



“When You Talk - We Listen!”



MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT AND REVIEW BOARD

TLICHU ALL SEASON ROAD (EA1617-01)  
TECHNICAL SESSION

Facilitator                      Simon Toogood  
Facilitator                      Ruari Carthew

HELD AT:

Behchoko, NT  
August 15, 2017  
Day 1 of 3

1 APPEARANCES

2 Alan Ehrlich )MVEIRB

3 Mark Cliffe-Phillips )

4 Catherine McManus )

5 Simon Toogood )

6 Ruari Carthew )

7

8 John B. Zoe )Tlicho Government

9 Jessica Hum )

10 Petter Jacobsen )

11 Francis Simpson )

12 Joe Champlain )

13 Zabey Nevitt )

14 Ginger Gibson )

15 Janelle Kuntz )

16 Georgina Chocolate )

17 Charlie Football )

18 Louie Flunkie )

19

20 Paul Mercredi )GNWT

21 Lorraine Seale )

22 Katie Rozenstraten )

23 Rohan Brown )

24 Russell Neudorf )

25 Binay Yadav )

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2 James Hodson )GNWT

3 Mark Cronk )

4 Michael Conway )

5 Stu Niven )

6 Bruno Croft )

7 Heather Sayine-Crawford )

8 Dean Cluff )

9 Greg Hanna )

10 Tamika Mulders )

11 Kate Witherly )

12 Laurie McGregor )

13 Darren Campbell )

14 Cam Stevens )Golder Associates

15 Michele Grabke )Golder Associates

16 Kyle Knopff )Golder Associates

17 Damian Panayi )Golder Associates

18

19 Jonas Lafferty )Wek'eezhii

20 Renewable

21 Allice Legat )Resources Board

22 Boyan Tracz )

23

24 Umar Husany )CanNor

25 Nigel Rossouw )

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2 Kai Niu ) Justice Canada

3

4 Bradley Summerfield ) ECCC

5 Emily Nichol )

6 Amy Ganton )

7 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille )

8

9 Mark D'Aguiar ) DFO

10

11 Shin Shiga ) North Slave Metis

12 Nicole Goodman ) Alliance

13 Heather Bears ) Zoetica

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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:44 a.m.

2

3 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: All right.

4 Good morning, everyone. Thank you for coming. As you  
5 may have seen as you walked in the door, we are having  
6 translation. So there will be simultaneous  
7 translation, and we will be using it today. So if  
8 everyone could take this time to also make sure you  
9 have your ear pieces handy.

10 And with that, I'd like to, yeah,  
11 welcome everyone. As you see, too, we'll be using  
12 mics for the morning. We're having a slight technical  
13 difficulty with the -- well, the mics on the desks.  
14 Hopefully we'll get that cleared up at the first  
15 break. So for the time being, we have a couple of  
16 extras, and I'll be making sure that most of the  
17 people will have their own mics for this first part of  
18 the morning.

19 And like I said, we'll be taking breaks  
20 throughout the day. Those will be -- they're not  
21 scheduled. They're not actually on the agenda, but we  
22 will take those at opportune times.

23 More importantly, the washrooms,  
24 they're a bit convoluted here. You have to go out the  
25 door here, then you're going to be hanging a left down



1 the corridor. There's two (2) doorways you go  
2 through, and they're on your right. And they're large  
3 washrooms right in front of the main entrance to the  
4 gym.

5                   And with that, before I go any further,  
6 I'd like to hand the mic over to the Tlicho Government  
7 and John to provide some opening remarks. Yeah, he's  
8 got a mic over there.

9                   Oh, and just a bit of etiquette for  
10 these mics for this morning: When you get them,  
11 they'll be on. To make sure that they're not muted,  
12 you just touch the bottom and there's a little light  
13 that will go red for mute and green for live on the  
14 mics.

15                   So with that, John, I'd like to invite  
16 you to provide some opening comments for the behalf of  
17 the Tlicho Government.

18

19                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21                   DR. JOHN B. ZOE: ...Elder to do the  
22 opening prayer. And -- and then I'll do the comments  
23 right after that. Masi.

24

25                   (OPENING PRAYER)

1 OPENING COMMENTS BY TLICHO GOVERNMENT:

2 DR. JOHN B. ZOE: Good morning. My  
3 name is John B. Zoe. I'm with the Tlicho Government.  
4 Welcome to Behchoko. You might notice that we're in a  
5 new facility. It belongs to the community government.

6

7 And it just goes to show that, you  
8 know, for many, many years, before we got into self-  
9 governance, people always had ideas about their  
10 communities and how they would see it running at the  
11 time when the North was being developed, when the  
12 governance for the territory was being wrestled from  
13 the territor -- from the federal government.

14 That people had ideas about their  
15 community development and -- and for the future  
16 generations so that they can be worked on and things  
17 can be passed on, not only responsibilities from the  
18 land and the knowledge from the land, but be able to  
19 represent ourselves with the information that the  
20 Elders have always had.

21 In the early years, if you looked at  
22 some of the archival footages in some of the books  
23 that have been written about the North, the early  
24 struggles, that when people started coming together to  
25 have their voices heard one of their main concerns has

1 always been about the land, the question about  
2 ownership, the question about the right to have a say  
3 on those lands because the usage of the land was so  
4 real back then. It was very, very real.

5           And when we had these Elders come in  
6 with their testimonies about their usage of the land,  
7 I'm sure they came directly from the fish camps,  
8 because even a community like this was just a big,  
9 large fish camp. And going to the barren lands by  
10 boat in the -- in the fall time to harvest the caribou  
11 was very real.

12           And they -- they had ideas about how  
13 they wanted to have their voices heard in anything  
14 that would affect that way of life. But at the same  
15 time, the federal government and Government of the  
16 Northwest Territories, they were developing as we're  
17 having these thoughts, that twenty (20) some odd years  
18 ago when we had the first diamond mines that were  
19 happening was the beginning of our involvement. By  
20 that time, the federal government still had a choke-  
21 hold on the regulatory process.

22           And we've managed to swim through it,  
23 and very recently in the last number of years, those  
24 responsibilities have been transferred to the North.  
25 And in that transfer to the North, we know that our

1 seat at the table has been recognized because of the  
2 agreement that we have that talks about our  
3 involvement and how our voices can be heard.

4           So it's been a learning process. We've  
5 had a recognizable -- legally recognizable Aboriginal  
6 government in the North here. And we have twelve (12)  
7 years under our belt just this month. And in those  
8 twelve (12) years, we've -- we've quickly learned the  
9 ropes of not only ownership, but the pressures of  
10 being an owner.

11           That the economy, the northern  
12 landscape, the federal ways of making decisions are  
13 still very real. And so the way that we process the  
14 information and -- and try to put in our own thoughts  
15 and our -- our way of life, stories into it so that  
16 those big decisions that are being made, that we would  
17 at least find some comfort zone in -- in dealing with  
18 that.

19           So this is one (1) of the processes of  
20 having a forum where everybody comes to the table, and  
21 we get to hear and listen to each other to learn  
22 because we are talking about the application of three  
23 (3) jurisdictions. How do we make it work so that the  
24 developments that we seek, the benefits accrued to the  
25 areas that it -- that is affected.

1                   And when we say "affected", we're  
2 talking about the land, the water, the wildlife, the  
3 social effects for communities, for a community that  
4 has never had a twenty-four (24) hour linkage.

5                   So communities have a lot to think  
6 about and they've been thinking about it for a long  
7 time. And we'll get to the point where if we get into  
8 a larger hearing, that we have a fairly good idea  
9 about where -- how we will communicate with each other  
10 to -- to make sure that we don't forget anything, that  
11 we don't find out that there's something that hasn't  
12 been addressed that might affect our relationship in  
13 how we make decisions.

14                   And so that's what we see in having  
15 this technical session where we would have a full  
16 dialogue so that all the parties know that the  
17 information will be available, that we see it coming,  
18 that we know it's there. We know that there is work  
19 that needs to be done. We know that we eventually  
20 have to make sure that the communities are prepared.  
21 Our leadership will be at the table at the time and we  
22 will do the best that we can. That's what we're  
23 looking for.

24                   And so the space that we're in now is  
25 where we all kind of converge in this river that we

1 have in our Tlicho is where we're having this  
2 dialogue. We all clutch our authorities, but we  
3 created a space where we can have this free flowing  
4 dialogue knowing that that information will be used  
5 for decisions not only by the leadership, but the  
6 people as a whole. So that dialogue is very  
7 important.

8                   And earlier when I was speaking I was  
9 saying that -- about the archival footages, that when  
10 people were speaking to have their voices heard, there  
11 was a little -- there was a -- I guess, a -- it looked  
12 -- it looked like, to me anyways through the pictures  
13 and a -- a large piece of plywood in the background  
14 that had written on it, our land, or rights, and our  
15 fight.

16                   I think through the settlement of our  
17 land claim that we've given some legal texture, I  
18 guess, to the land and the right to make those  
19 decisions on those lands. But the fight for the  
20 application of those thoughts and ways of implementing  
21 jurisdiction is part of that fight, but it's -- but  
22 it's -- but it's a fight where we don't beat each  
23 other up, but we try to bring forth anything that  
24 might cause conflict in the future.

25                   That this is more about collaboration,

1 making sure that we do everything that we can to  
2 ensure that our language, culture, and way of life is  
3 not in some way belittled, or broken down over time,  
4 but to build it up. With -- with that short words, I  
5 -- on behalf of the community, because this here is a  
6 technical session where decisions are not being made,  
7 but we're preparing for the bigger meeting.

8           Where what we say will be taken into  
9 consideration and that's where the forms of decision  
10 will be, kind of start to gel. And so this is kind of  
11 a precursor to that, and -- and the -- and so the --  
12 the information will be going to our leadership as  
13 well as the territorial and federal leaderships over  
14 time.

15           So welcome to the community. The --  
16 like I say, the -- the building belongs to the  
17 community government, Behchoko, and there's four (4)  
18 community governments in our area.

19           The -- they're stand-alone community  
20 governments get -- that still get their funding from  
21 territorial government, but the land belongs to the  
22 community. That's the -- that's the big difference is  
23 that the lands belong to the communities in the  
24 boundary that they're in. So they have a lot of say  
25 in their communities, and collectively they form the

1 Tlicho government.

2                   So good morning and masi cho.

3

4 OPENING COMMENTS BY CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:

5                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:    Thank you

6 very much for those opening comments, John. I'd just

7 like to move on into the -- describe a little bit --

8 we have a short opening presentation by the Review

9 Board, and I'll describe a little bit of what you can

10 expect for the day. And I'll then be passing it on to

11 the GNWT for an opening presentation.

12                   I hope that nice little drive in from

13 Yellowknife woke everyone up. You know, it's sort of

14 a roller-coaster. I know some of the people in the

15 backseat of the car may have been touching the ceiling

16 a couple of times.

17                   So I'd like to echo John's remarks.

18 You know, we're here to have a very free-flowing, open

19 discussion. We've had several rounds of -- well, one

20 (1) round IRs, and the Review Board's issued one as

21 well and -- thank you. For some reason, that's not

22 progressing like it should. Oh, there we go.

23                   Yeah. So, you know, the purpose here

24 is, you know, to have a very informal discussion.

25 That being said, we are being transcribed, but, you



1 know, it's much better to meet in person. Sometimes  
2 when you have questions in writing, it's not clear  
3 exactly what the other party is saying. So I'm hoping  
4 today that, you know, we can really work towards  
5 clarifying some of the issues that still exist with  
6 this EA.

7                   And, please, for everyone, we are being  
8 translated now, so I have to remember to speak a  
9 little bit slower because I am a bit of a fast  
10 speaker. I'll try my best.

11                   So, yeah, the purpose of today's  
12 meeting is to, like I said, just a very informal  
13 discussion. Feel free to, you know, speak your mind.  
14 We're here to get a better understanding of what the  
15 project is and identify the potential pathways, you  
16 know, the way that this project can affect the  
17 environment.

18                   And like always, we're here to try and  
19 focus on impacts that are likely significant -- in  
20 your view likely significant. And so as I -- I'd like  
21 to just brief everyone on -- you know, remind everyone  
22 what this project is. It's a road to Whati. I'm not  
23 going to say much on this slide 'cause I believe the  
24 Developer will be providing a brief presentation on  
25 what this project is.

1           And I'd just like to talk a little bit  
2 like how we got here. You know, this is -- there's  
3 been a long history to this project. The most recent  
4 part is the environmental assessment, but, you know,  
5 the Tlicho Government and the GNWT have put  
6 considerable effort into studying this project,  
7 identifying impacts.

8           And there's been a long history of  
9 discussions between Tlicho Government, GNWT, and other  
10 parties as well. So I'd just like to acknowledge the  
11 work that's gone into this project to date.

12           And so from our perspective, we started  
13 this back last summer, in July. We went through  
14 scoping. We recognized that effort that the Developer  
15 had put into this project through their Project  
16 Description Report.

17           We -- the Review Board put out its  
18 adequacy statement which outlined what parts of the  
19 project still required a bit more additional work that  
20 weren't -- you know, that the PDR, Project Description  
21 Report, hadn't identified all the issues and all the  
22 information that eventually we would require in this  
23 EA.

24           After that adequacy statement was  
25 released, the Review Board issued some IRs to help

1 fill in some of those information gaps. We then went  
2 into -- the most recent round was the Information  
3 Request stage, and after this technical session  
4 there's probably going to be some undertakings likely,  
5 and then to be determined, we'll be having a public  
6 hearing likely.

7                   So just before we go any further, I'd  
8 like to make sure everyone knows who everyone else is  
9 here. I see people have been writing their names  
10 down. At this point, I'd like to just, you know, pass  
11 the mic around, do a round table. There's quite a few  
12 people here.

13                   We'll start with the main table, then  
14 we'll go to the back row, and then we'll go to the  
15 people on the phone. And this is a little bit of an  
16 icebreaker. If you could share your name, your  
17 organization, and, you know, what's your favourite  
18 northern food, and for those people who are in the  
19 south, potentially, you know, what your favourite  
20 southern food is.

21                   So I'll start. I'm Simon Toogood, with  
22 the Mackenzie Valley Review Board. And I'm going to  
23 go with -- a smoked coney is probably my favourite  
24 northern food. I'll pass it on to Boyan. Oh. Oh,  
25 yeah.

1 CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW: Okay, I'm  
2 also with the Review Board. My name Ruari Carthew.  
3 I'm -- I'm also going to help Simon facilitate a  
4 little bit today. And I might get up close and  
5 personal with you with the microphone. Hopefully it's  
6 not too hot and sweaty.

7 My favourite northern food would be  
8 cloudberries. I -- I love the taste.

9 MR. MARK CLIFFE-PHILLIPS: I'm Mark  
10 Cliffe-Phillips. I'm the executive director with the  
11 Mackenzie Valley Review Board. And my favourite  
12 northern food is bannock.

13 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Hi. Good morning,  
14 everyone. I'm Alan Ehrlich. I'm the manager of  
15 environmental assessment of the Review Board.  
16 Favourite northern food? I'm going with dried fish.

17 MS. LORRAINE SEALE: Lorraine Seale.  
18 I'm with GNWT, and cranberries.

19 MR. DEAN CLUFF: Dean Cluff, GNWT. My  
20 favourite northern food would be Moose.

21 DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.  
22 Favourite northern food? Probably whitefish.

23 HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather  
24 Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT. I'd have to say my new  
25 favourite northern food is muskox.

1 MR. DARREN CAMPBELL: Darren Campbell,  
2 with GNWT. And I'd have to say caribou stew  
3 specifically with caribou heart. But to keep it  
4 legal, I haven't had it in twelve (12) years.

5 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Good morning.  
6 Russ Neudorf, GNWT. My favourite northern food would  
7 be lake trout, mostly because I enjoy catching them so  
8 much.

9 MS. KATIE ROZENSTRATEN: Katie  
10 Rozenstraten, GNWT, and pickerel.

11 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Kyle Knopff. I'm a  
12 wildlife biologist with Golder Associates, and I  
13 really like eating moose.

14 MR. DAMIAN PANAYI: Damian Panayi,  
15 with Golder Associates. And I see I've got some  
16 competition in the room for cloudberry, so I won't  
17 be sharing any of my favourite cloudberry patches with  
18 you, Ruari.

19 MR. SHIN SHIGA: My name is Shin  
20 Shiga. I work for the North Slave Metis Alliance. My  
21 favourite northern food is Saskatoon berries.

22 MR. MARK D'AGUIAR: My name is Mark  
23 D'Aguiar. I'm a senior fisheries protection biologist  
24 with Fisheries and Oceans. My favourite food is --  
25 northern food is probably muskox, as well.

1 MR. UMAR HASANY: Umar Husany, with  
2 the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency with  
3 the Northern projects management office. Favourite  
4 food? Any kind of fried fish.

5 MR. BRADLEY SUMMERFIELD: My name's  
6 Bradley Summerfield. I'm with Environment and Climate  
7 Change Canada. My favourite northern food is Great  
8 Slave whitefish.

9 MS. AMY GANTON: I'm Amy Ganton, with  
10 the Environment and Climate Change Canada, and my  
11 favourite food is muskox stew.

12 MS. EMILY NICHOL: Emily Nichol, with  
13 Environment and Climate Change Canada, and my  
14 favourite food is also whitefish.

15 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: Hi. My name  
16 is Georgina Chocolate, the Tlicho Government. My  
17 favourite food is caribou, and fish, and all the  
18 berries.

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 ELDER JOE CHAMPLAIN: I'm Joe  
23 Champlain, from Whati. I -- I grew up with caribou  
24 meat, and so I also grew up with fish, so I really  
25 love caribou and fish.

1                   ELDER FRANCIS SIMPSON:    My name is  
2 Francis Simpson. I'm from Whati. I also advise the  
3 Chief's office. I really enjoy cooking, prepared duck  
4 on fire -- open fire.

5                   MR. PETTER JACOBSEN:    Petter Jacobsen,  
6 Tlicho Government.

7

8                   (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9

10                  (NOT SWITCHED TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

11

12                  MR. PETTER JACOBSEN:    ...thinly sliced  
13 cut caribou meat cooked a little bit on the barbecue  
14 and then eat it just with some salt.

15                  MS. JESSICA HUM:    You just gave a  
16 recipe. My name is Jessica Hum, acting manager with  
17 the Lands Department of Tlicho Government, also known  
18 as Jessinka (phonetic) in Tlicho. And my favourite  
19 food to gather and eat is cranberries in the first  
20 frost.

21                  MR. ZABEY NEVITT:    Zabey Nevitt, with  
22 the Tlicho Government. Up until a couple of years  
23 ago, it was Kentucky, but they closed that one, so.  
24 No, I'm kidding. It's -- it's -- I'm a big fish fan.

25                  MS. GINGER GIBSON:    Ginger Gibson,

1 with Tlicho Government, and I -- I'm with Jessica.  
2 Cranberries in anything and with everything.

3 MS. JANELLE KUNTZ: I'm Janelle Kuntz,  
4 with the Firelight Group working for the Tlicho  
5 Government. My favourite northern food is moose meat.

6 MR. JONAS LAFFERTY: Jonas Lafferty...

7

8 (NOT SWITCHED TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)

9

10 MR. JONAS LAFFERTY: I like boiled  
11 whitefish, okay.

12 MS. ALLICE LEGAT: Allice Legat,  
13 representing the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.  
14 My favourite fi -- after listening to food -- after  
15 listening to all of you is boiled fish thickened with  
16 rock tripe when you're on the barrens.

17 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Good morning. Boyan  
18 Tracz, Wek'eezhii Renewable Board staff member. A  
19 quick answer would be all of the above, but fried fish  
20 at fish camp is particularly good.

21 MS. CATHERINE MCMANUS. Catherine  
22 McManus, with the Review Board. I would have to say  
23 fresh bannock.

24 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Bruno Croft, ENR,  
25 North Slave region. Just like Boyan, I like them all.



1 I don't -- but I guess moose would have to be at the  
2 top of the list for me.

3 MS. LAURIE MCGREGOR: Laurie  
4 McGregor, GNWT. My favourite northern food is  
5 cranberries.

6 MS. TAMIKA MULDER: Tamika Mulders,  
7 with GNWT. My favourite food would be wild  
8 raspberries.

9 MS. KATE WHITHERLY: Kate Whitherly,  
10 with GNWT. And I have to go with bannock.

11 MR. ROHAN BROWN: Rohan Brown, GNWT-  
12 Justice. And my favourite northern food is red  
13 fleshed lake trout.

14 MR. MARK CRONK: Mark Cronk, with  
15 GNWT. And I would also chose raspberries.

16 MR. BINAY YADAV: Binay Yadav, with  
17 GNWT. I like the whitefish.

18 MR. MICHAEL CONWAY: Michael Conway,  
19 GNWT. Whitefish.

20 MR. STU NIVEN: Stu Niven, GNWT. My  
21 favourite food would be any smoked fish.

22 MR. GREG HANNA: Greg Hanna, GNWT. I  
23 can't make it myself, but I absolutely love bannock  
24 and lots of it.

25 MR. BOB KEELAGHAN: I'm Bob Keelaghan.

1 I'm with the transcription company. I like bannock.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MS. HEATHER BEARS: I'm Heather Bears.

6 I am consulting with the North Slave Metis Alliance.

7 And my favourite norther food is arctic char.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MR. NIGEL ROSSOUW: My name is Nigel

12 Rossouw, with CanNor-NPMO. And I like all the

13 berries and fish. All the meat. Everything.

14 MR. KAI NIU: Hi. Kai Niu, with

15 Federal Department of Justice. I like bannock.

16 DR. CAM STEVENS: Cam Stevens, with

17 Golder Associates. I'm a fisheries biologist with

18 Golder, and naturally I like fish. Thanks.

19 MS. MICHELE GRABKE: Michele Grabke,

20 with Golder Associates. A shore lunch would be great

21 with some fish.

22 MR. GABRIEL BERNARD-LACAILLE: Gabriel

23 Bernard-Lacaille, with Environment and Climate Change

24 Canada. My favourite food would be walleye.

25 MS. NICOLE GOODMAN: Nicole Goodman,

1 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. And pickerel.

2 MR. PAUL MERCREDI: Paul Mercredi,  
3 with the GNWT. And other than breakfast I would have  
4 to say my grandmother's bannock.

5 ELDER LOUIE FLUNKIE: Louie Flunkie,  
6 (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

7 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you,  
8 everyone. I'd like to just go to the phone line, and  
9 we if there's -- If there's anyone on the phone would  
10 you, please, introduce yourself. I think you've been  
11 hearing us also introduce our favourite foods. So  
12 with that, to the phone lines.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Is there  
17 anyone on the phone lines?

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: I'm not  
22 hearing anyone, so I'll continue on. Thank you,  
23 everyone, for your favourite foods. I was -- thought  
24 I might hear KFC but thankfully no. I guess ever  
25 since they left Yellowknife, it's no longer a

1 favourite food.

2                   So I'd just like to do a quite intro of  
3 what we're going to be doing. Today we'll just be  
4 going through the opening remarks. I'll attempt tot  
5 make up some time here. We're a bit behind schedule.

6                   Today we're going to be concentrating  
7 on wildlife. That includes moose, caribou, all the  
8 ungulates. Tomorrow we're going to concentrating on  
9 fish, birds, and water. And then on Thursday we're  
10 going to be having -- we're going to focus on the  
11 cultural effects of the project.

12                   So today there may be commitments.  
13 There may be undertakings. We're going to try and  
14 obviously get the wording of the undertakings  
15 finalized each day. We'll do that when they come up  
16 and again we'll review those at the end of each day,  
17 and then we'll ask the party who is responsible for  
18 the undertaking how long they think they'll need to  
19 respond.

20                   We encourage parties to respond as  
21 quick as you can to questions. If there's going to be  
22 a long huddle, eventually you could back to that  
23 question later. And if it's going to take a long time  
24 it might an appropriate time for a break, so I'll see  
25 how the day is going and there might be an opportunity

1 to have a break so parties can get their response  
2 quicker.

3                   During breaks we encourage sidebar  
4 meetings. It is a bit formal around this table even  
5 though we're trying not to be. So when you're having  
6 breaks, please talk amongst the parties, raise  
7 questions, and be productive even when you're not  
8 around the table.

9                   If there is any discrepancies, if  
10 parties have a disagreement between whether or not  
11 something should be dealt with in the EA or the  
12 regulatory and -- the Review Board will weigh in on  
13 that as needed. So logistics, like we said, please be  
14 on time. It's a long drive. It's takes at least an  
15 hour and twenty (20) minutes to get here.

16                   Transcripts, I believe those will be  
17 ready the night -- tonight they should be ready and  
18 we'll probably get those posted either tonight or  
19 tomorrow morning. There is an interpreter, so please  
20 try and speak relatively slowly and remember to  
21 introduce yourself when you get the mic.

22                   And yes, I will try and be mindful of  
23 teleconference participants, but I'm not sure there's  
24 anyone on the phone today. So with that, we're going  
25 to get started. But before I do that I'm going to

1 pass the mic down to Alan for some opening remarks.

2 Just hold the bottom button.

3

4 OPENING COMMENTS BY THE REVIEW BOARD STAFF:

5 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Hi again, everyone.

6 I wanted to talk about a couple of higher level ideas

7 before we get right into it. And even before that,

8 one (1) of the first things I want to put out is I --

9 I want to make sure everyone in the room understands

10 that this is not a hearing. If this was a hearing our

11 Board members would be sitting here and listening, and

12 making decisions, but there are no Board members here.

13 We didn't even bring a lawyer, I said, glaring at the

14 GNWT.

15 It's -- it's a technical session and

16 the idea of a technical session is that we've found in

17 the past that trying to resolve all the many technical

18 issues that come up with almost any development just

19 by paper and back and forth is a little bit

20 inefficient and sometimes painful.

21 It takes a lot longer, because people

22 need time to read a lot and people need time to write

23 carefully, and there's a lot less back and forth

24 between the people who actually know the subject

25 matter. And it -- it tends to be much more efficient,

1 we've found, after a round of Information Requests, so  
2 people can figure out what they really need more  
3 information on, and get started on the information,  
4 much more efficient to do a face-to-face session like  
5 this.

6                   For this particular EA I noticed that  
7 the Second Round of Information Requests is a -- a  
8 possibility, but it doesn't look like it's a  
9 certainty, which means if we can put to bed enough of  
10 the technical issues here we can avoid a -- an  
11 otherwise potentially lengthy step.

12                   I mean, we've committed to doing a  
13 timely environmental assessment, but if good questions  
14 are asked, they need good answers, and sometimes that  
15 -- that isn't a fast process.

16                   So I want people to try to make a  
17 really earnest effort to openly and constructively  
18 talk about their -- their knowledge of the -- the  
19 technical subjects that are being discussed here.  
20 This is not a spot for adversarial matters. Again,  
21 it's not like a hearing. No one is cross-examining  
22 anybody.

23                   We're just trying to clarify  
24 information that's already out there or get other  
25 information on. What I'd like you to keep coming back

1 to, is the Board has to make a decision here and the  
2 decision is not just should the project go ahead or  
3 not. Okay.

4                   That's not really what the Board is  
5 wrestling with here. Most of the time the Board has  
6 approved projects with certain conditions. And those  
7 conditions are to try to avoid undesirable  
8 consequences that might have not been foreseen in  
9 project design.

10                   And so good environmental assessment  
11 makes projects better. In order to do that, we need  
12 to figure out what kind of undesirable consequences  
13 could occur that are unexpected. And so the idea  
14 partly is -- is improving project design. Please bear  
15 that in mind when we're -- we're having that  
16 discussion.

17                   I particularly appreciated John B.  
18 Zoe's opening analogy there where he said, This is  
19 kind of like the confluence of a river where different  
20 streams come together and become a river. In terms of  
21 information, there is a -- an interchange and a free  
22 flowing that should be happening here.

23

24                   Now, I know the GNWT, it's a very big  
25 organization, and nobody wants everyone flapping their



1 gums and contradicting each other, so you're going to  
2 go mostly through Russ Neudorf. But I -- I would ask  
3 that you -- you try your best to resolve things here,  
4 partly because it lets us keep things very timely with  
5 the rest of the EA.

6           Some of the questions that are asked in  
7 the daytime you might not be able to answer  
8 immediately. For some of those, you could take a  
9 short caucus, but please, no more than a couple of  
10 minutes. You know, the ten (10) minute caucuses and  
11 stuff like that, they -- they tend to slow things down  
12 a lot, and we need to get through the agenda here.

13           If questions are asked that you need  
14 more time on, we ask you to talk, like Simon said,  
15 during the breaks, during lunch, maybe even in the  
16 evening if necessary. But if you can come back with  
17 answers the next day, again, that helps manage the  
18 possibility of having to do this stuff later in  
19 writing, which -- you know, we'd all prefer, I think,  
20 to get -- to get issues put to bed here where  
21 possible.

22           For issues that may not be resolved in  
23 -- in those kinds of sidebar meetings or over the  
24 extra time you have to caucus at -- at those breaks,  
25 there's a possibility of -- of undertakings, and those

1 are in writing.

2                   I don't like them as much, because  
3 people don't have a chance to clarify the response to  
4 face-to-face, and it becomes a written back and forth  
5 again. So bearing in mind what we've just said,  
6 that's -- that's quite a big part of it.

7                   Trying to put this stuff to bed here,  
8 but depending on the undertaking, we'll try to get  
9 written undertakings. If they're -- if they're  
10 absolutely unavoidable, we'll try to get them back in  
11 a couple weeks from any party that has to do them.  
12 Please don't reach for the undertakings too lightly,  
13 though. They're -- they should be a last resort.

14                   In the past environmental assessments,  
15 we've found that often, issues can be resolved through  
16 commitments from the Developer. We observe that the  
17 GNWT has the big guns here who actually have the  
18 authority to -- to think about how this project can go  
19 forward and know what kind of things they can and  
20 cannot make commitments for.

21                   If you have an opportunity to resolve  
22 an issue with commitments, hopefully with something  
23 that's easy for the Developer to do and important for  
24 the parties, you know, that's -- that's another way  
25 that the Developer can maintain autonomy over the

1 project and -- and manage it in a way that they're  
2 comfortable with, and also manage our process by  
3 putting issues to bed that way.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: I'd like to  
8 recognize the translators that we have here. They  
9 have a difficult job. Our translators are James  
10 Rabesca and Violet Mackenzie. Whenever you pick up a  
11 microphone, please say your names, like the  
12 presentation said. Try to remember to speak slowly.  
13 It's difficult, but because it's a technical session,  
14 sometimes we're describing things that aren't as  
15 easily translatable into Tlicho, and it -- it takes a  
16 little more time for them to articulate the meaning of  
17 the person who's speaking. So slowly and patiently,  
18 please.

19 Even though the room is small enough so  
20 that you can be heard if you speak loudly, for the  
21 benefit of the transcript, which has proven quite  
22 useful for all parties in past EAs when you're trying  
23 to remember exactly what was said here, please make a  
24 point of using the microphone every time you're saying  
25 something.

1                   So start with your name, use the  
2 microphone, and if you're at the -- one (1) of the  
3 back rows, please seize one (1) of the microphones  
4 from the table. Right. We're -- we -- we wish we had  
5 a little bit more space, but I think this is a -- a  
6 decent size, kind of a cozy gathering at the back,  
7 there. We have roving mics that are wireless. We're  
8 all using them now. Soon we'll be using table mics,  
9 too.

10                   I really want to bring back the idea  
11 that the Board's role is to make -- the Board has a  
12 decision to make about the project. It's not the  
13 ultimate decision-maker, obviously -- you know who  
14 those are -- but the Board has to make a decision  
15 about what it's going to recommend for this project in  
16 -- in terms of Section 128 of the Act. And if it is  
17 approved with mitigations, what kind of mitigations  
18 are -- are going to add real value to avoid  
19 significant adverse environmental impacts?

20                   When you speak here and take time here,  
21 please try and make sure that you're raising things  
22 that are relevant to the Board's decision, relevant to  
23 the Board's understanding of whether or not the  
24 project is likely to cause significant adverse  
25 impacts, and if so, what you would expect the -- the

1 Board might do about it, or what you would expect the  
2 Developer might be able to do about it, all right?

3                   But keep coming back to the Board's  
4 decision so that we don't go on tangents that are --  
5 are not relevant. There will be time for regulatory  
6 processes, assuming that that's the way the project  
7 goes, and -- and this is not the place for them to  
8 happen.

9                   For the Developer, this is important.  
10 We've had projects in the past, and -- and this  
11 project too, that have evolved over the course of the  
12 environmental assessment in response to issues that  
13 have come up or other -- other factors. And where the  
14 project has changed from what was originally proposed,  
15 it would be very helpful if the Developer can make  
16 that quite clear so that we're all talking about the  
17 same project. There's a lot of information on the  
18 public registry.

19                   How many people here have read every  
20 scrap of it besides Simon? Okay. I see a couple of  
21 half-hearted nods. I believe Stu has, but, you know,  
22 most people have -- have not had the time to burrow  
23 through a mountain of -- of printed material. And  
24 again, that's why it's very helpful if you can -- if  
25 you can point out anything that has changed over time

1 with the project as you raise it, just to make sure  
2 that we're all talking about the project that you want  
3 us to talk about.

4                   This is not a hearing, and the order of  
5 questioning is not going to run like a hearing. So  
6 this is mostly going to be facilitated by Ruari and  
7 Simon. I might do a little bit too, right? But we're  
8 not following the specific order of parties the way  
9 you've seen in hearings.

10                   If you want to jump in on a subject,  
11 it's okay to jump in. We'd rather you do it while the  
12 subject's being discussed than wait and then try and  
13 get back to it later.

14                   As well, you know, we live in a world  
15 where reality overlaps and isn't carved into neat  
16 little silos, but agendas are carved into neat little  
17 silos. We're going to try and stay on subject with  
18 the agenda, but there's no way to do some of this  
19 without overlapping.

20                   And if there's a little bit of overlap,  
21 it's to be expected. It's normal and it's -- it's not  
22 the end of the world. Try to stick with the agenda  
23 item as far as -- as you can, but please make sure  
24 that if you have thoughts, you get them out here while  
25 we're on that subject.

1                   At the end of the day, there's going to  
2 be a -- a short wrap-up. We're going to talk about  
3 any undertakings that have been made and any  
4 commitments.

5                   When undertakings come up, we're going  
6 to try and carefully go over the wording here to make  
7 sure we get them right, 'cause there's nothing worse  
8 than finding out someone's just spent two (2) weeks  
9 answering a question that isn't exactly what the first  
10 person meant to ask. So we'll -- we'll try to be very  
11 cautious about that.

12                   Finally, in terms of photographs,  
13 Catherine and I are both going to take some pictures,  
14 and if there's anyone here who really doesn't want  
15 their picture taken, can you please identify yourself  
16 now so that we can avoid you. Okay.

17                   That's it for -- for my opening blurb.  
18 Thanks a lot, Simon.

19                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Hello. How  
20 are you? It's Simon Toogood, with the Review Board.  
21 Thank you, Alan. I'd like to pass it over to the  
22 Developer now for their presentation. I will queue  
23 that up for you.

24

25   (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: And to Russ,  
2 I don't believe that -- we had a mouse. It seems to  
3 have vanished. I'll have to push the button for you,  
4 if you just give me a nod, and I'll keep the  
5 presentation running for you. Thanks.

6

7 PRESENTATION BY GNWT RE: WILDLIFE:

8 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Okay. We'll  
9 make that work. Russ Neudorf, GNWT, Department of  
10 Infrastructure.

11 I'm going to begin by thanking the  
12 Review Board for organizing the session, helping us  
13 navigate our way through the environmental assessment.  
14 As you indicated, it is a -- it's a complex, onerous  
15 process, and we're certainly appreciative of the help  
16 that you provide to move us through that.

17 Thanks all to -- also to the community  
18 of Behchoko for have -- hosting this meeting, and for  
19 the facility here. We do certainly appreciate the --  
20 allowing us to come here and -- and have this meeting  
21 here.

22 The presentation is going to be fairly  
23 brief, but we'll try to move through it relatively  
24 quick, and focussing on the items that have changed  
25 since the -- the adequacy statement response, or ASR,



1 was submitted. So we'll go to the next slide.

2                   So just to quickly highlight our  
3 project here, we are talking about a -- a 94 kilometre  
4 road. There's another 3 kilometres that are actually  
5 just on the north end in -- in the community of Whati,  
6 so it's -- sometimes we talk about 97 kilometres, but  
7 it -- it is the same project.

8                   Of course, as part of that, you have to  
9 have granular material, borrow sources, some spur  
10 roads, and construction camps, a total of fifteen (15)  
11 water crossings, four (4) of which will be bridges,  
12 and eleven (11) would be large diameter culverts.

13                   The map -- the shaded areas on the map  
14 show the potential borrow sources. There's thirteen  
15 (13) of those that we're studying right now. And, of  
16 course, the purpose of the road is to connect Whati to  
17 the all-weather highway system, improving access to  
18 services, reducing the cost of living, employ  
19 residents, and then -- and just to connect our  
20 communities.

21                   Going to slide 3. Hard -- developer's  
22 assessment report, just as a reminder, is made up of  
23 two (2) separate documents, the first being the  
24 project description report that we had submitted to  
25 the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board in March 2016, and

1 then the second is the adequacy statement response  
2 that we submitted to the Review Board in April of this  
3 year.

4 I'll go to the next slide, slide 4.  
5 This outlines the presentation here, the different  
6 items that I will be talking about, and we'll probably  
7 just get right into it. So slide 5 is the ASR  
8 technical review sessions that were held in May. They  
9 provided the opportunity for parties to offer their  
10 insight, discuss possible concerns with the project  
11 prior to submitting Information Requests.

12 And, of course, various topics were  
13 discussed, such as the road alignment, the design,  
14 caribou monitoring, et cetera. And one (1) of the  
15 issues was to talk about NWT highways and what the  
16 TASR or side slopes will look like, and produced a --  
17 producing a draft WEMP, which are discussed on the  
18 next slides.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22

23 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: So this slide  
24 illustrates some comparable highways that are in place  
25 right now, and how they compare to the Tlicho all-

1 season road, or TASR. Some parties had requested  
2 photos, so there are some here.

3                   The design criteria for the Tlicho all-  
4 season road will be the same as the design criteria  
5 that we have for the Inuvik Tuk Highway, and that  
6 project is just nearing completion, will be complete  
7 later this fall. So three (3) of the four (4) photos  
8 that are labelled that way, ITH, are actually Inuvik  
9 Tuk Highway photos.

10                   The bottom photo on the -- on the right  
11 is actually our Highway 1, so it's just to show more  
12 typically what the vegetation would be like along the  
13 highway.

14

15                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: So -- so the top  
18 two (2) photos illustrate the size of crush or  
19 granular material that would be used on the road  
20 surface. And then the bottom photo on the left-hand  
21 side is attempting to show what a three (3) to one (1)  
22 side slope for that embankment would look like. And  
23 that three (3) to one (1) is the GNWT standard.

24                   Those embankments on our highways are  
25 different than what you would see on a mine haul road,

1 for example, where you would tend to have coarser rock  
2 type material.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: On slide 7, in  
7 our responses to IRs, we committed to provide a draft  
8 Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan, or WEMP, prior to  
9 the technical sessions, and that draft WEMP was just  
10 circulated on August 8th.

11 WEMP is a component of the larger  
12 Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan, and -- which  
13 describes the mitigation and monitoring that will be  
14 implemented to reduce or eliminate disturbance effects  
15 on wildlife and habitat. Both the WEMP and the WMMP  
16 will be colla -- collated together and to meet the  
17 content requirements of the WMMP's re -- as outlined  
18 in the Wildlife Act. And we do expect that that WMMP  
19 will be available at the end of September. And it'll,  
20 of course, be posted publically when it becomes  
21 available.

22 Slide 8 shows the components of the  
23 WEMP and outlines a plan of actions that the GNWT  
24 believes are necessary to undertake to understand the  
25 impacts of the TASR project on wildlife to test our

1 predictions made during the EA and to inform the  
2 implementation of appropriate road mitigation and  
3 wildlife management.

4                   On slide 9. So Information Requests  
5 have been submitted over the course of -- from the end  
6 of June until July 21st. The key issues are noted  
7 there, assessment methods, socioeconomic mitigation,  
8 design, and adaptive management.

9                   And I would make a note that the North  
10 Slave Metis Alliance did provide some additional IRs,  
11 and we received those just on July 14th. And the  
12 indication from the Board is that they're outside of  
13 the official IR process, but we are working to provide  
14 responses to those. About half of those have been  
15 provided already that are on the public registry, and  
16 the other half will be coming within the next week.

17

18   (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Slide 10. So  
21 this slide provides a brief update on some of the work  
22 we are still doing. And Environment and Climate  
23 Change Canada IR number 9 regarding migratory birds,  
24 the GNW -- GNWT committed to analyzing data that would  
25 be provided by ECCC.

1                   So we received that data on June 30th.  
2   And our consultant, Golder Associates, is currently  
3   assessing that data. And we expect to provide the  
4   final ana -- analysis prior to the due date for  
5   Intervenor technical reports.

6                   Slide 11. We would also note that, in  
7   conversations with DFO, the GNWT had committed to  
8   showing DFO the -- the road alignment. And so a  
9   helicopter aerial tour took place on August 9th, and  
10   we're still working with DFO on -- on the details.

11                   Slide 12 is our slide on traffic  
12   estimates. So this issue has come up before. And we  
13   note that the -- the road itself will be designed to  
14   accommodate up to two hundred (200) vehicles a day,  
15   and -- but we do expect the actual traffic volumes to  
16   be considerably lower than that. We would expect a  
17   volume similar to what we would see on our Highway 6  
18   to Fort Resolution or Highway 7 to the Fort Liard  
19   Highway.

20                   So we are saying in our reports that  
21   about twenty (20) to forty (40) vehicles a day. And a  
22   breakdown of that is provided in the bullets. If  
23   Fortune's Nico Mine traffic comes on stream, it's  
24   about nine (9) vehicles a day. Increased access,  
25   population growth, and air travel diverting to traffic

1 is about eight (8) vehicles a day. Just traffic to  
2 operate and maintain the road itself would be about  
3 six (6) vehicles a day.

4                   Our Whati -- the winter road traffic,  
5 you convert that into over the three hundred and  
6 sixty-five (365) days, so what happens with the winter  
7 road now and converted over to three sixty-five (365)  
8 is about twelve (12) vehicles, and then commercial  
9 loads, about a half a vehicle a day or one (1) vehicle  
10 every two (2) days.

11                   So if you add all those up, it's about  
12 thirty-five (35) vehicles a day, and that -- so within  
13 our range of the twenty (20) to forty (40) vehicles a  
14 day.

15                   I would note that the -- the WEMP that  
16 was just circulated, we have included a traffic  
17 monitoring component in that WEMP. And certainly  
18 we're planning on some adaptive management as part of  
19 the WEMP. So if -- if the traffic volumes are  
20 different than expected, we would be able to manage  
21 wildlife through that process.

22                   Slide 13 is our geotechnical program  
23 that is still underway. We proceeded through that  
24 program in two (2) different phases. Phase 1 this  
25 past winter we went and gathered geotechnical

1 information for the road alignment and at all the  
2 bridge stream crossings, and we are -- are expecting  
3 the final report in the next week or two (2).

4           And then Phase 2 was to go and collect  
5 geotechnical informations -- information for the  
6 thirteen (13) borrow sour -- sources, and we are  
7 expecting that report at the end of September. Once  
8 we get those reports they will be posted on the public  
9 registry.

10           Slide 15 is our procurement update. So  
11 we are managing the -- this environmental assessment  
12 process and a -- our procurement process at the same  
13 time. We note that the RF -- a request for  
14 qualifications, or RFQ was issued on March 20th,  
15 earlier this year. That closed on June 9th and we are  
16 just in the process of evaluating the responses that  
17 we received to that RFQ.

18           We do expect that we'll have a media  
19 release shortly to announce the results of that RFQ  
20 and to shortlist some proponents. And then once the  
21 procurement process is done we will have a proponent  
22 to -- that's going to design, construct, finance,  
23 operate, and maintain the winter road for a period of  
24 twenty-five (25) years. So we are proceeding through  
25 this procurement and are going to construct this road



1 underneath a public private partnership model, or a P3  
2 Model.

3                   Slide 15 is a slide on our GNWT Tlicho  
4 Government land exchange. So we have been having  
5 discussions with the Tlicho government about  
6 exchanging land. And that will -- pleased that we do  
7 have a draft agreement in place. It just needs to go  
8 through the formal processes to get -- to get formally  
9 approved.

10                   But the agreement will ensure that  
11 proper legal arrangements have been made bet --  
12 between both governments in order for the project to  
13 proceed through the regulatory phase and into  
14 construction.

15                   Slide 17 -- 16, sorry, the next slide,  
16 is just to note here quickly about how we plan to --  
17 the developer plans to respond as part of this  
18 technical session. We certainly do appreciate the  
19 comments from Alan about the tone of the meeting and  
20 we -- we'll try to keep it informal, and be open, and  
21 responsive as much as we can during this process.

22                   So I am the primary speaker. That  
23 doesn't mean that I'm going to be speaking all the  
24 time. Where it's -- it's more appropriate for a  
25 technical expert to provide details then we -- we'll

1 just simply go to them and they'll provide responses  
2 specific to their mandates.

3                   We also have our consultants here,  
4 Golder Associates. So on times we'll defer to them to  
5 be able to speak about the analysis that they  
6 conducted and reported in the ASR. We'd also note  
7 that we've been working closely with the Tlicho  
8 Government, and Firelight in particular, on this  
9 project, so there are some times that it'll -- it'll  
10 be both the Tlicho Government and the GNWT responding.

11

12                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Okay. So with  
15 that we do have this -- today's session is actually on  
16 wildlife, so we do have a few slides that we'll speak  
17 to very quickly some of the -- a half a dozen slides  
18 or so on wildlife and for that I'll turn it over to  
19 Kyle from Golder Associates and he can walk through  
20 those slides.

21

22                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24                   DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Okay. Kyle Knopff,  
25 with Golder Associates and I'm just going to run you

1 through, I think it's about six (6) slides, just to  
2 get us started for wildlife -- the discussion about  
3 wildlife today.

4                   Next slide. Okay. So a very quick  
5 overview of the assessment. So we undertook an  
6 assessment that intended to provide a precautionary  
7 and ecologically relevant impact predictions for the  
8 project that you just heard about. This assessment  
9 considered traditional knowledge from the area,  
10 traditional knowledge about wildlife, valued  
11 components that were assessed in the assessment. We  
12 also incorporated mitigation that came from  
13 traditional knowledge, and information about wildlife  
14 distribution and harvest, and these sorts of things,  
15 were incorporated into the assessment.

16                   The assessment identified mitigation  
17 for wildlife that is incorporated into the project  
18 directly. These include a wide variety of things. I  
19 won't go into them all but for example avoiding  
20 disturbing habitats during the migratory bird season  
21 to avoid mortality of birds, and also employing an  
22 environmental monitor who would be on site during  
23 construction in case, you know -- in case of  
24 uncertainty. As the construction moved along, the  
25 important wildlife habitats or -- or things were

1 identified, the environmental monitor would flag  
2 those.

3                   We concluded that with those  
4 mitigations in place we would see relatively -- we  
5 would see habitat loss. It is a -- it is an existing  
6 access route. Most of the alignment of the road  
7 follows but -- but we still would see some habitat  
8 loss. We did not conclude that there would be any  
9 fragmentation from that habitat loss that would impact  
10 population connectivity.

11                   We also did not conclude that there  
12 were any strong mechanisms after mitigation that would  
13 cause long term or irreversible change in reproductive  
14 or survival rates. Next slide, please.

15

16                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18                   DR. KYLE KNOPFF: So now we've got  
19 four (4) slides here that just go over some of the  
20 issues that came up during the IRs to -- to kick off  
21 our conversation.

22                   So we had some questions about the  
23 amount of undisturbed habitat for boreal caribou that  
24 would be included in the ASR, and -- and these related  
25 to different estimates of how much undisturbed habitat

1 were present in the NT1 range, caribou range.

2                   And to just clarify our response, we --  
3 we did use different and updated development in burn  
4 landscapes for 2016. We also used different --  
5 different projections and land cover layers. So these  
6 -- these different layers that we used did create some  
7 differences and changes from layers that have been  
8 used by others.

9                   But the really important part of our  
10 overall conclusion when we re-analyzed these data and  
11 looked at the different ways you could conduct the  
12 analysis is that in all cases the differences are  
13 quite small. And in all cases undisturbed habitat  
14 remains above the 65 percent threshold set by  
15 Environment Canada within that NT1 range. Next slide,  
16 please.

17                   So we also received some questions  
18 about barren and -- barren ground caribou and boreal  
19 caribou harvest. And so the conclusion in the ASR was  
20 that the project will improve road access to the  
21 region, and this could include increased access for  
22 harvest.

23                   However, when we're talking  
24 specifically about barren ground caribou north of  
25 Whati, access still requires the use of existing

1 winter road systems, so we expect that -- that this  
2 project would potentially increase access by a few  
3 days early in the season. But later in the season, in  
4 April when there still would be access, the caribou  
5 have moved north to their calving grounds. There are  
6 also -- and this is really important, current harvest  
7 management actions to limit harvest of -- of barren  
8 ground caribou. Next slide, please.

9                   Just back -- back to vehicle  
10 collisions. So we -- we had a lot of discussion, as  
11 well, or back and forth in the IRs about wildlife  
12 vehicle collisions. And so one (1) of the things that  
13 we undertook was to analyze the existing collision  
14 data from Highway 3, and those data indicate that  
15 caribou collisions are extremely rare.

16                   And based on that analysis it  
17 reinforces the conclusion we had in the ASR, that low  
18 numbers of strikes are expected, and that's related to  
19 the low number of vehicles that are expected to be  
20 travelling the route per day for the project, and also  
21 due to the low traffic speeds on -- on the gravel  
22 road. Next slide, please.

23                   So one (1) of the other issues that  
24 came up relates to changes in predation on caribou as  
25 a consequence of -- of adding the road to the

1 landscape. So at -- under the existing conditions we  
2 already have in this area an existing network of  
3 trails and linear features. In fact, most of the  
4 alignment of the road follows an existing -- an  
5 existing route.

6           Wolves or bears might use the project  
7 as a travel corridor. They actually might make  
8 themselves more susceptible to harvest pressure along  
9 that road. And we also note that regeneration of  
10 recent burns may actually be increasing moose  
11 densities in the area, and this may result in changes  
12 to predation pressure. But the -- it -- it's  
13 essentially the -- the effect of the fires and the  
14 burning and those changes to the habitat conditions  
15 are going to swamp the -- the affects of the project  
16 in terms of how predator/prey relationships might be  
17 altered on the -- on the landscape.

18           Next slide, please. So now we can open  
19 up the -- the floor for questions.

20

21 QUESTION PERIOD:

22           CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Simon  
23 Toogood, with the Review Board. Thank you very much.  
24 Just I'd like to take this time to also welcome Chief  
25 Charlie Football, from Wekweeti. Thank you.

1                   Yeah, so before we go to have our first  
2 break we'd like to start off with a couple of  
3 questions, hopefully. And part of that, I'd like to  
4 pull up the agenda for today, which is right here. It  
5 is vanished on...

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: And I'm back  
10 again. Okay. So there are several parties here. I'd  
11 imagine that they're going to have questions on  
12 wildlife. Before I lay down the law and start  
13 dictating who's going to speak first, I'm just  
14 wondering if there's any parties who would want to  
15 start the day off with a question.

16

17

(BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19

                  CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: I'm back  
20 again. So, yeah, I'm looking for hands. Who would  
21 like to start the day off? I'm seeing a very eager  
22 NSMA.

23

                  So, Shin, if you'd like to start off  
24 with questioning on wildlife with GNWT or the  
25 developer?



1                   MR. SHIN SHIGA:    Thank you.  Shin  
2  Shiga, North Slave Metis Alliance.  I -- I just had a  
3  question about the time line for the -- the overview  
4  part of the presentation.

5                   So I -- I heard that the WMMP will be  
6  ready in the end of September.  And we obviously want  
7  to review that quite thoroughly.  That's -- that's a  
8  key part of the management.  And what I -- I wasn't  
9  sure was what -- when the technical report is going to  
10 be due, so -- and whether there will be sort of an  
11 opportunity to have another technical workshop, if --  
12 if that would be useful.

13                  So, yeah, those are the questions.  
14 Thank you.

15                  CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:  It's Simon,  
16 with the Review Board.  So that question's to the  
17 Review Board, I take it, or are you asking if it's  
18 going to be -- the developer's going to hold its  
19 technical session like it did previously?

20                  MR. SHIN SHIGA:  Anyone who could  
21 answer me, that would be great.  Thank you.

22                  CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:  It's Simon,  
23 with the Review Board.  On our perspective, this is  
24 our technical session.  I'll let the developers speak  
25 whether or not they will be holding any additional

1 sessions. So that -- I'll pass it off to Russ  
2 Neudorf.

3 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
4 GNWT. As we indicated, we do anticipate the WMMP is  
5 ready at the end of September. And we'd certainly be  
6 willing to have any one-on-one type of discussions  
7 with you. I appreciate that -- I know when I was  
8 looking through the responses that we've given to your  
9 Information Requests so far, a lot of them defer to or  
10 default to the WMMP as continuing that information, so  
11 I expect that they would be quite interested --  
12 interesting for you.

13 So we can certainly commit that, you  
14 know, if you would like to get together and -- and  
15 talk to about it and walk through the details of it,  
16 then we'd be more than willing to do that.

17 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Shin Shiga, North  
18 Slave Metis Alliance. Thank you. I'd also just like  
19 to make sure that there's enough time between the WMMP  
20 and the submission of the technical report. So I  
21 guess that would be up to the Review Board to set the  
22 timeline. Thank you.

23 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Yeah. Yeah,  
24 we'll take that in consideration for sure before we  
25 schedule any hearings or further steps. Obviously

1 parties need time to review information prior to  
2 submitting their technical reports or participating at  
3 the hearing. Thanks.

4                   Simon Toogood, the Review board. So we  
5 heard that their developer had mentioned that they  
6 would commit to meeting with NSMA to discuss any  
7 additional documents or outcomes of their responses to  
8 IRs.

9                   So I'd just like to reiterate if that's  
10 a formal commitment by the Developer to have those  
11 discussions with NSMA?

12                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Yeah. Russ  
13 Neudorf, GNWT. Yeah. Yes, we're committed that we're  
14 -- if it's helpful to get together to meet to talk  
15 about the WMMP, then we will do that.

16                   And I've also been handed a note that  
17 the details of that will be discussed -- talked about  
18 as part of the regulatory phase as well. So we can --  
19 be some additional discussions through that process.

20

21 --- COMMITMENT NO. 1:           GNWT to meet with NSMA to  
22                                    discuss any additional  
23                                    documents or outcomes of  
24                                    responses to IRs and WMMP;  
25                                    to include all parties

1 based on the discussions

2

3 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you. Shin  
4 Shiga, North Slave Metis Alliance. Okay. So that  
5 brings up my next question about the regulatory aspect  
6 of the wildlife management.

7 I'm always fuzzy on the -- the -- you  
8 know, who -- like when's the most appropriate time to  
9 talk about wildlife. EA process seems like a good  
10 place. Sometimes when I try to talk about wildlife  
11 during the land use permit applications, I get -- I  
12 get shut down.

13 So I guess this is a question to the  
14 Review Board: Like -- like what -- which part of the  
15 regulatory -- I'm assuming Wek'eezhii Land and Water  
16 Board regulatory process -- are we supposed to talk  
17 about wildlife?

18 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Simon  
19 Toogood, with the Review Board. I -- I'm not going to  
20 speak for the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board. I  
21 mean, during the EA, you are more than welcome to  
22 discuss issues about wildlife. I might actually ask  
23 Alan or Mark to touch on aspects of the regulatory and  
24 wildlife.

25 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Hey, it's Alan

1 Ehrlich, with the Review Board. So, yeah. Shin, I  
2 mean, the -- the question isn't so much when's the  
3 right time for the subject to come up. It's a  
4 question about what are you asking about, right?

5                   If it has to do with whether or not  
6 it's likely to cause significant adverse impacts, then  
7 that's a perfect time to raise it in the environment  
8 assessment. That's the perfect thing 'cause that's  
9 what we're trying to figure out.

10                   It isn't really an issue-by-issue  
11 sorting. It's a question of sort of the level of  
12 detail. When you're getting into particulars of  
13 regulatory authorizations that do not necessarily  
14 affect potentially significant impacts but preferences  
15 within stuff that's not significant, that's when the  
16 regulatory process is good. So I think you're in the  
17 right place to talk about big-picture issues.

18                   Does that help?

19                   MR. SHIN SHIGA: Yes. For like the --  
20 the -- for -- for us to talk about wildlife in  
21 regulatory -- Shin Shiga, North Slave Metis Alliance -  
22 - talk about wildlife, there has to be some kind of --  
23 if there's a management plan that's being reviewed by  
24 the Land and Water Board, I can -- I can ask questions  
25 about that.

1                   But sometimes they're -- they're --  
2 like if in the WMMP is not going to be approved by the  
3 Land and Water Board. And yet all the details that  
4 we're looking for is going to be in that plan, so we  
5 can't talk about it during the Land and Water Board  
6 process.

7                   So that -- that's why I'm lost. So  
8 like if there's no process during Land and Water Board  
9 review, I have to ask those questions here.

10

11   (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13                   MR. MARK CLIFFE-PHILLIPS:   Mark --  
14 Mark Cliffe-Phillips, with the Review Board. I -- I  
15 guess this is going back, a question to GNWT in  
16 particular, to how the -- the WEMP or -- or various  
17 forms of mitigation plans for wildlife, how they fit  
18 within the legislation governing the -- the -- for the  
19 Wildlife Act and the -- the WHHP or whatever the name  
20 of the new management plans are under the Wildlife  
21 Act.

22   Is this WEMP fitting within that  
23 particular legislative framework? And will parties  
24 have an opportunity to publicly review and comment on  
25 that process in the future?

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Okay.

4 So in terms of the WMMP, we can consider doing a

5 public rev --

6 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Could you say

7 your name, please?

8 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Oh,

9 sorry, right. Heather Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT.

10 For specific details around the WMMP,

11 we can consider doing a public review of that WMMP

12 before it is approved.

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Yeah.

16 So -- and of course, that's independent of the land

17 and water pro -- Land and Water Board process. It --

18 it is a -- legislated under the Wildlife Act.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you. Shin

23 Shiga, North Slave Metis Alliance. Yeah, that -- that

24 would make sense and address our concerns. Just one

25 (1) more clarification of the timeline of that

1 process.

2                   That would be -- that would be after  
3 the EA or during -- EA or parallel to the EA? Thank  
4 you.

5                   MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Yes,  
6 that's correct. It would be after the EA process.

7                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Please state  
8 your name --

9                   MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Oh,  
10 Heather Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT.

11

12                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14                   MR. MARK CLIFFE-PHILLIPS: Mark  
15 Cliffe-Phillips, with the Review Board. That -- just  
16 to -- to clarify, we're going to take that as a  
17 commitment from GNWT.

18

19 --- COMMITMENT NO. 2:           If there are outstanding  
20                                   issues to consider, GNWT  
21                                   will consider a public  
22                                   review of the WMMP after  
23                                   the EA process is complete

24

25                   MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Hi, it's Alan



1 Ehrlich, with the Review Board, again. Just to  
2 clarify, was that commitment to have a review or to  
3 consider having a review?

4 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Okay.  
5 So if there are -- oh, oh, Heather Sayine-Crawford,  
6 with GNWT. I've been to many hearings; I'm still  
7 forgetful. Sorry.

8 If there are still a lot of outstanding  
9 issues we will consider a public review of the WMMP  
10 after this -- the EA process is complete.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Yeah, I'll  
15 pass the mic over to Jessie (phonetic), at the Tlicho  
16 Government.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MS. JESSICA HUM: Jessica Hum, with  
21 Tlicho Government.

22 So my -- my question is, I notice in  
23 the WEMP a proposed approach for ENR to create a  
24 renewable resource officer position in Whati, or a  
25 community-based renewable resource position. And

1 already we, as a Tlicho Government, have created  
2 several environmental monitoring programs. We've been  
3 successful in partnership with the Renewable Resource  
4 Board, the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board, on  
5 todzi, traditional knowledge of the boreal caribou.  
6 We've also worked on fish camps, so monitoring of cli  
7 (phonetic) and ti (phonetic), so water.

8                   And these are successful programs eight  
9 (8) years in the running. So we have a -- a basis of  
10 history of partnership in working together to create  
11 environmental monitoring programs, both for caribou,  
12 water, and fish.

13                   So my question is really about this  
14 renewable resource position, community-based. Can you  
15 describe your ideas of -- of how that would go about  
16 and how we may work together, the community government  
17 of Whati, Tlicho Government, and GNWT-ENR, and in your  
18 opinion if you feel that one is enough for the entire  
19 Tlicho all-season road?

20

21                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23                   MR. BRUNO CROFT: Bruno Croft, ENR-  
24 North Slave. Thank you, Jessica, for your question.  
25 Heather related a little bit in different form.

1                   If your question is about community-  
2 based monitoring program that would like to expand,  
3 that would sort of take care of the Tlichó road coming  
4 up, I see that as no problem. Like you mentioned  
5 before, we have had community-based monitoring program  
6 wor -- working with your communities, boreal caribou  
7 and others. This is continuing, and I just see this  
8 moving forward a simple expansion to what we already  
9 do together. I see no roadblocks there, no  
10 difficulties.

11                   We'll have to sit down and -- and find  
12 ways to fund a few more initiatives, but that's our  
13 headache. That's -- this is -- this is for us to  
14 worry about. But, you know, in our region, it's  
15 fundamental that we work with the communities in  
16 everything we do, and that's no different here.

17                   Does that answer it?

18                   MS. JESSICA HUM:     Jessica, from Tlichó  
19 Government. Yes, we're happy to hear about the  
20 additional possibilities of partnerships. I -- I'm  
21 also very interested in -- in how the data from  
22 community monitoring may be used. Maybe you haven't  
23 expanded so much on this in the WEMP.

24                   For -- for example, we've worked on  
25 piloting the wolf -- community-based wolf harvesting

1 project. We worked on that together and compiled data  
2 for the Renewable Resource Board. So there is a clear  
3 connection there between our partnership and the data  
4 that gets collected.

5 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Jessica.  
6 Mr. Chair, Bruno Croft, ENR, North Slave Region. It  
7 looks like I forgot one (1) -- one (1) question you  
8 asked earlier, so I'll start with that one.

9 Over the years, we've tried hard to  
10 staff renewable resources officer level 1 on the  
11 Whati. We were not able to do so through forced  
12 growth and -- and other initiatives. In this case,  
13 now that we'll have a road in place, hopefully, we'll  
14 make another attempt to have either patrolmen, which  
15 is how they call this, or a renewable resources  
16 officer, one (1) permanently staffed in Whati to have  
17 coordinates to those community programs, and also help  
18 us out a little bit as far as compliance monitoring  
19 and harvesting reporting, and all that -- that series  
20 of work we have to do.

21 Can you please remind me of your second  
22 question, there, Jessica?

23 MS. JESSICA HUM: Right. So the  
24 second part was: Is -- is one (1) enough? And what -  
25 - what you're saying is, in the word 'permanent', that

1 one (1) would be in place during construction and  
2 during the operation of the road?

3 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair, Bruno  
4 Croft, ENR-North Slave. We'd like to have more. As  
5 you probably know now, we're expanding our monitoring  
6 and filling up data gap into an area where in the  
7 past, we haven't done so. The taiga plain, where this  
8 road is taking place, is one where we did not have  
9 conservation issues, or management, or pressing  
10 management issues forcing us to spend more time or  
11 resources in those areas.

12 We have done some of that recently for  
13 boreal caribou and moose. Fortunately, we're able to  
14 get external funding to -- to do that, and it will  
15 have to continue. One (1) officer in Whati is a  
16 start. We would like to have a technician, if we  
17 could, to help us out a little more and -- and more  
18 folks in the communities hired outside the winter  
19 season, which we've done in the past.

20 So, again, it's a work in progress, but  
21 our intent is to always work seamlessly and jointly  
22 with the communities. We've done that for a long  
23 time. We want to continue to do so.

24 In a nutshell...

25 CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW: Ruari

1 Carthew, with the Review Board.

2 Bruno, could you please clarify? Were  
3 -- were you -- in response to Jessica's question about  
4 the monitoring, you had mentioned that you would be  
5 happy, the GNWT, to work with them to expand their  
6 monitoring program.

7 Is -- is that an additional commitment  
8 that the GNWT is -- is making?

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. DEAN CLUFF: Check.

13 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thanks. Bruno  
14 Croft, ENR-North Slave.

15 Yes. Basically this is what we do,  
16 right. We -- we monitor -- work with the communities.  
17 We have done so for the past ten (10), fifteen (15),  
18 twenty (20) years. We want to continue to do so, and  
19 as new management issues arises or new monitoring  
20 issues present itself, we try to step up to the place  
21 (sic) and then expand.

22 So, yes, it is our intent within our  
23 capability to continue to do that. Absolutely.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. PETTER JACOBSON: Hi. Petter  
2 Jacobson, with the Tlicho Government.

3 During the last two (2) years, we have  
4 also established a boots-on-the-ground caribou  
5 monitoring program. And part of our approach is  
6 actually being on the ground with our boots and  
7 walking the land. Using some mem -- motors -- we'll  
8 use the boats, but mainly we walk to -- we look at the  
9 caribou, its health. We count how many wolves there  
10 are, how many bears we see. We see the health of the  
11 calves. We see the health of -- of the yearlings.  
12 Just being on the land for a -- a long time really  
13 gives us an approach to learn intimately about the  
14 details of the land.

15 And, you know, just wondering a bit  
16 more about your monitoring approach on having one (1)  
17 person. And maybe there's things we could -- there's  
18 elements of our methodology that you can take into  
19 your -- your program, and use.

20 So just -- if you hae any more  
21 information, like on what -- what your monitors are --  
22 are doing on the land, there.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chair. Petter, thank you for your question. Bruno  
3 Croft, ENR-North Slave.

4 The boots-on-the-ground is a success  
5 story, right? You guys will come up with a project  
6 entirely community based, bringing youths, leaders,  
7 and Elders to look at what caribou do in the summer  
8 using your own method, and -- and it's -- it's been  
9 good.

10 And already it's -- it's sort of  
11 spreading. We're getting requests now from other  
12 groups to do more of the same, and -- and expand  
13 beyond the normal monitoring program that we've all  
14 been accustomed to work with together.

15 So by all means, Petter, if you have  
16 any -- any suggestions, ideas, to expand what you've  
17 learned through the boots-on-the-ground that could be  
18 applied somewhere else, hey, we'll help. We're here  
19 to learn, too. We've learned from your -- your own  
20 work up in the barren land there this summer and last  
21 summer. And, yeah, yeah, we'll consider that for  
22 sure.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25



1                   MR. PETTER JACOBSON:    Petter Jacobson,  
2 with the Tlicho Government.

3                   Yeah. I think there's much of our  
4 methodology that we developed just using the -- the  
5 old methods that the Elders always used, the walking  
6 the land. And I hope we can work -- like we worked  
7 together on this one for the last two (2) years, and  
8 if there's anything we can meet now and try to look at  
9 something, those -- like elements of our methods that  
10 you can apply to your -- to the monitoring program  
11 here, that would -- that would be a good approach, I  
12 think.

13                  CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:   Do you have  
14 any -- Simon Toogood, with the Review Board. Any  
15 further questions from Tlicho Government?

16                  MS. JESSICA HUM:    It's a question also  
17 about management and monitoring. So continuing the --  
18 the dialogue about monitoring, we understand that  
19 boreal caribou have begun to be collared in 2017, and  
20 this is an action that informs the GNWT to make  
21 management decisions. And that collaring is much more  
22 frequent than the barren-ground caribou.

23                  And -- and so further to Petter's point  
24 about information sharing from Tlicho Government to  
25 GNWT, we also appreciate the information sharing vice-

1 versa and feel that our programs could be enhanced by  
2 more frequent collar information, more frequent data,  
3 so that we can be very precise because where the  
4 collaring is -- is -- in -- in theory, the collaring  
5 information comes to us every few days. And the  
6 reality is, when the boots are on the ground they are  
7 travelling by foot every day. And travelling by foot  
8 takes a long time.

9                   So if you have any comments on -- on  
10 that, on the information sharing that we've been  
11 doing, and if more frequent information can be  
12 provided?

13                   MR. BRUNO CROFT: Hello. Jessica, Mr.  
14 Chair, I'm Bruno Croft, ENR-North Slave Region. We  
15 could easily enter into a licence sharing agreement  
16 and make sure that you get the information as -- as  
17 often as you would like to, just like we did in the  
18 case of the Boots on the Ground and -- and others.

19                   We're transparent. I mean, what we do  
20 we share with your government, as -- as you know, the  
21 co-management boards, and again we'll continue to do  
22 so. So more frequent collaring, I mean, you're  
23 talking to a biologist here, and, yeah, I'm glad to  
24 hear we want to put more collars out there. Usually  
25 it's the reverse when we go to a community meeting.

1                   But, again, you've got a bottleneck of  
2 -- of resources to -- to do so. It takes time and  
3 effort and a lot of money to deploy collars. And it  
4 may not be needed to de -- deploy collars every day --  
5 every year. So this is -- this is something that is  
6 discussed with the co-management boards on -- on a  
7 regular basis, and with you guys, and we can explore  
8 it. But I -- we believe that with the sample size we  
9 have at the moment, that it will accomplish the  
10 purpose that it's there for.

11                   We're open to discussions on that  
12 moving forward, of course.

13                   MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD:    Sorry,  
14 can I ask...

15                   Jessica, just to get back to your  
16 question, you were -- you were wondering about the  
17 frequency of receiving data. So daily processing of  
18 collars doesn't happen right now. We give -- we only  
19 process collars every few days. So that -- that's --  
20 that will be a limitation to sharing data at a more  
21 frequent basis, it's -- in terms of people power in --  
22 in GNWT, and -- and also how the collars are sending  
23 data to us.

24                   MS. JESSICA HUM:        Okay. Thank you.  
25 That was -- that was actually a great point of

1 clarification.

2 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: So I'm Simon  
3 Toogood, with the Review Board. Any more questions  
4 from Tlicho Government? No?

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Oh. All  
9 right. Yeah, just noting that it is 11:20. We have  
10 lunch at 12:00. If there's a desperate need for a  
11 break. We've been sitting here since 9:30. If I see  
12 anyone desperately requiring a break please let me  
13 know. No, I think we can hold out until noon. Okay.

14 Yeah, I saw there was questions from  
15 Tlicho Government, and then WRB afterwards.

16 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Thank you. Ginger  
17 Gibson, Tlicho Government. A question for ENR and  
18 infrastructure. I just noted in the Wildlife Effects  
19 Monitoring Plan that you had different processes for -  
20 - and different data collection approaches to getting  
21 data when there's animal vehicle collisions.

22 And then you noted that you might be  
23 considering the approach that's been used in Alberta  
24 for gathering data by citizens. And so I wanted you  
25 just maybe to comment a little bit about why those are

1 so different, what are -- what -- what could be  
2 learned about sharing data between the two (2)  
3 departments.

4                   And I was kind of imagining what it  
5 might be, but it wasn't really -- it wasn't really  
6 drawn out in the -- in the Wildlife Effects Monitoring  
7 Plan. So I wanted to hear about what the different  
8 intents of data gathering are as well as if you've  
9 explored learning together by sharing that data.

10                   And then, thirdly, I think you go down  
11 the path in the WEMP of -- of the Wildlife Effects  
12 Monitoring Plan of talking about using Alberta's  
13 approach that they're trialing right now. And so I  
14 just wanted to hear about that approach a little bit,  
15 and then ask you to think about how that might work  
16 for harvesters and whether you've seen Alberta using  
17 that with harvesters, like for example, in the north -  
18 - north, whether they're actually getting harvesters  
19 to upload data using, I think it's an application, but  
20 I'm not sure.

21                   So just some open conversation about  
22 that approach would be really helpful for  
23 understanding how that data is going to be collected.  
24 And I think the long game here is -- is we're thinking  
25 about how harvesters in Tlicho region could be using

1 your monitoring approach and -- and really informing  
2 you about -- they're doing to be the first on the  
3 scene when there's a -- a collision, and they're going  
4 to be the ones that are most probably going to be able  
5 to upload data.

6                   So I wanted to think about that  
7 utility. Thanks.

8

9                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: So thanks,  
12 Ginger. Russ Neudorf, at GNWT. So there -- there's a  
13 lot of commitments made in the Wildlife Effect  
14 Monitoring Plan for what we're going to do -- we at  
15 the GNWT are going to do relative to monitoring  
16 wildlife and -- and the Tlicho all season road.

17                   And there's a few times it talks about  
18 interdepartmental -- or interagency working groups.  
19 And I would just note that, you know, it's a pretty  
20 small community, actually, when you get to talking  
21 about, you know, wildlife, and the Tlicho Government  
22 and ENR, and I'm sure there's lots of overlap between  
23 all those things.

24                   So even though it's -- there's a couple  
25 of different times in the -- in the WEMP that it talks

1 about these interagency groups, it's -- it's likely  
2 they're very -- it's the same people, or it's the same  
3 groups that are getting together to talk about the  
4 issues exactly that you're talking about.

5           Everybody's objective is going to be  
6 the same. It's to do the best we can to manage  
7 wildlife with the resources that are available to --  
8 to do that. And with that, I'll turn it over to ENR  
9 for some more specific detail.

10           DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, with  
11 GNWT. It was our understanding that the Alberta  
12 Wildlife Watch Program was permanently used by Alberta  
13 government employees and their contractors along the  
14 highway systems there at present.

15           So I don't know if they are planning on  
16 rolling it out to the public as well, but I think that  
17 would be our -- our intention at the start up of the  
18 program would just to be trial it internally to see  
19 how well it works before it would be rolled out any  
20 further.

21           MS. GINGER GIBSON: Ginger Gibson,  
22 Tlicho Government. Thanks, James. I would encourage  
23 you too look at -- I -- I'm living in Alberta right  
24 now, so I'd encourage you to look at also the Mikisew  
25 and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. They're

1 trialing a -- an approach where harvesters are able to  
2 capture and upload data and they're attempting to  
3 coordinate that relationship with the Alberta  
4 Government.

5           So there may be some good learning  
6 there. I think the vital thing is, if employees --  
7 like if government employees aren't -- aren't on the  
8 road and it's Tlicho harvesters that are coming across  
9 the interactions, it's them that would be the best  
10 data source. So we've got to make it super easy and  
11 super usable for folks that are on that road. That --  
12 that's my thinking.

13           A different line of question, the  
14 interaction of species, caribou, moose, bison, when  
15 I'm looking at the WEMP the one thing that really --  
16 like we have really good management. I see really  
17 good management approaches in place for traffic  
18 collisions and for -- so high mortality on the road  
19 and -- and we all know we're trying our best to think  
20 through the question of harvesting of -- of caribou  
21 so, and the management approach is there.

22           The one thing I just wasn't really  
23 clear on is interactions, and of -- of different  
24 species and how to -- what kinds of managements  
25 approaches are out there in your -- in the great



1 brains assembled for managing those interactions, if  
2 anything.

3 I thought pro-actively, like -- like  
4 down the road I thought about -- I put John B. on the  
5 spot this morning and we haven't really come to a  
6 resolution on this question, but I thought, This is a  
7 place where elders really could drill in, because they  
8 can tell you a lot about -- our elders can tell us a  
9 lot about how bison interact with caribou.

10 And they can also likely tell us about  
11 diversionary management approaches. So I think there  
12 can be some really good dialogue there. But I was  
13 wondering if -- from the great brains assembled, if  
14 you and the GNWT, if you have thought through  
15 management approaches for that question of bison  
16 travelling north.

17 It was the only place in the Wildlife  
18 Effect Monitoring Plan -- Program plan that I didn't  
19 see management approaches really clearly articulated,  
20 and I might well have missed it. But, please, let me  
21 know if you have some thoughts on that. Thanks.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather

1 Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT. I'm remembering.

2                   So from our -- I guess the most recent  
3 map I've seen of -- from ENR's perspective and -- and  
4 the maps that we've put together was from the  
5 collaring -- boreal caribou collaring effort in March.  
6 There are bison in the area already, so there are  
7 interactions there already.

8                   But I do like your idea of talking with  
9 people, and -- and trying to understand what those  
10 interactions are. And so I -- I would say that that  
11 would be a good place to start, right, to -- to  
12 understand -- to get people's understanding of how --  
13 how the -- how those interactions are happening.

14                   But the very first thing would be  
15 monitoring those interactions, and monitoring what is  
16 happening, and who -- what animals are out in -- in  
17 that landscape.

18                   MR. DEAN CLUFF:   Dean Cluff, GNWT.

19                   We do moose surveys, and we've been  
20 doing moose surveys in the North Slave since 2004.  
21 And when we do these surveys, we -- we've seen moose  
22 and -- and caribou and bison in -- in the -- in the  
23 general area. So and -- and often quite close to each  
24 other, so they do interact in that sense spatially.  
25 They do -- caribou and bison, for instance, moose eat

1 different foods so they're not necessarily competing  
2 against each other.

3                   Now, in these moose surveys we'll be  
4 able to monitor -- continue to monitor this as we do  
5 moose surveys tend to be maybe four (4) or five (5)  
6 years. We just did one (1) in November 2016, and --  
7 and that was the largest one (1) we've ever done.  
8 We've expanded into all the -- in -- into all the  
9 Tliche communities, and we'll continue to do that.

10                   MR. BRUNO CROFT: Perhaps, Mr. Chair,  
11 just to expand a little bit on what Dean was saying.  
12 Bruno Croft, ENR-North Slave.

13                   The expansion of the moose survey that  
14 Dean is referring to came about for this road but also  
15 for other biological reason that we couldn't address  
16 any earlier. So basically the entire North Slave  
17 region is now covered through those extensive and  
18 exhaustive moose surveys.

19                   So we will have a better handle on --  
20 on boreal caribou, and moose as well. So as far as  
21 bison goes, how much further north can they expand  
22 really. You can ask yourself that question. This --  
23 this is not a species that you will find on a taiga  
24 shield. And even the sightings that we've had in  
25 recent years, the further north you go they are not

1 there very long. It's outside their range, and--  
2 their key habitat.

3                   But we would certainly welcome any  
4 advice or recommendations from your Elders or others  
5 as to how to interact with those species. Again it's  
6 -- it's a team effort. We're not in here alone. And  
7 just one (1) more thing, Ginger, if you don't mind,  
8 about your previous question making reference to using  
9 the Alberta system. Thanks.

10                   Those are good ideas. We consider  
11 everything. But at the same time, we don't really  
12 want to over complicate things. The line of  
13 communication between the folks in Behchoko/Whati and  
14 the wildlife officer is pretty short, and that's  
15 probably the quickest, most efficient way of passing  
16 on information as long as it's done systematically  
17 consistently.

18                   And it's taking place already quite a  
19 bit. Our officers here in Behchoko have a close  
20 working relationship with your people here, and  
21 hopefully if we have someone in Whati it'll be the  
22 same. Probably be a resident of Whati who will become  
23 a patrolman, or a wildlife officer level 1.

24                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you,  
25 Bruno. It's Simon Toogood, with the Review Board.

1 Tlicho Government, do you have any further questions?

2 Okay.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: It's Simon

7 Toogood, with the Review Board. Tlicho Government, do

8 you have any further questions? Okay.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: It's Simon

13 Toogood, with the Review Board. WRB, do you have any

14 questions?

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Yeah. It's

19 Simon Toogood, with the review board. We're just

20 going to have some words from the Tlicho and one (1)

21 of their Elders.

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 ELDER JOE CHAMPLAIN: My name is Joe

1 Champlain. My -- I'm from Whati. We never -- when we  
2 never lived different -- same lives because when  
3 you're talking about your experience following  
4 wildlife -- because as Dene people we always track  
5 wildlife. We follow wildlife.

6           When -- where we grew up toward the  
7 area of the -- above the tree line, I grew up around  
8 the tree line area. We always investigate into  
9 caribou. Wherever there was wildlife, we always went  
10 investigate what's going on with wildlife. We  
11 followed wildlife everywhere. We never went anywhere  
12 without our snowshoes.

13           And so -- and up until now, it must be  
14 about when I was about seventy (70), I -- I stopped  
15 working. But right now I'm over eighty (80) years  
16 old. So up until that time, we spent a lot of time  
17 above -- around the tree line hunting.

18           And so we never, ever left our  
19 snowshoes at home. We travelled all day. And  
20 sometime, if we had to spend an overnight travelling  
21 after wildlife, that's what -- that's what we did.

22           So sometime when you're talking about  
23 following wildlife, we know how to track wildlife. We  
24 know exactly what the water conditions are when they  
25 travel, and this is when -- when you have an

1 opportunity to talk about wildlife when you see it  
2 with their boots on the ground.

3                   And so in the past, I just want you to  
4 know that it's a statement I'm making because when  
5 you're talking about wildlife, this is my experience  
6 of travelling with wildlife because everybody's  
7 experience in wildlife is different.

8                   So when my mother died at my young age,  
9 I was adopted out, and other people rose -- raised me.  
10 And so I grew up around -- around the barren -- above  
11 the tree line area, and I travelled with many, many  
12 people. Not one time did I ever leave my snowshoes at  
13 home. We walked behind moose, grizzly bears, bears.

14                   We used only snow shoes when we  
15 travelled and monitored and tracked the wildlife until  
16 I moved to Whati. It's difficult to kind of track for  
17 moose because I know it's boreal caribou. Boreal  
18 caribou is quite difficult to find, and it's really  
19 difficult to track boreal caribou in the woods.

20                   And so when you're tracking boreal  
21 caribou, you'll find out exactly what -- how it  
22 behaves. And so -- and so because we relied  
23 especially on wildlife, we know exactly how the  
24 behaviour of wildlife is. And so this is our  
25 experience.

1                   So sometime when we think that your  
2 experience is different, so it's just like same two  
3 (2) roads. Like your knowledge and our knowledge is  
4 not always the same. I just want to point that out  
5 because we're listening to everything you're saying  
6 and the information you're providing. And so I just  
7 want to provide my own information. Thank you.

8

9                   (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

10

11                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:     Simon  
12 Toogood, Review Board. Thank you very much for that.

13                   I think, Boyan, you've been waiting  
14 patiently, right? Do you want to -- have some  
15 questions?

16                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:     Boyan Tracz,  
17 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. Yeah, thank  
18 you. Thanks to the community of Behchoko. Thanks to  
19 Mackenzie Valley for putting this together, and  
20 participants.

21                   A couple of follow-up questions, at  
22 just sort of the -- the nature of this informal  
23 process. I'll follow up on -- on some of Bruno's  
24 comments and go back to some of Ginger's questions,  
25 and then hopefully before lunch be able to end on some



1 of Jessica's comments.

2                   And, basically, the umbrella is this  
3 idea of -- of information exchange and -- and then  
4 want for information to make the decisions and the  
5 concepts of uncertainty and risk. You know, not --  
6 not knowing can lead to problems down the line which  
7 at the beginning was sort of the idea that -- it's  
8 what we're trying to avoid.

9                   So I'll start with Bruno in terms of --  
10 well, sort of a follow-up on Ginger to -- to Bruno and  
11 Dean talking about the surveys that occur in  
12 Wek'eezhii and -- and North Slave on -- on moose and  
13 on -- on boreal caribou right now.

14                   Collaring program was -- was recent.  
15 And we know that a population survey for boreal  
16 caribou ha -- hasn't been conducted. There was a pre-  
17 collaring survey but not a population survey. And a  
18 lot of the discussion about boreal caribou is knowing  
19 how -- how many there are and how they're doing.

20                   So just as a follow-up to some of the  
21 statements made in the -- in the WEMP, and then some  
22 of the information -- other information and documents,  
23 it says that a population survey for boreal isn't  
24 being considered or is being considered pending  
25 funding.

1                   And I'm wondering -- in terms of that  
2 information, you know, in terms of good information to  
3 make decisions, I'm wondering if there could be a  
4 little bit more clarity on that, on -- on why a boreal  
5 caribou population survey isn't viewed as something  
6 important at this point prior to the establishment of  
7 the road or rather is -- is listed but that -- it --  
8 there's no certainty that it'll occur.

9                   And back to information exchange and  
10 cooperation, which the Board has -- has mentioned the  
11 WMMP is the place to talk about coordination. I'm  
12 just wondering, given that I've seen a Fortune  
13 representative in the corner and TG and ENR and WRB,  
14 following up on whether or not it'll happen, but sort  
15 of the idea of collaboration on population surveys  
16 that -- that's possible specific to boreal caribou?

17                   MR. BRUNO CROFT:    Mr. Chair, Boyan,  
18 Bruno Croft, ENR-North Slave. James and Dean can  
19 check in here a little bit about the logistic and  
20 feasibility to expand what we've started doing on  
21 boreal caribou to the next level. I'll let them do  
22 that in a minute here, if you don't mind.

23                   Up until this point, Boyan, you  
24 probably know more than anybody else that, as we went  
25 through the barren-ground caribou situations, and all

1 our resources were mass -- massively poured into  
2 expanding, monitoring, and -- and -- on those barren-  
3 ground caribou and, of course, consultation  
4 engagement, a multitude of public hearings as you were  
5 part of, and other species in the NWT.

6           The one (1) area of interest here, the  
7 taiga plain south of Grandin Lake, Whati Lake going  
8 down to South Slave to the west to Dehcho and -- and  
9 Sahtu sort of became on the back burner of things that  
10 we would like to do. One (1) of them is what do we  
11 know about the boreal caribou in the North Slave  
12 region, what do we know about moose in that one (1)  
13 area, the same with bison.

14           We just could not find the resources,  
15 the time and money to focus on the species that we  
16 perceive up until now, there was no pressing  
17 conservation issues or management issues with that one  
18 (1) area.

19           What this road and other things have  
20 done, for example, the fact that nobody can harvest  
21 barren-ground caribou, very few, harvest pressure  
22 shifting forced us to reconsider and look for other  
23 ways of understanding a little more what's going in  
24 the taiga plain, and we started doing that.

25           As far as moving into a full population

1 survey and find a true abundance survey on what we  
2 have for boreal caribou. I think we're working always  
3 towards that. What we've got now is a very good  
4 start. And again, Dean and James can explain the next  
5 step.

6                   Exchanging information, I think that  
7 was your second point there, Boyan. We always do.  
8 Again, we got tonnes of Information Requests that  
9 comes our way, your board, others. And we always  
10 respond and are always open to make it more efficient  
11 and -- and transparent. And this -- again, this is  
12 what we do, so we're -- we're working to making it  
13 better if it's not adequate yet.

14                   And I'll let Dean or James perhaps  
15 elaborate on the population survey.

16                   DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, with  
17 GNWT. So I think at the outset of the program we're  
18 going to be focusing on population trend based on  
19 cow/calf ratios and adult female survival, which is  
20 consistent with how we monitor boreal caribou in other  
21 areas of the NWT. We've never tried a population  
22 abundance survey in the NWT before, and it's something  
23 we've discussed trying out in the South Slave or  
24 Dehcho region, but we still haven't done it yet.

25                   And so right now we've tried to secure

1 the resources just to do the monitoring based on  
2 population trend indicators. But if we want to do  
3 this extra step, we'll have to find the resources to  
4 do that, and we haven't really looked into that yet.

5 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan -- Boyan  
6 Tracz, Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. So the  
7 quick take-home is that ENR is not committing to a  
8 boreal caribou population survey in Wek'eezhii?

9 DR. JAMES HODSON: Yeah, James Hodson,  
10 GNWT. No, we're not committing to that right now.

11 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: And in terms of the  
12 planning that you were mentioning with regards to  
13 surveys never happening, I'm assuming that information  
14 from the range planning process that occurred back in  
15 November 2014 and the research paper that came out of  
16 that, looking at possible methods for estimating  
17 populations of rare and elusive species, that you're  
18 specifically referring to that or utilizing  
19 information in that report?

20 DR. JAMES HODSON: Yeah, James Hodson,  
21 GNWT. The method that we were interested in testing  
22 out in the South Slave was based on the method that  
23 they use in Quebec that was developed by Rehaume  
24 Courtois, which is aerial surveys using collared  
25 individuals to estimate detection probabilities or how

1 many caribou you missed during an aerial survey to  
2 better estimate population abundance.

3                   That was one (1) of the methods  
4 discussed in that paper by ABMI. But, I mean, we're -  
5 - we're open to considering other approaches, as well,  
6 because we haven't committed to anything at this time.

7                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,  
8 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. As part of  
9 earlier comments about the WEMP -- WEMP and WMMP and -  
10 - and such, the information is provided, but without a  
11 reference list in that document it's difficult to  
12 understand exactly how recent the information you're  
13 considering is or sort of what -- where the approaches  
14 lie. So it was just a point of -- a point of  
15 clarification on that.

16                   Following up on Bruno's comments about  
17 the bison, that they were seen during the -- the  
18 boreal surveys, when you look at the -- the pre-  
19 collaring survey report, correct me if I'm wrong, but  
20 around 178 caribou per 20 -- roughly 20,000-kilometre  
21 study area. If you're looking at bison, we're looking  
22 at 150 plus-ish that were sighted, roughly?

23

24                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:   Basically, the --  
2 the take-home is that, well, we don't know how -- how  
3 long they're there, but we know they're there. And in  
4 terms of consultations on the species at risk in terms  
5 of the -- the listing of bison, we've heard lots of  
6 concerns about the present of -- presence of bison,  
7 how they're -- they're moving north, how they can use  
8 the road, how they're bullies to -- to caribou.

9                   So it's just looking at the numbers  
10 where that amount of animals rivals the amount of  
11 boreal caribou, which back to ideas of assessment and  
12 -- and uncertainty and potential risk, that if you've  
13 got that amount of animals as well as the size of the  
14 animals there, that you do run into a situation where  
15 you can have predators coming in and enjoying the  
16 bison. And then if they run into boreal caribou,  
17 well, then, you know, therein lies the problem.

18                   Looking at the bison management  
19 strategy, the draft that's on the -- the registry, in  
20 that they talk about potential use of collars on bison  
21 and collaboration with other regions. The -- the  
22 federal action document also talks about multi-species  
23 ideas which was mentioned briefly.

24                   So I'm wondering, just to -- to  
25 clarify, is there any consideration of collaring bison

1 or moose in Wek'eezhii in -- in concert with boreal  
2 caribou at the time to get an idea of where they are,  
3 how many there are, how long they're staying, how  
4 close they are, knowing that there's other sources of  
5 knowledge that can be used? But just given that  
6 boreal were just collared, I'm just wondering if bison  
7 and moose and wolves, for that matter, are being  
8 considered in Wek'eezhii.

9 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: So at  
10 the current -- oh, Heather Sayine-Crawford, GNWT. At  
11 the current time, we are not considering collaring  
12 bison, moose, or wolves. There -- we have financial  
13 restraints that we have to be aware of.

14 So what is in the WMMP that you've seen  
15 is -- is currently what we're considering.

16 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Bruno Croft, ENR-  
17 North Slave. Boyan, thanks for your question. Just  
18 to jump -- just add on to what Heather just mentioned,  
19 I mean, if we had a magic wand and lots of dollars,  
20 sure we would have a collaring program in place on  
21 moose for sure.

22 We've had this discussion, Dean and I,  
23 over the years. And we think that we're getting a  
24 little closer to justify one (1), just to document a  
25 little more survival, movement, distribution, roam



1 ranges, basic fundamental questions, and perhaps  
2 bison. But this is something we'll have to discuss  
3 with Terry Armstrong out at Fort Smith. And again, it  
4 always comes down to dollars, right, and good sound  
5 biological and ecological reasons to do so. You don't  
6 want to put a collar just for the sake of putting  
7 collars on animals.

8           If I may correct you, Boyan, when you  
9 made reference a bit earlier -- this is really getting  
10 technical here, Alan, but, I mean, hey, that's what it  
11 is. When you made reference of a hundred and ten,  
12 fifteen bison counted in that same area that you  
13 counted for boreal caribou, that's a huge sight  
14 ability factor here that, for the sake of the  
15 audience, we should be careful about throwing those  
16 numbers out because you cannot compare them that way.

17           So I just wanted to correct that for  
18 the record. But, yeah, the more collars, if we can,  
19 we -- we would. We're not there yet.

20           MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thanks, Bruno.  
21 Boyan Tracz, Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.  
22 I'll leave the -- the collar ringers there, the  
23 discussion about the presence of bison and the  
24 potential impact.

25           Following up on Ginger's comment about

1 the use of the Alberta app in terms of tracking. In  
2 the WEMP it -- it discusses that, at that time, DOT  
3 and ENR had two (2) separate databases and that  
4 there's difficulties in getting them together in terms  
5 of traffic mortality.

6                   This is one (1) of the key actions  
7 that's also mentioned in the draft bison management  
8 plan, is that consolidation of the database for  
9 information sharing, though the application is  
10 discussed, it's never followed up whether or not those  
11 databases are being integrated or if they are  
12 integrated at the current moment.

13                   And given that that draft bison  
14 management plan is now a couple years old, I'm just  
15 wondering what the status is of that, the existing  
16 database, not the -- the future plans for collecting  
17 information on -- on bison.

18

19   (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
22 GNWT. So there are two (2) separate databases, and  
23 their information is collected for two (2) separate  
24 purposes. I'm not aware of any initiative to bring  
25 them together because they are different, and

1 different drivers for them.

2                   But from a Department of Infrastructure  
3 perspective, we actually get that information from our  
4 database that contains information on all police  
5 reportable collisions, and so it's obviously much  
6 larger than just bison data, it's -- it's all  
7 collisions that are police reportable, so over two  
8 thousand dollars (\$2,000) of property damage or  
9 personal injury or fatality.

10                   So those are the collisions in there.  
11 We can mine that data though and sort and pick out  
12 bison-related collisions and get information.

13                   ENR, I don't know if you wanted to add  
14 anything about your information and how you collect  
15 information related to bison collisions.

16                   MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather  
17 Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT. So, as you pointed out,  
18 we do have two (2) different databases. We are  
19 responding to wildlife vehicle collisions. Our -- our  
20 officers do that.

21                   So I think we can talk with DOI about  
22 how we can integrate those databases and -- and look  
23 at potential places that we're missing information.  
24 And -- and, yeah, I think we can -- we can have those  
25 discussions. I commit to having those discussions

1 with DOI.

2 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,  
3 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board. Thank you.  
4 Because some of the reasoning is, again, this  
5 information exchange where the app that's discussed is  
6 talking about finding out where they are or where  
7 collisions happen to be able to implement certain  
8 mitigation.

9 But when you go back to the draft plan,  
10 there's a series of actions that are listed, but  
11 currently sort of an uncertainty as to what's most  
12 effective and why, you know, what's been attempted in  
13 what areas and why, the -- the signage, these sorts of  
14 things.

15 So mining that information or  
16 consolidation can maybe provide more options or sort  
17 of more focused options in terms of what may work in  
18 this situation, basically, learning from what's been  
19 done, and with missing information, that's difficult.

20 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
21 GNWT. I would note that, you know, there's -- in  
22 every initiative that we have outlined in the WEMP  
23 there is the final section has talked about adaptive  
24 management. And so that's exactly what we want to do,  
25 make sure that the resources that we do get are

1 committed to managing wildlife are being used most  
2 effectively, so that process is there.

3 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Thanks. Ginger  
4 Gibson, Tlicho Government. I just want to acknowledge  
5 that I feel like I've been answered on the question of  
6 the different forms of data and how they interact, and  
7 -- and I appreciate the difference.

8 I -- I just also want to acknowledge  
9 that I -- I think that real live people are the  
10 solution to -- to the reporting. So the -- the --  
11 Bruno Croft, GNWT, made the comment that it's people -  
12 - it's wildlife resource officers. I don't know if I  
13 got the title right. But those people in -- in  
14 communities in positions are -- are what the Tlicho  
15 Government is really uniquely interested in, which is  
16 capacity.

17 We do more with capacity and people  
18 than we do with reported data. Not to undermine  
19 reported data, we want that, but I really do  
20 appreciate the -- the commitments you're putting in  
21 place behind people being in communities reporting and  
22 getting to interactions, whatever interaction it is, a  
23 wildlife interaction with a car, getting there in  
24 person and seeing it and -- and the phones working  
25 both ways.

1                   So I really appreciated your answer,  
2 and it -- it provided me the comfort and certainty I  
3 think we needed. Masi.

4                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:     Boyan Tracz,  
5 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. Recognizing  
6 that it's quite close to noon, but I can field the  
7 question, and then, you know, just ask away. Okay.

8                   So trying to get back to a connection  
9 to some of the comments that Jessica made in terms of  
10 -- or Jessica and Petter in terms of use of  
11 information. And you were talking about use of  
12 collars specifically to barren-ground. And I'm trying  
13 to loop it back to significant impacts or ideas of,  
14 again, uncertainty and -- and what may happen.

15                  And this is also mentioned, to a  
16 certain degree, in -- in NSMA's question number 43  
17 with regards to use of information on barren-ground  
18 caribou and determining whether or not they're  
19 overlapping with the -- with the road, or the proposed  
20 road, and just the mention of the -- the use of the  
21 data, you know, in the late 1990s when -- when harvest  
22 was peaking and use of collar data and, correct me if  
23 I'm wrong, to -- to Golder, primarily use of collar  
24 data with some additional information from Tliche  
25 harvest studies in terms of determining that extent of

1 possibility of running in?

2 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Kyle Knopff, from  
3 Golder Associates. That's correct, yeah.

4 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: In thinking about,  
5 again, significant impacts or -- or potential  
6 significant impacts, I'm going back to some of the  
7 comments about the history, and specifically Fortune  
8 NICO, or NICO, EA process that occurred and some of  
9 the information that GNWT provided at that time with  
10 regards to potential overlap with that proposed  
11 project.

12 And there's a technical report from  
13 2012 where they -- to quickly summarize, it's --  
14 collared data are used, but there's also a caution  
15 about use of collared data because of, you know,  
16 females being primarily collared, males, you know, not  
17 at that time. The idea is that non-collared animals  
18 may be well away from where the collared animals are,  
19 so you underestimate the potential of overlap.

20 And in -- in that report, they -- they  
21 utilize an information from winter harvest in 2008 and  
22 2009. And you're probably familiar, like, just how  
23 it's in a grid pattern, so it's highlighting where  
24 harvest took place. And I'm specifically looking at  
25 figure 5. I can provide the reference if the Board

1 wants, looking at figure 5.

2                   And you have the collars well north,  
3 but there's certainly -- in the 10 x 10 harvest  
4 squares there's certainly squares, you know, with  
5 relatively low harvest, but harvest nonetheless on Lac  
6 Le Martre and, you know, out of the Whati -- yeah, out  
7 of -- out of that check station.

8                   So I guess the question is: Were those  
9 data utilized at all in terms of determining the --  
10 the possibility of overlap with -- with the proposed  
11 road? Yeah.

12                   DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Kyle Knopff, with  
13 Golder Associates. So the way we conducted the  
14 analysis, it -- it does focus mostly on more recent  
15 collaring information. And one (1) of the big reasons  
16 for that is that we were interested in understanding  
17 where the caribou were spending most of their time  
18 under -- under current conditions when they're at very  
19 low population levels.

20                   One of the reasons that we incorporated  
21 barren-ground caribou as a valued component in this  
22 assessment was precisely because of those previous  
23 data that indicate some harvest, including information  
24 from traditional knowledge that indicated that some  
25 harvest does occur at certain times when the pop --



1 particularly when populations are higher.

2                   We have observed harvest further to the  
3 -- to the south and to the west. And so at some times  
4 in the future, depending on the -- the population size  
5 of -- of barren-ground caribou, we do consider the  
6 potential for the project to overlap with those  
7 populations.

8                   And what we provided in our IR response  
9 was -- was very much focused though on those current  
10 collaring data. And -- and the results of our  
11 analysis of those data was that we don't see any  
12 overlap between the -- the collared animals and the --  
13 and the regional study area that we used, the -- the  
14 boundary we put around -- the buffer we put around the  
15 project to understand the potential impacts to barren-  
16 ground caribou.

17                   So the answer to your question is we  
18 did consider harvest information -- previous harvest  
19 information to understand the potential distribution  
20 of the population but focused our analysis on the  
21 current collaring information.

22                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:    Boyan Tracz,  
23 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. Just to clarify  
24 though, were -- were these data utilized or was it  
25 harvest information specifically from the Tlicho

1 harvest study?

2 MR. KYLE KNOPFF: The primary source  
3 of information was harvesting information from the  
4 Tlicho harvest study.

5 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: So -- Boyan Tracz,  
6 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board. So there's the -  
7 - the potential that underestimation may have occurred  
8 in terms of determining that -- that overlap if -- if  
9 these data are utilized.

10 And to clarify, 2008 and 2009 was a  
11 time of -- of some decline, you know, not where we are  
12 now. But in terms of the distribution, distribution  
13 can change. And this is one (1) of the -- the  
14 questions with Bathurst, is where they're ending up at  
15 low population levels, and then additional questions  
16 with the road with regards to the -- the barrier  
17 effects or whether or not it's avoidance of the road  
18 or maybe a combination of avoidance of the road and  
19 harvest, that there is synergistic effects there.

20 So long story short is it's a concern  
21 that underestimation of -- of potential overlap -- oh,  
22 sorry, sorry. Sorry, James. I'm in, you know,  
23 science mode. So there's a potential with not having  
24 all the information there, that -- that there's an  
25 underestimation of where the overlap can occur. And

1 again thinking of the length of the project, it's  
2 multi-year and ranges can change, distribution can  
3 change.

4                   So it's -- it's a concern that  
5 underestimation leads to certain types of findings  
6 which may lead to certain types of mitigation which  
7 still have a degree of uncertainty about them.

8                   DR. KYLE KNOPFF:     Kyle Knopff, Golder  
9 Associates. I couldn't agree more with you. That's a  
10 major reason why we incorporated barren-ground caribou  
11 into the assessment, was to consider that potential  
12 for shifting ranges and the potential for overlap  
13 between the project and -- and barren-ground caribou.

14                   So I'm not attempting to -- to diminish  
15 that potential or to suggest that that won't occur at  
16 -- at some point in time. We think it's important  
17 actually to consider that potential and important to  
18 incorporate barren-ground caribou into the -- for  
19 example, into the -- into the planning when we're  
20 talking about monitoring and management in the future.

21                   And, also, you know, certainly there's,  
22 I think, a hope from everybody in the room that, at --  
23 at some stage, we will see caribou back down  
24 overlapping with the project.

25                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:     Boyan Tracz,

1 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board. But to clarify,  
2 currently there's no plan to incorporate additional  
3 sources of data and examining how outcomes may have  
4 changed?

5 MR. DAMIAN PANAYI: Damian Panayi,  
6 with Golder Associates. We're writing that plan right  
7 now, Boyan, so I'm going to make note of that document  
8 that you mentioned. I think I know which one it is,  
9 and I'll make sure that we incorporate that.

10 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you. Keep on  
11 going or...? Okay. As a follow-up -- oh.

12

13 --- COMMITMENT NO. 3: GNWT to consider the  
14 caribou distribution data  
15 that Boyan Tracz of WRRB  
16 will provide as part of  
17 the WMMP work that Golder  
18 is working on

19

20 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Yes. Thank you.  
21 Russ Neudorf, GNWT. I think that was a -- is a  
22 commitment, that we will consider the data that Boyan  
23 is going to provide as part of the WMMP work that  
24 Golder's working on for us.

25 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Following up on your

1 -- your comments about the -- oh, Boyan Tracz,  
2 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. Following up on  
3 your comments about inclusion of -- of barren-ground  
4 caribou. Because of the -- because of the concerns,  
5 I'm going back to Fortune NICO again and comparing it  
6 to what's currently party of this process.

7                   In terms of cumulative effects, which,  
8 you know, the road as well as the -- the mine as a  
9 reasonably foreseeable development, you know, there's  
10 -- there's concerns about it. But in the -- the  
11 cumulative effects part of -- of this assessment, it's  
12 deemed that -- or paraphrasing, but, basically, that  
13 there isn't a significant concern with regards to  
14 cumulative effects specific to barren-ground caribou?

15                   DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Kyle Knopff, Golder  
16 Associates. So what we determined in the assessment  
17 for -- specifically for barren-ground caribou is that,  
18 in the -- under existing conditions, so in the base  
19 case, that there is a high potential that -- based on  
20 the data, that we don't see a self-sustaining and  
21 ecologically effective barren-ground caribou  
22 population.

23                   And so when we're thinking about  
24 cumulative effects, including both the effects of  
25 humans but also of these potential natural cycles that

1 -- that may be driving these -- these caribou  
2 populations, there is a lot of uncertainty and a high  
3 potential that -- that we have, you know a very  
4 serious problem, and I think that's generally  
5 recognized. And so that's -- that's our conclusion  
6 with respect to barren-ground caribou.

7                   Now, with respect to the potential for  
8 the project to contribute to that effect that we  
9 identify, the -- the existing data really suggests  
10 quite strongly that the -- that the caribou in  
11 general, the -- the core of the population and all of  
12 the collared animals during this low phase occur away  
13 from the project and don't interact with it.

14                   So what we've concluded is that there's  
15 a very low potential for the project to contribute to  
16 that adverse effect and that, in times in the future  
17 when we certainly hope we will see more interaction  
18 with the project, we expect that that will occur when  
19 the caribou populations are higher again and -- and,  
20 therefore, more capable of sustaining an interaction  
21 with the project.

22                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:    Boyan Tracz,  
23 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. I can  
24 appreciate the -- the perspective of where we're at  
25 now. But part of trying to reconcile differences

1 between information that's there is -- is in the --  
2 the Fortune EA is that the Board saw there was  
3 significant effects or -- with regards to cumulative  
4 effects on the -- on the Fortune project, whereas with  
5 this one it's -- it's not worded in the same way.

6           So it's only been a few years between  
7 the two (2). And just trying to reconcile the  
8 differences, where if one (1) shows significant  
9 impacts and -- and significant concern, for that  
10 matter, on a cumulative effects front, how -- what --  
11 what's changed other than the population decreasing,  
12 which, in some cases, would make it a worse potential,  
13 recognizing that they're currently not here but  
14 distribution may still change?

15           So it's -- what the Board has  
16 previously said and sort of what's being presented  
17 now, there's a bit of a -- from our perspective, a bit  
18 of a disconnect between the two (2).

19           DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Kyle Knopff, with  
20 Golder Associates. I think there -- there's been a  
21 couple of things that have changed that are really  
22 important. One (1) is -- is clearly the numbers. So  
23 things have changed over the last several years in  
24 terms of what we know about those barren-ground  
25 caribou.

1                   And -- and another important thing is  
2 the location of the projects. So when we're looking  
3 at the TASR we're looking at a project that is  
4 occurring further to the south than to the west and  
5 where we don't see that overlap with those -- with  
6 those current distribution of -- of boreal caribou --  
7 or excuse me, barren-ground caribou.

8                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:    Boyan Tracz,  
9 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. Fair, but the  
10 two (2) are inherently linked, that Fortune can't  
11 occur without the Tlicho road. And the concerns are  
12 it's not necessarily the -- the pinpoint location but  
13 the travel and the possibility for -- for harvest as  
14 well as predation that's along that.

15                   So it's -- again, it's -- it's just  
16 trying to reconcile the differences between the two  
17 when there is a cumulative effects linkage. And I'm  
18 thinking to the measures 8 through 10 that the Board  
19 had on approaches to deal with -- with mitigation on  
20 Fortune.

21                   And I guess a specific question is:  
22 Were measures 8 through 10 examined or sort of  
23 referred to as part of the assessment? I -- I  
24 couldn't find them. And correct me if I'm wrong, but  
25 it seems like there's a direct linkage, and -- and not



1 seeing it makes it confusing.

2

3

(BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5

MR. DAMIAN PANAYI: Yeah, Damian

6

Panayi, with Golder Associates. I think, as you know,

7

Boyan, the -- the project footprint that we used for

8

the NICO project environmental assessment obviously

9

included the road, and it included what is now the

10

TASR. And so that was part of that modelling. And

11

the modelling which we've done for the TASR obviously

12

included also the NICO project.

13

And I think if you look at the winter

14

range for the Bathurst herd, which includes,

15

obviously, the NICO project, there's very little

16

disturbance in that area. And that was one (1) of our

17

big conclusions from the NICO environmental

18

assessment, also.

19

So whatever's going on with the herd

20

right now, I think the recent environmental

21

assessments and the Bathurst range plan process, I

22

kind of agree that whatever's happening, it's not

23

really linked to anthropogenic disturbance or loss of

24

landscape or limited availability of forage on the

25

winter range.

1                   So we don't really see that there's  
2 that linkage in -- in terms of -- there's certainly  
3 cumulative impact potential, but we don't see that as  
4 a driving factor at this -- at this time.

5                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:     Boyan Tracz,  
6 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. I was more  
7 referring to the potential for harvest or increased  
8 harvest and increased usage of the road, which is also  
9 -- back to the Fortune process, that was mentioned in  
10 the ENR, that -- you know, the paper in terms of  
11 concerns. And again in this cumulative effects  
12 perspective where on a related project there's some  
13 pretty strong wording from the Board, but on this one  
14 it -- again, the -- the disconnect, and I'm -- and I'm  
15 trying to reconcile the two (2) because the two (2)  
16 are linked.

17                   Though decreases in the -- sort of  
18 continued, that -- that potential of that uncertainty  
19 still lies there. And again, the Board made specific  
20 recommendations on how to -- or measures rather on how  
21 parties should interact or -- or plan for, you know,  
22 possibilities and -- and plan for mitigation.

23                   And so, again, where the -- in -- in  
24 developing an approach, were -- were those measures  
25 considered or were they -- or, I guess, how are they

1 being considered currently? They seem applicable.

2 MS. GINGER GIBSON: I'm just going to  
3 jump in. Ginger Gibson, Tlicho Government. I'm just  
4 going to go from my recollection of the Fortune  
5 Minerals EA to say that on the access road there's no  
6 harvesting. So I think Fortune's commitment was to  
7 have a policy of no commi -- of -- of no harvesting on  
8 the access road.

9 So I think that's part -- a partial  
10 answer to it. And I'll leave the rest to -- to GNWT.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: So I think -- sorry,  
15 Kyle Knopff, Golder Associates. Importantly, I mean,  
16 one (1) of the aspects that we considered within our  
17 broader cumulative effects assessment, you know, we --  
18 let me back up for a second.

19 So, first of all, the focus of this  
20 assessment was on the project, which is the TASR. We  
21 did consider NICO in the cumulative effects  
22 assessment. We also, importantly, considered the  
23 current harvest restriction, like, entire restriction  
24 for barren-ground caribou for the Bathurst herd, and  
25 so -- and so that is also an important part of our --

1 our cumulative effects assessment at this time.

2 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: It's Simon  
3 Toogood, with the Review Board. I think we're going  
4 to break for lunch. It's been a good morning. It's  
5 been a good open and -- sorry, it's been a good open  
6 discussion. That's what we wanted. And it's -- it's  
7 quite good. I've seen people nodding towards the  
8 chair. I would encourage people to continue that  
9 discussion. It doesn't have to go through me, and  
10 that's what's been happening and it's been very  
11 productive.

12 So with that, we'll break for lunch.  
13 It's 12 -- oh. Yeah, the lunch is just outside in the  
14 hall here. It's 12:10, roughly. We'll be back  
15 shortly after one o'clock. And I encourage parties to  
16 continue discussing during lunch. Twelve -- 1:10  
17 please be back in the room.

18

19 --- Upon recessing at 12:10 p.m.

20 --- Upon resuming at 1:12 p.m.

21

22 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: ...is going  
23 to be falling asleep. So we ended off the discussion  
24 this morning with questions from WRRB. Let's get  
25 right back into it. And -- oh, a couple housekeeping

1 points.

2                   There's a sign-in sheet. If you  
3 haven't signed in, please, remember to sign your name.  
4 And with no further ado, I believe Allice may have had  
5 some -- or Boyan had some follow up. Very well. I'll  
6 pass it back -- and also as you may have seen the mics  
7 are now working, so remember to turn your mic off when  
8 you're done speaking, and like I just did not do,  
9 state your name. Simon Toogood, with the Review  
10 Board.

11                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,  
12 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

13                   Following up on -- on this morning's  
14 cumulative effects area in -- in a bit but shifting to  
15 boreal caribou now. In the presentation, this has  
16 sort of inspired a series of questions, on -- on slide  
17 13 I believe, the geotechnical program. Their third  
18 bullet:

19                   "An ENR approved caribou protocol  
20 was utilized to ensure summer  
21 geotech field crews were not working  
22 in areas where collared caribou were  
23 present."

24                   I'm very curious about the -- the  
25 details here as to what these protocols are, how they

1 were implemented, who were involved, because it's  
2 specific to use of collared data that's the -- collars  
3 that were recently put out, and it's specific to use  
4 of those collaring -- collared data in a monitoring as  
5 well as mitigation standpoint that also has direct  
6 application to operations later.

7                   So just a little bit more information  
8 on -- on I guess like when did -- how -- did crews  
9 actually not work at certain times, or -- or maybe  
10 just tell me the story of -- of this protocol, and --  
11 and what happened during the geotechnical program  
12 specific to use of boreal caribou collared data.

13                   DR. JAMES HODSON:     James Hodson, with  
14 GNWT.

15                   So what we did is prior to the start of  
16 the geotechnical work we looked at where the collaber  
17 -- collared caribou were relative to the borrow  
18 sources. And at that time, there was one (1) caribou  
19 that was about 2 kilometres away from one (1) of the  
20 borrow sources, so we recommended that con -- the  
21 geotech crews start their work at the borrow sources  
22 that were -- were at the north and south end of the  
23 road to be farther away from where that caribou was.

24                   And then every two (2) to three (3)  
25 days we would provide them with an updated map of

1 caribou collar locations, and the contractors doing  
2 the work -- geotech work would provide us with an  
3 update of what they'd done, and where they planned to  
4 go next, and whether they had seen any wildlife. And  
5 the idea was that if there was collared caribou within  
6 500 metres of any of those borrow sources, that they  
7 wouldn't start up operations there or they would  
8 suspend operations and move somewhere else.

9                   But we did not run into any situations  
10 where caribou were within that distance. They  
11 actually -- the one (1) caribou that was close at the  
12 start of the work actually moved farther and farther  
13 away over the course, so we never had to shut down  
14 operations. And the crews didn't observe any caribou  
15 when they were doing that work, so we didn't -- sorry.  
16 I'll slow down a bit.

17                   We didn't encounter any issues that  
18 would have required us to suspend work, or move to a  
19 new area.

20                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:    Boyan Tracz,  
21 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board.

22                   So there was no point say during the  
23 calving period, which was one (1) of the concerns  
24 voiced by the WRRB, given the -- the initial I guess  
25 Land and Water Board permission for the -- the

1 geotechnical that then got extended.

2                   What -- what period of time was this  
3 one (1) caribou getting close, just to -- to clarify?

4                   DR. JAMES HODSON:    I think all the  
5 work was done after mid June.  I think it was even  
6 into early July before they got started.  Is that  
7 right?

8                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:    Boyan Tracz,  
9 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

10                   Maybe from the Department of  
11 Infrastructure, any comments on sort of the success of  
12 information transfer, maybe timing of information  
13 transfer and how that helped -- or given that no crews  
14 actually had to stop, just the idea that they need a  
15 bit of lead time to be able to -- to plan and to do  
16 stuff.

17                   I'm just wondering any further comments  
18 on potential improvements, or challenges, or what you  
19 saw as positive?

20                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:    Russ Neudorf,  
21 GNWT.

22                   As ENR had indicated, there were no  
23 kind of opportunities to test which I guess is good or  
24 bad, depending on your perspective.  I think  
25 information sharing and -- between parties -- the fact



1 that it was within government was good that we had  
2 that, you know, good dialogue to help facilitate that,  
3 help the process.

4 But -- and -- and it helped, as well,  
5 that there were thirteen (13) borrow sources that were  
6 scattered over a -- essentially a 90 kilometre length,  
7 as well, so that would -- you could pick up and move  
8 from one (1) to the other relatively easy and adjust  
9 the work program.

10 So that worked. That was easier to  
11 respond to, I guess, if -- if there was a issue that  
12 would come up. And -- and otherwise, you know,  
13 nothing other insightful to -- to add to it. Thanks.

14 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,  
15 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

16 So in terms of operations with regards  
17 to the road proper, it'll be a different type of  
18 operations I guess where there may be different  
19 constraints allowing crews to move say in a different  
20 fashion to what the geotechnical was.

21 And building -- or basically coming  
22 back to what James said, that there was one (1)  
23 caribou within 2 kilometres with the suggestion that  
24 within 500 metres is when you -- when you change  
25 operations basically.

1                   So thinking ahead to statements in the  
2 -- in the conceptual WEMP, is one (1) caribou the  
3 threshold for modifying operations then? As part of  
4 the protocol, has this sort of been decided upon?

5

6                                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
9 GNWT.

10                   Those discussions -- those details will  
11 come out in the WMMP.

12                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:   Boyan Tracz,  
13 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

14                   As a follow up, just to contextualize  
15 it, I know that Environment Canada had a Information  
16 Request that they wanted information on the -- the  
17 collaring program and crossing over, and jog my memory  
18 but there weren't that many caribou period that got  
19 with -- you know, near to the road or -- or went over  
20 it.

21                   So just the statements in the WEMP  
22 where you're using collars to modify operations, if  
23 there's not that many collars in the vicinity of the  
24 road there may be a problem utilizing collars to help  
25 you modify operations. So just as a caution that it's

1 -- it's on paper -- you know, there's been some  
2 discussion but implementation of this as a -- sort of  
3 a combination of monitoring and mitigation may be  
4 subject to some restrictions.

5                   So just maybe if anybody wants to  
6 follow up on -- on that.

7                   DR. JAMES HODSON:   James Hodson, GNWT.

8                   Yeah. We -- that is a good point, and  
9 we did point that out in our protocol for the geotech  
10 work that just because there's no collared caribou  
11 within the vicinity they still have to do a visual  
12 check every time they go to a site to make sure that  
13 here aren't uncollared caribou that are in the  
14 vicinity. So that's always going to be a  
15 consideration.

16                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:   Boyan Tracz,  
17 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

18                   Would these protocols be available for  
19 perusal?

20                   DR. JAMES HODSON:   James Hodson, GNWT.

21                   We do plan on including them in the  
22 next version of the WMMP.

23                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ:   Thank you. And last  
24 boreal question for me for right now.

25                   I'm wondering in -- in the WEMP there's

1 a figure showing the study area for boreal caribou  
2 where the collars were deployed. I'm just wondering  
3 from that -- back to the cumulative effects  
4 perspective, why the Fortune NICO site isn't included  
5 in the study area.

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9

DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.

10

We would definitely be open to

11

discussing further with NICO about expanding the study

12

area to include their site.

13

MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,

14

Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

15

So a commitment to include Fortune as

16

part of the study area for boreal?

17

18

--- COMMITMENT NO. 4: GNWT to discuss with NICO

19

about expanding study area

20

for caribou to include

21

NICO site

22

23

DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.

24

The -- the commitment is to discuss

25

with NICO about expanding the study area, but that's

1 as far as we can go.

2 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you. Yeah,  
3 it's just again the idea of cooperation,  
4 collaboration, building on existing processes, you  
5 know, sort of that -- that ongoing commentary. And  
6 back to the Board in terms of WMMP being a place to  
7 describe how that collaboration occurs.

8 So with that, I've talked far too much.  
9 Aalice, it's all yours. Thank You.

10 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Aalice Legat,  
11 for Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

12 And I want to thank everyone for the  
13 information that they've been sharing, and I've been  
14 sitting here trying to weave some of it together to  
15 think about how I'm going to present this, more of a  
16 suggestion, and to support some of the other speakers  
17 because really you've answered some of my -- my  
18 questions.

19 So but I want to go back a little bit  
20 and say that across Canada, Indigenous people who use  
21 boreal caribou have said over and over again that the  
22 biggest problem is fragmentation, and we know that.  
23 We all know that, and it's caused by roads, mines, and  
24 forest fires.

25 Now, I heard from the GNWT that the

1 road is one (1) road but we also know that there is  
2 mines. And so based on what I've read from Indigenous  
3 people across Canada and based on listening this  
4 morning it seems to me there's quite a lot of  
5 uncertainty about what is going to happen in the -- in  
6 the future even though we can say that we can predict.

7                   Now, listening to Petter and his work  
8 on walking the land and observing, and how the Elder  
9 talked about boreal caribou and we've been working  
10 with the Elders on boreal caribou specifically with  
11 habitat, and how you can't see easily the caribou for  
12 -- the boreal caribou for -- for hunting so I would  
13 suspect that people that don't know the caribou as  
14 well as they do would have at least a hard -- as hard  
15 a time, possibly a more difficult time.

16                   And also when Ginger was talking about  
17 interspecies and the use of apps, I know that in the  
18 '80s the people from Fort Good Hope when they first  
19 had access to cell phones, they wanted to develop an  
20 app. And they did some work with photos, and the  
21 hunters were given these instruments to actually track  
22 their observations and the animals. And they were not  
23 people who could read and write English but there was  
24 still a way that the people were working with the app  
25 to actually document information for the use, so it

1 would be interesting to actually get a hold of that.

2                   Now, Ginger tells us there is a new  
3 app, and so I'm suggesting that given that the people  
4 know the land and all the species on the land, and  
5 actually when we work with them about the habitat they  
6 actually know if caribou are in the area based on  
7 tracking them, not necessarily seeing them. This is  
8 information that is difficult to get any other way  
9 except by the harvesters.

10                   And so I just want to support the idea  
11 of continuing the walking on the land, and observing  
12 using this app that -- that the -- the people can  
13 actually carry with them when they see activity to not  
14 only track boreal caribou but to track other species  
15 that they will come across, and see how -- what's  
16 happening, and how the habitat is in fact doing as  
17 well for all of these species.

18                   And I know that there's a concern about  
19 money but I would suggest that if we're serious about  
20 monitoring in a way that uses two (2) ways, which the  
21 WRRB is, and the Elder actually spoke about that and I  
22 know the Tlicho Government is, as well, that there be  
23 financial support for that as well because it is  
24 building capacity and it is sharing knowledge in a  
25 much larger way.

1                   And so that's more of a comment than a  
2 -- than a question to support what has been said now  
3 so that science and traditional knowledge can  
4 compliment each other, and we do a good job with this  
5 road, as well as the future roads, as well as the  
6 further mines, as we have cumulative effects. So,  
7 masi. Thank you.

8                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
9 GNWT.

10                   Thank you very much for the comments.  
11 We appreciate them. And we -- if you look through the  
12 WEMP, I mentioned before it's about adaptive  
13 management. And certainly for the wildlife monitoring  
14 we're starting with, or we're considering to start  
15 with this app that's Alberta Government.

16                   It is for employees and contractors to  
17 -- for their use to report sightings. There's also --  
18 working with interdepartmental working group to  
19 investigate and work to launch that. And I think that  
20 as opportunities come to expand that app, to look  
21 beyond to perhaps integrate some of the other  
22 observations from hunters or other people that are on  
23 the land, then we'll -- you know, the working group  
24 will look for those opportunities and see how it can  
25 expand that so that it can make the best use possible



1 for -- accomplish the objectives exactly as you said.

2 Thanks.

3 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: And with the app,  
4 too. The harvesters have the app, right?

5 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
6 GNWT.

7 The app that we're talking about here  
8 is -- is from -- is an Alberta Government app, and  
9 it's specifically to be for GNWT employees and con --  
10 and contractors. I said that we can -- as the program  
11 evolves, we can take a look at that. As the app  
12 evolves, if there's another app in fact that can look  
13 at as -- as those discussions occur, then we can look  
14 and see how to improve on it.

15 DR. ALLICE LEGAT: And I have -- now  
16 have a question. Allice Legat, WRRB. Sorry.

17 This is about small mammals. And in  
18 reading the traditional knowledge report that was done  
19 by the TG,  
20 it became -- it was obvious that there's a lot of  
21 trappers in the region where the road will be going  
22 through, and so I would like to ask if the -- there  
23 are steps taken to document the baseline information  
24 for the small mammals from both a scientific and a  
25 traditional knowledge perspective.

1                   And what steps have you taken to  
2 support both WRRB and TG using that knowledge to  
3 monitor the small mammals of -- of this region?

4

5   (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7                   MR. DAMIAN PANAYI:     Damian Panayi,  
8 with Golder Associates.

9                   Allice, we haven't heard too much in  
10 the way of concern about small mammals up until now,  
11 so unfortunately it wasn't included as one of the  
12 valued components that's assessed in the environmental  
13 assessment. So we do have our species at risk, we do  
14 have the other species which are generally, you know,  
15 important to the culture and the local economy.

16                   But small mammals did come up, I think,  
17 in the traditional knowledge study and if the Tlicho  
18 Government would like to comment on that, it would be  
19 helpful.

20

21   (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23                   MR. PETTER JACOBSEN:     Petter Jacobsen,  
24 with Tlicho Government.

25                   Georgina Chocolate and myself was the

1 one conducting the TK study, and there was some talk  
2 actually about the importance of small mammals, even  
3 down to the -- to the mice as mice is important for  
4 marten, and marten is of course important for  
5 trappers. So for trappers to make money, you need to  
6 have mice -- a good stable mice population, so there's  
7 -- you know, the ecosystem, how it goes, and -- it  
8 circles. So those were just one (1) example of the  
9 small mammals that we -- that we documented.

10 Georgina, do they want to say anything,  
11 or...

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

16

17 ELDER FRANCIS SIMPSON: There's only  
18 two (2) of us here from Whati, and I've been listening  
19 to all your information since this morning. For as  
20 long as we remember, we remember being of Aboriginal  
21 descent and I just want to let -- talk a little bit  
22 about wildlife.

23 I had come here to talk about many  
24 things, and so I will talk about wildlife now. So it  
25 is true, I agree with you, that wildlife is important.

1 And in that area where we are proposing a road is  
2 where our people have trapped in that -- in that  
3 proposed road area for -- I for example have trapped  
4 for many years in that area. As well, I have hunted  
5 for cari -- caribou -- woodland caribou.

6 And in the past way back a few years  
7 ago there was an existing winter road. Over on the  
8 existing winter road, I was able to see many different  
9 kinds of wildlife. So -- so today as we're talking  
10 about many things where you are also stating that  
11 we're going to be monitoring some wildlife.

12 If you're talking about todzi you're  
13 talking about bush caribou and boreal caribou, and  
14 when we went out around that area a few -- we seen  
15 about five (5) -- maybe up to five (5) car -- five (5)  
16 boreal caribou, and they're big -- big caribou. We --  
17 we got only -- we shot only two (2). And so this is  
18 the kind of big animal that you're talking about.

19 And when you're skinning caribou like  
20 that, it's a lot of work. And so in the past our  
21 ancestors, how they taught us to prepare caribou, we  
22 know all the ways to prepare caribou and to butcher  
23 caribou. And -- and so I want to thank you all for  
24 being here.

25 If there's any way that you can be able

1 to help us to make a good determination about this  
2 road, it's good that you're all here. I want to thank  
3 you for being here, but if you can suggest some better  
4 ideas to make the road better and that, it's very good  
5 to hear all those ideas.

6

7 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you for  
10 those comments. Simon Toogood, with the Review Board.  
11 Do you have additional comments, Tlicho? No? Okay.  
12 Additional comments?

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 ELDER JOE CHAMPLAIN: You're talking  
17 about small game. You -- you want to talk  
18 specifically about small game. There -- there has  
19 been many small game also in the past.

20 There's not too much small game that  
21 exists today. Maybe it's not existing, maybe it's  
22 going to extinction because of forest fires because we  
23 know that forest fires destroys a lot of lives. And  
24 so when -- when there's a lot of small game on the  
25 land, there is birds nests that are helpless that get

1 destroyed. And so if the fire comes through it -- it  
2 destroys a lot of -- lot of lives.

3                   And so just recently because we're  
4 always out in the land we don't see that much ducks in  
5 -- in some areas, too, in -- in some areas that we  
6 don't see ducks. As well, when you talking about also  
7 small game, you're talking about an area where the  
8 taiga plains. In the whole area of taiga plains,  
9 there's a lot of mice. And the mice are big. And  
10 there's so much mice up there.

11                   Sometimes maybe the mice do get  
12 destroyed by fire. As well, there's a lot of small  
13 game that goes -- that -- that do get destroyed by  
14 fire. Probably a long time ago when we remember the  
15 past when -- when we hear so much noise from wildlife.  
16 So what can we do now? Because of the forest fires, I  
17 believe that if -- if there's any kind of fire, it'll  
18 destroy vast area of land. Even if it reaches to  
19 towns and cities, it'll destroy communities, towns,  
20 and cities, and this is what fires do.

21                   And so -- and so at this time in our  
22 communities we all have foods and stores, and that,  
23 but in the -- in the past we never had all that. All  
24 we had in the past was meat and fish from the land,  
25 and from the lakes. And so today it seems like

1 there's less small game than before. Maybe that's  
2 some kind of -- some kind of issue that we should be  
3 concerned about.

4 So I just want to let you know a little  
5 bit of what I understand in my area. Thank you very  
6 much.

7

8 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9

10 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Simon  
11 Toogood, Review Board. Thank you very much.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: It's Alan Ehrlich,  
16 with the Review Board.

17 I have a couple of questions just that  
18 came out of the presentation that we saw this morning.  
19 You mentioned that you predict a low number of strikes  
20 of vehicles with boreal caribou on the road.

21 What's the low number?

22 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: So -- Kyle Knopff,  
23 with Golder Associates.

24 So the analysis that we did, Alan, was  
25 related to Highway 3. And we looked at how many

1 vehicle strikes occurred on Highway 3 where we see a  
2 great deal more traffic than is expected on the road,  
3 and we saw -- I'm just going to look it up here for  
4 you. It was one (1) vehicle strike, and it occurred -  
5 - the dates that we analyzed -- I'm just checking that  
6 here.

7                   2006 to 2015, and we had one (1)  
8 vehicle strike of a caribou on -- on Highway 3. And  
9 so the anticipated number would be -- you know,  
10 there's potentially, you know, one (1) or two (2)  
11 animals over the period of -- of even a decade, and so  
12 it's very, very few.

13                   MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Alan Ehrlich, with  
14 the Review Board.

15                   Yeah, thanks Kyle. That is indeed a  
16 very low number. The other small question I had, I --  
17 I don't want to break out the whole caribou range  
18 question in too much depth but I am kind of curious  
19 about, What was the uncertainty -- the confidence  
20 interval that you guys had when you were -- that  
21 exists when looking at the amount of undeveloped  
22 habitat?

23                   DR. KYLE KNOPFF: So -- Kyle Knopff,  
24 with Golder Associates.

25                   Can you maybe clarify the question? So



1 -- so is that related to when we looked at the amount  
2 of undeveloped habitat from the different sources that  
3 you could analyze to -- to obtain an answer about  
4 undeveloped habitat?

5 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Well, I mean, you -  
6 - you used that 65 percent threshold for the NT range,  
7 and you said that it's -- it's not there yet so  
8 someone must have tried to figure out how much  
9 undeveloped habitat there is.

10 And I assume when you're doing that  
11 there's some kind of a confidence interval, some level  
12 of certainty. Because we -- we heard a few questions  
13 about certainty from Boyan, I -- I thought it would be  
14 helpful to know that.

15 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Yeah. So the -- the  
16 way those estimates are obtained is -- is typically  
17 from satellite imagery. So we're looking at  
18 information obtained about burned areas, and then when  
19 it comes to developments we also often have  
20 development footprints that are all integrated into a  
21 -- into a GIS, into a geographic information system.

22 And we look at the total area that is  
23 disturbed by fire, plus linear features, roads, and  
24 other kinds of anthropogenic disturbances, and to each  
25 of those anthropogenic disturbances we add a buffer of

1 500 metres. And so the uncertainty comes in where,  
2 for example, the satellite imagery potentially doesn't  
3 pick up a particular linear feature, or you can talk  
4 about uncertainty with respect to the different layers  
5 used.

6           And so we ran the analyses a number of  
7 different ways, and the outcome of those different  
8 analyses using different layers and projections was  
9 that we were always consistently just above the -- the  
10 65 percent threshold. So we think -- we're fairly  
11 confident that we are just above but that it is -- it  
12 is close.

13           It's also important to note that what's  
14 -- the primary driver of what's causing the approach  
15 to that 65 percent threshold is burned areas, forest  
16 fires.

17           MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Okay. Thanks. I  
18 understand that -- that there are many sources that  
19 have to be considered there. I'd just like to follow  
20 up on the answer, and -- and then can I come back?

21           I understand there's -- there's many  
22 sources that -- that lead to the -- the number. I was  
23 -- I was just wondering what kind of a statistical  
24 confidence interval you have in your result.

25           DR. KYLE KNOPFF: So -- so we don't

1 have a -- we didn't sample the landscape to obtain a  
2 confidence interval -- a statistical interval around  
3 those estimates. It's --it's driven by the -- by the  
4 layers that we used. And so we can look at the  
5 different ways of calculating it in order to  
6 understand that confidence but we don't have -- it's  
7 not like sampling from a -- from a distribution to be  
8 able to obtain a confidence interval around it.

9 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: That helps.  
10 Thanks. Derek, you -- you were just about to respond  
11 -- Darren, sorry.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, with  
16 GNWT.

17 So maybe to help answer that question a  
18 bit, although we didn't look at it specifically in the  
19 ASR we have looked at the variation and how much fire  
20 disturbance there is in the boreal caribou range. So  
21 that's that forty (40) year window fire. We could  
22 only go back to the 1960s so we can only get about ten  
23 (10) or eleven (11) values to look at that range of  
24 variation, but that fire footprint varies between  
25 about 20 to 26 percent.

1                   So just based on the fire alone we  
2 wouldn't exceed that 65 -- or 35 percent disturbance  
3 threshold. I don't know if that helps, but we can  
4 kind of put bounds on variation and how much fire we  
5 get.

6                   MR. ALAN EHRLICH:    Okay. Thanks, Dr.  
7 Hodson. That helps.

8                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:    It's Simon  
9 Toogood, with the Review Board.

10                  I believe Allice had a question, or the  
11 WRRB.

12                  MR. BOYAN TRACZ:    Boyan Tracz,  
13 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.

14                  Just -- just to clarify, we're -- when  
15 we're talking about the -- being over the -- the  
16 threshold we're talking about the NT1 scale but at the  
17 Wek'eezhii scale the current amount of distur --  
18 cumulative disturbance, fire and anthropogenic, leads  
19 roughly 55 percent at the Wek'eezhii scale. That's  
20 correct?

21                  DR. JAMES HODSON:    Yeah. I believe  
22 it's very close to that number, yes.

23                  DR. ALLICE LEGAT:    I would encourage  
24 that a baseline be -- oh, Allice Legat, WRRB.

25                  I would encourage that a baseline be

1 done for the small mammals in the future. Can there  
2 be a 'yes' or -- because my experience with Tlicho as  
3 well as other Dene as well as other Indigenous people  
4 across Canada, all animals are valued. But they speak  
5 about one or the other more often at times, given the  
6 situation, than other ones.

7

8

(BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Thank you. Bruno  
11 Croft, ENR-North Slave.

12 Allice, just to follow up on your  
13 questions -- a bit -- I was going to answer a bit  
14 earlier but the conversation went somewhere else, when  
15 you make reference to "small mammal" I assumed that  
16 you were talking about fur bearing animals and small  
17 rodents, microtine, as Petter described.

18 As you probably know because you made  
19 reference to trapping and trappers, all fur bearing  
20 animals being captured are brought back to our local  
21 offices, entered in the data base, and there's a  
22 follow up until those fur go to the fur market. So  
23 it's fairly closely tracked. And there's a big  
24 incentive there, of course, because people make a  
25 living of capturing fur bearing animals.

1                   As far as microtine goes, or small  
2 rodents, we used to have a network across the north  
3 and into the barren land with Daring Lake where we had  
4 a small trapping site in various places. And summer  
5 students, or biologists, officers, would run those --  
6 but for the sake of the discussion, those small mammal  
7 trap line two (2) weeks at a time every summer to  
8 provide an index of microtine abundance across the  
9 north.

10                   And like Petter indicated, there's a  
11 close relationship between small rodents and fur bear  
12 animals. So that is an easy project that we can  
13 revamp. We can have a station in Behchoko. Another  
14 one (1) in Whati. And our officers can help out with  
15 that. It's simple, and could provide a good solid  
16 indicator of what the small mammals are doing.

17                   DR. ALLICE LEGAT: Thank you. Masi.  
18 Just one (1) last question.

19                   Is we're -- the WRRB is doing research  
20 on boreal caribou and habitat, and it will be  
21 completed next spring. And it's designed for  
22 monitoring the habitat types that the boreal caribou  
23 prefer. These are fairly small regions, but I did  
24 notice in the -- again in the TK report that the --  
25 that there was a number of caribou harvested in these

1 -- based on the map.

2                   It was kind -- kind of a small map but  
3 based on my knowledge of the larger map it seems that  
4 they were harvested in those habitat types. And  
5 that's knowledge that -- again that the Elders have.  
6 And so I'm just encouraging the GNWT and the Tlicho  
7 Government to actually use that information for  
8 monitoring in the -- in the future, and using the  
9 harvesters to actually do that monitoring in the  
10 habitat types. Thank you so much.

11                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:     Simon  
12 Toogood, with the Review Board.

13                   Thank you very much for those questions  
14 or comments there. And mostly comments, yes. Okay.  
15 Sorry, I got a bug in my throat today.

16                   Yeah, we've touched on a lot of topics  
17 today. We've quite a wide -- wide range of mammals  
18 and ungulates, and monitoring and cumulative effects,  
19 and it's still open to the floor if anyone had any  
20 additional questions.

21                   North Slave Metis Alliance.

22                   MS. HEATHER BEARS:     Heather Bears,  
23 Zoetica Consulting for the North Slave Metis Alliance.

24

25                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MS. HEATHER BEARS: I feel like I've  
2 got a crazy pacemaker in me today, or something.

3 I just wanted to follow up with some of  
4 the questions that people have been having about the -  
5 - the percentage of undisturbed habitat for boreal  
6 caribou in the NT1 range.

7 So we -- we basically calculated that  
8 there's approximately -- you've got a -- you've got a  
9 buffer of about .8 percent left, which is about 61,300  
10 hectares of -- of land.

11 I'm just wondering two (2) things.

12 1. How old was your satellite data?

13 2. Considering that there's an average  
14 of two hundred and seventy-four (274) fires and 60,000  
15 hectares of forest burned currently in the Northwest  
16 Territories, what are the chances that you're going to  
17 dip below that level before construction of the  
18 project, and if that happens are you -- are you  
19 willing to commit to habitat compensation?

20 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: So Kyle Knopff, with  
21 Golder Associates.

22 So I'll answer the first part of the  
23 question about satellite imagery. We do have  
24 satellite imagery from 2010 to -- what was it, Damian  
25 -- 2005 to 2010 that -- that made the initial mapping,



1 and then that's been updated with layers -- map layers  
2 of forest fires and developments. So the satellite  
3 imagery was -- is a bit older but then that -- that  
4 initial layer was updated with new spacial data.

5           And then I'd just like to elaborate a  
6 little bit on the amount of disturbance caused by  
7 burns if I may, and -- and it kind of relates back to  
8 Boyan's last question, I think, where he was asking  
9 about how much burned habitat we had in -- in the  
10 Wek'eezhii portion of the NT1 range.

11           And I think it's really critically  
12 important that we recognize that a lot of that  
13 disturbance is caused by -- forest fire is caused by  
14 burns. And I just want to highlight -- this is  
15 something that's, I guess, a bit new because we hadn't  
16 highlighted this previously.

17           But if we look at the recent work  
18 that's coming out of Saskatchewan for -- for boreal  
19 populations that -- of caribou that are exposed to  
20 high rates of natural fire, it's -- it's important  
21 that -- that in some cases that fire doesn't seem to  
22 have similar impacts to what we see from anthropogenic  
23 disturbance in terms of reaching these thresholds.

24           So this is -- I'm just going to quote a  
25 little piece here from Phil McLoughlin's work where he

1 concludes that for the SK1 range where they've been  
2 doing quite a bit of research with respect to fire,  
3 they con -- and -- and I note that the SK1 range is  
4 below the current benchmark set by Environment and  
5 Climate Change Canada of 65 percent, and therefore  
6 would -- under those sort of modelling parameters  
7 would fall into the -- the non-self-sustaining herd  
8 status.

9                   And what those researchers conclude is  
10 that:

11                   "Contrary to the prediction that --  
12                   that we would see them not to be  
13                   self-sustaining, the best available  
14                   evidence suggests that the status of  
15                   the woodland caribou in Saskatchewan  
16                   boreal shield is one (1) of a large  
17                   and self-sustaining population,  
18                   perhaps one (1) of the most secure  
19                   populations of boreal caribou in  
20                   Canada."

21                   So I just wanted to put that out there,  
22 as well, with respect to what we're talking about here  
23 in the NT1 and the amount of burned habitat that  
24 contributes to the approach that we see to that 65  
25 percent threshold.

1                   And then the second part of the  
2 question...

3                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
4 GNWT.

5                   As we've been indicating in our  
6 responses to various IRs and -- and other information,  
7 we're not considering habitat compensation at this  
8 point in time. We are above the 65 percent range, so  
9 it's -- it's not appropriate to commit at this time.

10                  MS. HEATHER BEARS:   Heather Bears,  
11 consulting for the North Slave Metis Alliance.

12                  I -- I just want to clarify what I just  
13 heard. So if -- if you're using satellite data from  
14 2005 to 2010, and then updating spatial files with  
15 fire, is it correct to assume then that the  
16 anthropogenic disturbance since 2010 to 2017 would not  
17 be included on those maps?

18                  DR. KYLE KNOPFF:    Kyle Knopff, with  
19 Golder Associates.

20                  No, we also updated the anthropogenic  
21 disturbance. I apologize if that wasn't clear.

22                  MS. HEATHER BEARS:   I -- I swear I  
23 don't have an internal magnet. I don't know what's  
24 going on today. Heather Bears, with the North Slave  
25 Metis Alliance.

1                   Thanks for that -- that clarification.  
2 I would just suggest that in the case that there are  
3 forest fires between now and construction you might  
4 want to consider -- or have some things in your back  
5 pocket just to adhere to the recovery plan for the  
6 species at risk. And I can let ECCC talk amore to  
7 that since you're -- you are pretty close to that  
8 critical threshold there.

9                   The other question I had relates more  
10 to traffic -- traffic rates, and it relates to our IR  
11 -- our I guess unofficial IR number 2 and your Traffic  
12 Appendix C. So I understand that you're -- you're  
13 estimating twenty (20) to forty (40) vehicles with  
14 forty (40) sort of being the maximum, and thirty-five  
15 point five (35.5) being the average, and to me a  
16 maximum means that on no given day of the year three  
17 hundred and sixty-five (365) days of the year you'd  
18 see an exceedance of that forty (40) vehicles per day.

19                   And then we -- we got a chance to  
20 review your Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program, and  
21 it's a bit confusing because the -- the monitoring for  
22 traffic rates, in order to conclude that there's been  
23 an exceedance relies on a three (3) year average of  
24 traffic exceeding the maximum traffic prediction by 50  
25 percent.

1                   So there's a few -- a few issues with  
2 that, one is that a three (3) year average, it doesn't  
3 compare to a maximum. And the other -- the other  
4 thing is particularly to do with wildlife, knowing  
5 what wildlife are doing at different times of the  
6 year.

7                   Is it fair to assume that traffic  
8 averaging over a three (3) year period is going to  
9 capture effects? For example, if you have a huge flux  
10 -- flux in traffic, or higher traffic rates during  
11 June, or certain -- certain critical periods, are you  
12 sort of negating that impact just by an averaging  
13 effect.

14                   So for -- for the purpose of reporting  
15 -- monitor reporting in a WEMP, looking at it from a  
16 wildlife perspective, I would want to see what time --  
17 what time of day are traffic -- is traffic exceeding a  
18 maximum and -- and during what seasons, and -- and how  
19 does that overlap with critical periods with wildlife?

20                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
21 GNWT. ENR are reporting on traffic. We do report on  
22 the vehicles per day, which is -- usually it's -- it's  
23 AADTs, Average Annual Daily Traffic. So that's over  
24 three hundred and sixty-five (365) days in a year.  
25 That's how we would spec -- expect the average traffic

1 to be. That will always vary, of course, by time of  
2 the day, so morning, afternoon, lunchtime.

3 By day of the week it changes, and then  
4 by month, or by where you are in the season. So  
5 there's always some -- there's always expected to be  
6 some variation in that, but we report it as average  
7 annual daily traffic. That -- that's kind of the  
8 industry standard for it.

9 As part of the all-weather road it's  
10 expected that there would be a -- a new permanent  
11 traffic counter installed on that road when it's there  
12 and that would record information hourly, assuming  
13 it's functioning correctly. It would record  
14 information hourly.

15 That information is available for  
16 download and for analysis so that we can see whatever  
17 the actual variations are by whatever one (1) of those  
18 variables, by month, by day of the week, by time, so  
19 that you can get an expected distribution of that.

20 Thanks.

21 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
22 consulting with the North Slave Metis Alliance. Just  
23 to sort of follow up on what you just said, so -- so  
24 the twenty (20) to forty (40), with forty (40) being  
25 the maximum, that forty (40) is actually the AADT

1 value?

2                   So it's -- so it's actually possible  
3 that you could have say two hundred (200) vehicles  
4 during -- per day during certain time periods or  
5 certain months, and then maybe ten (10) or five (5)  
6 during other months?

7                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
8 GNWT.  Yes, we would expect that there is some  
9 variation, that that's presented as an average.  It's  
10 not the actual number at any given time.

11                   MS. HEATHER BEARS:   Heather Bears,  
12 with the North Slave Metis Alliance.  I'm just  
13 wondering if -- if you have an idea of the seasonal  
14 periods when you'd have higher and lower rates of  
15 traffic, and if those have been assessed for impacts  
16 to wildlife along side the known critical periods,  
17 life history periods?

18

19   (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
22 GNWT.  So our highway traffic report which is  
23 presented online has some typical variations by time  
24 of the year, by day -- by time of day, and by the day  
25 of the week.  And, you know, that's -- that's

1 available publically so you can go and see what is  
2 kind of a typical variation.

3                   And based on that you can make some  
4 estimates about what the maximums or minimums would be  
5 on it. Obviously, we don't have traffic on this road  
6 yet, but we could find some similar road and -- and  
7 find that type of variation, so that would be  
8 available. And I'll turn it over to Kyle for the  
9 second part.

10                   DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Kyle Knopff, with  
11 Golder Associates. So just to clarify a bit about how  
12 we incorporated that into the assessment. I mean,  
13 clearly the -- as -- as you point out, the forty (40)  
14 vehicles a day average over the year would have some  
15 variation in it and that's important.

16                   We didn't have sufficient information  
17 to predict exactly how that variation would play out  
18 on the road over the course of a year, but we did  
19 consider the potential variation. And -- and kind of  
20 one (1) of the important conclusions is that it -- it  
21 works both ways.

22                   So on days when you have higher traffic  
23 volumes you may have greater risk. But during periods  
24 when you have lower -- so for example of -- of vehicle  
25 strikes, periods when you have lower traffic mortality



1 then the risk is reduced.

2                   And the way it's often reported, as we  
3 just heard, is on an annual basis. And so we were  
4 comparing to similar highways based on their  
5 annualized reporting in terms of number of vehicle  
6 strikes or -- or collisions. And that's how we came  
7 to some of our conclusions about what we might expect  
8 to see in terms of -- of collision rates, for example.

9                   CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW:     Ruari  
10 Carthew, with the Review Board. Just a -- a follow-up  
11 while you're on the topic, I -- I believe the road is  
12 designed for a maximum capacity of two hundred (200)  
13 vehicles per day.

14                   Could you just describe if there are  
15 any engineering or other concerns should that  
16 exceedance happen, say on a -- a one-off or after a  
17 few days if there's a -- a large gathering, or so?

18                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:     Russ Neudorf,  
19 GNWT. Again, that two hundred (200) vehicles is kind  
20 of an aver -- an ongoing average. So it would be  
21 expected that there would be variations on that.  
22 There wouldn't be any particular challenge, and thus  
23 if you got to a point where it was, you know,  
24 extremely beyond it and you got some capacity  
25 problems, some congestion problems, but otherwise

1 variations are built into that -- into that average  
2 estimate.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Hey, Russ, it's --  
7 it's Alan Ehrlich, for the Board. So I just want to  
8 make sure I understand your -- your answer. So your  
9 saying two hundred (200) a day, I get that that's --  
10 that would be an average, a pretty high average,  
11 right.

12 But I try to imagine a scenario where  
13 you've got like a, you know, a major assembly and a  
14 double bingo for half a million bucks or something.  
15 Right, I'm trying to think of a -- really, a lot of  
16 traffic.

17 And -- and if I understand what your  
18 answer was correctly, it's The worst that'll happen is  
19 a traffic jam. That's right?

20 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
21 GNWT. Yes, essentially that's the worst that could  
22 happen.

23 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: It's Alan Ehrlich  
24 here. Yeah, why should the 401 have all the fun,  
25 right. Okay. I guess that's -- thanks, that helps.

1 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
2 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. I'm just  
3 wondering if you -- just given that you don't know  
4 necessarily when the peaks in traffic will overlap  
5 with critical periods, did you -- did you assess the  
6 impacts of say, two hundred (200) vehicles on the  
7 various -- various ungulate species as a worst case  
8 scenario?

9 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Kyle Knopff, with  
10 Golder Associates. So we didn't assess any particular  
11 number of -- of worst case scenario associated with  
12 that annualized average. Instead, again, we looked at  
13 similar roads that would have also a high level of  
14 variation and -- and considered their annualized  
15 averages when we were making our estimates.

16 So we're not sure that it would be two  
17 hundred (200) or -- or potentially even three hundred  
18 (300) per day along the road, but -- but it was a -- a  
19 comparative exercise across other similar roads with  
20 similar annualized, or in -- in many cases greater  
21 annualized traffic volumes.

22 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
23 consulting for the North Slave Metis Alliance. In  
24 terms of your threshold for the WEMP, I'm just  
25 wondering where -- where you came up with the 50

1 percent above the maximum as a trigger for an  
2 exceedance and -- and how you're -- you're planning to  
3 feed that back into adaptive management if you do  
4 start exceeding your predictions?

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.  
9 We basically picked the 50 percent increase as kind of  
10 a conservative exceedance over the prediction at which  
11 we'd take a look at whether we start -- need to start  
12 considering adaptive management or changes to the --  
13 the mitigations that are in place.

14 But we -- there wasn't really a number  
15 available in the literature or anything to decide on  
16 that 50 percent. It seemed reasonable to us.

17 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
18 consulting with the North Slave Metis Alliance. So  
19 the 50 percent exceedance, that allows for sixty (60)  
20 vehicles per day using an ann -- annualized average.  
21 Is that correct, or does that allow for three hundred  
22 (300) as an absolute maximum?

23 DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.  
24 That would be sixty (60) vehicles per day would be the  
25 50 percent increase.

1 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
2 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. I would just  
3 suggest that you could be more conservative there with  
4 that threshold of 50 percent, yeah, maybe -- maybe  
5 using some sort of -- looking at the literature review  
6 or doing the analysis again and seeing at what point  
7 over an AADT that you're using right now.

8 You'd see different effects and then  
9 using that percentage might be a little easier to val  
10 -- to validate.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
15 GNWT. You know, good comments. I think we can go  
16 back to the literature and see if there is anything,  
17 any other variation. You really are -- you know, from  
18 forty (40) -- even from forty (40) to sixty (60)  
19 vehicles it's not a, you know, in the -- in the big  
20 scheme of traffic these days it's not that significant  
21 of a change, but recognize that, you know, for this  
22 road it is low volume, so then that, you know, 50  
23 percent is quite a bit.

24 But we can go back to the literature,  
25 see if there is some other guidance that -- that might

1 be there. I did hear James say though that, you know,  
2 they already did that, but we can do another look  
3 around and see if there is any.

4 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
5 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. Just to clarify,  
6 I'm not -- I -- I wouldn't be too worried about  
7 volumes of forty (40) to sixty (60), it's more how are  
8 those averaged and -- and where is that traffic  
9 falling.

10 So I think it's really important if --  
11 if you're getting a huge flux in a critical period and  
12 suddenly you're getting two hundred (200) vehicles per  
13 day. If you're doing a literature search for impacts  
14 to wildlife at two hundred (200) vehicles per day  
15 versus looking at literature for impacts due to forty  
16 (40) vehicles per day, you -- you get completely  
17 different results.

18 So I would just -- just caution -- be  
19 cautious there in terms of seasonal -- seasonal  
20 fluctuations.

21 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
22 GNWT. So I think we could commit to as part of the  
23 traffic monitoring to not just look at the average  
24 annual daily traffic, but actually look at the  
25 variations in traffic over time. We've got a counter

1 there. We'll be recording that information annually.  
2 It be -- it should be relatively easy to bring that up  
3 and -- and consider the variations as part of that  
4 discussion, monitoring as well.

5 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Yeah, Heather  
6 Bears, consulting for the North Slave Metis Alliance.  
7 I think that would be really, really helpful and I  
8 think that would play into your adaptive management  
9 well in terms of knowing which species are likely to  
10 be impacted by -- by traffic.

11 If it's -- if it's morning/evening,  
12 you're going to get crepuscular impacts on moose. If  
13 it's, you know, high -- high density volumes in -- in  
14 June, we have to worry about caribou. So there's --  
15 there's things that, I think, that can help -- and  
16 help refine the information and feed it back into  
17 adaptive management.

18

19 --- COMMITMENT NO. 5: As part of traffic  
20 monitoring, to look at  
21 average annual daily  
22 traffic and variations of  
23 traffic over time, and  
24 provide the data in a  
25 timely way with the WEMP

1 reporting to the North  
2 Slave Metis Alliance

3  
4 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: It's Alan Ehrlich,  
5 for the Board. Just a -- a clarification would help.  
6 We think we kind of heard an undertaking from you, not  
7 this last point, but the one before it and we very  
8 much appreciate your -- your openness of this last  
9 point to sharing information in a non-average way. I  
10 quite agree, that could be quite valuable for adaptive  
11 management and help you guys too.

12 But before that there was something  
13 that sounded like it might have been an undertaking,  
14 which had to do with looking at other information  
15 sources and your affects analysis. If it is -- if it  
16 is a commitment to do it, could you just articulate it  
17 in a way that we can capture it properly on the  
18 record? If it's not, please correct me.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: So, yeah,  
23 thanks. Russ Neudorf, GNWT. And so we had talked  
24 about going back and looking at the literature to see  
25 if there was, you know, this 50 percent variation, to



1 see if there was something more we could find even  
2 though we looked already.

3 And so we will do that and we will  
4 report back through the WMMP. That's where the  
5 information will be available.

6 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Alan Ehrlich, the  
7 Review Board. So great. Let's just make sure that  
8 the -- the transcript is very clear then, that that's  
9 something that you guys have -- have committed to do  
10 and thank you for that.

11

12 --- COMMITMENT NO. 6: GNWT to do literature  
13 review of data to see if  
14 there are different  
15 effects from a 50 percent  
16 variation on a 60 vehicle  
17 per day annualized average  
18 and report back through  
19 WMMP

20

21 CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW: Sorry, Ruari  
22 Carthew, with the Review Board. Heather, maybe you  
23 can comment on whether or not that undertaking  
24 captures your concern and if there was need with the  
25 matter of commitment for the validation of the -- the

1 number that they choose for the exceedance.

2 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
3 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. I -- I think  
4 that the commitment to -- to report in the WEMP daily  
5 and seasonally -- seasonal traffic rates will be very  
6 helpful in terms of adaptive management. That will  
7 help a lot.

8 In terms of assessment, given the  
9 uncertainty and the fluctuations in -- in traffic  
10 numbers that may happen, I would sort of personally  
11 prefer to have sort of a -- a sensitivity analysis  
12 done where -- where you're looking at what -- what's a  
13 possible range of traffic in different seasons, and --  
14 and, you know, what's -- what are the impacts of the  
15 maximum two hundred (200) vehicles in a critical  
16 period on -- on some of the species that could be  
17 affected by traffic, namely bison, caribou, and moose.

18 So that -- that would be kind of my  
19 approach. You know, in terms of the -- the reporting,  
20 I think that will feed into the percentage that -- of  
21 variation and that will help, but I -- I just think  
22 the -- the 50 percent just -- it just sounds a bit  
23 arbitrary to me.

24 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Alan Ehrlich, with  
25 the Review Board. So, Russ, on the Developer's

1 behalf, what do you think of providing that  
2 sensitivity analysis?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. DAMIAN PANAYI: Damian Panayi,  
7 with Golder Associates. I just want to sort of  
8 clarify how the assessment in the -- how the  
9 assessment was made regarding effects of traffic to  
10 wildlife and collisions, and -- and so on in the -- in  
11 the assessment report.

12 And it's what we really did -- I mean,  
13 the traffic, the anticipated traffic levels on the  
14 Tliche road is an important consideration, but the  
15 estimates were based off of observations and data  
16 collected on existing NWT highways. And in most cases  
17 we're looking at Highway 3, which is the one which we  
18 drove on to get here, which has both more traffic and  
19 a higher speed limit.

20 And in most cases we've seen that, you  
21 know, wildlife collisions is usually just -- it's not  
22 a pop -- it's -- it's a -- it's certainly a human  
23 safety issue, but it's not always an issue which is  
24 going to drive population -- you know, lead to  
25 concerns about -- conservation concerns.

1                   So the example we gave earlier is that  
2 there's been one (1) recorded collision with a caribou  
3 on Highway 3 over the past decade, I think it was. So  
4 that's what the assessment is based on. It's not  
5 based on as much the traffic estimates for the road.

6                   And again, the traffic estimates for  
7 this new road are much lower than some of the roads  
8 that we used in our comparison.

9                   MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
10 consulting with the North Slave Metis Alliance. I'll  
11 try not to belabour this point too much, but there's -  
12 - there's not usually a linear relationship between  
13 traffic volume and mortality rates.

14                   You tend to have a switch over between  
15 mortality and vehicle strikes to avoidance of the road  
16 over time, and at lower volumes you have more road  
17 use, and you have more collisions, and you have more  
18 displacement of animals up the linear corridor, and  
19 more issues with them trying to escape into deep snow.

20                   And at higher traffic volumes you have  
21 a bigger zone of avoidance around the road, typically.  
22 So it -- so it -- sort of assuming that just because  
23 we've compared a higher volume road or a road with --  
24 with more traffic, and it's okay, it doesn't  
25 necessarily mean that this road is going to follow the

1 same pattern, so that would just be a caution.

2                   You might have more animals walking  
3 along the road at lower volumes and that could --  
4 we're not just interested in traffic rates just for  
5 mortality, we're also interested in the road acting as  
6 a -- a travel corridor, a conduit of bringing species  
7 into different areas and interacting.

8                   So -- so that's -- that's why we think  
9 the traffic rate estimates are -- are pretty  
10 important.

11                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:   Hi, it's  
12 Simon Toogood, with the Review Board. I have a line  
13 of questions that's related to this. It might be a  
14 good time to ask this, and it gets into effects of the  
15 road, and traffic, and, you know, how -- will the road  
16 actually affect wildlife.

17                   A lot of -- and a lot of this based on  
18 uncertainties. You know, we're not sure how the road  
19 will actually affect wildlife. We're not sure how  
20 much traffic is going to be on it. A lot of that is  
21 due to a lack of baseline data.

22                   And in the WEMP the developers provided  
23 -- they proposed ways to try and fill those holes.  
24 They proposed specific to several ungulates, moose and  
25 boreal caribou, they've proposed the monitoring

1 programs, you know, prior to construction, during  
2 construction, and after construction. I take -- take  
3 it that is -- the intent of that is to try and figure  
4 out -- you know, get a baseline, see what's there, and  
5 then figure out what the effects of the road actually  
6 are as opposed to this sort of -- this -- we're having  
7 problems with this 50 percent estimate, because it  
8 doesn't seem to be based on an actual effect.

9           It just seems like it's -- it's just  
10 the round number and -- so it would be nice to know  
11 what actually would occur. And so my question to --  
12 essentially to parties here is to NSMA, to WRB, to  
13 Tlicho Government is, you know, do you think that what  
14 the developers propose in the WEMP is sufficient?

15           That the amount of monitoring they're  
16 proposing, would that be enough to provide you with  
17 some certainty, or do you feel that it would provide  
18 certainty with respect to what the effects of the road  
19 are?

20           You know, do you think that, say for  
21 instance, monitoring for three (3) years, for  
22 instance, after the road is in operations, would that  
23 be sufficient to characterize the effects of the road,  
24 regardless of traffic. I mean, maybe there's ten (10)  
25 cars a day, maybe there's sixty (60) cars a day.

1           You know, but pointed out, you may not  
2 know what the effects are, but through this monitoring  
3 it should be clear, you know, ten (10) cars a day it  
4 leads to this. We get the sort of daily, seasonal  
5 numbers. You know, we could see what effects there  
6 might be during harvest season, what's happening with  
7 moose populations along that road.

8           So for each value component within the  
9 WEMP, maybe you could just think about this at your  
10 tables here for a little and come back to it later,  
11 but there's specific monitoring for each -- for  
12 several valued components. And I'd like to at some  
13 point ask each party, you know, what your thoughts on  
14 that are and do you feel that what the developers  
15 proposed is sufficient, or, you know, do you think  
16 that this is going to have to be -- more thoughts are  
17 going to have to be put out -- put into this  
18 monitoring program at -- at a later date.

19           And so NSMA first, if you've studied  
20 that monitoring protocol that are being proposed, and  
21 what -- you know, do you think that they're  
22 sufficient?

23           MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
24 consulting for the North Slave Metis Alliance. I  
25 think this comes back to the point that Shin

1 originally made about needing that WMMP to make that  
2 kind of evaluation.

3                   You know, we've asked for quite --  
4 quite a -- quite a bit, I mean, I'd say 75 percent of  
5 our -- our questions were kind of diverted to the WMMP  
6 and so we're kind of waiting to see how they're  
7 addressed, or if things are added into the mitigation.

8                   And if something's really well  
9 mitigated they don't need to necessarily do as much  
10 monitoring, or something. If the -- the certainty  
11 level is -- is brought up and the uncertainty is  
12 reduced by the mitigation, the monitoring is less  
13 important if -- if we were to review the WMMP and  
14 there were still a lot of uncertainty there because of  
15 inadequate mitigation, then of course the -- the  
16 monitoring would have to be beefed up.

17                   So it's kind of hard to say that  
18 objectively without reviewing all three (3) documents  
19 together.

20                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: So my follow  
21 up question will be to GNWT, you've stated that --  
22 Simon Toogood, with the Review Board, that you'd  
23 provide the WMMP prior to -- following a tech session,  
24 prior to the public hearing. That document is going  
25 to contain the proposed mitigations, the full suite of



1 proposed mitigations.

2                   And I guess following up on NSMAs is,  
3 this idea of, you know, uncertainty and -- and how  
4 effective they'll be, is -- is that kind of  
5 information going to be provided in the WMMP? You  
6 know, your opinion on how effective mitigations will  
7 be and how that's linked to your follow-up monitoring.

8                   Because I believe now, without even  
9 speaking to the mitigations, the WEMP discusses  
10 proposing for monitoring and as NSMA pointed out, that  
11 might -- that might change depending on -- on what  
12 your mitigations. So you have that limited time to,  
13 you know, to delve into the WMMP during this EA and  
14 I'd like to make the most of that.

15                   And the next discussion we have on  
16 this, may be the public hearings, so, you know, as  
17 much information as you can provide now would be very  
18 helpful.

19

20   (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
23 GNWT. Certainly agree with the -- the comments you  
24 make in terms of it's going to contain a lot of  
25 information that is around our mitigation and our

1 monitoring and the adaptive management for -- that  
2 will go forward for around the road, and, you know,  
3 agree that the sooner we can get it the better.

4                   It does -- you know, it takes a lot of  
5 internal discussions within the GNWT to come up with  
6 that document. We want to make sure that we've got  
7 the -- the best one possible. We have committed to  
8 providing that by the end of September, and you know,  
9 if there's anything we can do to hurry it along,  
10 obviously it's in everybody's interest to get it out  
11 sooner than later so that we can have reactions to it  
12 and -- and see what kind of -- get -- get reactions to  
13 it in any event.

14                   I would -- I would note that -- you  
15 know, as in the WEMP, it is -- you know, monitoring,  
16 of course, is a very important part of that, and then  
17 discussion with the various other players, working  
18 groups, interdepartmentally is very important, and  
19 then going to adaptive management and responding so  
20 that you can have -- identify where changes --  
21 additional needs, additional requirements are -- is --  
22 so you know is front and centre in the WEMP and I'm  
23 sure it will be part of the WMMP as well, so. Thanks.

24                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:    Okay. I  
25 guess -- Simon Toogood, the Review Board. We've heard

1 from the NSMA that, you know, eventually they'd need  
2 more information about what the mitigations are before  
3 they can comment on the monitoring, and, you know, for  
4 instance how long you should be monitoring for.

5           GNWT has proposed monitoring already,  
6 without maybe a clear discussion of what those  
7 mitigations are, or how effective they'll be. So it  
8 would still be helpful if parties were able to comment  
9 on -- regardless of the mitigations, how effective  
10 they'll be, you know, is, for instance, three (3) or  
11 six (6) years, you know, maybe two (2) monitoring  
12 programs over the course of six (6) years after  
13 operations.

14           You know, do you think that that's a  
15 long enough time to effectively capture the effects of  
16 the road? Again, you can take some time and I'll get  
17 back to this later, but and a follow-up to that then  
18 is -- you know, if this WMMP is going to be the home  
19 for a lot of this -- a lot of these topics,  
20 monitoring, mitigation, I'm interested in the working  
21 group that you've mentioned.

22           It's, you know, has input on this -- on  
23 the WMMP. I was wondering who that includes and if  
24 there's any sort of assurances or guarantees that  
25 parties to this EA will still have input on the WEMP,

1 or the WMMP after this EA is over, and, you know, the  
2 report of the EA has been signed off, whether or not  
3 other parties can still have meaningful input on the  
4 design of mitigations and monitoring?

5 If the GNWT is able to speak to that?

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
10 with GNWT. We're just talking about the process I  
11 think we're going to -- to develop the WMMP and then  
12 the process to get it approved, and then, you know,  
13 what happens after that, because we do hope that it  
14 evolves and -- and gets updated to respond to whatever  
15 needs might be.

16 And the other point I'll just say, the  
17 overarching one is, at the end of the day this highway  
18 is going to become like the rest of our highway  
19 system; where we -- you know, as issues arise, new  
20 challenges arise, and you know, the Department of  
21 Infrastructure works collaboratively with ENR to  
22 address whatever those issues might be and -- and find  
23 a way to respond to address them.

24 But the WMMP itself -- report it's an  
25 internal -- there's an internal discussion within the

1 GNWT that needs to incur in order -- order to develop  
2 that. And so that -- I mean, it started already and  
3 we'll -- it's going to take us, you know, we think  
4 until the end of September in order to develop that  
5 WMMP.

6           It will be, you know, once we release  
7 it then it's available for comment. And certainly if  
8 any party has a comment at any point in time then  
9 approach us with it and we'll attempt to address the  
10 concern or -- or explain the rationale for why we're  
11 saying what we're doing within that WMMP document.

12           And then I'll turn it over to ENR to  
13 talk about kind of the -- like maybe the more formal  
14 approval process then for that WMMP, that which is --  
15 kind of plays out as part of the permitting regulatory  
16 phase of the -- of the project too.

17

18   (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20           MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: Heather  
21 Sayine-Crawford, GNWT. So as was said earlier, any  
22 comments made here, any comments -- once -- once the  
23 WMMP is put out, we -- as I committed to earlier, we  
24 will consider a public review of that WMMP and -- and  
25 collating comments from parties that wish to -- to

1 review that WMMP before it gets approved.

2 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Simon  
3 Toogood, with the Review Board. Just a follow-up  
4 question. So that approval process though is external  
5 to the EA process and, you know, there might be  
6 concerns parties have with respect to project effects  
7 that they want to get some certainty will be addressed  
8 now during the EA process.

9 And potentially if the GNWT says, Oh,  
10 we'll consider those later once we approve the WEMP,  
11 or the WMMP, sorry, what certainty is there that those  
12 concerns will be actually addressed? And, you know,  
13 the GNWT can say, Well, thank you for your comments,  
14 but no thank you.

15 Well, you know, it's -- it's a  
16 different setting here and parties expectations are  
17 significantly different in the EA process.

18 DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, of  
19 the GNWT. I guess it's our intent that we'll get the  
20 bulk of the comments and feedback on the WEMP through  
21 the EA process. And by the time we get to the post-EA  
22 regulatory process it will just be kind of tidying up  
23 loose ends and circulating it another time for review  
24 before we approve it.

25 But we're looking for the majority of

1 the feedback on it through this process and we have to  
2 make sure that the plan meets the requirements of the  
3 Act as well. So we rely heavily on the EA process to  
4 move the plan forward and make sure that it meets the  
5 requirements of the Act.

6 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Okay. Thank  
7 you very much. I'll leave the discussion of the WMMP  
8 there. If -- I'll take it back to parties if parties  
9 have any following -- additional comments, follow-up  
10 questions about monitoring, the WMMP, the WEMP? I  
11 believe -- Jessica, Tlicho Government.

12 MS. JESSICA HUM: Jessica Hum, with  
13 Tlicho Government. So this brings things back on the  
14 -- the topic of the boreal caribou and -- and an  
15 indication from the Tlicho government that we are --  
16 we are committed to joining. We are on several boards  
17 and committees with many of the parties here that make  
18 co-management decisions.

19 And we -- we enjoy contributing to a  
20 better body of knowledge. So -- so through our  
21 research, through our traditional knowledge work,  
22 through our work with our partners on better  
23 understanding the state of the boreal caribou and to  
24 making informed decisions on co-management.

25 And in order to do that, you know, that

1 -- that furthers our aim of species recovery. I think  
2 that's all of our aim. And in 2014 the boreal caribou  
3 being listed as a species at risk under the threatened  
4 category in both Northwest Territories and Canada, two  
5 (2) documents have come out recently that are -- that  
6 are publically available.

7                   The -- the Federal Action Plan for  
8 Boreal Caribou, as well as the Species at Risk  
9 document for boreal caribou, which both make  
10 commitments. So from the NWT perspective, the state  
11 of the knowledge can be improved by further  
12 documenting traditional community knowledge and  
13 further analysis of surveys, which were mentioned  
14 earlier today, and collared boreal caribou.

15                   And that -- that was through the NWT  
16 document. And then through the federal document we've  
17 also seen a -- a -- and this is one (1) of the  
18 elements, one (1) of the pillars is support to  
19 undertake stewardship actions including providing  
20 funding to support recovery options.

21                   And so I'm -- I'm pulling these  
22 elements out, because in the -- in the larger picture  
23 we -- in our efforts in species recovery, I probably  
24 echo Simon Toogood's comments in that or questions to  
25 the parties in what -- what we can all be doing



1 together through our work on the Tlicho all- season  
2 road to furthering species recovery.

3                   And if we can see some elements for  
4 collaboration we've already touched on a few of those  
5 this morning, but I -- I'd like to use this place of  
6 dialogue to also explore what our future  
7 collaborations were -- are possible.

8                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: I thank you  
9 for those comments. I think we'll just take a quick  
10 ten (10) minute break and we'll think about what's  
11 been said. And -- okay. It's 2:35. A quarter of  
12 3:00 be back at the table.

13

14 --- Upon recessing at 2:36 p.m.

15 --- Upon resuming at 2:52 p.m.

16

17                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Hello,  
18 everyone. It's Simon Toogood with the Review Board.  
19 We're going to try and get started again. We're just  
20 having slight technical difficulties again. Oh, there  
21 you go. The mics are working again. They're back on.  
22 I spoke too soon. They're not working any more.

23                   Meanwhile, while we're -- oh, okay.  
24 We're back on again. We had some loose connections.  
25 All right. Okay. So...

1                   Yeah. We seem to be having a loose  
2 connection with our mics, here.

3                   So just before the break, we were  
4 talking about the WMMP, and Jessica Hum was talking  
5 about maybe potentials for sharing monitoring data and  
6 information that, you know, Tlicho Government and GNWT  
7 has. I'd just like to follow up on that and if  
8 there's any -- just open it up to the floor.

9                   Does anyone have any follow-up  
10 questions on what we've been talking about this  
11 afternoon? I'm seeing ECC (sic) over there. And our  
12 mics aren't working, so I will get some of these mics  
13 going here. All right. Here you go. It's -- should  
14 be working.

15                   MR. BRADLEY SUMMERFIELD: And thank  
16 you, Simon. My name's Bradley Summerfield, with  
17 Environment and Climate Change Canada. Before I pass  
18 it over to Amy to talk about boreal caribou, I just  
19 wanted to echo Shin's comment from this morning and  
20 then what Simon's been talking about with regard to  
21 the WMMP. Also for tomorrow, some of the mig bird  
22 data analysis and any other information that we might  
23 be expecting.

24                   We just wanted to reiterate that we  
25 would request three (3) or four (4) weeks to review

1 that information before the reports are due, not just  
2 before the hearing, so just kind of following up on  
3 what you were saying, that we -- we feel it's  
4 pertinent to have that information for a period of  
5 time so that we can review it and potentially comment  
6 on it in our final submission before the final  
7 hearing.

8                   So now I'm going to pass it over to Amy  
9 who is our species at risk biologist. And she's going  
10 to talk about boreal caribou a little bit.

11                   MS. AMY GANTON: Hi. I'm Amy Ganton.  
12 I'm with Environment and Climate Change Canada. Just  
13 before I begin, I know that there's a lot going on in  
14 the world of caribou these days, so I just want to  
15 clarify that when I'm -- if I say, "caribou", I'm  
16 specifically talking about boreal caribou.

17                   To start, I want to say that  
18 Environment and Climate Change Canada appreciates the  
19 work that's been done by the Proponent to respond to  
20 our Information Requests. And we have a -- a few  
21 comments based on the information that was provided.

22                   The boreal caribou file relies very  
23 heavily on spatial mapping, which highlights the  
24 importance of using consistent mapping methods. This  
25 will be even more significant if the percentage of

1 undisturbed habitat gets closer to that 65 percent  
2 threshold, although acknowledging that we're not  
3 currently below that threshold to date.

4                   Things like using the same mapping  
5 projections or disturbance layers between analyses are  
6 some things that could be taken towards getting this  
7 consistency.

8                   Focussing for a moment on the  
9 information that was provided in our Information  
10 Request number 7, we request that the Proponent commit  
11 to providing the maps for summer, breeding, fall, and  
12 winter periods as it was offered in the Proponent's  
13 response to us.

14                   This is particularly important for the  
15 early to mid activity periods that -- of which that  
16 just closed on August 12th.

17                   The response back to us notes that not  
18 all collared females calved during the previous  
19 activity periods. So reviewing the maps for the next  
20 activity period will be an important part of  
21 understanding what's going on for caribou in this  
22 area.

23                   This is -- or, sorry, we would also  
24 like to ask the Proponent to provide a narrative about  
25 what is happening in Figures 3, Figure 4, Figure 5, as

1 well as any of the future maps for summer, breeding,  
2 fall, and winter, as I previously mentioned.

3                   It's hard to understand what's going on  
4 with the map resolution. So things like those long  
5 movements that some caribou displayed in Figure 5 that  
6 gives the example that they haven't calved yet is  
7 something that could be explained in this narrative.

8                   Another could be the impacts of the  
9 Tliche all-season road on these movements. It appears  
10 that caribou don't cross Highway 3 based on the three  
11 (3) figures that were provided. But perhaps there is  
12 additional information, literature, or knowledge  
13 available on the subject that could be shared in this  
14 narrative.

15                   So I just want to reiterate that we're  
16 asking for a commitment from the Proponent to  
17 providing those additional maps, as well as the  
18 narratives for the maps that we've discussed today.

19                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Simon  
20 Toogood, with the Review Board. So the information  
21 you're talking about was with respect to ECCC's IR  
22 number 7? Okay. Thank you.

23                   MS. AMY GANTON: Yes, that's correct.

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, with  
2 the GNWT. We do plan on providing those types of maps  
3 in the annual reports on the boreal caribou collaring  
4 program. Obviously, for the winter period, we  
5 wouldn't be able to provide a new map during this EA.

6 That'll -- we won't get that data until  
7 after the EA is concluded, probably, but we can  
8 provide the summer and breeding seasons as they are  
9 completed.

10 We usually don't provide the absolute  
11 most up-to-date data in the public forum, because we  
12 want to protect the locations of the caribou, I guess  
13 against use for providing people with information that  
14 could be used in harvesting caribou. So we tend to --  
15 you'll get them a couple of weeks after those  
16 locations are recorded.

17 Was there another part to your question  
18 that I didn't answer?

19 MS. AMY GANTON: Highway 3.

20 DR. JAMES HODSON: Oh, yeah, Highway  
21 3. That is something we could evaluate. I think  
22 there was only -- there was only a couple of  
23 individuals from this recent collaring program that  
24 were along Highway 3.

25 But we do have other collaring programs

1 towards Fort Providence that we might be able to look  
2 at that question in the future, but we probably don't  
3 have enough data yet to look at that question.

4 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: It's Simon  
5 Toogood, with the Review Board. I just have a follow-  
6 up question. Would that data be provided under the  
7 umbrella of the WMMP, or would that be a -- a separate  
8 submission, or review process, or just how would that  
9 work?

10 DR. JAMES HODSON: It would probably  
11 be provided under both. We have to report on the  
12 caribou collaring program for our wildlife research  
13 permits on an annual basis.

14 So there's always a report every year  
15 associated with that, but any information that we  
16 provide in those reports would also be included in the  
17 WMMP report. But there would probably be some  
18 additional analysis that's specific to the road that  
19 will be in the WMMP reports.

20 MS. AMY GANTON: Amy Ganton,  
21 Environment and Climate Change Canada. Thank you for  
22 your response. I think it highlights a lot of what's  
23 been discussed today is that having that context and  
24 narrative behind what's going on is really important  
25 to help our understanding for boreal caribou.

1                   So the narrative for those figures in  
2 particular, as well as those feature maps is a key  
3 aspect of that, and -- and helping shed some light on  
4 what's going on with the movements that are for those  
5 caribou within the study area. Thank you.

6                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:     Simon  
7 Toogood, with the Review Board. Thank you for those  
8 questions. Let's go perhaps to the floor if there's  
9 any other questions. I see Boyan's hand going up.

10                  MR. BOYAN TRACZ:     Boyan Tracz,  
11 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. Following up a  
12 bit on Environment Canada's want for inerma -- want  
13 for information, and then previous comments on amount  
14 of critical habitat still remaining, we were again  
15 primarily talking about the NT1 range. So that's  
16 Northwest Territories wide, and certainly something of  
17 importance.

18                  The WRRB's had a number of -- of  
19 questions specific to critical habitat at the  
20 Wek'eezhii scale, or the North Slave scale.

21                  And I'm looking at the -- the action  
22 plan from the -- the federal government that's up on  
23 the registry now, and the comment that range plans are  
24 to be developed within three (3) to five (5) years, by  
25 October 2017, to demonstrate how they'll protect the



1 species-critical habitat under their jurisdiction.

2                   So I guess the question the GNWT has  
3 is: Will -- or will a range plan for Wek'eezhii/North  
4 Slave region be available by October 2017?

5                   DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.  
6 We are working on a framework for how we're going to  
7 develop range plans in the NWT, and we are aiming to  
8 get that out for public engagement in the fall 2017.  
9 But in terms of a specific range plan for the  
10 Wek'eezhii region or the North Slave portion of the  
11 range, we wouldn't have that ready by fall 2017.

12                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,  
13 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. So to ask what  
14 the critical habitat threshold for Wek'eezhii is or  
15 what the critical habitat threshold is for North  
16 Slave, what's ENR's -- or GNWT's current perspective  
17 on that?

18

19   (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21                   DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.  
22 We don't have necessarily a specific threshold to  
23 propose for the Wek'eezhii at this point, and I think  
24 that would be determined through external engagement.  
25 Once we release that framework, we need to have those

1 discussions.

2 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,  
3 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. In some ways,  
4 this is analogous to the WEMP and the -- the drafts  
5 that are being provided in terms of monitoring and  
6 mitigation. They contain some information, but they  
7 will contain information specific to monitoring,  
8 mitigation, and assorted collaboration.

9 An analog is the lack of a range plan  
10 which you could even think about Jay project and the  
11 lack of a Bathurst plan in -- in one way, shape, or  
12 form.

13 The Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board  
14 operates at the Wek'eezhii level, and this -- this  
15 question about critical habitat repeatedly is -- is  
16 referred to the NT1 scale which, from a federal  
17 perspective and a Northwest Territories perspective,  
18 is appropriate.

19 But we know that the range planning  
20 process started back in, what, 2013/'14? There were -  
21 - there were meetings that were held, there was  
22 preliminary discussion with Renewable Resources Board,  
23 and there was some information in terms of what people  
24 expected or sort of what -- what the critical habitat  
25 threshold could be.

1                   So it's a -- it's a concern. Again, in  
2 terms of unknowns, not having that clarified as to  
3 what the threshold is leads to a series of problems  
4 when it comes to, you know, what you're aiming for,  
5 how you're monitoring it, and what you're going to do  
6 or what you can do within the context of the road, but  
7 also in a larger context in terms of responsibilities  
8 at a Northwest Territories and federal level.

9                   So it's -- to the -- you know, for the  
10 Board's benefit -- but they've read the IRs, too -- is  
11 that there's a real need to have that clarified. That  
12 -- that critical habitat question is -- is an  
13 important one.

14                   And to follow up on Kyle's comment  
15 about the Saskatchewan range, there is a -- a mention  
16 of comparison to Saskatchewan. That report's also up  
17 on -- on the registry, and though there's similarities  
18 when it comes to the amount of fire and the amount of  
19 anthropogenic activity, we don't know how similar they  
20 are in terms of caribou density because we don't have  
21 that information yet.

22                   We don't know the wolf density, but we  
23 know from communities that there's concerns that  
24 wolves are increasing around communities.  
25 Saskatchewan doesn't have bison; Wek'eezhii does.

1                   And, importantly, it's very clear in  
2 the -- on the executive summary that pressure on  
3 humans on woodland caribou in Saskatchewan is very  
4 low. We know that hunting occurs here, but we don't  
5 know to what extent.

6                   So there's missing pieces of  
7 information that, again, lead to uncertainty in terms  
8 of direct comparison, that there may be some...

9

10   (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12                   MR. BOYAN TRACZ: It's probably a good  
13 idea. So there are similarities, but there's also  
14 differences. And so just a caution in terms of direct  
15 comparison, but also opportunity in terms of study  
16 design, collaboration with academic partners, you  
17 know, information transfer, you know, as -- as Jessica  
18 was referring to. How would you directly compare, or  
19 what pieces of information do you need?

20                   So more of a -- a concern about the  
21 lack of a -- a range plan at the Wek'eezhii scale, a  
22 concern about the -- having a -- a clear indication of  
23 what that critical -- critical habitat threshold is,  
24 whatever it's decided upon. But that's -- it's  
25 missing information, and basically, we need it. So

1 that's kind of it. Thank you.

2 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Hi. It's  
3 Simon Toogood, with the Review Board. Our mics are  
4 down again. GNWT wants to respond to Boyan's  
5 comments. I can pass the mic over.

6 Yeah, I think the GNWT has some  
7 responses for you, Boyan.

8 MS. HEATHER SAYINE-CRAWFORD: So --  
9 Heather Sayine-Crawford, with GNWT. Boyan, we hear  
10 your comments. We're working towards the framework,  
11 hoping to have that public, as James mentioned, by  
12 this fall, and then working on those thresholds  
13 specifically for each range with -- okay, sorry --  
14 working on those thresholds for the ranges with our  
15 co-management partners and other Aboriginal  
16 organizations.

17 So it is a slow process, but one that  
18 we want to get right, and get right the first time.  
19 So I hear your concerns. We share them. We're  
20 working towards solutions.

21 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you for  
22 that. It's Simon Toogood, with the Review Board. I'm  
23 not a biologist, but I do have a follow-up question on  
24 this. It's to do with the -- the WEMP, page 9. The  
25 developer that the Wek'eezhii management area doesn't

1 contain a discrete population of caribou because  
2 there's no barriers to movement.

3                   And I'm just wondering how that -- that  
4 line of reasoning fits with the recovery strategy in  
5 2012. There, they have definitions of local  
6 populations -- this isn't a touch screen -- local  
7 populations, they have definitions of ranges, and they  
8 don't really talk about that line of reasoning, as far  
9 as I can tell.

10                   And they define "local populations" as  
11 defined by areas occupied by other groups relc --  
12 local population. Hold on a sec, here. Yeah, they're  
13 defined by local factors affecting birth and death  
14 rates rather than immigration, emigration, and con --  
15 and connectivity.

16                   So I'm just wondering, was the GNWT  
17 following the sort of reasoning in the definitions in  
18 the federal recovery strategy, or is there a separate  
19 way that you're defining these local populations?

20                   DR. JAMES HODSON: James Hodson, GNWT.  
21 For the purpose of range planning, we are treating the  
22 NT1 as a -- one (1) population, but we are proposing  
23 that we split the range plans up into regional plans  
24 based on administrative boundaries.

25                   And that's more from an administrative

1 ease point of view in that decisions are made  
2 regionally by regional land and water boards or  
3 regional land use plans, that kind of thing. So we  
4 need to come up with a way of defining targets  
5 regionally while still ensuring that we're meeting  
6 that 65 percent target that applies to the entire  
7 population.

8 I'd also mention that we do collect  
9 genetic information as part of our monitoring  
10 programs, and we have been doing some academic work  
11 through academic collab -- collaborations -- where  
12 there's any kind of sub-population structure within  
13 that NT1 population. But it's very preliminary right  
14 now. We don't have any results yet.

15 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Yeah. Thank  
16 you for that. So just to clarify, the range  
17 definition in the recovery strategy isn't -- that's  
18 not how the GNWT proposes to characterize to -- the  
19 populations of caribou. They're going with  
20 administrative -- for instance, North Slave or South  
21 Slave.

22 The range definition is:

23 "A geographic area occupied by a  
24 group of individuals that is subject  
25 to similar factors affecting their

1 demography."

2 Et cetera, et cetera. So that's not  
3 the approach the GNWT is proposing?

4 DR. JAMES HODSON: I'm not entirely  
5 sure I understand what you're getting at, but the  
6 approach to range plan is really a regional approach  
7 to managing the disturbance footprint on a regional  
8 basis with regional targets, still ensuring that we're  
9 meeting that 65 percent threshold across the entire  
10 NT1 range.

11 So there could be variation in the  
12 targets between the regions, but overall, we still  
13 have to meet that 65 percent target.

14 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Okay.  
15 Thanks. I'll leave it there.

16 I'll open it back up to the floor if  
17 there's any additional questions or comments to other  
18 parties, GNWT. I'm seeing NSMA.

19 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
20 with NSMA. Just a quick question, just to clarify.  
21 And I think I understand -- we got an answer to this  
22 question. I think I understand it, but I just want to  
23 make sure.

24 We had asked if you were -- there was  
25 going to be any potential for beaver dam removal



1 during construction because some of the other projects  
2 I've worked for or reviewed, they haven't really  
3 anticipated having to do beaver -- beaver dam removal,  
4 but then they look at the situation and they decide  
5 that certain beaver dams are going to pose a risk for  
6 washout of the road in the future, and they start  
7 taking them out. And that the reason that's a concern  
8 is it modifies surface hydrology quite a bit, and it  
9 changes moose habitat.

10                   So I'm just -- I'm just double checking  
11 that, from the -- from the response, it sounds like  
12 you will only be removing beaver dams if they crop up  
13 after the project has been constructed and cause  
14 pooling or other issues. But you would not have to do  
15 any removal during or prior to construction.

16                   Is that correct?

17

18                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
21 GNWT. I guess a -- a few different responses to that.  
22 First is that we don't have the finalized alignment  
23 yet because we don't have the final very detailed, you  
24 know, within the nearest metre alignment, so if we  
25 don't know if there's going to be a beaver dam in

1 place or not. So the first point.

2                   Second point, though, that is, if there  
3 is a beaver dam in the place or on the alignment, then  
4 obviously, we'll have to deal with it. And we would  
5 follow -- make sure that we obtain all the required  
6 permits working from ENR. Thanks.

7

8                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10                   MS. HEATHER BEARS: There we go.  
11 Heather Bears, consulting for the North Slave Metis  
12 Alliance. I understand that you -- you need permits  
13 to remove beaver dams. It's just that this is a --  
14 it's a good thing to anticipate or when you get a  
15 better idea of your alignment.

16                   In other projects, it -- it can  
17 significantly alt -- alter surface hydrology, and --  
18 and on a regional scale, that can really change the  
19 distribution of moose habitat. It's kind of one (1)  
20 of those indirect effects that people don't think  
21 about, and then they start removing beaver dams and  
22 they go, Oh, wow, like this -- this whole area has  
23 changed.

24                   So -- so I don't know where in the  
25 process that assessment could come in, but it would be

1 nice to have an idea of -- of where beaver dams may be  
2 removed or may need to be removed and have a bit of a  
3 surface hydrology modelling approach to -- to look at  
4 how that could affect moose habitat as well.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
9 GNWT. And so our -- we talked about our P3 process,  
10 and we're going to find a Proponent who's going to  
11 finalize the design of the road. So we'll refer to  
12 them as 'project co.' or 'project company', and so  
13 they're the ones that are going to have the engineers  
14 that will deal with all those.

15 Obviously, hydrology is an important  
16 factor when it comes to final design, final alignment  
17 of the road and making sure that there's appropriate  
18 drainage so that the road impedes as little as  
19 possible the -- the drainage. Thanks.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
24 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. Maybe others  
25 should just reiterate the concern. Obviously -- so

1 the construction company will be trying to prevent the  
2 washout of the road. So -- so from the -- from an EA  
3 perspective, anticipating the potential for that need  
4 to remove beaver dams could affect your effects  
5 assessment for -- for species like moose and bison in  
6 terms of distribution of surface hydrology.

7                   If there are a significant number of  
8 beaver dams or certain key beaver dams that could hold  
9 back a large amount of water in the area that would  
10 need to be removed, it's -- again, it's just one of  
11 those under -- under-appreciated indirect effects that  
12 often doesn't get looked at until after the process,  
13 during permitting, when people are getting beaver dam  
14 removal permits.

15

16                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18                   MR. DAMIAN PANAYI: Damian Panayi,  
19 with Golder Associates. Just to follow up with your  
20 question, Heather, it was -- the effects of changes in  
21 surface hydrology due to development and changes in  
22 drainage patterns were considered in the effects  
23 assessment. And it was considered to be a secondary  
24 pathway.

25                   And one (1) of the things to keep in

1 mind is that this particular area where the road is  
2 going in tends to be quite high. It's well drained.  
3 The rivers or water drainage is confined to sort of a  
4 few well -- well-defined drainages, and there's very  
5 little beaver activity in that area.

6                   It's a bit different scene from -- all  
7 right, first of all, the -- the personal observation  
8 is that beaver dams in the Northwest Territories are  
9 pretty small to begin with, and it's a very different  
10 coun -- country from what we see in between here and  
11 Yellowknife.

12                   MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
13 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. Thank you.  
14 Thank you for that. I'll -- I'll just leave that for  
15 now.

16                   The -- the last question that we had  
17 was pertaining to a question we asked, and part of it  
18 was answered in -- in the written responses, but part  
19 of it wasn't.

20                   Maybe you know that you can have the --  
21 maybe -- you may have some data from other roads, but  
22 what is the typical snow berm height during snow  
23 clearing along these sorts of roads in this area?

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
2 GNWT.  If you could clarify what you mean by 'snow  
3 berm height'.  Is that the snow that would be cleared  
4 off of the road and then would be in a windrow of some  
5 kind on the side of the road or the shoulder of the  
6 road?

7                   MS. HEATHER BEARS:   Yes.  That's --  
8 that's correct.  And also considering the -- the depth  
9 of the snow pile that would potentially collect on the  
10 side of an elevated road.  So some -- there's -- there  
11 are sometimes potentials for quite a -- quite a bit  
12 drop in terms of from the top of the -- the cleared  
13 snow berm elevation to the dip of what's filled with  
14 snow on the side of the road.

15

16   (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:   Russ Neudorf,  
19 GNWT.  I'll try to answer from a operational  
20 perspective.  This -- the road will be elevated above  
21 the surrounding terrain, so that will mean kind of the  
22 ditches or the sides of the roads will accumulate with  
23 snow, but the top will be -- we'll try to keep it as  
24 clear as possible.  It just makes our maintenance job  
25 that much easier.

1                   When you do get snow on the top of the  
2 road, obviously you send your grader or a plough  
3 truck, whatever, down that road, pushing the --  
4 immediately pushing the load off the driving surface  
5 so that it's safe for traffic.

6                   And then we would come back later,  
7 typically I'd say a day or two (2) later, and do  
8 what's called winging. So we would wing that windrow  
9 of snow that would be on the side of the road so that  
10 it would essentially level it off. We want to do that  
11 because if we leave that windrow there, then any  
12 additional snow will accumulate, you know, behind it  
13 and essentially be accumulating or trapping snow on  
14 the road surface.

15                  So generally, we want to make the --  
16 kind of the driving surface as smooth as possible  
17 transition into the ditch area. So it -- it would be  
18 tend to be the -- I would think the -- you know, the  
19 depth of snow in the ditch that would be the challenge  
20 for wildlife movement as opposed to the height of a --  
21 a windrow of snow that's along the side of the road.

22                  MS. HEATHER BEARS: Heather Bears,  
23 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. Thanks. That --  
24 that clarifies that quite a bit. Do you have an idea  
25 of the average depth of that snow on the side of the

1 road and -- we're just trying to get an idea in terms  
2 of the potential for wildlife to use the road as  
3 travel corridor, and then try to escape and get stuck  
4 in the snow and pegged off by a -- a wolf.

5 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
6 GNWT. The height of the -- or the amount of snow in  
7 the ditch, I guess, will be a function of how -- of  
8 the height of the embankment. So our embankment,  
9 we've -- I believe it's 1.2 to 1.4 metres generally  
10 above the surrounding terrain. So you would have, you  
11 know, approximately that amount of snow at some point  
12 in the ditch.

13 And I'll turn it over to Golder, who  
14 can give another answer about wildlife movement  
15 through that ditch.

16 DR. KYLE KNOPFF: Thanks. Kyle  
17 Knopff, with Golder Associates. Just to help clarify  
18 the -- the ability once you have those snow drifts  
19 winged off like that, actually often it's in the -- in  
20 the boreal country as opposed -- different from the --  
21 the barren-ground country. Often that snow will be  
22 harder than the snow that surrounds it in the trees,  
23 which is -- which is typically quite soft. And so for  
24 caribou to walk on, it's -- it's not as challenging, I  
25 think maybe is what you're thinking of. So just to



1 clarify that.

2 MS. HEATHER BEARS: Yeah. Heather  
3 Bears, with the North Slave Metis Alliance. Yeah. I  
4 -- I'd be interested to know how often animals sink  
5 versus stay on top of the snow with things like bison.  
6 There are some sort of known snow depths that impede -  
7 - impede movement and can trap them, but it would be  
8 nice to know what that risk is and what that effect  
9 could be. Thank you.

10

11 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

12

13 ELDER FRANCIS SIMPSON: Yes. My name  
14 is Francis Simpson, originally from Whati. Yes, that  
15 I don't know the name of the -- the people that have  
16 spoken up regarding about the wildlife. And, yes, the  
17 -- I'm concerned about is the forest fire, I guess.

18 You know, since the last three (3)  
19 years, around -- around the Whati area, the end of the  
20 lake, north end of the lake, there's a big, large land  
21 has been burned through the forest fires.

22 Yes, that I would assume that the --  
23 the -- early in the spring and early in the summer, I  
24 guess, you know, that's when the -- when the -- the  
25 animals are just born, and then -- then, you know, the

1 -- the -- they're raising their young ones, I guess.  
2 That's when they can't even help themselves, I guess,  
3 when the forest fire comes around and destroy the  
4 whole animals.

5                   Yes, that -- most of us that -- we live  
6 off the land, I guess, you know. Like, we -- if we go  
7 out -- we -- we did -- we do go out on spiritual trip  
8 around the lake, you know, to -- with the youth,  
9 students. And then somehow that we notice that the --  
10 a lot of the animals has been burned out on the land,  
11 for example, like rabbits and squirrels. And there  
12 must be a lot of animals that -- that perish through  
13 forest fires.

14                   Yes. All we know is that the -- once  
15 the land is pretty well burned out, I guess, you know,  
16 it'll take years, you know, to have animal come back  
17 to the original place. Yes, the -- knowing that the -  
18 - even the larger animals that roam the country, like,  
19 for example, like moose and muskox, or even the  
20 caribou, I guess, they don't come back out to the area  
21 where it's all burned out.

22                   So now that the -- just because of the  
23 land is pretty well burned out all around that area, I  
24 think the migration of the caribou has changed  
25 somewhat to different areas. But most of the time, I

1 guess, you know, the animal don't seem to come our  
2 way. And it's hard to pinpoint any individual or  
3 companies that cause the, you know, depletion of the  
4 caribou.

5 Yes. In the past, back in the '60s, I  
6 guess, you know, like, when the caribou were in  
7 abundance and -- and the -- we used to have the  
8 caribou migration come sometime early November, and  
9 then, you know, stay with us till the end of March.

10 So the -- our ancestors, I guess, you  
11 know, one day look after the animals, I guess, you  
12 know, like, the -- they like to preserve everything.  
13 And the -- and now that the -- the caribou is not  
14 there any more, I guess, due to this terrible  
15 depletion.

16 Yes. Now that the -- we're talking  
17 about a new development now that is kind of premature  
18 to -- to talk about what might happen when the road is  
19 completed and the -- nonetheless, the amount -- the  
20 amount of animal that might use the land -- the road  
21 and the amount of human that -- that might be able to  
22 use it.

23 And the -- I'd like to know exact  
24 amount of -- exact amount of people that might use the  
25 -- the road when it's completed because, you know,

1 like, the -- we as in Elders are not too much of in  
2 favour of building the win -- all-weather road because  
3 the -- maybe some younger generations are in favour of  
4 the all-weather road. And knowing that the -- any  
5 development that comes around, that is always  
6 associated with social issues, and that -- and even  
7 the mining companies and how long that's going to live  
8 there. And most of us today, we feel quite  
9 comfortable and confident that living in an isolated  
10 area without a road link.

11                   And it's nice and peaceful where we're  
12 at today. And the only problem that we see amongst --  
13 and in our communities probably with -- with the  
14 health issues. Other than that, everybody's, you  
15 know, in -- in a good health. I guess they could  
16 travel around the lake if they wanted to by boat and  
17 ski-doo -- ski-dooing on a lake in wintertime.

18                   And the only link that we have, winter  
19 road link to us, is sometime maybe -- maybe about a --  
20 a month or so or more, you know, we have a road -- a  
21 winter road open that -- that -- I think it was quite  
22 sufficient enough for us to be satisfied with -- with  
23 deliverance of the, you know, big, heavy item, big  
24 heavy equipments.

25                   To date, we have some social problems,

1 I guess, you know, like doing -- there's a lot of  
2 drugs and a lot of alcohol is coming into our  
3 community, although the weather road is -- all-weather  
4 road is not linked to it. But it looks like the --  
5 all the people have spoken in favour of the road, and  
6 then the -- it looks like the -- like I said, we're  
7 living -- we're living quite comfortable, and then,  
8 you know, what kind of destructions it might have.

9                   To date, I'm over my eighty (80) years  
10 old, and then I sure don't want to see future  
11 generations suffer through the social problems. And  
12 the -- did -- as I've observed and listened, I guess,  
13 is what I gathered, and this is my response as to --  
14 but nonetheless, public engagement and public, you  
15 know, and interests, you know, should be looked at  
16 because the majority of people in favour of it. Maybe  
17 that's -- that's one (1) way to go.

18                   But today, that -- I'm only speaking  
19 for the -- well, a -- a few amount of Elders that live  
20 in Whati. But I hope that one day -- one day that --  
21 I hope that this group, technical session, be take --  
22 taken -- come out of the Whati community, because this  
23 is where the -- all the impact concerns that might be  
24 coming in from our community of Whati.

25                   But although we'll still be here for

1 next two (2) days, and I thought I'd give you my  
2 observation as to what I've observed for the last --  
3 the first day. Thank you.

4

5 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

6

7 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Masi cho, Mr.  
8 Simpson. I -- I just wanted you to know -- I'll just  
9 wait till the translation's good -- we -- we hear what  
10 you're saying, that people in Whati should have a  
11 chance to talk to the Board, and the Board is going to  
12 hold a hearing for this project in Whati.

13 That will be a -- a public hearing, and  
14 everyone is welcome to come and tell Board members  
15 directly what you think. That would be part of  
16 helping the Board make a wise decision. Masi cho.

17

18 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 ELDER JOE CHAMPLAIN: Yes. It's an  
21 Elder from Whati by the name of Joe Champlain. Yes, I  
22 do -- have lived off the land, and I guess that I'll  
23 try to make a comment about the -- the beaver, because  
24 the -- the -- when I observe the -- how that beaver  
25 does his work, you know, on a pond and tries to make a

1 big pond, and sometimes, you know, like, to -- if we  
2 build a dam if he had to.

3                   And in order to survive over the  
4 winter, I guess, you know, the -- the beaver, what it  
5 does is that it builds a big -- big dam, you know, so  
6 that the -- and stockpile all his foods for the  
7 winter, stockpile. And then it's just what he lives  
8 on over -- over the wintertimes.

9                   So knowing that the water level is  
10 pretty high, and then so that they feel comfortable to  
11 survive all winter long. And I had been trapping for  
12 beavers with our -- our forefathers, like, you know,  
13 that -- a lot of people used to go out into Horn  
14 Plateau area in order to -- you know, to get some --  
15 to get more fur and wild fur on of -- on -- off the  
16 land because, you know, you can't go nearby, because  
17 there's too many hunters do -- that do the same thing.

18                   So, yes, the -- as the traditional  
19 knowledge tells us that, you know, you've got to live  
20 by your own traditional rules, that -- that there's a  
21 lot of things that you don't do in order to preserve  
22 the animal.

23                   And then you've got to respect the  
24 animal and that the -- if you cut the throat, not  
25 being -- you know, if you're not well-trained how to

1 prepare or butcher the animal, and then you could --  
2 this will stop you from killing an animal, you know.  
3 This is -- this is what kind of a traditional thing  
4 that associated with how we hunt and trap.

5                   Yes. The -- our people, too, I guess,  
6 you know, like the -- they -- our Elders, I guess, are  
7 the one that -- that tells us, you know, what -- how  
8 many beavers are inside the den, and all the age  
9 level, and the sex levels and all that. They've been  
10 identified by their -- by how they are chipping their  
11 tooth on a -- on a poplar tree.

12                   So nonetheless, that the -- the Elders,  
13 that they're the ones that most of us that we did rely  
14 on times in the past because the traditional way of  
15 living, I guess is very important, as much as having a  
16 good education.

17                   So if you want to have -- if you want  
18 to live quite comfortable in a lifetime, and if you  
19 want the -- the full life into your future, you've  
20 just got to live up your traditional knowledge and  
21 live it, and then you'll be able to have a comfortable  
22 life in -- in your time.

23                   So today, I guess our traditional  
24 knowledge is fairly well not practised from time to  
25 time. Yes, that the -- back in the early days, too,



1 when we used to come to the community like Behchoko,  
2 whatever, main centres, I guess, you know, like the --  
3 that our Elders, that they -- they gather and then the  
4 -- they try to call upon all the young people, youth  
5 and teenagers, you know, put them into one (1) room  
6 and give them some instruction as to what life might  
7 predict and hold for them.

8                   And after, that's how they were taught.  
9 And they -- when you listen to your Elders and then  
10 practise and live it, and then you're -- you're just  
11 as good at having a good education.

12                   And this is just my personal comment,  
13 you know, so I -- that's all -- that's all I'd like to  
14 share with you this afternoon. Thank you.

15

16                   (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

17

18                   MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: ...and I  
19 heard a lot of stories from the Elders from our past.  
20 And we'd talk about beaver -- beaver dam.

21                   And there's -- if you take the beaver  
22 dam, it's like you're taking away their home. It's  
23 their land, and that's where they live. They raise  
24 their young in the -- in the dam. They live there all  
25 winter long.

1                   And same with muskrat. And the fish in  
2 the streams, they spawn -- they flow back and forth.  
3 And even jackfish has lived among the low water around  
4 the grassy area. So if we cover all that, and if the  
5 dust goes into the water, how they're going to survive  
6 on their habitats which will be covered with dust?

7                   I know the road, once a lot of people  
8 refused it, not to have a road, and some wants to have  
9 a road. I'm not saying to not have it or to open it,  
10 but I'm talking for the safety and the health of the  
11 people and the animals.

12                   It's -- it's very major area where our  
13 ancestors have lived in the past. For example,  
14 there's one (1) woman that live out there with a  
15 family when she was only the teen years. That's where  
16 she had a hut because of her first puberty. And  
17 these are very special, important things. And all  
18 those sacred place, there's marks on the land out  
19 there, too.

20                   These are all the things that needs to  
21 be taken care of or we need to watch over all that,  
22 and they really need to be monitored. And even --  
23 even from Behchoko to Yellowknife, there's so many  
24 traffic. Like, there's non-stop going back and forth.  
25 I know because I go to travel Yellowknife once in a

1 while, not every day.

2                   But those people from Whati, if the  
3 road open, there'll be more traffic. There'll be even  
4 more traffic on the land to Yellowknife and back.  
5 People go there for evening, socialize and games, and  
6 at that late evenings, that's when there's more  
7 traffic.

8                   And that's where they can get hit by  
9 bison. Bison goes on the road in the fall time,  
10 during winter, too. I know because we were hit by a  
11 bison with me and my husband late at night when we  
12 travelled back from Yellowknife. And the cost of the  
13 money to get repaired truck is a lot of money from  
14 your own pocket.

15                   They have to be monitored, not only for  
16 a short time, but all clock -- all -- like, during the  
17 night and day, not just for short times. And all the  
18 plants and the habitats, berries, we've got to think  
19 about that. People eats that. Animal lives on it.  
20 So all these things has to be really well monitored.

21                   And I just want to say a few words.  
22 There was lots I wanted to say, but I'll just say this  
23 for now. Masi.

24                   MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Masi, Georgina. I  
25 have a question. Do you know if there are baby teeth

1 in the trees along the route of the proposed all-  
2 season road?

3 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: I didn't hear  
4 you. Bab -- baby feet?

5 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Baby teeth --

6 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: Oh.

7 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: -- in the trees --

8 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: The baby  
9 teeth in the trees.

10 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: -- along the all-  
11 season road route?

12 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: Around that  
13 road?

14 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Yeah.

15 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: I think I  
16 heard that, but I'm not sure exactly where it is. But  
17 there are some stories on that. There is even stories  
18 about where they said a sacred place. It's like a --  
19 a tree, but I think it's a branch. There's, like, a  
20 stump of it, like pointed tepees along the ways.

21 There are some areas -- there are some  
22 areas in -- in that area. When we pass through, you  
23 have to pass through quiet. If you make noise, they  
24 said there's certain kind of a creature that lives  
25 there. So that's a sacred spot. I think it's on a

1 map with -- Petter made with the Elders. It should be  
2 in the report, so I think that will come up, too.

3 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Okay. Thanks.

4 It's Alan Ehrlich again. I -- Ginger Gibson nodding.  
5 Ginger, are you nodding because you've heard, or are  
6 you nodding because you know if the Developer has been  
7 made aware of the locations of these things?

8 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Thanks. Ginger  
9 Gibson, Tlicho Government. The Developer has the maps  
10 and has reviewed them. And we have had conversations  
11 about the cultural sites that required to be  
12 protected. In -- in the area that Georgina refers to -  
13 - I'm sure it might come up on Thursday, as well -- is  
14 an area that we've already discussed and decided that  
15 there's not a need to do anything in particular. In  
16 fact, we want nothing done, because any notice or --  
17 or mention of that area is -- it would be a negative  
18 impact.

19 So the intent is to have no signage and  
20 no information. And -- and the Proponent is  
21 completely aware of that and has agreed to that.

22 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thanks, Ginger.

23 Alan Ehrlich here again. Just for the benefit of the  
24 Elders, and for Georgina to understand, when evidence  
25 comes to the Board, normally, almost always, we post

1 it on the website so everyone can see what everyone is  
2 saying about the project, and the Board can see  
3 everything that's out there.

4                   But one (1) of the only exceptions we  
5 make sometimes is for traditional knowledge, where  
6 it's sensitive and people don't want to share the best  
7 hunting spots, or the spiritual site, things like  
8 that. And then we have confidential ways where our  
9 Board can be see it but it's not out in the general  
10 public. And it sounds like that arrangement has been  
11 met for the sites you're talking about.

12                   Thank you for answering my questions.

13

14                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16                   MS. GINGER GIBSON: Just -- Ginger  
17 Gibson, Tlicho Government. Just to be clear, our  
18 report is public and is on the public record, so  
19 there's no mystery that there's -- we didn't need the  
20 confidentiality provision requested.

21                   I know -- I know that you can make that  
22 feasible to us, but we didn't require that in this  
23 case. And our report is public, and -- and so we --  
24 we didn't need that. We're just not going to identify  
25 that site on the road. We're not going to identity it

1 with signage, and -- and it's -- it's just nobody's  
2 business where it is.

3                   And -- and the Elders and the Tlicho  
4 people know where it is, and they're -- they've  
5 managed it successfully for many hundreds of years and  
6 will continue to do so in full knowledge that there  
7 would be a road going through that area. Masi, yeah.

8                   CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW:     Ruari  
9 Carthew, with the Review Board. Thank you, Ginger and  
10 Georgina, for your answers. I -- I identified that  
11 issue for Thursday, and I'm -- I'm glad that you're  
12 satisfied that the area is -- is being managed to your  
13 satisfaction, so I'll -- I'll make note of that.

14                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD:     It's Simon  
15 Toogood, with the Review Board. Russ, you have some  
16 comments?

17                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF:     Yeah. Russ  
18 Neudorf, GNWT. And just to thank the Elders for their  
19 comments here, and to, I guess, highlight the  
20 importance from a -- a Proponent's perspective here of  
21 working with the Tlicho Government on this -- these  
22 types of issues exactly.

23                   I think we want to, you know, construct  
24 this road in the best way possible, and we can only do  
25 that by working directly with the Tlicho Government,

1 so we certainly appreciate that advice, and support,  
2 and comments that we get from them as part of that  
3 process going forward.

4 I did want to just circle back to where  
5 we ended off with the North Slave Metis Alliance. And  
6 we were talking about snow and ditches, and are those  
7 a barrier to wildlife movements, and so two (2)  
8 comments on that. One (1) is that it's on the public  
9 registry for the TAsR. And it's from the Mackenzie  
10 Bison Management Plan, which does speak to the fact  
11 that deep, hard snow plowed into ditches does form a  
12 barrier that bison have difficulty crossing to get  
13 away from the road when a vehicle approaches. And so  
14 that information is on the website.

15 And then we did want to just commit  
16 that we would do a little homework tonight. So I'll  
17 let the folks from ENR and perhaps Golder get together  
18 with you, Heather, and just make sure we understand  
19 that -- the issue there correctly. And if there's  
20 anything else that we want to add, then, to the -- the  
21 record for this meeting, then, we can do that  
22 tomorrow, so if that would be okay with you.

23 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thanks for that,  
24 Russ. There's a housekeeping item that I neglected to  
25 mention earlier. We -- we very much encourage the



1 kinds of sidebar meetings that Russ has just described  
2 he plans to have with the North Slave Metis Alliance,  
3 because we can't always obviously solve all the issues  
4 in a setting like this, but sometimes in-depth, face-  
5 to-face meetings help a lot.

6           We have a form on our website that will  
7 enable you to get the discussions and results of that  
8 meeting onto the public reg -- registry so the Board  
9 can recognize where issues have been solved or where  
10 they haven't. The form we'll post on our -- if -- do  
11 we already have it on our website? We'll post it in  
12 the very near future again on our website. We think  
13 it's probably out there already, but just in case it  
14 isn't.

15           And what it says is -- it says the  
16 subject of the meeting, who attended on behalf of  
17 which organizations, what the main subjects were, and  
18 what positions were taken by the different  
19 organizations, and what the resolution was, if there  
20 was a resolution. And it's signed off by both parties  
21 in the meeting.

22           So this way, if you solve something in  
23 a helpful sidebar meeting, that doesn't go  
24 unrecognized, and the same issue doesn't keep getting  
25 flogged if it doesn't need to be. So keep an eye on

1 our public registry for that. When you have sidebar  
2 meetings, that's how you can kind of make the outcome  
3 official while still holding the meeting on your own  
4 terms in your own way.

5 Part of the reason we have this form is  
6 because, in the past, sometimes we'd have meetings,  
7 and we'd get different versions of whether the issue  
8 was resolved or not, or what happened at the meeting.  
9 And that's why we have the same form signed on both  
10 parts.

11 Reporting tomorrow would be, I think, a  
12 good alternative. You probably don't need to fill out  
13 the form if you're going to put it in this, because  
14 it's going to be transcribed, so long as the other  
15 party who's attending the meeting agrees with the  
16 stuff you're saying.

17 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you,  
18 Alan. We're getting towards the end of the day. As  
19 housekeeping, at the end of the day, I'd like to run  
20 through our commitments and any undertakings that have  
21 happened to ensure that we have the standing of what  
22 those commitments were.

23 Before we get there, though, there's  
24 still time for questioning. And given that we're  
25 getting really late in the day, please, if you have

1 any additional questions, prioritize them. And I'll -  
2 - I'll leave you with your last few questions. Shin,  
3 NSMA...?

4 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Shin Shiga, North  
5 Slave Metis Alliance. I just had one (1)  
6 clarification. I found a sentence in the WEMP, W-E-M-  
7 P, that reads that:

8 "This implementation of the plan is  
9 subject to government funding."

10 Which kind of is curious. Like, does  
11 that mean if you don't have funding, you don't  
12 implement the plan? Is that actually -- is that  
13 possible? Thank you.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
18 with GNWT. It's probably a bit of a chicken and egg  
19 when we come to making commitments and getting  
20 approvals for the funding. But, generally, we're --  
21 developed this WEMP and we put it on the public  
22 registry. It says the things that we want to do, so  
23 that's what we want to -- so we -- we will be going  
24 forward with through the process to gain funding in  
25 order for those things to happen.

1                   We -- you -- you can never fetter the  
2 hands of the legislative assembly, so it's always kind  
3 of a subject to obtaining the funding from the  
4 assembly. But we're -- if we have that commitment,  
5 then it also makes it -- it's the driver for the  
6 assembly to be able -- to providing that funding, as  
7 well.

8                   So that's why I say it's a bit of a  
9 chicken and egg. But we'll -- we are -- you know,  
10 provided this WEMP. And it says we've got certain  
11 actions that we're going to do, and we do intend to  
12 follow through, subject to the legislative assembly  
13 approving whatever additional funding might be  
14 required.

15                   MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you. Shin  
16 Shiga, North Slave Metis Alliance. So speaking of  
17 chicken and eggs, would you still be building and oper  
18 -- operating the road if you don't get the funding to  
19 implement WEMP? Is that -- that's the possibility?

20                   MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
21 GNWT. I'm saying that if we're -- we're making this  
22 commitment, it's on the public registry, and it's part  
23 of the approvals to get the project, then we're going  
24 to take that back to the legislative assembly and use  
25 it to help us get our funding for the road. I don't

1 think that we -- I can't imagine a scenario where we'd  
2 make that type of equipment, and then the -- the  
3 legislative assembly wouldn't be giving us that  
4 funding, because we know that it's -- it's what we  
5 committed. It's part of the pro -- project going  
6 forward.

7 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: So it's Simon  
8 Toogood, with the Review Board. So just to clarify,  
9 when we get -- the Review Board -- when you submit  
10 your draft WMMP, which will include the WEMP, items  
11 that are in there, you're saying are -- the GNWT's  
12 committing to those. You also alluded to that this is  
13 a evolving document.

14 Is there the possibility that some of  
15 the things you're proposing now or committing to now  
16 would change after the EA, for instance, maybe --  
17 because there's some talk about analytic methods, for  
18 instance, maybe the number of surveys, or there's talk  
19 in here of perhaps the checkpoint on the road to Whati  
20 would be -- that that would require additional  
21 funding, maybe staffing that.

22 So I'm trying to get a -- wrap my head  
23 around whether or not these are rock solid  
24 commitments. You said that there's some issues with  
25 funding. But regardless of these funding issues, is

1 there the possibility that you would change those  
2 after the EA process maybe with -- during the  
3 regulatory phase, or even after that?

4 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,  
5 GNWT. So there will be a whole series of commitments  
6 that the developer -- the Proponent's making as part  
7 of the environmental assessment process. And we will  
8 be accountable for those commitments and need to  
9 follow up to say how we're going to meet them.

10 In terms of the WMMP specifically, we  
11 do intend to provide a draft of that report by the end  
12 of September so that it can be reviewed and help  
13 inform environmental assessment. But I would say that  
14 it still is a -- its -- its final approval comes as  
15 part of the regulatory process after the environmental  
16 assessment is done.

17 So there may be some additional changes  
18 to it as part of that regulatory process. But in  
19 terms of commitments, we're -- I mean, those are on  
20 the registry. We will be held accountable to make  
21 sure that we follow up and deliver on the commitments  
22 that we're making as part of this process. And if you  
23 could just hang on a second.

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MS. LORRAINE SEALE: So this is  
2 Lorraine Seale, with GNWT. In any environmental  
3 assessment decision, once the responsible ministers  
4 approve a recommendation from the Review Board, all of  
5 the measures in that reported EA, assuming there were  
6 measures, and the commitments made by the developer,  
7 those do become legally binding, and this EA would be  
8 no different in that sense.

9 So once the EA's in place, those are  
10 legally binding.

11 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you for  
12 your comments. It's -- that's fine for now, thanks.  
13 I'll leave it there. I'll let parties have additional  
14 time for questioning. It's getting very close to the  
15 end time, here.

16 Are there any other comments from the  
17 parties on any of the topics we raised today? No. I  
18 think we're drilling down to the bottom, here. I'm  
19 not seeing any hands going up.

20 Review Board staff? Ruari...?

21 CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW: Yeah, thank  
22 you. Ruari Carthew here. I just wanted to pick up on  
23 an item that was raised just before we broke for  
24 lunch. Jessica Hum raised the prospect of  
25 collaboration. And -- and we -- we kind of ended

1 quickly for lunch after that. I want to make sure  
2 that, if there was any follow-up you had on that, you  
3 had the opportunity to express that, or if other  
4 parties wanted to comment on that.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Okay. If  
9 there's no further questions, it's perfect timing. As  
10 I was mentioning, at four o'clock, I would like to  
11 review commitments and undertakings.

12 On that note, I was wondering if --  
13 Ruari, if you had some idea of commitments. I also  
14 know the transcription has been keeping track of some  
15 of those, and I believe the GNWT has, as well. Do you  
16 -- do you happen to have a list of commitments handy?

17 CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW: Ruari Carthew  
18 here, for the Review Board. I -- I have captured five  
19 (5) commitments from today's proceedings. If other  
20 parties have other numbers, then please do speak up.  
21 I'll go through them one by one. The precise wording  
22 will be captured in the transcription, so what I'll be  
23 talking about is mostly the intent behind the  
24 commitment. If you are the party that made the  
25 commitment, or the developer, and you want to provide



1 specific wording for it, this would be an opportune  
2 time.

3                   So the first commitment was a formal  
4 commitment from the GNWT to continue meeting with  
5 parties specifically on the WMMP. And the details of  
6 the WMMP will be talked about during the regulatory  
7 phase. So does that seem accurate and...

8

9                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11                   CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW:    Okay. Moving  
12 on to Commitment 2. I -- I had...

13

14                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16                   CO-FACILITATOR CARTHEW:    Okay. Sorry,  
17 Ruari Carthew, with the Review Board. We're going to  
18 alter this maybe for expedience sake and clarity. The  
19 transcriptions will be finalized this evening. And  
20 we'll have an opportunity to review the exact wording  
21 of the commitments. And -- and then we can go over  
22 them first thing in the morning and -- and make sure  
23 that the wording is correct.

24                   So I -- I guess this would be a final  
25 opportunity then, if -- if other parties have

1 registered more than five (5) commitments, that --  
2 that input would be helpful now, and we can make sure  
3 we -- we look more closely in the transcription.

4 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Thanks. I'm  
5 hoping that you can send those out tonight so we can  
6 look at them and come prepared to talk about them  
7 tomorrow. And, secondly, I just not -- am not con --  
8 I'm not -- I never kept track of the numbers, Ruari,  
9 so I can't correct you. But I just want to note that  
10 two (2) things that I heard, I thought I heard, that  
11 didn't really get picked up maybe as commitments be  
12 registered with you and -- and offer GNWT the  
13 opportunity to just comment and -- and confirm, which  
14 was hiring a renewal resource officer or a patrolman.

15 And they're -- I know that they're  
16 thinking about the -- whether that's one or other. In  
17 Whati, consider -- and -- and so the -- they're also  
18 considering hiring a technician. So I -- I think it's  
19 two (2) positions that Mr. Bruno Croft, from the GNWT,  
20 referred to. And I just wanted to confirm that as a  
21 commitment.

22 And, secondly, a licence sharing  
23 agreement between the GNWT and the Tlicho Government  
24 regarding sharing collar data on caribou in a timely  
25 manner. So I wasn't dead certain those made it in,

1 but I just wanted to repeat them. Masi.

2

3

(BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair... Masi,  
6 Ginger. Bruno Croft, ENR-North Slave. Again, if we  
7 can afford it, our intent would be to fill a position  
8 of either patrolman, which is the term used, or  
9 wildlife officer level 1 in -- in Whati. It's always  
10 depending on funding. Like I mentioned earlier, we  
11 tried several times over the years through forced  
12 growth submission to fill those two (2) position; it  
13 hasn't happened. We hope that we might be able this  
14 time around, but there's no promises and no  
15 guarantees. That's our intent to push forward.

16 And then in regard to your release of  
17 collar data in a timely manner, would that -- was that  
18 related to boreal caribou or barren-ground caribou? I  
19 can't quite remember now.

20 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Sorry, I have it  
21 down wrong. It's both -- it's -- it's for barren-  
22 ground caribou. And -- and should there be good data  
23 with boreal caribou, that, as well. And it -- and  
24 what we're looking for is a licence sharing agreement.

25 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Masi, Ginger. Bruno

1 Croft, ENR-North Slave. Yeah, data sharing agreement  
2 will be pass around -- area to -- the correct area or  
3 the conditions to provide the information would be  
4 laid out in that licence agreement. I think Mr.  
5 Hodson made reference earlier that there might be some  
6 conditions where it's a little more difficult to do  
7 so. We'll find ways to accommodate.

8                   We want to make sure that species --  
9 species at risk or caribou are not made more  
10 vulnerable by daily map locations. For example,  
11 people can use them to go hunting. We get those  
12 requests all the time. So there -- there will be  
13 conditions in there, but that's our intent, to work  
14 with you guys.

15

16                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18                   CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you  
19 very much, Bruno. Tlicho Government, do you have any  
20 follow-up to that?

21                   MS. GINGER GIBSON: No. That's fine.  
22 Thank you. The only -- I'd just ask Mr. Croft if he  
23 would -- did he disappear? Oh. Oh. It felt like a  
24 rabbit hole. Yeah, those -- that was great  
25 clarification.

1 I'd just ask about if there's any ways  
2 to deal with the force -- I -- I understand you're  
3 dealing with forced growth funding relationship with  
4 respect to getting these going. And I'm just  
5 wondering if there's any ways that, given the reality  
6 of the TASR, whether the GNWT can be proactive and not  
7 just use forced growth formulas to respond to the  
8 needs in Whati. Masi.

9 MR. BRUNO CROFT: Mr. Chair, Ginger,  
10 Bruno Croft, ENR-North Slave. We'll try our best,  
11 Ginger. We have a long wish list. That one gets a  
12 little higher up, and we'll give it our best shot.

13 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Okay. Thank  
14 you very much for the responses. So just as  
15 additional housekeeping for tomorrow morning, we're  
16 starting again at 9:30, and the agenda is for  
17 wildlife.

18 Boyan, do you have a -- before I just  
19 wrap this up?

20 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,  
21 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board. Thank you. Just  
22 on that topic of commitments, with regards to that,  
23 the -- the range plan process and sort of the  
24 documentation, you were mentioning the fall. Is there  
25 a firmer date or a commitment related to that? Okay.

1 Okay. I'll -- I won't poke any more, then.

2 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Okay. I'm  
3 trying my best to get you off the hot seat -- the hot  
4 seat, GNWT. It's been a long day.

5 Yeah, so for tomorrow, a 9:30 start.  
6 We're going to be dealing with water, fish, sediments,  
7 birds. There may be some crossover to the WMMP and  
8 WEMP. And again, on Thursday, we're doing cultural  
9 social issues. And there may be some crossover with  
10 wildlife when we talk about traditional harvesting.

11 I'm seeing a hand being raised.  
12 Another question. Now I'm in the hot seat.

13 MS. LAURIE MCGREGOR: Laurie McGregor,  
14 GNWT. I was just wondering if you could maybe survey  
15 people of how long the bird/wildlife portion will be  
16 in the morning, just because we have water staff who  
17 are calling in. So I just need to know if they need  
18 to be available in the morning, just since birds --  
19 I'm not sure how long we'll talk in the morning about  
20 that subject.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: All right.  
25 All right. ECCC, do you have any comments?

1 MR. BRADLEY SUMMERFIELD: We do, yes.  
2 Bradley Summerfield, with Environment and Climate  
3 Change Canada.

4 No more than twenty (20) minutes for --  
5 for us, depending on questions and how things go, but  
6 no more than that we would anticipate for -- for our  
7 piece.

8 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Thank you  
9 very much. I guess I'll ask other parties now if they  
10 had any estimates or ideas of whether or not they'll  
11 be having questions on birds.

12 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Tlicho Government.  
13 I don't expect questions on birds.

14 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: North Slave  
15 Metis Alliance...?

16 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Shin Shiga, North  
17 Slave Metis Alliance. We don't expect to have any  
18 questions. Thank you.

19 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: On that note,  
20 we'll schedule -- oh. Boyan, no? Okay. I keep  
21 missing you.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 CO-FACILITATOR TOOGOOD: Okay. On

1 that note, I think we'll start the day, then, with  
2 birds. And it sounds like it'll be fairly quick, and  
3 then we'll move into water. But I can't provide a  
4 definite estimate of when the water people need to  
5 call in.

6                   Again, I'd like to thank you all for  
7 coming and for being open. It was a very productive  
8 meeting. And I thank you again for, you know, sharing  
9 your thoughts and providing good answers. And have a  
10 good day.

11

12 --- Upon adjourning at 4:11 p.m.

13

14 Certified correct,

15

16

17

18

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Keelaghan, Mr.

20

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\$	<b>1.2</b> 200:9	<b>1960s</b> 139:22	151:3	118:24
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