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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYINKATIMAYINGI

By Email

To: Nanisivik Distribution List

Subject: Summary of the April 17th, 2003 Public Meeting in Arctic Bay

In attendance at the meeting:

Persons representing organizations

Joanasie Akumalik – Mayor, Hamlet of Arctic Bay
Levi Barnabas – Community Liaison Coordinator, Hamlet of Arctic Bay
Robert Carreau – Manager, Environmental Affairs, Breakwater Resources Limited
Murray Markle – Nanisivik Mine Site Manager, CanZinco Limited
Patrick Duxbury – Mine Reclamation Coordinator, Nunavut Water Board
Billy Curly – Trainee, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Nunavut
Mishak Allurut – Interpreter/Translator

Residents of Arctic Bay

Mucktar Akumalik, Tommy Tatatuapik, Bertha Tatatuapik, Tommy Kilabuk, Kigutikakjuk
Kilabuk, Frank May, Tabatts Kanayuk, Kalluk Ettuk, Rebecca Ettuk, Sakiasie Qaunaq, Qarpik
Attagutsiak, Thomas Levi, Rusky Ettuk

The Nunavut Water Board (“NWB”) held a public meeting at 7:00 PM, April 17th 2003 in Arctic Bay to provide information on CanZinco Limited’s (“CanZinco”) Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (“Phase II ESA”) and Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (“HHERA”). These reports were submitted by CanZinco to the NWB on January 30th, 2003 as stipulated in Sections 13 and 14 of Part G, Licence NWB1NAN0208 for the Closure and Reclamation of Nanisivik Mine.

Mayor Joanasie Akumalik chaired the meeting, and following an introductory prayer by Mucktar Akumalik, introduced the meeting’s representatives to the assembled Arctic Bay residents. After the prayer the representatives gave opening statements.

Levi Barnabas gave a short presentation concerning the NWB’s March 29th, 2003 technical meeting in Iqaluit, which was held in order to provide a forum for interested parties to review the above-cited reports. He spoke about the various parties in attendance and the nature of the discussions held there. He also provided a description of his own interventions there on behalf of residents of Arctic Bay, including former Nanisivik Mine employees, who have expressed their concerns to him.

Following Levi Barnabas’s statement, Patrick Duxbury gave a powerpoint presentation on the Phase II ESA, which included a discussion of the purpose and goals of an ESA, specific studies of the Nanisivik Mine that comprised the ESA’s data set, the general results of the study and the

relationship between the Phase II ESA and the HHERA. Following the discussion of the Phase II ESA the residents were shown maps of the Nanisivik Mine site where areas of petroleum hydrocarbon and metal contamination has been observed.

After a break Patrick Duxbury gave a powerpoint presentation on the HHERA. The presentation included an overview of the basic theory of risk assessment, including information on the nature of exposure types, hazards, and receptors employed in the report, concepts such as tolerable daily limits (TDI) and estimated daily intakes (EDI) of metals, the potential health effects of the metals of concern at the Nanisivik Mine site and the predicted risk of contamination on animals residing at the mine site.

Several questions were posed by the residents concerning the two reports, as well as other more general concerns that they had about the mine. The majority of these questions were addressed on the spot by the assembled representatives. The issues raised in these questions and comments included:

The effects of different types of metal on persons; the reasons behind selecting certain animals as receptors for the ERA and not others; the reason behind excluding marine animals from the study; the likelihood of someone become ill through eating country foods caught near the mine, the likelihood of someone becoming ill from breathing the air at the mine site; sampling of fish at Kuhulu Lake; the approximate date when CanZinco will start the reclamation work; the relocation of buildings from Nanisivik to Arctic Bay; concerns about preventing access to the underground through the mine portals; the difference between an assessment that attempts to predict future human health risks from the mine versus a study that would examine possible past and present health impacts from the mine.

The following are concerns that were not fully addressed by representatives present at the meeting and which may require some further examination by CanZinco's consultants:

A hesitation expressed by some residents about the use of some assumptions employed in the HHERA. As some of the assumptions were based upon research conducted in southern environments and in southern cultures, there was a sense that the assumptions may somehow underpredict risk, particularly as it relates to exposure of contaminants by both persons and animals.

How the role of the harsh arctic climate may somehow increase risk in a way that was not predicted or taken into account by the consultants authoring the HHERA.

How the behavior of the animal receptors chosen for the ERA may have not taken fully into account their ability to become exposed to contaminants in ways not predicted. The example was given of arctic fox at the mine site who are found almost everywhere at Nanisivik, including in locations of metal contamination such as the tailings pond or rock dumps.

Due to time constraints, information on the revised Emergency Response Plan was not given. However the community has been made aware of this report via Levi Barnabas, including through a radio show that was held on the night of April 16th, 2003 to promote the public meeting. The meeting ended at approximately 10:30 pm.

Any questions regarding this summary may be directed to:

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