

Community, Regulatory and Elder Consultations and Meetings

(1995 to 2009)

DATE	PLACE	PARTIES PRESENT AND SUBJECTS OF MEETING
1995		
1 May	Rankin Inlet	KIA, WMC, Cumberland, Comaplex; history of exploration and prospect of WMC entering the Project on western lands.
1996		
10 January	Rankin Inlet	KIA, WMC, Cumberland, Comaplex; Project status report and notice of manpower needs.
29-31 Mar.	Rankin Inlet	Nunavut Mining Forum; Project status report; Project booth at trade fair.
1 April	Chesterfield Inlet	Public, KIA, Hamlet, HTO, CLARC; Project status report and notice of manpower needs.
2 April	Rankin Inlet	Public, KIA, CLARC, HTO's, Fed. & Ter. govt, WMC; day long review of environmental studies.
2 December	Chesterfield Inlet	Public, KIA, CLARC, Hamlet, HTO; Project status report and notice of manpower needs.
3 December	Rankin Inlet	Public, KIA, CLARC, HTO; Project status report and notice of manpower needs.
1997		
21-23 Mar.	Rankin Inlet	Kivalliq Mining Round Table; Project status and emphasis on mine readiness training.
25 March	Rankin Inlet	Public, CLARC, KIA Board.
19-20 April	Iqaluit	Nunavut Mining Conference; Project status report
13 May	Rankin Inlet	Public, KIA, CLARC, HTO; current year exploration program and manpower needs.
14 May	Chesterfield Inlet	Public, KIA, Hamlet, HTO, CLARC; current year exploration program and manpower needs.
11 June	Coral Harbour	Briefing KIA Board of Directors on regional demography research and how it relates to mine work force needs.
28 June	Rankin Inlet	Public reception for Sir Arvi Parbo, Chair to WMC Limited Board.
28 August	Rankin Inlet	Public reception with WMC senior management visiting from Australia.
23 October	Rankin Inlet	Inaugural dinner meeting with Elders' Steering Committee for Traditional Knowledge.
6 November	Rankin Inlet	Project briefing to Keewatin Wildlife Fed. executive committee.
9 December	Rankin Inlet	Meeting #2 of the Elders' Steering Committee for Traditional Knowledge.

DATE	PLACE	PARTIES PRESENT AND SUBJECTS OF MEETING
1998		
7 January	Rankin Inlet	Public, Hamlet, KIA, HTO, CLARC; Project status report.
8 January	Chesterfield Inlet	Public, KIA, Hamlet, CLARC; Project status report.
28 March	Cambridge Bay	Nunavut Mining Symposium; Project status report.
2 April	Rankin Inlet	HTO's for Rankin and Chesterfield, KIA, CLARC, DFO, DRWED; review environmental baseline studies.
23 June	Rankin Inlet	Joint meeting of the Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet CLARCs to review underground exploration application (since withdrawn); public meeting in afternoon and evening to brief Rankin Inlet businesses and residents on underground exploration application.
25 June	Chesterfield Inlet	Project briefing to Chesterfield Inlet Hamlet Council; evening meeting to brief Chesterfield residents on underground exploration application (since withdrawn).
6 July	Rankin Inlet	Brief Rankin Inlet Hamlet Council on underground exploration program and need to store fuel in barge overwintering in Melvin Bay (plans since cancelled).
8 July	Meliadine Camp	Overall Project briefing to DIAND Minister, the Hon. Stewart and Nunavut leadership- Josie Karetak-Lindell MP for Nunavut; NWT Finance Minister and MLA for Rankin Inlet, the Hon. John Todd.
5 August	Rankin Inlet	Dinner meeting #3 of the Elders' Steering Committee for Traditional Knowledge; review Project and proposed archaeological survey of proposed test pit area.
2 October	Rankin Inlet	Dinner meeting #4 of the Elders' Steering Committee for Traditional Knowledge; review Project and results of archaeological survey of proposed test pit area.
21 October	Rankin Inlet	Meeting with Hamlet Coordinating Committee (reps. of all the service agencies in Rankin Inlet) to review Project and its current effects on the social fabric of the community.

DATE	PLACE	PARTIES PRESENT AND SUBJECTS OF MEETING
1999		
13 January	Rankin Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public; review Project results for 1998 and plans for 1999.
14 January	Chesterfield Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public; review Project results for 1998 and plans for 1999.
14 April	Rankin Inlet	Workshop with stakeholders from Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield 1997. Inlet and Kivalliq region plus relevant government agencies to review environmental study results of 1998 studies and plans for 1999.
11 April	Arviat	Review regional gold exploration program for 1999 with Hamlet Council and HTO.
14 Sept.	Rankin Inlet	Meeting #5 of the Elders' Steering Committee for Traditional Knowledge; review Project and receive final report on completed Traditional Knowledge Study of Project area.
2000		
7 January	Rankin Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public; review Project results for 1999 and plans for 2000.
22 May	Arviat	Review regional gold exploration program for 1999 with Hamlet Council and HTO.
23 May	Rankin Inlet	Workshop with stakeholders from Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet and Kivalliq region plus relevant government agencies to review environmental study results of 1998 studies and plans for 1999.
23 May	Chesterfield Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public; review Project results for 1999 and plans for 2000.
13 November	Rankin Inlet	Nunavut Mining Symposium public talk on the need for mine related training; Project update to symposium delegates.
2001		
10 April	Rankin Inlet	Workshop with stakeholders from Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet and Kivalliq region plus relevant government agencies to review environmental study results of 2000 studies and plans for 2001; public meeting to review Project results for 2000 and plans for 2001.

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2002		
7 January	Rankin Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public meeting to review 2001 work and Project status.
8 January	Chesterfield Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public meeting to review 2001 work and Project status.
27 June	Rankin Inlet	KIA commercial lease signing.
26 Nov.	Chesterfield Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public meeting to review 2002 work and Project status.
28 Nov.	Rankin Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public meeting to review 2001 work and Project status including camp closure.
2003		
12 May	Rankin Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public meeting to review Project status focusing on impending sale of Project.
13 May	Chesterfield Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public meeting to review Project status focusing on impending sale of Project.
16 July	Rankin Inlet	Teleconference from KIA between Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Denver (WMC), and Calgary (Comaplex) to announce and discuss Comaplex/WMC agreement on sale of WMC Canadian interests to Comaplex.
3 Nov.	Rankin Inlet	KIA, CLARC, public review of new directions of Project under Comaplex control.
2004		
27 July	Rankin Inlet	Brief KIA on status of the Project.
21 October	Rankin Inlet	Presentation on Project status to KIA Board of Directors with a request for a proposal of motion to support a future road from Rankin to the Tiriganiaq deposit site.
21 October	Rankin Inlet	Town hall public meeting presenting the results of the 2004 exploration program and the proposed plans for 2005.
2005		
3 June	Rankin Inlet	Presenting the plans for the 2005 exploration program.
29 July	Rankin Inlet	Present Project update to the KIA.
2006		
30 July	Rankin Inlet	Project presentation to the Rankin Inlet Hamlet Council
27 March	Rankin Inlet	Town hall public meeting on the Project plans for the 2006 exploration program.

DATE	PLACE	PARTIES PRESENT AND SUBJECTS OF MEETING
2007		
26 March	Chesterfield Inlet	Presentation to the KIA Board of Directors on the proposed underground program and 2007 Meliadine West exploration plans. Verbal Motion of Support from the Board.
27 March	Rankin Inlet	Presentation of the proposed 2007 Meliadine West exploration program to the Rankin Inlet CLARC.
28 March	Rankin Inlet	Presentation of the proposed 2007 Meliadine West exploration program to the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce.
28 March	Rankin Inlet	Town hall meeting - presentation of the proposed 2007 Meliadine West exploration program.
4 July	Rankin Inlet	Luncheon with elders including a presentation on status of Project.
4 July	Rankin Inlet	Briefing on Project Status to Hamlet Council with specific discussions on road alignment and overwinter fuel storage in barge.
26 July	Rankin Inlet	Town hall type meeting with NTCL to discuss winter fuel storage in barge.
23 August	Rankin Inlet	Town hall type meeting with NTCL to discuss winter fuel storage in barge (cancelled due to weather).
27 Sept.	Rankin Inlet	Town hall type meeting with NTCL to discuss winter fuel storage in barge.
28 Sept.	Rankin Inlet	KIA meeting with J. Lindell. Update on the meetings of the last few days.
24 Oct.	Rankin Inlet	KIA meeting with L. Manzo, J. Lindell, update on the Project and discussion of ongoing issues with various groups.
25 Oct.	Rankin Inlet	KIA Board of Directors – update on the Project with projections of possible future plans.

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2008		
26 March	Rankin Inlet	Presentation to the Kivalliq Inuit Association personnel and the Rankin Inlet CLARC on progress at Meliadine West.
27 March 27	Rankin Inlet	presentation of the Meliadine West Project progress to the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce at their AGM.
8 April	Iqaluit	Nunavut Mining Symposium; presentation to industry and all regulatory boards with Project update.
10 April	Camp	Kivalliq Outreach Program (Kevin Sanguine); 8 young people, 3 elders into camp by snowmobile for visit, including underground.
8 July	Rankin Inlet	Presentation to the Kivalliq Inuit Association on the Project and discussion on the environmental and regulatory issues.
16 July	Camp	Elders' tour to the Meliadine West Project site. People who attended were Moses Aliyak, Robert Tatty, Remi Nakokti, Paul Kanuyak, John Hickes. All were taken underground for a full tour.
25 August	Rankin	Meet Kivalliq Inuit Association with KIA.
26 August	Camp	Underground tour for Kivalliq Inuit Association. Manzo Kivalliq Inuit Association Director, L. Kusugak (Rankin Inlet mayor), T. Manernaluk (elder) and H. Tatty (elder).
28 August	Rankin Inlet	Town hall update meeting on status of Project.
11 Sept.	Rankin Inlet	meet with the KIA.

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2009		
Mar 31	Iqaluit	Nunavut Mining Symposium; presentation to industry and all regulatory boards with Project update.
May 6-8	Rankin Inlet	MDAG: all regulatory groups in attendance. Present Project and meet regulators.
May 21	Rankin Inlet	Town hall update meeting. 13 people.
June 17	Rankin Inlet	Presentation to the CLARC on the Project. Attendees: Hamish Tatti, Celestino Mukpah, Jack Karitok, Jerome Tattuinee, Paul Kanayok.
June 17	Rankin Inlet	Meeting with Manager CED (Robert Connelly) and Nunavut Transport (Alan Johnson) regarding proposal to access federal infrastructure money for the Meliadine River bridge and Comaplex fund the road. Visit to the bridge site.
June 18	Rankin Inlet	Discussion with Rankin mayor John Hicks, the SAO, and several council member. Project update and proposed application for road and bridge funding.
July 30	Rankin Inlet	Meeting with Paul Waye, Senior Administrative Office for Rankin Inlet to discuss locations for mine infrastructure and a quarry within the municipality. Tour of the town with M&T Enterprises to look at locations for possible mine infrastructure and to see existing quarries.
September 1	Camp site	Meeting with DFO to discuss fisheries habitat and compensation issues relating to the development of the Meliadine Gold Project.
September 4	Rankin Inlet	Tour of industrial areas of the municipality with John Hicks to look at possible location of the tank farm.
Oct 3	Rankin Inlet	Presentation of the current Meliadine Gold Project to the Social Economic Monitoring Committee (chaired by Nunavut Economic Development and Transportation).

Consultation has continued in 2010

Issues raised in the Course of Public Consultation.

The public meetings hosted by the Project have focused on the exploration program and a hypothetical mine that may be developed in due course. The issues below are a capsule of those that emerged in discussions during the community consultations regarding the overall Meliadine West Gold Project.

HELICOPTER OVER-FLIGHTS

The effects of over flights on both people and wildlife were raised at the first meeting. Project managers responded with an operating guideline to be followed (weather conditions permitting) that advises pilots to avoid passing over cabins and tents and also to maintain specified altitude over areas occupied by wildlife. This has not been a perfect solution and ongoing reminders to pilots have been necessary. The subject continues to be raised informally, indicating it to be an issue of ongoing public concern.

WATER QUALITY

The peculiar drainage configuration for Meliadine Lake was reviewed with the HTO and Elders' Committee who recognised that both major drainages in the Rankin area could be at risk of contamination in the event of disaster or bad practice. The Project's environmental studies established a baseline for a comprehensive water quality monitoring program.

Standard industry diamond-drilling practice has been modified to remove all solids from drilling fluids before discharging these when drilling from lake ice platforms. In summer, sumps are developed to prevent drill cuttings from entering water bodies or water courses. These practices are a standard routine as prescribed in the Project Environmental Management System filed with KIA.

BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A recurring theme in discussion with leaders and elders was the need for employment for "our young people". The Project has hired all unskilled help from the region and has provided on-the-job training as required. Long-term labour force development will require a major upgrading and training effort in partnership with government.

FUEL SPILLS

Fuel management and threat of contamination to the environment is an ongoing public concern. The Project EMS implements a rigorous inspection routine of all fuel storage vessels including ULC approved double-walled fuel vaults for bulk diesel fuel and jet A storage.

UNDERGROUND BLASTING EFFECTS ON LAKES AND FISH

This issue was raised in Chesterfield Inlet as a concern if mining were to go ahead. The physical effects of blasting on the surrounding rock and water at surface is controlled by the placement, sequence, and volume of explosive. This is planned to ensure that the maximum energy from the blast is released into the immediate area of the explosive and not into non-target areas as provided in usage guidelines for explosives. The effects of underground blasting on water bodies has not been a problem reported in the area of other operating mines; e.g. Giant and Con at Yellowknife and Lupin near Contwoyto Lake.

Experience elsewhere has shown that the particular area of sensitivity is fish eggs, which are sensitive to blasting vibrations in excess of 12 mm/s Peak Particle Velocity. The actual blasting of rock in or close to a river or lake bed can produce these vibration levels in immediately adjacent waters. It is, however, highly unlikely for blasting in the contemplated mine to produce these vibration levels in nearby fish-bearing waters. Guidelines for blasting in the vicinity of, and adjacent to, fish habitat have been established and will be followed.

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN?

Both communities have a tremendous interest in the opportunities for employment in all aspects of Project work. The Project is an equal opportunity employer.

IS THERE EXPLORATION IN THE AREA OF PEOPLES' CAMPS?

To date there has been very little drilling in the immediate vicinity of existing cabins or camps. Efforts are made to review the work with the persons at the campsite to learn if the exploration schedule can be adjusted so that disturbance and inconvenience can be avoided.

WORK ROTATION

Time spent away from families is a concern for persons living at the camp for extended periods. While no rigid work rotation has been in place to date, rotations for local workers are flexible to meet both the work load and the individual needs of the employee. The preferred rotation for local employees for exploration work is 20 days in and 10 days out. The hours accumulated in the 20 days includes considerable overtime and so provides more income than regular hours per month in many seasonal community based jobs in the region. The work rotation proposed by Comaplex may typically be 28 days "on" and 14 days "off", or 21 days on, 21 days off for employees recruited from southern Canada.

EFFECTS ON CARIBOU

Public concerns for wildlife are focused on caribou. Caribou are not regularly abundant in the area of the exploration program in any season. The Project initiated a program of satellite telemetry in which five collars were put on female caribou to learn the calving ground affinity of the caribou in the area during winter. Are they of the Qamanirjuaq herd or a herd north of Chesterfield Inlet? Telemetry data showed that the caribou overwintering in the area of the exploration program in 1997 / 98 were from at least two different calving areas - the Qamanirjuaq Lake calving ground to the southwest of Meliadine Lake, and a calving area north of Chesterfield Inlet. In 2008, Comaplex continued caribou surveys in the Project area.

TEMPORARY FUEL STORAGE

Safety concerns in storing fuel in an NTCL barge overwinter (2007-08) was the subject of meetings with Rankin Inlet Hamlet Council and the public. This procedure was conducted for two winters without incident.

In general, the Project has received support and encouragement for its work at Meliadine West from both Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet and has enjoyed a cooperative working relationship with the landlord, KIA.

In addition to the consultation meetings, presentations and annual Project Status Reports (in Inuktitut and English) have been prepared and provided at public meetings. Elders, students and community leaders have toured the property since 2006 to the present. This included touring the underground exploration workings while they were active and open.