

NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

RENEWAL APPLICATION
FOR TYPE A WATER LICENCE NO: 2AM-MRY1325
BY BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION

PUBLIC HEARING
VOLUME 2
COMMUNITY SESSION

Pond Inlet, Nunavut
March 11, 2025

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1 Proceedings taken at Pond Inlet Community Hall,
2 Pond Inlet, Nunavut

3

4 March 11, 2025 Community Session

5

6 NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

7 L. Toomasie Chair of Hearing

8 U. Pukignak Panel Member

9 E. Baddaloo Panel Member

10

11 NUNAVUT WATER BOARD STAFF

12 S. Autut Executive Director

13 K. Kharatyan Director of Technical
14 Services

15 B. Kogvik Director of Board
16 Administration and
17 Communications

18 A. Jan Technical Advisor

19 R. Hunter Licencing Administrator

20 T. Meadows Legal Counsel

21

22 (Via Remote Video)

23 Z. Bliss Meadows Law, Observer

24

25

26

1	PROPONENT	
2	BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION	
3	M. Lord-Hoyle	Vice President,
4		Sustainable Development
5		and Health, Safety,
6		Environment
7	L. Kamermans	Senior Director,
8		Sustainable Development
9	P. Quassa	Special Advisor
10	J. Tigullaraq	Head of Northern Affairs
11	E. Luther	Senior Manager,
12		Regulatory Affairs
13	M. Schauerte	Stantec, Technical
14		Advisor
15	C. Sangoya	Pond Inlet, Inuit
16		Knowledge-Holder
17	P. Enooagok	Pond Inlet, Inuit
18		Knowledge-Holder
19	C. Kowbell	Legal Counsel
20		
21	(Via Remote Video)	
22	W. Bowden	Environment Manager
23	S. Borcsok	Approvals Manager
24	T. Swenson	Environment
25		Superintendent
26	K. Kuchapski	Minnow Technical Advisor

1 INTERVENORS

2 QUUKIQTANI INUIT ASSOCIATION

3 A. Kubeisinova Manager, Regulatory
4 Review

5 J. Ottenhof Director, Qikiqtani
6 Nunalirijikkut

7 A. MacDonald The Firelight Group

8 R. Nesbitt Hutchinson Environmental
9 Sciences Ltd.

10 J. Cavallo LGL Limited

11 C. Shefman Legal Counsel

12

13 (Via Remote Video)

14 K. Scott The Firelight Group

15 J. Carman LGL Limited

16 M. Kay LGL Limited

17

18 CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

19 A. Keim Manager, Water Resources

20 L. Perrin Water Management
21 Specialist

22 J. McHattie Legal Counsel

23

24 (Via Remote Video)

25 J. Croston Technical Expert,
26 AtkinsRéalis

1 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA

2 E. Walker Manager, Environmental
3 Assessment Group

4 S. Forte Water Quality Analyst

5

6 (Via Remote Video)

7 R. Nissen Air Quality Analyst

8 R. Ejeckam Mining Expert

9 J. Kassar Environmental Assessment
10 Officer

11 J. Hollman Environmental Assessment
12 Officer

13

14 FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

15 P. Harper Senior Biologist

16 N. Wasilik Regulatory Review
17 Biologist

18

19 (Via Remote Video)

20 C. Kovachik Regulatory Review
21 Biologist

22

23 HAMLET OF ARCTIC BAY

24 S. Qaunaq Community Representative

25 O. Naqitarvik Community Representative

26 R. Taqtu Community Representative

1	HAMLET OF CLYDE RIVER	
2	J. Apak	Community Representative
3	R. Palituq	Community Representative
4	N. Qillaq	Community Representative
5		
6	HAMLET OF HALL BEACH	
7	A. Qammaniq	Community Representative
8	J. Kaernerck	Community Representative
9		
10	HAMLET OF IGLOOLIK	
11	A. Attagutalukutuk	Community Representative
12	L. Idlout	Community Representative
13	N. Piugattuk	Community Representative
14		
15	HAMLET OF POND INLET	
16	J. Katsak	Community Representative
17	B. Merkosak	Community Representative
18		
19	INTERPRETORS/TRANSLATORS	
20	R. Katsak	Inuktitut Language
21		Translator
22	T. Arnakallak	Inuktitut Language
23		Translator
24		
25	J. King, CSR(A)	Official Court Reporter
26	C. Coomber	Sound Technician

1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 7:15 PM EDT)

2 Opening Remarks by The Chair

3 THE CHAIR: Good evening. Welcome
4 everyone to the community session for the
5 Nunavut Water Board's public hearing in
6 relation to the renewal application submitted
7 by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, that I
8 will refer to as "Baffinland" or "Applicant",
9 with the Nunavut Water Board for Water Licence
10 2AM-MRY1325. My name is Lootie Toomasie, and
11 I'm the Chair of Nunavut Water Board.

12 While I chaired this morning's session, I'm
13 going to ask Stephanie Autut, the NWB Executive
14 Director, to chair tonight's session.

15 Stephanie.

16 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 Tonight's session is part of the Nunavut
18 Water Board's public hearing to consider the
19 renewal of Baffinland's existing water licence
20 for a term of 15 years. In the renewal
21 application, Baffinland has requested the
22 renewal of the existing licence to authorize
23 the continued use of water and deposit of
24 wastes associated with the Mary River Project
25 located on Baffin Island in the Qikiqtani
26 region.

1 This public hearing marks the final
2 opportunity for the Applicant, the Intervenor,
3 and members of the community to present their
4 comments, concerns, and questions about the
5 application to the Nunavut Water Board before
6 the Board makes its decision about the renewal
7 application. The Nunavut Water Board
8 appreciates you all for turning out to
9 participate in this important meeting.

10 Before we proceed with tonight's session, I
11 would like to ask Sakiasie Qaunaq to open the
12 meeting with a prayer.

13 (OPENING PRAYER)

14 S. AUTUT: Qujannamiik, Sakiasie
15 Qaunaq.

16 For those of you who were not here this
17 morning when we started the public hearing, I
18 have a few brief housekeeping and introductory
19 remarks, and then as outlined in the agenda, I
20 will turn the microphone over to the following
21 parties: Firstly, as outlined in Item 3 of
22 tonight's agenda, the staff of the Nunavut
23 Water Board will provide a summary of the Water
24 Board's process in general and in relation to
25 this renewal application specifically. After
26 the presentation by the Board staff, community

1 members will have an opportunity to ask
2 questions from the Board staff about our
3 process.

4 Then as set out under Item 5 of the agenda,
5 the Applicant, Baffinland, will provide a
6 presentation explaining their renewal
7 application, and you will have an opportunity
8 to ask them questions and provide your
9 comments.

10 We will then move to Items 7 and 8 on the
11 agenda when the Intervenor for this
12 application, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association
13 ("QIA"), Crown-Indigenous Relations and
14 Northern Affairs ("CIRNA"), Environment and
15 Climate Change Canada ("ECCC"), and Fisheries
16 and Oceans Canada ("DFO"), will outline their
17 mandates and roles in respect of this water
18 licence and will present summaries about their
19 comment submissions provided to the Board to
20 date. Their presentations will be followed by
21 an opportunity for you to ask them questions
22 and provide the Board with your comments.

23 Now onto a few housekeeping items.
24 Firstly, there will be interpretation available
25 throughout the hearing, and earpieces are
26 available from the table located at the

1 entrance. Channel 1 is Inuktitut. Channel 2
2 is English. I'm mistaken and corrected.
3 Channel 1 is English. Channel 2 is Inuktitut.
4 My apologies.

5 Secondly, the Board asks everyone,
6 including the Applicant, Intervenors, and
7 members of the public to sign in on the sheets
8 provided at the table as you entered the
9 building. This is an important record of the
10 hearing, and we appreciate your help in making
11 sure it is complete.

12 Washrooms are located out the back door.
13 There will be coffee, tea, and snacks located
14 at the tables along the back wall. During
15 breaks, please help yourself to the food and
16 refreshments provided.

17 There are agendas for the community session
18 and the public hearing available at the table
19 as you came in. Please pick one up and follow
20 along.

21 As the Chairman stated in his opening
22 remarks this morning, the Board directed that
23 this public hearing be held in person, but due
24 to limitations with the accommodations
25 available in Pond Inlet, the Board has provided
26 remote access for those who were unable to

1 travel to Pond Inlet today. While the Board
2 will do everything we can to maintain a stable
3 link to remote parties, as our priority is
4 ensuring that we complete our agenda during the
5 in-person proceedings, if the remote access
6 links fail, the Board may proceed with the
7 in-person proceedings while we troubleshoot to
8 restore access for remote participants.

9 I would now like to introduce all of the
10 Board and staff before we proceed to the
11 presentations. The Board panel appointed by
12 the Board as the decision-makers for this file
13 are present at the public hearing with the
14 Board Chair, Lootie Toomasie, and Board
15 members, Uriash Pukignak and Earle Baddaloo.

16 I would also like to introduce several
17 staff members and our legal counsel, who have
18 contributed to the NWB's administration and the
19 technical review of the application. When I
20 say your name, please wave so that everyone
21 knows who you are.

22 Karén Kharatyan, Director of Technical
23 Services; Ben Kogvik, Director of Board
24 Administration and Communications; Abid Jan,
25 Technical Advisor; Robert Hunter, Licencing
26 Administrator; Teresa Meadows from Meadows Law,

1 the Board's legal counsel; and joining us
2 remotely as an observer is Teresa's associate
3 Zachary Bliss from Meadows Law; and myself,
4 Stephanie Autut, the Executive Director.

5 We have two interpreters helping us this
6 evening. In addition to Ben Kogvik, Director
7 of Board Administration and Communications, we
8 also have Rhoda Katsak and Titus Arnakallak.

9 For audio support, we have Chris Coomber
10 from PIDO with us. If you experience any
11 difficulties with your headsets, he will be
12 able to provide assistance.

13 And to ensure an accurate record of these
14 proceedings is kept, we have with us a court
15 reporter, Julie Deanne King, from Dicta Court
16 Reporting Inc., and to assist Julie, I ask that
17 all parties please state your name prior to
18 speaking.

19 As we said earlier, tonight's session will
20 involve a presentation by the Nunavut Water
21 Board's technical staff, a presentation by the
22 Applicant, Baffinland, and presentations by the
23 Intervenors. Following each presentation, I
24 will invite anyone who wishes to ask questions
25 or provide the panel with their comments to
26 step up to the microphone and speak on the

1 record. I encourage everyone with questions to
2 please step up and ask, but to make sure our
3 public hearing record is accurate and to assist
4 our court reporter and interpreters, before
5 speaking, please wait until you have a
6 microphone to speak, then state your name and
7 speak directly, clearly, and slowly into the
8 microphone. Please be mindful of the
9 interpreters as you go and avoid the use of
10 abbreviations if you can. Please don't speak
11 over any other participants and be respectful
12 of the Board, our processes, and other
13 participants.

14 We appreciate your participation and
15 assistance in making sure we are all heard and
16 understood in this hearing.

17 I will now turn the microphone the Board's
18 technical staff to walk you through how this
19 application has progressed to this point, Karén
20 and Abid.

21 Presentation by Nunavut Water Board

22 K. KHARATYAN: Thank you, Stephanie.

23 As Stephanie mentioned, the Board will
24 start tonight's session with a presentation by
25 the Nunavut Water Board, which will be followed
26 by a presentation by the Applicant, Baffinland

1 Iron Mines Corporation or "Baffinland".
2 Following that, we will have a presentation by
3 the following Intervenors in the following
4 order: Qikiqtani Inuit Association or "QIA",
5 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
6 or "CIRNA", Environment -- Environment and
7 Climate Change Canada or "ECCC", and Fisheries
8 and Oceans Canada or "DFO".

9 Like Stephanie mentioned, after each
10 presentation, we invite anyone who wishes to
11 ask questions or provide the panel with their
12 comments or questions to step up to the
13 microphone and speak on the -- on the record.

14 If you are an Elder, you can speak at any
15 time throughout these proceeding. We just ask
16 that you raise your hand to be recognized by
17 the Chairperson and wait to speak until one of
18 our staff members can get the microphone for
19 you so that we can ensure your comments are
20 included on the record.

21 For everyone here tonight, I encourage you
22 all to ask questions or share your thoughts and
23 comments with the Board. You can direct your
24 questions to the staff of the Nunavut Water
25 Board, the Applicant, or the Intervenors.

26 So I will now turn the microphone over to

1 the Board's Technical Advisor in charge of the
2 file, Abid Jan, to walk you through the
3 application and to explain how this progressed
4 to this point.

5 Abid, please start with the presentation.

6 A. JAN: Thank you, Karén.

7 Good evening, everyone. My name is Abid
8 Jan. I'm one of the technical advisors with
9 the Nunavut Water Board. I'll be providing a
10 brief overview of our licencing process
11 particularly in the context of the application
12 that we are here for, the renewal application
13 for Type A Water Licence 2AM-MRY1325 by
14 Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation.

15 K. KHARATYAN: Mr. Chair, we will take
16 maybe a couple minutes, yes, to -- to fix
17 the -- the right file with the crease because
18 it seem -- it seems he has an old version of
19 file with the Inuktitut translation a little
20 bit messed up.

21 (ADJOURNMENT)

22 A. JAN: Okay. Sorry for the
23 delay. So the version was correct, but when
24 we -- when we use it from the PowerPoint,
25 sometimes it doesn't support the Inuktitut
26 language, so it kind of messed it up. Now

1 we're using the PDF, so it should be good.

2 Okay. So the topics I'm going to cover: A
3 little bit of background, then different types
4 of authorizations, the NWB's licencing process,
5 scope of the application, application
6 procedural history, next steps in the
7 application, and then we'll have questions --
8 time for questions and comments.

9 So a little bit of -- a little bit of
10 background. The Nunavut Water Board is an
11 institution of public government established
12 under Article 13 of the Nunavut Agreement. The
13 Nunavut Water Board has responsibilities and
14 powers of regulation, use, and management of
15 freshwater in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

16 The objective of the Nunavut Water Board is
17 to provide for the conservation and utilization
18 of waters in Nunavut, except in national park,
19 in a manner that will provide the optimum
20 benefit for those waters for Nunavut's
21 residents in particular and Canadians in
22 general.

23 So there are different types of
24 authorizations that the Nunavut Water Board
25 issued based on its mandate and the Nunavut
26 Waters Regulations. The Nunavut Water Board or

1 Nunavut Water Board or "NWB" may issue one of
2 the following authorizations for the use of
3 water and deposit of waste for undertakings in
4 Nunavut.

5 So any project requiring water use less
6 than 50 metre cube per day will be issued an
7 authorization without a licence. And then
8 there is a Type B water licence for
9 undertakings that proposes a use of water
10 between 50 metre cube and 299 metre cube per
11 day. And then Type A water licence, this
12 licence is issued for authorizations requiring
13 water use of more than 300 metre cube per day.

14 So here's a flow of different steps for the
15 Type A licencing process and specifically for
16 this application.

17 So NWB receives application and confirms
18 classification of undertaking and type of
19 licence as Type A licence. NWB conducts
20 concordance review. Applicant provides
21 additional information, if required. NWB then
22 issues notice of application and requests
23 technical review and submission of comments for
24 a minimum of 30 days.

25 During that period, parties submit written
26 representations. If required, Applicant

1 provides additional information or
2 clarification. The Nunavut Water Board holds
3 technical meeting and pre-hearing conference
4 and then issues the pre-hearing conference
5 decision report. If directed in the
6 pre-hearing conference decision, Applicant
7 provides additional information.

8 NWB issues notice of public hearing. A
9 minimum of 60 days' notice is provided for
10 that. During that time, parties can exchange
11 written interventions and also parties prepare
12 for the public hearing. And then the Nunavut
13 Water Board holds the public hearing, and
14 that's where we are at for this project.

15 After the public hearing, there are two
16 possible outcomes: The Nunavut Water Board
17 issues decision to approve of application and
18 provides a draft licence to the Minister of
19 Northern Affairs. The Minister either approves
20 the issuance of the licence, or the Minister
21 does not approve the issuance of the licence.

22 In the second case, the Nunavut Water Board
23 issues decision to not approve the application
24 with reasons to the Minister of Northern
25 Affairs. The Minister either approves the NWB
26 decision, or the Minister does not approve the

1 NWB decision.

2 Here's a brief scope of the renewal
3 application. The proposed term of licence for
4 renewal application is 15 years. The scope of
5 renewal application remains the same as that of
6 the current water licence. No changes are
7 being proposed in terms of scope, location,
8 water-use volumes, or deposit of waste. The
9 existing licence allows for the use of water
10 for domestic and industrial purposes at the
11 Milne Port site, mine site, Steensby Port site,
12 and the railway camps.

13 There are different phases to the project,
14 and water use during construction phase is
15 about 689,000 metre cube per year. Water use
16 during operations phase, 353,000 metre cube per
17 year. And water use authorized separately for
18 dust suppression, up to 1,500 metre cube per
19 day to a maximum of about 547,000 metre cube
20 per year.

21 The scope also includes Tote Road, which is
22 an all-weather road, to connect mine site to
23 the Milne Port site. Water management
24 infrastructure, including watercourse
25 crossings, flood-control infrastructure, and
26 other measures, including diversions,

1 alteration of flow or storage of -- storage by
2 means of dikes or dams, and related maintenance
3 activities are also covered under the scope.
4 Treatment facilities for sewage, wastewater and
5 oily stormwater, contaminated soil -- snow and
6 soil. Waste sorting, management, and disposal
7 facilities, including landfills and incinerator
8 systems. Management of waste rock stockpile,
9 ore stockpile, and related runoff management.
10 Storage and management of fuel and other
11 hazardous material. Ongoing decommissioning of
12 existing and historic camp infrastructure. And
13 other activities in support of engineering and
14 scientific studies for the Project and ongoing
15 maintenance to existing project infrastructure.

16 Speaking to the application procedural
17 history, on June 26, 2024, the NWB received the
18 renewal application and supporting
19 documentation from Baffinland.

20 On June 27, 2024, after initial review, the
21 NWB commenced the completeness check where
22 parties were invited to review the application
23 for completeness and to provide information
24 requests.

25 On July 26, 2024, submissions and
26 information requests were received from QIA,

1 DFO, and ECCC.

2 August 15th, Baffinland responded to
3 Intervenors' information requests on
4 completeness check.

5 August 20, 2024, QIA requested for an
6 extension to respond to Baffinland's response,
7 and the deadline was extended to September 3,
8 and second round of submission from QIA was
9 received on September 3, 2024.

10 September 9, Baffinland provided response
11 to the second round of submissions from QIA.

12 September 23, 2024, NWB gave notice of
13 application and invited parties to conduct a
14 full technical review and provide their
15 comments and recommendations by October 23.
16 Submissions were received from QIA, CIRNAC,
17 ECCC, and DFO by October 23, 2024.

18 November 12, 2024, Baffinland responded to
19 Intervenors' comments.

20 November 22, 2024, the NWB received
21 confirmation of participation in the meetings
22 and presentation documents from QIA, CIRNAC,
23 ECCC, DFO, and Baffinland.

24 November 26, 2024, NWB provided the final
25 agenda for the technical meeting and
26 pre-hearing conference and the community

1 session.

2 On December 3rd and 4th, 2024, the Nunavut
3 Water Board hosted the technical meeting and
4 pre-hearing conference in Pond Inlet. A
5 community session was also organized on the
6 evening of December 3rd, 2024.

7 December 19th, NWB issued the pre-hearing
8 conference decision for the file, and this
9 decision also included a list of commitments,
10 identifying different issues to be addressed at
11 the public hearing, and tentative time lines as
12 the application proceeded to the public
13 hearing.

14 On December 27, 2024, NWB published notice
15 of public hearing to be held in Pond Inlet in
16 the week of March 10, 2025. Intervenors filed
17 their final written submissions on February
18 11th, 2025.

19 Baffinland provided their response to final
20 written submissions on February 21st, 2025.

21 On March 6th, NWB provided the final agenda
22 for the public hearing and community session.

23 And March 11 and 12, NWB conducts the
24 public hearing and community session.

25 Next steps in the application process: So
26 the public hearing is chaired by the Board

1 panel and led by the Board's Chair. The NWB
2 panel is here to consider the evidence provided
3 during the hearing before issuing a decision in
4 about 30 to 45 days. The NWB will inform the
5 public of the Board's decision once rendered.

6 Intervenor participants participate at different steps
7 of the entire process. Baffinland, QIA,
8 CIRNAC, ECCC and DFO have all contributed to
9 the review process for this application. The
10 parties just mentioned have -- have
11 participated in formal and informal discussions
12 aimed at resolving issues related to the
13 application. All documents received have been
14 posted on the NWB's Public Registry.

15 About public participation in the NWB
16 licencing process. Public can participate in
17 the licencing process for the application right
18 from the -- from the start. Public can provide
19 the Board and the Applicant with valuable
20 technical information in the form of questions
21 and raising their concerns on relevant issues.
22 They can also participate in formal and
23 informal discussions aimed at resolving
24 relevant issues. Everyone is encouraged to
25 participate in the public hearing and the
26 community session. Interested persons can also

1 contact the NWB staff directly to provide
2 written comments or to review the documents
3 filed for the application. All documents
4 received so far have been posted on the NWB's
5 Public Registry.

6 Here's the contact information for the NWB
7 staff.

8 Thank you. We'll ...

9 S. AUTUT: You're done?

10 A. JAN: Yes.

11 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Abid.

12 So we now open it up to the public. Does
13 anyone have questions regarding the Board's
14 processing of the application that they would
15 like to direct to the technical staff before we
16 move on to the other presentations?

17 Okay. I'm not seeing hands, so we'll move
18 on.

19 We're now going to ask the Applicant to
20 make a brief presentation about the renewal
21 application that we're discussing at this
22 hearing.

23 So, Baffinland, please proceed with your
24 presentation.

25 T. MEADOWS: Mr. Chair -- thank you,
26 Mr. Chair and Ms. Chair. I just wanted to note

1 that I will be marking this as the next exhibit
2 in the public hearing, being the community
3 presentation that Baffinland is about to give,
4 and the parties have already been sworn in and
5 affirmed, so those are my procedural matters,
6 Mr. Chair.

7 Thank you.

8 EXHIBIT 4 - Baffinland Iron Mines
9 Corporation, Hard Copy, PowerPoint
10 Presentation 2AM-MRY1325 Type A Water
11 Licence Renewal NWB Public Hearing -
12 Community Meeting, March 11, 2025
13 (English and Inuktitut)

14 MEGAN LORD-HOYLE, PAUL QUASSA, JOE TIGULLARAQ,
15 MORGAN SCHAUERTE, Previously Sworn
16 LOU KAMERMANS, ELISABETH LUTHER, Previously
17 Affirmed

18 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Teresa.
19 Baffinland.

20 Presentation by Baffinland Iron Mines
21 Corporation

22 P. QUASSA: Good evening. My name is
23 Paul Quassa. I will be doing the presentation
24 this evening, and thank you for the Nunavut
25 Water Board hearing. I'm presenting this
26 hearing to the community. And thank you for

1 the Intervenor to be able to attend and also
2 the community of Pond Inlet being welcome.
3 Thank you for welcoming us into the community.

4 So this is our presentation, our vision.
5 From our vision, we understand that there's
6 good iron at Mary River, and we want to be
7 responsible to have responsible mining, and it
8 will be beneficial to Nunavut and also to
9 Canada and, of course, to Baffinland. And it
10 is important that things that are important to
11 us and our values and our mission and vision as
12 we believe in the Government of Nunavut, that
13 we need to be involved in being part of the
14 environment and to be in line with the
15 environment.

16 And with the continuing progress that
17 Baffinland is making, the -- the mining has to
18 get better, and we are working with people,
19 especially engaging with people and developing
20 our people, and for all of the things that we
21 are hearing, we try to make sure that we move
22 ahead with those things that -- and we've been
23 working here for a long time, so we have made
24 some changes and gone forward with our vision.

25 Continuing, we will be continuing to be
26 working with Inuit, and we want to hear what

1 the Inuit have to say about what changes or
2 implementations they want to bring.

3 The main gist of our presentation is put in
4 here about the overview of the Mary River
5 Project and also the Mary River water licence
6 renewal overview. We will be presenting on
7 that, as well, and also the -- the technical
8 side of the work that is being applied for.
9 These are the things that I will be discussing
10 this evening.

11 If you will have seen this map quite a
12 number of times, and this is an agreed area
13 that have been approved. Perhaps it's 160 --
14 160 kilometres from Pond Inlet. It's in three
15 parts. First it's at the Milne River Port --
16 Milne River -- Milne Inlet Port -- sorry --
17 also at the mine at Mary River and also an
18 approved area at Steensby -- the road and the
19 dock, that is, at Steensby.

20 We were at Mary River using trucks and also
21 taking ore from -- transporting it from Milne
22 Inlet, and we would collect it at the dockside,
23 and we would carry the ore by ships from July
24 every year. For the Steensby Inlet, we're just
25 starting the construction or planning the
26 construction for Steensby. In operating and

1 carrying the ore through Steensby and the --
2 the rail -- well, the train that we would be
3 using and the railroad that we would be using
4 to Steensby, and we believe that it will be
5 beneficial to us and to the Inuit and also to
6 Baffinland.

7 Since 2025, this year, we have had to make
8 some things to think about and to plan and
9 consider, considering the cost of ore, the
10 price of iron.

11 We -- we have agreed, and we have reduced
12 the -- the tonnage to 4.2 tonnes to a
13 reduced -- to that reduced level. Even so we
14 have that limit, we would still plan our
15 operations to commence at Steensby.

16 One of the things that we have gone forward
17 with, as we -- starting from -- maybe just to
18 make a little story here, looking at the
19 pictures here, this is the current state that
20 we are in now with the operations. We're using
21 the Tote Road with trucks, but now we are
22 planning to use a train system to go to
23 Steensby. We are still stockpiling iron ore
24 for shipping, and iron ore is shipped through a
25 ship from Milne Inlet.

26 When we're looking at this, how we have

1 gone from here to there, starting from 1962 and
2 in the 1960s, there was a discovery at Mary
3 River as a pure iron ore, so if we look at it
4 every year, there's a period here. It was at
5 1993 -- not 1999. It was located under the
6 agreement that it would be part of the land
7 claims, and it was Inuit-owned land, that --
8 that particular spot.

9 And after that, from 2013, the Impact
10 Benefits Agreement was signed with Qikiqtani
11 Inuit Association, and the first -- at that
12 time was the first water licence application
13 submitted and approved.

14 And, for example, in 2015, there was a 4.2
15 metric tonnes was first shipped ore to --
16 through Milne Inlet. Also in 2018, there was
17 an increase to 6 million tonnes. And also in
18 2020, there was a continue of production
19 increase proposal for 6 million tonnes.

20 So up to today, these are what we have gone
21 through to move forward. Now we're going to be
22 carrying 4.2 metric tonnes will be the amount
23 of ore that is being transported through Milne
24 Inlet in 2025.

25 So the discussion now here is about the
26 application for the water licence, and there

1 has been good presentation by the Water Board.
2 It's a Type A water licence application, and
3 this is the application that we have submitted
4 when we -- I mentioned earlier that we had the
5 first approval for water licence in 2015.
6 There was a bit of change on that. While it
7 was put for ten years' use, so in June 2024, we
8 submitted renewal application to renew this
9 licence that we currently have.

10 I hope that I'm understandable when I
11 speak.

12 So in 2015, we re-renewed our licence, and
13 there was a small change to that licence.
14 It -- it was approved for ten years. So
15 there's a small change.

16 In the application now, we're applying for
17 15 years, and the reason for this change in the
18 application: So for the changes in the water
19 relations, it would go to February 27, 2025,
20 and so the -- that application was submitted --
21 I mean was received then.

22 This presentation is about the -- how the
23 framework works and how the water licence will
24 be used. It would be for our trucks; however,
25 the trucks are managed or operated, and also
26 the water issues for staff, for the buildings,

1 for the cooks, any other uses water is used,
2 and also for dust and also to reduce dust and
3 also to reduce dust in the area for our roads.

4 Also with Steensby, renewing the licence
5 would also be made to apply for a Steensby.
6 For example, it is most utilized at Milne --
7 Milne Inlet for the Tote Road, going from Mary
8 River to Milne Inlet, and also the proposed
9 railway. If we were to start using it, we
10 would be using water there as well. So the
11 application has not changed since 2015.

12 If you see this map, and it shows where we
13 obtain our water, if you can see the map here,
14 and you can see it on the wall here, as well,
15 in the maps behind the walls there, and it
16 shows before Steensby was started, that these
17 areas, we would need to utilize water from
18 these areas for -- for our operations.

19 If you see this map here as well -- can you
20 see it, the map? -- before starting
21 construction at Steensby, there are various
22 things that we need to look at before we even
23 make it a site. How would it look, all the
24 engineering and the blueprints and all that.
25 We would need to have a good look before we
26 start it and while we are doing it. And we

1 know that some changes may have to be done, or
2 changes would have to be request, and I'm sure
3 that we will be -- you know, if there's
4 adaptive changes to be made, well, we'll hear
5 about them.

6 If you look at this picture, there's quite
7 a bit of people here. These are the monitoring
8 people, the environment team. They look at
9 water, and the water that they look at is quite
10 a large area. Some lakes have fish, especially
11 for that reason, and for those that are being
12 used by Inuit and those that have traditionally
13 Inuit use, and there's quite a bit of
14 monitoring staff there, environmental
15 technicians, and there's a lot of Inuit here
16 who are working in this site because we need
17 Inuit to be working here.

18 When we look at this, there are seven
19 staff -- seven Inuit that are employed by
20 Baffinland, and there's four more Inuit that
21 are hired by Qikiqtani Inuit Association to be
22 part of the -- the environmental staff, so
23 there's many monitoring groups and people
24 because it's a large endeavour and we need to
25 have good water and there's a river or a lake
26 or creek or a small creek, there's various

1 types of water sources there that, you know,
2 fish might be using, and it needs to be clean.

3 So these are the types of considerations
4 that we all have to look at, and perhaps there
5 would be some people showing how things should
6 look or what concerns might come up on these
7 areas, or maybe Inuit could come up with their
8 concerns or if we go to community visits and,
9 you know, they make comments.

10 And for the aquatic effects monitoring
11 program, we will always be monitoring because
12 monitoring is important for any type of impact
13 to the water, and we need to be quite
14 understanding of -- of how it is; and if we're
15 going to be mining, there may be impacts, and
16 we need to find if there are impacts, and
17 people do talk about them, potential impacts
18 and possible impacts and how our operations
19 need to be well-planned and well-coordinated to
20 ensure that we have a good operating system.

21 For example, when you see this picture,
22 there's various technical stuff that is being
23 happening here sometimes where there is deep
24 water or shallow water in the lakes and creeks
25 and rivers, various types of water.

26 And this water, freshwater, is good, and

1 it's very important to the community, and it's
2 mentioned when we go to communities, and we all
3 have to understand all of these considerations
4 and concerns from the communities. That's why
5 we come here and speak Inuktitut, so we can
6 clearly understand each other, what we're
7 talking about. And sometimes when we go to
8 communities, and we -- we try to go and speak
9 Inuktitut all the time when we go to the
10 communities, even though the technical staff
11 may be speaking English, but they're technical
12 staff.

13 And for the communities to understand
14 well -- for us to understand them well,
15 sometimes -- there are seven communities,
16 especially the five that we are considering
17 now, and there are community staff that are
18 working on Inuit Knowledge, and they are
19 helping us, and we need to understand, as well,
20 what our traditional Inuit Knowledge.

21 And also for the traditional Inuit
22 language, there have been funding given to
23 sources like Inuit -- Qikiqtani Inuit
24 Association to obtain more information, and
25 it's called Inuit stewardship program, and it's
26 for Inuit, from 2020, through Qikiqtani Inuit

1 Association. We help them to make sure that
2 particular part is operating well.

3 But up to today, we heard a little bit that
4 there are implementations being put in place
5 for the Inuit stewardship program and that
6 we're looking forward into the future. We call
7 it Inuit stewardship plan.

8 Sorry. I don't know how to say this in
9 Inuktitut. I'm going to be talking about it.

10 When I mention "Inuit stewardship", I speak
11 it in English because it's part of trying to
12 get people involved.

13 Continuing, for technical submissions, one
14 of the things are tough, I guess, they're
15 dealing with things, various things that we are
16 working together, that we are understanding
17 each other well, and we know that when we have
18 these working relationships with various
19 stakeholders and Intervenors, there are some
20 things that we really need to commit to, and we
21 hear from communities about these kind of
22 commitments and what's being done and carried
23 forward.

24 For -- since February 27, 2025, all the new
25 commitments that we have submitted, we gave
26 them to these final submissions. We did give

1 them in December 2024, and we are working
2 together various -- with various Intervenors
3 and various people with Qikiqtani Inuit
4 Association, Hunters & Trappers Organizations,
5 and the communities and others.

6 So up to today, we have things that show us
7 that we have to be very well-managed on what
8 things we are dealing with. Every day, before
9 the six months is up, we have to always renew
10 what our planning is for the management plans,
11 and there are various things that we have to
12 change. If -- if you can understand me, all of
13 these management plans have to be agreed to,
14 and it's changing and updating.

15 And for the licence, for the water licence,
16 when we're looking at it, some regulations or
17 some things that -- conditions and other things
18 have -- sometimes have to be renewed or
19 changed.

20 For Steensby's component -- and we're
21 looking forward into the future. That's what
22 it seems to be like. I think we understand
23 when we go to the communities, up to today what
24 we're mining right now is Deposit 1, but
25 there's more deposits. Perhaps going through
26 Steensby would give us more of a future

1 perspective and make us go further.

2 So when we're looking at how the management
3 and the operation goes, and there are various
4 things that we have to follow. When we were
5 approval -- various approvals were done, and
6 there were terms and conditions that were
7 placed on this project for Steensby when we had
8 the project certificate for that, so we're
9 thankful that we work with various
10 stakeholders, and we want to be ensure and
11 clear to them that we will follow the
12 conditions that will be given to us, and we
13 want to be transparent in making sure that they
14 see that we are following the conditions that
15 we -- that were given to us. So these are the
16 types of things that we would be doing.

17 In 2021, around Steensby, there was some
18 work done scientifically, and we also have
19 committed that all of these studies will be
20 completed. Once the Steensby project goes,
21 other monitoring items will be done that would
22 be important to the project.

23 Going back to Mary River, I wanted to
24 clarify what we are dealing with right now. In
25 the Mary River area, it's more sandy. It's
26 mostly sand in that area. From Milne Inlet to

1 Mary River, it's mostly sand. There's some
2 lakes, small lakes, and the sand is going into
3 the lakes, as well, because the -- the land is
4 changing, and once the land is changing, it --
5 it's always been like that. Even when we were
6 not there, the land is always changing.

7 We're trying our best in our project not to
8 put or let things go into the lakes because as
9 I said, it's kind of sandy over there, so we
10 don't want any kind of contaminants or anything
11 to go into the lakes, so we're trying to
12 prevent our work be -- going into the lakes;
13 and we have various discussions and, you know,
14 questions and how to answer those questions,
15 how to do this and also when we get into the
16 construction of the Steensby railway [sic] and
17 railway.

18 So thinking of this and being mindful of
19 Inuit Knowledge about the land, the water, and
20 for this reason, we -- we don't want to damage
21 or to contaminate what is going to be used --
22 continually used by Inuit, and -- and the
23 project certificate that we have received and
24 the Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement and the
25 water licence and the water compensation
26 agreement. There's also an agreement within

1 that pertaining to water talks about not -- not
2 contaminating the water or damaging the water.

3 I just want to state further that
4 Baffinland wants to work with Inuit and
5 communities and are committed to continuing to
6 work while we are going forward with these
7 things, and we're hearing from communities that
8 there are some changes that -- if there's some
9 changes we need to do because what we hear from
10 communities is very helpful to our operations.
11 And for the Nunavut Water Board, while they're
12 reviewing the application, what we hear during
13 this process will be helpful to us.

14 And, lastly, there's an agreement -- a
15 safety measures agreement so that we could work
16 closely together. When -- when I say when we
17 work together, I mean working together with
18 hunters and trappers, with communities, with
19 Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and this is sort
20 of a security kind of thing between the parties
21 to make sure and has to be clarified properly
22 how the operations will be and what we hear and
23 what we hear from communities and people, so
24 these are the types of discussions we would
25 have, and if there's questions, we would be
26 happy to answer them, whoever's here in this --

1 in this meeting.

2 Thank you, Chairperson.

3 S. AUTUT: So we now open it up to
4 questions or comments from the public for
5 Baffinland. If anybody has questions or
6 comments, please come to the mic.

7 Questions for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
8 by Community Representatives

9 S. AUTUT: If I could ask you just
10 to state your name, please.

11 LLOYD IDLOUT: Qujannamiik. Lloyd
12 Idlout. 15 years, I think 15 years is too long
13 for the review process. Maybe we can shorten
14 it from 15 years until the licence can be
15 renewed again because of the fact that the five
16 communities will be impacted. Maybe
17 technically speaking, which, like -- like, we
18 are -- some of us are representatives from
19 HTOs. Maybe the fact that we didn't have all
20 the facts exactly how to approach it, and so
21 how can we define a technical? So I believe
22 the five impacted communities, you'll get
23 additional information, and I'm very glad that
24 Baffinland and QIA are able to visit the
25 communities, and also Environment Canada,
26 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, but our voices

1 seem to fall on deaf ears, even though we have
2 been impacted the most and that which we will
3 be impacted. Our concerns seem to fall on deaf
4 ears.

5 I mean, Baffinland visits their
6 communities, and they either meet with the HTOs
7 or the Hamlet councils, or also if they go to
8 the communities to get feedback, and whenever
9 we try to express our concerns for the fact
10 that we are being impacted, even though we try
11 to pass them on, we find some obstacles as a
12 result.

13 For example, they will usually say that it
14 has already been approved, so that is how
15 sometimes we find it very difficult, those of
16 us who are impacted, the Indigenous people.

17 Like I was mentioning previously, like,
18 they will be careful in the conduct, monitoring
19 properly, and yet that's the -- if that's the
20 case, then maybe we can -- maybe the water
21 licence can be reviewed even before 15 years
22 are up, and that way whenever us -- we -- as
23 Indigenous people, when we try to come up with
24 solutions. So I believe that 15 years is too
25 long for review, and I'm --

26 Like, you will be making a decision, and

1 the request by Baffinland and those people who
2 will be making decisions to either approve it
3 or not, but we hope, like -- like, some of you
4 will go and -- go on a site visit and inspect
5 the lakes where there are fish habitat, and
6 hopefully you, too, would also see it firsthand
7 and go to Steensby Inlet. Maybe DFO,
8 Environment Canada and Climate Change Canada,
9 Qikiqtani Inuit Association, like, if you have
10 not already seen Steensby Inlet, I sincerely
11 hope that you go on a site visit because some
12 of us have seen the area.

13 Like, I used to see what Inuit have
14 observed, and that way you will be able to make
15 the right decision, like -- and that you will
16 able to determine how, like, we, as Indigenous
17 people, have stated how much we have been
18 impacted, and I believe that 15 years is too
19 long as requested by Baffinland for a review.

20 So, like, whenever we try to make
21 suggestions, Baffinland always say that the
22 project has already been approved, so I believe
23 that 15 years is too long for -- to conduct a
24 review, additional review.

25 I tried to explain very clearly, and I have
26 additional comments, but it's not easy as

1 Inuit. We try to defend the community issues,
2 and when we're going to be impacted of such
3 magnitude, that is not a rest all [phonetic],
4 but here we are. We have to go through it.
5 Sometimes we go through difficult periods in
6 that regard, so I wish that they -- they can --
7 little pauses can take a bit longer to ensure
8 that all the mitigation issues and baseline
9 studies have been conducted, and that way we
10 can have adequate information.

11 I can't describe or define baseline in
12 Inuktitut. I apologize, so -- in the
13 activities that will be going on at Steensby
14 Inlet, right now, we're talking about water
15 issues and which we will -- all the creeks and
16 fish habitats would be impacted, and right now,
17 we need to address or make what the scope will
18 be.

19 And also iron ore dust has been mentioned,
20 and whenever there's a blizzard outside, the
21 dust has been -- the dust from the mine has
22 reached our area. And also especially during
23 the springtime when the snow is thawing, it's
24 very -- it's very noticeable.

25 And also near the Igloolik area, the --
26 like, when you spot a seal hole, you see some

1 contaminated areas from iron ore dust.

2 And also when there's foul weather, the
3 dust tends to be spread out everywhere. It's
4 not limited -- the dust is not limited to the
5 project area only.

6 Yes, also, if possible, if you go on site
7 visit to Steensby -- Steensby Inlet, so those
8 of you who will be making a decision, either
9 QIA or agencies such as DFO, can go on site
10 visit before the project commences or even
11 before you start making decisions, so I prefer
12 you that go on a site visit.

13 And also, like, can I make a request? I --
14 I want to be informed about what you heard, any
15 comments you heard or any recommendations, and
16 hopefully the public can also -- can make a
17 request to access what you have heard. Do --
18 am I making sense? So that's my request. I
19 want -- is it possible for us to get a copy of
20 the recommendations or comments you heard?

21 S. AUTUT: Okay. Thank you.

22 So through the interpretation, the question
23 is are you able to receive a copy of the
24 Board's decision, the recommendations that come
25 from the Board's decision or the
26 recommendations that come from any site visits?

1 LLOYD IDLOUT: Qujannamiik. I'm
2 requesting if you can -- if we cannot receive a
3 letter from Nunavut Water Board from what you
4 heard from the Elders, the community, from
5 Baffinland, or from the other people who were
6 here. I -- if I may, I'm requesting a letter
7 of what you heard from this hearing.

8 S. AUTUT: Okay. Thank you for that
9 clarification.

10 LLOYD IDLOUT: Before -- before -- at
11 least maybe before any decisions or plan
12 decisions are made.

13 S. AUTUT: Thank you for that
14 clarification.

15 So Julie is taking notes word for word, so
16 every comment, every word that has been said at
17 this proceeding is being documented, and it'll
18 come out in the form of a transcript to help
19 the Board with its decision-making process, and
20 that document is publicly available, once
21 received by the Board. So we can ensure that
22 you receive a copy of that before. It'll be
23 used in the decision-making process but will be
24 available for you to review, should you wish.

25 LLOYD IDLOUT: Okay.

26 S. AUTUT: The record will be closed

1 hopefully tomorrow with the discussions that
2 are happening here, so no additional comments
3 can be used in the decision-making process, but
4 you will have a copy of that transcript for
5 your records.

6 LLOYD IDLOUT: Okay. Thank you.

7 If it -- if it wasn't evident, the people
8 impact -- that will be impacted or are already
9 impacted are struggling to voice their
10 concerns. Even with QIA, Baffinland doing
11 community engagements, we -- we are struggling
12 to voice our concerns/questions technically,
13 if -- if that wasn't evident. If there could
14 be more time for us to get help technically to
15 voice our concerns and comments or suggestions.
16 I strongly advise that maybe if any -- if any
17 further decision's going to be made, I feel
18 more -- I feel that maybe if we can have more
19 engagement maybe with the Water Board.

20 Even with QIA, Baffinland engagements,
21 in -- we don't -- like, there are comments and
22 concerns, or there was some resolved and not
23 some resolved that were a part. There was a
24 number of them, and I feel that we didn't -- we
25 don't know. They were just numbers, and we
26 didn't see or hear what those comments might

1 have been. So if any -- everybody can be a
2 little bit more patient with us, may -- us
3 trying to comment technically or respond
4 technically, that would be very nice or
5 helpful, maybe to help voice our concerns and
6 maybe to reduce the impacts that are to come.

7 Qujannamik.

8 S. AUTUT: Thank you. Thank you for
9 your comments. I'm going to ask Baffinland if
10 they wish to respond to what has been heard.

11 M. LORD-HOYLE: Megan Lord-Hoyle.

12 Qujannamik for the -- the comments and
13 the -- the concerns that you've raised. We --
14 we certainly -- we heard a number of comments
15 or concerns that you just raised.

16 (1) the length of the water licence renewal
17 process. I think in this case, Baffinland
18 feels strongly that this is an appropriate time
19 frame for a technical licence to be issued.
20 There has been an extensive process run by the
21 Nunavut Water Board to date that included
22 technical meetings with public components
23 associated with it and opportunities to provide
24 information to the Board.

25 In terms of Baffinland's own engagement,
26 I'll speak to that. I think what -- I think

1 what I'd like to most say is the voices of
2 Inuit, when we come to the communities, do make
3 a difference in our project. We have multiple
4 examples of where the project has changed or
5 we've adapted the operation in direct response
6 from what we're hearing when we come to the
7 communities.

8 I used an example earlier today for those
9 who were in the room. For the Steensby
10 project, before we've gone into operation, the
11 original shipping route was changed as a direct
12 result of hearing from Inuit where we could
13 move the shipping route to that would minimize
14 impact on walrus and minimize the impact of
15 Inuit when they're hunting walrus. That change
16 has now been adopted as a term and condition in
17 our project certificate.

18 Other things that we've done in the
19 existing operations is we've changed our
20 shipping operations extensively in response to
21 Inuit concerns. We've adopted slower shipping
22 speeds. We've put in place convoys, which
23 means that multiple ships travel together to
24 reduce the sound field of those ships while
25 they're moving. We've put restrictions on the
26 total number of ships that come into the area

1 at any one time. We've adopted an independent
2 dust audit committee that's made up of Inuit
3 who are providing us feedback and
4 recommendations on what we can do better to
5 minimize dust. We have broadened the inclusion
6 of Inuit in our environmental working groups to
7 include all communities.

8 So I understand that it is very difficult.
9 When we come to the communities, we're here on
10 certain days, on certain times, and not
11 everyone may feel that they've heard from us or
12 that they've been able to speak to us, but we
13 are here consistently and looking for the views
14 of the community that come and independent
15 conversations that come through motions from
16 your Hunters & Trappers Organizations or your
17 Hamlets through processes like this. We are
18 listening to those views and adapting our
19 operations.

20 We also work very closely with the
21 Qikiqtani Inuit Association who represents the
22 communities of the North Baffin region and is
23 another voice and view for your communities
24 when it comes to the operations of the Mary
25 River Project.

26 So I appreciate you sharing your concerns,

1 and we are working very hard to be able to be
2 in your communities more often. We have much
3 more staff now in each of your communities than
4 we did five years ago, even, and those are also
5 another avenue for you to be able to speak
6 directly to Baffinland, and those views come
7 back to a decision-making table.

8 So I don't know if I can fully or
9 adequately satisfy your concerns or comments,
10 but I want you to know that we are definitely
11 listening, and we do take the considerations
12 and views of Inuit very seriously.

13 Qujannamiik.

14 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Megan. I
15 would also ask the Qikiqtani Inuit Association,
16 when it's your opportunity to make
17 presentation, to give consideration to how you
18 may address some of the concerns, as well, if
19 at all, through the various programs and
20 monitoring that you're looking towards.

21 Do we have any other questions or comments
22 for Baffinland? Please. Reminder to state
23 your name, please, for the record.

24 NYSANA QILLAQ: My question is to
25 Baffinland. Like, when you start the mining
26 process, are you aware how many lakes had char

1 and do they -- if you make comparison as to how
2 many lakes have char in comparison to the time
3 when you first started mining? Like, have
4 there been impact on fish? Have there been
5 less fish as a result since 2012? Based on
6 your observations have the lakes -- like, and
7 also if you start going through Steensby Inlet
8 using a train, and then there you are going to
9 be shipping 4.2 metric tonnes is now your
10 approved shipment of ore, so would that
11 increase once you start using the railway
12 station from -- through Steensby Inlet?

13 And also the fact that the train will be
14 traversing through areas where there are char
15 and caribou, so can you determine what kind of
16 impacts have there been to char which is
17 already in the lakes before the mining project
18 started and in comparison to today?

19 S. AUTUT: Thank you for those
20 questions.

21 Baffinland.

22 L. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans,
23 Baffinland.

24 Thank you for that question, and I have
25 responses to -- we recorded about three
26 questions there.

1 First, just monitoring for char in general
2 around the project, we don't specifically
3 monitor for char abundance, we don't track
4 population levels, but we do sample char each
5 year as part of our monitoring programs, and
6 through that program, we have not identified
7 any issues, you know, catching the char we need
8 year-over-year, so in that sense, we find that
9 the population of char in the areas we sample
10 is stable.

11 When you asked about, you know, have char,
12 you know, disappeared from any lakes where we
13 had previously seen them or streams, that's not
14 the case. We've actually only added to the
15 number of fish-bearing streams that we were
16 aware of in the project area.

17 Something we do monitor for, and -- and we
18 do it specifically to address Inuit concerns,
19 is monitoring for health in river systems that
20 are in the Milne Inlet area, but they're not
21 within the boundary of where we expected to see
22 project effects around Milne Port.

23 So this monitoring happens in collaboration
24 with the Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers
25 Organization, and we sample char in the
26 Ikaluit, Qurluktuk, and Tugaat river systems,

1 and that monitoring has shown that there's been
2 no change in -- in fish health and in the
3 health of fish for consumption when we compared
4 our samples with samples that the Department of
5 Fisheries and Oceans had collected in the past.

6 And on your last question about, you know,
7 the difference between the use of trains and
8 trucks for hauling ore, we see the switch to
9 trains as -- as a -- you know, a big
10 efficiency, and not just from an operations
11 standpoint, but there's a lot of environmental
12 benefits to it, as well, and one of those is
13 when you look at the frequency that trucks run
14 on the Tote Road today, and we're only hauling
15 4.2 million tonnes of ore, there's a truck
16 passing by any single point on that road every
17 two to five minutes.

18 With Steensby, we anticipate 13 one-way
19 trips a day, and so that's roughly one -- you
20 know, one time every two hours someone along
21 that line may see the -- the trains pass. So
22 the level of disturbance to wildlife, to -- to
23 hunters in the area is greatly reduced when we
24 switch to rail. I hope that helps.

25 Oh, and just to clarify, we were asked
26 about how much ore we would plan to transport

1 under Steensby. We're looking at approximately
2 22 million tonnes per year to transport along
3 the railway and out of Steensby Port.

4 Thank you.

5 S. AUTUT: Thank you. Any other
6 questions?

7 NYSANA QILLAQ: Nysana Qillaq. Let me --
8 let me clarify that. You ship 4.2 or 6 million
9 tonnes on a ship. When you move to Steensby,
10 how -- how big are you going to ship out in
11 ore. How -- how big was my question?

12 Thank you.

13 S. AUTUT: Baffinland.

14 L. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans,
15 Baffinland.

16 Thanks for that follow-up. So on -- on the
17 shipping end of it, we are still refining our
18 plans there. When the project was initially
19 approved, we were approved for year-round
20 shipping and up to 242 transits to Steensby a
21 year. We're still looking at what's the most
22 feasible to start the operation, and so that
23 could be -- that means looking at the length of
24 the shipping season as well as the number of
25 vessels that we'll need; but what I can say is
26 the size of vessels is -- you know, at the

1 upper range, we're looking at having
2 cape-sized, so around 200,000 deadweight
3 tonnes, and that's the same size as the
4 cape-sized vessels that have come to Milne Port
5 in the last few years.

6 And, obviously, the -- there's a -- there's
7 a benefit to the use of larger vessels in the
8 north. It allows you to -- to carry more ore,
9 and we've studied their -- their effects in --
10 in Milne Inlet, and we'll do the same for, you
11 know, our entire shipping operation in the
12 south as well.

13 Thank you.

14 S. AUTUT: Thank you.

15 Sir, yeah, thank you.

16 ABRAHAM QAMMANIQ: Okay. Thank you.

17 Abraham Qammaniq, Sanirajak HTA.

18 Yeah, I just want to comment, like,
19 building the railway, completing the railway
20 will be a long time coming, and even though the
21 wheels of the train will produce dust, but,
22 like -- like, I know for a fact that no matter
23 how big or large the dust will be, it will
24 continue to be dispersed everywhere. I want
25 the trollies of the train to have a covering to
26 reduce dust emissions.

1 And also in the north, the Arctic Ocean,
2 like, nobody has ever monitored the bottom of
3 the ocean floor. I want to ask Baffinland have
4 you done any monitoring on the shipping
5 corridor to Steensby Inlet? Because it's very
6 close to the walrus hunting area for the people
7 of Igloolik and Sanirajak.

8 And also I have heard from a number of
9 hunters that there are some very shallow areas
10 in that area, and also, like, narwhal, they
11 used to travel -- migrate from near the
12 Kimmirut area to the Foxe Basin area, and some
13 of them got stranded because -- some of you,
14 have you measured how deep the waters are in
15 the Steensby Inlet area?

16 And also, like, initially, you got approved
17 to have a year-round shipping. When you first
18 started out, you mentioned that you want to
19 conduct an early revenue phase, and that is how
20 you ship ore through Milne Inlet, and we have
21 heard -- we understand there are a lot of
22 impacts we have heard of many impacts done to
23 the people of Pond Inlet, and there are a lot
24 of problems with which arose, even though you
25 have been approved to conduct the
26 Certificate 005 was approved. Like, you know,

1 it is -- like, the -- the area near Steensby
2 Inlet, they have seals and also marine mammals,
3 and if you're going to be travelling --
4 shipping ore year-round, then you have to use
5 icebreakers.

6 And also the walrus hunting season is
7 usually around July, so there's some of these
8 issues. And also it will be my understanding,
9 like -- like, if you travel past Salliit or
10 Coral Harbour, like, there are some -- probably
11 some shallow areas. And also after we have
12 been using that, we will probably be informed
13 that because we are spending so much money, and
14 some of us don't want people from Igloolik and
15 Sanirajak, like, they -- we visit each other's
16 communities. And also we went to Naujaat last
17 fall. There are many concerns about that.
18 And, like, if there are some mitigation issues,
19 like, if it can have a negative impact, then
20 they can listen to our concerns and stop
21 operation, and it is repeated that the project
22 with Steensby Inlet will cost in excess of
23 \$13 billion. Maybe after we express our
24 concern, then we will be able to not pay. It
25 will be too expensive to ship out of Steensby
26 Inlet. Thank you for hearing my comments.

1 S. AUTUT: Megan, would you like the
2 time during the break to respond?

3 L. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans,
4 Baffinland.

5 So I captured your questions and comments
6 related to trucks or the train cars and
7 coverings, monitoring over the shipping lane,
8 the depth of waters, and listening to and
9 responding to the community, so I'll run
10 through those and then get us into a break.

11 So Megan spoke about this earlier, but the
12 dust that we've seen created along the Tote
13 Road has been monitored by us for, you know,
14 ten years now, and we've also brought in
15 third-party auditors, and we've created this
16 dust committee. And what we -- we understand
17 is that the -- the dust that comes from the
18 trucks along the Tote Road is because the
19 rubber on these huge tires is hitting the road,
20 and that -- that road material becomes dust as
21 it's kicked up, and it's not coming from --
22 from the trucks themselves.

23 And we know that because we sample the dust
24 that we find along the Tote Road, and it
25 matches the composition of the Tote Road. It
26 doesn't match what's in the iron ore in the

1 trucks, and we -- we know the difference.

2 So with the railway, the benefit there for
3 dust is it's steel-on-steel. The steel wheels
4 on the locomotives and -- and the cars is going
5 to be on steel rails, so there's no opportunity
6 for that to kick up dust or create dust.

7 And we're really confident, because of the
8 monitoring -- the testing we've done along the
9 Tote Road, that we won't see dust come out of
10 those -- those train cars, either, but
11 that's -- that's our prediction.

12 We will monitor for that, and we will have
13 it in our plans that if we do find that dust is
14 coming off of those ore cars along the railway,
15 one of the options will be to -- to cover those
16 cars or to cover the ore so there's no dust
17 created.

18 In terms of monitoring over the shipping
19 route, so we did -- ran aerial surveys in 2006,
20 2007, and 2008 that covered the entire shipping
21 lane in Nunavut waters, so - so over a thousand
22 nautical miles. More recently in 2021 and in
23 2023 -- or 2024 -- apologies -- we also ran
24 additional aerial surveys specifically to look
25 for ringed seal birth lairs in the Steensby
26 Port area and in a bay further west, in Foxe

1 Basin, and so we'll use that as a reference
2 site; and in the future when we start shipping
3 and building Steensby Port, we can compare the
4 two areas, and that will tell us if we're
5 having a potential effect on -- on the
6 distribution of seal around the port area and
7 in Steensby Inlet.

8 We have more studies planned like that, and
9 we'll be engaging with the communities prior to
10 each field season, and we'll continue involving
11 Inuit from the local communities in those
12 programs.

13 We're also very concerned about the depth
14 of waters, especially our shipping department,
15 so we've been working with private contractors
16 to develop new bathymetry surveys, and we've
17 done work for all the approaches to Steensby
18 Port to find the best way for our vessels to
19 get there, the safest way. And we're also
20 working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and
21 the Canadian Hydrographic Service to look at
22 the entire shipping route in Nunavut waters and
23 fill any gaps where we don't have that detailed
24 bathymetry. And this will be good for us, but
25 that data will all be publicly available, and
26 the hydrographic society will actually publish

1 maps that anybody who -- who uses boats in the
2 area can access and use and will generally make
3 shipping and -- and, you know, use for -- for
4 public recreation vehicles for hunters safer.

5 The last thing is whether we're looking for
6 an approval, we are always going to be
7 monitoring and reporting on our project, and
8 the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut
9 Water Board, they have very public processes to
10 facilitate reviews of our reports, and that,
11 you know, is just one way that we get
12 information.

13 We also have our -- our direct in-community
14 engagements where community members can tell us
15 directly what their concerns are, and we can
16 respond in realtime, or we can take those
17 concerns, you know, back to the office and --
18 and think about how to address them, and -- and
19 then go back to the community.

20 Either way, we have a strict adaptive
21 management plan and framework that sets out
22 specific criteria and levels that if our
23 monitoring programs show we're crossing or if
24 community members are -- are telling us they
25 have concerns, and, you know, they have -- you
26 know, we -- we come into Pond sometimes, and

1 people provide us pictures of something, and we
2 can respond and tell them what we think this
3 is, or we go back to the office and talk to a
4 department and respond to it; but we treat that
5 community information as -- as strongly, if not
6 stronger, than we treat our monitoring programs
7 and -- and when they show us something is
8 becoming a concern.

9 But in either case, we're committed to
10 acknowledging that, responding to it, and
11 reporting back to you in the communities, and
12 that will always exist whether we're in a
13 permitting process or not. It's -- it's just
14 our everyday job.

15 So I hope that helps, and I hope everyone
16 enjoys the break.

17 S. AUTUT: Thanks, Lou.

18 Okay. So we'll take a -- let's take ten
19 minutes, and we'll come back to any additional
20 questions that the community reps might have.

21 (ADJOURNMENT)

22 S. AUTUT: Thank you for coming back
23 in a timely manner.

24 So in the interest of time, I'd like to
25 remind everyone that the Water Board is here
26 under its mandate to discuss freshwater and

1 waste matters, so if we could focus our
2 questions on the Board's mandate and the topics
3 of this licence, we can help move the
4 presentations along. So I open the floor again
5 to the public, if there are any additional
6 questions of Baffinland.

7 So I'm not seeing any hands at this point,
8 so I'd like to ask the Qikiqtani Inuit
9 Association to come forward, please, and give
10 your presentation.

11 Oh, hang on, Jared. Just one moment.

12 Did I see a hand? If you'd like to come up
13 to the mic, please.

14 BILLY MERKOSAK: Billy Merkosak from Pond
15 Inlet. I'm a hunter, and I used to be a member
16 of the hunters organization.

17 For dust, I have been a member of the dust
18 committee, and with an organization in
19 Pond Inlet, I was a committee member as well.

20 In regards to the water, about freshwater,
21 and lakes and stuff, I want to understand the
22 lakes with fish on them. My question's around
23 Pond Inlet area, the lakes that are on -- close
24 to these Ikaluit, Qurluktuk and Tugaat. Those
25 lakes are the main lakes that have fish --
26 char -- and whether there have been good

1 studies on those three lakes was my question.

2 Recently, I -- we know that there are
3 issues that are coming up about water,
4 freshwater, especially the freshwater lakes
5 that have fish, because of the amount of dust,
6 the iron ore dust, because we know today, even
7 in parts of the lake where we used to go
8 fishing for netting the fish, the name of the
9 lake, Kuluktoo, we did the study there the year
10 -- the year before last. It had very big
11 reduction of fish.

12 In one week of netting -- we had three nets
13 in one week, and there were two separate lakes
14 in that area, the -- the one closer to the
15 ocean and the one further. We only caught
16 eight fish in all that week, and these fish,
17 from what we understand from them, they had
18 liver issues. They had too many bugs in their
19 stomach, and there was too much iron or
20 minerals in their system, and they are affected
21 that way. This is what we understood when we
22 were on the dust committee.

23 We know that when we go hunting around
24 here, we avoid getting water from the snow that
25 is around the mine area because it's not clean.
26 They had a test while we're having the dust

1 committee. They took the samples. We get
2 1 litre water from the stores. If our body has
3 minerals, it would be good enough. If we're
4 going to have too much minerals, if we do it
5 for ten times, it would be too much; but if you
6 test it on the waters around the creeks and the
7 rivers, it's ten times that much. So we're
8 asking for cleaning around this area.

9 But people moved away. Now they're all
10 concentrating on transporting ore on the other
11 side. There should be monitoring done in this
12 area, as well, for these lakes that are in this
13 area and how they are changing.

14 For the Inuit stewardship program, I am
15 encouraging them that they should do more
16 research that with the mineral, the iron, where
17 it's going, how it's affecting our environment
18 and our wildlife. I'm pushing them to do more
19 study in this area. I wish this would happen
20 before we get too much damage to our
21 environment.

22 Thank you.

23 S. AUTUT: Thanks, Billy.

24 L. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans,
25 Baffinland.

26 Thank you for those questions, and I talked

1 about it a little bit earlier, but we are
2 continuing with that monitoring program in
3 collaboration with the Mittimatalik Hunters &
4 Trappers Organization, and that's looking at
5 the Tugaat, Qurluktuk, and Ikaluit river
6 systems and lakes from a fish-health
7 perspective, and what we've found is that the
8 health of the fish that we've caught, the
9 quality of the fish and through tissue
10 sampling, is the same as it was when Fisheries
11 and Oceans had done similar studies in the
12 past. So we're not seeing any change in that
13 since the project started.

14 We're committed to that program, and that
15 program will continue to run, and, you know,
16 how it's run, we'll -- we'll be open to
17 discussion year-over-year with the Mittimatalik
18 Hunters & Trappers Organization.

19 We actually funded the Mittimatalik
20 Hunters & Trappers Organization in 2019 to run
21 their own community-based study of char in --
22 in those areas, and, you know, we -- we
23 continue to think it's a perfect program
24 that -- that could really be community-led.

25 So we agree monitoring should happen in
26 that area, it does, and we're committed to it

1 continuing in the future.

2 The other thing is we work with a company
3 called Intrinsic, and they've presented to the
4 dust audit committee before. They specialize,
5 and -- and the work they do for us specifically
6 is looking at the -- the quality of country
7 foods. They do, you know, what -- what they've
8 done for us is country food risk assessments,
9 and it looks at how, you know, the dust that
10 comes from the project could be collected on
11 the land, could fall on the soil, could fall on
12 vegetation, be consumed by wildlife, and -- and
13 then how that could interact with hunters and
14 land-users that eventually harvest those
15 animals or pick those berries. This includes
16 looking at ptarmigan and -- and caribou and
17 also Arctic char.

18 So what they've come up with every time
19 we've had them conduct one of these studies is
20 that the project is not changing the risk of
21 consuming country foods or -- or consuming
22 specific organs, that essentially the project
23 is not adding any additional risk to that
24 activity.

25 So we have a report that was developed, you
26 know, as recent as last year, and that's what

1 was presented to the dust audit committee, and
2 that's very typical of the studies we carry out
3 on a regular basis to -- to ensure the safety
4 of country food for -- for land-users in the
5 area. So, again, that will continue on for the
6 life of the project.

7 Just one last item. You know, you
8 mentioned when you're in the project area, you
9 know, you avoid consuming the snow, but what
10 our studies have found and what Intrinsic has
11 found is that the snow water is safe to use
12 for -- for tea and for drinking-water purposes,
13 again, with the caveat or, you know, the -- the
14 caution that it's -- the project hasn't changed
15 the risks of consuming untreated water.
16 It's -- it's the same as it was before the
17 project as it was after the project was
18 constructed.

19 Thank you.

20 S. AUTUT: Thank you.

21 Any further comments or questions for
22 Baffinland?

23 Please.

24 CALEB SANGOYA: I don't have a question,
25 but I want to remind the Chairperson and the
26 Water Board and also, like, the -- right now,

1 they're more concerned about the lakes and the
2 rivers and so the -- so in the reports that we
3 have heard from Baffinland, the lakes and river
4 systems is basically what we came to discuss,
5 but if we were to talk about ocean water, then
6 we would be discussing indefinitely up to the
7 year 2026.

8 You, Chairperson, I want you to be aware,
9 like, we're not here to discuss marine water.
10 And also, like, right now, we're sidetracking,
11 and the fact that a man would have to traverse
12 through the approved routes, either be it on
13 terrestrial or on the marine environment, then
14 we can talk about marine waters, and we can
15 discuss it until the year 2026, and if the
16 certificate -- the renewal certificate were to
17 be approved, only QIA can also send some
18 regulation to be followed. I just want to
19 clarify that.

20 Thank you.

21 S. AUTUT: Thank you.

22 Any further questions or comments? If not,
23 I invite the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to
24 come up and present.

25 Teresa, do we have any procedural matters?

26 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the
2 Nunavut Water Board. So I have the
3 presentation material for the community session
4 provided by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association,
5 and I will mark that as the next exhibit in the
6 public hearing, and those are my procedural
7 matters.

8 Thank you.

9 EXHIBIT 5 - Qikiqtani Inuit
10 Association, Hard Copy, PowerPoint
11 Presentation, Nunavut Water Board
12 Public Hearing, Baffinland Iron Mines
13 Corporation Application for Renewal
14 Water Licence No: 2AM-MRY1325, March
15 11, 2025 (English and Inuktitut)

16 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Teresa.

17 Qikiqtani Inuit Association, please, go
18 ahead with your presentation.

19 Presentation by Qikiqtani Inuit Association

20 A. KUBEISINOVA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 My name is Assol Kubeisinova, and I'm the
22 manager of regulatory review for the department
23 of lands and resource management at the
24 Qikiqtani Inuit Association for QIA. To my
25 right is Jared Ottenhof, Director, Qikiqtani
26 Nunaliirijikkut. We have a team of subject

1 matter experts today who have been assisting
2 and supporting QIA with the technical review of
3 this application.

4 QIA's mandate is to safeguard, administer,
5 and advance the rights and benefits of Inuit,
6 to promote the Inuit language and traditions,
7 Inuit environmental values, Inuit
8 self-sufficiency, as well as economic, social,
9 and cultural well-being through succeeding
10 generations.

11 As a designated Inuit organization under
12 the Nunavut Agreement, QIA manages Inuit-owned
13 lands in the Qikiqtani region, including the
14 project area.

15 QIA represents the rights and interests of
16 over 14,000 Inuit in the Qikiqtani region.

17 QIA conducted a technical review of
18 Baffinland Iron Mines Corporations application
19 for renewal of the water licence, and as a
20 result, QIA presented to the Nunavut Water
21 Board 38 technical comments. At this time,
22 there are 16 resolved and 22 unresolved
23 comments and some involving recommendations to
24 the Nunavut Water Board. This presentation
25 focuses on unresolved concerns and includes
26 references to specific comments, where

1 possible, so not all comments will be
2 referenced in this presentation.

3 So QIA's comments focus on a number of
4 areas, with some areas overlapping.

5 Excuse me, Madam Chair. I believe this is
6 a presentation that was used this afternoon in
7 the public hearing.

8 S. AUTUT: We'll get that corrected.

9 A. KUBEISINOVA: Thank you.

10 (ADJOURNMENT)

11 S. AUTUT: Apologies. I believe the
12 correct presentation is now on the screen.

13 A. KUBEISINOVA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 So QIA's comments focus on a number of
15 areas, with some areas overlapping.

16 Compliance with environmental assessment
17 predictions. QIA recommended that Baffinland
18 compare monitoring results with what was
19 predicted before the start of the project, and
20 that comparison will tell what needs to be
21 changed. The main concern on adaptive
22 management is the influence of repeated
23 periodic pulses of total suspended solids,
24 which increases stress on aquatic organisms.

25 QIA's concern on monitoring, including
26 monitoring for baseline conditions, resulted in

1 the recommendation to revise lake sediment
2 sampling to better see how natural and project
3 activities change metal concentrations in lake
4 sediment.

5 Another recommendation that came out of
6 that concern is to collect freshwater hydrology
7 information at Steensby that would be
8 sufficient.

9 Another concern that QIA had was impacts on
10 water quality, and that included the concern
11 about elevated concentrations of arsenic,
12 copper, iron, manganese, and phosphorus in Camp
13 Lake.

14 A concern about the poor performance about
15 the Kilometre 105 pond and the concern that
16 there may be impacts from the project on CLT1
17 tributary.

18 They were also -- there were also concerns
19 about Inuit engagement and incorporation of
20 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit
21 Qaujimaningit.

22 Now I would like to speak about the Inuit
23 stewardship program, and the Inuit stewardship
24 program has a direct relation to the
25 opportunities to incorporate Inuit
26 Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Qaujimaningit in

1 the project.

2 The Inuit stewardship program is an
3 arm's-length Inuit-led and community-based
4 monitoring program. The program enables Inuit
5 to evaluate how the project interacts with the
6 surrounding environment. The program includes
7 a feedback loop to enable Baffinland to review
8 findings and implement project improvements to
9 address concerns.

10 The program was envisioned to be funded by
11 Baffinland, administered by QIA, and overseen
12 by an arm's-length Inuit oversight committee or
13 Inuit Avatimut Kamattiarnimut Katimajajit.

14 The oversight committee consists of members
15 from the seven impacted communities of Pond
16 Inlet, Arctic Bay, Sanirajak, Igloolik, Clyde
17 River, Kimmirut, and Kinngait.

18 QIA's Inuit stewardship program
19 administration team successfully completed five
20 programs in 2024, 2025, and is preparing to
21 release respective reports on March 31st.

22 The Inuit stewardship program has multiple
23 programs relating to freshwater. For example,
24 one of the programs completed in 2024, 2025,
25 such as the dust and wildlife monitoring
26 program that is aimed on understanding the

1 interaction between mine dust and water,
2 including lakes, rivers, snow, and ice. It
3 included IQ consultations with
4 Knowledge-Holders and the Inuit-led field
5 sampling program. The team assessed water
6 parameters including those associated with
7 mine-related dust.

8 The Pond Inlet freshwater IQ study directed
9 on understanding Inuit Qaujimanituqangit as it
10 relates to freshwater values and impacts from
11 the perspective of Mittimatalingmiut.

12 Tusaqtavut studies are proposed for 2025,
13 2026 to take place in Kimmirut and Kinngait.
14 The objective -- objective of these studies is
15 to develop a fulsome understanding of Inuit
16 culture, resource, and land use surrounding the
17 project.

18 We continue working with the Applicant on
19 finding solutions to satisfy our technical
20 comments. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association will
21 be keeping the Board appraised of any
22 developments.

23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Assol.

25 Are there any questions or comments for the
26 Qikiqtani Inuit Association from the public?

1 I'm not seeing any hands, so thank you for
2 your presentation -- oh, come on up.

3 ASSOL KUBEISINOVA, JARED OTTENHOF, ALISTAIR
4 MACDONALD, JOSEPH CAVALLO, RICHARD NESBITT,
5 JAKE CARMAN, MITCHELL KAY, Previously Affirmed
6 Questions for Qikiqtani Inuit Association by
7 Community Representatives

8 LLOYD IDLOUT: Qujannamik, QIA. We
9 Inuit is being represented as we are
10 represented by QIA. I don't know. Maybe you
11 can encourage Baffinland -- can you encourage
12 Baffinland to get some more baseline
13 information maybe in order for the process to
14 move ahead? Like, it seems apparent, from the
15 Pond Inlet hunters and the Elders, like, even
16 though they observe the impacts done to them,
17 but maybe due to lack of baseline information,
18 perhaps.

19 And, also, can you look for additional
20 content to speed up the process? Like, once we
21 have baseline information, in order to achieve
22 baseline information. So that's my request.

23 The impact the Elders and the hunters at
24 Pond Inlet has been impacted, but due to lack
25 of baseline -- baseline information most likely
26 Baffinland has been saying, like, everything

1 is -- is still the same as before. Too much
2 concentration is basically the same as before
3 the mine was in operation, and maybe a
4 third-party people organize it. Maybe we can
5 look for additional funding or does QIA have
6 additional funding available to conduct a
7 baseline study so we can get adequate baseline
8 information before the projects go ahead? Do
9 I -- am I making sense?

10 S. AUTUT: QIA.

11 J. OTTENHOF: Jared Ottenhof for the
12 Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

13 Yeah, thank you for the question. Baseline
14 data is very important, especially when we're
15 talking about an expanding project. Baffinland
16 has spoken earlier today on some of the work
17 that they're doing to bring some of their work
18 forward on baseline data that they collected in
19 the past, then also to work with communities on
20 evaluating what's -- what's coming up, I guess,
21 for any more studies.

22 We mentioned before, as well, that we've
23 heard this from communities as a priority for
24 the Inuit stewardship program, so I think
25 there's a bit of a dual role that we can play
26 as well.

1 And I also just wanted to respond to your
2 earlier question when it wasn't our time at the
3 table.

4 So overall, we're working to do better with
5 the communities. In the past, we've sent out
6 newsletters through our CLOs and HTOs.

7 I'll hold. Thank you.

8 We've sent out newsletters through our CLOs
9 and to the HTOs in the impacted communities to
10 let them know of our activities as a lands
11 department for a regional Inuit association.
12 We're also looking to, as an organization,
13 expand our Nauttiguqtiit program. While it's
14 not specific to the Mary River Project, it's a
15 very strong presence in our communities, and
16 we're also looking to find partnerships between
17 the departments that manage this project and
18 the Nauttiguqtiit.

19 For the Mary River Project specifically,
20 one of the key ways that QIA is working with
21 impacted communities is through the Inuit
22 stewardship program. QIA has plans for further
23 development of the program.

24 We've already conducted past studies with
25 Pond Inlet on Inuit Knowledge of freshwater and
26 how dust affects freshwater. As my colleague

1 mentioned earlier, we're planning to share
2 these studies by March 31st.

3 The Inuit stewardship program is led by a
4 dedicated committee at arm's length from QIA.
5 The committee is composed from only community
6 representatives from each of the seven impacted
7 communities. This committee will play an
8 important role in QIA's efforts to establish
9 and maintain Inuit-led monitoring and research,
10 reviewing results, and providing some
11 recommendations to Baffinland on project
12 mitigation and monitoring -- monitoring and
13 mitigation measures and management plans.

14 In our submissions to the Nunavut Water
15 Board for this process, we are recommending a
16 number of measures for the licence to include
17 requirements for the Applicant to include
18 feedback from Inuit of the impacted
19 communities, for example, freshwater IQ and
20 water quality, in a way that is not just by
21 scientific standards but also how it is
22 culturally valued by Inuit.

23 Thank you very much.

24 S. AUTUT: Thank you.

25 Any other questions or comments for the
26 Qikiqtani Inuit Association?

1 If not, thank you for your presentation.

2 I'll now call upon Crown-Indigenous
3 Relations and Northern Affairs, and we'll ask
4 Teresa to accept into evidence the presentation
5 and swear and/or affirm the presenters.

6 T. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut
8 Water Board.

9 If I can have the witnesses state and spell
10 their names for the record, please.

11 L. PERRIN: Lauren Perrin,
12 L-A-U-R-E-N P-E-R-R-I-N.

13 A. KEIM: Thank you. It's Andrew,
14 A-N-D-R-E-W, last name Keim, K-E-I-M.

15 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa
16 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water
17 Board. Do you wish to be sworn or affirmed?

18 A. KEIM: I'll swear.

19 T. MEADOWS: Lauren, how do you wish
20 to proceed?

21 L. PERRIN: It doesn't matter.

22 A. KEIM: We'll do it together.

23 ANDREW KEIM, LAUREN PERRIN, Sworn

24 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa
25 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water
26 Board.

1 So, Mr. Chair and Madam Chair, I have the
2 presentation materials that Crown-Indigenous
3 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has
4 prepared, and I will be filing those as the
5 next exhibits in the public hearing, and that
6 concludes my procedural matters.

7 EXHIBIT 6 - Crown-Indigenous
8 Relations and Northern Affairs
9 Canada, Hard Copy, PowerPoint
10 Presentation, Final Public Hearing of
11 Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
12 Water Licence Renewal 2AM-MRY1325,
13 March 11-12, 2025 (English)

14 EXHIBIT 7 - Crown-Indigenous
15 Relations and Northern Affairs
16 Canada, Hard Copy, PowerPoint
17 Presentation, Final Public Hearing of
18 Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
19 Water Licence Renewal 2AM-MRY1325,
20 March 11-12, 2025 (Inuktitut)

21 EXHIBIT 8 - Crown-Indigenous
22 Relations and Northern Affairs
23 Canada, Hard Copy, PowerPoint
24 Presentation, Final Public Hearing of
25 Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
26 Water Licence Renewal 2AM-MRY1325,

1 March 11-12, 2025 (French)

2 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Teresa.

3 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
4 Affairs, please proceed.

5 Presentation by Crown-Indigenous Relations and
6 Northern Affairs

7 L. PERRIN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
9 Affairs Canada would like to thank the Nunavut
10 Water Board for organizing this public hearing
11 and giving us the opportunity to present on the
12 application to renew Type A Water Licence
13 2AM-MRY1325 submitted by Baffinland.

14 This presentation will cover our roles and
15 responsibilities, technical review comments,
16 the security management agreement, and our
17 conclusion.

18 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
19 Affairs Canada's responsibilities, mandate, and
20 obligations are in alignment with the
21 following: Crown-Indigenous Relations and
22 Northern Affairs Act, the Nunavut Agreement,
23 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act, Nunavut
24 Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act
25 and the associated regulations, Nunavut
26 Planning and Project Assessment Act,

1 Territorial Lands Act and the associated
2 regulations, Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention
3 Act.

4 CIRNAC and Baffinland have worked together
5 since the beginning of this process meeting
6 many times and coming to some mutual agreements
7 on our comments. Since we submitted this
8 presentation, we have updated numbers.

9 So we originally submitted 37 technical
10 comments with a review. At the time, 19
11 concerns were resolved, 18 were resolved with
12 commitments, and we had 4 outstanding concerns.
13 These four outstanding concerns have since been
14 resolved through commitment from Baffinland. I
15 will discuss these four commitments over the
16 next couple slides.

17 Technical Comment R-4 related to dustfall
18 monitoring. Dustfall, as a pathway of
19 potential effects, requires improved management
20 planning, monitoring, and reporting.
21 Baffinland has committed to conducting the
22 dustfall review as part of the 2025 QIA NWB
23 annual report for operations, which is to be
24 submitted by March 31, 2026.

25 As required, the outcomes of the dustfall
26 data review will be integrated into relevant

1 management plans. Any plans updated would be
2 completed within six months of publication of
3 the dustfall water review -- data review --
4 sorry -- or an alternative date as agreed to
5 by -- between Baffinland and CIRNAC. With
6 this, CIRNAC now considers this resolved.

7 Technical Comment R-8 relates to mineral
8 waste. CIRNAC recommended that the waste
9 management plan include how soils, sediment, or
10 construction materials would be collected,
11 contained, recorded during work and disposed
12 of.

13 Baffinland has committed to update their
14 interim closure reclamation plan to include
15 soil or sediments containing site-related
16 contaminants that pose a risk to human health
17 and/or the environment. A contaminant -- yeah,
18 we're still working on that definition of what
19 a contaminant is; however, CIRNAC considers
20 this technical comment resolved through
21 commitment.

22 Technical Comment R-11 relates to climate
23 change predictions. CIRNAC recommended that
24 Baffinland investigate more recent climate
25 change predictions to evaluate the long-term
26 thermal stability of permafrost in the waste

1 rock pile, including investigating the source
2 of inconsistencies in the thermal -- sorry --
3 data and implementing the result in the thermal
4 model and include intermediate and worst-case
5 scenarios and temperature predictions --
6 projections -- sorry -- for the thermal model
7 of the waste rock facility.

8 Baffinland committed to include multiple
9 climate change predictions, including SSP-1,
10 SSP-2, and SSP-5 in the next update of the
11 thermal model planned for 2026 as outlined in
12 the interim closure and reclamation plan,
13 Revision 6. CIRNAC now considers this comment
14 to be resolved through commitment.

15 Technical Comment R-16 relates to water
16 quality monitoring. CIRNAC recommended that
17 Baffinland provide a comparison between
18 predicted and measured water quality data and
19 evaluate the additional mitigation measures as
20 required, as well, provide an update on
21 geochemical modelling and pit water
22 predictions.

23 Baffinland has committed to undertaking a
24 pit water quality model update in 2025. This
25 model will include operational pit water
26 quality predictions for the next five years and

1 water quality predictions for an early closure
2 scenario at the end of the five years
3 considering the three different climate change
4 scenarios for a 100-year period. As part of
5 this modelling, water quality predictions for
6 early closure will be compared against the
7 closure objectives and criteria as outlined in
8 Baffinland's interim closure and reclamation
9 plan, Revision 6.

10 The five-year operational water quality
11 predictions will then be evaluated against the
12 FEIS predictions and the Type A water licence
13 discharge criteria. CIRNAC now considers this
14 comment to be resolved through commitment.

15 As previously mentioned, this presentation
16 was submitted prior to us working out all our
17 unresolved issues, so the unresolveds are now
18 under the resolved through commitments.

19 We are committed to working to get towards
20 a signed SMA completed in time for the Minister
21 review of a licence between Baffinland and QIA.

22 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
23 Affairs Canada continues to work with all
24 parties through this water licence application
25 process and aiming to protect Nunavut's inland
26 water resources while promoting sustainable

1 development.

2 Thank you.

3 S. AUTUT: Thank you,
4 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
5 Affairs.

6 Before we take questions, we're going to
7 ask both Environment and Climate Change Canada
8 and Department of Fisheries and Oceans to
9 present, and you may be called back up to
10 answer questions.

11 So I now call on Environment and Climate
12 Change Canada, and again we'll accept your
13 presentation into the exhibits and swear or
14 affirm.

15 T. MEADOWS: If I can have the
16 witnesses state and spell their name for the
17 record, please.

18 E. WALKER: Eva Walker, E-V-A
19 W-A-L-K-E-R.

20 S. FORTE: Sarah Forte, S-A-R-A-H
21 F-O-R-T-E.

22 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. Do the
23 witnesses wish to be sworn or affirmed?

24 E. WALKER: Affirmed.

25 EVA WALKER, SARAH FORTE, Affirmed

26 T. MEADOWS: Teresa Meadows, legal

1 counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.

2 So I have the presentation materials in
3 English and Inuktitut that are about to be
4 presented by Environment and Climate Change
5 Canada, and I also have a summary in Inuktitut
6 of the submissions of Environment and Climate
7 Change Canada, and I propose to mark those as
8 the next two exhibits in this public hearing,
9 and that concludes my procedural matters.

10 EXHIBIT 9 - Electronic Copy,
11 PowerPoint Presentation, Baffinland
12 Type A Water Licence Renewal, Public
13 Hearing Presentation by Environment
14 and Climate Change Canada, March 11,
15 2025 (English and Inuktitut)
16 EXHIBIT 10 - Hard Copy, Summary of
17 Environment and Climate Change Canada
18 Comment Submission, March 11, 2025
19 (Inuktitut)

20 S. AUTUT: Thanks, Teresa.

21 Environment and Climate Change Canada,
22 please proceed.

23 E. WALKER: Thank you.

24 Presentation by Environment and Climate Change
25 Canada

26 E. WALKER: Mr. Chair, we had a

1 question earlier about avian flu, bird flu. I
2 have some answers. Would you like me to read
3 that now or after our presentation or ...

4 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Eva.

5 Yeah, I believe that that was a question
6 posed by Caleb, so you can provide a response
7 now.

8 E. WALKER: Okay. Thanks.

9 So, sorry, it's -- it's awkward to figure
10 out how to speak to people, so ...

11 There have been a small number of cases of
12 avian flu in migratory birds in Nunavut.
13 There's a low risk to humans currently. Known
14 cases were contracted by long-term sustained
15 contact with infected poultry. That's chickens
16 and turkeys typically in the south on farms.

17 It's possible that people can get up
18 infected with avian flu or bird flu by exposure
19 to contaminated water; however, the evidence to
20 support this is limited, and the risk to people
21 from drinking or swimming in water with the
22 virus is low. The best practice is to treat
23 water before drinking it if there was a
24 presence of waterfowl or birds.

25 Birds catch avian flu primarily from their
26 saliva or nasal secretions or feces. So in

1 this case, do not handle or eat birds that
2 appear to be sick or have died from unknown
3 causes, and fully cook birds that have been
4 hunted and eggs to a high temperature and
5 follow safe food-handling practices such as
6 handwashing.

7 Nunavut Department of Health, the
8 Department of Environment, Environment and
9 Climate Change Canada, Health Canada, the
10 Canadian Food Inspection Agency are working
11 together and continue to monitor and manage the
12 situation. Environment and Climate Change
13 Canada has been actively collecting samples
14 from both live and wild birds and those
15 harvested by hunters to assess the spread of
16 the virus, and the public will be informed if
17 increases to health risks arise.

18 If you see dead birds or sick birds in your
19 community, please report them to the Government
20 of Nunavut's conservation officers.

21 Okay. And now we'll proceed with our
22 presentation.

23 So good evening, Mr. Chair, Board members,
24 community members, Board staff, Baffinland,
25 fellow Intervenors. As stated my name is Eva
26 Walker, and I'm the manager with Environment

1 and Climate Change Canada's environmental
2 assessment group. With me, I have Sarah Forte.

3 Yeah. Sorry. Okay. So Slide 2.

4 I'll present our department's mandate,
5 briefly touch on the Acts and legislations that
6 are relevant to Environment and Climate Change
7 Canada, and then I'll pass it over to Sarah to
8 outline our comments and recommendations for
9 the final intervention.

10 Next slide. Great.

11 Environment and Climate Change Canada's
12 mandate includes the preservation and
13 enhancement of -- of the quality of the natural
14 environment, including water, air, and soil
15 quality through coordination of relevant
16 policies and programs of the Government of
17 Canada. It also includes renewable resources,
18 such as migratory birds and other non-domestic
19 flora and fauna, meteorology, and the
20 enforcement of rules and regulations
21 associated.

22 Next slide.

23 The Acts under our mandate are the
24 Department of Environment Act, the Canadian
25 Environmental Protection Act, the Pollution
26 Prevention Provision of the Fisheries Act, the

1 Migratory Birds Conservation Act, and the
2 Species at Risk Act.

3 Okay. Good. I'll now pass this on to
4 Sarah for a discussion of our technical
5 comments.

6 S. FORTE: Sarah Forte with
7 Environment and Climate Change Canada. I'm
8 sorry I have my back to the people I'd like to
9 address.

10 So Environment and Climate Change Canada
11 has been participating throughout the water
12 licence renewal process. In our final
13 submission, we had four outstanding technical
14 comments. The comment titles are on this
15 slide, and I will describe them briefly.

16 Comment Number 5 was not really technical
17 but rather about changes Baffinland proposed to
18 the wording for a renewed licence. Environment
19 and Climate Change Canada's biggest concern is
20 the management of water running along
21 disturbances and along ditches. This water can
22 pick up a lot of dust and soil, which ends up
23 as suspended sediment in the water. It makes
24 the water cloudy, and it can harm fish and
25 other aquatic life.

26 Comment Number 1 is about runoff water

1 around the mine site that eventually makes its
2 way to Sheardown Lake. Baffinland have
3 presented us with a plan of the changes they
4 will make on site to do a better job of
5 settling out suspended sediment in water before
6 it is released. This comment is considered
7 resolved.

8 Comment Number 3 is about the water in
9 streams that the Tote Road crosses.
10 Environment and Climate Change Canada and
11 Baffinland do not agree on what value to use as
12 a cutoff for a project-related change in
13 suspended sediment. The value is the
14 difference in sediment amounts in the water
15 between upstream before the culvert and
16 downstream after the culvert. The cutoff is
17 used to trigger actions to reduce the sediment
18 load in water.

19 Baffinland's presentation has pictures on
20 Slide 41 of the types of actions they can take,
21 and Paul explained what they do to keep sand
22 from entering lakes. At this public hearing,
23 Environment and Climate Change Canada will
24 explain why we recommend a lower cutoff than
25 what Baffinland is proposing.

26 Comment Number 2 is about making sure that

1 the plans and programs related to water
2 management are part of the water licence. The
3 water licence has not changed since 2015, but
4 there have been several project reviews by the
5 Nunavut Impact Review Board and continuous
6 discussions with the Qikiqtani Inuit
7 Association.

8 The ongoing discussions have generated
9 plans and programs that would normally be part
10 of a water licence. Environment and Climate
11 Change Canada is recommending that the existing
12 snow management plan and Tote Road monitoring
13 program be included in the plans that are
14 already part of the water licence.

15 Baffinland has agreed for the snow
16 management plan but not for the Tote Road
17 monitoring program because of the disagreement
18 I spoke of earlier on what should be used as a
19 cutoff concentration of suspended sediment in
20 water for starting work to reduce the sediment
21 load.

22 The last comment I'll talk about, Number 4,
23 is about permafrost and groundwater.

24 Baffinland's mine plan includes the
25 development of a pit approximately 200-metres
26 deep. They have plans to make more

1 measurements and a model to better understand
2 how the pit lake will affect permafrost, and I
3 realize I should explain there will be a lake
4 in the pit after operations, not during
5 operations.

6 Environment and Climate Change Canada
7 recommended that the study also include
8 groundwater to check if there are potential
9 interactions between the pit and groundwater,
10 including what will happen after the mine is
11 closed. Baffinland have committed to doing
12 this, so Environment and Climate Change Canada
13 considers this comment resolved.

14 E. WALKER: That concludes
15 Environment and Climate Change Canada's
16 presentation. I'd like to thank the community
17 members for attending and listening to our
18 presentation. Thank you, Board Chair, Board
19 staff, and Baffinland for allowing us to
20 present.

21 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Environment
22 and Climate Change Canada.

23 Again, we will defer questions until the
24 end of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans
25 presentation, so I call upon Department of
26 Fisheries and Oceans. Again, we will note the

1 exhibit and do the affirmation or swearing in.

2 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa
3 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water
4 Board.

5 And I just want to mention to everyone
6 thank you for hanging in there. We have a
7 couple of communities that have to leave early
8 tomorrow morning, which is why we're pushing
9 through tonight, so that all the presentations
10 can be in front of those community members so
11 that they can ask questions while they're still
12 here. So my apologies to everybody for the
13 very long day.

14 So if I can have the witnesses state and
15 spell their name for the record, please.

16 P. HARPER: Paul Harper, P-A-U-L
17 H-A-R-P-E-R.

18 N. WASILIK: Nicholas Wasilik,
19 N-I-C-H-O-L-A-S W-A-S-I-L-I-K.

20 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. Do the
21 witnesses wish to be sworn or affirmed?

22 P. HARPER: We'll affirm.

23 PAUL HARPER, NICHOLAS WASILIK, Affirmed

24 T. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa
25 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water
26 Board.

1 So I have a copy of your presentation in
2 English and Inuktitut, and I will mark that as
3 the next exhibit in the public hearing.

4 And those are my procedural matters,
5 Mr. Chair.

6 EXHIBIT 11 - Fisheries and Oceans
7 Canada, Hard Copy, PowerPoint
8 Presentation, Mary River Project,
9 Water Licence Renewal for
10 2AM-MRY1325, March 11, 2025 (English
11 and Inuktitut)

12 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Teresa.

13 Please proceed, Fisheries and Oceans
14 Canada.

15 Presentation by Fisheries and Oceans Canada

16 P. HARPER: Okay. So Paul Harper,
17 Fisheries and Oceans Canada. It's been a long
18 day, so I'll keep this quick.

19 I'm here with Nick, and we're members of
20 the fish and fish habitat protection program.
21 We're part of the Federal institution that's
22 responsible for safeguarding our waters, so we
23 manage fisheries and oceans, and we ensure
24 healthy and sustainable ecosystems through
25 habitat protection using sound science. We
26 support economic growth in the marine and

1 fisheries sectors as well.

2 In addition to this process, we also have a
3 concurrent regulatory process, so we are
4 working with Baffinland for Fisheries Act
5 authorizations for Steensby.

6 So comments in this process from Fisheries
7 and Oceans related to fish and fish habitat
8 protection. We only had two comments.

9 Our first comment was related to the Tote
10 Road and ensuring that infrastructure along the
11 Tote Road was captured in the management plans,
12 and Baffinland had committed to providing this
13 information to us. I believe our commitment
14 now is for six months after the water licence
15 has been signed.

16 Our second concern was related to sediment
17 and erosion control, and we've heard a lot
18 about sediment today. Fisheries and Oceans
19 Canada is satisfied that an erosion and
20 sediment control program that is being
21 developed by Baffinland will help improve
22 knowledge of sediment and erosion on the site,
23 and we're looking forward to reviewing that
24 program hopefully in the next month or so.

25 And so with that, Fisheries and Oceans
26 considers all of our comments related to the

1 water licence satisfied, and that was it.

2 Thank you.

3 S. AUTUT: Thank you, Fisheries and
4 Oceans Canada.

5 So that concludes the presentations from
6 the Federal organizations, and we now open the
7 floor to questions from the public. If you
8 have any questions or comments, please make
9 your way to the microphone.

10 Okay. So I'm not seeing any questions. So
11 that brings us to the end of our agenda for
12 tonight's session. On behalf of the Nunavut
13 Water Board, I would like to thank everyone for
14 participating tonight and thank you to the
15 community of Pond Inlet for hosting these
16 important meetings. Special thanks to all of
17 the presenters tonight and all the people who
18 joined us this evening online and in the
19 community to share their views, comments, and
20 questions with the Board.

21 In terms of what is next in this public
22 hearing, the technical review component of the
23 Board's public hearing will continue tomorrow
24 right here starting at 9:00, and we expect to
25 wrap up that aspect of the public hearing by
26 5:00 tomorrow afternoon. Everyone is welcome

1 to attend tomorrow's session.

2 Once we have concluded the public hearing
3 and closed the public hearing record for the
4 renewal application, this panel will meet to
5 make a decision regarding the application.
6 Within 30 to 45 days, the panel will issue the
7 Board's record of this hearing and decision
8 about the application to the Minister of
9 Northern Affairs and the public.

10 If the Board decides to approve the renewal
11 of the licence, the Board will also attach a
12 copy of the licence terms and conditions to the
13 decision. The Board's written decision will be
14 available on the Nunavut Water Board's Public
15 Registry website.

16 On behalf of the Board, I would like to
17 extend safe travels to our delegates from Clyde
18 River and Arctic Bay. We thank you for your
19 questions and your feedback in this process,
20 and if Ben has any updates on your travel, he
21 will advise before you leave the venue tonight.

22 Mr. Chair, that concludes our agenda for
23 tonight. We wish everyone a good night and
24 hope to see them tomorrow.

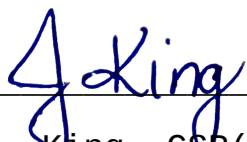
25 THE CHAIR: Okay. We start at 9 in
26 the morning. We reconvene tomorrow morning.

1 _____
2 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9:00 AM EDT,
3 MARCH 12, 2025
4 _____

5 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:
6

7 I, J. King, certify that the foregoing
8 pages are a complete and accurate transcript of
9 the proceedings taken down by me in shorthand
10 and transcribed from my shorthand notes to the
11 best of my skill and ability.

12 Dated at the City of Airdrie, Province of
13 Alberta, this 22nd day of March 2025.
14

15 
16 _____

17 J. King, CSR(A)

18 Official Court Reporter

19 Commissioner for Oaths Appointee No. 0733800

20 ASRA Membership No. 146
21
22
23
24
25
26

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