

## **Appendix III - Ekalugad Community Meeting – Questions and Answers**

## **Ekalugad Community Meetings Questions & Answers**

### **Clyde River**

Q: Some people in Qikiqtarjuak were upset that some of the landfills were being exposed. I am concerned that something like this might happen.

A: (Bob) Part of our presentation will invite comments on our plans.

Q: What about that one dump site in a very steep area – the contaminants are going into the ocean

A: (Chris) We will be talking about that later. The landfill does not have contaminants moving into the ocean.

Q: The low substance contaminants – how low can it be? Shouldn't we ship it all out?

A: (Brad) The materials will be secure in a landfill and won't be able to spread and affect health or animals at the site. The concentrations of contaminants that we found at the site were very low. If they were high concentrations we would ship them south.

Q: PCBs are PCBs. They are still dangerous.

A: (Chris) Low concentrations of PCBs are not harmful. We did an assessment on the risk and they are not dangerous.

Q: You said you will be using a local workforce. Will they be exposed to contaminants and be affected?

A: (Brad) Before working on the site everyone will have training.

Q: When you start doing the landfill you say you are lining the bottom. I want a liner on the top, too.

A: (Brad) Non-hazardous waste will be in the landfills and has no contamination we need to worry about. The soil disposal facility will have a liner and will be built up so nothing comes in from the top.

Q: I ask because it has been on the news that the landfill at Cape Hooper has contaminants out of it.

A: (Brad) We are going to be very careful when we build our landfills and we are going to monitor them after we are finished to make sure they are working the way we want them to.

Q: Remember when you said some barrels are leaking, how far is that from the permafrost and how will it affect the area?

A: (Chris) In these areas, it is heavy oil that is leaking, not diesel, so it stays there and turns black. We will clean this up and do samples to make sure we get it all. We are sure the oil has not reached the permafrost.

Q: Remember how you mentioned where the roads are washed out? I am worried that the landfills may be washed out. Because when we looked at the picture, it seemed like this could easily happen at the Mid-Station. Imagine in 100 years from now.

A: (Brad) Part of our investigation included a survey to find flat areas good for landfills. That area was chosen because it is flat and close to the waste at the mid and upper station. We would design the landfill so run-off would go around the landfill and prevent erosion.

Q: With my last comment about the landfill in Cape Hooper, they put in the debris and then put some holes, then more soil. Then stuff started coming out.

A: (Brad) When they put holes (we believe that he was referring to monitoring wells) in the landfill that maybe was not a good way to design a landfill. We will try to make sure we do it right.

Comment: Thank you. I just want to say that earlier you said you have to follow rules. If these rules suggest that you have to have holes, I suggest that we don't have landfills.

Q: At Cape Hooper these holes were metal pipes that went right down to the permafrost to monitor.

A: (Brad) We probably won't do that. We will learn from the mistakes of the past.

Q: This is FOX C and there are buildings. There are fish here, so I don't know where you can put a landfill.

A: Brad showed locations on a map.

Q: The reason why I ask is that there are fish in the lake there. I have been there and I know there is fish. I am concerned that the landfill will be close to the lake.

A: (Brad) The map you are looking at is a close up of the top of the hill. The landfill will not be located close to a lake. The other landfill will be 750 – 1000 feet from this lake.

Q: I am concerned that the fish will be affected.

A: (Brad) It is a long way away and we will design it so the lake won't be affected. We will be sure to monitor the landfills so the lake won't be affected at all.

Q: You mentioned earlier that we can help decide where the landfills go. Can we still decide together?

A: (Brad) Yes, we are looking for your input.

Q: We want it to be well away from the lake. We want to be sure the lake won't be affected.

A: (Brad) We hear and understand your concerns.

Q: If there is going to be a leak in 200 or 300 years we want it to be somewhere else (jokingly).

A: (Bob) And we don't want to come back. We want to do it right the first time because it is very expensive. We have hired experts to help us design this. We are spending a lot of time and money to make sure we do this right.

Q: Has climate change been considered in planning in case the permafrost melts?

A: (Brad) The experts have done computer modeling so our design incorporates climate change potentials.

Q: How long will the landfills be monitored?

A: (Brad) Every year for the first five years, then every five years for 20 years after that. Then we'll decide what is an appropriate monitoring frequency.

Comment: Thank you for putting away those barrels and metals so I don't see them anymore.

### **Qikiqtarjuak**

Q: Did you get results back from the arctic char taken from the lake?

A: (Chris) Yes, we sampled char in the lake and in the river towards the beach and there is no elevated risk

Q: Did you check the bottom of the lake? Was anything else found? Were items dumped there?

A: (Chris) We went to the edge of the lake. By testing water and sediments we saw no issues, but we didn't check the bottom for pieces of metal. The results showed nothing, but we will continue to monitor the water throughout the project.

Q: Did you check the bottom of the lake for contaminants?

A: (Chris) We took samples of the water and the soil below the lake and samples of fish and found there was no risk.

Q: There are a lot of barrels strewn about on the site that will need to be disposed of, are you going to crush them?

A: (Brad) Yes, they will be crushed and put into landfills

Q: Would the equipment needed to clean up the site be brought there by boat?

A: (Brad) The heavy equipment will probably go by barge this summer, depending on how our schedule turns out.

Q: Those PCBs and the lead – is that really bad? Is it going on the river, on the lake, on the ocean?

A: (Chris) They are not going off the site and we have done enough work to know they aren't a risk to humans or the environment, but we are going to clean them up anyway. There are fuel storage tanks by the beach and fuel is moving toward the ocean that we have to clean up.

Q: You said earlier that lead and PCBs were moving off the site – how bad is that?

A: (Chris) Earlier studies showed that there weren't enough samples taken to know if the contaminants were moving off the site. This time we took enough samples to find out how much contamination there is, and where it is. So now we have taken enough samples to know that it is not moving off the site.

Q: Is it falling off the cliff? Is it going in the water?

A: (Chris) There is some up at the top, but it is not going near the water.

Q: Did you take any samples of the glacier?

A: (Chris) No. The glacier is upgradient – it is above the contamination – so contaminants won't move upward. We are happy that we have taken enough samples to know where the contamination is.

Q: My question was that there was a glacier in that area, and it is melting, so have you taken any samples?

A: (Chris) We sampled near the glacier where it is receding.

Q: Is the landfill you have selected safe from erosion?

A: (Brad) Yes, and we will design them so all run-off is away from them so they won't erode and their integrity is maintained. There are also a number of locations and we look forward to your input on which location would be best.

Q: The reason I ask is there is always erosion up here. I know there will be monitoring, but is the equipment reliable or "hi-tech"?

A: (Brad) The monitoring wells we use will be steel and driven into the ground and they will last a long time, so we will be able to monitor for a long time.

Q: Is the material for the landfill safe?

A: (Brad) Yes, we have found good, safe materials for the landfill that will help prevent erosion. The sand and gravel we have found is free from contamination.

Q: How is the contamination going to be excavated? By machine or by people?

A: (Brad) The contaminated soil will be dug out with heavy equipment like a track excavator. There is potential that some near the top needs to be done by hand because it is very shallow.

Q: I don't approve of the middle landfill, near the lake.

A: (Brad) The reason we selected that location is that it is close to the waste, and not subject to a lot of run-off. It is only a proposed site, and we welcome your input.

Q: It is because it is near a lake and earth is always moving and I am worried about 15 – 20 years from now.

A: (Brad) It is not near a lake, but we call it the Lake Area. We are designing it away from the lake and any water coming toward it will be directed away from it.

Comment: The sites could be used for non-hazardous waste. I do not want a landfill for hazardous materials to be near the lake or any lake for that matter.

Q: Maybe I misunderstood – I thought it was near a lake.

A: (Brad pointed the area out on a map and the nearest lake) Any water will not go down to the lake or ocean

Q: The level of PCB contaminated soil – how high is it at FOX C?

A: (Chris) Levels are high enough that we are going to clean it up, but not high enough that they are a risk to humans or the environment, but we are going to clean it up.

Q: How many landfills have been proposed and where?

A: (Brad) We're not sure how many there will be yet, we thought of having one at the Upper Station because it is near the waste, and the same thing with the Lake and Beach areas. We don't want to be transporting waste too far.

Q: What is the distance to the lake?

A: (Brad showed on a map) One proposed site is about 250 m (750') away and the other is 300 – 400 m (at least 1000') away.

Q: These are just proposed areas?

A: (Brad) Yes, they are good locations in that area. We may or may not use them, depending on your input. If you have a comment on them, please let us know.

Comment: The proposed landfills are in an ideal area, at least for non-hazardous materials when we take into consideration the possible erosion that might take place. At least I think they are.

Q: I have seen these proposed locations. They are in the best spot – I have been there. In Cape Hooper the plastic has a lot of holes and materials are seeping. We don't want to see that. I have seen first hand what has happened in Cape Hooper. There were lots of wastes, sewage and the sort. We will definitely have to be very careful as to choosing landfills as the top covering tends to either erode or wear away due to the climate.

A: (Brad) There will be engineers on site when the landfills are being installed to ensure that they will not leak in the future.

Q: When excavating contaminated soil, does it enter the air or does it stay on the ground?

A: (Chris) Unless PCBs and metals are really dry – and we will make sure they are not – they'll stay on the ground. Fuels may go into the air. No matter what we are doing, workers will be wearing proper equipment and be properly trained.

Q: How many different contaminants are there? How many samples do you have?

A: (Chris) There are basically four groups: PCBs, fuels (diesel, lube oil, gasoline), metals (Cr, Pb, Zn, Cu, etc) and building materials (Pb and PCBs in paint and asbestos).