dust from escaping; in addition, the particle size is large and will be damp, both factors that will reduce dust and loss.

A participant asked: How are you going to pull up the material through the frozen area? David Swisher responded by saying the shaft will be in middle of the frozen underground ring, and that a vertical conveyance system will bring the rock to the surface.

A government participant wanted more information on how much diesel would be required for generation versus plugging into the existing hydro system examined during the EA, and asked about a spill contingency plan for fuels.

David Swisher – The spill plan will cover the entire area of activity and Tamerlane will ensure that the Power Corp also has a plan in case they currently do not.

A participant stated that the project area is an open trapping area and moose hunting takes place there. People who work the land there have knowledge, is there any intent by the Developer to seek their advice and input? Hay River Council has 2 members that use that specific area. He also asked if Tamerlane was satisfied that it had enough information, or was it open to a more consultative process.

Rick Hoos said that David Swisher and Jerry DeMarco have spent time talking in each community and with each aboriginal group around the table regarding trapping concerns. David recalled that Ross Burns had promised to compensate all registered traplines.

A participant stated that the area in question is an open trapping area, there may be several people who use that area who are not registered. He then asked:

- whether the company will attempt to hire as many local persons as possible,
- whether training will be part of this project, and
- whether Tamerlane will work with local communities to take advantage of training.

David Swisher stated that there will be training opportunities; Infrastructure contractors will be required to hire trainees and they will have training guidelines and on-site training. Underground training will also occur.

A participant asked if Tamerlane will be allocating a portion of its contract in a manner that allows for a competitive head start and a possible “right of first refusal” to local and aboriginal contractors. He also inquired if Tamerlane will speak to GNWT Health and Social Services about the provision of emergency response services. He felt that additional industrial development may be taxing on local medical services given the strains already being felt throughout Canada and the NWT.

David Swisher responded by saying that within a certain reasonable percentage, local northern contracts will be preferred. There will also be an ambulance and trained staff and equipment available.

A participant asked if small contractors will be supported, despite the fact they lack capital that larger, more established companies have. And also whether there are any contracts in the area, currently, being let by Tamerlane?

David Swisher replied that they don't want people sinking money into a project whose purpose is to test viability for future development. He stated that no contracts have been awarded, only bids pertaining to the feasibility study have been received.



A participant stated: if we are going to possibly provide equipment and services, we need to know what you need ahead of time.

A participant asked:

- How much vegetation will have to be removed?
- How much area will be cleared.
- How much of the 30 m depth of glacial till will be removed

David Swisher answered that the buildings won't take up a lot of area.

A participant asked: Are you planning to have discussion with the aboriginal groups in the area about impacts and benefits? Would you sit together with all the groups? David Swisher answered that Tamerlane is likely open to more discussion regarding that.

A participant from the GNWT stated that ENR wants to see a cumulative effects assessment, particularly related to (woodland) caribou. He noted that studies have identified different habitats; different habitats have different species associated with them, this needs to be considered. Monitoring and mitigation activities regarding SARA-listed species is important to this Environmental Assessment.

A participant asked how the concentrate was going to be shipped and he suggested rebuilding the rail system. David Swisher responded by saying that they are in discussion with CN about costs of rebuilding the railway and early numbers identify that a new railroad would cost about \$1 million per kilometre, and using the railbed as a road for trucks would cost about \$750,000 per kilometer.

A participant asked how much water was going to be directed to the infiltration basin. David Swisher said that for the life of the project, 100-500 gallons per minute is their high estimate.

A government representative had a variety of comments:

- Environment Canada would like to know how this project will compare to Canada-wide standards for air quality.
- They would like assessment of the risk associated with disruption of the freezeway, and contingency plans for the freezeway.
- Historical information would be useful regarding water quality and quantity data [ground truthing on historical information].
- They also wanted to see predictions of waste water quality.
- It is important to have an estimate of what water quality and quantity is likely to report to Great Slave Lake [groundwater and surface].
- Need to see treatment and handling contingency plans for greater flows than expected.
- They expect to see information on post-closure "thaw effects" once the refrigeration is shut down.

Rick Hoos continued with a presentation on vegetation. He specifically noted that while there are a lot of animals in the project area, they focused on ones of importance to Environment Canada.

A participant noted that she had read the water quality and wildlife baseline studies and had a problem with the baseline study being only for one season. She wanted to see observations for all four seasons of the year. She noted that there are lots of species of concern to native people. She noted that SARA also covers the northern leopard frog, which was missing from the project description. She wanted to see more studies done on traditional hunting, berry picking and medicinal use plants. She didn't want to see the results of this study applied to the whole Pine Point claims area.

Rick Hoos responded for Tamerlane by saying that all potentially-affected areas were covered including Pine Point area, and that the data in the Project Description Report was last years report. Further studies were conducted including ones on frogs during 2006. As for berry picking and other activities, the Developer would like to have more information from the communities and Rick Hoos stated that the Developer and communities can talk about how to include this information in the Environmental Assessment work required.

A participant stated that Tamerlane should look at Traditional Knowledge in the area for the species present.

A GNWT representative stated that ENR would like Tamerlane to activity participate in the Bison Control Program and that Tamerlane report on any Bison seen in the area so that a GNWT officer can dispose of them.

A participant stated that Tamerlane was going to work all year round, however the base-line studies had not been conducted for all four seasons.

A participant stated that in the past people didn't have a say about how the land was developed and planned for and cited the establishment of Wood Buffalo Park as an example of this. He stated that a Traditional Knowledge study is a good way for people to project their own knowledge. He noted that Esso Resources funded the KFN to put together a TK study for the whole area that the KFN thinks is going to be impacted by the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. He noted that this hasn't happened with Tamerlane and stressed that the KFN would never have had opportunity without Esso's money. He stated that a Traditional Knowledge study with the Elders could take place and mentioned that north of the project area is a place that is rich for water fowl.

He mentioned concerns about water and cited some work he has participated with the Alberta Research Institute. He mentioned that he flew over the Pine Point mine area and he was devastated to see the whole environmental mess left behind. He stated that he believed that Tamerlane appears to be trying to mitigate its project's effects with modern technology. He further noted that the environment assessment was referred by Environmental Canada. He said that he was disappointed to see that happen and questioned where Environment Canada was during the Pine Point Mine days. He stated that on the Pine Point mine, there lakes with strange liquids, open pits and a tailings pond that is 1 mile<sup>2</sup> and 8 m thick.

He again mentioned how Traditional Knowledge could be used and that the elders know about the land and are able to point out some information that is needed to be considered.

He stated that there are several political factors surrounding this project. He stated that the Tamerlane project is west of the Buffalo River and clearly in traditional lands of the Katlodeeche First Nation. He noted that there are 3<sup>rd</sup> party rights in the KFN territory and that these parties are entitled to work in the area as this is how Canada works; however he believed the area to be subject to the Dehcho process. He made reference to overlapping claims and concerns over aboriginal rights. He disputed the claims made by the Métis Nation about the area. He stated that he wanted to see maps of their Traditional Territory.

*Alistair Macdonald of the Review Board stated that the issues around Aboriginal rights and Treaty rights are beyond the powers of the Review Board to deal with.*

A couple of participants noted their objections to the comments about rights in the area.

A participant noted that the baseline studies did not include moose and he stressed that they are a very important species. Rick Hoos acknowledged that they understand the importance of moose and that they are looking in to it. He noted that Tom Unka was very helpful in noticing signs of moose at the site.

A participant said that he felt that scoping sessions should be more thorough and he expressed the opinion that one day isn't enough. He noted that many important issues are brought up such as the highways issue. He stated that people have invested time into these sessions and they would like to have enough time for public input. He said the community use to have the position that they would not support the development unless the Pine Point Mine was cleaned up. He stressed that community support will not occur unless the community is to benefit.

*Alistair Macdonald of the Review Board said that he would relay these concerns about the scoping session process the Review Board. He further stated that the upcoming Ft. Resolution meeting and the draft Terms of Reference comment period would be two other opportunities to participate in scoping.*

A participant stated that without benefits there will be no support for the project. He said that Pine Point was getting better and that people like it for hunting and berry picking. He expressed the opinion that the First Nations people should support the Metis "like our mothers" as he felt they were all shared the same ancestry.

A government representative expressed concerns about the infiltration basin. He questioned the validity of the developer's assumption that the waste water would filter down to the groundwater. He felt there is a continuous impervious layer that varies in depth which underlies the site (when you drive along the road this is obvious by the standing water that is seen). The worry is that the water may go for a short distance and then filter down into the Slave River delta before reaching the water table. This makes the waste water more accessible to wildlife than the developer is assuming. He pointed out that even though the ground water level at the bored well site is 40 feet below surface, there is standing water where the ore body is located which demonstrates that there is a layer in the ground that is holding the water up higher.

A participant expressed the opinion that the Pine Point area is very biophysically diverse. He expected a certain level of work to be done and wanted environmental studies to be done with consideration and awareness in relationship to the land, the environment and

the people. He believed that Tamerlane had a lot more work to do and didn't consider Tamerlane's baseline studies to be sufficient.

He further took issue with the sentiment about the Pine Point area being "already damaged" or "already garbage". He felt the description of the land needed to be sensitive to the reality. He thought that the land is not wasted, but instead after 15-16 years after the Pine Point Mine closed it is beginning to rejuvenate and he noted that his community is using the land for other things and trying to make something good of it. He believed that the baseline needs to look at all the different realities, including

- earthquakes,
- climate change,
- migration of animals north and
- cumulative effects.

A participant spoke about a circumstance where a local contractor was told by the "Mackenzie Board" not to take gravel from the railroad bed because it was contaminated. He questioned whether or not the gravel was actually contaminated. He was concerned about hauling ore down the road and the potential for contamination to be dispersed along the road.

*Alistair Macdonald said that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board or another regulator would be the agency with the power to stop that sort of operation based on the contamination concerns, but that the MVEIRB does not get involved in regulation, only assessing impacts and appropriate mitigation **before** projects go ahead.*

David Swisher mentioned that Tamerlane had no information on the issue of contaminated gravel along the former railway line.

A participant noted that when you fly over the Pine Point mine there are some pits that are empty while others are full of water. He said the geographic area of the Tamerlane Pilot Project is not too far apart from Pine Point. He thought that potential cumulative impacts to water and underground water flow needed to be considered. He said that there are three major fish spawning runs; suckers and coney up the Buffalo River in spring and coney down the Buffalo River in October. He noted that underground streams could be there. He asked what will happen once the project is over and the area is no longer going to be frozen. He noted that water will go into the pit and then asked where would this water go? He was concerned about the cumulative impacts on Great Slave Lake. He noted that in the past you could drink water in the big lake directly, but no longer.

A participant stated that the Slave, Athabaska and Peace Rivers are part of the Mackenzie system and that these watersheds have been impacted by industrial and agriculture activities. She felt that impacts to this system need to be considered in relation to this project.

David Swisher of Tamerlane made a presentation on socio-economic impact assessment. He noted in his presentation that it is in the company's best interest to train local persons. He stressed that the Pine Point scenario is not going to re-occur. He noted that the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre archaeological database lists no sites in the local study area being used by Tamerlane for its initial studies.

A participant stressed that archaeological sites need to be verified with the Elders as to whether or not there are heritage resources and he believed that a Traditional Knowledge study will help in this regard. He further noted that all environmental impacts should be mitigated first, that economic benefits should not be considered as tradeoffs against environmental impacts, but that rather economic benefits would be the “gravy” afterwards. He stated that there are certain protocols in the Dene tradition that the company should be considered by Tamerlane. This included spiritual aspects and ceremonies that should be performed. He gave the example of the fire ceremony, which is important for asking the land for help and strength.

A participant stated that she agreed with comments on requiring adherence to aboriginal traditions and the inclusion of Traditional Knowledge. She said that she was concerned with the idea of a buffer zone around the development where hunting may be forbidden. She noted that the land is “the other grocery store” for aboriginal people. She said that if a huge number of vehicles are using the land, she wanted to see safety considerations included in the assessment and not discounted as “contractor stuff” as the highway is used by all people in the land.

David Swisher responded by saying that in his opinion safety is equal to production. And he stressed that contractors who do not follow Tamerlane’s protocols will be asked to leave.

A participant asked whether the developer would be open to having aboriginal environmental monitors on-site.

David Swisher responded by saying that he expects the communities to have an interest in what is happening in their area; however due to safety and traffic considerations, he requested that a notification be given prior to the visit.

*Alistair MacDonald concluded with a note of thanks to all participants and a re-iteration that this is the start of a long EA process and that there are many more avenues for dialogue and public input along the way.*

Closing Prayer by Chief Alec Sunrise of the KFN

Scoping session adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm