

MACKENZIE VALLEY REVIEW BOARD

DIAVIK DIAMOND MINES INC.

EA1819-01

COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL HEARING

Mackenzie Valley Review Panel:

Chairperson Joanne Deneron

Board Member David Krutko

Board Member Kirby Marshall

Yvonne Nakimayak Board Member

Board Member Bertha Norwegian

Board Member Sunny Munroe

Board Member Jim Edmonson

Dettah, NT

September 4th, 2019



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| 3 | Mark Cliffe-Phillips |) | |
| 4 | Catherine Fairbairn |) | |
| 5 | Catherine Janz |) | |
| 6 | Kate Mansfield |) | |
| 7 | Alan Ehrlich |) | |
| 8 | Brett Wheler |) | |
| 9 | Jeremy Freeman |) | |
| 10 | Neil Hutchinson (np) |) | |
| 11 | Joe Handley |) | |
| 12 | Catherine McManus |) | |
| 13 | John Donihee |)Counsel | |
| 14 | Julia Paille |)Counsel | |
| 15 | | | |
| 16 | Sean Sinclair |)Diavik Diamond Mines | |
| 17 | Gord Macdonald |) | |
| 18 | Kofi Boa-Antwi |) | |
| 19 | Dave Patterson |) | |
| 20 | Steve Bourn |) | |
| 21 | Winter Bailey |) | |
| 22 | Myra Berrub |) | |
| 23 | Kyle Bennett |) | |
| 24 | Shadi Dayyani |) Golder | |
| 25 | Jerry Vandenberg |) Golder | |

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                 APPEARANCES (cont'd)
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                       ) Golder
3 Erica Bonhomme
                           ) Stantec
4 Colin Buchanan
                        ) Stantec
5
6 Chief Clifford Daniels (np) ) Tlicho Government
7 Elder Joseph Judas
                           )
8 Elder Louie Zoe
9 Elder Charlie Nitsiza
10 Elder Joe Rabesca
11 Elder Dora Migwi (np) )
12 Elder Joseph Moosenose )
13 Violet Camsell-Blondin )
14 Joline Huskey
                           )
15 Ginger Gibson (np)
16
17 Morgan Moffitt
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18 Lorraine Seale
19
20 Patrick Simon
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22
23 Georgina Williston ) ECCC
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25 Agnes Simonsalvy ) CanNor
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| 8 | Chief Edward Sandgris |) Yellowknives Dene | |
| 9 | Johanne Black |) First Nation | |
| 10 | Machel Thomas |) | |
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | Doris Enzoe |) Members of the Public | |
| 13 | Elder Modeste Sangris |) | |
| 14 | Henry Beaulieu |) | |
| 15 | Fred Sangris |) | |
| 16 | Tony Rabesca |) | |
| 17 | Blake Rasmussen |) | |
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1 --- Upon commencing at 3:13 p.m.

2

- MS. KATE MANSFIELD: Good afternoon,
- 4 everyone. My name is Kate Mansfield, and I'm with the
- 5 Review Board. I just have a few brief housekeeping
- 6 notes before our Chair formally opens this hearing.
- 7 The bathrooms are located through those
- 8 doors right over there. Thank you very much.
- 9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Kate.
- 10 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Joanne Deneron,
- 11 and I am the Chair of the Mackenzie Valley
- 12 Environmental Impact Review Board. Welcome to the
- 13 community public hearing for the environmental
- 14 assessment of Diavik Diamond Mine's proposal for
- 15 depositing processed kimberlite in the pits and
- 16 underground.
- Before we begin here, I would like to
- 18 acknowledge that we are holding this hearing in
- 19 Dettah, in Chief Drygeese territory.
- 20 I would like to invite at this time
- 21 Elder Peter Sangris to the mic to give an opening
- 22 prayer, and then right after that, I would ask that
- 23 Chief Sangris to make some opening remarks.

24

25 (OPENING PRAYER)

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7
 1
                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. At this time,
   I would like to call upon...
 3
               (NOT SWITCHED TO ENGLISH CHANNEL)
 5
 6
                   CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: Hello?
                                                  Good
 7
    afternoon.
 8
 9
       (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)
10
11
                   CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: My name is
   Chief Edward Sangris from the Yellowknives Dene.
13
   We're here today to talk about important issues of
    concern of our land. Ever since the prospectors came
14
15
   into our lands, and the other non-Dene people, they
   first talked to us about living together in harmony.
17
                   When -- when the people first came,
18
   they talked to the Chiefs and they made an agreement
   with a statement of intent, as long as the sun rise,
   rivers flows, and grass grows, and they also said that
   we will do what we want on this land as long as that
21
22
   does not reverse. The statement we still use today.
23
                   The people, the prospectors that
24
   travelled on our land, and the people that's working
   in the mines, we want them to do a clean job, not to
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8 contaminate the lands. We have concerns regarding the animals, the land. We don't want nothing to happen to 3 them. 5 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED) 6 (BRIEF PAUSE) 9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Chief Sangris, I'm sorry for the delay, but if you would be so kind to 10 11 start again, we'd appreciate it. Masi. 12 13 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH) 14 15 OPENING COMMENTS BY CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: 16 CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: Can you hear me 17 Okay. Thank you. As -- as Dene people, we want 18 to speak in our language. The non-Dene people -- we 19 cannot speak the non-Dene peoples' language, so that's the reason why I'm speaking in my language. 21 I thank you once again for having this meeting here, and the things that we're here to 22 23 discuss is very important to our people. The land, 24 the water, the animals are all important to our

people, our Dene people.

- 1 Around 1900, when the first white
- 2 people came, and the Treaty officials came, our Chief
- 3 made a statement at that time. He said, As long as
- 4 the sun rises, the rivers flows, and the grass grows,
- 5 as long as it does not reverse, nothing will be
- 6 prevented from my people. And they also said at that
- 7 time that we will take care of this land together --
- 8 take care of this land together.
- 9 Today, we still hold that spirit of
- 10 intent. The way we were all raised, we were raised by
- 11 the caribou and the water. But today, the government
- 12 doesn't believe this when we tell them the importance
- 13 of this animal and the water. It is because they were
- 14 not raised by this animal, and their main concern is
- 15 making money. And today, we don't want nothing to
- 16 contaminate the land which affects the animal.
- 17 So today, this is the issue that we
- 18 will be bringing up. First of all, when they first
- 19 started this mine, the development of the mine, they
- 20 came to us. And when it was coming close to closure
- 21 of the mine, they want to make some changes to their
- 22 plan. If they make changes to the land -- to the
- 23 plan, what will happen?
- 24 They should have said this at the
- 25 beginning. We would have had time to talk about this

- 1 and make better plans, and we wouldn't be making a big
- 2 issue today regarding that. So today, there will be a
- 3 lot of people speaking up about this issue of concern
- 4 to our people.
- As Dene people, we don't want nothing
- 6 to happen to our animal, water, but now there's a lot
- 7 of development happening in our lands, and it seems
- 8 like the most important things to our Dene people is
- 9 slipping from our hands.
- 10 So we want -- we want to try to
- 11 preserve that. That's one (1) of the reasons why we
- 12 are here today.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

- 16 CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: I want to
- 17 extend a warm welcome to our traditional territories -
- 18 territory of Yellowknives Dene called Chief Drygeese
- 19 territory, and see the territory of Yellowknives Dene,
- 20 and not share yet until we settle the claim.
- 21 We were the original guardians of this
- 22 land, our ancestors. Now, they're going to have a
- 23 hearing on whether to alter the plan of the mine
- 24 closure when they initiated it in the beginning.
- 25 Wasn't talk about -- but we have to

- 1 think deeply on how this alternation will affect our
- 2 people, our land. Like the Elder said, I'd like to
- 3 thank the Creator, so we can have resulting true
- 4 healing of the land once Diavik ceases operation.
- 5 Our voices must be heard, and all
- 6 precaution must be taken to protect the land, the
- 7 wildlife, the fish, and water during and after
- 8 reclamation. I'd like to thank the Mackenzie Valley
- 9 Land and Water Board -- Review Board, and Diavik, for
- 10 these hearings and pray that they will listen to the
- 11 concerns and recommendation from the public, and we
- 12 work together with all the people and YKDFN to
- 13 successfully mitigate and eliminate all potential risk
- 14 to our land, to our water, and to our animals.
- 15 Sometimes, I think back on how this has
- 16 proceeded from the beginning. They come on to our
- 17 land romancing us for our stones, being sure they tell
- 18 us that they promise that they're going to do this and
- 19 that.
- One (1) of the promise was to keep the
- 21 land to the near perfection of how they found it, but
- 22 sometimes people get anxious and the wealth there
- 23 that they created, they think only about their wealth
- 24 and not what's going to be left behind for Dene
- 25 people.

- 1 We grew up on a land with caribou,
- 2 fish, and water, but the industry and the government
- 3 don't understand our way of life until they have
- 4 experienced it, how we grew up, how all these things
- 5 are so vital to their existence of the Dene, and I
- 6 think back and hope that what have transpired in the
- 7 front yard cannot repeat itself in the backyard, and
- 8 the tundra.
- 9 What reminds us is within Chief
- 10 Drygeese territory, and yet all these assorted groups
- 11 can lay claim, but we must all work together for the
- 12 betterment of our future generations so they can enjoy
- 13 what our ancestors have enjoyed since time immemorial.
- 14 And sometime I get so worried that
- 15 these three (3) operating mines, diamond mines, are in
- 16 our traditional territory. We are Yellowknive Dene.
- 17 I've always been adamantly trying to
- 18 protect our land, our wildlife, and our water, but yet
- 19 people keep doing what they want to do, because we
- 20 don't have certainty of negotiated settlement in our
- 21 territory, and sometime we cannot follow others'
- 22 jurisdictions and cannot be imposed on us as
- 23 Yellowknife Dene. So we have to ensure that the
- 24 Proponent and the Agency do the right thing so that we
- 25 don't have a repeat of things that have went on in the

- 1 past.
- It's so crucial to me, when I think
- 3 about my grandkids and I look at them, they're so
- 4 important for the future of our existence, and so
- 5 we're trying to protect the land, but what Diavik has
- 6 proposed wasn't part of the plan from the beginning.
- 7 You could have got my message when I said that before.
- 8 So how it's going to affect our water,
- 9 how it's going to affect our wildlife when it's
- 10 closed. The monitoring system that have to be put in
- 11 place, because if you put something underground, you
- 12 mix it with the water, it's going to seep out one way
- 13 or the other. There's no stopping it. I've been here
- 14 for a long time, I know for sure that these things
- 15 happen.
- So let's listen to one another and see
- 17 how we can prevent anything from happening in the past
- 18 that it could happen in the future. I don't want
- 19 anybody to think that they're in a bubble zone, that
- 20 they are protected, they cannot be touched. We're all
- 21 going to be affected one (1) way or the other, and we
- 22 will pay the price on the expense of who.
- The Dene were born on this land, and
- 24 will die on this land, get buried on this land. So
- 25 let's think about what really is going on, what

- 1 they're asking for, and hopefully that we can work
- 2 together to prevent and ensure any happening from --
- 3 anything that's happened in the past not to happen in
- 4 the future.
- 5 I'd like to thank each and every one of
- 6 you for being here today. Masi cho.

- 8 OPENING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON:
- 9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Chief Sangris.
- 10 We appreciate your comments and your opening remarks.
- 11 Masi.
- 12 The Review Board is here today to
- 13 listen carefully to your views about the potential
- 14 impacts of Diavik's proposal to deposit processed
- 15 kimberlite into the pits and underground. The Review
- 16 Board gets its authority from the law called the
- 17 Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and the
- 18 Review Board is responsible for environmental
- 19 assessments of proposed developments in the Mackenzie
- 20 Valley.
- 21 Board members here are nominated by the
- 22 Tlicho, Territorial, and Federal Governments, and also
- 23 by First Nations organizations. We try to make our
- 24 decisions here by consensus. Our goal is to make
- 25 decisions that will protect the environment and the

- 1 social, economic, and cultural well-being of all
- 2 residents of the Mackenzie Valley, now and for the
- 3 future of our generations.
- 4 We have special regard for the
- 5 conservation, the way of life, and well-being of all
- 6 Indigenous peoples.
- 7 I would like at this time to introduce
- 8 our Board members, as well as our Board staff and
- 9 counsel. Board members Bertha Norwegian, Sunny Munroe,
- 10 David Krutko, Jim Edmonson, Yvonne Nakimayak, Kirby
- 11 Marshall, and myself, Joanne Deneron, as I said, as
- 12 Chairperson.
- 13 Joe Handley, whose term as a Board
- 14 member recently ended will be acting as a Special
- 15 Advisor to the Board. Joe has reviewed the documents
- 16 on the public record and has participated in the
- 17 Board's other decisions on this file, including
- 18 ordering this project to EA and to set and clarify the
- 19 scope of the EA. Mr. Handley has been an important
- 20 part of this EA process so far and the Board would
- 21 benefit from his presence for the remainder of the EA.
- Mr. Handley will provide advice to the
- 23 Board but will not act as a Board member and will not
- 24 participate in any Board decisions. During the public
- 25 hearings, he will participate like other advisors or

- 1 Board staff by observing, and at the Chairperson's
- 2 discretion, asking questions of the developer or
- 3 Interveners.
- 4 I would like to introduce our Board
- 5 staff at this time: Mark Cliff-Phillips, our
- 6 Executive Director; John Donihee, our Legal Counsel;
- 7 Julie Paille, Legal Counsel; Kate Mansfield, Senior
- 8 Environmental Assessment Officer and Co-Lead for this
- 9 Environmental Assessment; Catherine Fairbairn,
- 10 Environmental Assessment Officer and the other Co-Lead
- 11 for this Environmental Assessment; Alan Ehrlich,
- 12 Manager of Environmental Impact Assessment; Chuck
- 13 Hubert, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer;
- 14 Jeremy Freeman, Environmental Assessment Officer;
- 15 Brett Wheler, our Senior Policy Advisor, way over
- 16 there; Catherine Janz, Administrative Assistant, over
- 17 by the window.
- 18 I would also at this time like to
- 19 recognize our interpreters for today's hearings, at
- 20 the back. We have our Weledeh interpreters, Mary Rose
- 21 Sundberg and Bertha Martin. Our Chipewyan
- 22 interpreters are Bertha Catholique and Tom Unka. Our
- 23 Tlicho interpreters are James Rabesca and Violet
- 24 Mackenzie.
- The Review Board determines the scope

- 1 of development for every EA it conducts. The scope of
- 2 development includes all the physical works and
- 3 activities required for a project to proceed. For
- 4 this EA, the scope of development is based on Diavik's
- 5 water licence amendment application and the public
- 6 review that's followed, as well as a Review Board
- 7 scoping process.
- 8 This includes transporting, depositing,
- 9 and storing processed kimberlite into pits and
- 10 underground mine workings and closing and reclaiming
- 11 any mine infrastructure related to the transport,
- 12 disposition, and storage of processed kimberlite in
- 13 pits and underground mine workings.
- 14 The scope of development, as previously
- 15 set by the Review Board, includes all three (3) pits
- 16 in the mine and any associated underground mine
- 17 workings. Removing processed kimberlite from the
- 18 existent containment facility is not part of this
- 19 assessment. However, the Board is considering the
- 20 impacts of adding processed kimberlite from the
- 21 containment facility in the future as part of the
- 22 cumulative effects assessment.
- The Review Board decided that the scope
- 24 of assessment will consider potential impacts of
- 25 Diavik's proposed activities on water quality and

- 1 quantity, cultural use of the land, fish and fish
- 2 habitat, and other wildlife, specifically caribou,
- 3 birds, and species at risk.
- 4 These public hearings are one of the
- 5 final steps of the Environmental Assessment. The
- 6 Review Board is holding this community public hearing
- 7 to directly hear the views and opinions of community
- 8 members and the public about the potential impacts of
- 9 the proposed project.
- 10 We also held a community public hearing
- 11 in Behchoko yesterday. This community hearing is
- 12 informal and it is intended to be distinct from the
- 13 more formal technical hearings that will be held
- 14 tomorrow and Friday at the Explorer Hotel.
- Today, Diavik will describe its project
- 16 and how it plans to manage the project and any adverse
- 17 impacts. This will be followed by a short
- 18 presentation from the Dene -- Dene -- Yellowknives
- 19 Dene First Nation.
- In addition, we have representatives
- 21 from the GNWT and the Gover -- Government of Canada
- 22 today, present at today's hearing to listen to what
- 23 you have to say.
- 24 At this time I would like them to
- 25 introduce themselves. The GNWT, I think there might

- 1 be a mic that you can pass so that they can make the
- 2 introductions.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 6 MS. LORRAINE SEALE: Thank you, Madam
- 7 Chair. My name's Lorraine Seale. I'm with the GNWT
- 8 Department of Lands. We have representatives here
- 9 from the Department of Lands, the Department of
- 10 Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department
- 11 of Justice.
- 12 If you'd like everybody to introduce
- 13 themselves, we can, but that may take more time than
- 14 you're willing to spend.
- 15 THE CHAIRPERSON: We can have that at
- 16 the formal meeting tomorrow. But if you just -- you
- 17 told us what departments are here. And if we can also
- 18 ask that for the Federal Government, as well, for the
- 19 -- what departments.
- MS. GEORGINA WILLISTON: Thank you,
- 21 Madam Chair. My name is Georgina Williston, and I'm
- 22 with Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- MS. DINAH ELLIOTT: Dinah Elliott,
- 24 with CIRNAC in Yellowknife.
- 25 MR. DANIEL COOMBS: Dan Coombs, with

- 1 Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- MS. MAUREEN FLAGLER: Thank you, Madam
- 3 Chair. I'm Maureen Flagler, with CIRNAC in Ottawa.
- 4 MS. AGNES SIMONFALLY: Good afternoon.
- 5 Agnes Simonfally, with Kennore NPMO's office.
- 6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
- 7 These individuals will not make presentations today
- 8 but may be able to answer questions that community
- 9 members may have at the discretion of the Board Chair.
- 10 I will ask that a representative from
- 11 each government department that have already
- 12 introduced themselves will do that formally tomorrow.
- 13 I have some comments about today's meeting that I hope
- 14 will help and make sure that everything goes smoothly.
- We have limited time, and the Review
- 16 Board is committed to hearing what everyone has to
- 17 say. An agenda for the hearing is available at the
- 18 door. And presenters are reminded to keep their
- 19 presentations timely and to allow for questions and
- 20 comments from the public.
- 21 The Review Board will be -- be
- 22 producing an official transcript of the Hearings. The
- 23 transcript should be available the day following each
- 24 day's Hearing.
- 25 All questions and answers are permitted

- 1 at my discretion. And I will intervene if not clear
- 2 to me that the question is relevant or appropriate.
- 3 People responding to questions should be direct and
- 4 helpful in their answers.
- 5 Please use a microphone for all
- 6 questions and responses so that everyone, including
- 7 Sean Coleman, who is doing the transcription, can hear
- 8 you clearly.
- 9 Please remember to say your name before
- 10 you speak. I will also ask that you speak slowly and
- 11 clearly to allow for our simultaneous interpretation.
- 12 Members of the public are welcome to present their
- 13 views directly to the Review Board following the
- 14 presentations from Diavik and from YKDFN.
- 15 Members of the public may also submit
- 16 commits in writing to the Review Board. The Board
- 17 will announce the deadline for written public comments
- 18 at the end of the public hearings.
- 19 If you want to speak at this Hearing,
- 20 please see Board staff at the back table or at the
- 21 front and get your name added onto the speaker's list.
- 22 I will then call the names of the people from this
- 23 list during the public comment period.
- 24 This public Hearing takes place today
- 25 from 3:00 to no later than hopefully nine o'clock

- 1 tonight. We will have a short break to get dinner
- 2 from 5:30 to 6:30, where you are all invited for
- 3 dinner.
- 4 If you need more time for dinner,
- 5 please eat as we continue the Hearing at 6:30. We
- 6 will also have health breaks throughout the day.
- 7 Please remember that the schedule is at the discretion
- 8 of the Chair and times may be changed if necessary.
- 9 In conclusion, we want to understand
- 10 what you think about the potential impacts of Diavik's
- 11 proposal to deposit processed kimberlite into the pits
- 12 and underground mine workings.
- 13 We need you to clearly share your views
- 14 on the potential impacts from the project on the
- 15 environment, on your community, and on your ability to
- 16 practice your culture.
- 17 The Review Board also asks you to
- 18 present your views and opinions on how important these
- 19 potential impacts are to you.
- 20 After the Hearings, the Review Board
- 21 will fully consider these views while making its
- 22 decision on this environmental assessment. Once that
- 23 decision is made, the Review Board will prepare a
- 24 report of environmental assessment.
- 25 This report will describe the Board's

- 1 decision and the reasons for it. The Review Board
- 2 will then submit the report to the GNWT Minister of
- 3 Lands who is the final decision maker along with other
- 4 responsible ministers.
- 5 To make a good decision, we need to
- 6 understand what you think. We will listen carefully
- 7 to you. And we hope to get the information that we
- 8 need to make the best decisions possible in this
- 9 environmental assessment.
- 10 I will not ask Diavik to briefly
- 11 introduce its representatives for today and to bre --
- 12 to begin its presentation. Thank you.

- 14 PRESENTATION BY DIAVIK DIAMOND MINES:
- MR. GORD MACDONALD: Gord MacDonald,
- 16 with Diavik. Madam Chair, Board, Board staff,
- 17 Interveners and members of the public, thank you for
- 18 the opportunity to present a summary of Diavik's
- 19 processed kimberlite to mine workings project.
- 20 Thank you for coming to site to get a
- 21 firsthand perspective of the project. Thank you for
- 22 your time and time -- and the time Interveners have
- 23 spent to date to understand this project. And thank
- 24 you to Dettah for hosting this session.
- 25 My name is Gord MacDonald. And I'm the

- 1 closure manager for Diavik. I've been with Diavik for
- 2 over twenty (20) years now, starting with the original
- 3 baseline studies during advanced exploration and
- 4 represented Diavik through the original environmental
- 5 assessment. And I hope to be allowed to continue to
- 6 closure.
- 7 I'd like to introduce the Diavik team
- 8 and our technical experts. Sean Sinclair, on my left,
- 9 is the environment superintendent with Diavik, Kofi
- 10 Boa-Antwi, the regulatory advisor, and Louis Beland,
- 11 our legal counsel.
- 12 Today we have two (2) -- or three (3)
- 13 technical experts, Rainie Sharpe, from Golder, and
- 14 Erica Bonhomme and Coli -- and Colin Buchanan, from
- 15 Stantec.
- 16 I'd like to also acknowledge that there
- 17 are other Diavik representatives that are in -- maybe
- 18 in the audience, Winter Bailey, our manager of
- 19 community affairs, Myra Berrub, our closure and
- 20 communities representative, and Kyle Bennett, media
- 21 relations. Thanks.
- Our presentation today will have four
- 23 (4) parts. The first part will be a summary of the
- 24 purpose of the project. And then Sean will provide an
- 25 overview of the project description and a summary of

- 1 results from the environmental assessment.
- 2 Finally, I'll come back and provide a
- 3 summary of commitments Diavik made in response to
- 4 Intervener recommendations. Diavik's requested an
- 5 amendment to our water licence to allow processed
- 6 kimberlite to be posited in mine workings.
- 7 Mine planning and closure planning are
- 8 ongoing activities at Diavik. Recent updates to the
- 9 mine plan for Diavik identified that the A418 mine
- 10 will be complete by the end of 2021. And there's now
- 11 an opportunity to use this completed mine workings to
- 12 store processed kimberlite.
- This wasn't an option under the plan
- 14 that was considered during the 1999 environmental
- 15 assessment. Diavik has published a summary impact
- 16 statement that contains the findings of our
- 17 environmental assessment.
- The findings which we'll cover in more
- 19 detail during this presentation highlight that this
- 20 project can be done in a safe and environmentally
- 21 responsible way. Ensuring that water quality meets
- 22 approved environmental standards is a key aspect of
- 23 our proposal.
- 24 Diavik began engagement with
- 25 communities and regulators on this project more than a

- 1 year and a half ago. We are very interested to hear
- 2 if there is any fundamental opposition to the idea of
- 3 depositing processed kimberlite in completed mine
- 4 workings.
- 5 We did not hear any fundamental
- 6 opposition. What we heard was general support to put
- 7 it back where it came from. However, in all cases,
- 8 support was conditional on being able to demonstrate
- 9 that it can be done in an environmentally safe way,
- 10 particularly with regard to Lac de Gras water quality.
- 11 Deposition of processed kimberlite in
- 12 mine workings is not a new idea. In fact, Diavik is
- 13 the only operating diamond mine in the Northwest
- 14 Territories that does not have approval to deposit
- 15 processed kimberlite in mine workings.
- The Ekati Mine was approved to deposit
- 17 processed kimberlite in the Beartooth and the
- 18 Panda/Koala Mines, cover them with freshwater and
- 19 connect the pit lakes to local watersheds.
- The Gahcho Kue Mine has approval to
- 21 deposit processed kimberlite in the Hearne pit, cover
- 22 with freshwater and reconnect the pit lake with
- 23 Kennady Lake.
- 24 This is the first time Diavik has asked
- 25 for approval because this is the first time Diavik's

- 1 mine plan has provided a completed mine workings, the
- 2 AA418, that could be used to store processed
- 3 kimberlite.
- 4 This is a new slide that we -- we
- 5 didn't present late night, and it was prepared to
- 6 address a request from Blake Rasmussen, of YKDFN, from
- 7 last night.
- 8 And he asked if we could summarize the
- 9 pros and cons, or advantages and disadvantages, of the
- 10 project. And we thought it was a very helpful
- 11 suggestion. We hope -- we hope walking through this
- 12 might help the Board and -- and the public.
- 13 I'd like to first start with the
- 14 advantages. So, with the project, we'd eliminate the
- 15 need to construct another PKC dam rise. So, that dam
- 16 raise would -- that we would -- would not have to
- 17 build would be 6 kilometres long and 4 metres high,
- 18 and it's a significant construction activity.
- 19 With the project, there would be a
- 20 smaller on-land processed kimberlite containment
- 21 facility. It would be 4 metres lower and contain
- 22 about 5 million cubic metres less processed
- 23 kimberlite.
- 24 The project provides the safest long-
- 25 term processed kimberlite containment. Below ground

- 1 storage is more secure than above ground storage. The
- 2 project provides the best option for Lac de Gras water
- 3 quality.
- 4 Long-term pour water release from deep
- 5 within the mine workings will result in a lower
- 6 loading rate to Lac de Gras than if the pour water was
- 7 released to Lac de Gras from the surface of the PKC.
- 8 There is less chance of caribou
- 9 contacting -- directly contacting processed kimberlite
- 10 material if it's stored more than a hundred metres
- 11 below water.
- 12 Contact with surface processed
- 13 kimberlite in the processed kimberlite containment is
- 14 also reduced because the PKC closure can begin three
- 15 (3) sooner if we have the project.
- 16 PKC surface facility closure can begin
- 17 three (3) years earlier. With the project, fine
- 18 processed kimberlite deposition to the surface PKC
- 19 will end and closure construction can begin three (3)
- 20 years earlier than if we have to wait until the end of
- 21 commercial production.
- The project enables additional
- 23 processed kimberlite closure options as there would be
- 24 a place to dispose of extra fine processed kimberlite
- 25 if that is found to be a feasible benefit for the

- 1 processed kimberlite containment closure.
- With the project, there would be less
- 3 Lac de Gras water used to fill the A418 pit and
- 4 underground workings at closure. This could amount to
- 5 more than 500 million cubic metres less Lac de Gras
- 6 water used at closure.
- 7 These are what we believe to be the key
- 8 advantages of the project. The disadvantages that
- 9 we've identified are that the project requires a new
- 10 pipeline. And this would be a pipeline directly from
- 11 the process plant to the A418 pit and underground.
- 12 Dia -- Diavik has more experience with
- 13 PK deposition to an on-land PK rather than to a mine -
- 14 rather than to mine workings. It's a new -- it's a
- 15 new way of depositing for us. That -- that would be a
- 16 disadvantage.
- 17 The project requires an environmental
- 18 assessment and a water licence amendment. And the
- 19 project is a change from what was originally proposed
- 20 in 1999.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 24 MR. GORD MACDONALD: I'd now like to
- 25 ask Sean Sinclair to provide an overview of the

- 1 project description and the results from the summary
- 2 impact statement.
- 3 MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: Sean Sinclair,
- 4 Diavik. Diavik Diamond Mine is a compact mine site
- 5 located on the east island of Lac de Gras. Lac de
- 6 Gras is roughly 60 kilometres from end to end with an
- 7 average depth of 12 metres and some sections as deep
- 8 as 40 metres. That's all right.
- 9 Lac de Gras is the head waters of the
- 10 Coopermine River system and water flows in from Lac de
- 11 Sauvage in the east past Diavik and into the
- 12 Coppermine River in the west, from there, travelling
- 13 hundreds of kilometres to the Arctic Ocean at
- 14 Kuqluktuk.
- 15 At Diavik, we mine four (4) kimberlite
- 16 ore bodies, all of which are located underneath what
- 17 was originally the lake. To access the ore, we had to
- 18 construct dikes out into the lake. And then the water
- 19 was pumped out to allow the open pit and underground
- 20 mining to begin.
- 21 Overall, about 1 percent of Lac de Gras
- 22 was diked off and drained to access these ore bodies.
- 23 I think you can get a good sense for this sort of 1
- 24 percent in that image in the bottom left.
- 25 Other main facilities onsite include

- 1 the processed kimberlite containment facility. That's
- 2 where all the current PK is stored, the north country
- 3 rock pile which stores all the rock from the original
- 4 two (2) open pits, the south country rock pile which
- 5 stores all the rock from the new A21 open pit, and the
- 6 north inlet, which is part of our water management and
- 7 treatment system. Next slide.
- 8 The focus of our discussions today will
- 9 primarily revolve around the A418 mine workings.
- 10 Pictured here, you can see -- you can clearly see the
- 11 open holes which were mined out using open pit
- 12 methods.
- 13 Below these open holes we continued
- 14 mining underground. The colourful lines on the image
- 15 in the bottom right are tunnels we created underground
- 16 to access the ore.
- 17 The end result is a large open hole
- 18 shaped something like an ice cream cone with an open
- 19 bowl in the top half, and then a narrow or near
- 20 vertical walls in the bottom half.
- So, today we're going to talk a lot
- 22 about processed kimberlite. Processed kimber -- or
- 23 kimberlite is an igneous rock that contains diamonds
- 24 at Diavik. We remove kimberlite from the ground. And
- 25 then we mechanically separate the diamonds by crushing

- 1 and washing the rocks using various screens and
- 2 shaking tables and flotation -- flotation circuits.
- 3 The leftover material, once we've
- 4 removed the diamonds, is called processed kimberlite,
- 5 and we have two (2) main types. The first is coarse
- 6 processed kimberlite, which is in this jar in front of
- 7 me here. It's a coarse granular material. It's
- 8 pretty dry and can be moved in trucks.
- 9 And the second, more important type for
- 10 today is fine processed kimberlite, and that's what
- 11 you can see in this jar. So it's transported as a
- 12 slurry, sort of like muddy water. The slurry rapidly
- 13 settles out into a fine sand with water above.
- 14 Over the course of our presentation and
- 15 throughout the day, I encourage you to keep an eye on
- 16 this jar and watch as the kimberlite settles out of
- 17 the slurry producing sediment in the bottom with water
- 18 on top. And certainly feel free to come play with the
- 19 jars.
- In general, there are two (2) main
- 21 options for PK storage for the remaining mine life at
- 22 Diavik: the first is an additional upward PKC dam
- 23 raise; the second is permanent disposal in the mine or
- 24 effectively putting it back where we took it out of.
- 25 The PKC on the left has been

- 1 constructed over the last seventeen (17) years by
- 2 completing six (6) different dam raises. We are
- 3 currently working on the seventh raise right now.
- As you can see, the PKC facility is
- 5 located immediately adjacent to Lac de Gras, both on
- 6 the east and west. So expansions are limited to going
- 7 higher rather than wider.
- 8 As Gord mentioned, to fit the PK
- 9 production from 2022 to 2025, it would require an
- 10 additional 4 metre dam raise around the entire
- 11 6 kilometre facility.
- 12 So while this additional dam raise has
- 13 already been designed and is approved and permitted,
- 14 we are challenging the status quo and following the
- 15 recommendation from the responsbile authorities during
- 16 the initial EA in the nineties to continue in the
- 17 pursuit of management options which present a lower
- 18 risk and a more permanent disposal solution under
- 19 water.
- 20 So the PK and mine workings project is
- 21 a proposal to deposit PK in the mine to basically
- 22 refill the mine with the material that we removed.
- 23 Our primary focus for this project is the A418 mine
- 24 pictured here because it is currently scheduled to be
- 25 complete in late 2021. Diavik will continue to mine

- 1 kimberlite until 2025, so this location provides us up
- 2 to four (4) years of extra storage.
- 3 We do still believe it is important to
- 4 consider the A154 mine, which is the one next to the
- 5 A418, to provide maximum flexibility and avoid
- 6 additional permitting processes in case our mine plan
- 7 changes and that becomes available first.
- 8 So in the middle of the screen is the
- 9 A418 mine. And in grey, that is the predicted surface
- 10 of processed kimberlite after the four (4) years of
- 11 deposition we're considering.
- 12 The Robertson Head Frame, once the
- 13 tallest structure in the NWT at 76 metres high, is
- 14 pictured on the left for scale. You could stack
- 15 eight (8) Robertson Head Frames on top of each other
- 16 in the A418 mine which will be 630 metres deep when
- 17 we're complete. We also predict that the PK surface
- 18 will be over 150 metres below the surface of the
- 19 ground.
- 20 As you may recall from earlier, the
- 21 average depth of Lac de Gras is about 12 metres. So
- 22 essentially, Lac de Gras is as deep as the orange
- 23 section of the Robertson Head Frame or just a tiny
- 24 sliver of the total mine depth or the total depth to
- 25 the PK surface.

- 1 You may recall me saying that the pits
- 2 at Diavik were once a part of Lac de Gras before we
- 3 created the dykes and pumped them dry. The currently
- 4 approved closure plan for Diavik is to refill the mine
- 5 with water from the lake until it is equal with Lac de
- 6 Gras. This is depicted on the right.
- 7 After the mine is full of water, we
- 8 will monitor the water quality in the pit lakes. Once
- 9 we confirm the water quality is acceptable, we plan to
- 10 dig out gaps or breaches where you can see at those
- 11 blue arrows. The purpose of this is to allow water
- 12 and fish to pass back and forth.
- 13 This is our current closure plan with
- 14 or without the deposition of PK in the mine. The main
- 15 reason we plan to reconnect the pit lakes to a lake --
- 16 to Lac de Gras is to restore that one (1) percent loss
- 17 of fish habitat in the lake. And this is required by
- 18 our current fisheries authorization.
- 19 So the idea for the project was
- 20 jump started by the traditional knowledge panel about
- 21 five (5) years ago. Elders were onsite considering
- 22 closure options for the PKC, and the idea of more
- 23 permanent disposal of extra fine processed kimberlite
- 24 in the mine was identified.
- When updates to the mine plan in 2017

- 1 identified the opportunity to use the A418 for this
- 2 purpose, Diavik hosted another traditional knowledge
- 3 panel session with a focus on this topic. What we
- 4 heard was support to put it back where it came from as
- 5 long as it could be done in an environmentally safe
- 6 manner.
- 7 The TK panel had requested
- 8 toxicological studies on PK, and they were satisfied
- 9 by the results. TK holders told us that they know
- 10 that fish generally go where this is food and oxygen,
- 11 so they were unlikely to go to the deep depths where
- 12 the PK would be.
- 13 The TK panel requested to monitor how
- 14 water behaves when placed on PK. They also have
- 15 requested to see the PK in water in the mine as soon
- 16 as it is safe to do so so they can get a visual of the
- 17 material and watch it at regular intervals at closure.
- 18 They concluded that as long as there
- 19 are no contamination or suspension issues, they
- 20 generally support us researching this alternative
- 21 further.
- It's important to note that part of the
- 23 rationale for this quidance from the TK panel is that
- 24 they want the disturbance footprint of Diavik to be as
- 25 small as possible and this project, as Gord said,

- 1 would result in a smaller on-land containment
- 2 facility.
- 3 This project will also open up the
- 4 opportunity to investigate the removal of extra-fine
- 5 PK from the PKC and place it in the mine allowing for
- 6 a more stable closure surface in the PKC.
- 7 The Diavik team is completing ongoing
- 8 studies to address design questions about the physical
- 9 characteristics of suspension, settling, and
- 10 consolidation of processed kimberlite in water.
- 11 Pictured here are the results of a
- 12 twenty-four (24) hour and a two (2) month settlement
- 13 test of processed kimberlite. The column on the left
- 14 is essentially the same FPK that we have proposed to
- 15 put back in the mine. This is also the same material
- 16 sitting in the jar in front of me.
- When this material leaves the process
- 18 plant, it's transported as a slurry. But as you can
- 19 see, within twenty-four (24) hours it is almost
- 20 entirely settled into a sediment with clear water
- 21 above.
- The column on the right is extra-fine
- 23 processed kimberlite. This material takes longer to
- 24 settle and consolidate. Within twenty-four (24)
- 25 hours, there's only been a small amount of

- 1 consolidation. However, as you can see after two (2)
- 2 months, it has consolidated quite a bit and forms a
- 3 distinct layer between the sediment and the clear
- 4 water above.
- 5 So to give you a better idea -- to give
- 6 you a better idea of how fast PK settles, here's an
- 7 actual video of FPK settling over twenty-four (24)
- 8 hours. This video is sped up to be about one (1) hour
- 9 per second.
- 10 Again, this is the exact same material
- 11 that we're proposing to put back in the mine, and we
- 12 expect the rate of settling and consolidation to be
- 13 very similar when placed in the mine. As you can see,
- 14 most of the FPK has settled out very rapidly.
- One of the most important components of
- 16 this project and an area where we spent a lot of time
- 17 on was water quality modeling. We completed water
- 18 quality modeling for all three (3) of the different
- 19 mines. We modeled various realistic and worse-case
- 20 scenarios.
- 21 These scenarios included the addition
- 22 of 5 million cubic metres of processed kimberlite. We
- 23 also looked at the option to add an extra 5 million
- 24 cubic metres of extra-fine processed kimberlite.
- We even looked at extreme worst cases

- 1 where we added more than 20 million cubic metres of
- 2 processed kimberlite. And we did various sensitivity
- 3 analysis to increase our confidence in the model
- 4 assumptions and the results.
- 5 So what you can see here are actual
- 6 model results for total dissolves solids in the A418
- 7 mine over a one hundred (100) year period.
- 8 Below this page would be the
- 9 consolidated PK that has filled the mine. Just above
- 10 the PK surface, higher concentration and denser pore
- 11 water squeezes out of the processed kimberlite and
- 12 rests on the bottom of the lake. This is the thin
- 13 brown layer there being highlighted.
- 14 This higher TBS water is stable and
- 15 remains isolated in the bottom of the pit due to a
- 16 phenomenon called meromixis. Based on the TK and
- 17 scientific evidence we have collected, most fish
- 18 should live and eat in the top 40 metres of the water
- 19 column.
- 20 Also remember that Lac de Gras is, on
- 21 average, only 12 metres deep or the thickness of the
- 22 orange tip of the Head Frame there. So this pit lake
- 23 and the high TS water at the bottom are much, much
- 24 deeper than any other part of the lake.
- 25 Our target was to protect -- our target

- 1 to protect the environment is for the top 40 metres of
- 2 the water column to be below the aquatic effects
- 3 monitoring program benchmarks. These benchmarks
- 4 describe water that is safe for aquatic life,
- 5 wildlife, and people.
- 6 All the dark blue areas on that image
- 7 contain very clean water, and the water above
- 8 40 metres is below those safe benchmark values.
- 9 Shown here are some sample modeling
- 10 results for a few important parameters that we look at
- 11 and monitor at Diavik. The second column displays the
- 12 AEMP benchmark values that I had mentioned. Again,
- 13 any concentration below these values is safe for fish,
- 14 aquatic life, wildlife, and people.
- 15 The model results shown in the next
- 16 three (3) columns are the maximum concentration over a
- 17 one hundred (100) year period in the top 40 metres of
- 18 the water column under different deposition scenarios
- 19 for the A418 mine.
- 20 As you can see, the predicted
- 21 concentrations are much lower than the benchmark
- 22 values. Generally, concentrations are at least
- 23 ten (10) times lower than the benchmarks, meaning that
- 24 we're expecting very clean and safe water in the
- 25 surface of the pit lakes.

- 1 So looking a quick summary of our
- 2 assessment of effects to valued components, our
- 3 assessment determined that water quality is the
- 4 fundamental effects pathway to the other valued
- 5 components, being fish and fish habitat, wildlife and
- 6 wildlife habitat, and cultural use.
- 7 Modeling results from all of our
- 8 different scenarios demonstrated that water quality in
- 9 the top 40 metres of the pit lakes and Lac de Gras
- 10 will remain below AEMP benchmarks. This means that
- 11 water quality results -- this means that water quality
- 12 is predicted to be safe for fish and animals.
- 13 Based on these model results and with
- 14 the proposed mitigation measures presented in our
- 15 summary impact statement including additional
- 16 commitments in response to information requests and
- 17 interventions during this ongoing review, we have a
- 18 high degree of confidence that the project will not
- 19 result in significant adverse affects or impacts to
- 20 water -- to the valued components.
- 21 It is also important to acknowledge
- 22 that the project will not result in any additional
- 23 loss of caribou habitat because the project is set to
- 24 occur entirely within the existing mine footprint and,
- 25 in fact, will result in a smaller on-land containment

- 1 facility.
- 2 Based on our current management of the
- 3 environmental risks, the likelihood of a negative
- 4 impact from an accident or malfunction such as a pit
- 5 wall failure or pipeline failure is very low.
- 6 Overall, I would like to emphasize that
- 7 based on the evidence on the record are confident in
- 8 these assessment predictions is high.
- 9 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Gord Macdonald,
- 10 with Diavik. Diavik considered a hundred and sixteen
- 11 recommendations from eleven (11) Interveners and
- 12 provided written responses to each.
- Diavik met one on one with five (5) of
- 14 the Interveners to discuss and attempt to address
- 15 recommendations. We identified five (5) key areas of
- 16 Diavik commitments made in response to the Intervener
- 17 recommendations. I'd like to briefly note these.
- The first is expanded engagement with
- 19 non-signatory Indigenous groups. Diavik undertakes
- 20 extensive community engagement with signatory
- 21 Indigenous groups.
- 22 However, Diavik accepts that more could
- 23 be done to engage with the Fort Resolution Metis
- 24 Council, the Northwest Territories Metis Nation, and
- 25 the Deninu K'ue First Nation. Diavik is committed to

- 1 meeting with each group annually.
- 2 The second is reconnection criteria to
- 3 define culturally acceptable pit lake concentrations.
- 4 Diavik recognizes the importance of the views of
- 5 Indigenous groups to decision -- to the decision on
- 6 whether to breach the pit lakes and rejoin with
- 7 Lac de Gras.
- 8 Diavik commits to immediately work
- 9 toward the development of acceptance criteria for
- 10 reconnection that are tradition knowledge based using
- 11 our tradition knowledge panel and the Environmental
- 12 Monitoring Advisory Board. This work will start next
- 13 week with our TK panel session at site.
- 14 The third is fish habitat offsetting
- 15 plans. While the project is not expected to impact on
- 16 pit lake fish habitat, Diavik acknowledges that some
- 17 Indigenous groups have still expressed concern about
- 18 reconnecting the pit lakes to Lac de Gras.
- 19 Diavik commits to consider alternative
- 20 offsetting plans with the Department of Fisheries and
- 21 Oceans that are reasonable, practical, and provide
- 22 fisheries benefits to Indigenous communities if
- 23 reconnection is not the preferred outcome.
- 24 Number four: Removal of the A21 open
- 25 pit from review. Diavik accepts Intervener's

- 1 recommendation to remove the A21 open pit from
- 2 consideration for processed kimberlite deposition.
- And finally number five: Conditions to
- 4 be included in an amended water licence or as
- 5 follow-up measures. Diavik has reviewed the
- 6 Intervener's recommendation conditions if the project
- 7 is to be approved by the Mackenzie Valley
- 8 Environmental Impact Review Board.
- 9 It's Diavik's view that most of these
- 10 can be addressed as conditions to be included in an
- 11 amended water licence. These include: additional
- 12 modeling of pit water quality, independent review of
- 13 final model results or final model predictions, pit
- 14 lake monitoring requirements during operations after
- 15 filling and after reconnection, revised wildlife
- 16 management plans, and any other additional monitoring
- 17 requirements.
- 18 Thanks very much, Madam Chair.
- 19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Diavik,
- 20 for your presentation.
- 21 At this time, I'd like to call just a
- 22 ten (10) minute break so that we can get ready for
- 23 questions.
- 24
- 25 --- Upon recessing at 4:26 p.m.

1 --- Upon resuming at 4:46 p.m.

2

- 3 THE CHAIRPERSON: If we could have
- 4 everyone take their seats again, please, so we could
- 5 proceed. Okay, if we could start again, please.
- 6 At this time, I would like the -- like
- 7 to invite the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to see if
- 8 they have some opening statements they'd like to make.

- 10 STATEMENT BY YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION:
- MR. MACHEL THOMAS: Thank you, Madam
- 12 Chairman. Machel Thomas, for the record.
- 13 I'd like to thank the Review Board for
- 14 having this hearing here today and giving the
- 15 Yellowknives an opportunity to voice their concerns.
- 16 I'd like to thank our members -- so their voices could
- 17 be heard.
- 18 The Lac de Gras area, since time
- 19 immemorial, has been a significant area for the
- 20 Yellowknives, and is part of the traditional terri --
- 21 territory, which extended from the Great Slave Lake to
- 22 the Copper Mine Rivers, and on occasions, to the
- 23 Arctic coast. The significance is founded on the fact
- 24 that the ancestors carried out their last -- the
- 25 activities that ancestors carried out on their lands

- 1 for thousands of years.
- 2 Ekati is the YKDFN name for Lac de
- 3 Gras, is important to the people because of the
- 4 arrival of caribou. Without caribou, the people could
- 5 not have survived. Caribou harvests provided families
- 6 with new clothing, toboggans, teepees, floor mats,
- 7 meat, and fat, vital for winter survival. In general,
- 8 the plants, birds, fish and animals also sustain the
- 9 people.
- 10 For the Yellowknives, their identity
- 11 and relation to the ancestral lands derives from
- 12 having being born to the land, having lived with the
- 13 land since time immemorial, and holding knowledges of
- 14 evidence that their ancestors remain with the land.
- Birth and burial pieces within the
- 16 people's ancestral lands are of greatest significance.
- 17 This prop -- this proposed development of placing fine
- 18 grounded slime like substance remaining from the
- 19 diamond removal process will deliberately or
- 20 inadvertently leave traces upon the land and water
- 21 scapes within which the Dene culture, and more so,
- 22 YKDFN culture has to exist and cope with.
- 23 The YKDFN Land and Environment
- 24 Department is involved in this EA as an Intervener
- 25 primarily to ensure that the development does not

- 1 compromise the land, water, and wildlife, and
- 2 consequently, YKDFN culture.
- 3 Tensions, fear, and angst can arise
- 4 when development is not in alignment with cultural
- 5 values and perspectives. Therefore, it is believed
- 6 that any activity within this project should still
- 7 encourage the traditional and cultural activities of
- 8 trapping, hunting, fishing, gathering, and the use of
- 9 clean, fresh water.
- This can only be done by taking into
- 11 very high consideration the views and the perspectives
- 12 of the Indigenous community. If this can be
- 13 successfully undertaken and incorporated into the
- 14 decision process, it will symbolize the triumph of the
- 15 goodwill of everyone who decides to speak and give
- 16 their opinion here today.
- 17 So YKDFN members, you are all
- 18 encouraged to say whatever you feel, and how you think
- 19 this might affect us in the long run. YKDFN will
- 20 continuously go on about the importance in protecting
- 21 the environment. It is of very, very high
- 22 significance.
- 23 Cultural use of the land is connected
- 24 to a clean environment. That is wildlife, fish, and
- 25 water, particularly water. We have to remember, there

- 1 has been a detrimental and destructive legacy of Giant
- 2 Mine, which has left a scar on our landscape. And for
- 3 that I will read a timely quote from an Elder that was
- 4 quoted in 1997. It says:
- 5 "As a result of the mines in this
- 6 area, the land has been wasted,
- 7 destroyed, and contaminated. Mining
- 8 has occurred for more than fifty
- 9 (50) years, and a lot of damage has
- 10 been incurred. The water is
- 11 contaminated. The fish are
- 12 contaminated. All the food,
- 13 traditional food and medicines are
- 14 contaminated. Rabbits and geese are
- 15 contaminated. The Dene people have
- 16 become very cautious about eating
- 17 traditional foods because of the
- 18 heavy contaminants in the water,
- 19 land, and air. The contamination
- even destroys trees, marshes,
- 21 habitat, and wild berries, all the
- things that the Dene people want to
- use, but cannot use anymore. The
- 24 Weledeh (sic) cannot use the water
- or eat any of their traditional

foods. The mining companies should 1 2 compensate the people around the area that have been contaminated for 3 destroying their water, fish, and wildlife." 5 6 So with that in mind, I hope this sets some context to the Board for what we are looking for. 7 We also should remember that whatever we do here, and whatever we say in this entire process, we leave a legacy for our children, and whoever will see to come, 10 11 particularly Dene. So let us keep our voices so they 12 may be heard, that the legacy we leave -- we leave 13 will not compromise the culture of the Yellowknives Dene, but leave a long-lasting memory that is not 14 15 negative. Thank you. Thank you to the 16 THE CHAIRPERSON: 17 Yellowknives for your presentation and statements. 18 We have come to the part on the agenda 19 where we are going to open up the floor for public comments. There is a mic at the front, here, that you 20 can come up and speak, or if you want to speak from 21 22 your chair, you can put your hand up, and someone will 23 bring the mic to you. 24 There is also a table at the front, and 2.5 there's two (2) mics on there. You can come as a

- 1 team, if you feel more comfortable in speaking,
- 2 sitting down and -- and presenting from the table, so
- 3 it's your choice.
- But at this time, we would like to open
- 5 it to public comments.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

- 9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We have two
- 10 (2) people signed up so far.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 14 PUBLIC COMMENTS:
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Welcome, and please
- 16 state your name for the record.
- 17 MR. PATRICK SIMON: Thank you.
- 18 Patrick Simon. I'm a Band councillor for the Deninu
- 19 K'ue First Nation, and the lead for this particular
- 20 file for my First Nation.
- 21 I guess I'd like to start by first of
- 22 all, doing something I forgot yesterday. I'd like to,
- 23 I quess, thank the Tlicho people, in which I forgot,
- 24 for their hospitality and their welcome that I
- 25 received in Behchoko. And it was really a pleasure

- 1 for me to -- to experience that, and I always
- 2 experience it when I meet the Tlicho people.
- Because the last time I was there, I
- 4 was doing this very thing a long time ago, when I was
- 5 a lot younger, probably not as smart, but I -- I had
- 6 the opportunity to talk to some Elders there, and they
- 7 actually knew who I was by my features. They -- they
- 8 told me that my grandfather, Samuel Simon (phonetic),
- 9 and my uncle, Paul Simon (phonetic), used to travel up
- 10 to the Tlicho people and meet with them, and come up
- 11 in this particular area, and hunt and -- hunt together
- 12 with them, and then travel to Deline, and then back
- 13 along the Tlicho trail back, and of course, back to
- 14 where I come from, which is Rocher River.
- And -- and then I had the opportunity
- 16 to go to Deline, and I was at the mall in Deline, and
- 17 I was buying something at the counter, and a group of
- 18 Elders behind me actually called me, and -- and
- 19 recognized who I was from the back of my -- my
- 20 features in the back of my head. And they told me I
- 21 was a -- they asked me if I was related to Samuel
- 22 Simon. And I told them I was, I was his grandson.
- 23 So that was an interesting experience
- 24 for me, because back then, when I first began to -- to
- 25 address this particular issue, you know, the -- the

- 1 diamond mine people and a lot of other people were
- 2 skeptical about my people being in an area and having
- 3 any type of rights in that area for any type of use.
- 4 And for me, it's strengthened my resolve to continue
- 5 to fight for that, to make people understand that we
- 6 were there, and to make people understand that you
- 7 have to deal with us as equally as you deal with
- 8 anyone else, because for me, those people recognized
- 9 me, and they wouldn't recognize me if my people
- 10 weren't there.
- 11 So that alone should have let calmer,
- 12 reasonable, and fair heads reign the day, but it did
- 13 not. We continued to struggle, and we continued to
- 14 try to make people believe that as a member of the
- 15 Deninu K'ue First Nation, and with our families and
- 16 our history, we -- we have a presence there, and
- 17 that's -- that's old, since time immemorial.
- 18 And it's -- it's insulting to us to
- 19 have to try to convince people that, quite frankly,
- 20 are -- are new to the area, that don't know, that just
- 21 asked the people for their convenience on who they
- 22 should deal with, but never really seeking the truth.
- 23 So for me, when I look at all these
- 24 things, and I -- I address it, it always rains in my
- 25 mind. I'm not seeing the truth of the truth. I -- if

- 1 I was told to do this thing before you guys, my family
- 2 and my Elders in my community expect me to be
- 3 truthful, to expect me to be respectful, to recognize
- 4 people, to treat people properly. So it's -- it tells
- 5 me that there are two (2) world views, here, one (1)
- 6 that is kind of hard for us to -- to conceive, to
- 7 understand, you know, how mines, and industry, and the
- 8 science behind it operate, how it could be siloed out
- 9 and in.
- 10 And one (1) hand does not talk to the
- 11 other hand, and there's no relationship. So you have
- 12 to consider individually in that manner. And in the
- 13 world view where I come from, the Dene world view, the
- 14 Northern world view, where everything is about
- 15 relations, relationships.
- 16 You know, we -- we come here to ask the
- 17 Board -- we challenge the Board to take this into
- 18 account, these two (2) world visions, one (1) in which
- 19 the Dene people believe that everything works
- 20 together. Everything has a relationship. Science
- 21 calls it cause and effect. We call it relationships.
- 22 The fish, the water, the air, the climate, the rain,
- 23 the wind, the animals all relates. And when looking
- 24 and doing things, and proposing things, and
- 25 experiencing things, it is all holistically factored

- 1 in before we do anything.
- 2 We don't go to the air people and speak
- 3 to them alone and consider that alone. We don't go to
- 4 the water people, we don't go to the caribou people
- 5 and do that. It's all together, all in relationship.
- 6 So for us it's hard to understand a world view that --
- 7 that is separated, that almost is individually.
- 8 You know, for us it's -- it's always
- 9 about the family, songs about the community, and songs
- 10 about our neighbours, and it's always about the world
- 11 in general, the mothers, the fathers, the women, the
- 12 men, everything. So it's hard for us to conceive this
- 13 thing.
- 14 But nevertheless it's a hard job for
- 15 you to -- to -- to take into account, to balance, and
- 16 we -- we always want to help you do that by explaining
- 17 it the best we can in our simple way, in our simple
- 18 words, because our country is not all made up of
- 19 university people. We don't have what all you guys
- 20 have here, as expertise. We have a different type of
- 21 school, a different type of knowledge, and a different
- 22 type of expertise.
- 23 And I found, because I deal a lot in
- 24 the world of the traditional users and the world of
- 25 the science, I'm kind of in the middle, and I found

- 1 that the traditional people tell me something, I'll
- 2 tell the scientist, who struggle, and then five (5)
- 3 years from now the scientist says, oh yeah, that --
- 4 that traditional guy really knew it would happen,
- 5 because things such as climate change is told to us
- 6 long ago.
- We talked with the signs and maybe that
- 8 didn't mean anything. We talked about the warm and
- 9 the differences in our country. It was hard for them
- 10 to comprehend, but now it's all about climate change,
- 11 global heating, and extreme events. It's happening
- 12 right before their eyes, so they're believing it.
- We knew these effects would affect our
- 14 big animals. Everything that people wanted to do in
- 15 combination with climate change are going to affect
- 16 our big animals.
- 17 The Elders told us way back in the '90s
- 18 and that is happening now. And then ENR comes and
- 19 says, well, the caribou are all dying off and it's you
- 20 guys. We're going to ban you from hunting caribou.
- 21 That's another battle but -- it's not.
- We know what it is, and we continue to
- 23 bring that up and we continue to challenge everybody,
- 24 and you can't build mines along the routes of the
- 25 caribou, you can't put roads and power lines expect it

- 1 not to matter to the caribou. You can't put things in
- 2 the water, in the berries, in the plants, in the
- 3 lichen, and not affect the caribou. You can't because
- 4 the caribou are all part of that relationship that's
- 5 so sensitive that they probably could smell the
- 6 difference in that pit. They probably could feel it
- 7 as they walk by. So now wahi (phonetic) will not come
- 8 again.
- 9 The Elders and the land users have told
- 10 us, and for twenty (20) years they've been trying to
- 11 explain that. Because you guys silo yourself out,
- 12 even more it's not me, it's not me, it is you, you're
- 13 part of it, it's all of you. It's probably even me
- 14 too for not doing a hard enough job to make you
- 15 understand, and not understanding your world view so
- 16 that we can find a balance, a partnership that
- 17 includes everybody that has respect, that has
- 18 integrity and honesty.
- 19 That's a little bit of what I wanted to
- 20 say, but I did have a question, and I notice that my
- 21 question yesterday that can to me at the -- the
- 22 hearing, but I didn't have enough of it, because I
- 23 operate on -- on the old traditional ways, on
- 24 listening, hearing, thinking, feeling, not only to
- 25 Elders but to all of you, all of you as I sit here,

- 1 and the land, the water, and air also teaches. I feel
- 2 that. This is what I'm supposed to do. This is what
- 3 I do for my people. Other people have gifts. This is
- 4 what I do.
- 5 And I notice that you put it on the
- 6 board, you put advantages and disadvantages, and I'm
- 7 wondering have we really seriously took a look at
- 8 that? Have we took a look at the old way, which I'm
- 9 familiar because I did do the Diavik Environmental
- 10 Assessment back then and their closure plans and how
- 11 they -- they wanted it? And then the new way now.
- 12 And I notice that it was based on
- 13 opportunity, was a lot I heard, opportunity, and --
- 14 and that -- that may be fine, but when I hear the
- 15 words, opportunity for mining companies, I kind of
- 16 pull back because it -- it's probably not my
- 17 opportunity. It's probably an opportunity based on --
- 18 on math and numbers and time lines and -- and money.
- 19 So I think that when I consider these things.
- 20 So this opportunity of doing that,
- 21 maybe we should look more closely at that. Maybe we
- 22 need to analyse that, maybe we need to analyse the
- 23 pros and cons of keeping it as they said, because we
- 24 are familiar with that, as -- as our host Chief has
- 25 stated, as opposed to changing it now and then we have

- 1 to try to catch up and learn all these different
- 2 things in the -- in this world view that we're still
- 3 trying to become comfortable with, knowing that our
- 4 knowledge and traditional base has that on both sides
- 5 too.
- But the way they presented, it's --
- 7 it's in, like, a bottle, like a cylinder, a glass
- 8 cylinder. And you can give me a glass cylinder and
- 9 fill it with water and a bunch of material, I'll
- 10 settle anything and I'll make it look good. You know,
- 11 I -- I -- I know about stuff like that.
- But if you told me to go to my lake and
- 13 do that very thing, I'll struggle a little. I
- 14 wouldn't have the confidence and -- and ability to say
- 15 that what was presented. I'd have a lot of doubts and
- 16 I'd have to take in a lot of factors and -- and I'd
- 17 have to be honest about it.
- Our world -- it's not in my way or my
- 19 culture to make it one-sided. I'd have to tell you
- 20 all sides, because that's my job, to tell you all
- 21 sides, the good and bad of this stuff, because of our
- 22 honesty and our integrity and because I'd probably get
- 23 a licking at home if I came and lied to you guys or
- 24 did anything bad or mistreated you, because that's the
- 25 way we -- we are raised. And I guess I might be naive

- 1 to expect the very thing from other people, that very
- 2 thing.
- 3 So of course I learned, so I have to
- 4 educate myself on all the stuff that we're not going
- 5 to be told here, to ensure that we -- trying to give
- 6 you the best opportunities to -- to make the decisions
- 7 on the holistic of it all.
- 8 And I -- and I seen the Board and I'm
- 9 really -- I really feel good. I know some of you. I
- 10 know you -- you are people of integrity. I know that
- 11 you have balance approaches. I'm confident that --
- 12 and if we do our jobs properly, that you will have the
- 13 best available information, the best available people
- 14 to -- to refer to, to make a good decision for the
- 15 people of the North, because you're committed people
- 16 of the North, and we're going to live here and
- 17 nobody's going away, but this mine's going to go and
- 18 they're going to go away.
- 19 So I wanted to ask the Board -- no, not
- 20 the Board but the Company, if they have provided pros
- 21 and cons and analysis of all scenarios, and I also
- 22 wanted to ask the Board if -- if they did, have they
- 23 supplied a document of some sort of that or even if it
- 24 would be necessary or helpful, because I think it
- 25 would, myself.

- I also want to tell you that we are
- 2 concerned. That's why we travelled here. But I have
- 3 an opportunity on Friday to discuss some more of this,
- 4 to discuss the -- a little more of how the Dene K'ue
- 5 people feel in this issue, the types of concerns we
- 6 have and -- and what we -- we would like to happen, if
- 7 at all possible. But for now I would just like that
- 8 question answered that I asked to the -- to the
- 9 Company as well as to the Board.
- 10 And I -- and I thank you for this
- 11 opportunity. I thank you for listening to me because
- 12 it can be challenging, but most of all I like to thank
- 13 the Chief. He's -- he's always been a -- a good host
- 14 whenever our people have -- have come here.
- I like to thank the -- the people of
- 16 N'dilo and Dettah. It's always a pleasure to come
- 17 here.
- 18 And a secret I -- I share with you now,
- 19 is I -- sometimes Yellowknife is a little too much for
- 20 me, and, you know, it' hard for me to -- to be around
- 21 it because ours is kind of quiet. So I kind of go to
- 22 N'dilo or here and I kind of feel a sense of calm and
- 23 it helps. So I don't know, I'm not sure if people
- 24 have seen me but I kind of do that. It's a nice
- 25 calming place and a place where it could be hectic

- 1 doing what I do. So I'd like to thank them for that
- 2 and -- and they're really good hosts. I really love
- 3 the view you have right here from -- from this
- 4 building.
- 5 And that is why we do what we do. We
- 6 want to protect these things. We want to enjoy these
- 7 things. These are medicines. Whatever is happening
- 8 here and whatever we're doing here, we are protecting
- 9 stuff that make us good, stuff that we feel good,
- 10 medicines, where we want to protect the traditional
- 11 way of life, that can be challenging, that people can
- 12 doubt, but we have no doubts.
- We are going to protect and we're going
- 14 to continue to protect it forever, because if you
- 15 don't have that attitude and if you don't have that
- 16 resolve, then you'll probably fail, so -- so we can't
- 17 -- we can't think that way. We always got to think
- 18 that we're going to have this forever, and the Company
- 19 has to get its head around that as they deal with us.
- 20 And you can't say, well, things are
- 21 harder, it's going to -- nobody traps, nobody goes
- 22 out, it's -- we're all going to go on our Facebook and
- 23 we're going to relate in our Facebook and that's the
- 24 way it is, because a lot of Facebook friends aren't
- 25 really friends, to be honest with you, but the people

- 1 I go out on the land and the people I meet out in
- 2 Lutsel K'e, N'dilo, and Dettah, and experience I have
- 3 with them, that's real friendship, that's real
- 4 relationships.
- 5 And I am related, I'm related to the
- 6 people of N'dilo, I'm related to people of Lutsel K'e,
- 7 and these are our lands. I have relationship with the
- 8 Tlicho people and the Sahtu people and the Inuit
- 9 people. I've been around there. I made it a point to
- 10 go around there because they're my neighbours.
- 11 When it's all said and done and settled
- 12 and it's up to us and them, we're going to have to
- 13 deal with the relationship because we have overlaps.
- 14 I knew that when I was younger, so I made a point of
- 15 working around and knowing people and knowing where I
- 16 come from and knowing how I relate to them.
- 17 And in here today I'm hoping that I
- 18 have conducted myself, other than spilling a coffee, I
- 19 hope I conducted myself in a dignified manner, that I
- 20 respected the people from Dettah, and when I come back
- 21 they would welcome me again, and I'd like to thank you
- 22 for this opportunity, Madam Chair. Masi cho.
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
- 24 Simon, for your comments.
- Is there a response from Diavik?

- 1 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Madam Chair, Gord
- 2 MacDonald from Diavik.
- 3
 I -- I think what Patrick is probably
- 4 looking for is in the summary impact statement in
- 5 section 2.6, which is the summary of the alternatives
- 6 for the project.
- 7 And I'm not sure, Patrick, if you have
- 8 a copy of it. It's -- it's on the MacKenzie Valley's
- 9 website, but if you need a paper or copy I'm sure we
- 10 could get one for you.
- 11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.
- 12 Public comments? Welcome. Come to the
- 13 mic and state your name, please.
- 14 MS. DORIS ENZOE: If I was in Lutsel
- 15 K'e I would call myself Terry, but as today my name is
- 16 Doris Enzoe and I'm from Lutsel K'e. I also sit on
- 17 the Wildlife Board.
- 18 I have comments for Diavik. I've been
- 19 going to site visits to all the mine sites. For me,
- 20 before all the mines came on our land, we used to have
- 21 animals that were healthy, caribous that we can see
- 22 close to our community. Today we don't.
- 23 Land is important to me. I live off
- 24 the land still today. I travel the lake, I go
- 25 hunting. Today I hardly see moose around. I've been

- 1 in MacLeod Bay all summer. The water does float into
- 2 Artillery Lake into Lockhart River for Lady of the
- 3 Falls into MacLeod Bay, into Great Slave Lake, down
- 4 the MacKenzie, back to the ocean.
- 5 When I do my site visits I ask
- 6 questions about that dust that's flying in the air and
- 7 I see the slow stick standing out 500 metres away,
- 8 1,000 metres away. That's how they collect their
- 9 stuff.
- The dust, for me the wind moves, the
- 11 dust can go in the water, the dust goes all over the
- 12 land and we can see it in the springtime. On the
- 13 snow, it's brown colour. Where does it come from?
- 14 Maybe when they do their explosions,
- 15 when they do their pits.
- I went to a meeting two (2) years ago
- 17 about PK -- PKC, about the pits where they're going to
- 18 do tailings pond. They said they're going to put it
- 19 into the cone.
- 20 I didn't really agree with it because
- 21 of the fish and all of these little tiny little things
- 22 that live in the water that eats everything. And I've
- 23 been thinking about it ever since then.
- It's okay for them, they're only there
- 25 for the diamonds. But how about our people? We live

- 1 here forever, generations after generations after
- 2 generations.
- 3 How about our young people that are
- 4 growing up today? They're not going to see things
- 5 that I seen, because it's different.
- Also, climate change is different.
- 7 They think the land's not going to move? The land
- 8 does move.
- 9 I seen it on the old site of the
- 10 village where people used to live in Lutsel K'e. They
- 11 build houses, the land was this level, now it's not
- 12 level because of climate change.
- I wasn't born yesterday, so I know. I
- 14 study, I monitor things because I live off the land.
- 15 Water is low. Whatever little creatures, the dust
- 16 that goes into the water, into the land, of course
- 17 they're going to eat it. And what do the birds do?
- 18 And the fish? I seen lots of changes in fish. They
- 19 got some white stuff on it, got worms on it. And you
- 20 know the -- the fish that's boss is grayling. Never
- 21 see grayling around. They sense things and they move.
- 22 They're not going to stay around. But the rest of the
- 23 fish will stay.
- 24 Listening to my Elders as I was growing
- 25 up, I'm so glad that I kept their words, their

- 1 knowledge, that I'm giving it out today.
- Things is not going to be the same, I
- 3 know that. Whenever you put that PKC in a cone, of
- 4 course, it -- it'll move, because there's a current,
- 5 got river on both sides, creeks. It wouldn't stay in
- 6 once place after you overflow it, say I'm going to
- 7 monitor it for a long time. How about my people?
- 8 We're not living far.
- 9 How about the young ones that are
- 10 growing up today? I think about that. I talk for
- 11 them. I don't talk for myself, because all the elders
- 12 that I had at my house since the mining company came,
- 13 we don't -- we don't have that much elders. They're
- 14 not there now.
- So whenever there was a meeting, I'd go
- 16 to a meeting and I'd listen and I'd speak for my
- 17 people and for the people that live off the land.
- 18 So when I heard because they're on the
- 19 island and Diavik, there was no more room to put
- 20 anything anywhere, you have winter road, take it back
- 21 to where you can put it, not around in the tundra.
- 22 That's how I see it.
- 23 If you destroy my water, we're not
- 24 going to be living here no more. We're not -- we're -
- 25 we have the freshest water in Great Slave Lake,

- 1 where I come from. If they destroy the water, we
- 2 can't drink it anymore. How are we going to live?
- 3 How is -- how are the plants, animals, people are
- 4 going to be living?
- 5 I think about that. I am so glad that
- 6 I listened to my parents when I was growing up,
- 7 because I keep their words. Listen to when you go to
- 8 a meeting, listen to what they're saying. One day
- 9 they're going to destroy things, that's what she said.
- 10 The fish is going to go first. Maybe
- 11 the caribou. And I see it today. Life is not easy,
- 12 we're struggling. Our own people are struggling.
- I hope that MacKenzie Valley Water
- 14 Board listens to me, because I don't think this is a
- 15 one-time meeting for me, because I've been busy all
- 16 summer. I decided to come to this meeting. I want
- 17 you to hear me. Life is important to my people and my
- 18 young generations. For that, I'll say masi cho.
- 19 Are you listening to me, Gord? Masi
- 20 cho.
- 21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you kindly for
- 22 your -- your comments and statements made. It's much
- 23 appreciated.
- 24 And for the record, we are the Review
- 25 Board.

- I would like to open the floor again,
- 2 please, for public comments. I think someone would
- 3 like the mic.

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH)

- 7 ELDER MODESTE SANGRIS: Thank you.
- 8 My name is Modeste Sangris from Dettah. I work on the
- 9 land for a long time with my father. I work on the
- 10 land, I'm a trapper, a fisherman.
- 11 At the beginning, before the mine
- 12 develop, we used to have a lot of caribou, but ever
- 13 since the mine has been developing at one time there
- 14 was a mine at Gordon Lake Mine and the migration route
- 15 was closed to them.
- 16 Around that area there is three mines
- 17 up there now. I've been to all the mines for meetings
- 18 as well. This is our land. As Dene people this is
- 19 our land, but the way I look at it, the non-Dene, all
- 20 they want is to get rich. Once they make their money,
- 21 they retire down south, the same with Giant Mine.
- 22 Whoever operated the mine had made their millions and
- 23 billions and they left the north and left us with the
- 24 devastation of the contamination of the mine.
- 25 At that time when as Doris said I was a

- 1 Chief, at the end of MacKay Lake there was -- there
- 2 was six (6) of us, Alfred Baillangeon was with us at
- 3 that time. We were doing research on traditional
- 4 knowledge and we were recognizing old historic sites
- 5 that was over 20 years ago we done that, we were on
- 6 the land at that time.
- 7 When I say they've contaminated the
- 8 land, I'm very upset about that. I'm wondering what's
- 9 going to happen into 100 years from now. The mine
- 10 will shut down pretty soon. As you can see, the mine
- 11 here, it closed down, it will happen the same in the
- 12 bear land.
- 13 You should help the people and also
- 14 make sure that they don't contaminate the land.
- 15 If you have no idea what to do with the
- 16 kimberlite, maybe you should find other options of
- 17 either burning it off or -- or hauling it back. I'm
- 18 sure that you could do something with that waste
- 19 rocks.
- 20 My father was Joe Sangris, he was a
- 21 chief here from Dene. He was a chief for thirty-one
- 22 (31) years. In his days, nobody mentioned money and
- 23 we were not prevented from hunting or trapping on the
- 24 land. That's a kind of an agreement we had in place
- 25 with all the tribal nations.

- 1 It's been over 60 years since we -- we
- 2 had that in place. I'm over 80 years old now.
- 3 My father was born at the end of MacKay
- 4 Lake, that's what he had said. That's why his name is
- 5 Inkor (phonetic) means leaves, because he was born on
- 6 the leaf when he was born up there. That's why his
- 7 Dene name is Inkor and English name is Joe Sangris.
- 8 I've been thinking about this, looking
- 9 at the decline of caribou, you should help the Dene
- 10 people. Maybe all the lands that have the mines on
- 11 it, that's the migration route of the caribou. The
- 12 caribou would never decline, it will always be on this
- 13 land.
- 14 My father used to say his head -- his
- 15 head is just like underneath his hooves, the people
- 16 survive with it, the animals. Any animals -- we
- 17 depend on any animals that's out there for our
- 18 survival, but today the mining industry had
- 19 contaminated the lands.
- I just said this, it seems like you're
- 21 okay with that. It's not your land so you're not
- 22 worried. As long as you make money and you retire
- 23 down south you don't care about the people up here,
- 24 you don't care about the future generations of our
- 25 people, not only in this area, but I'm talking about

- 1 future generations, what's going to happen to them?
- 2 Today -- I used to work with dog teams,
- 3 but today everything seems so different and this whole
- 4 summer hasn't been very warm, there's a climate change
- 5 happening right now, the weather is so different and
- 6 the water levels gone down. I'm really worried about
- 7 all these things.
- And the kimberlite that you're talking
- 9 about, I $\operatorname{--}$ I think we need to look a lot of other
- 10 options, it is our land because as Dene people we love
- 11 our land. Anyone that works on the land knows that
- 12 the land is important because we love the land.
- I've been on the land so many times,
- 14 all over the place with my dog team. I want to say my
- 15 fathers -- these are my father's words.
- 16 He said he travelled around Ekati for
- 17 silver fox. At that time it was \$25 and it was a lot
- 18 of money in those days, and with Marcis Bassena
- 19 (phonetic) and Hendry Martin, was Martin's father
- 20 Hendry Martin. He said for three (3), four (4) years
- 21 they went trapping there in the barren lands, beyond
- 22 Diavik, at that time there was no Lutsel K'e and there
- 23 was just a little village, but at that time there was
- 24 no one living in Lutsel K'e because there was little
- 25 fish there, that's why it's called Lutsel K'e.

- But they trapped up there for three (3)
- 2 or four (4) years and he said we never seen anybody up
- 3 there at all. He said he didn't see anyone up there
- 4 hunting or trapping, and this is the stories that he
- 5 was telling me.
- 6 The Elders do love their land so much
- 7 that they go out there and harvest on the land and
- 8 they don't want no contamination on the land, so we
- 9 feel the same way. We don't want none of the lands
- 10 destroyed. That's all I have to say. Masi.

11

12 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

- 14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Since dinner is
- 15 going to be late, we're going to still open it up for
- 16 public comments.
- MR. HENRY BEAULIEU: Thank you. My
- 18 name is Morris Henry Beaulieu. I'm with YKDFN,
- 19 presently living in Dettah. I just want to let you
- 20 know that you're talking about Lac de Gras.
- 21 My great -- great great -- great
- 22 grandfather, Fransua King (phonetic) Beaulieu the II,
- 23 Old Man Beaulieu, he named the -- that area, Lac de
- 24 Gras, in French.
- 25 And the reason why he gave that name

- 1 was because whe -- when you stand across the lake, the
- 2 rocks that you see, it looks like caribou fat. And
- 3 so, for that reason, he called that place Lac de Gras
- 4 because he spoke French, Chipewyan, and he understood
- 5 the Dogrib dialect as well as the Yellowknives.
- 6 And I'd like to inform the Review
- 7 Board, as -- as well, that regarding Giant Mine, that
- 8 I'm the great, great grandson of Mary Fishbone that
- 9 found that gold here in Yellowknife.
- 10 And -- and I want to let the Review
- 11 Board know that -- what that young lady from Lutsel
- 12 K'e and my Elder, what they said is true. Like, I
- 13 grew up in a residential school in Fort Resolution,
- 14 St. Joseph, and my number was 43.
- I never had the opportunity to live off
- 16 the land, the experience, what the young -- these
- 17 young people are talking about. You know, they live
- 18 off the land with their -- their parents.
- But I live off the land with my
- 20 grandparents at a very young age. I still remember
- 21 that. I was very unfortunate to be taken away at the
- 22 age of 5, and -- and it was hard for me. I -- I have
- 23 a really hard time to adjust to the mission style of
- 24 living.
- 25 I -- I would have preferred to live off

- 1 the land, but back then, when you reach -- at the age
- 2 of 5, they're -- you're taken away. And the land that
- 3 my step grandfather, Purerib (phonetic), talked about,
- 4 like, where -- where I grew up in the Yellowknife
- 5 River -- I spent my time in the Yellowknife River as
- 6 well as in Dettah with my great grandmother, the one
- 7 that found that gold. She took care of me.
- 8 And -- and my step grandfather talked
- 9 about the land, about the animals, you know, and
- 10 especially Giant Mine and Con Mine. You know, like,
- 11 he knew -- he never -- never went to high school,
- 12 university, and knew -- and yet he knew the
- 13 devastation that the Giant Mine was going to have on
- 14 the people living in this area.
- 15 And -- and all the Elders who are
- 16 presently alive in Dettah Delong (phonetic), they all
- 17 know that, you know. And I seen this land, you know,
- 18 I seen this town change right from a community to a
- 19 town, and then from town hall to a city.
- 20 And I seen what Giant Mine has done,
- 21 all that trioxide toxins that's been destroying the
- 22 water, the trees, the grass, the ground, even all the
- 23 topsoil, you know.
- 24 And -- and there are times my mother
- 25 used to talk about -- you know, I said, well, why you

- 1 didn't bother having a meeting like this, you know.
- 2 Well, once you destroy the land, you will never ever
- 3 put it back the way it was. No man can do that.
- 4 Only -- like Modeste talked about,
- 5 about God, about Jesus, he's the one that created the
- 6 land, but yet man come here to destroy our land just
- 7 for money, you know.
- 8 Like he said, you know, once the -- you
- 9 know, they got their moneys worth, they're out of
- 10 here. Now we're -- we're stuck with the legacy of
- 11 having to deal with the -- the Giant Mine, you know.
- 12 And certainly, I don't want to have to
- 13 be sitting here, you know, another twenty (20), thirty
- 14 (30) years from now talking about Diavik, and plus the
- 15 other mines that -- that's in operation that's going
- 16 to be closing down shortly, you know.
- 17 And -- and you -- and you non-native
- 18 people have to understand, even though you have a
- 19 university degree, there's no way that you can replace
- 20 what's been damaged. Your degree is not going to make
- 21 that better, no.
- 22 You know, listen to the Elder like
- 23 Modeste. You know, it's going to be taking a living
- 24 God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of
- 25 Jacob to make this land back to what it was before.

- 1 Only him, he could do that.
- 2 You could have a thousand people with a
- 3 university degree. Do you think a thousand of those
- 4 people are going to make the land what it was before?
- 5 No, you can't, you know. And that's the reason why,
- 6 like -- you know, like, people who are -- who are in
- 7 the community, they're the ones that are suffering.
- 8 You know, all that money goes to the
- 9 Federal Government. Our royalties, interest,
- 10 percentage, compensation goes to all the Federal
- 11 Government and none of it is diverted back to the
- 12 community, you know.
- And right now, we're having to deal
- 14 with Giant Mine re -- remediation, you know. It's not
- 15 going to be fixed, it's not, especially when you put,
- 16 you know, like, a poison underneath the ground, you
- 17 know.
- 18 Like, one (1) thing you got to worry
- 19 about, the fault line goes right past Con and right
- 20 into Giant. If there was ever an earthquake here in
- 21 Yellowknife, you know, the devastation it's -- it's
- 22 going to cause.
- 23 You know, there's going to be lives
- 24 going to be taken. And are we prepared for that? I
- 25 don't think so. You know, the tunnel goes right

- 1 underneath the city of Yellowknife. If you don't fill
- 2 in those empty tunnel, another earthquake, the whole
- 3 city is going to collapse, you know.
- Do you guys think about that? No. You
- 5 know, you're only thinking about, oh, we'll have this
- 6 meeting, then once we're done, you know, we're out of
- 7 here, you know. That's your mandate.
- 8 But my mandate is to make sure that --
- 9 that what you've taken out of the land is replaced
- 10 back as pristine as before. Can you do that? No, you
- 11 can't. I'm sorry to tell you, but you cannot do it.
- 12 You know, once the land -- like my
- 13 mother said, once your land -- destroy the land, you
- 14 know, you're not going to change it back to like what
- 15 it was before. Come on. Get out of here. You know,
- 16 get real, you know.
- 17 You know, listen to us. Who are the
- 18 best conservationists here in the Northwest Territory?
- 19 How do you think before you guys came the land was
- 20 beautiful, the water was clean, the air was clean?
- 21 You know, you should have learned from us before you
- 22 started destroying the land that God gave us.
- 23 You know, the land was given to us by
- 24 God. Why do you think we're here? You know, we took
- 25 care of the land. You know, we learned to respect the

- 1 land. We learned to respect the air we breathe, the
- 2 water we drink. And the animal we take, we respect
- 3 it. All that is destroyed.
- 4 You know, you put me in a residential
- 5 school, took away my name and gave me a number. You
- 6 know, I should be speaking Dogrib. I should be
- 7 speaking my dad's language, Yellowknife language. You
- 8 know I should be speaking Dogrib, my mom's -- my
- 9 mother's tongue. I can't.
- I got a mental block up there,
- 11 brainwashed by -- by the nuns and the priests, the
- 12 Roman Catholic priests and the nuns. You know, I
- 13 can't even teach my children how to pray in Chipewyan
- 14 or in Dogrib, I can't.
- 15 Like, why do you think I'm sitting in
- 16 the back here? Because that's where I belong, you
- 17 know. I'm just a nobody, you know. I got a home, but
- 18 I got no home. You know, that home that I live in is
- 19 owned by the government.
- 20 I used -- my great grandmother used to
- 21 have a log house here. I would have loved to raise my
- 22 children in it. But what do you guys do? Destroy it.
- 23 You guys come here to destroy our land.
- 24 You know, how would you like it if I
- 25 went to your country and destroy your land, take away

- 1 your children, you know, teach them Dogrib language,
- 2 the Chipewyan language. If you speak your language,
- 3 you're going to get a good strapping. Would you like
- 4 that? No, I don't think so, you know. I sure didn't
- 5 like it, you know.
- I know I -- I told my children -- I
- 7 said, You know, you should be happy that you were
- 8 raised at home. I was raised in residential school,
- 9 you know, and I suffered a lot. A lot of my brothers
- 10 and sisters my age, they suffered, and yet they are
- 11 here to tell you the truth.
- The world says the truth hurts, but the
- 13 word of God is even more powerful than that, you know.
- 14 And, you know, we've been trying out for -- you know,
- 15 to sign an IBA that's equitable not only for the
- 16 government, nor for the mining industry, but for the
- 17 people in the community.
- 18 They're the ones that are suffering.
- 19 They're the ones that have to abide with government's
- 20 policy, rules and regulation. Right now -- I heard
- 21 not too long ago that we have to pay for our
- 22 children's bus fare to town, and we can't -- we can't
- 23 afford it.
- 24 You know, and none of us -- we have a
- 25 total -- we're not working from 8:00 to 5:00, you

- 1 know, Monday to Friday, you know. We're jobless. You
- 2 know, we're -- if you want to live in a community,
- 3 find out how people live, you'll understand what I'm
- 4 talking about, you know.
- 5 The word says walk in my shoes and know
- 6 how -- how I live. Well, walk in my shoes, you know.
- 7 See, how would you like it if I -- if I had a 8:00 to
- 8 5:00 job and, you know, set for life job, sure I'll
- 9 come attend a meeting, then I'm out of here, you know,
- 10 but, unfortunately, I'm not in that situation. I'm
- 11 not -- you know, I don't have the luxury, you know,
- 12 right now.
- 13 You know, my kids are scattered all
- 14 over the country because of poor housing conditions in
- 15 the community, you know, it's judge and rules and
- 16 regulation being posed by the government, you know.
- 17 The reason why I can't get hired the
- 18 first time, because of my criminal record. Now there
- 19 has been -- and now it's been forgiven, the pardon's
- 20 forgiven. You know, I don't want to work at the mine
- 21 because when I worked there, I felt like I was in
- 22 residential school again, you know.
- 23 We need -- we need our compensation.
- 24 You know, we need, our people, the First Nation
- 25 people, need the compensation here in Yellowknife,

- 1 yes, royalties, interest, percentage, compensation.
- 2 That's what I learned the first year in
- 3 university of native studies, you know. Of any
- 4 agreement that's signed by our leaders, those four (4)
- 5 things should be in there, but it's not.
- 6 We got an agreement signed by our --
- 7 our previous leaders, \$1 million a year between five
- 8 (5) communities. How ridiculous is that, you know?
- 9 When I was working at Diavik pushing
- 10 broom in the hallway in the green mile, you know, you
- 11 see a poster that says, This year, we -- we revenue
- 12 2.1 billion, 2.1 billion, and we're getting just 1
- 13 million between five (5) communities.
- 14 You know, this white guy uptown told me
- 15 -- he said, Henry, we seen a vehicle going by, real
- 16 nice fancy car. And he looked at me and said, Henry,
- 17 isn't this your land, shouldn't you be owning one (1)
- 18 of those.
- 19 He said, By the way, are you still in
- 20 government subsi -- subsidized housing. I told him --
- 21 I said, Yeah. Well, shouldn't you be owning a half a
- 22 million dollar home, you know, there's something wrong
- 23 with this picture, Henry.
- You know, I knew this guy since back in
- 25 the '70s, you know. That's the reality of it, yes, it

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1 is, you know, so listen to us. Open your ears.
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- 2 You've got two (2) ears. If you want to shut one (1)
- 3 ear, go ahead, but with the other ear listen to us,
- 4 okay? Thank you. Masi.
- 5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you for
- 6 your comments. We have a list. The next speaker is
- 7 going to be Joanne Black. Joanne...? You could speak
- 8 from the table there, Joanne.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 12 MS. JOHANNE BLACK: Hi. Johanne
- 13 Black, Yellowknives Dene First Nation member. I also
- 14 work for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. So, I'm
- 15 going to speak on two (2) capacities, one (1) as a
- 16 First Nation member of the Yellowknives Dene First
- 17 Nation, and the other one (1) being a worker of the
- 18 Yellowknives Dene First Nation.
- 19 I look at the agenda here, public
- 20 hearing agenda. It says:
- 21 "Public comments, specific
- 22 opportunities for comments from
- women, youth, and Elders."
- 24 Now, when I -- I look out at the crowds
- 25 here I see very little Elders and I see very little

- 1 youth. And so, I'm going to speak here on behalf of
- 2 the youth because not a lot of them are here right
- 3 now.
- 4 Whether or not you're going to hear
- 5 from them as part of this process, I'm unsure. But as
- 6 you're well aware, there is a lot of youth in your
- 7 community who have high interest in the work that we
- 8 do. And the difficulties with them -- including them
- 9 in these type of initiatives is something that First
- 10 Nations struggle with.
- 11 So, I guess my comment to the Board is
- 12 to recognize that that is a struggle that we have.
- 13 You hear from our Elders, such as Modeste, talking
- 14 about the future generations and including them, but
- 15 how do you include them?
- They're the ones who are, after all,
- 17 going to be taking care of the legacies of these
- 18 projects. So, I'm looking for assistance in terms of
- 19 what the Board can do in terms of helping the youth
- 20 understand projective -- development projects such as
- 21 this in order to carry on the legacy.
- 22 Perhaps having the ability to have --
- 23 actually have them be brought up here as part of your
- 24 processes, or else possibly having curriculum being
- 25 developed to be part of the school dir -- curriculum

- 1 within this area to let the youth know not even -- not
- 2 only the Yellowknives Dene First Nation youth, but all
- 3 youth who are impacted from the -- from Gi -- from the
- 4 projects that are around us.
- 5 Their impacts are a little -- are
- 6 different from the impacts that the First Nations see.
- 7 But in terms of that legacy component, there is a
- 8 legacy we're passing on to them.
- 9 The other -- the other worry I have is
- 10 the conflict that will come between the Elders and the
- 11 youth if we don't include them in these types of
- 12 initiatives and to deflect that potential conflict
- 13 that comes up in the future.
- I see a big memory gap happening with
- 15 our First Nation youth. And when I say, "A memory
- 16 gap," is that when -- when it comes to the value
- 17 components that the Elders are talking about, if the
- 18 youth are not in that same room, they're not going to
- 19 know those values to protect.
- 20 It creates a gap in their memory, and
- 21 so they're not going to be focussed on what the Elders
- 22 are focussing on and telling us to focus on.
- 23 So I'm looking for assistance from the
- 24 Board to identify -- help us -- or help Diavik
- 25 identify a process for the youth. You have a TK

- 1 panel. Perhaps maybe you can inject some youth into
- 2 that TK panel so that they're working closely with the
- 3 elders.
- 4 Those are some of the things that
- 5 I'm -- I'm quite worried about is that memory gap that
- 6 we're passing on to the future generations. Masi.
- 7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much
- 8 for your comments. Comments from Diavik?
- 9 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Gord Macdonald,
- 10 with Diavik. Thanks for that suggestion on youth and
- 11 the TK panel. We actually do have youth involved in
- 12 the TK panel. The elders felt the exact same way that
- 13 that would be a great way to try and bridge that gap.
- 14 So they are involved on the TK panel.
- MS. JOHANNE BLACK: I guess -- I guess
- 16 there's other -- I'm looking for other opportunities
- 17 for the youth to be involved more with these type of
- 18 development projects.
- 19 As you are well aware, Diavik's not the
- 20 only operating diamond mine. There's other diamond
- 21 mines that are here. There's a legacy component in
- 22 terms of the overall effects of all of those projects
- 23 and what we're passing on to them.
- 24 There should be some curriculum
- 25 developed in order for the youth to be instructed

- 1 on -- on what is there in terms of the legacy that's
- 2 going to be passed on to them, what they're going to
- 3 have to take care of.
- 4 So I guess I'm looking for more than
- 5 just having an invite to the TK panel and a more
- 6 robust engagement opportunities should be developed
- 7 strictly for the youth. Masi.
- 8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you for
- 9 those comments.
- 10 It is now 6:00, and I know we're half
- 11 an hour behind the schedule. Good thing it's not up
- 12 there or else people would be saying how come supper's
- 13 not at 5:30 like it's supposed to be.
- 14 But we're going to break for supper
- 15 now, and I would ask at this time -- we'd like to
- 16 break for one (1) hour exactly because we still have a
- 17 lot of room here for comments here after dinner.
- 18 And hopefully, the Yellowknives can ask
- 19 their youth to come out since school should be out by
- 20 now, and they've had their dinner. So hopefully
- 21 there's an opportunity for them to come out.
- 22 And I would ask if we could have our
- 23 elders to eat first to go ahead at the front of the
- 24 line and then also our community members if that can
- 25 happen.

- I think there's one more comment over
- 2 here from Yellowknives.
- 3 MS. JOHANNE BLACK: Hi. I have one
- 4 (1) last comment. When it comes to the youth, we, in
- 5 our community, particularly Delong (phonetic) are
- 6 suffering effects. The indicators to some of those
- 7 effects are suicide.
- 8 And I believe that if the youth are
- 9 more involved in terms of the legacy of what's handed
- 10 to them, they would have more pride in themselves;
- 11 they'll have more pride in the land. And hopefully
- 12 the epidemic of suicide, particularly in Delong,
- 13 decreases as development pressures go up. Masi.
- 14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Johanne,
- 15 for your comments. It will be noted.
- 16 Okay. If we could break for one (1)
- 17 hour then.
- 18 MR. MACHEL THOMAS: Madam Chairman.
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.
- MR. MACHEL THOMAS: Machel.
- 21 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm sorry.
- MR. MACHEL THOMAS: I think there
- 23 might be someone who wanted to make a public comment.
- 24 Can we have time for that?
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Who is it? Okay.

- 1 All right then. We'll allow for one (1) more public
- 2 comment before dinner.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 6 MR. FRED SANGRIS: I'll try to be less
- 7 than five (5) minutes.
- 8 I'm going to speak about the land
- 9 around the diamond mines area. My cousin Terry was
- 10 here -- Terry Enzo. She did a little bit, and I -- I
- 11 wanted to help her out and go a little bit further.
- In my young days, I was raised by my
- 13 grandfather, David Sangris. His Chipewyan name is
- 14 Okarthr (phonetic). It means 'Portage Boss.'
- Three (3) of my -- my grandfather had
- 16 two (2) other brothers: Darrel Bolus' (phonetic)
- 17 grandfather, Vitell Commelli (phonetic)); Jonas
- 18 Sangris' great grandfather, Michelle Commelli
- 19 (phonetic). These are all Chipewyan -- Chipewyans who
- 20 live off the land.
- 21 And my mother's Tlicho so that makes me
- 22 half Chipewyan and half Tlicho because I heard that
- 23 from Michelle when in Behchoko somebody that said
- 24 Fred's Tlicho. So I wanted to correct that right off
- 25 the bat 'cause people are here.

- 1 THE CHAIRPERSON: And you're going to
- 2 say your name and --
- 3 MR. FRED SANGRIS: My name is
- 4 Fred Sangris. I am a member of the Yellowknives Dene.
- 5 I live here.
- I grew up on the land in 1965. I
- 7 remember I was only about eight (8) years old going
- 8 across the land behind us here: rolling hills and
- 9 trails that led us to -- closer to the treeline.
- 10 First time I'd see a treeline. My grandfather said
- 11 this is where we stop. We don't go further than that.
- 12 I was only about eight (8) years old.
- 13 I met lots of Yellowknives Dene, and
- 14 the old people, and the old natives. They all spoke
- 15 Chipewyans. And I remember them being very happy on
- 16 the land.
- 17 And one (1) day, I was taken off the
- 18 land and sent to residential school. My journey
- 19 started in 1965, same as the journey of the
- 20 Chief Sangris here who started about '65. We were all
- 21 -- been promoted, the three (3) of us, to be taken
- 22 into Elders and then taught to be leaders one (1) day.
- 23 And we're still on the same trail.
- Anyways, I grew up on the land.
- 25 MacKay Lake is where I grew up. And my dad had about

- 1 thirty-eight (38) sled dogs here in 1973. And because
- 2 he had a lot of sled dogs, I was able to travel long
- 3 distance to MacKay Lake -- it's a hundred and sixty
- 4 miles. I do that in two (2) days. I get over there
- 5 with my sled dogs.
- I was trained to be a bear line
- 7 trapper. So about twenty-five (25) years of my life,
- 8 I've hunted and trapped.
- 9 And nine (9) of those years, I live for
- 10 MacKay Lake. You can ask any of the older trappers
- 11 behind me. I actually live off the land nine (9)
- 12 years at MacKay Lake. And I know the land really,
- 13 really good, and I've traveled on it.
- 14 And then one day in 1979, the white fox
- 15 ran out. And I went from MacKay Lake -- south
- 16 MacKay Lake, I drove my sled dogs all by myself. My
- 17 cousin Charlie wanted to go muskrat hunting, so he
- 18 came back in the beginning of March, and I went to
- 19 Lac de Gras in search of caribou and white fox.
- 20 I didn't find any white fox, so after
- 21 nine (9) years, I left the bear line. But my memories
- 22 are still there. I remember the landscape, the
- 23 wildlife, animals. There were so many caribou all
- 24 over the place, so many.
- 25 And my grandfather used to tell, you

- 1 know, you got sled dogs. You got to have food. If
- 2 you don't have food for your dogs, you're going to be
- 3 eating your dogs. Well, I didn't want to do that. So
- 4 I went searching for caribou.
- 5 He said go to this place here called
- 6 Titsagoo (phonetic). Sometime there's caribou there
- 7 in the wintertime. Go to south of Warburton Bay.
- 8 There's caribou there late, late winter. Go to Baniya
- 9 (phonetic). There's winter there, caribou there late,
- 10 late winter.
- 11 So all these little hotspots that I
- 12 knew I went to them, and I got caribou. That's how I
- 13 survive. Not all the caribou migrate together. They
- 14 mingle and leave. There are some herds that stay
- 15 behind -- small groups -- and they leave; they leave
- 16 the herds.
- So by mid-winter, the bulls and the
- 18 cows and calves are literally separated. The bulls
- 19 live by themself. The cows and calf and the young
- 20 bulls, they live by themself isolated.
- 21 But I remember many of the beautiful
- 22 lands over there I've traveled on before any of the
- 23 roads were constructed there and mines. It was so
- 24 beautiful, quiet. There were so many animals.
- But now, last year -- last two (2)

- 1 years, I went to -- on a winter road, and it was bang,
- 2 bang, bang, bang, bang all the way. You would never
- 3 believe it. There was so many hunters out there.
- 4 They impact on herd.
- 5 Even myself living on the land for so
- 6 many years, I've never practiced anything like that.
- 7 I take an animal only for the food and for the good
- 8 spirit of it, but I don't butcher animals or -- or
- 9 slaughter them. That's something I done away. I
- 10 depend on them.
- 11 I love caribou. I know that caribou
- 12 are very small numbers today. But I've read the other
- 13 day -- I read the GNWT monitoring plan. But I also
- 14 read the mines -- I don't know if it was diamond mines
- 15 -- but I read that -- it says that -- that the mines
- 16 recorded more caribou than GNWT in that area. GNWT --
- 17 the caribou's down, and the mines are saying their
- 18 numbers -- the caribou are up.
- 19 So I don't know who's right. You know,
- 20 sometime politics plays dirty tricks with governments,
- 21 and they come up with numbers if they want to change
- 22 Aboriginal mines. And it's happened all over the
- 23 world.
- 24 So politics is -- is sometimes in a
- 25 good way if you use it, but it's bad if you can change

- 1 people and use people.
- 2 Caribou's been beginning of time. As
- 3 the elders said, it was given to the Dene. The Dene
- 4 lived by Caribou just like the Crees who lived off the
- 5 plains for the buffalo. Where there are caribou
- 6 people here, without caribou they probably wouldn't be
- 7 here. We'll probably be further Nunavut or further
- 8 south. But the herds kept us.
- 9 As the old people say, the caribou was
- 10 one (1) a person. One time it was a person, and they
- 11 left and helped the Dene people. But today, they --
- 12 we have a problem with the caribou.
- I remember the days when there was no
- 14 mines in Lac de Gras at all. The caribou were free to
- 15 move back and forth. That whole corridor was full of
- 16 caribou.
- 17 Twenty (20) years later, I go back to
- 18 that corridor. The herds aren't there anymore.
- 19 They're moving around, but they're in small numbers.
- 20 There's Lupin, and there's PHP, formerly BHP. And
- 21 then there's Diavik, and then the Gahacho (phonetic),
- 22 and then -- then another mine there. It's getting out
- 23 of control.
- 24 If governments are industry, our
- 25 governments are responsible and really want to do the

- 1 right thing, they should really do a land use plan.
- I talked to the government ten (10)
- 3 years ago, too, about land use plan only because the
- 4 Churchill government and the mining industry just do
- 5 what they want on the land; put the mine wherever they
- 6 want. To do public consultation, the mine goes up.
- 7 But they made a really, really area --
- 8 a bad mistake by putting all this corridors of caribou
- 9 or mines on a corridor. And the caribou are three (3)
- 10 years out to Diavik 1 and 2 to production, the caribou
- 11 was splitting. I don't know if you guys have been
- 12 monitoring.
- I have been monitoring because that's
- 14 my food. It goes on my table. I have to know where
- 15 it goes. Just like you -- you monitor that -- the
- 16 trucks that, like, leave Edmonton. Where it goes
- 17 here -- your grocery store. You know when it arrives.
- 18 I know when the caribou arrives, and I need them.
- 19 So that mine really devastated the
- 20 caribou migration. It changed the pattern of caribou
- 21 migration. It really did, believe me.
- 22 Most of the caribou -- small numbers
- 23 went to Hottah Lake, and they stayed there. A big
- 24 number went east with Caminariac (phonetic), Beverly,
- 25 and they're still there.

- 1 Our Saskatchewan brothers are telling
- 2 us the herds are, oh, twice bigger over there. We
- 3 don't know what's going on. There's so many caribou.
- 4 Well, the caribou went over there.
- 5 We've been telling the biologists, but they don't want
- 6 to do that. But after they make a mistake, their
- 7 career is over. They know that, so they have to go
- 8 with the government, whatever they're told. They
- 9 can't go on the side of Aboriginal even though we tell
- 10 them the caribou's gone the other way.
- 11 So I'm not sure the -- the mine is
- 12 going to go through different phases. It's going to
- 13 put construction materials back into the pit.
- 14 In 1997, I was living on Lac de Gras
- 15 with Michelle Paper with some of the Elders. They're
- 16 no longer here. I remember Michelle telling me, we
- 17 should tell them to put all that gravel and all that
- 18 sand back into the pit once they're done. You think
- 19 they would do that?
- 20 My only answer to Michelle was, it's
- 21 going to cost money, and if it's going to cost money,
- 22 this greedy guy's not going to pay for it. And that's
- 23 the truth.
- 24 But you got to do it, otherwise we're
- 25 going to have an island with this unnatural hell with

- 1 sand, gravel. It's going to blow all over forever.
- 2 And not -- and that's going to have some impact:
- 3 caribou feed, wildlife, fish.
- 4 But the most impact's going to be
- 5 the -- the blasting material nitran, hydran
- 6 (phonetic), whatever you call it from dynamite. That
- 7 is so terrible.
- Wherever the wind blows, it's going to
- 9 land on the ground, and that's going to have an effect
- 10 on caribou. I'm not getting sick, but I eat a lot of
- 11 caribou, but I'm not getting sick. If I should get
- 12 sick, then I know who's responsible.
- 13 The other thing that's happening with
- 14 the mines are using -- they don't have power lines
- 15 going to the mines. So they're using a lot of diesel
- 16 fuel, fossil fuel. A lot of that goes into the air.
- 17 Then eventually, it's going to fall down. It's going
- 18 to fall.
- 19 So what is the mine doing to protect
- 20 the caribou from eating their lichen food and for how
- 21 long are they going to be monitored? And if there's
- 22 something bad, then who's going to pay for it?
- 23 But fish for sure, it's going to have a
- 24 big impact. It happened here in Giant Mine.
- 25 Underground blasting drove our good fish further into

- 1 the lake. Seventy (70) years they've been gone.
- 2 They're finally coming back here seventy (70) years
- 3 later. That's when the dynamite stopped.
- 4 You're probably not going to find a lot
- 5 of fish around Lac de Gras, I'll tell you that, around
- 6 the mines. Any dynamite shock is enough to kill that
- 7 little minnows. They're probably all floating.
- 8 I'll tell you that my -- my question
- 9 would be: Is there going to be a new generation of
- 10 little species of minnows there going to grow, or are
- 11 they all done for? 'Cause the shock -- you gotta
- 12 remember the shock is great.
- 13 As long as the land remains there,
- 14 there's always going to be Aboriginal people hunting,
- 15 trapping, using the land. Today, much further,
- 16 they'll travel 'cause now we're not dealing with
- 17 snowshoes and sled dogs anymore. We're dealing with a
- 18 lot more technology: airplanes, skidoo, bombardiers,
- 19 all those things. People are traveling distance.
- 20 And that mine -- even though if you
- 21 think that's too far away for me to go get caribou,
- 22 think twice. I'll be there by tomorrow morning. I
- 23 could do it. If my family is hungry, I'm going to do
- 24 everything I could to get caribou.
- 25 But right now, the caribou population

- 1 are really, really down. The Chief Sangris here told
- 2 our Yellowknives Dene, we gotta protect the herds. So
- 3 let's slow down on the herd.
- We're the first people before ENR to
- 5 call on protection of caribou, and we're still
- 6 practicing that. So last year, we asked the Chief
- 7 here, caribou's down, so we're going to go hunting.
- 8 How much can we get? He said, each hunter should get
- 9 two (2), and that's it. Respect the animals.
- 10 And that's what we did. Meanwhile,
- 11 other communities are going there and taking
- 12 twenty (20), thirty (30), forty (40), sixty (60). I
- 13 couldn't believe it.
- 14 So who's in charge? ENR or people?
- 15 That road to the diamond mine has cost a lot, a lot of
- 16 headaches, mostly for Yellowknives Dene because it
- 17 goes through our communities; it goes through our
- 18 hunting areas. And it had a big impact.
- 19 And more people are going on that road
- 20 because they call a public road. Maybe we should
- 21 change that public road to mining road. No more
- 22 public road. That would -- that would save the herd.
- 23 I'm really -- really critical that the caribou is
- 24 going to be disappear one day, and that's really going
- 25 to hurt us.

- 1 But the mining industry, I tell you,
- 2 they're going to continue into the far future. As
- 3 long as the industry is there, the minerals are here,
- 4 the governments are here, our people need that job,
- 5 too, as well.
- 6 We have a lot of people that need the
- 7 job, but not jobs are all available. We know that
- 8 diamond mines take on local unions, and our people get
- 9 fired, let go.
- 10 So myself, I'm not a big supporter of a
- 11 diamond mines anymore because a lot of my people got
- 12 fired. A lot of my people have not been hired. So
- 13 I'm not a big fan of a mining industry. I'm a big fan
- 14 of commercial industry and other industry. I'm
- 15 putting the mine way back in a back shelf until it's
- 16 clean up its act and do the right thing.
- 17 And governments need to be more
- 18 vigilant and do more. Boards -- you know, you're in
- 19 charge; you do what you can. You got that
- 20 two-by-four. If you need to use that board, use it.
- 21 Don't hurt them though. Just tell them, do it this
- 22 way.
- 23 But I think industry since 1950s, '60s
- 24 been here. It hasn't been good. Right in the
- 25 beginning, it was -- it was bad at start. The

- 1 relationship was not good. Government said, go ahead,
- 2 and mines did whatever they -- they could.
- Now we're cleaning up the land --
- 4 abandoned mines. It's just uncalled for. Today, we
- 5 need to do the right thing. To do -- we need to do
- 6 what is do -- do the right thing by falling the right
- 7 regulations, making sure that the environment's not
- 8 impact, take good -- great care of the caribou, which
- 9 is number one.
- 10 We keep talking about caribou, but we
- 11 got to remember there's muskox out there, too, that
- 12 were almost driven to extinction at one time by
- 13 Canada. The Canadian military brought all their fur
- 14 for Second World War.
- But the muskox are coming back, so
- 16 animals need to be protected. Prior -- first before
- 17 industry. If you protect industry, there'll be no
- 18 animals. You go to protect the animals first before
- 19 industry comes.
- 20 But the grand plan -- government's got
- 21 to have -- and the Indigenous people, too, got to have
- 22 a grand plan of how wildlife should be preserved,
- 23 protected in the future.
- 24 And that's -- that's all I want to say,
- 25 but I hope that I've given as much information as I

- 1 can. My cousin Terry did speak a little bit. I know
- 2 where she wanted to go. She wanted to talk a lot
- 3 about the caribou.
- 4 And that is important. Wildlife is
- 5 important all over, not only here but all over the
- 6 world. You know, industry sometimes gets -- sometimes
- 7 they're not good. If they're not good, we try to get
- 8 them to clean up their act, and sometime we get them
- 9 to use their bonds so that proper things are taken
- 10 place up.
- The days of mining in the olden days
- 12 are gone. We're now into the new Mining Act and the
- 13 new mining regime, and we have a new generation that
- 14 are going to look forward to that.
- 15 And if the mines don't do their due
- 16 diligent, then our young people are going to look
- 17 elsewhere else for our -- for work. So the industry
- 18 has got to be good.
- 19 And the wildlife that they work closely
- 20 with, it's got to be monitor and managed and
- 21 protected -- protected. Masi cho.
- 22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much
- 23 for your comments.
- 24 It is now 20 after 6, so we would like
- 25 to break now for supper for one (1) hour, and then

- 1 come back and open the floor again for public
- 2 comments.

3

- 4 --- Upon recessing at 6:16 p.m.
- 5 --- Upon resuming at 7:18 p.m.

6

- 7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, well, welcome
- 8 back, everyone. We thank you to the caterers for that
- 9 good meal, and also to Mary Brown's chicken.
- 10 At this time on the agenda, we have
- 11 Diavik, and they would like to do just a short recap
- 12 of their presentation.

- 14 RECAP OF DIAVIK'S PRESENTATION:
- MR. GORD MACDONALD: Thanks, Madam
- 16 Chair. Gord MacDonald, from Diavik. Earlier, we gave
- 17 a -- a full presentation of the project that had four
- 18 (4) parts, and the first was the purpose of the
- 19 project. Then it was a description of the -- a -- a
- 20 description of the project, and the summary of the
- 21 environmental effects, and then a -- a summary of
- 22 commitments of Diavik from the responses.
- 23 What I'll do is just summarize the
- 24 purpose of the project. I think I'll go through the
- 25 advantages and disadvantages. That seemed to be a --

- 1 a useful slide, and then -- and just again summarize
- 2 the commitments that Diavik met.
- 3 And so the -- the purpose of the -- of
- 4 the project, so Diavik's requested an amendment to our
- 5 water license to allow processed kimberlite -- to be
- 6 pros -- that's okay -- to be deposited into mine
- 7 workings. It was -- it came about as a -- a result of
- 8 a -- a update to our mine plan that identified that
- 9 the A418 mine will be complete by the end of 2021.
- 10 There will be now an opportunity to use this completed
- 11 mine working to store processed kimberlite. This
- 12 wasn't an option under the mine plan that was
- 13 considered during the 1999 environmental assessment.
- 14 And Diavik began engagement with
- 15 communities and regulators on the project more than a
- 16 year and a half ago. We were interested to hear if
- 17 there was any fundamental opposition to the idea of
- 18 depositing processed kimberlite in completed mine
- 19 workings.
- We did not hear any fundamental
- 21 opposition. What we heard was general support to put
- 22 it back to where it came from. However, in all cases,
- 23 support was conditional on being able to demonstrate
- 24 that it can be done in an environmentally safe way,
- 25 particularly with regard to Lac de Gras water quality.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 3 MR. GORD MACDONALD: And let's have a
- 4 little bit about advantages and disadvantages. So the
- 5 project is to put processed kimberlite into mine
- 6 workings. The alternative is to put that -- is to
- 7 continue the same way as we were before and put that
- 8 processed kimberlite onto an on-land storage.
- 9 We think the advantages to the project
- 10 -- or the advantages of the project are that it
- 11 eliminates the need to construct another PKC dam
- 12 raise. That with the project, there would be a
- 13 smaller on-land PKC facility. The project provides
- 14 the safest long-term PK storage -- processed
- 15 kimberlite storage.
- 16 The project provides the best option
- 17 for Lac de Gras water quality. There is less --
- 18 there's a less of a chance for -- for caribou to
- 19 directly contact processed kimberlite material if it's
- 20 stored more than a hundred metres below water.
- 21 Processed kimberlite containment
- 22 surface facility closure can begin three (3) years
- 23 earlier. The project enables additional processed
- 24 kimberlite closure options, as there would be a place
- 25 to dispose of -- of processed kim -- of extra fine

- 1 processed kimberlite, if that's found to be feasible.
- 2 And with the project, there would be
- 3 less Lac de Gras water used to fill the A418 pit and
- 4 underground at closure. These are what we believe to
- 5 be the key advantages of the project.
- The disadvantages that we identified
- 7 are that the project requires construction of a new
- 8 pipeline. That Diavik has more experience with PK
- 9 deposition -- with process kimberlite deposition to
- 10 on-land facilities, rather than to mine workings.
- 11 That the project requires an environmental assessment
- 12 and water license amendment, and that the project is a
- 13 change from what was originally proposed in 1999.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 17 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Diavik considered
- 18 a hundred -- excuse me -- considered a hundred and
- 19 sixteen (116) recommendations from eleven (11)
- 20 Interveners, and provided responses to each. We
- 21 identified five (5) key areas of Diavik commitments
- 22 that we made in response to the Interveners'
- 23 recommendations, and I'd like to briefly note these
- 24 five (5).
- The first is expanded engagement with

- 1 nonsignatory Indigenous groups.
- 2 The second is reconnection criter --
- 3 development of reconnection criteria to define
- 4 culturally acceptable pit lake conditions.
- 5 The third relates to committing to --
- 6 to reconsider alternative fish habitat offsetting
- 7 plans if reconnect -- if reconnection is not the
- 8 preferred choice.
- 9 We -- we've accepted Interveners'
- 10 recommendation to remove A21 open pit from con --
- 11 further review. And we think that the mid -- most of
- 12 the conditions from things like monitoring and changes
- 13 to management plans can be addressed through the water
- 14 license -- conditions of a water license. Thanks very
- 15 much, Madam Chair.
- 16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you for
- 17 that short recap. At this time, then, we would like
- 18 to open the floor for public comments.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 22 CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENTS:
- 23 MR. BLAKE RASMUSSEN: Hello, Madam
- 24 Chair. I'm Blake Rasmussen, Yellowknife Dene First
- 25 Nation.

- 1 Bef -- before we get going into the
- 2 meat and potatoes of this present -- I'm going to move
- 3 this mic a little bit so I can see everybody, if you
- 4 don't mind.
- 5 No, this is -- this is good. Look at
- 6 this tree, here. The tree is very significant in our
- 7 culture, you know that. It's very important.
- 8 But before I get into this -- and thank
- 9 you for acknowledging the -- the cooks so readily and
- 10 quickly after supper, there. It was late, and the
- 11 only way I knew that, my worms were just starting to
- 12 scream at me, boy, I'll tell you.
- 13 You know, Aboriginal people, us, we
- 14 like -- we like to laugh. It doesn't matter how
- 15 serious things get, we've still got to laugh. It's
- 16 good medicine, so we laugh at ourselves, and we laugh
- 17 at each other, and we laugh amongst ourselves. It's
- 18 really healthy.
- 19 And before I go any further, I'm going
- 20 to say thanks once again to the Tlicho people for
- 21 their warm welcome and their hospitality yesterday.
- 22 And it gave us an opportunity to go sit and listen to
- 23 their concerns of what you -- what you propose to do.
- I was supposed to keep my mouth shut,
- 25 but I had a hard time doing that, so I had to say

- 1 something. But thank you for letting me say that.
- I understand what it is you wish to do.
- 3 Many of us understand, far better than what a lot of
- 4 people think. And then there's those of us that
- 5 understand very little, and I'd like to thank Joanne
- 6 for bringing it up about our use. And thank God I got
- 7 this guy here before he ran away. I don't know if
- 8 he's going to be any help to us today, but he's here,
- 9 and there might be a lesson in that for all of us in
- 10 terms of how well informed and educated we all are,
- 11 and the future caretakers of this land. I just
- 12 briefed him outside quickly.
- But what I want to say here, there's a
- 14 whole bunch of talk around this project, and we're
- 15 listening, really listening. There's a lot of grief,
- 16 and hurt, and pain from all that's happened in the
- 17 last hundred (100) or so, or even four hundred (400)
- 18 years to our people, and not just from mining. It's a
- 19 whole bunch of different things.
- 20 And there's fear of the unknown, which
- 21 is not necessarily a bad thing. Fear is one (1) of
- 22 the things that helps keep us alive. I don't know
- 23 about you guys -- well, I do it sometimes. I walk out
- 24 in the street there, but it -- it's fear that keeps me
- 25 from getting hit from that bus.

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1 I'm out on the land. There's an
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- 2 element of fear within us, of things that we know that
- 3 can happen, and things that we don't know that can
- 4 happen. The unknown I spoke of yesterday with climate
- 5 change. We don't know what's going to happen. We
- 6 don't know how severe is going to be, but we're
- 7 starting to live it now. We see it a lot up here.
- 8 And thank God it hasn't been so bad that lives have
- 9 been lost in the way in Bermuda the other day, and --
- 10 and things such as that. But it's coming, and it's
- 11 going to get worse.
- 12 I just learned yesterday, on the ride
- 13 out to Behchoko, from my friend -- I call him Shampoo,
- 14 because I couldn't remember his name, from Jamaica,
- 15 there; he's come to work with us -- that the sea has
- 16 risen in his homeland significantly in the last short
- 17 number of years, that whole beaches have disappeared.
- 18 That is how powerful what it is that we do here, or
- 19 has happened here, will affect people that far away.
- 20 The global -- the -- the icecaps in the
- 21 far north, that are melting, bringing the sea levels
- 22 up. And yesterday, I told you where I worked in the
- 23 mining, and oil and gas, and all the different sectors
- 24 through my life. And Clare's mine (phonetic) years
- 25 ago, our Chief Eddie (phonetic), much of -- there's

- 1 other people, we've all worked together up there back
- 2 in the early 1980s.
- And you've seen this before, too, right
- 4 here, or whatever it is that you come from, likely if
- 5 you had snow. But what was happening up there is all
- 6 them big smokestacks from all the industrial
- 7 countries, and Russia, and the States, and wherever
- 8 were spewing all this smoke in the air. And there's
- 9 little black particles in that smoke, and the natural
- 10 air currents take that way up over the Arctic, and
- 11 they turn around, and they come right down, and they
- 12 dump on us, but more so in the high Arctic.
- 13 When those little black pieces from the
- 14 smoke fall down, they hit the snow, and when the sun
- 15 hits it, what happens? It melts faster. You see that
- 16 here in the street sand. They throw it on this -- on
- 17 the street, and the sun hits it, and it melts the snow
- 18 at thirty (30) below, or twenty (20) below. That's
- 19 the effect of what other people have done far away has
- 20 on us here, to give you an example. And what we do
- 21 here, we need to be cautious, because it will affect
- 22 people far beyond our nation here in time, and it's
- 23 happening now.
- 24 I'm going to leave that alone for a
- 25 second. In my travels, through working in all the

- 1 different sectors, mining, and oil and gas, and what
- 2 have you, I'd had the opportunity and the honour to
- 3 meet a lot of interesting people. For us, I don't
- 4 know how we say it in our language, because I was
- 5 never grew up in my language, but there were like
- 6 prophets that spoke of what happened in the past and
- 7 what would come in the future, one (1) of which I
- 8 know, he lived to be over a hundred and thirty (130)
- 9 years old. He was one of the ones that ran away from
- 10 the government in Eastern Canada with a number of
- 11 families and hid the mountains just to save the
- 12 ceremonies of those people, because if they practiced
- 13 them, they would get thrown in jail, and then they
- 14 slowly come out of the mountains.
- Very powerful people, very
- 16 knowledgeable, a lot of wisdom. There's good stories,
- 17 good information. I had the honour in Deline to meet
- 18 those who were close to the old man from Deline. I
- 19 forget his name. He spoke, and there's many in his
- 20 room that'll know and understand some of the things
- 21 that he spoke of, of what's yet to come, and it's
- 22 coming true in our lives and more so in the lives of
- 23 the young ones.
- I remember one (1) Elder telling me
- 25 once, whatever it is that you do when you walk across

- 1 this land or travel across the water, walk softly and
- 2 whenever possible leave nothing more behind than your
- 3 shadow, basically for the future generations.
- 4 Sometimes we leave a few things behind for the
- 5 betterment of our people, for the land and animals,
- 6 our way of life, but only leave behind what is useful
- 7 and good.
- For us that are harvesters, we leave a
- 9 camp out there. We might not come back for a long
- 10 time, for whatever reason, but that camp is out there
- 11 for somebody else to use, in a good way, to help them.
- 12 So there's a message in there that was given to me and
- 13 now I'm giving it to you.
- 14 I'd like to commend Diavik though
- 15 before I go any further, on the work that they have
- 16 done for our communities, although for a lot of us
- 17 it's a bad thing up there and we can't support you
- 18 taking that useless stone out of the ground, which
- 19 does absolutely nothing for the common goal objective
- 20 which all people need to have today in light of global
- 21 warming, as climate change. Does nothing; but
- 22 sometimes it's that way.
- It gave us a stepping stone as
- 24 Northerners and Dene people to better ourselves with
- 25 jobs and education, to prepare us for what is yet to

- 1 come, the unknown. And we have young people here,
- 2 they're getting an education, and they benefit from
- 3 Diavik yet a little bit. And we do this not only for
- 4 ourselves but for everybody, because we're together in
- 5 this.
- 6 There's a lot of good things in life
- 7 and there's a lot of not so good things in life, but
- 8 even from the not so good things in life we can take
- 9 them, turn that around, and make it good. Sometimes
- 10 it's just in the form of lessons learned. That's how
- 11 we learn. Sometimes we make mistakes.
- But in this case, I'm going to quote
- 13 almost word for word from another Elder in my travels,
- 14 a very useful statement in my life. When you've been
- 15 shown the way or told something, there is absolutely
- 16 no excuse for ignorance and to do otherwise.
- I think what you are proposing here,
- 18 this is my own personal opinion, it's not necessarily
- 19 the opinion of my community, it's perhaps not such a
- 20 bad idea for the reasons I asked you to put up on that
- 21 board today, although I find it -- I feel it is still
- 22 a little incomplete, but good effort.
- 23 But my own personal thoughts and
- 24 opinion are, because the water is so important, that
- 25 we take every step that we can to protect and look

- 1 after that water for the future, which is why I made
- 2 the suggestion yesterday that because Diavik Diamond
- 3 Mines and Ekati, in part and parcel are of the same
- 4 owner.
- 5 I suggested that you take that
- 6 kimberlite and you put it in one of the pits over at
- 7 Ekati, away from the water, because your pits are
- 8 right on the lake, and then you want to put that water
- 9 in there. Like I said, my own personal thoughts.
- 10 Perhaps it will be okay, but much like
- 11 climate change and what's yet to come for all of us,
- 12 there's that unknown. We just don't know. That's the
- 13 fear that helps us to make good decisions.
- 14 I mentioned Giant Mine yesterday just
- 15 briefly, how important it is that we keep the water
- 16 away from that arsenic and that arsenic away from the
- 17 water, because if something goes wrong we won't be
- 18 able to sustain ourselves, but even beyond that, if
- 19 some form of a natural disaster or something goes
- 20 wrong that we just don't know, that one there is going
- 21 to affect people around the world.
- 22 And an opportunity has been presented
- 23 to you, although on the short term it doesn't give us
- 24 -- or pardon me, on the short term it's not in the
- 25 spirit and intent of doing what we can for something

- 1 much larger than what you propose, that we're faced
- 2 with, and that's global warming.
- 3 However, there are answers. There'll
- 4 be a little bit more pipe that needs to be produced, a
- 5 few more greenhouse gas emissions, a little more
- 6 effort.
- 7 But as a harvester, a lot of the old-
- 8 timers, when you want to keep your -- your food source
- 9 and the things that are very important you from the
- 10 land safe, a lot of times they would put it up high,
- 11 away from danger. Like our food, we put it up high if
- 12 we left. We come back, it would be there.
- So I'm suggesting with the kimberlite,
- 14 put it up higher. Misery is away from the lake.
- 15 There's a big pit there. Get it away from the water,
- 16 because it's that water we need to protect more than
- 17 anything.
- 18 Water is powerful enough to give us
- 19 life, it does give us life, but powerful enough to
- 20 take it away as well. We got to keep the water safe,
- 21 whatever the cost.
- 22 And like I said yesterday, the cost of
- 23 not doing it now, and these are kind of the same words
- 24 I use for Giant Mine, the cost of not doing it this
- 25 way, this way, and this way, is nothing compared to

- 1 the cost of what could be in the future, and it might
- 2 not necessarily be of a monetary value. It's of a
- 3 different value.
- And this is what I say to Diavik, to
- 5 all operators and resource developers out there, you
- 6 came into our land, perhaps maybe we weren't always so
- 7 welcoming, but we've allowed you to be here to do what
- 8 it is that you wish to do, and for our own benefit as
- 9 well to a certain degree, but you become a part of our
- 10 family, you become a part of us when you come here,
- 11 and when you come here, we would like you to live like
- 12 us and think like us, do things like us, in a good
- 13 way. But if you do things differently in a not so
- 14 good way, we're not going to be happy with that and
- 15 you won't be so welcome.
- 16 But you listen to all the people here,
- 17 their messages and everything. We all work together.
- 18 You're with us now. We need to work together to make
- 19 this right to the best of our abilities.
- We take all the wisdom and the
- 21 knowledge and the thoughts and the science and make
- 22 this the best we can, and I say that because what I've
- 23 come to learn from so many of these different Elders
- 24 that I've met over the years is that the strengths of
- 25 all nations comes from the people of the North, and I

- 1 think we've shown that often times, and you need to be
- 2 a part of our strength as well, to show the way for a
- 3 whole bunch of other people out there that are making
- 4 some huge mistakes, in Asia and all over.
- 5 We can't think like this. We need to
- 6 think holistically, like Simon, he said earlier. This
- 7 is how we need to see the world and think about things
- 8 and act on it.
- 9 So I share now my thoughts on your
- 10 kimberlite and where you -- where I would like to see
- 11 it and my thoughts on how it should be. I shared that
- 12 yesterday in Behchoko just briefly, but I thought I
- 13 would take the opportunity because I've not spoken in
- 14 our community about this, but it's food for thought
- 15 for everybody to think about, what is the best thing
- 16 that we can do, and for our friends on the Review
- 17 Board here and the regulatory bodies.
- 18 I remember the founding people of where
- 19 their concept and ideology came from. Before the Dene
- 20 Nation was the Indian brotherhood, the projects that
- 21 kick-started this whole process. Those people were
- 22 using the same kind of thinking I just tried to
- 23 explain to you when we brought this all together here,
- 24 and I don't forget that, and I trust that they know
- 25 that as well.

- 1 So let's work together and let's do
- 2 this right, and I would hope -- where did Joseph go?
- 3 Did he run away? The only youth we have here. He ran
- 4 -- yeah, okay, I got to do that sometimes too.
- 5 Educating our young people is very
- 6 important. Now we have in the schools, in the
- 7 curriculum, the legacy of residential schools; huge
- 8 step when you think about it. We're pushing hard now
- 9 to have the same sort of thing with regard to Giant
- 10 Mine so that we don't ever forget a component in the
- 11 curriculum for probably high school students or
- 12 somebody so they don't ever forget the legacy of the
- 13 Giant Mine, because that's one that we have to keep an
- 14 eye on, but we're keeping an eye on you too. We need
- 15 to educate our young people.
- 16 It would be interesting to see if he so
- 17 chooses what he has to say, and from what he has to
- 18 say, what can we learn from that? Masi.
- 19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for your
- 20 comments.
- 21 Public comment...?

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

MR. PAUL BETSINA: Hi again,

- 1 everybody; Paul Betsina.
- I just want to point out the elephant
- 3 in the room that I am running for MLA, but I want to
- 4 put that aside right now, because over the years a lot
- 5 of times I attended these meetings for -- for many
- 6 years before I was even a councillor. I was a young
- 7 lad just like Joseph here.
- I remember speaking at these meeting
- 9 before Diavik was going to start, and Ekati. I
- 10 prepared even a little speech that I did on my own but
- 11 I needed help from my father to -- to bring it up to a
- 12 level where I can actually speak at a meeting about
- 13 it. So it wouldn't be fair to my people or even
- 14 wouldn't be fair to me if I didn't say anything after
- 15 listening to all the things that you guys had to say
- 16 today about putting kimberlite under the -- under the
- 17 water.
- 18 So like all of our good speakers and
- 19 Elders just before me, even years ago our past leaders
- 20 who helped develop this over twenty-five (25) years
- 21 ago, I wonder if they would be proud today to know
- 22 that we are where we are right now, where we -- what
- 23 the benefits that they envisioned us to have that we
- 24 have right now.
- Even this building, it should have been

- 1 paid for by all the mines. Eventually it was but we
- 2 still had to borrow money for it and which was paid
- 3 off a few years ago. So I don't know, if I was a
- 4 leader and chief back then or wanted this to happen.
- I was told by a wise man one time, if
- 6 you're going to be up here and going to be a leader,
- 7 and if you don't have a -- you don't leave a legacy
- 8 that your children and great-grandchildren are proud
- 9 of, don't even bother. But thinking back, I -- I
- 10 really want to know if they really envisioned for this
- 11 to -- for us to have. As a nation we didn't really
- 12 benefit a lot that we should have. We should have
- 13 been further ahead than where we are now.
- I mean, I see most of you guys go for
- 15 walks during break and I hope you weren't too proud,
- 16 like as proud as you should be, as proud as a First
- 17 Nation or as an -- as an outsider, because now we're
- 18 getting tourists here to -- to our beautiful building.
- 19 But there should be beautiful homes and houses
- 20 everywhere because of the benefits and the things that
- 21 we should have got from the mining industry.
- 22 Our Elders knew that this was coming,
- 23 even way back when the old lady found that gold and
- 24 traded it for a few pots and pans and what have you.
- 25 They knew this was coming.

1 Even before Diavik came, we knew that

- 2 was going to happen, because of the bad legacy of
- 3 Giant Mine, Tundra Mine, Colomac. Doesn't matter
- 4 where the mine was and -- in NWT, it fell on
- 5 somebody's land and -- and now look where it is now.
- 6 We are the ones, our legacy and our generations will
- 7 have to be the ones to clean it up.
- 8 So now the mines are sun-setting, we
- 9 cannot benefit -- I don't see it as benefit anymore
- 10 because we can't diversify enough in such short amount
- 11 of time to be able to reap the benefits of what's
- 12 left.
- So we've got to think past that now,
- 14 what's past that? It's reclamation. We've got to
- 15 somehow -- our people, we need to figure out how we're
- 16 going to deal with this and not having another Giant
- 17 Mine where, yeah, we might have our First Nation
- 18 Danoncho (phonetic) having most of the contracts, but
- 19 really we -- we need to be benefiting more. We need
- 20 to have boots on the ground. We need to have our
- 21 yellow iron working.
- 22 But we -- currently, as it stands, no,
- 23 we don't. That's why we are long-term now thinking,
- 24 we need to see what's going to happen past what's --
- 25 when you guys are gone.

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1 So I want to commend the -- the young
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- 2 lad here for coming around here, for attending these
- 3 meetings and like I said, I myself, I just needed to
- 4 say something, I -- I wouldn't be here today if it
- 5 wasn't for the diamond mines. I can honestly say
- 6 that. It's provided me a -- a good life, me and my
- 7 family.
- 8 I'm just thinking about now, I'm
- 9 actually proud to be sitting next to my uncle, who --
- 10 who was aware that I -- I was striving to be a --
- 11 because I seen what he had and what he did and I don't
- 12 think I could still do what he does now though, but it
- 13 -- that's what it did for me. Like, that's some of
- 14 the legacies that the -- the mines have passed on.
- 15 It might not have been a whole nation
- 16 that lifted, but a lot of each and individuals it
- 17 helped in our community, helped them get good jobs,
- 18 helped them get the things that they want to do and do
- 19 the things that they want to do on the land with
- 20 getting the toys that they want.
- 21 But those are some of the other things
- 22 that did happen and -- and if it was done a different
- 23 way, our friend Patrick over there in his First Nation
- 24 wouldn't have been so much left out in the -- in the
- 25 agreements.

- 1 Back then there was a -- there was so
- 2 much money being thrown around by all the mines, like,
- 3 it was unbelievable. When you're there, you -- you
- 4 were like in a different world.
- I never seen lobster until I got to
- 6 Ekati because of the stuff that they did for us when
- 7 you're an employee.
- 8 So -- and as a review board I know
- 9 you've got a lot on your plate, you've got a lot of
- 10 decisions to make, please make them with a -- a whole
- 11 heart, with compassion, and also with a little bit of
- 12 dignity to know that your decisions are going to
- 13 effect a lot of people after this, and it's going to
- 14 be -- we're -- we're all going to have to live with
- 15 it. Masi cho.
- 16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much
- 17 for your comments.
- Public comments...? Public
- 19 comments...?
- 20 There is also an opportunity to sit at
- 21 the table, and if you would like someone to sit beside
- 22 you at the table, you're more than welcome to. Except
- 23 one of us.
- 24 MS. LENA BLACK: Hi. Lena Black.
- I have a quick question. So, I wasn't

- 1 here for the beginning part because I was working.
- 2 But in slide 5 of the presentation you identify that
- 3 your mine is the only mine that does not have
- 4 kimberlite approval.
- 5 Why and what was in the original
- 6 agreement and the original documentation that
- 7 identified what was going to happen at the end?
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Diavik...?
- 9 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Thanks. Yes,
- 10 sorry we didn't do a full recap for people who joined
- 11 later.
- But what changed from 1999 in the
- 13 original environmental assessment, why we didn't
- 14 consider it then, was because the mine plan had us
- 15 still mining in all of the -- all of the mine pits.
- 16 So there was no -- there was no empty pit sitting
- 17 there waiting that we could put material back into.
- 18 So they've all finished at the same
- 19 time. So what changed was that we've now -- we're
- 20 almost complete one of the mines and so it now creates
- 21 an opportunity there that there is a hole in the
- 22 ground or there will be a hole in the ground in a
- 23 couple of years, with nobody working in it, that we
- 24 can put the processed kimberlite back into it now.
- 25 So we've never asked before because we

- 1 never thought we'd have -- we'd ever have the
- 2 opportunity to put processed kimberlite back into a
- 3 mine working.
- 4 Does that make sense?
- 5 MS. LENA BLACK: So what was included
- 6 in the original closure, in the original documentation
- 7 when you very first opened up the mine, what was then
- 8 included in those documents that -- of how you guys
- 9 were going to close? And why then did you shift your
- 10 mindframe from that to this?
- MR. GORD MACDONALD: Yes, so the --
- 12 the closure plan is still the same, the closure plan
- 13 has always been to, and was in 1999 for the pits, is
- 14 to fill them back up with water and then breach the
- 15 dikes. That was always the plan.
- 16 What we're changing now or what we're
- 17 asking to change now is instead of filling it all up
- 18 with water, we're going to fill up the first third of
- 19 it with processed kimberlite.
- In the original plan, all of that
- 21 material, that processed kimberlite, would -- would be
- 22 stored on land and none of it would be stored into the
- 23 -- back into the mine pit.
- MS. LENA BLACK: Why now then?
- 25 MR. GORD MACDONALD: As I was trying

- 1 to say, because we've -- we now have that space
- 2 available and we think it's a better place to put it.
- If we -- if we'd known there was going
- 4 to be that space available originally, we would have
- 5 asked for the -- the permit then. We didn't think it
- 6 was going to be available.
- 7 So it is available and we think it's a
- 8 better place to put the kimberlite, the processed
- 9 kimberlite.
- 10 MS. LENA BLACK: So considering it
- 11 wasn't part of the original plan, when you guys were
- 12 first excavating everything out of the -- the mine and
- 13 the kimberlite, the -- the plan wasn't to put it back.
- 14 So how do you know then the original
- 15 stuff that you took out and is environmentally safe
- 16 then to put back into the water now to free flow with
- 17 the rest of the water?
- 18 Sorry, I wasn't here for the original
- 19 part, so it just -- I mean --
- 20 MR. GORD MACDONALD: That's okay.
- 21 Yes. No, that's -- that's what the challenge is and
- 22 that's what a lot of the discussion has been about, is
- 23 is it safe to put it back in below the water, and all
- 24 of the modelling work we've done and all the test work
- 25 we've done says that it would be.

- 1 And -- and that's the basis for why
- 2 we're asking for this.
- 3 MS. LENA BLACK: Okay. One more
- 4 thing. I wasn't here, again --
- 5 MR. GORD MACDONALD: No problem.
- 6 MS. LENA BLACK: -- can we see the
- 7 video that is identified in page 16?
- MR. GORD MACDONALD: M'hm.
- 9 So what is shows on that left -- these
- 10 are -- are columns of this material, of processed
- 11 kimberlite. And what it shows is over twenty-four
- 12 (24) hours how it separates in -- into a water and
- 13 sediment and it keeps getting -- that line keeps going
- 14 down and down and down and that's what would happen at
- 15 the bottom of the mine workings, it would continue to
- 16 consolidate with clear water on the top and processed
- 17 kimberlite on the bottom.
- 18 It's just showing how it -- how quickly
- 19 that actually happens with this material. The one (1)
- 20 on the right-hand side is -- is extra-fine processed
- 21 kimberlite.
- MS. LENA BLACK: I apologize. Sorry,
- 23 can you say that again?
- 24 MR. GORD MACDONALD: It is extra-fine
- 25 processed kimberlite, so the -- there's -- there's --

- 1 one of the -- one part of the application is to also
- 2 be able to take some of the material that's stored on
- 3 land right now that's called extra-fine processed
- 4 kimberlite.
- 5 It's -- it's the finest fraction of the
- 6 processed kimberlite. And -- and possibly put it back
- 7 in the mine workings as well. It settles more slowly
- 8 than the fine -- than the fine processed kimberlite
- 9 and so that's what we were showing -- that's what's in
- 10 the right-hand column.
- 11 And it took two (2) months so the
- 12 picture on the right-hand side there, the extra-fine
- 13 processed kimberlite took two months to settle what
- 14 the fine processed kimberlite did it twenty-four (24)
- 15 hours.
- 16 It -- it's just about the properties of
- 17 these materials that we have to consider when we're --
- 18 when we'd be putting it into the mine workings.
- 19 MS. LENA BLACK: I think I'm missing
- 20 something completely.
- 21 So what is the difference between the
- 22 fine and the extra-fine? So why -- why is there a
- 23 difference in size? When you're -- when you're mining
- 24 everything you're pulling out everything at the same
- 25 time, how -- how and why then is it different?

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1 So when you're going to put it back,
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- 2 wouldn't it then just float to the surface?
- 3 Sorry, Lena Black.
- 4 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Gord MacDonald.
- 5 The reason -- the reason that we have
- 6 right now why we have the extra-fine and the fine, is
- 7 the extra-fine is coming out of the processed
- 8 kimberlite containment area, which is on the island.
- 9 And it forms because we deposit the kimberlite all the
- 10 way around in a circle around this facility and it
- 11 makes these long beaches, and the fine particles float
- 12 -- go to the very middle and the coarser particles
- 13 stay on the outside.
- 14 And so what we have now is a -- is a
- 15 pool of this extra-fine material in the middle of the
- 16 facility and we're looking at the opportunity or the
- 17 chance that we could take that material and put it
- 18 back in -- that material back into the underground.
- 19 So that's why it's changed -- those
- 20 properties have changed from when we mined it.
- 21 MS. LENA BLACK: So you're proposing
- 22 then that both the fine and the extra-fine is going to
- 23 go back into the land and cover half the pit, and then
- 24 put water on top?
- 25 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Correct.

- 1 MS. LENA BLACK: Okay, I think I
- 2 understand a little bit. But something is still
- 3 missing. I don't know.
- For me, it just feels like how do you
- 5 know that the land -- the rock that you're going to be
- 6 putting back into the water is free of 100 percent
- 7 contamination? And you're putting it right back into
- 8 the water. I mean, you dug the pit, now you're going
- 9 to put it back.
- 10 I just -- is there another round maybe
- 11 that's being missed between taking it now off -- back
- 12 off the land and going through a processor to clean
- 13 before being put back in? Or are you just going to
- 14 pick it up and dump it?
- MR. GORD MACDONALD: No, just pick it
- 16 up and put it back.
- 17 MS. LENA BLACK: It just feels like
- 18 there's something missing, like there needs to be
- 19 another layer of cleaning before being put back.
- 20 MR. GORD MACDONALD: So it is just --
- 21 it is just rock that's been taken out of the ground,
- 22 crushed and washed, to take the diamonds out, and all
- 23 this is is the same material, crushed and washed but
- 24 without the diamonds.
- MS. LENA BLACK: So you guys didn't

- 1 use any kind of contaminants or anything to crush, to
- 2 get the diamonds out?
- 3 MR. GORD MACDONALD: It's a physical
- 4 grinding process. It's not like a -- it's not like a
- 5 -- it's not a chemical process.
- 6 MS. LENA BLACK: So the machine oils,
- 7 nothing? There's no way of the machine oils or
- 8 anything else being added onto there?
- 9 MR. GORD MACDONALD: No. That's what
- 10 it -- it is the same rock that was out of there, it's
- 11 just been changed physically. Thank you.
- 12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.
- Public comments...?
- 14 ELDER JOE RABESCA: Hello. Joe
- 15 Rabesca, Madam Chair.
- I'm going to say a few words in my
- 17 language. We didn't want to speak, but all of us
- 18 here, there's about six (6) of us from Ray didn't want
- 19 to speak, but I hear a lot of good points from the
- 20 chiefs, from the ladies, my friends over here, another
- 21 one over there, so I just hate to sit and not say
- 22 anything at all before I leave.
- 23 But nevertheless, we're going to be
- 24 here until it's finished for the next two days and
- 25 we're getting to technical, some of our staff would be

- 1 here Thursday and Friday and they'll be speaking to
- 2 some of this stuff that you're talking about.
- We, as people, we need to definitely
- 4 understand what we're talking about, what's going to
- 5 go in the water, what's going to happen over here, and
- 6 we need to understand it.
- 7 And you heard people say that we're
- 8 going to live here. Go back and look at Giant Mine.
- 9 I live in Behchoko a good part of my life and I see
- 10 Giant Mine. I seen the other mines, it was in this
- 11 very room that we had meetings about abandoned mine,
- 12 with people again, the Elders, and so many, and so
- 13 many ladies were sitting here in this room, they were
- 14 talking about abandoned mine.
- 15 How they were not proper clean, cleaned
- 16 up, they left a mess. They did the same thing in our
- 17 area and I did touch on it a bit when I was speaking
- 18 in Ray, right from Ray where I live, right up to Great
- 19 Bear Lake.
- To people like us, like Joseph, our
- 21 leaders, some of our staff, to argue over and over and
- 22 over with the Ministers in Ottawa, so that we can get
- 23 proper funds to clean it up, it's not -- just clean up
- 24 as much as we could. I sat on the Land and Water
- 25 Board and I know when we get the information, I know

- 1 the area that we're talking about, because all of my
- 2 life I've travelled out on the land.
- 3 The only trail that I've never been on
- 4 in my whole life is Moffi (phonetic) trail and I went
- 5 on it. Six hundred (600) and some kilometres, we
- 6 paddled over a month. All of my life I've travelled
- 7 out on the land. I know every river that hits Fort
- 8 Ray, every river that goes to Ray, I know it and I've
- 9 been on it, and I know where it goes and where it
- 10 ends. I know, because I've been on it.
- 11 And someone here was talking about
- 12 inviting the -- the youth. What we did in Ray when we
- 13 were introduced into Ray, just give you some
- 14 information what we've done. The group that are
- 15 sitting here with me decided why do we have to have us
- 16 meeting with the leaders, the Elders, and forget about
- 17 our kids.
- So one day, (INDISCERNIBLE) president
- 19 called me and said we're going to come to Ray and meet
- 20 with you like before, give an update on what's there,
- 21 what's -- what's going to happen, when we're going to
- 22 start, everything.
- 23 So I did talk to some of my members and
- 24 I said why don't we invite them to go to our school,
- 25 talk to grade 10, 11, and 12, put them in one (1) room

- 1 like this. Make them make a presentation to the
- 2 students, just like they would do to us. And they
- 3 agreed.
- And me and Ed Ostin (phonetic) and Ted
- 5 Bondin, some of the staff, we went to the school ahead
- 6 of them and we put all the class together.
- 7 Interesting, interesting, interesting, I'll tell you.
- 8 Some of us here asked questions to
- 9 people over there, people over here, but the kids,
- 10 holy cow I could never believe the kind of questions
- 11 that they were asking. Amazing. And they were asking
- 12 questions like what kind of job is there going to be,
- 13 how long are you guys going to be here, what's going
- 14 to happen when you leave?
- Now what's happening, you guys are
- 16 leaving. At that time they were talking about it.
- 17 Are you going to leave a mess? Because we were
- 18 talking about Rayrock when we have that meeting, they
- 19 knew what Rayrock was like. They know all the other
- 20 abandoned mines that we used to complain to the
- 21 government when we were in Ray, when we were having
- 22 that meeting. They knew they were there.
- 23 So at times we need to involve our
- 24 young people, because after look -- look at me, I'm 70
- 25 years old right now and one day I won't be around.

1 So as we speak, we're speaking for our

- 2 young people and they're not here right now. They
- 3 should listen and learn, because it takes a long time
- 4 to learn from meetings, because I went to a lot of
- 5 meetings, all over the country, every meeting I
- 6 attended I learned something from different people.
- 7 Travel all over. Mexico, I learned a lot of things
- 8 from Mexico. How be if we traded them down there.
- 9 And right now I look at Diavik. We
- 10 have to work together, this is what I said in Ray, we
- 11 need to work together, you, me, the Board. Even the
- 12 Board needs to work with us because even them, if
- 13 something goes wrong -- even them, they have kids,
- 14 their kids are going to suffer just as much as we do.
- 15 If the animal -- something happens to
- 16 the wildlife, you name the, the ones that fly in the
- 17 air, the ones that walk on the land, the ones that
- 18 live under the water, the bear, everything, all the
- 19 animals, if something goes wrong, all that wildlife
- 20 that's out there is going to suffer and we're going to
- 21 suffer because we're the user.
- 22 And these guys are the users, too. So,
- 23 we have to do -- work together with them and try to
- 24 make the best decision we could. Sometimes it's hard.
- 25 Sometimes I would argue with my friend here even

- 1 though he's a chief when I was a chief.
- I would argue with him. But sometimes
- 3 -- you know, there's old man saying, the other chair
- 4 maker, he would tell us, yes, but son we could marry
- 5 each other. But at the end of the day, everything
- 6 comes down, we meet halfway. We made decision that
- 7 he's happy with, I'm happy with.
- 8 The same thing here. You're going to
- 9 be happy and the Water Board's going to be happy.
- 10 We're going to happy if we all can work together as
- 11 one (1), not this on your own. You present a paper
- 12 and say this is the way we're going to do it, and
- 13 that's the way it's going to be done. Don't say that.
- 14 Listen to us. Listen to our consultant when they
- 15 speak tomorrow and the next day, people like Tony
- 16 that's going to be presenting on our behalf.
- 17 And we'll be there with him to advise
- 18 him, to help him, the Elders. That's what the Elders
- 19 -- they do. They may not speak here, but behind a
- 20 closed door what's said to our consultant, we'll give
- 21 him as much information, this is what we want, and
- 22 he'll come and speak on our behalf.
- 23 So, we need to work together. Can't do
- 24 it alone. If you do it alone, look at Rayrock. We
- 25 were never asked. But who -- who did it take? It

- 1 take people like me. It took people like Violet and
- 2 Ted. We had to fly to Ottawa to argue with the
- 3 minister. And one (1) day, you know what I told the
- 4 minister? It's not your fault that you have to answer
- 5 for money to clean that mine up. Because you know why
- 6 -- why I'm here? Because I was never told. The chief
- 7 was never told they're going to open that mine; they
- 8 just went ahead and did it.
- 9 And what happened? All the land around
- 10 there, the trees, the lake, the animal got polluted.
- 11 We were told we can't go -- can't go in there no more,
- 12 can't fish around there, can't hunt around there.
- 13 That's what happened.
- 14 The same thing within the lake. And we
- 15 learned -- we learned from it. And when we speak, we
- 16 talk about it because we know what we're talking
- 17 about. We've seen it with our own eyes. We seen what
- 18 happened the tree.
- 19 A tree dries up, dead, dead. That's
- 20 what happened in Rayrock. The tree just turned white.
- 21 And we're told we can't go, so they made a new -- new
- 22 road to go to Ray lakes and Whati. We can't go that
- 23 way no more, no.
- So, we learn by experience by what we
- 25 see, so just listen and work with us. Work with the

- 1 Elders. Work with the consultant. Sometimes you hear
- 2 people speak and sometimes they raise their voice. I
- 3 do that, too, but I don't get mad. I just want things
- 4 to get done the proper way. Work with us and we can
- 5 do it.
- 6 Work with the chief. I want to listen
- 7 to the chief and the people in Yellowknife. I want to
- 8 listen to them because of the mine, Giant Mine. I'm
- 9 worried, too, because there's my sisters, my families.
- 10 A lot of my families are living here in
- 11 Yellowknife. I've got a lot of grandchildren living
- 12 here in Yellowknife. I even got grandchild going to
- 13 school right here in Yellowknife right now. A lot of
- 14 us are like that, higher school.
- 15 And if something goes worse than what
- 16 it is right now, what's going to happen? And there's
- 17 a guy there saying what if there's an earthquake. We
- 18 don't know, but that remains to be seen in the future.
- 19 That's why we need to work together.
- 20 Madam Chair, that's all I wanted to
- 21 say, is just that try to reinforce people that are
- 22 saying we need to work, like, together. Get the youth
- 23 involved. That's what we do in Ray.
- I told the staff that I work with, Go
- 25 to the school, 10 -- grade 10, 11, and 12, like these

- 1 be -- make the presentation to them. It's their
- 2 future that we're talking about; the same thing here.
- 3 They could have been here. It would have been very
- 4 nice for them to see.
- 5 Yeah, I heard my grandpa say this in
- 6 this very room. Why did George say that. With that,
- 7 Madam Chair, thank you very much.
- 8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi for your
- 9 comments. Thank you. The floor is open for public
- 10 comments.
- MR. BLAKE RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam
- 12 Chair. I'll just be really brief and quick with this.
- 13 Blake Rasmussen, Yellowknife Dene First Nation. But I
- 14 will take the opportunity to walk over and look at
- 15 these samples on the table here, if I may.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

- 19 MR. BLAKE RASMUSSEN: I see water on
- 20 top of that processed kimberlite there. Is this the -
- 21 the extra fine or the fine? This is the fine? Hold
- 22 this for a second.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 1 MR. BLAKE RASMUSSEN: My friend, have
- 2 a drink. Thank you. If you dare. Masi. Thank you.
- 3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Public
- 4 comments, please.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

- MS. DORIS ENZOE: Can you put on your
- 9 headphones because I'm going to say it in my language?

10

11 (INTERPRETED FROM INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

- MS. DORIS ENZOE: I don't quite agree
- 14 with it. Before you start at that mine on the island,
- 15 if you had given a good thought, all the rocks that
- 16 you are taking out, you should have planned to have a
- 17 place to deposit that.
- Now, it's kind of a problem right now
- 19 for me. That mine that you had put in there, things
- 20 were going to change, we were told. They -- they were
- 21 saying that things were going to be the same as it was
- 22 before you started the mine, and that's not going to
- 23 happen.
- Now -- now you're on an island and
- 25 you're having problems with -- with your workings.

1 All that diggings you've done, if you want to put that

- 2 dirt back into...
- 3 So, if you get a big wind on the -- on
- 4 the lake, you're going to have sediments all over the
- 5 lake. That's going to happen if you do that. Without
- 6 the water, we cannot live. Everything lives on water.
- 7 Not only that, everything that we live
- 8 on will also perish. The water that you're told to
- 9 drink, how come you don't drink that water? You
- 10 should at least taste that water.
- I got to tell you what I'm thinking. I
- 12 live here. Once you take the money out, once you
- 13 leave here, you're gone. My kids will be here. We
- 14 are all following each other on this land.
- If I see -- if I see something that's
- 16 not good, I will talk about it. I went to a lot of
- 17 meetings with you people. A lot of times, I advised
- 18 you. I told you about the bad things that were going
- 19 to happen. You have to listen to us.
- 20 If I knew about that meeting I would
- 21 have gone to that meeting with you. What I -- I would
- 22 have told you what I thought of it.
- You go to my country -- if you go to my
- 24 country, I will tell you exactly what I -- we are do -
- 25 we are doing it for your benefit, to tell you about

- 1 the bad things.
- One (1) person said you're on he
- 3 island. Ekati, Misery, they're on the mainland. If
- 4 you put that waste kimberlite on -- on the land, on
- 5 the mainland, and if you do a good job, even the land
- 6 heats -- it heats up, you can tell.
- 7 If you look (INDISCERNIBLE), you could
- 8 see in the ocean that they're gone. The big winds
- 9 coming up on the lands there, maybe a (INDISCERNIBLE)
- 10 will happen in the future.
- 11 So, if you get a big -- big waves, it
- 12 moves everything. Water moves everything. I could --
- 13 I travel on the water with my children. I see it. I
- 14 -- I work on the site Denena (phonetic). I watch the
- 15 land.
- I -- watch the thing. I wa -- I watch
- 17 what -- what's happening out there. And then I talk
- 18 about it. That's -- that's what I want to say. Thank
- 19 you.
- 20
- 21 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)
- 22
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Public comments...?
- 24
- 25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Could someone help

- 2 her, please?
- 3 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: My name is
- 4 Stephanie Poole. I work for the NWT Treaty 8 Tribal
- 5 Corporation in the Akaitcho interim measures agreement
- 6 office. I am Lutsel K'e Clutche (phonetic) Dene First
- 7 Nation member. I live in the community of Lutsel K'e
- 8 with my family.
- 9 I do have a question for Diavik about
- 10 their presentation on their proposal to deposit mine
- 11 waste into the underground pit. And I haven't heard
- 12 you answer Doris when she asked, and so I just wanted
- 13 to ask again.
- 14 As part of your presentation were these
- 15 examples of mine waste, or you refer to them as
- 16 processed kimberlite or fine or extra fine or -- or
- 17 whatever, your mine waste in the jar there, it seems
- 18 to have settled quite a bit since the start of the
- 19 Hearing today, and so will you drink that water, Sean?
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Diavik...?
- 21 MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: So, if I could get
- 22 up, maybe I can clarify why I'm not going to drink
- 23 this right now. I think I can -- I -- I actually
- 24 think I can provide a helpful explanation, hopefully.
- So -- sorry. Okay.

144 1 (BRIEF PAUSE) 2 3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Could he have a portable mic? 5 6 (BRIEF PAUSE) MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: So, hopefully, most of you saw this earlier. So, as -- as the 9 processed kimberlite settles and consolidates, you end 10 11 up with this pore water. So, this is what we call 12 pore water. And this is -- this is the model results. 13 So, I had mentioned there was that --14 that high -- sort of high total dissolved solid water 15 that sinks and floats on the bottom, sort of that brown layer. So, that's -- that's exactly, you know, essentially what you're looking at here. 17 18 So, below -- below this model, that's 19 all just processed kimberlite, the solid material. And then this layer of, you know, beige on the model, 20 that's that pore water that's squeezed up. 21 22 So, what we would on top of this pore 23 water, we would have -- well, in -- in the case of the 24 A418, we'd have 150 metres of clean lake water. So, 25 yeah, I mean, when -- when you asked me to drink this

- 1 water, this is the water we're talking about being 150
- 2 metres below the surface.
- 3 All the water above that, the dark blue
- 4 water here, would be, like, very, very low in total
- 5 dissolved solids, very similar to just the normal
- 6 lake, and certainly I would drink that water.
- 7 So, does that help?
- 8 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: No.
- 9 MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: Okay.
- 10 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: How full does
- 11 that jar have to be before you'll drink that water?
- MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: So, if you think
- 13 of it -- so, there's a scale here. So, this is about
- 14 -- looks like about probably 7 metres, let's say,
- 15 thick of -- of water. That would be like this -- this
- 16 pore water. And then above it we would have about 45
- 17 metres of that clean lake water above.
- 18 So, I mean, it would -- basically, I'd
- 19 need a really tall jar. And I'd fill the -- fill the
- 20 jar up with clean lake water.
- 21 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: Or maybe you
- 22 could just put less mine waste in that jar --
- MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: Yeah.
- 24 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: -- fill it up
- 25 with water --

- 1 MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: Yeah. What I
- 2 could do is --
- 3 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: -- leave it
- 4 overnight. And then tomorrow you can drink it for me.
- 5 How about that?
- 6 MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: We'll make a --
- 7 make a miniature one. But -- but, hopefully, that --
- 8 that makes sense though. Do you understand? Like,
- 9 this -- this water is that -- that stuff at the
- 10 bottom.
- MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: The pore water?
- MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: The pore water at
- 13 the bottom.
- 14 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: And you don't
- 15 want to drink the pore water because why?
- MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: Well, because it
- 17 has a higher amount of total dissolved solids because
- 18 it -- it's squished up.
- 19 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: Because it's a
- 20 risk to your health if you were to drink that water
- 21 right now?
- MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: Yeah. So, the --
- 23 so -- and -- and our whole goal is to make sure that
- 24 all the water near the surface is -- is clean. And
- 25 this phenomenon where you have this higher

1 concentration water that sits on the bottom, that's

- 2 that thing called meromixis.
- 3 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: Oh, I'm so glad
- 4 you mentioned that. I think we'll have a good couple
- 5 of days ahead of us to -- to get into great detail
- 6 about the phenomenon known as meromixis.
- 7 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: I look forward
- 8 to it.
- 9 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: Yeah. So,
- 10 besides that, are you going to fix that jar so you can
- 11 drink that water for me tomorrow? I didn't hear you
- 12 answer my question.
- 13 MR. SEAN SINCLAIR: I'll need to find
- 14 a really tall jar to fill with -- to fill with that
- 15 much water.
- MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: Or just less
- 17 sediment in that jar. You all are good at models,
- 18 right? I'm sure you can handle it.
- 19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Stephanie, is there
- 20 another question that you would like to ask?
- 21 MS. STEPHANIE POOLE: No. Thank you.
- 22
- 23 (BRIEF PAUSE)
- 24
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Public comments...?

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 3 MR. HENRY BEAULIEU: Yeah, my name is
- 4 Morris Henry Beaulieu. You're talking about the --
- 5 the bottom where the kimberlite's going to be --
- 6 settle. You're going to have problems with the fish
- 7 that live in the water, the bottom feeders.
- 8 I think the Review Board and Diavik
- 9 should seriously have a look at that. Just by
- 10 listening to the question of this young lady, it's not
- 11 a foolproof.
- 12 What I see in the -- in the diagram,
- 13 it's almost similar in a way with Giant Mine. I mean,
- 14 you know what? It's going to take about a hundred
- 15 years, whatever.
- 16 You know, I think you should use a
- 17 different type of material, the same type of material
- 18 that you would have, you know, before the diamond mine
- 19 extracted the diamond. I think you should use the
- 20 same type of sediment instead of what you have shown
- 21 us so far because that small little white area -- you
- 22 know, as the fish goes in there, it's going to
- 23 eventually contaminate the fish.
- 24 And when there's a big waves, I'm quite
- 25 sure that -- that the bottom is going to be -- you

- 1 know, it's going to bring up the sediment where you
- 2 store the -- the kimberlite, the waste.
- 3 So I have a problem with that in terms
- 4 of harming the fish. If this is sound a hundred
- 5 percent foolproof to me -- I mean, you're holding up
- 6 the jar, and you're not willing to drink it. So
- 7 obviously, it's telling me that it's not safe for even
- 8 a human consumption.
- 9 So, you know, I think we have a -- a
- 10 big work ahead of us to do, you know, before the
- 11 closure of the diamond mine.
- 12 You know, as it is right now, I'm not
- 13 very too pleased with it. You know, I know you guys
- 14 are expert. I'm quite sure that you could probably,
- 15 you know, do a better job than -- than your
- 16 presentation. Thank you. Masi.
- 17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you for
- 18 your comments. Public comments?
- 19 MR. MACHEL THOMAS: Machel Thomas,
- 20 YKDFN. I have a question for Diavik.
- 21 In your presentation earlier today, you
- 22 stated that your idea for putting this was backed by
- 23 consent from our TK panel. And in saying that, you
- 24 also said that their consent was given based on their
- 25 review of a toxicology report.

1 So my question is: What expertise does

- 2 that TK panel to analyze that toxicology report?
- THE CHAIRPERSON: Diavik...?
- 4 MR. GORD MACDONALD: Gord Macdonald,
- 5 with Diavik. I don't know that they have the
- 6 expertise to critically review that -- the report. It
- 7 was prepared by the University of Saskatchewan.
- 8 And they looked at the results, which I
- 9 think they could -- they could understand on survival
- 10 and reproduction of aquatic organisms and understand
- 11 it from that perspective.
- 12 I wouldn't say that they critically
- 13 reviewed it. We didn't imply that they did as an
- 14 expert review.
- MR. MACHEL THOMAS: Thank you,
- 16 Madam Chairman.
- 17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
- 18 Public comments...? Public comments...?
- 19 We're getting close to the end of this
- 20 hearing, so I would like to give another opportunity
- 21 for public comments.
- 22 And there might be a public comment
- 23 coming up from the youth? Did you want to speak? No?
- 24 Okay. All right.
- 2.5

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

- 3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. This is the
- 4 final call for public comments. Chief Sangris...?
- 5 CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: Chief Sangris,
- 6 Yellowknives Dene. Now, Diavik, when you ask that --
- 7 when you said that at the beginning when you met and
- 8 you got this recommendations and one of the
- 9 recommendation was you're going to have a non -- a
- 10 non-signatory group.
- 11 Why -- beginning close -- close to
- 12 the -- the letter of the mine that you're going to
- 13 allow non-signatory groups to be part of the -- the
- 14 process. That's one question.
- The other one, you said you couldn't
- 16 remove -- remove off A21 open pit from the -- from
- 17 this review. Now what I am thinking and have the
- 18 experience from other mines is that the tailings that
- 19 processed kimberlite from A21, you're telling me that
- 20 it's not going to go underground to A418? Masi.
- 21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Diavik...?
- MR. GORD MACDONALD: Gord Macdonald,
- 23 with Diavik. Thank you, Chief. I think there were
- 24 two (2) questions there. There was one: Why did
- 25 we -- our response on the non-signatory Indigenous

- 1 groups?
- 2 And what our commitment there was was
- 3 to meet with them once a year to advise them on how
- 4 the project's going and to receive their input on
- 5 the -- on the project and on the TK panel
- 6 recommendations.
- 7 We thought we could -- we could benefit
- 8 from their -- from their involvement, and then we
- 9 thought it would be helpful for them to keep involved
- 10 with the project.
- On A21, it's not that the ore from S21
- 12 wouldn't be deposited into 418. It definitely would
- 13 be. That -- fifty (50) percent of the ore that would
- 14 go -- be deposited would come from A21. What we're
- 15 saying is we wouldn't use it as a place to deposit.
- So we're -- our preference is to go to
- 17 418. And we kept the options of being able to go into
- 18 A21 or into A154, and we've removed that option of
- 19 being able to deposit into A21. Sorry if it was
- 20 confusing.
- 21 CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: Yeah. Just
- 22 ensuring that, you know, what happened to one pit
- 23 won't happen to another.
- 24 And then we're going to have a problem
- 25 of, you know, agreeing to -- to all these pits being

- 1 loaded with processed kimberlite when you didn't
- 2 mention it at the beginning of the mine consultation
- 3 period.
- 4 And I hope we have a closing comment
- 5 after this. Masi.
- 6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Public
- 7 comments...? Public comments..?
- And just a reminder that tomorrow is
- 9 another day of hearings, and there'll be an
- 10 opportunity -- I think it's around 5:00 -- yes -- 5:00
- 11 for public comments. So there'll be an opportunity
- 12 again as well.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

- 16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Well, thank
- 17 you so much for the comments that people have made
- 18 today. And at this time just before we close, I would
- 19 like to ask Chief Sangris if you have closing comments
- 20 or statements.

- 22 CLOSING COMMENTS BY CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS:
- 23 CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: Thank you.
- 24 Chief Edward Sangris, of Yellowknives Dene First
- 25 Nations. Thank you, Madam Chair, for allowing me to

- 1 do the final comment at this hearing in Detah.
- 2 As you heard, there's a lot of
- 3 compassion from Dene people on how you're going to
- 4 remediate the site after and all the kimberlite are --
- 5 are done.
- And as you can tell, they are really
- 7 concern, not only in this living world but in the new
- 8 world, the next generation that's coming on 'cause we
- 9 have that experience. We know how it's going to
- 10 affect our people.
- 11 The one (1) thing that we haven't talk
- 12 about -- it's a social issue in doing what is proposed
- 13 by Diavik. What I mean is that the global market --
- 14 how will it affect the people that are living on this
- 15 land from pursuing or having done what they have done
- 16 before since time memorial to sustain themself
- 17 economically?
- 18 That's what we have to look at -- at
- 19 everything, not only the caribou, the water, the fish.
- 20 We have to look at how people going to make a living
- 21 off the land after all is said and done. It -- you
- 22 heard my cousin Fred. When he was growing up, he was
- 23 living off the land. So was my dad. I travel with
- 24 him.
- They didn't care if they have any

- 1 monetary things in -- in their backyard. All they're
- 2 doing is survive -- making living for their family,
- 3 surviving for their family.
- 4 Those kind of things that we have to
- 5 think about. It's hard today because if we tell our
- 6 grandkids how we grew up in the past, they won't
- 7 believe us 'cause they haven't experienced it.
- 8 Same thing with government and the
- 9 mining industry. We tell them about all these worries
- 10 and our -- and our concerns and how to survive out --
- 11 out there.
- 12 But they wouldn't understand because
- 13 they never grew up that way. They never chase a
- 14 caribou on their snowshoes. No. They never drank the
- 15 water or make tea from the lake that's in -- in the
- 16 process of dumping kimberlite.
- 17 Whatever you put underground, it's not
- 18 going to stay there forever 'cause it's water -- it's
- 19 going to be mixed with water. It's going to seep out
- 20 no matter what.
- 21 And our ancestors have lived on the
- 22 land. They were never told that their lake is going
- 23 to be polluted in the past.
- Now you're telling our future -- us and
- 25 the future generation that our water's going to be

- 1 polluted after you finish mining. Not as devastating
- 2 as some places, but we don't know, because at the
- 3 beginning, you didn't plan to have the processed
- 4 kimberlite dumped underground. You never planned for
- 5 that so you don't know what the results going to be --
- 6 the end results going to be.
- 7 So we have to think really good and
- 8 hard, and I wish the Board would take that into
- 9 consideration on how it's going to affect our way of
- 10 life.
- And it's not only us. You know,
- 12 there's people from Kugluktuk, from Nunavut that are
- 13 going to use that land. You know, I -- I read in --
- 14 in a report that when they when they did a experiment
- 15 at Ekati, the -- they had some ammonium nitrate in
- 16 Grizzly Lake.
- 17 And they were fishing out of the lake,
- 18 and they grew bigger than, you know, the other fish in
- 19 Lac de Gras. So there's going to be some effect
- 20 'cause what you're dumping underground is mixed with
- 21 ammonium nitrate that they use for blasting.
- 22 And I wish I could go along with --
- 23 with the proposal, but I have my doubts 'cause I've
- 24 been working in the industry since '83, and I know
- 25 what that does to the environment.

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1 It's really hard for me to -- to
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- 2 comfort and -- you know, knowing that these -- some of
- 3 these people -- they do not understand what is going
- 4 to -- how it's going to affect, you know, all the
- 5 wildlife, the environment, and everything else that
- 6 goes along with -- with, you know, the effect of
- 7 having the dumped Kimberlite in -- in the underground.
- 8 And one of the things that you jokingly
- 9 told him is that maybe you should freeze it
- 10 underground, like Giant, you know, but you can't
- 11 freeze it up -- still frozen.
- But the climate change now, the
- 13 weather -- the changes, it's going to be different up
- 14 in the tundra a number of years from now.
- So now I'd like to thank the Board,
- 16 everybody involved in this hearing, you know, to give
- 17 us the opportunity to express our concerns and our --
- 18 you know, look at how the process of those stored and
- 19 processed kimberlite waste -- processed kimberlite
- 20 underground, how it's going to affect, you know,
- 21 our -- our way of life. Masi cho.
- 22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you,
- 23 Chief Sangris.

24

25 CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON:

- 1 THE CHAIRPERSON: And closing
- 2 statements for this hearing, we have come to the end
- 3 of this community hearing in Dettah.
- And we'd like to thank the Yellowknives
- 5 Dene First Nation for coming and speaking to us and
- 6 giving us the opportunity here to hear from all in
- 7 regards to the public comments that were made at
- 8 tonight's hearing.
- 9 As I stated earlier, tomorrow there's
- 10 another opportunity for public comments. But
- 11 tomorrow, we start at 9:30 in the morning, and it's
- 12 the more formal part of the hearings that will happen
- 13 at The Explorer Hotel.
- 14 So with that, I'd like to say thank you
- 15 for the presentations. Thank you to the speakers.
- 16 Thank you to the community for hosting us.
- 17 Chief Sangris. And we'll see everyone tomorrow
- 18 morning.
- 19 And with that, I would like to ask the
- 20 Elder Modeste if he would have closing prayer for us.
- 21 Masi.
- 22
- 23 (CLOSING PRAYER)
- 24
- 25 --- Upon adjourning at 8:51 p.m.

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