| NUNAVUT | WATER | $B \cap Z B D$ |
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| NUNAVUI | WAILID | DUADI |

AGNICO EAGLE MINES LIMITED WHALE TAIL EXPANSION PROJECT

APPLICATIONS TO AMEND WATER LICENCES NOS.: 2AM-WTP1826,

2AM-MEA1526, 2BB-MEA1828

HEARING

VOLUME 1

Baker Lake, Nunavut February 13, 2020

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|----|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Lake, Nunavut | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | February 13, 2020 | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | NUNAVUT WATER BOARD | |
| 7 | L. Toomasie | Chair of Hearing |
| 8 | R. Mrazek | Board Member |
| 9 | M. Nartok | Board Member |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | NUNAVUT WATER BOARD STAE | rF |
| 12 | K. Kharatyan | Director of Technical Services |
| 13 | B. Kogvik | Director of Board Administration |
| 14 | | and Communications |
| 15 | R. Dwyer | Manager of Licencing |
| 16 | A. Kubeisinova | Technical Advisor |
| 17 | T. Meadows | Legal Counsel to the Board |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | INTERVENORS | |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | AGNICO EAGLE MINES LIMIT | TED |
| 22 | J. Quesnel | Regional Manager Permitting |
| 23 | | and Regulatory Affairs |
| 24 | M. Groleau | General Supervisor Permitting |
| 25 | M. Turmel | Permitting Lead |
| 26 | E. Parent | Permitting Specialist |
| | | |

| 1 | S. Leclair | Lead Indigenous and |
|----|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 | | Stakeholder Relations Nunavut |
| 3 | C. Kennedy | Technical Specialist |
| 4 | N. Duquet-Harvey | Environmental Superintendent |
| 5 | | Meadowbank |
| 6 | C. Paradis St. Onge | Nunavut Communication |
| 7 | | Coordinator |
| 8 | M. Plante | General Manager Meadowbank |
| 9 | | Complex |
| 10 | J. Faithful | Senior Water Quality |
| 11 | | Specialist, Golder Associates |
| 12 | N. Lower | Principal Consultant |
| 13 | | Environmental Impact |
| 14 | | Assessment and Permitting, |
| 15 | | Environmental Resources |
| 16 | | Management |
| 17 | C. Stevens | Senior Fish Biologist, Golder |
| 18 | | Associates |
| 19 | G. Allen | Senior Geoenvironmental |
| 20 | | Engineer, Okane Consultants |
| 21 | G. Lawrence | Associate and Senior |
| 22 | | Environmental Scientist, |
| 23 | | Golder Associates |
| 24 | C. Kowbel | Legal Counsel for Agnico Eagle |
| 25 | | Mines, Lawson Lundell |
| 26 | | |
| I | | |

| 1 | KIVALLIQ INUIT ASSOCIATION | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 | L. Manzo | Director of Lands |
| 3 | J. Tulugak | Inspector |
| 4 | A. Aupaluktuq-Burton | Lands Administrative |
| 5 | | Coordinator |
| 6 | A. Sexton | VP Project Management, |
| 7 | | GeoVector Management |
| 8 | R. Nesbitt | Senior Aquatic Scientist, |
| 9 | | Hutchinson Environment |
| 10 | J. Kataluk | Senior Environmental |
| 11 | | Technician |
| 12 | J. King | Legal Counsel for Kivalliq |
| 13 | | Inuit Association |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIC | NS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA |
| 16 | S. Dewar | Director of Resources |
| 17 | | Management |
| 18 | G. Okonkwo | Manager of Water Resources |
| 19 | D. Zhong | Regulatory and Science Advisor |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA | |
| 22 | A. Beattie | Team lead with the Mining, |
| 23 | | Oil, and Gas Division |
| 24 | E. Ratajczyk | Fish and Fish Habitat |
| 20 21 22 23 24 25 | | Protection Biologist |
| 26 | J. Audet-Lecouffe | Fish and Fish Habitat |
| | | |

| 1 | Prot | tection Biologist |
|----|---|---------------------------|
| 2 | | |
| 3 | ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA | |
| 4 | A. Wilson Sens | ior Water Quality |
| 5 | Spec | cialist |
| 6 | E. Walker Envi | ironmental Assessment |
| 7 | (Via Teleconference) Coor | rdinator |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS | |
| 10 | B. Kogvik Lang | guage Translator |
| 11 | A. Alooq Lang | guage Translator |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | C. Longacre, RPR, CSR(A) Off | icial Court Reporter |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | R. Dempster Sour | nd Technician |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 4:01 PM) | |
| 18 | Opening Remarks | |
| 19 | THE CHAIR: Are | we settled? We might as |
| 20 | well start now because we are day and a half behind now | |
| 21 | from our original schedule. Not our fault; the | |
| 22 | weather's fault. | |
| 23 | Okay. Thank you. Good | afternoon and welcome to |
| 24 | the public hearing associated | d with applications filed |
| 25 | by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited to amend their existing | |
| 26 | Type "A" water licence and a | Type "B" water licence to |
| | | |

- 1 authorize changes to the use of -- of water and deposit
- 2 of waste associated with the expansion of the Whale
- 3 Tail Pit gold mining undertaking.
- 4 My name is Lootie Toomasie. I am the chairman of
- 5 the Nunavut Water Board and -- and the NWB's hearing
- 6 chair for this public hearing.
- Before we proceed with the hearing, please let us
- 8 begin with a prayer. Let us stand and pray.
- 9 Opening Prayer
- 10 THE CHAIR: On behalf of the Nunavut Water
- 11 Board, I welcome you to the hamlet of Baker Lake.
- Now to provide some background and set the stage
- 13 for the hearing, the Nunavut Water Board, which I shall
- 14 refer to as "the Board" or "the NWB", is an institution
- of public government created under Article 13 of
- 16 Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut
- 17 Surface Right Tribunal Act. The NWB is responsible for
- 18 the use, management, and regulation of freshwater in
- 19 Nunavut settlement area.
- The purpose of this public hearing is to review
- 21 applications filed by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited -- I
- 22 may refer to the company as "Agnico" or "the
- 23 Applicant" -- to make changes to two existing Type "A"
- 24 water licences and a Type "B" water licence that
- 25 currently authorize the uses of water and deposits of
- 26 waste associated with gold mining and gold processing

- 1 activities at the Whale Tail Pit gold mine and
- 2 Meadowbank gold mine projects. The Whale Tail Pit gold
- 3 mine is located approximately 150 kilometres north of
- 4 hamlet of Baker Lake and approximately 50 kilometres
- 5 northwest of the Meadowbank gold mine site. The Whale
- 6 Tail Pit gold mine is connected to the Meadowbank gold
- 7 mine by the Whale Tail Pit haul road, which is
- 8 approximately 64 kilometres long.
- 9 Agnico Eagle's application for changes to their
- 10 water licences are related to their proposal to expand
- 11 mining activities at the Whale Tail Pit gold mine under
- 12 the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal. In the
- 13 expansion proposal, Agnico Eagle proposes to enlarge
- 14 the existing Whale Tail open pit and create a new IVR
- open pit and an underground pit that would increase
- 16 production to 23.5 million tons of ore every year.
- 17 Under the expansion proposal, ore will continue to be
- 18 transported to the ore processing facilities at the
- 19 Meadowbank gold mine site along the widened Whale Tail
- 20 Pit haul road.
- 21 As set out in Section 13.13.6 [sic] of the Nunavut
- 22 Agreement and Section 29 of the Nunavut Waters and
- 23 Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act, the Board has
- 24 delegated its power to dispose of all matters related
- 25 to the processing of the application to amend Type "A"
- 26 Licence Number 2AM-WTP1826 and 2AM-MEA1526 and Type "B"

- 1 Water Licence Number 2BB-MEA1828, including the conduct
- of this public hearing to a Panel of the Board, which
- 3 is referred to as the "Whale Tail Pit" [sic] or "P17
- 4 Panel".
- 5 I will be chairing this Panel and with me today as
- 6 members of the Panel are board members: Ross -- Ross
- 7 Mrazek on my right, and to my left is Makabe Nartok.
- 8 Several staff members who have contributed to the
- 9 NWB's administration and technical review of the
- 10 application are present with legal counsel to the NWB,
- 11 and I will introduce the individuals in attendance.
- 12 Karén Kharatyan -- sorry about that; I never learned
- 13 how to pronounce it properly; sorry about that -- is
- 14 the director of technical services; Ben Kogvik,
- 15 director of board administration and communications is
- 16 at the back; Richard Dwyer, manager of licencing, is
- 17 also at the front entrance; Assol Kubeisinova,
- 18 technical advisor; and Teresa Meadows from Meadows Law,
- 19 legal counsel to the Board.
- 20 In addition, we have two interpreters available
- 21 for simultaneous interpretation: Ben Kogvik, in-house
- 22 interpreter to the Board, and Alexander Alooq, who is
- 23 from Baker Lake.
- For audio support, we have Ryan Dempster from PIDO
- 25 Productions. If you experience any difficulties with
- 26 your headsets, Ryan -- Ryan is able to provide

- 1 assistance.
- 2 I need -- I need a water. Is there water here?
- 3 My throat is getting itchy -- getting dry. I will just
- 4 wait for the water. Thank you.
- 5 To ensure we have an accurate record of the
- 6 proceedings, we have with us a court reporter, Christy
- 7 Longacre, from Dicta Court Reporting Incorporated.
- 8 Before I move on to an overview of this
- 9 application and to what to expect today during --
- 10 during this public hearing, there are some important
- 11 housekeeping items for everyone here.
- 12 As many of you know, due to the weather conditions
- 13 and the flight cancellations, many of the participants
- 14 in this public hearing were unable to get to Baker Lake
- on Tuesday and Wednesday. We appreciate the patience
- 16 of the community members and the willingness of our
- 17 hosts in Baker Lake to be flexible in accommodating
- 18 when our schedule had to be changed with little notice.
- 19 Some of us, including the Applicant, Agnico Eagle,
- 20 myself, and some of the Board staff and representatives
- 21 from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 22 were held over in Rankin Inlet for the last two days.
- 23 Unfortunately, with all the flight cancellations and
- 24 rebooking of flights, if the Board and CIRNA had -- had
- 25 to wait for a commercial flight to get into Baker Lake,
- 26 we would not have made it into Baker Lake until much

- 1 later this afternoon. Rather than delay the public
- 2 hearing further, Agnico Eagle was able to make some
- 3 space available to those of us in Rankin Inlet on their
- 4 charter into Baker Lake. This enabled us to arrive
- 5 early this afternoon.
- I want to assure everyone here that the Board and
- 7 CIRNA would not normally travel on the Applicant's
- 8 charter, but there -- but there really was no other way
- 9 we could join you at this time in Baker Lake. The
- 10 Board and CIRNA will be reimbursing Agnico Eagle for
- 11 the costs of our flights. We want to make sure it's
- 12 clear that no discussion of the matters that will
- 13 be the substance of this public hearing were discussed
- 14 in any way before or during the flight. The Board
- 15 appreciates everyone's professionalism, understanding,
- 16 and respect for ensuring that there is transparency and
- 17 objectivity in the Board's decision-making process,
- 18 even through some challenging travel conditions.
- 19 Anyone with questions or comments regarding these
- 20 events, please come and speak with the Board's legal
- 21 counsel, Teresa, during the break.
- 22 First, as indicated earlier, there is
- 23 interpretation available throughout the hearing in
- 24 English and Inuktitut. Earpieces can be obtained from
- 25 the table located just by the door as you come into the
- 26 room. Channel 1's floor; Channel 2, English; and

- 1 Channel 3, Inuktitut.
- 2 Second, the Board appreciates everyone, including
- 3 the Applicant, intervenors, and members of the public
- 4 sign in on the sheets located at the table as you come
- 5 in. This is an important record of the hearing, and we
- 6 appreciate your help in making sure it is complete.
- 7 Thirdly, the agendas for the public hearing and
- 8 the community session are available at the back.
- 9 Please pick one up and follow along with us as we
- 10 proceed.
- 11 The washrooms are located in the entrance to the
- 12 hall, and the exits are in the front and back of the
- 13 hall -- exits. Sorry. Doors at the -- around here at
- 14 the entrance to the hall.
- There will be coffee, tea, and snacks brought in
- 16 during the breaks throughout the hearing, and you are
- 17 welcome to help yourself throughout the day.
- I would also like to remind everyone to please
- 19 turn off your cell phones or put them on silent before
- 20 we begin. I already turned off my cell because I don't
- 21 want to embarrass anybody.
- 22 Finally, to assist both our court reporter and our
- 23 interpreters, please wait to have a microphone before
- 24 you speak, then state your name, speak clearly and
- 25 slowly, and avoid the use of abbreviations. We
- 26 appreciate your assistance in making sure your comments

- 1 are recorded and the Board's record of proceedings is
- 2 accurate and complete.
- 3 I would like to notify participants that the --
- 4 there's media here in this meeting. While we are happy
- 5 that the media -- that the media are here, I would like
- 6 to -- I would ask on behalf of the Board that the
- 7 parties not make any comments regarding the Board's
- 8 potential conclusions on the matter in any way. This
- 9 will be unfair, as the Board cannot and does not
- 10 comment on any matter before it reaches a decision.
- I would like to advise parties that this -- the
- 12 CBC reporters here -- Teresa. Okay. There's -- go
- 13 ahead.
- 14 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 15 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact -- or
- 16 Nunavut Water Board. Sorry, Mr. Chair.
- 17 The media has not advised us that they will be
- 18 present, but they may -- they are always invited to
- 19 attend these public hearings. And so in the event that
- 20 the media were to tap into our sound system, we will
- 21 advise the parties. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa. So skip
- 23 that on my notes here.
- 24 Since the Board cannot comment on pending matters
- 25 either by confirming or denying accuracy of statements
- 26 by others to the media, the Board asks all parties to

- 1 refrain from -- from making any comment that may imply
- 2 a certain action or decision by the Board.
- Following the close of the record for this public
- 4 hearing, the Board decision and recommendations with
- 5 respect to the amendment applications will be
- 6 communicated in a publicly available decision report.
- 7 Until that -- that time, the Board reminds everyone
- 8 that the Panel members and Board staff will not discuss
- 9 the substance of the hearing or the matters before the
- 10 Board with any of the parties or the media. If you
- 11 have questions regarding the Board and its practices or
- 12 procedures, please speak with the director of technical
- 13 service, and he will assist you.
- 14 Prior to identifying and introducing all the
- 15 parties in attendance today, I will provide a brief
- 16 history of the applications which are before the Board.
- 17 As mentioned earlier, the applications which are
- 18 currently before the Board are for amendments requested
- 19 by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited to Type "A" Water
- 20 Licences Number 2AM-WTP1826 and 2AM-MEA1526 and Type
- 21 "B" Water Licence Number 2BB-MEA1828.
- The scope of the proposed amendment to the
- 23 existing licence for the Whale Tail Pit, which is Water
- 24 Licence Number 2AM-WTP1826, include the following:
- 25 Extending the terms of the licence by 17 years from
- 26 2026 to December 2043; the additional water use during

- 1 operations for both drilling purposes and purposes
- 2 other than drilling from various water bodies on-site,
- 3 including Nemo Lake, Mammoth Lake, Whale Tail Lake
- 4 South Basin, and various small lakes close to drilling
- 5 sites; significant increases to water use during
- 6 closure to allow for the reflooding of mined-out pits;
- 7 expansion of the Whale Tail Pit, mining of an
- 8 additional open IVR Pit, underground mining below Whale
- 9 Tail and IVR Pits; increases to ore and waste rock
- 10 storage capacity; the addition of surface water
- 11 control -- controls and to -- to control the flows of
- 12 surface water into IVR Pit; removal of the northeast
- 13 dike once development of the IVR Pit is initiated;
- 14 dewatering the -- of surface lakes to construct the IVR
- 15 Pit and IVR attenuation pond; construction and
- 16 operation of IVR -- I mentioned that; construction and
- 17 operation of three underground management ponds at
- 18 surface to support underground mine operation;
- 19 installation of additional discharge point into Whale
- 20 Tail Lake South Basin; widening the Whale Tail Pit haul
- 21 road from 9 to 15 metres; expansion of on-site
- 22 facilities at Whale Tail Pit to accommodate
- 23 approximately 540 people; installation of a larger
- 24 maintenance shop -- shop -- sorry -- core shack, and
- 25 additional wings to the main camp to support additional
- 26 personnel; installation of an incinerator, composter,

- 1 and land farm to support waste management activities;
- 2 the operation of additional diesel generators to power
- 3 underground infrastructure and expanded camp
- 4 facilities; and increasing bulk fuel storage capacity
- 5 to 3.325 -- -- is this "ML" million -- yeah -- million.
- The scope of the proposed amendments to the
- 7 Meadowbank Type "A" Water Licence Number 2AM-MEA1526
- 8 include the following: Extending the water licence
- 9 term to December 2033.
- The scope of the proposed amendments to the
- 11 existing Water Licence Number 2BB-MEA1828 include the
- 12 following: Moving -- moving the following activities
- 13 from the scope of the existing Type "B" licence to the
- 14 scope of the water -- Whale Tail Type "A" water
- 15 licence: Bulk sampling; underground development and
- 16 underground exploration drilling, including the portal,
- 17 ramp, and two ventilation raises; operation of
- 18 stormwater management pond (A-P5) which will be
- 19 converted into groundwater storage pond for the
- 20 expansion project; construction of service and
- 21 operation pads; handling and storage of waste rock and
- ore on pond [sic]; and quarrying a
- 23 laydown/garage/warehouse area for the ramp.
- I will now provide a summary of main documents
- 25 that Agnico Eagle provided to the Board in support of
- 26 their application to amend the three water licences. A

- 1 water licence amendment application and various
- 2 attachments for the Licence Number 2AM-WTP1826; a water
- 3 licence amendment application and various attachments
- 4 for Water Licence Number 2AM-MEA1526; a water licence
- 5 amendment application and various attachments for the
- 6 Water Licence Number 2BB-MEA1828.
- 7 These applications included: main application
- 8 documents; executive summary in English and Inuktitut;
- 9 letter to NWB; for the Type "A" water licences,
- 10 supplemental information guide table; NPC conformity
- 11 determination; compliance assessment; certificate of
- 12 incorporation; list of permits and licences for the
- 13 project; record of consultations.
- In addition, Agnico Eagle provided various new and
- 15 updated monitoring and management plans for the Board
- 16 and parties to review.
- 17 Agnico Eagle also provided updated information
- 18 regarding expansion plans for the sites including:
- 19 site layout; predevelopment layout; planned site
- 20 layouts for 2019 through 2025 and 2042 post-closure;
- 21 operation IVR attenuation pond dikes longitudinal
- 22 profiles and sections; IVR WRSF cross-section drawing;
- 23 typical section and road widening; and Appendix K,
- 24 project design considerations.
- 25 Agnico Eagle also filed a number of documents in
- 26 response to technical comment submissions from the

- 1 intervenors and the Board. Additional information was
- 2 also submitted to the Board by Agnico Eagle to -- to
- 3 fulfill commitments made by the Applicant during the
- 4 NWB's technical meeting and pre-hearing conference held
- 5 for the file on December [sic] 29 and 30, 2019.
- 6 Copies -- copies of all the materials filed by
- 7 Agnico Eagle in support of their amendment applications
- 8 as well as documents related to the existing licences
- 9 is available on NWB's public registry and the FTP site.
- 10 In addition, our licencing manager, Richard Dwyer,
- 11 can make available for public viewing at this hearing
- 12 the electronic copies of the public registry for these
- 13 applications and the key documents for the applications
- 14 received to date. If you are interested in reviewing
- 15 any of the documentation, please ask Richard.
- Now I am going to provide you with a very brief
- 17 overview of key steps in the procedural history of this
- 18 application that outlines how we got -- how we got to
- 19 this public hearing stage.
- 20 On October 19, 2018, Nunavut Impact Review
- 21 Board -- I will call them "NIRB" for short --
- 22 determined that the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal
- 23 involved a component or activity that was not
- 24 previously assessed as part of the original Whale Tail
- 25 Pit proposal. As a result, further assessment of the
- 26 expansion proposal was commenced by the NIRB under the

- 1 Nunavut Agreement and Nunavut Planning and Project
- 2 Assessment Act.
- 3 On May 16, 2019, the Nunavut Water Board received
- 4 the application and supporting documentation from
- 5 Agnico Eagle to amend the existing Type "A" and B water
- 6 licences associated with the Whale Tail Pit gold mine
- 7 site and Meadowbank gold mine site to reflect the
- 8 changes to the original project in the Whale Tail Pit
- 9 Expansion Proposal. Agnico Eagle requested that NIRB
- 10 coordinate its assessment of the Whale Tail Pit
- 11 Expansion Project proposal with the NWB's associated
- 12 licencing process.
- 13 On June 4, 2019, the NWB acknowledged receipt of
- 14 the amendment applications and asked the interested
- 15 persons to review the scope and completeness of
- 16 information provided, as well as to identify any
- 17 deficiencies and information requests. By July 18,
- 18 2019, the -- the Board received comments on the
- 19 completeness of the application from the Kivalliq Inuit
- 20 Association, Crown-Indigenous Relations, Environment
- 21 and Climate Change Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans
- 22 Canada.
- 23 Based on additional information provided by Agnico
- 24 Eagle, the comments provided by parties, and the
- 25 Board's review, on August 14, 2019, the Board
- 26 determined the applications were complete and issued

- 1 notice of the amendment application. The -- the notice
- 2 invited intervenors and any interested parties to
- 3 commence any technical review of the amendment
- 4 applications and provide the Board with their comments
- 5 by mid-September and also provide notice that the Board
- 6 proposed to hold an in-person technical meeting and
- 7 pre-hearing conference for the amendment applications
- 8 in Baker Lake during the week of October 28 to
- 9 November -- November 1. Sorry.
- 10 Kivalliq Inuit Association, Crown-Indigenous
- 11 Relations and Northern Affairs, Climate -- Environment
- 12 and Climate Change Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans
- 13 Canada provided technical review comments on the
- 14 amendment applications by September 16, 2019. Agnico
- 15 Eagle Mines filed a response to the technical comments
- of these parties and the NWB on October 7, 2019.
- 17 On October 18, 2019, the Nunavut Impact Review
- 18 Board completed its assessment of the Whale Tail
- 19 expansion proposal and issued a report and
- 20 recommendations to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous
- 21 Relations and Northern Affairs. The NIRB recommended
- 22 various changes to the existing project certificate for
- 23 the Whale Tail Pit project and indicated that the
- 24 expansion proposal should be allowed to proceed to the
- 25 permitting stage.
- 26 On October 28, 2019, the Board, Agnico Eagle, and

- 1 all the intervenors were travelling to Baker Lake for
- 2 an in-person technical meeting and pre-hearing
- 3 conference scheduled to start the next day on
- 4 October 29. Unfortunately, in Yellowknife, the Board
- 5 was advised that due to weather conditions, all flights
- 6 into and out of Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake were
- 7 cancelled for both October 28 and 29. As most parties
- 8 were travelling and indicated that they could revise
- 9 their travel arrangements to get to Yellowknife, the
- 10 Board revised the location and schedule of the meeting.
- 11 The Board made arrangements to move the meeting to
- 12 Yellowknife and delay the start of the technical
- 13 meeting on October 29 so that the technical meeting and
- 14 the pre-hearing conference could start -- could still
- 15 proceed as scheduled on October 29 and October 30. The
- 16 Board regrets that we could not get to Baker Lake for
- 17 this meeting, but the Board made a teleconference and
- 18 line available to any community members who wished to
- 19 participate throughout the meetings and also had
- 20 simultaneous interpretation available during the
- 21 teleconference should anyone require it.
- 22 On November 29, 2019, the Board released the
- 23 pre-hearing conference decision that summarized the
- 24 outcome of the technical meeting and pre-hearing
- 25 conference held by the board in October. At -- at the
- 26 same time, the Board also released the notice of this

- 1 public hearing and the list of commitments to be
- 2 fulfilled by the Applicant.
- 3 On December 20, 2019, Agnico Eagle filed
- 4 submissions required to be filed prior to the public
- 5 hearing to meet commitments they made at the technical
- 6 meeting.
- 7 On January 20, 2020, the Minister of Northern
- 8 Affairs issued his decision accepting the NIRB's report
- 9 and recommendations and authorizing the Whale Tail Pit
- 10 expansion proposal to proceed to the licencing and
- 11 permitting stage.
- Between January 23, 2020, and February 6, 2020,
- 13 the Board has received final written submissions and
- 14 presentations about the amendment application from the
- 15 Kivalliq Inuit Association, Crown-Indigenous Relations
- 16 and Northern Affairs, Environment and Climate Change
- 17 Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Agnico Eagle
- 18 has also provided its final written submission and
- 19 presentation materials to the Board as well.
- 20 On February 7, 2020, the NWB circulated the final
- 21 agenda for this public hearing. As I mentioned
- 22 earlier, the final agenda, including translated copies,
- 23 are available from the table as you enter the hall if
- 24 you wish to pick one up and follow along.
- 25 Complete details on all procedural steps and all
- 26 submissions received in relation to the amendment

- 1 applications are available on the NWB's FT -- 'F' --
- 2 FTP site. If you have any -- have questions or
- 3 comments -- or would like to see any material, please
- 4 see Richard at the table as you enter the building --
- 5 the hall.
- 6 I will now move on to read a list of issues that
- 7 will be discussed at this hearing. This list was
- 8 prepared during the technical meeting and pre-hearing
- 9 conference: amendments to the terms of existing
- 10 licences; requested extension to the terms of the Whale
- 11 Tail Pit and haul road project water licence number --
- 12 water licence from 2026 to 2043 -- sorry -- and the
- 13 Meadowbank gold mine water licence from 2026 to 2033.
- 14 Changes to the scope of the existing licences:
- amendments to Water Licence Number 2AM-WTP1826;
- 16 amendments to Water Licence Number 2AM-MEA1526;
- 17 amendments to Water Licence Number 2BB-MEA1828. Water
- 18 use and management: annual water use amounts from each
- 19 source, including changes to allocations of existing
- 20 licenced water use, from Nemo Lake, Mammoth Lake, Whale
- 21 Tail South Basin, and small ponds/lakes close to
- 22 drilling site; pit flooding water sources; management
- 23 of expected volume of water during 2020 freshet; water
- 24 management during wet -- wet years; groundwater
- 25 management; additional or alternative water bodies as
- 26 locations for discharge of treated effluent. Water

- 1 balance and water quality models and predictions.
- 2 Waste disposal and management: new and expanded
- 3 infrastructure for disposal of different types of
- 4 waste; waste rock management; characterization of
- 5 non-potentially acid generating and potential acid
- 6 generating waste rocks; thermal modelling for waste
- 7 rock storage facility design. Monitoring: water
- 8 quality monitoring during closure. Adaptive
- 9 management/operation flexibility: definitions;
- 10 thresholds and triggers and options for adaptive
- 11 management action; adaptive management decision tree;
- 12 integration into management plans. Abandonment,
- 13 closure, and reclamation and update to interim closure
- 14 and reclamation plan; final closure and reclamation
- 15 plan; water quality of flooded pit lake; site-specific
- 16 water quality objective and potential threshold for
- 17 treatment, reconnection of pit lakes and GSP ponds.
- 18 Security: updates to reclamation cost estimate and
- 19 security management agreement. Water compensation:
- 20 confirmation of Kivalliq Inuit Association and Agnico
- 21 Eagle regarding finalized water compensation agreement.
- 22 Revisions to management and monitoring plans: timing
- 23 of submission and review timelines.
- If there are no concerns, I would like to move
- 25 forward to a roll call. I will begin the roll call
- 26 with the Applicant.

- 1 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, can you please
- 2 introduce your participants.
- 3 Roll Call
- 4 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am
- 5 Jamie Quesnel, regional manager permitting and
- 6 regulatory affairs with Agnico Eagle. I just wanted to
- 7 thank -- thank everyone for being here and meeting here
- 8 in Baker Lake under the circumstances. It's good to
- 9 see everyone made it here safely, which is paramount to
- 10 everyone here and primarily to Agnico Eagle.
- 11 As we're starting late, I will keep my opening
- 12 remarks very brief and introduce you to our Agnico
- 13 Eagle team in attendance at this hearing and also the
- 14 third-party experts that are supporting us. I will ask
- 15 each person to just raise their hand when I say their
- 16 name. With Agnico Eagle, Michel Groleau, general
- 17 supervisor permitting; Manon Turmel, permitting lead;
- 18 Etienne Parent, permitting specialist; Suzanne Leclair,
- 19 lead indigenous and stakeholder relations; Chris
- 20 Kennedy, technical specialist, geochemistry and mine
- 21 closure; Nancy Duquet-Harvey, environmental
- 22 superintendent Meadowbank; Casey Paradis St. Onge,
- 23 Nunavut communication coordinator; and Martin Plante,
- 24 general manager Meadowbank complex.
- 25 And also with our consultant team, John Faithful,
- 26 senior water quality specialist, Golder Associates;

- 1 Dr. Nicola Lower, principal consultant environmental
- 2 impact assessment and permitting with Environmental
- 3 Resources Management; Dr. Cam Stevens, senior fish
- 4 biologist with Golder Associates; Gillian Allen, senior
- 5 geoenvironmental engineer, Okane Consultants; Gary
- 6 Lawrence, associate and senior environmental scientist,
- 7 Golder Associates; and Christine Kowbel with Lawson
- 8 Lundell, our legal counsel. Thank you.
- 9 THE CHAIR: Now I will now move to local
- 10 association and representatives and intervening
- 11 parties.
- 12 Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 13 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Luis
- 14 Manzo on behalf of Kivalliq Inuit Association. With
- 15 me, our legal counsel Jennifer King; our staff, Jeff
- 16 Tulugak, Jamie Kataluk; our consultants, Richard
- 17 Nesbitt, Alan Sexton, and -- and Ashley Aupaluktuq.
- 18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 20 Then Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 21 Affairs.
- 22 MR. DEWAR: Matna. Mr. Chair, my name is
- 23 Spencer Dewar with Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 24 Northern Affairs Canada. With me today I have Godwin
- 25 Okonkwo; he's the manager of water resources. And I
- 26 have David Zhong, who's the science and regulatory

- 1 advisor.
- 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 3 Then Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 4 MS. WILSON: Thank you. My name is Anne
- 5 Wilson. I work with Environment and Climate Change
- 6 Canada on water quality, and I want to check if we have
- 7 Eva Walker on the telephone with us.
- 8 MS. WALKER: [INAUDIBLE]
- 9 MS. WILSON: Thank you.
- 10 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 11 Then Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Please go to
- 12 the mic -- microphone.
- 13 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you. This is Alasdair
- 14 Beattie. I am the team lead with the mining, oil, and
- 15 gas division of the fish and fish habitat of DFO.
- 16 Today with me I have Edyta Ratajczyk and José
- 17 Audet-Lecouffe.
- 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 19 If there are any intervenors that I have not
- 20 mentioned who would like to speak, please identify
- 21 yourself.
- I see there's no -- no hands rise up.
- 23 It is our tradition to give respect to our Elders;
- 24 therefore, at any -- any time during the proceedings an
- 25 Elder may speak to the applications that are before the
- 26 Board. All that we ask is that when the Elder wish to

1 speak, they may -- that they let me or our staff know;

- 2 then we get a microphone to you before you speak so we
- 3 can ensure your comments are recorded in the
- 4 transcript.
- 5 Are there any representatives from agencies,
- 6 association, et cetera, who have not submitted
- 7 interventions but would like to make a presentation or
- 8 share their views about the amendment applications?
- 9 Are there any members of the general public who
- 10 would like to make a formal request to make
- 11 presentation or speak to the Board during the -- during
- 12 this public hearing?
- 13 I also want to mention that the Board will also
- 14 give opportunities to any member of the public who may
- 15 have questions for Agnico Eagle or the intervenors
- 16 throughout the hearing to ask their questions or make
- 17 comments at the end of the technical -- technical
- 18 presentations of each party and during the community
- 19 session that will be taking -- it will take place
- 20 tonight.
- I will now turn to the identification of any
- 22 motion or any objection to the amendment applications
- that are before the Board.
- I think that there's none.
- Okay. Teresa.
- 26 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa

- 1 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 2 Mr. Chair, we have not received any motions or
- 3 objections to the Panel proceeding with these -- this
- 4 public hearing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 5 THE CHAIR: Okay. We will now proceed
- 6 with Item 8 in the agenda, the presentation by the
- 7 Applicant.
- 8 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 9 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 10 Mr. Chair, if I can have the witnesses state and
- 11 spell their name for the record, please.
- 12 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you. Jamie Quesnel,
- 13 J-A-M-I-E Q-U-E-S-N-E-L.
- 14 MR. GROLEAU: Michel Groleau, M-I-C-H-E-L
- 15 G-R-O-L-E-A-U.
- 16 MR. FAITHFUL: John Faithful, J-O-H-N
- 17 F-A-I-T-H-F-U-L.
- 18 MR. KENNEDY: Chris Kennedy, C-H-R-I-S
- 19 K-E-N-N-E-D-Y,
- 20 MR. LAWRENCE: Gary Lawrence, G-A-R-Y
- L-A-W-R-E-N-C-E.
- 22 MS. LOWER: Nicola Lower, N-I-C-O-L-A
- L-O-W-E-R.
- 24 MR. PARENT: Etienne Parent, E-T-I-E-N-N-E
- P-A-R-E-N-T.
- 26 MS. TURMEL: Manon Turmel, M-A-N-O-N

- 1 T-U-R-M-E-L.
- 2 MS. ALLEN: Gillian Allen, G-I-L-L-I-A-N

- $3 \quad A-L-L-E-N$.
- 4 MR. STEVENS: Cam Stevens, C-A-M
- $5 \quad S-T-E-V-E-N-S$.
- 6 JAMIE QUESNEL, MICHEL GROLEAU, JOHN FAITHFUL, CHRIS
- 7 KENNEDY, GARY LAWRENCE, NICOLA LOWER, ETIENNE PARENT,
- 8 MANON TURMEL, GILLIAN ALLEN, CAM STEVENS, Affirmed
- 9 MS. MEADOWS: Mr. Chair, I have before me
- 10 three exhibits that are the presentation materials
- 11 about to be presented by Agnico Eagle in English, in
- 12 Inuktitut, and in French, and I propose to mark those
- 13 as the first three exhibits in the public hearing. Are
- 14 there any additional exhibits that need to be marked at
- 15 this point?
- 16 MS. KOWBEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
- 17 Christine Kowbel for Agnico Eagle.
- No further exhibits at this time. Thank you.
- 19 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 20 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 21 Those are my procedural matters, Mr. Chair.
- 22 EXHIBIT 1 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- 23 Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project NWB Public
- Hearing February 12-13, 2020 (English)
- 25 EXHIBIT 2 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- 26 Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project NWB Public

- 1 Hearing February 12-13, 2020 (Inuktitut)
- 2 EXHIBIT 3 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project NWB Public
- 4 Hearing February 12-13, 2020 (French)
- 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 6 Parties are reminded to state their name prior to
- 7 speaking to assist the stenographer in keeping an
- 8 accurate record of the proceeding. Thank you.
- 9 Presentation by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
- 10 MR. GROLEAU: Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.
- 11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- Before starting the presentation, I would like to
- 13 point to the poster and 3D model at the back of the
- 14 community hall which present the project. During
- 15 breaks, we will have someone from Agnico Eagle at the
- 16 3D model to explain the model and the project. Don't
- 17 hesitate to pass by and ask your question if you got
- 18 any.
- 19 During this presentation, I will provide an
- 20 overview of the proposed Whale Tail Expansion Project.
- 21 I will also present a summary of the Nunavut Water
- 22 Board review process to date, as well, a summary of our
- 23 responses to technical comments received.
- Go with the overview of the Whale Tail Expansion
- 25 Project. This slide present the history of Agnico
- 26 Eagle. Not go through that in detail. Briefly, the

- 1 expansion project will add another four years of
- 2 operation to the Whale Tail Project. And end of
- 3 production is planned in 2026.
- 4 There's currently two approved project for the
- 5 Meadowbank complex: First, the Meadowbank project
- 6 where we got the mill and the tailings storage
- 7 facility; and, second, the Whale Tail Project, which is
- 8 simply a pit, waste rock storage facility, and haul
- 9 road. In this presentation, we refer to the Whale Tail
- 10 Project as the "approved project". Approval for this
- 11 project were received in March 15, 2018, and on -- for
- 12 the -- from the Nunavut Impact Review Board with the
- 13 Project Certificate Number 008, and on July 11, 2018,
- 14 with the water -- Nunavut Water Board Water Licence
- 15 2AM-WTP1826.
- 16 As a satellite operation, the Whale Tail Pit
- 17 Project is approved to operate and will continue to
- 18 feed the Meadowbank mill and tailings storage facility
- 19 and use associated Meadowbank mine infrastructure under
- 20 Project Certificate Number 004 and a Type "A" Water
- 21 Licence 2AM-MEA1526. So ore is mined at the Whale Tail
- 22 Pit and hauled back at Meadowbank for processing.
- 23 We are currently seeking approval to expand and
- 24 extend the Whale Tail Pit Project through a
- 25 reconsideration of NIRB project certificate and the
- 26 Water Licence 2AM-WTP1826 amendment to include the

- 1 expansion of the Whale Tail Pit, the IVR Pit, and an
- 2 underground mine. Similar to the approved project, the
- 3 deposit will be mined, and ore will be stockpile, then
- 4 hauled to the approved infrastructure at the Meadowbank
- 5 mine for milling.
- 6 This slide show the proposed schedule of the Whale
- 7 Tail Expansion Project. So since the last two year,
- 8 we're operating the Whale Tail Pit as per the approved
- 9 project. Beginning of next -- beginning of 2020, we
- 10 begin the -- the operation and expansion of the Whale
- 11 Tail Pit, IVR Pit, and the stripping and building of
- 12 the infrastructure if the water licence is deemed
- 13 approved. From 2020 to 2025, we will operate the Whale
- 14 Tail Pit Expansion Project. And from 2026 to 2042,
- 15 this is a closure phase of the pit where the pit
- 16 flooding occurs. The closure phase timeline is linked
- 17 to keeping a withdrawal rate for flooding that is
- 18 protective of the water bodies, and post-closure will
- 19 commence in 2043.
- 20 This slide present a layout of infrastructure for
- 21 the approved and expansion project. Approved project
- 22 infrastructures are shows [sic] in grey; proposed
- 23 infrastructure related to surface mining activities are
- 24 outlined in the red; and proposed, as said, related to
- 25 the underground activities are in purple.
- This figure present both approved and expansion

- 1 project infrastructure at the end of mine life, so just
- 2 before initiating the closure phase. The approved
- 3 project include the Whale Tail Pit located in the
- 4 middle, the Whale Tail waste rock storage facility on
- 5 the left, and the camp and facilities at the bottom
- 6 here. To this, we will be adding as part of the
- 7 expansion project the expanded Whale Tail Pit, same
- 8 location, mining it deeper, and the Whale Tail waste
- 9 rock storage facility that is expanded on the east
- 10 side; the IVR Pit, north of the Whale Tail Pit; the IVR
- 11 waste rock storage facility located at the east -- oh,
- 12 sorry; and IVR attenuation pond south to the IVR waste
- 13 rock pipe; the underground mine -- we can see the
- 14 portal right here; underground waste rock pile north of
- 15 the portal; and the three groundwater storage pond in
- 16 blue on this figure. Those pond will be used for
- 17 management of the water coming from the underground
- 18 mine.
- 19 During a community mapping session held in Baker
- 20 Lake on December 17, 2019, with David Kritterdlik, the
- 21 land user, and Elders have come up with the Inuktitut
- 22 name for this site knows [sic] as "Whale Tail".
- 23 "Piquganiq" refer to the group of small hills, part of
- 24 the north end of the group of eskers surrounding the
- 25 project. We would like to thanks the community of
- 26 Baker for their input, and we are currently in the

- 1 process to change the nomenclature of the project with
- 2 this new name. However, this process will take some
- 3 time, and we will continue to refer as the "Whale Tail
- 4 Project" as part of the licence amendment process. We
- 5 are looking forward to continue working with the Baker
- 6 Lake community to improve the use of Inuktitut in the
- 7 project nomenclature.
- 8 To summarize the project, we would like to show
- 9 you a 3D rendering video of the proposed
- 10 infrastructure. So the -- thank you, Manon.
- 11 (VIDEO PLAYED)
- 12 MR. GROLEAU: So here we can see the
- 13 location of Baker Lake and the Meadowbank complex. So
- 14 we got the Meadowbank mine and the haul road going to
- 15 the Whale Tail Project. See the esker along the road
- 16 and the location of the Whale Tail Project. So here
- it's the baseline where we can see the land before the
- 18 creation of the mine. So we got the Whale Tail Lake in
- 19 the middle. Future location of the Whale Tail Pit will
- 20 be in this area.
- Here we got the Mammoth Lake, and we'll just go
- 22 above the crossing here between the two lakes.
- This part of the video is presenting the Whale
- 24 Tail Pit operation, so the approved project. We got
- 25 the Whale Tail dike, the Whale Tail attenuation pond
- 26 right behind it. Got the Whale Tail Pit and the Whale

- 1 Tail WRSF, the waste rock storage facility, which is
- 2 interesting; we can see the size of a haul truck and A
- 3 pickup truck and the ramp going down the pit. Give you
- 4 an idea of the proportion. Got the camp right here and
- 5 the ore stockpile right in this location.
- 6 Next part of the video will present the Whale Tail
- 7 Pit Expansion Project. So we got expanded Whale Tail
- 8 waste rock storage facility and the two dikes we just
- 9 seen on the previous part of the video with the Whale
- 10 Tail attenuation pond and -- and the Whale -- the Whale
- 11 Tail Pit. The IVR Pit is right behind, and we got the
- 12 IVR waste rock pile. Here, the camp and the new IVR
- 13 attenuation pond and future ore stockpile. Got the IVR
- 14 waste rock storage facility.
- 15 And then we'll go underground to see the
- 16 underground mine deposit and the main ramps. Accessing
- 17 the ore body. So we see here connection with the
- 18 surface through the portal and the ramp going through
- 19 the Whale Tail deposit, and you got the IVR deposit
- 20 here on the right side of the screen. So you can see
- 21 the ramp that turns down that allows to reach out the
- 22 different section of the ore body.
- 23 So this final part of the video show the closure.
- 24 This is really the state of the project at
- 25 post-closure, so after pit reflooding is completed. So
- 26 at that moment in time, we reconnect the Whale Tail

- 1 South Basin with the pits. So here the dike is
- 2 breached, and water can -- can flow and reach out the
- 3 previous location of the Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit.
- 4 You can see the pit wall through the surface of the
- 5 water. And then the pit lake will reconnect with the
- 6 Mammoth Lake through a spillway. So water will flow
- 7 above the spillway toward this -- this location toward
- 8 the west.
- 9 So we'll go back to the presentation.
- 10 Thank you, Manon.
- 11 We'll discuss of the water use and the management.
- 12 So this slide present the different infrastructure
- 13 related to surface water management and underground
- 14 contact water management. So I'll not go through that
- 15 again. I think we -- we present that through the video
- 16 in detail.
- 17 This next slide is presenting an estimate of how
- 18 water use will be broken down during the construction
- 19 and operation phase for the approved and expansion
- 20 project. The number in this table were extracted from
- 21 the Part E, Item 1 from the draft water licence that
- 22 have been submitted. The line at the bottom is
- 23 presenting the global number, and this is how we think
- 24 at this time that this will be split. As an overall
- 25 amount under the licence, we are requesting
- 26 700,859 cubic metre from all sources.

- 1 This table present an estimate of how water use
- 2 will be broken down during the closure phase for the
- 3 approved and expansion project. The numbers in the
- 4 table -- in this table were extracted from the Part E,
- 5 Item 2 from the draft water licence. The line at the
- 6 bottom is presenting the global number, and this is how
- 7 we think at this time that it will be split. The
- 8 overall amount under the licence we are requesting is
- 9 14,855,606 cubic metre from all sources.
- 10 Following comments from Environment and Climate
- 11 Change Canada, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and the
- 12 Kivalliq Inuit Association [sic], Agnico Eagle
- developed a strategy to management potential exceedance
- 14 volume for different wet year scenario in 2020. To
- manage water at freshet 2020, two main storage
- 16 infrastructure, our Quarry 1 and the Groundwater
- 17 Storage Pond 1, operational flexibility will dictate
- 18 the order in which water will be managed. Freshet 2020
- 19 water management strategy is aligned with the adaptive
- 20 management plan.
- It should also be noted that if water quality
- 22 meets water licence effluent discharge criteria, direct
- 23 discharge to the receiver could be completed to
- 24 increase water storage capacity and reduce pressure on
- 25 the water treatment plants.
- This slide is presenting the conceptual

- 1 hydrogeological system for the Whale Tail Expansion
- 2 Project. During the operation, Whale Tail Pit and the
- 3 underground mine are groundwater recharge system, and
- 4 no groundwater is planned to report to the IVR Pit, as
- 5 this pit is located in continuous permafrost.
- 6 During the closure phase, Whale Tail Pit, IVR Pit,
- 7 and the underground mine will slowly become groundwater
- 8 discharge system, and volume from 0 to 5 cubic metre
- 9 per day are forecasted to flow out of the system and
- 10 reach the deep talik system.
- 11 This slide is presenting the three discharge
- 12 location of the project. So we got the approved
- 13 discharge in Mammoth Lake and the two discharge that
- 14 was added as part of this application, one from the
- 15 Whale Tail South Basin effluent discharge location, and
- 16 the Number 3, Whale Tail dike seepage collection pond
- 17 discharge location.
- To process the trigger -- the use of the
- 19 alternative location for discharge of treated effluent
- 20 is defined by the Nunavut Impact Review Board
- 21 Certificate 004 -- 008, Terms and Condition Number 67.
- 22 The new project certificate was reviewed last week with
- 23 the parties and the Nunavut Water Board. The
- 24 authorization to proceed with the potential discharge
- 25 to Lake D1 or D5 will be granted by the Nunavut Water
- 26 Board based on their -- the Nunavut Impact Review Board

- 1 recommendation.
- 2 The decommissioning of the infrastructure required
- 3 for the alternative discharge location was included in
- 4 the security management agreement.
- 5 This slide is presenting the water balance and
- 6 water quality forecasts works completed as part of this
- 7 application. The modelling completed as part of the
- 8 final environmental impact statement and subsequently
- 9 with the Nunavut Water Board water quality model update
- 10 provided an understanding of the project -- the
- 11 projected water quality conditions during each phase of
- 12 the project. Moreover, several sensitivity analysis
- 13 were completed based on the comment from the parties as
- 14 listed on this slide. We consider that the uncertainty
- 15 related to water quality has been addressed through all
- 16 the different iteration of the water balance and water
- 17 quality modelling exercise. These different iterations
- 18 of the model were used to define the adaptive
- 19 management plan triggers and mitigation strategies.
- 20 Following the completion of the flooding of the
- 21 pit at the end of the closure phase, water chemistry of
- 22 the Whale Tail Pit and IVR Pit will be slightly
- 23 different to the receiving environment prior to the
- 24 reconnection but will meet closure objective. There
- 25 will be minor change in water quality in the receiver
- 26 once the pit is reconnected, but the water quality

- 1 condition of the receiver will also remain within
- 2 closure objective.
- 3 The water quality condition of the Whale Tail and

- 4 IVR Pits will be evaluated on an ongoing basis as the
- 5 pit is flooded. The closure objective may be achieved
- 6 in advance of the pit being filled, which could allow
- 7 for revision of the post-closure monitoring effort.
- 8 The closure objective for the pit will be defined
- 9 in the final closure and reclamation plan and are
- 10 expected to align with environment guidelines and
- 11 relevant site-specific water quality objective.
- 12 Agnico Eagle has developed a comprehensive closure
- and post-closure monitoring program based on the
- 14 flooding sequence and the relative pit flooding extent
- 15 and the 17 years required to flood the Whale Tail Pit.
- 16 This outcome provides the benefit of reducing
- 17 uncertainty in the final flooded water quality
- 18 conditions because it is -- it is expected that
- 19 throughout the flooding process the pit lake will
- 20 already begin to demonstrate water quality conditions
- 21 that would be expected in the full pit state.
- 22 THE CHAIR: We shall -- excuse me. We
- 23 shall take a break now, come back here at 7:00 for our
- 24 community session, and continuation of technical
- 25 session. We'll take a -- yeah, we need to go back,
- 26 have -- have supper, and then come back here at 7:00.

1 2 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 7:00 PM 3 4 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 7:03 PM) 5 Community Session 6 THE CHAIR: Good afternoon. Welcome back 7 to the hall. Before we start the proceeding, I'd like to recognize the mayor of Baker Lake to come over and 8 9 have welcoming remarks and so on. Opening Remarks by the Mayor of Baker Lake (Community 10 11 Session) 12 MR. AKSAWNEE: Test, test, test. Good evening, everybody. My name's Richard 13 Aksawnee. 14 I'm the -- I'm the newly elected mayor for 15 the community of Baker Lake. I would like to take a few minutes as the mayor for Baker Lake, the 16 17 geographical centre of Canada, to extend a very warm 18 welcome, each and every individual visiting our 19 community today. 20 You are visiting our community to attend and participate in a very important meeting of the Nunavut 21 22 Water Board. Lootie, as the chairman of the Board, you 23 and your fellow members are always welcome to Baker 24 The functions and responsibilities you and your

Board have are very important to the community of Baker

Lake and, indeed, all of Nunavut. I trust you all have

25

- 1 a very productive meeting, and, again, please enjoy the
- 2 hospitality of our community. Have a great evening.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 Opening Remarks (Community Session)
- 5 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you very
- 6 much.
- 7 So we will proceed with this community session
- 8 tonight. Good evening once again, and welcome to a
- 9 community session for Nunavut Water Board's public
- 10 hearing in relation to the amendment applications
- 11 submitted by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited -- that I will
- 12 refer to as "Agnico Eagle" or "Applicant" -- with the
- 13 Nunavut Water Board for Water Licences 2AM-WTP1826,
- 14 2AM-MEA1526, and 2BB-MEA1828.
- 15 My name is Lootie Toomasie, and I'm the chair of
- 16 Nunavut Water Board. I'll be chairing tonight's
- 17 session.
- Tonight's session is the part of Nunavut Water
- 19 Board's public hearing to consider the amendments to
- 20 the existing water licences, which authorize the use of
- 21 water and deposit of waste associated with the water
- 22 and waste management infrastructure at Agnico Eagle
- 23 Mines -- Agnico Eagle's Whale Tail Pit and Meadowbank
- 24 gold mining undertakings. The changes to these water
- 25 licences have been requested by Agnico Eagle to reflect
- 26 an expansion to Agnico Eagle's mining activities at the

- 1 Whale Tail Pit under what Agnico Eagle has proposed in
- 2 the Whale Tail Pit -- Whale Tail Pit Expansion Proposal
- 3 that was assessed by the Nunavut Water -- Impact Review
- 4 Board last year.
- 5 This public hearing marks the final opportunity
- for the Applicant, the intervenors, and the members of
- 7 the community to present their comments, issues, and
- 8 questions about the amendment applications to the
- 9 Nunavut Water Board before the Board makes its decision
- 10 about the amendments. The Nunavut Water Board
- 11 appreciates you all turning out to participate in this
- 12 important meeting.
- Before we proceed with tonight's session, please
- 14 let us begin with prayer. Let us stand and pray.
- 15 Opening Prayer
- 16 THE CHAIR: For those of you who were not
- 17 here this afternoon when we started the public hearing,
- 18 I have a few brief housekeeping introduction remarks,
- 19 and then, as outlined in the agenda, I will turn the
- 20 microphone over to the following parties: Firstly, as
- 21 outlined in Item 3 of tonight's agenda, the staff of
- 22 the Nunavut Water Board will provide everyone with a
- 23 summary of the Water Board's process in general and in
- 24 relation to these amendment applications specifically.
- 25 After presentation by the Board staff, community
- 26 members will have an opportunity to question the Board

- 1 staff about our process.
- 2 Then as set out under Item 5 of the agenda, the
- 3 Applicant, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, will provide
- 4 their presentation explaining the changes they are
- 5 requesting in the amendment applications, and you
- 6 will -- and you will have an opportunity to ask them
- 7 questions and provide your comments.
- 8 And we will then move to Items 7 and 8 on the
- 9 agenda when the intervenors in this application, the
- 10 Kivalliq Inuit Association, Crown-Indigenous Relations
- 11 and Northern Affairs, Environment and Climate Change
- 12 Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, will outline
- 13 their mandates and roles in respect of these water
- 14 licences and will present summaries about their
- 15 comments/submissions provided to the Board to date.
- 16 Their presentations will be followed by opportunity for
- 17 you to ask questions of the intervenors and provide the
- 18 Board with your comments.
- Now, on to a few brief housekeeping items.
- 20 Firstly, there will be interpretation available
- 21 throughout the hearing, and earpieces are available
- 22 from the table located just as you come into the hall.
- 23 The floor is -- Channel 1 is floor; Channel 2 is
- 24 English; Channel 3, Inuktitut.
- 25 Secondly, the Board asks everyone, including the
- 26 Applicant, intervenors, and members of the public to

- 1 sign in on the sheets provided at the table as you came
- 2 in. This is an important record of the hearing, and we
- 3 appreciate your help in making sure it is complete.
- 4 The washrooms are located in the lobby as -- the
- 5 members know all this more than I do; I just came in
- 6 today. And the coffee will be available, tea -- tea
- 7 and snacks are located on the table at the side there.
- 8 During break, please help yourself. Make yourself to
- 9 the food and the refreshments provided.
- 10 There are agendas for this community session and
- 11 the public hearing at the table as you came in. Please
- 12 pick one up and follow along.
- 13 Now I would like to introduce all the Board and
- 14 the staff before we proceed to the presentation in the
- 15 agenda. I'll be chairing this Panel, and with me today
- 16 as members of the Panel are Board members Ross Mrazek
- on my right, and Makabe Nartok on my -- on my left.
- I would also like to introduce several staff
- 19 members and our legal counsel who have come to the
- 20 NWB's administration and technical review of the
- 21 amendment applications. When I say your name, please
- 22 wave so that the people know who you are. Karén
- 23 Kharatyan, director of technical services; Ben Kogvik,
- 24 director of board administration and communications, at
- 25 the back at the interpreter booth; Richard Dwyer,
- 26 manager of licencing at the entrance area; Assol

- 1 Kubeisinova, technical advisor; and Teresa Meadows from
- 2 Meadows Law, legal counsel to the Board.
- We have two interpreters helping us this evening.
- 4 In addition to Ben Kogvik, director of administration
- 5 and communications, we have Alexander Alooq, who is
- 6 from Baker Lake.
- For audio support, we have Ryan Dempster from PIDO
- 8 Productions with us. If you experience any
- 9 difficulties with your headsets, he will be able to
- 10 provide you assistance.
- 11 To ensure an accurate record of this proceeding is
- 12 kept, we have with us a court reporter, Christy
- 13 Longacre, from Dicta Court Reporting Incorporated. To
- 14 assist Christy, I ask that all parties please state
- 15 their name prior to speaking.
- 16 As I said earlier, tonight's session will involve
- 17 a presentation by the Nunavut Water Board technical
- 18 staff; a presentation by the Applicant, Agnico Eagle
- 19 Mines Limited; and presentations by the intervenors,
- 20 the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Crown-Indigenous
- 21 Relations and Northern Affairs, Environment and Climate
- 22 Change Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 23 Following each presentation, I will invite anyone
- 24 who wishes to ask questions or provide the Panel with
- 25 their comments to step up to the microphone and speak
- 26 on the record. I encourage everyone with questions to

- 1 please step up and ask. But to make sure our public
- 2 hearing is accurate and to assist our court reporter
- 3 and interpreters, before speaking, please wait until
- 4 you have a microphone to speak, then state your name
- 5 and speak directly, clearly, and slowly into the
- 6 microphone. Please be mindful of the interpreters as
- 7 you go, and avoid the use of abbreviations if you can.
- 8 We appreciate your participation and assistance in
- 9 making sure we are all heard and understood in this --
- 10 in this hearing.
- I will now turn the microphone to the Board's
- 12 technical staff to walk you through how these
- 13 applications have been progressed to this point.
- 14 Karén and Assol.
- 15 EXHIBIT 4 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- 16 Nunavut Water Board Community Session
- 17 Presentation Type "A" Water Licences
- 18 2AM-WTP1826 Whale Tail Pit Project
- 19 2AM-MEA1526 (English/Inuktitut)
- 20 Presentation by Nunavut Water Board Staff (Community
- 21 Session)
- 22 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name
- 23 is Karén Kharatyan. I am director of technical
- 24 services with Nunavut Water Board. So the Board will
- 25 start tonight's session with a presentation by Nunavut
- 26 Water Board, which will be followed by a presentation

- 1 by the Applicant, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited.
- 2 Following that, we will have presentations by
- 3 intervenors. So as Mr. Chair stated, after each
- 4 presentation, we will invite anyone to -- anyone to ask
- 5 questions or provide the Panel with their comments to
- 6 step up to the microphone and speak on the record. If
- 7 you are an Elder, you can speak at any time throughout
- 8 these proceedings. We just ask that you raise your
- 9 hand to be recognized by the chairperson and wait to
- 10 speak until one of our staff members can get a
- 11 microphone for you.
- 12 For anyone here tonight, I encourage to ask
- 13 questions or share your comments with the Board by
- 14 stepping up to the microphone, or you can direct your
- 15 questions to the staff of Nunavut Water Board, the
- 16 Applicant, or intervenors present today.
- 17 As Mr. Chair indicated at the start -- at the
- 18 start of the public hearing, it is very important to
- 19 the Nunavut Water Board that we have an accurate record
- 20 of the information, questions, and comments that we
- 21 hear during this public hearing. So we ask that
- 22 parties or any persons -- any members speaking to --
- 23 sorry -- to -- to assist our interpreters and the court
- 24 reporter, please wait until you have a microphone
- 25 before you to speak, then state your name, and speak
- 26 directly, clearly, and slowly into the microphone.

- 1 Please be mindful of the interpreters as you go, and
- 2 avoid the use of abbreviation if you can.
- 3 So we appreciate your participation and assistance
- 4 in making sure we are all heard and understood in this
- 5 public hearing and this hearing is conducted in a
- 6 productive and respectful manner.
- 7 So I will now turn the microphone over to the
- 8 Board technical advisor working on this file, Assol
- 9 Kubeisinova, and she will walk you through how this
- 10 amendment application has progressed to this point.
- 11 Assol, please start with your presentation.
- 12 MS. KUBEISINOVA: Good evening. So we are here
- 13 today to discuss Agnico Eagle's applications. There
- 14 are three applications to amend water licences. The
- 15 main one is for the amendment of the Whale Tail Pit
- 16 licence and the two consequential ones for the
- 17 Meadowbank mine site.
- 18 So the NWB is an institution of public government,
- 19 an IPG, established under Article 13 of the Nunavut
- 20 Agreement. The Board has responsibilities and powers
- 21 over the regulation, use, and management of freshwater
- 22 in the Nunavut settlement area.
- 23 The objects of the NWB are to provide for the
- 24 conservation and utilization of waters in Nunavut
- 25 except in the national park in a manner that will
- 26 provide the optimum -- optimum benefit from those

- 1 waters for Nunavut's residents in particular and
- 2 Canadians in general.
- 3 So there are three types of authorizations that
- 4 the Board can issue for the use of waters and deposit
- 5 of waste. The first one is an authorization without
- 6 the licence that is for water use of less than 50 cubes
- 7 of water -- 50 cubic metres of water per day. Another
- 8 one is a Type "B" water licence that is for water use
- 9 of between 50 and 300 cubic metres of water per day.
- 10 And, finally, a Type "A" water licence that is for the
- 11 use of water -- oops -- for the use of water of over
- 12 300 cubic metres per day. So this week's public
- 13 hearing is for the type -- for a Type "A" water licence
- 14 applications based on the criteria set out in Schedules
- 15 2 and 3 of the regulations.
- So here is just an overview of the Board's
- 17 licencing process. To start, the Board receives an
- 18 application for a Type "A" water licence and conducts a
- 19 concordance review. As a result of that concordance
- 20 review, we may ask the Applicant to provide more
- 21 information, and that will go out -- all of that
- 22 information will go out for technical review and
- 23 submission of comments by intervenors, by outside
- 24 parties.
- 25 So the parties -- parties submit written
- 26 representations, their written comments. If required,

- 1 an Applicant provides more information in response to
- 2 those comments. The Water Board holds -- holds a
- 3 technical meeting and a pre-hearing conference and then
- 4 issues a pre-hearing -- pre-hearing conference
- 5 decision. In that -- in that pre-hearing conference
- 6 decision, there may be commitments outlined for the
- 7 Applicant to fulfill. The Board also issues a notice
- 8 of the public -- of a public hearing that's coming at
- 9 least 60 days prior to the start of the public hearing,
- 10 and parties exchange written interventions and prepare
- 11 for the public hearing.
- So, today, we are at the stage where the Board
- 13 holds a public hearing. You can see it's circled in
- 14 red. And as an outcome -- there are two outcomes for
- 15 the public hearing. The Board can issue a decision to
- 16 approve the application and -- and provide the draft
- 17 water licence to the Minister, or it issues a decision
- 18 to not approve the applications and explain the reasons
- 19 to the Minister.
- 20 So in case the application is recommended to be
- 21 approved, the Minister may approve or may not approve
- 22 the licence. And in -- this is the same way with
- 23 the -- the Board's decision to not approve the
- 24 application; the Minister can approve the decision or
- 25 cannot.
- 26 So these three applications that are before the

- 1 Board are by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Agnico Eagle,
- 2 related to further development of the Whale Tail Pit
- 3 Project. And I won't go into detail what kind of --
- 4 what kind of changes to the project and how to expand
- 5 it -- Agnico Eagle is requesting, as we will have a
- 6 presentation later by the Applicant that will explain
- 7 in more detail on what is requested.
- 8 So this is -- this is just a brief timeline of the
- 9 process. On October 19th, 2018, the NIRB determined
- 10 that the Whale Tail Pit expansion proposal is a change
- 11 to the original Whale Tail Pit mine site and will
- 12 require an assessment by the NIRB.
- 13 On May 16th, 2019, the Water Board received from
- 14 Agnico Eagle applications for the amendments. And,
- 15 also, that included a request to -- to coordinate its
- 16 process with the NIRB process.
- 17 On June 4th, the -- the Water Board publicly
- 18 distributed the applications for a completeness check
- 19 by intervenors, and we received comments on that
- 20 completeness on July 18th.
- On August 1st, the NWB received Agnico Eagle's
- 22 responses to the comments, and on August 14th, the
- 23 Board publicly distributed the water licence
- 24 applications -- applications, this time for a full
- 25 technical review.
- On September 16th, we received the technical

- 1 review comments from the Kivalliq Inuit Association,
- 2 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs,
- 3 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Environment and
- 4 Climate Change Canada, and on October 7th, Agnico Eagle
- 5 responded to those comments.
- 6 On October 18th, the Water Board received the
- 7 proponent's and intervenors' presentations for the
- 8 technical meeting. On October 18th as well, the NIRB
- 9 issued its report and recommendations for the proposed
- 10 Whale Tail Expansion Project.
- On October 23rd, we released the final agenda for
- 12 the technical meeting and for the pre-hearing
- 13 conference, and although the technical meeting and the
- 14 pre-hearing conference were scheduled to happen here in
- 15 Baker Lake in October, we had to hold them in
- 16 Yellowknife on October 29th and 30th because the
- 17 weather prevented flights landing in both Baker Lake
- 18 and Rankin Inlet.
- 19 November 29th, the -- the Water Board released its
- 20 pre-hearing decision, including the notice of the
- 21 public hearing and the list of commitments for the
- 22 Applicant. And on October 20th, we received the
- 23 submissions according to the commitment list from
- 24 Agnico Eagle.
- 25 On January 20th, the Minister accepted the NIRB's
- 26 report and recommendations and authorized the expansion

- 1 project to proceed. And on October 23rd, the parties
- 2 provided their final submissions to the Board.
- 3 January 30th, Agnico Eagle filed its final
- 4 submissions in preparation for the public hearing, and
- 5 on February -- February 4th, the Water Board
- 6 distributed the draft agenda for the public hearing.
- 7 On February 6th, we received the copies of the
- 8 public hearing presentations from the parties and from
- 9 the Applicant and on the -- on February 7th, circulated
- 10 the final agenda for -- for the public hearing.
- 11 The Applicant, Kivalliq Inuit Association, CIRNA,
- 12 DFO, and ECCC have all contributed to the review
- 13 process for the applications, participated in formal
- 14 and informal discussions aimed at resolving relevant
- issues, and provided the Board and the proponent with
- 16 valuable technical information, questions, and concerns
- 17 on relevant issues.
- 18 Everyone is encouraged to participate in this
- 19 public hearing and this community session. Interested
- 20 persons can also contact the Water Board staff if you
- 21 would like to provide written submissions, written
- 22 comments, or to review the documents filed for the
- 23 applications. And all documents can be accessed at the
- 24 Water Board's FTP website.
- 25 The public hearing of this week is chaired by the
- 26 Board Panel and led by the Board's chair. The Water

- 1 Board Panel is here to consider the evidence provided
- 2 during the hearing before issuing a decision in about
- 3 30 to 45 days. The Water Board will inform the public
- 4 of the Board's decision once rendered. And this is the
- 5 list of the staff that you can contact and our contact
- 6 information.
- 7 Any questions or comments?
- 8 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, Assol, for
- 9 presentation.
- Now I will open the floor for questions, and I
- 11 will start with community members just asking anyone
- 12 having question raise their hands, and our staff member
- 13 will bring the -- will bring the microphone. So,
- 14 please, any question from public? The "questions", I
- 15 mean questions to Water Board staff regarding our
- 16 process, our licencing process.
- 17 If no questions from public, I will ask Agnico
- 18 Eagle whether they have any questions for Nunavut Water
- 19 Board.
- 20 MR. GROLEAU: Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.
- We do not have any question. Thank you.
- 22 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you.
- 23 Going to intervenors and starting with the
- 24 Kivalliq Inuit Association, whether any questions for
- 25 Board.
- 26 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Luis

- 1 Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 2 No questions at this time.
- 3 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you.
- 4 Any question from Crown-Indigenous Relation and
- 5 Northern Affairs?
- 6 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Mr. Chair.
- 7 No questions.
- 8 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you.
- 9 Now asking Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- 10 MS. WILSON: Anne Wilson, ECCC.
- 11 No questions. Thank you.
- 12 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you.
- 13 And Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- 14 MR. BEATTIE: Alasdair Beattie from DFO.
- We have no questions. Thank you.
- 16 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you.
- 17 Now we will ask proponent, Agnico Eagle Mines
- 18 Limited, to make their brief presentation. This is --
- 19 this is just community presentation, not the technical
- 20 session presentation.
- 21 MS. MEADOWS: Mr. Chair. Thank you,
- 22 Mr. Chair. Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the
- 23 Nunavut Water Board.
- Mr. Chair, the community session presentation that
- 25 Agnico Eagle is about to present -- we will be marking
- 26 the English, Inuktitut, and French copies of that

- 1 PowerPoint presentation as the next exhibits in this
- 2 public hearing, and those are my procedural matters,
- 3 Mr. Chair.
- 4 EXHIBIT 5 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- 5 Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project NWB Public
- 6 Hearing Community Session February 12-13,
- 7 2020 (English)
- 8 EXHIBIT 6 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- 9 Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project NWB Public
- 10 Hearing Community Session February 12-13,
- 11 2020 (Inuktitut)
- 12 EXHIBIT 7 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- 13 Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project NWB Public
- 14 Hearing Community Session February 12-13,
- 15 2020 (French)
- 16 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 17 Presentation by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (Community
- 18 Session)
- 19 MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Michel
- 20 Groleau, Agnico Eagle.
- We're quite happy to be in Baker Lake this week to
- 22 participate to the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project
- 23 Nunavut Water Board public hearing. This is an
- 24 important milestone for us, and we would like to thanks
- 25 [sic] the community member and the parties to attend
- 26 this event. This is meaningful for us. Thank you.

- 1 Before starting this presentation, I would like to
- 2 point out -- to the poster and 3D model at the back of
- 3 the room. During the breaks, we will have someone from
- 4 our team at the 3D model to explain the model and the
- 5 project. So don't hesitate to pass by and ask your
- 6 question if you got any. It will be a pleasure to
- 7 answer them.
- 8 During this presentation, we'll do an overview of
- 9 the proposed Whale Tail Expansion Project, and I will
- 10 also present a summary of the Nunavut Water Board
- 11 review process to date, as well as a summary of our
- 12 responses to technical comments received.
- 13 So this slide present the history of Agnico Eagle
- 14 in Nunavut. We're in Nunavut since 2007, and at the
- 15 Meadowbank project we started production in 2010. And
- 16 production will cease later this year at the site.
- 17 We're hoping to start the construction of the Whale
- 18 Tail Expansion Project in 2020 and end production in
- 19 2026. The expansion project will add another four
- 20 years of operation to the Whale Tail Project.
- The Whale Tail Pit approved project was permitted
- in March 15, 2018, when we receive from the Nunavut
- 23 Impact Review Board the Project Certificate Number 008,
- 24 and we receive approval of our water licence by the
- 25 Minister on July 18, 2018 -- would mark the beginning
- 26 of the construction and the operation of the Whale Tail

- 1 Pit approved project as a satellite operation of the
- 2 Whale -- the Whale Tail Pit Project is approved to
- 3 operate and will continue to feed the Meadowbank mill
- 4 and tailings storage facility.
- 5 Agnico Eagle is seeking approval to expand and
- 6 extend the Whale Tail Pit Project through a
- 7 reconsideration of the Nunavut Impact Review Board
- 8 Project Certificate 008 and a Type "A" water licence
- 9 amendment to include the expansion of the Whale Tail
- 10 Pit, the IVR Pit, and an underground mine. So the ore
- 11 will be stockpiled at Whale Tail then haul to
- 12 Meadowbank to be then mill. And we receive a positive
- 13 ministerial decision for the Nunavut Impact Review
- 14 Board reconsideration process on January 22, 2020.
- So this slide's presenting the time frame of the
- 16 Whale Tail Expansion Project. So as I mention,
- 17 we'll -- the mining will start from 2019 to 2025th
- 18 [sic]. Milling will stop somewhere in 2026 based on
- 19 our current mine plan. We're expecting a closure phase
- 20 beginning in 2026. That will mark the beginning of the
- 21 pit-flooding process that will be completed in 2042,
- 22 and then post-closure will happen in 2043 when the lake
- 23 will be reconnected with the pits.
- 24 So this slide present a layout of the
- 25 infrastructure of the approved project and expansion
- 26 project. The approved project infrastructure are in

- 1 grey, and we include also the lakes impacted by the
- 2 project. In red, we can see the inspection
- 3 infrastructure related to the surface mining. So we
- 4 got an extension of the waste rock pile, the Whale Tail
- 5 waste rock pile, the new IVR waste rock pile, and the
- 6 IVR Pit. To manage the water on-site, we're planning
- 7 operating the IVR attenuation pond. All the
- 8 infrastructure in purple are associated to the
- 9 underground mining. So we got a series of groundwater
- 10 storage pond in here, a waste rock pile, and the
- 11 portal. So every water that will get in contact with
- 12 our waste rock from the underground will report to
- 13 those ponds. So we don't expect having any interaction
- 14 with the surface activities and the underground
- 15 activities.
- 16 This site layout is showing up the project at the
- 17 end of mining. So it's with the full extent of each
- 18 infrastructure. So I'll go through the site
- 19 infrastructure quickly starting with the Whale Tail Pit
- 20 and the IVR Pit. The two waste rock pile. We got the
- 21 series of groundwater storage pond and the portal right
- 22 there. There's a couple of ore stockpile for the
- 23 project in here and in there. And we got the waste
- 24 rock pile for the underground.
- 25 During a community mapping session held in Baker
- 26 Lake on December 17, 2019, the land user and Elders

- 1 have come up with an Inuktitut name for the site as
- 2 known as "Whale Tail". The name that have been
- 3 selected is Piquganiq. This is referring to a group of
- 4 small hills, part of the north end of a group of esker
- 5 that surround the project. We would like to thanks the
- 6 community of Baker Lake for their input. We are
- 7 currently in the process to change the nomenclature of
- 8 the project with this new name; however, this process
- 9 will take some time, and we will continue to refer to
- 10 the "Whale Tail" as part of the licence amendment
- 11 process and this public hearing. We are looking
- 12 forward to continue working with the Baker Lake
- 13 community to improve the use of Inuktitut name in the
- 14 nomenclature of the project.
- So we'll present a short video that give a better
- 16 understanding of the project infrastructure through the
- 17 different phase of the project.
- 18 (VIDEO PLAYED)
- 19 MR. GROLEAU: So we can see here the
- 20 municipality -- the community of Baker Lake and the
- 21 Meadowbank project and then the road going to Whale
- 22 Tail. So surrounding the different lake, we got a
- 23 couple of bridge all around the -- the road, and it's
- 24 going around an esker that we can see here on the
- 25 screen. And then we reach the Whale Tail Project
- 26 location.

- 1 Here, it's a 3D rendering of the site before the
- 2 construction of the Whale Tail Project. We can see
- 3 here the Whale Tail Lake and the future location of the
- 4 pit, which would be at the north end of the lake. On
- 5 the left, we can see the connection between the Whale
- 6 Tail Lake and Mammoth Lake. Future location of the
- 7 Mammoth dike.
- 8 Next part of the video will present the
- 9 infrastructure as per the Whale Tail Pit operation or
- 10 the approved project. So we can see the Whale Tail
- 11 dike and the Whale Tail attenuation pond. This is used
- 12 to manage contact water from the open pits in the Whale
- 13 Tail Pit waste rock storage facility.
- Resting to see the size of the pit and compare it
- 15 to the truck on the ramp. So we got a pickup truck and
- 16 a haul road -- haul truck. The camp over here with the
- 17 ore stockpile. So we can see the ore stockpile here on
- 18 the left. Future part of the video will present the
- 19 Whale Tail Expansion Project at the end of mine life.
- 20 So, again, we can see the Whale Tail dike, the
- 21 Whale Tail waste rock storage facility, the Mammoth
- 22 dike, Whale Tail attenuation pond. We got the two
- 23 pits, so here the Whale Tail pits and the IVR pits at
- 24 the back. And here is the IVR waste rock pile. So the
- 25 underground portal is starting in that location. We'll
- 26 have a better view on it in a minute. We got the haul

- 1 road and the new IVR attenuation pond and the camp. So
- 2 we can see a stockpile on the right of the Whale -- IVR
- 3 waste rock pile and another stockpile over here. The
- 4 groundwater storage pond that I was discussing that
- 5 will be used to manage contact water from the
- 6 underground ore located here.
- 7 So from the portal, we're accessing the
- 8 underground mine. So we can see the ramp going down to
- 9 the ore deposit, and this is the ramp going to the ore
- 10 deposit underneath the IVR Pit. So we got a -- a 3D
- 11 rendering at the back also for people that are
- 12 interested to look at it a bit more closely. So with
- 13 those ramp, we can access the ore body underneath both
- 14 pits.
- So this part of the video's showing the site at
- 16 the end of the closure, so we're starting the
- 17 post-closure at that time. Here we -- we got the Whale
- 18 Tail dike that is breached. So we got the two lake --
- 19 the three connect together. So this is the former
- 20 Whale Tail Lake, and the pit is located in this area as
- 21 the IVR Pit. So we can see the pit wall through the --
- 22 the water surface.
- 23 And the water will flow back naturally to the
- 24 Mammoth Lake through a spillway. So water will flow
- 25 above the spillway toward the Mammoth Lake, which is
- 26 located outside of the screen at the left.

- 1 Thank you, Manon.
- 2 So public engagement is an important aspect of
- 3 our -- of our values at Agnico Eagle. So we -- we will
- 4 and we are working in partnership with Indigenous
- 5 people to establish a mutually beneficial, cooperative,
- 6 and productive relationship. So this diagram show the
- 7 way we -- we include the participation, so it's the
- 8 participation framework. So we act, we plan, we do,
- 9 and we check. So this is driven by our responsible
- 10 mining management system.
- 11 So this slide is summarizing what do we mean by
- 12 plan, doing, acting, and checking. So this is not only
- 13 part of our public engagement process, but it's also
- 14 applied to many aspect of operation. So this is the
- 15 way we -- we like to operate and include people
- 16 through -- through different process in our operation.
- 17 This slide's summarizing the different public
- 18 participation meeting we got. So we got above
- 19 60 related to the Meadowbank complex through project
- 20 consultation and engagement from 2016 to '19, more than
- 21 20 for the Whale Tail approved project, and about 8 for
- 22 the Whale Tail Expansion Project since July 2018.
- 23 Next couple of slide will present the water
- 24 management and the waste management. So we go through
- 25 all those infrastructure during the previous slide, so
- 26 I'll not discuss of that again.

This table summarizing our water use during 1 2 operation and the construction phase. So this table 3 are extracted from the Part E, Item 1 for -- from our 4 draft water licence. Main thing is the total volume 5 that is presented at the bottom of the table. So for 6 the expansion project, we're requesting 700,859 cubic 7 metre of water from all sources. And for the closure phase on that table summarizing, again, the volume 8 9 we -- we want to -- to get per year from the different So volume presented in the last table were 10 11 also annual volume to be consumed during operation and construction phase. And for the closure, we're seeking 12 for a volume of 14 million point 8 cubic metre of water 13 14 per year to flood the pit at the end of operation. 15 So during operation, we have to manage contact water on-site. So once water meet effluent discharge 16 17 criteria, we're looking to discharge this water in --18 in three different areas on-site. So for the approved project, we got this Discharge Location 1 within the 19 20 Mammoth Lake that we're currently using. We're looking to add two station as part of this application in the 21 22 Whale Tail South Basin. So the Number 2 will be for 23 our effluent coming out from the treatment plant. And the Number 3 is related to the Whale Tail dike seepage. 24 25 So it's water that flow through the dike, so water from 26 the lake that we collect at the -- at the bottom of the

- 1 dike on the outer side, and we want to pump back in the
- 2 lake before it's getting in contact with the mine
- 3 infrastructure.
- Also as part of this project, we worked with the
- 5 parties to define an adaptive management strategy. One
- 6 of them is related to the water quality of the
- 7 receiver, so the receiver are the lake where we're
- 8 discharging the effluent from the -- the water
- 9 treatment plant. In the situation where we need to
- 10 move to another location, we identify lakes that can be
- 11 used to do so. This was part of the reconsideration of
- 12 our project certificate. We got a condition within our
- 13 project certificate that gave us guideline how to
- 14 initiate discharge in those location. Those two lake
- 15 are the Lake D1 located here -- it's about 10
- 16 kilometres from the site -- and the Lake D5.
- 17 So following completion of the condition of that
- 18 terms and condition, the Nunavut Water Board will be
- 19 able to give direction to -- to Agnico Eagle in the
- 20 eventuality we want to discharge in those lake.
- 21 The waste management on-site is pretty similar
- 22 from the approved project. So we're looking to store
- 23 the waste rock in the existing Whale Tail and the new
- 24 IVR waste rock storage facility. Within those waste
- 25 rock storage facility, we'll also store overburden
- 26 materials, and there will be a cover of non-potential

- 1 acid generating material that will cover the -- those
- 2 waste rock pile and overburden.
- We'll operate also a landfill, and we're looking
- 4 forward to the construction and operation of a new
- 5 incinerator and a composter and a land farm. And all
- 6 disposal of hazardous material will be completed in
- 7 approved off-site facilities. Most likely we're
- 8 shipping that material to the south and get rid of the
- 9 hazardous material that way.
- 10 The Whale Tail expansion rock management is
- 11 consistent of the approved project waste management
- 12 strategy. We're speaking of around 167.8 million tons
- 13 of waste rock. That waste rock will be tested and
- 14 sampled to verify acid rock drainage and metal leeching
- in support of our waste segregation plan. So we're
- 16 speaking of more than 40,000 sample per year. So it's
- 17 a lot of sample to get -- to make sure that the waste
- 18 rock is well segregated.
- 19 The underground waste rock will be store, as I was
- 20 mentioning, in another facility. During the operation,
- 21 we're planning reclaiming that waste rock and bringing
- 22 it back in the underground mine as backfilling. So at
- 23 end of -- of the operation, there's no more residual
- 24 waste rock from the underground at the surface. It's
- 25 all used as backfilling material in the underground
- 26 mine.

- 1 So the next two slide are about the closure and
- 2 reclamation and security plan. So the way the -- the
- 3 closure and reclamation is structure is through two
- 4 different plans. So we got an interim closure and
- 5 reclamation plan that was filed as part of this
- 6 application, and we have to complete a final closure
- 7 plan at the one year prior to the closure of the site
- 8 where we get more detail about how we going to close
- 9 the site. So all the concept and the objective are
- 10 defined within the interim closure plan, and the final
- 11 closure plan is providing us the detail to how we
- 12 execute that work.
- 13 Most of the discussion related to the closure
- 14 through that -- through that licence amendment was
- 15 related to the water quality and the reconnection of
- 16 the flooded pit lake, and we consider that those
- 17 discussion point are resolved now as part of these
- 18 amendment process with the parties.
- 19 That's bring us to review our reclamation cost
- 20 estimate. So for the approved project, we were having
- 21 an estimate of 26 million. With the approved and
- 22 expansion project, the new reclaimed cost estimate is
- 23 now at 50.6 million, and the Type "B" water licence is
- 24 at 1.2 million. So the security management agreement
- 25 was reviewed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association and
- 26 Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affair Canada [sic], and

- 1 we got agreement on those number.
- 2 Through that process, we also completed a revision
- 3 of our management and monitoring plan. So the main
- 4 plan that have been created for this expansion project
- 5 are the adaptive management plan, the conceptual Whale
- 6 Tail expansion offsetting plan, the land farm design
- 7 and management plan, and the incinerator and composter
- 8 waste management plan. All other plan submitted with
- 9 the water licence amendment were updated of the
- 10 existing plan to capture the expansion project
- 11 activities, and we recommend to the Nunavut Water Board
- 12 to look at the list of plan as described in our draft
- 13 water licence closely as it's provide the most
- 14 up-to-date version of the approved plan.
- So here, it's a list of the plan we're planning to
- 16 update following -- 60 day following issuance of the
- amended water licence if the project is deemed
- 18 approved. So we're looking at the waste rock
- 19 management plan, the water management plan, interim
- 20 closure plan, interim closure and reclamation plan,
- 21 spill contingency plan, the hazardous material
- 22 management plan, and the emergency response plan.
- 23 So we'll conclude this presentation. So as part
- 24 of the Nunavut Water Board review process, we have
- 25 received 31 final written submission comments from
- 26 Environment Climate Change Canada, Crown-Indigenous

- 1 Relation Northern Affair Canada, the Kivalliq Inuit
- 2 Association, and the Department of Fishery and Ocean
- 3 Canada [sic]. At this point, Agnico Eagle understand
- 4 that we have resolved all items, and we would like to
- 5 thank the community members and the parties for their
- 6 comments, recommendations, and involvement on the
- 7 review of this file and to make this project better.
- 8 Matna.
- 9 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, Agnico Eagle. This
- 10 is Karén Kharatyan, Water Board.
- I will now open the floor for questions from
- 12 public, and I should clarify that because we are in
- 13 community session, we are not necessarily looking for
- 14 question from parties and we're just looking for
- 15 question from public community members. Are there any
- 16 question from community members, please?
- 17 If you do not have any questions, I will ask the
- 18 next presenter, which will be Kivalliq Inuit
- 19 Association, to make their brief presentation, please.
- 20 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 21 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- Mr. Chair, I will complete some of the procedural
- 23 matters for the witnesses and also note that the
- 24 Kivalliq Inuit Association has advised us that this
- 25 presentation is the same or -- as their -- the
- 26 community presentation is the same as their technical

- 1 presentation, and so I will file that presentation
- 2 material as the next exhibits in this public hearing.
- 3 EXHIBIT 8 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation
- Whale Tail Expansion Project Water Licence
- 5 Amendment Application KIA-NTI Technical
- 6 Review of the Water Licence
- 7 (English-Inuktitut)
- 8 MS. MEADOWS: If I can have the witnesses
- 9 state and spell their name for the record, please.
- 10 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
- 11 name is Luis Manzo, L-U-I-S M-A-N-Z-O.
- 12 MS. KING: Mr. Chair, my name is Jennifer
- 13 King. I'm legal counsel for Kivalliq Inuit
- 14 Association. Oh. King, K-I-N-G; Jennifer,
- J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R.
- 16 MR. NESBITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name
- 17 is Richard Nesbitt, freshwater specialist on behalf of
- 18 Kivalliq Inuit Association, R-I-C-H-A-R-D
- $19 \quad N-E-S-B-I-T-T$.
- 20 MR. SEXTON: It's Alan Sexton, consultant
- 21 for the Kivalliq Inuit Association. First name's Alan,
- 22 A-L-A-N; last name, Sexton, S-E-X-T-O-N.
- 23 LUIS MANZO, JENNIFER KING, RICHARD NESBITT, ALAN
- 24 SEXTON, Affirmed
- 25 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 26 Meadows with the Nunavut Water Board.

- 1 Those are my procedural matters, Mr. Chair.
- 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 3 Presentation by Kivallig Inuit Association (Community
- 4 Session)
- 5 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Luis
- 6 Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 7 KIA represent Inuit -- represent Inuit in Kivalliq
- 8 region, administer and monitor certain provisions of
- 9 the Nunavut Final Agreement. KIA mission is to
- 10 represent Inuit in a fair and democratic manner in the
- 11 development, protection, administration, and
- 12 advancement of the rights and benefits and to promote
- 13 economic, social, political, and cultural well-being.
- 14 The aim of Inuit -- Inuit-owned lands management is to
- 15 administer IOLs so as to promote self-reliances and the
- 16 cultural and social well-being of Inuit now and in the
- 17 future. Inuit-owned lands must be managed in such a
- 18 way as to sustain and enhance the values of the land.
- 19 The purpose of our technical review was to ensure
- 20 the protection -- I'm sorry -- was ensure -- to ensure
- 21 the project can operate in line with the potential
- 22 impacts and benefits described through the concurrent
- 23 impact assessment and to ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
- 24 values and traditional knowledge were incorporated into
- 25 the impact determination, mitigation, project design,
- 26 and monitoring.

- 1 A technical review of the water licence amendment
- 2 application was submitted to NWB, Nunavut Water Board,
- 3 on September 16, 2019. Our review highlighted 21
- 4 technical concerns, the majority of which follow
- 5 directly from our completeness review submitted in --
- 6 in July 2019. We raised several concerns with respect
- 7 to understanding potential impacts to water quality and
- 8 quantity from expansion project. We also raised
- 9 several concerns pertaining to water management and
- 10 mitigation.
- 11 History and current status. Agnico Eagle
- 12 and the -- and the KIA have worked to resolve all our
- 13 technical concerns with the project. As of the
- 14 technical hearings in October 2019, 9 of the 21 issues
- 15 were resolved.
- 16 Agnico Eagle made -- made new commitments during
- 17 those hearings which have resolved most of our
- 18 outstanding issues. Additional evidence was provided
- 19 on January 30, 2020, in response to the KIA's final
- 20 submission. All KIA's previous technical issues have
- 21 been resolved, and for the record, I will go over those
- 22 resolved issues.
- 23 Technical Issue Number 1, mercury concentration in
- 24 fish has been resolved.
- 25 KIA Technical Number 5, thermal modelling of
- 26 permafrost has been resolved.

- 1 KIA Technical Issue Number 8, addressing a
- 2 changing climate in project design has been resolved.
- 3 KIA Technical Number 10, implication of rock
- 4 fracturing on groundwater values has been resolved.
- 5 KIA Technical Issue Number 11, alternative
- 6 effluent discharge locations has been resolved.
- 7 KIA Technical Issue Number 12, early warning
- 8 trigger development has been resolved.
- 9 KIA Technical Issue Number 13, IVR high pit walls
- 10 as mitigation has been resolved.
- 11 KIA Technical Issue Number 14, fate of equipment
- 12 has been resolved.
- 13 KIA Technical Issue Number 15, Inuit input into
- 14 closure objectives has been resolved.
- 15 KIA Technical Issue 17, overburden for closure has
- 16 been resolved.
- 17 KIA Technical Issue 19, testing of use of oil
- 18 waste and fuel has been resolved.
- 19 Technical Issue Number 20, conceptual fish habitat
- 20 offsetting plan has been resolved.
- 21 KIA Technical Issue Number 21, waste rock storage
- 22 facility design has been resolved.
- During the final hearings, there are still
- 24 submissions pending, and after the proponent make the
- 25 final submission, we have some water balance -- water
- 26 balance concerns: KIA Technical Issue Number 4,

- 1 uncertainty in waste rock seepage estimated; KIA
- 2 Number 7, climate change and project timelines. Agnico
- 3 Eagle provided additional evidence to support the water
- 4 balance model during the final submission. Agnico
- 5 Eagle has also demonstrated that Quarry 1 and
- 6 groundwater storage pond can provide the requirement
- 7 capacity to manage excess contact water in the first
- 8 year of the expansion project.
- 9 KIA Technical 2, removal of pit wall from water
- 10 quality model predictions has been resolved.
- 11 KIA Number 3, cryo-concentration in water quality
- 12 model assumptions has been resolved.
- 13 KIA Technical Number 6, climatic inputs for water
- 14 quality model has been resolved.
- 15 KIA Number 9, arsenic and ARD mitigation on Whale
- 16 Tail Pit wall has been resolved.
- 17 KIA Technical Number 18, water quality
- 18 contingencies has been resolved.
- 19 The recently resolved issues. Agnico Eagle
- 20 provide evidence to partially resolve these issues in
- 21 response to the KIA's technical submission in September
- 22 2019. However, it became evident that a structured
- 23 adaptive management approach was required based on
- 24 uncertainties in the outputs of the water quality and
- 25 water balance models as well as the potential for both
- 26 arsenic and acid rock drainage. Agnico Eagle has

- 1 developed an adaptive management plan outlining a
- 2 specific monitoring, management, and mitigation
- 3 measures to resolve those issues.
- 4 Adaptive management strategies were proposed for
- 5 waste rock and water management, specifically:
- 6 permafrost aggradation, surface water balance and
- 7 active layer development, receiving environment and
- 8 water quality, surface water quantity, underground
- 9 water management. The proposed measures are intended
- 10 to minimize potential project-related environmental
- impacts and ensure the site will be able to meet its
- 12 closure objectives.
- 13 KIA have reviewed the final iteration of the plan
- 14 to confirm it has been updated to incorporate KIA input
- 15 provided in December '19 and -- and January 2020. KIA
- 16 are satisfied that the plan address their previous
- 17 technical concerns. KIA wishes to provide one
- 18 additional technical comment on the adaptive management
- 19 plan.
- 20 Adaptive management plan measure for surface water
- 21 quantity -- Table Number 4 in the adaptive management
- 22 plan -- should be implemented prior to reaching the
- 23 maximum operation capacity of the water storage
- 24 infrastructure. This concerns [sic] apply both to a
- 25 Level 1 and a Level 2 of the surface water quantity
- 26 adaptive management strategy. We recommend Agnico

1 Eagle begin implementing management strategies at the

- 2 90 percent storage capacity between the noted water
- 3 management infrastructure.
- 4 Security and compensation. The KIA has worked
- 5 with Agnico Eagle and Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 6 Northern Affairs Canada to update the security estimate
- 7 for Whale Tail Expansion Project. The total security
- 8 currently estimated by -- by KIA and the rest -- and
- 9 the intervenors and Agnico Eagle is 50,663,508.
- 10 Compensation. The KIA and Agnico Eagle have
- 11 productive discussions to determine appropriate
- 12 compensation for changes to the water quality,
- 13 quantity, and flow as per Article 20 in the Nunavut
- 14 Agreement. We are -- we bring a statement, and I will
- 15 pass that to our legal counsel to elaborate in -- in
- 16 that.
- 17 MS. KING: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
- 18 confirm -- this is Jennifer King, legal counsel for the
- 19 Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- 20 The Kivalliq Inuit Association confirms that it
- 21 has entered into an existing Whale Tail water
- 22 compensation agreement with Agnico Eagle and that there
- 23 is sufficient consensus on any consequential amendments
- 24 thereto in relation to the Whale Tail Expansion Project
- 25 that the Kivalliq Inuit Association agrees and supports
- 26 that the Board may proceed and issue the Whale Tail

- 1 Expansion Type "A" water licence amendment in
- 2 accordance with Section 63(1)(a) of the Nunavut
- 3 Water -- I've just got the -- sorry. One second.
- 4 Apologies, Mr. Chair -- the Nunavut Water Nunavut
- 5 Surface Tribunal Act [sic]. Further, Kivalliq Inuit
- 6 Association and Agnico Eagle confirm and agree that
- 7 they will not be filing a request for the Board to make
- 8 a determination on water compensation under Section
- 9 63(1)(b).
- 10 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
- 11 this is the end of my presentation.
- 12 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, Kivalliq Inuit
- 13 Association.
- I am opening the floor for question from public
- 15 members to Kivalliq Inuit Association and Agnico Eagle
- 16 Mines Limited. At any time, if there are question for
- 17 Applicant, you can ask question to Applicant as well.
- 18 Please, are there any question for KIA and Agnico
- 19 Eagle?
- 20 If there are not any questions, I will suggest to
- 21 have a very short break, maybe ten minutes, and come
- 22 back at the 8:30. Thank you. And we will start with
- 23 the presentation by Crown-Indigenous Relation and
- 24 Northern Affair.
- 25 (ADJOURNMENT)
- 26 MR. KHARATYAN: CIRNA, please go ahead with

- 1 your presentation.
- 2 MR. DEWAR: Matna, Mr. Chair.
- 3 THE CHAIR: Go ahead, Teresa.
- 4 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 5 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- If I can have the witnesses state and spell their
- 7 name for the record, please.
- 8 MR. DEWAR: Spencer Dewar, S-P-E-N-C-E-R
- 9 D-E-W-A-R.
- 10 MR. OKONKWO: Godwin Okonkwo, G-O-D-W-I-N
- 11 O-K-O-N-K-W-O.
- 12 MR. ZHONG: David Zhong, D-A-V-I-D
- 13 Z-H-O-N-G.
- 14 SPENCER DEWAR, GODWIN OKONKWO, DAVID ZHONG, Sworn
- 15 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 16 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 17 Mr. Chair, although their microphones were off, I
- 18 heard them -- all of the witnesses say that, "I so
- 19 swear".
- 20 Mr. Chair, I will be marking the PowerPoint
- 21 presentation hard copies as -- of this presentation as
- 22 the next two exhibits in the public hearing, being the
- 23 English and Inuktitut versions and the French and
- 24 Inuktitut versions of the PowerPoint presentation. And
- 25 those are my procedural matters, Mr. Chair.
- 26 EXHIBIT 9 Hard Copy PowerPoint Presentation

| 1 | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern |
|----|---|
| 2 | Affairs Canada Water Licence Amendment |
| 3 | Application for Agnico Eagle Ltd. (AEM), |
| 4 | Whale Tail Expansion Project Nunavut Water |
| 5 | Board Public Hearing, February 12 and 13, |
| 6 | 2020 (English/Inuktitut) |
| 7 | EXHIBIT 10 - Hard Copy PowerPoint |
| 8 | Presentation Crown-Indigenous Relations and |
| 9 | Northern Affairs Canada Water Licence |
| 10 | Amendment Application for Agnico Eagle Ltd. |
| 11 | (AEM), Whale Tail Expansion Project Nunavut |
| 12 | Water Board Public Hearing, February 12 and |
| 13 | 13, 2020 (French/Inuktitut) |
| 14 | THE CHAIR: Thank you. |
| 15 | All right. You may go ahead with your |
| 16 | presentation. |
| 17 | Presentation by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern |
| 18 | Affairs Canada (Community Session) |
| 19 | MR. DEWAR: Matna, Mr. Chair. |
| 20 | Good evening. I'm Spencer Dewar, the director of |
| 21 | resource management with Crown-Indigenous Relations and |
| 22 | Northern Affairs Canada. I would like to thank the |
| 23 | Nunavut Water Board for the opportunity to present at |
| 24 | the public hearing for Agnico Eagle's water licence |
| 25 | amendment for the Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project. |
| 26 | I am joined today by Godwin Okonkwo, manager of |
| 1 | |

- 1 water resources; and David Zhong, science and
- 2 regulatory advisor.
- 3 On behalf of Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 4 Northern Affairs Canada, I would like to thank the
- 5 hamlet of Baker Lake for hosting, the fellow
- 6 intervenors, and the Nunavut Water Board for
- 7 facilitating the water licence application review
- 8 process, and I'd also like to thank Agnico Eagle for
- 9 responding to our questions and concerns throughout
- 10 this review.
- 11 Here's an outline of the topics that
- 12 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 13 will be speaking to. We'll provide a brief overview of
- 14 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 15 Canada's responsibility with respect to the licence
- 16 amendment application, and, as well, we'll go through
- 17 the chronology of contributions that have been made
- 18 during the water licencing process so far. Then we'll
- 19 address our concerns in the following areas around the
- 20 following topics: 1, interflow seepage from the waste
- 21 rock storage facility into Mammoth Lake; 2, waste rock
- 22 storage facility design; 3, adaptive management.
- 23 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 24 Canada has a broad mandate for comanagement of
- 25 freshwater resources and the management of Crown land
- 26 in Nunavut. This mandate comes from the Nunavut

- 1 Agreement and the listed acts and regulations. We
- 2 participate in the water licence processes administered
- 3 by the Nunavut Water Board along with other interested
- 4 parties providing technical advice and expertise for
- 5 the Nunavut Water Board's consideration. Once the
- 6 Nunavut Water Board makes a determination, the water
- 7 licence is provided to the Ministers of Northern
- 8 Affairs for approval. Further, Crown-Indigenous
- 9 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada conducts
- 10 inspections and enforces the terms and conditions of
- 11 approved water licences.
- 12 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 13 Canada has participated in this proposed project from
- 14 the beginning of May 2019 from providing information
- 15 requests on July 2019 'til the final public hearing
- 16 this week in Baker Lake.
- 17 Our first topic we'd like to discuss is the
- 18 delayed waste rock storage facility interflow seepage.
- 19 This is considered Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 20 Northern Affairs Canada primary concern as it
- 21 represents long-term -- potential long-term
- 22 environmental risk.
- 23 Agnico Eagle's conceptual model predicted seepage
- 24 from the waste rock storage facility in approximately
- 25 80 years. Our concern was that this could lead to
- 26 elevated concentrations of arsenic into Mammoth Lake.

- 1 Agnico Eagle recognized CIRNAC's concerns and is
- 2 confident that their model has incorporated enough
- 3 conservatism that when validated with field data Agnico

- 4 Eagle will be able to demonstrate that interflow
- 5 seepage will not likely occur, or if it was to occur,
- 6 it would not affect water quality.
- 7 CIRNAC's recommendations were: 1, first for a
- 8 longer post-closure monitoring program originally
- 9 recommending up to 25 years, or until Agnico Eagle can
- 10 demonstrate with operational data that the long-term
- 11 site stability can be achieved. Agnico Eagle should
- 12 monitor and collect field data during the mine
- 13 operations and incorporate it into their final closure
- 14 and reclamation plan before mine closure.
- In addition, Agnico Eagle should also conduct
- 16 geochemical assessment of the placed waste rock storage
- 17 facility cover prior to the final closure to confirm
- 18 that the coverment -- the cover contains less than
- 19 1 percent weight of waste rock types with elevated
- 20 arsenic leeching potential. At this time,
- 21 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 22 considers this comment resolved.
- Our next concern was with the waste rock storage
- 24 facilities closure cover design and its long-term
- 25 performance. Our uncertainty was around the rock to be
- 26 used for the cover and the depth -- the depth of cover.

- 1 The rocks to be used. Crown-Indigenous Relations and
- 2 Northern Affairs Canada's concern was that there was
- 3 little margin of error, and the rock had to contain
- 4 less than 1 percent weight of waste rock with elevated
- 5 arsenic leeching potential. Agnico Eagle has developed
- 6 a waste rock management plan aimed at achieving this
- 7 objective.
- 8 In regards to the depth of cover, Crown-Indigenous
- 9 Relations and Northern Affair Canada's concern was that
- 10 the cover should effectively shield the active layer.
- 11 Agnico Eagle has put forward a 4.7 metre cover, which
- 12 is above the predictions for the current climate change
- 13 scenario.
- 14 We recommend that the current waste rock storage
- 15 facility cover's design be approved on the
- 16 understanding that all monitoring data generated prior
- 17 to the full closure of the site will be used to inform
- 18 the final waste rock storage facility cover designs.
- 19 Additional thermal monitoring and seepage modelling
- 20 should be performed prior to the finalizing cover
- 21 designs to ensure adequacy of the cover.
- 22 In addition, the geochemical assessments of the
- 23 placed waste rock storage facility covers be
- 24 required -- a requirement of the currently proposed
- 25 licenced amendments. The scope of the assessment
- 26 should be developed to ensure the program is

- 1 statistically representative of field conditions, by
- 2 example, sampling of frequency, depth, distribution,
- 3 test protocols, et cetera. At this time,
- 4 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 5 considers this comment resolved.
- The next topic is adaptive management. Adaptive
- 7 management was a proposed solution for many scenarios,
- 8 but it was not collectively understood by all
- 9 stakeholders. We want to thank Agnico Eagle for
- 10 working with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern
- 11 Affairs Canada, the Kivalliq Inuit Association,
- 12 Environment and Climate Change Canada to develop and
- 13 clarify adaptive management for this project. The
- 14 proposed adaptive management plan for this project
- 15 provides thresholds, triggers, and actions to address
- 16 issues that go beyond monitoring. This document goes a
- 17 long way to satisfy uncertainty and provides Agnico
- 18 Eagle flexibility in operations. Crown-Indigenous
- 19 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada recommends that
- 20 this plan be incorporated into all aspects of Agnico
- 21 Eagle's operations and that adaptive management be
- 22 approved insofar as adaptive management activity does
- 23 not include significant modifications or other -- or --
- 24 or require other regulatory approvals under the Nunavut
- 25 Planning and Project Assessment Act or the Nunavut
- 26 Waters and Nunavut Rights Surface Tribunal Act.

- 1 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 2 considers this comment resolved.
- 3 So I would just like to point out that
- 4 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- 5 has worked with Agnico Eagle and the Kivalliq Inuit
- 6 Association on a new security estimate, and we're in
- 7 agreement that the estimate of security to be held for
- 8 this project would be \$50,663,508, and it's the
- 9 intention that this would be held under a security
- 10 management arrangement held 50 percent by the Kivalliq
- 11 Inuit Association and 50 percent by Crown-Indigenous
- 12 Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- In conclusion, we will continue to work through
- 14 the water licence application review process with the
- 15 aim of protecting Nunavut's inland water resources
- 16 while promoting sustainable development. Matna.
- 17 (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN). Thank you. Merci.
- 18 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, CIRNAC.
- 19 Are there any questions from community members to
- 20 CIRNAC or Agnico Eagle?
- I will now invite Environment and Climate Change
- 22 Canada to make their presentation.
- Thank you, CIRNAC.
- 24 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 25 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 26 If I can have the witness state and spell your

- 1 name for the record, please.
- 2 MS. WILSON: Thank you. Anne Wilson,
- 3 A-N-N-E W-I-L-S-O-N.
- And do you want Eva to do so as well? She's on

- 5 the phone but won't necessarily be speaking.
- 6 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 7 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 8 If Ms. Walker will be speaking, perhaps answering
- 9 questions, or that sort of thing, perhaps we can get
- 10 her to affirm while she's on the phone. And,
- 11 Ms. Wilson, do you need to be sworn or affirmed?
- 12 ANNE WILSON, Sworn
- 13 EVA WALKER, Affirmed Via Teleconference
- 14 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 15 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 16 Mr. Chair, I have presentation materials from
- 17 Environment and Climate Change Canada in English and
- 18 Inuktitut and also a version in French and Inuktitut,
- 19 and I will be filing those as the next two exhibits in
- 20 this public hearing. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Those are
- 21 my procedural matters.
- 22 EXHIBIT 11 Hard Copy PowerPoint
- 23 Presentation Whale Tail Pit Expansion Project
- 24 Presentation to the Nunavut Water Board by
- 25 Environment and Climate Change Canada
- 26 (Community Session) (English/Inuktitut)

- 1 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 2 So go ahead, Anne.
- 3 Presentation by Environment and Climate Change Canada
- 4 (Community Session)
- 5 MS. WILSON: Thank you. It's Anne Wilson
- 6 with ECCC.
- Good evening, Mr. Chair, Board members, Elders,
- 8 and other community members, Board staff, and parties
- 9 that have joined us here today. My name is Anne
- 10 Wilson, and I work as a water quality analyst with
- 11 Environment and Climate Change Canada. On the phone, I
- 12 also have Eva Walker, who is an environmental
- 13 assessment coordinator.
- In this presentation, we will briefly summarize
- 15 the department's final written submission, along with
- 16 any relevant discussions with the proponent since the
- 17 submission was provided to the Nunavut Water Board
- 18 on -- materials on December 20th, 2019.
- 19 On the second slide, to start off with, I'll go
- 20 through ECCC's mandate and then briefly touch upon the
- 21 relevant acts and legislation.
- 22 For each topic, atmospheric, terrestrial, and
- 23 aquatic environments, we will have a slide on the
- 24 status of each of the department's concerns from the
- 25 technical review submission with outstanding concerns
- 26 and associated recommendations outlined in our final

- 1 written submission which you can reference for the
- 2 details.
- 3 Under the Department of the Environment Act, the
- 4 powers, duties, and functions of the Minister of
- 5 Environment and Climate Change extend to such matters
- 6 as the preservation and enhancement of the quality of
- 7 the natural environment, including water, air, and soil
- 8 quality, and the coordination of the relevant policies
- 9 and programs of the Government of Canada for renewable
- 10 resources, including migratory birds and other
- 11 nondomestic flora and fauna, for meteorology, and the
- 12 enforcement of rules and regulations.
- 13 There are a number of relevant acts and
- 14 regulations that govern our mandate. These include the
- 15 Department of the Environment Act, the Canadian
- 16 Environmental Protection Act, the pollution prevention
- 17 provisions of the Fisheries Act, the Migratory Birds
- 18 Convention Act, and the Species at Risk Act.
- 19 Environment and Climate Change Canada has
- 20 participated in the review, and prior to the technical
- 21 sessions had identified a number of technical concerns.
- 22 These have substantially been resolved in the responses
- 23 from the proponent as well as subsequent discussions,
- 24 so I won't actually read through all of these in the
- 25 interests of time here.
- 26 We developed our final comments to submit with our

- 1 intervention for this process on December 20th, 2019.
- 2 We received additional information and documents from
- 3 Agnico Eagle related to the technical meeting
- 4 commitment list, and given the short time to review
- 5 those items, we have included our comments on them in
- 6 our technical intervention. And I'm not going to go
- 7 through every detail of those in the community
- 8 presentation, but if anyone wants further information,
- 9 it is in our technical submission, or I'm happy to
- 10 answer any questions on it.
- Okay. Now I'm going to give you the Reader's
- 12 Digest version of our concerns raised and what is still
- 13 up for discussion here.
- So Environment and Climate Change Canada and
- 15 Agnico Eagle have been working through the technical
- 16 issues that have been identified by ECCC. Our final
- 17 comments FC1 to FC11 related specifically to the
- 18 interim closure and reclamation plan. FC1 specifically
- 19 discussed setting the closure objectives for water
- 20 quality so that the pits can be reconnected to surface
- 21 waters and will be acceptable for aquatic life. We
- 22 have clarified the path for water quality objectives
- 23 and reached agreement on that. The other aspects
- 24 raised in respect of the interim closure and
- 25 reclamation plan have substantially been resolved with
- only one area partly outstanding, and that is the

- 1 wording for the closure monitoring period of three
- 2 years. The rest of the final comments are fully
- 3 resolved up to Final Comment 14.
- 4 Final Comment 12 was addressed by the response on
- 5 the technical memorandum on wet-year scenarios and
- 6 having enough capacity for water management in wet
- 7 years.
- 8 Final Comment 13 related to the technical
- 9 memorandum mixing zone boundaries in Mammoth Lake and
- 10 Whale Tail Lake, and that has been resolved.
- Number 14 related to the licence term for the
- 12 Whale Tail expansion licence. That was satisfactorily
- 13 answered.
- And our remaining items fall under the Technical
- 15 Comment 15, which was our review of the draft water
- 16 licence. We have some questions still on the
- 17 regulation of TDS at Meadowbank that warrant further
- 18 consideration, also on the approval of plans as
- 19 proposed in the draft water licence frameworks for both
- 20 the Whale Tail and the Meadowbank licences and some
- 21 concern with the extension of the Meadowbank licence
- 22 term to 2023. I think we'll just have to leave it that
- 23 those will be issues for the Nunavut Water Board to
- 24 decide.
- 25 That brings me to the end of this presentation.
- 26 Thank you. And if there are any questions, I would be

- 1 happy to try and answer them.
- 2 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, ECCC.
- 3 Are there any question from community members to
- 4 ECCC or Agnico Eagle?
- 5 Thank you, ECCC.
- I am going to invite Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- 7 to take their seats and make their presentation,
- 8 please.
- 9 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 10 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- If I can have the witnesses state and spell their
- 12 name for the record, please.
- 13 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 14 My name is Alasdair Beattie, A-L-A-S-D -- as in
- 15 "David" -- A-I-R, Beattie, 'B' as in "Bob" --
- 16 E-A-T-T-I-E.
- 17 MS. RATAJCZYK: Edyta, E-D-Y-T-A, Ratajczyk
- 18 R-A-T-A-J-C-Z-Y-K.
- 19 MR. AUDET-LECOUFFE: José Audet-Lecouffe, J-O-S-E
- 20 A-U-D-E-T dash L-E-C-O-U-F-F-E. Thank you.
- 21 ALASDAIR BEATTIE, EDYTA RATAJCZYK, JOSE AUDET-LECOUFFE,
- 22 Affirmed
- 23 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you. Teresa Meadows,
- 24 legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- Mr. Chair, it's my understanding that the
- 26 presentation that Fisheries and Oceans Canada intends

- 1 to present during this community session has been
- 2 received by the Board in electronic form, and the
- 3 manager of licencing has circulated it on the public

- 4 registry, and the Board will be receiving that and
- 5 marking that as the next exhibit in this public
- 6 hearing.
- 7 And, Mr. Chair, I wish to correct the filing by
- 8 Environment and Climate Change Canada. I misspoke and
- 9 said that there was a second presentation that involved
- 10 a translation into French, and there's actually only
- 11 one hard copy presentation material of Environment and
- 12 Climate Change Canada's community presentation that was
- 13 English and Inuktitut on the same presentation. So a
- 14 correction there. There was only one exhibit filed by
- 15 Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- So, Mr. Chair, with that, those are my procedural
- 17 matters.
- 18 EXHIBIT 12 Electronic Copy Only PowerPoint
- 19 Presentation DFO's Fish and Fish Habitat
- 20 Protection Program Community Meeting Baker
- 21 Lake, NU February 2020 (English)
- 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- Go ahead, DFO.
- 24 Presentation by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Community
- 25 Session)
- 26 MR. BEATTIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

- 1 Again, this is DFO, and we're with DFO's Fish and
- 2 Fish Habitat Protection Program. I'd like to thank you
- 3 for hosting us here tonight in the community of Baker
- 4 Lake.
- 5 Quick overview of what we'll be talking about.
- 6 We'll go a little bit into DFO's mandate and
- 7 legislation, DFO's role in the -- in the Nunavut Water
- 8 Board process, and the overview of the findings and
- 9 leave room for questions should anyone have some.
- 10 We have a brand-new amended Fisheries Act that
- 11 came into force just last summer in August of 2019. It
- 12 restored some of the lost provisions of the fish
- 13 protection and fish habitat protection provisions
- 14 that -- in the old act that had changed in 2012, I
- 15 believe. And it also brought in to being the brand-new
- 16 program called the "Fish and Fish Habitat Protection
- 17 Program", whose mandate is to conserve and to protect
- 18 fish and fish habitat in -- in Canadian fish-bearing
- 19 waters.
- 20 Just because there's often some confusion, when
- 21 DFO -- and under the Act, fish is -- is not simply just
- 22 the fish that we see swimming around there like this
- 23 beautiful sculpin up here, but it's also other kinds of
- 24 fish and marine invertebrates like clams and marine
- 25 mammals like whales. And habitat is -- is a very broad
- 26 thing. It's not just the water that fish live in, but

- 1 everything that fish need to survive and -- and carry
- 2 out their life processes, spawning, breeding, feeding,
- 3 eating, living. Thank you.
- 4 Two of the key provisions of the -- the Fisheries
- 5 Act that were restored were -- were the -- the -- the
- 6 prohibitions against the death of fish or causing the
- 7 death of fish by means any other than fishing and also
- 8 prevention of the harmful alteration, disruption, or
- 9 destruction of fish habitat. We also call that a
- 10 "HADD" for short. I know that Mr. Chair had asked us
- 11 not to use too many acronyms, but the "HADD" is a
- 12 pretty nice way to talk about that in the future
- 13 "harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction" is a
- 14 pretty big mouthful. It also allows the Minister of
- 15 DFO at the time to allow to -- for those impacts to
- 16 actually be authorized should they be considered
- 17 justified or necessary. And we can also make some
- 18 amendments to those authorizations now under the Act,
- 19 which was something we couldn't do before.
- 20 Our key roles in the fish habitat protection
- 21 program are to -- it's a regulatory role in a lot of
- 22 ways. We act as regulatory officers, so we do a lot of
- 23 project review proposals, especially in the Northwest
- 24 Territories and Nunavut, which my office is responsible
- 25 for and my team. We review the project proposals for
- 26 the potential to impact fish and fish habitat, and if

- 1 we find that they do, we ask them to -- we will
- 2 authorize those if it's considered justified and in
- 3 agreement with the overseeing boards. And then we also
- 4 ask for what we call an "offsetting plan" and
- 5 monitoring reports. The offsetting plan is a way that
- 6 we ask for any harmful -- any of the HADDs, the harmful
- 7 alteration or destruction or disruption -- or
- 8 disruption of fish habitat to be replaced in some
- 9 fashion, preferably like for like. So if you harm a
- 10 section of the river that's got some particular
- 11 spawning area in it, we would ask, for instance, for
- 12 that spawning area to be rehabilitated and more
- 13 spawning area to be created as well within that lake.
- We also have continuously engaged with proponents
- 15 and consult with Indigenous communities. We provide
- 16 proponents with Fisheries Act authorizations as we
- 17 already said. And we will intervene when conditions of
- 18 those authorizations aren't met. There are -- we also
- 19 have a -- an -- enforcement clauses that we can use.
- 20 Within the Nunavut Water Board process, we do take
- 21 part in the hearings and the discussions that -- that
- 22 are part of the Water Board process, and from time to
- 23 time we'll provide expert advice to the Boards in the
- 24 form of written submissions, and -- or if they ask us
- 25 to provide advice on a particular topic, we may also
- 26 make recommendations to the Board, the information that

- 1 we think the Board may need or potentially conditions
- 2 for the water licence that we think may be important.
- For this particular review of the Whale Tail
- 4 expansion, we've -- we're going to focus for this
- 5 presentation on the following three areas: One was
- 6 fish passage, which was related to the impacts of the
- 7 road widening -- the haul road widening for -- for
- 8 water crossings along that road. The second one would
- 9 be water use, and that's how much water is used from
- 10 the lakes and -- and the source lakes for the mine
- 11 operation and closure. And then the downstream
- 12 environment as well, so trying to account for
- 13 changes -- potentially changes to fish habitat and
- 14 downstream environments.
- 15 Fish passage. The mine's haul road is -- is one
- 16 that may impact stream crossings at -- fish passage at
- 17 some stream crossings, and that can be maintained,
- 18 however, with proper construction methods. Agnico has
- 19 provided -- the proponent has provided DFO with the
- 20 information about their crossings, and at this point I
- 21 would say that DFO has no further concerns, but we will
- 22 be working -- continue to work with the -- the
- 23 proponent to ensure that all watercourse crossings in
- 24 the future will allow for proper fish passage.
- 25 Water use. It's pretty well understood that
- 26 taking too much water from lakes and streams,

- 1 especially in winter, can harm or kill fish. Taking
- 2 water, however, can be done safely following guidance,
- 3 and DFO has provided some advice to the Board and the
- 4 proponent as on how to be as safe as possible when
- 5 taking water in winter from lakes under ice and from
- 6 streams under ice, including monitoring to make sure
- 7 everything is done -- everything is working and is
- 8 working how it's expected to.
- 9 Agnico has provided DFO with additional
- 10 information since some of our technical comments were
- 11 provided, and DFO will continue to discuss this with
- 12 the proponent regarding fish habitats and data
- 13 requirements in the future, but at this time DFO has no
- 14 further concerns.
- 15 The downstream environment is one that -- is
- 16 something that is often overlooked; however, we think
- 17 it's important to measure changes in water levels to
- 18 downstream water bodies from the mine to determine that
- 19 the potential impacts to fish and fish habitat are --
- 20 are as predicted by the modelling work that the
- 21 proponent has done, and we think that monitoring can
- 22 help determine if these changes to the downstream
- 23 environments are -- the predicted changes are correct.
- 24 And that's it. Thank you. Matna.
- 25 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, DFO.
- Are there any questions from community members to

- 1 DFO or Agnico Eagle?
- 2 Thank you, DFO.
- 3 This takes us to the end of our -- tonight's
- 4 community session; however, looking at the time, we
- 5 still have time to continue maybe technical session. I
- 6 am suggesting to have five, ten minutes' break, and we
- 7 can continue with Agnico Eagle presentation --
- 8 technical session presentation. Thank you.
- 9 (ADJOURNMENT)
- 10 THE CHAIR: We might as well start again.
- 11 Get back to the seat, please.
- Okay. Thank you. Thank you again. So we might
- 13 as well start again with the presentation from
- 14 Applicant before supper.
- So you may go ahead with your -- reconvene from
- 16 your -- from your presentation this -- late this
- 17 afternoon.
- 18 Presentation by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited
- 19 MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Michel
- 20 Groleau from Agnico Eagle.
- 21 So we'll restart the presentation at where we were
- 22 this afternoon. We were at the section on the waste
- 23 disposal and management. The Whale Tail Expansion
- 24 Project waste management consists of storage of waste
- 25 rock in existing Whale Tail and a new IVR and waste
- 26 rock storage facility; the storage of overburden

- 1 material within the waste rock storage facility; the
- 2 operation of the landfill, the new incinerator,
- 3 composter, and land farm; and the disposal of hazardous
- 4 material in approved off-site facilities.
- 5 Just as a reminder, we do not have a tailings
- 6 storage facility at the Whale Tail site. The ore is
- 7 processed at the Meadowbank site and tailing produced
- 8 will be store at this location.
- 9 So through the public consultation meeting -- we
- 10 just went through that slide, so I will go briefly. So
- 11 waste rock management are consistent between the
- 12 approved and expansion project. So as I was
- 13 mentioning, we got around 167.8 million tons of waste
- 14 rock, more than 40,000 sample per year to do the
- 15 segregation to make sure that the thermal cover that
- 16 will be built on the waste rock pile is -- is meeting
- 17 the criteria, and no additional acid rock drainage and
- 18 metal leeching will come from that thermal cover and
- 19 will meet water quality objective. And the underground
- 20 waste rock which would be -- we store at the surface
- 21 will be return in the underground mine as backfill
- 22 material, so with rock fill and cemented rock fill, for
- 23 stability purposes of the underground mine.
- So we did issue a final design of the Whale Tail
- 25 and IVR waste rock storage facility as part of this
- 26 application. This was based on an iterative process

- 1 from conceptual to detail engineering. This include
- 2 numerous modelling such as a numerical thermal air
- 3 hydrogeologic modelling, many sensitivity analysis on
- 4 the geochemical properties of the cover, the grade
- 5 size, the slope aspect, the bench height, the
- 6 climate -- we use different climate scenarios based on
- 7 the recommendation from the parties. We look at --
- 8 also at the geotechnical stability and the erosion
- 9 potential of our waste rock pile and to the surface
- 10 water management through different modelling and
- 11 design, so which bring us having a pile that have been
- 12 design at a final level of engineering, and we submit
- 13 that detail design as part of the submission -- as part
- 14 of our final written submission.
- So this slide is presenting the thermal model. So
- 16 it's -- we can see different waste rock that are placed
- 17 during winter and summer. So we took all that into --
- 18 into consideration into the design of our waste rock
- 19 pile.
- 20 The monitoring is also a big part of the -- of the
- 21 waste rock management practices. So on one side, we
- got the operational acid rock drainage and metal
- 23 leeching sampling plan and the waste rock storage
- 24 facility monitoring plan. These two plan have been
- 25 designed to comprehensively capture the geochemical and
- 26 physical characteristic of the rock material and

- 1 freeze-back progression.
- 2 So the metal leeching and acid rock drainage
- 3 sampling during operation for this project is industry
- 4 leading with this 40,000 drill cutting sample per year.
- 5 This will answer that the thermal cover perform as
- 6 design and is protective of Nunavut land and water.
- 7 Direct measurements in the waste rock storage
- 8 facility will constrain and confirm the variability
- 9 already assess by sensitivity modelling within the
- 10 numerical modelling estimate. To our knowledge, the
- 11 Whale Tail and IVR waste rock storage facilities are
- 12 the most intensely instrumented in the Nunavut and will
- 13 not only provide a basis to ensure they are -- they are
- 14 performing within design expectation, provide
- 15 monitoring redundancy, and will also provide valuable
- 16 knowledge for future waste rock storage facility design
- 17 at other location in Nunavut.
- So the next couple of slide discuss of adaptive
- 19 management. The adaptive management requires -- sorry.
- 20 The adaptive management plan is specific potential
- 21 adaptive management actions and potential facility
- 22 waste water management changes that have been
- 23 collaboratively developed, reviewed, and discussed with
- 24 intervenors. As with other action described in
- 25 approved plan, should the threshold specified in the
- 26 adaptive management plan be triggered, Agnico Eagle

- 1 will be permitted to proceed with this action without
- 2 amendment or modification to the water licence upon
- 3 notice of the Board.
- 4 For clarity, we would consider every action
- 5 describe in the adaptive management plan as included in
- 6 the scope of the water licence. This allow flexibility
- 7 within our footprint to implement change to protect
- 8 Nunavut lands and water and provide certainty to
- 9 regulators, agencies, and to the Board.
- 10 So this is an example of the table included in the
- 11 adaptive management plan that set up adaptive
- 12 management action -- so we got those on the right -- to
- 13 be implemented depending on the level identify. So we
- 14 got the level on the left with the different threshold.
- 15 So this table is for the receiver water quality
- 16 adaptive management strategy.
- Generally, the proposed actions start with
- 18 administrative control and, if needed, engineering
- 19 controls. It is a hierarchy, a process. First, we
- 20 need to understand why, and then we can implement
- 21 processes that best address any issues identify.
- 22 We want to thank the Kivalliq Inuit Association,
- 23 Crown-Indigenous and Relations Northern Affair Canada
- 24 [sic], Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the
- 25 Nunavut Water Board in the discussion to achieve this
- 26 plan. We believe this is the first time a proponent

- 1 have been able to achieve a detail adaptive management
- 2 plan at the licencing phase, and we are pleased with
- 3 the high level of consensus we achieve on this plan.
- 4 So I'll pass the microphone to my colleague Jamie
- 5 Quesnel to continue the presentation.
- 6 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Michel. Thank you,
- 7 Mr. Chair. Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.
- 8 I'll just go quickly through the closure,
- 9 reclamation, and security slides.
- 10 So as we discussed just earlier, the approved
- 11 Whale Tail Project for the Water Licence A, we have an
- 12 existing letter of credit that is split 50 percent
- 13 between Kivalliq Inuit Association and Crown-Indigenous
- 14 Relations and Northern Affairs for \$26,286,000. Now,
- 15 with the expansion project, we have agreement on the
- 16 security for the Water Licence A for \$50,663,508, and
- 17 related to the changes in the Type "B" licence that we
- 18 referenced earlier, the security would be \$1,200,650.
- 19 And based on the 50 percent split between Kivalliq
- 20 Inuit Association and Crown-Indigenous Relations
- 21 Northern Affairs, that's all part of the security
- 22 management agreement.
- Closure and reclamation. We have the updates for
- 24 the interim closure and reclamation plan. The final
- 25 closure and reclamation plan, as was mentioned earlier,
- 26 would be defined one year prior to closure of the

- 1 operation. This would include water quality and
- 2 reconnection of the flooded pit lake, as Michel
- 3 referenced earlier in the presentation.
- In addition, we would have site-specific water
- 5 quality objectives as part of that final plan and also
- 6 the adaptive management plan for closure, which has
- 7 been discussed with a few of the intervenors.
- 8 And also I just wanted to elaborate on the
- 9 security dealing with a lot of the monitoring. We have
- 10 18 years of monitoring during the closure window, which
- is part of the re-flood sequence to develop the pit
- 12 lake and also part of the agreed security that I just
- 13 mentioned for the Licence A includes three years of
- 14 post-closure monitoring, and that is defined once the
- 15 water quality meets the objectives during the closure
- 16 window and we reconnect the regional watershed to the
- 17 pit lake. At that time, when the dikes are breached,
- 18 the reconnection does occur, that is classified as
- 19 "post-closure".
- 20 Water compensation. As heard earlier today and
- 21 confirmed by the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Agnico
- 22 Eagle and the Kivalliq Inuit Association has entered
- 23 into a compensation agreement for the Whale Tail
- 24 Expansion Project, and that's -- that's about all we
- 25 have to say regarding -- regarding the water
- 26 compensation.

- 1 And I'll pass it back to Michel. Thank you.
- 2 MR. GROLEAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
- 3 Michel Groleau, Agnico Eagle.
- 4 So we'll get to the section on the revision to
- 5 management and monitoring plan.
- 6 So this slide present a new plan created to
- 7 address expansion project activities. Mentioned that
- 8 earlier. So we got the adaptive management plan,
- 9 conceptual Whale Tail Pit expansion offsetting plan,
- 10 the land farm design and management plan, and the
- incinerator and composter waste management plan.
- 12 That slide present the lists of management plan
- 13 we'll -- we're planning to update following the
- 14 issuance of the amended water licence, so waste rock
- 15 management plan, water management plan, the interim
- 16 closure and reclamation plan, spill contingency plan,
- 17 hazardous material management plan, and the emergency
- 18 response plan.
- 19 Next slide is related to the overview of the
- 20 proposed licence amendment. The suggested amendment
- 21 licence submitted to the Nunavut Water Board was
- 22 completed on December 20, 2019. Recommendation was
- 23 received by the intervenor on January 23rd. A revised
- 24 draft amended licence was submitted to the Nunavut
- 25 Water Board on January 30 taking in account the final
- 26 written submission of the parties. In the interest of

- 1 time, Agnico Eagle will not go through the detail of
- 2 the licence but encourage the Board to look at it
- 3 closely. Agnico Eagle recommend its draft to the
- 4 Boards for approval.
- 5 Next slide's presenting the site preparation. As
- 6 part of the draft water licence, there are certain
- 7 facilities and site preparation activities that Agnico
- 8 Eagle wishes to commence with immediately upon the
- 9 issuance of the amended water licence such as the
- 10 mining of the IVR Pit and the construction of the IVR
- 11 waste rock storage facility. Agnico Eagle issued a
- 12 memo as part of the technical comment responses which
- 13 was listing the water infrastructure required --
- 14 requiring a faster approval to 20-day notice approval.
- 15 These infrastructure consists of water collection
- 16 system, lake dewatering access and conveyance system,
- 17 effluent discharge, dikes, and pad extension. Agnico
- 18 Eagle suggests a 20-day notice for these facilities as
- 19 approved -- as proposed in the draft water licence.
- 20 So this is the final section of the presentation
- 21 related to the response to final written submission.
- 22 This slide present a summary of Nunavut Water Board
- 23 water licence amendment status, and the additional
- 24 meeting were facilitated with each intervenor to
- 25 collectively review the technical comments submitted.
- 26 The objective was to validate our understanding of the

- 1 requests, review Agnico Eagle position and intent to
- 2 respond, and have an open discussion with the parties.
- 3 As such, meeting were held in September with
- 4 Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Kivalliq
- 5 Inuit Association, Crown-Indigenous Relation and
- 6 Northern Affairs Canada, and the Department of
- 7 Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We continue to have those
- 8 meeting from November to February to resolve the
- 9 outstanding items for this amendment of the water
- 10 licence.
- 11 As part of the Nunavut Water Board review process,
- 12 we have received 75 information requests, 37 technical
- 13 comments from Environment and Climate Change Canada,
- 14 Crown-Indigenous Relation Northern Affair Canada, the
- 15 Kivalliq Inuit Association, and the Department of
- 16 Fisheries and Ocean Canada.
- 17 As part of the Nunavut Water Board review process,
- 18 we have received 31 final written submission comments
- 19 from the parties. Agnico Eagle has made commitments
- 20 related to the updating -- related to updating the
- 21 interim closure reclamation plan and to update the
- 22 adaptive management plan that will be part of the final
- 23 closure and reclamation plan. We believe this resolve
- 24 Environment Climate Change Canada's recommendations.
- 25 We have reached agreement with Crown-Indigenous
- 26 Relations Northern Affair Canada, the Kivalliq Inuit

- 1 Association, and Environment Climate Change Canada on
- 2 the duration of the three-year post-closure monitoring
- 3 period based on the extensive monitoring effort
- 4 implemented during the 18 years of the closure phase.
- 5 Agnico Eagle receive three final written
- 6 submission from Fisheries and Ocean Canada which
- 7 discuss impact to water crossing of the widening of the
- 8 Whale Tail road, water use, and downstream impacts on
- 9 fish and fish habitat at closure. Overall, there is no
- 10 potential for harmful alteration, disruption, or
- 11 destruction to fish and fish habitat related to the
- 12 widening of the haul road, the water use, and the
- 13 downstream impact. Nonetheless, Agnico Eagle has
- 14 committed to complete water level monitoring at closure
- in the downstream lakes to validate predictions. Based
- 16 on this, Agnico Eagle understand that we have resolved
- 17 all items.
- We would like to thank each of the parties for
- 19 their comments, recommendation, and involvement on the
- 20 review of this file. All this make the project better.
- 21 Thank you. Matna.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Applicant, for your
- 23 presentation.
- We are done for now, but questioning will be
- 25 happening first thing in the morning. Yeah.
- 26 Questioning will start first thing in the morning at

```
8:30. 8:30. We'll come back here before 8:30. We
 1
 2
    will reconvene at 8:30 in the morning, and the
 3
     questioning will take place. Kivalliq Inuit
     Association will be the first to ask questions.
 4
 5
          All right. Okay. Thank you. Have a good night.
 6
 7
     PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 8:30 AM, FEBRUARY 14, 2020
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| 1 | CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT: |
|----|---|
| 2 | |
| 3 | I, Christy Longacre, certify that the foregoing |
| 4 | pages are a complete and accurate transcript of the |
| 5 | proceedings, taken down by me in shorthand and |
| 6 | transcribed from my shorthand notes to the best of my |
| 7 | skill and ability. |
| 8 | Dated at the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, |
| 9 | this 23rd day of February 2020. |
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| 11 | |
| 12 | |
| 13 | Cloturingocu |
| 14 | Christy Longacre, RPR, CSR(A) |
| 15 | Official Court Reporter |
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