

Amaruq Exploration Access Road Consultation Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2015 meeting. Meadowbank Mine Site, Nunavut

Participant	Organization
Thomas Anirniq	Community Land and Resources Committee (CLARC)
Philippa Ilssiraq	Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)
Warren Bernauer	HTO consultant and Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB)
David Toolooktook Sr.	HTO
Michael Akilak	HTO
Joan Scottie	HTO/CLARC
Basil Quinangnaq	HTO vice-chair
Jeff Hart	Kivilliq Inuit Association (KIA)
Thomas Elytook	CLARC
Thomas O'Uayuk	CLARC
Thomas Qaquimat	CLARC
David Owingayah	CLARC
Paul Attutuvaq	CLARC
Camila Morcos	Golder Associates (AEM representative)
Jennifer Tischer	Stantec (AEM representative)
Ryan Vanengen	Agnico Eagle Mines (AEM)

11:45 am HTO arrived

12:00 pm CLARC arrived; everyone has lunch at Meadowbank cafeteria

12:45 pm meeting starts in lounge on the second floor of the Meadowbank kitchen area. Introductions and AEM asked if the participants wanted to start with a prayer

CLARC member gave a prayer

AEM explained the purpose of the meeting and went through the agenda, and stressed that they were looking for feedback and to have an open discussion

HTO (Joan) asked who participated in the archaeological study. Jennifer (Stantec) responded that Michael Haqpi and Larren Nakoolak participated with the archaeological team.

HTO (Joan) mentioned the last HTO meeting, and indicated that the HTO read the letter AEM sent to the board outlining AEM's consultation and the number of meetings that were held (in response to HTO's concern). However the board wasn't aware that these were considered "formal" meetings by the HTO. The HTO was also concerned that they were required to "agree to something that they weren't comfortable with" at these meetings. HTO added that the previous site visit there was not enough room on the helicopter for everyone.



AEM responded that the intent of the meetings was to get feedback from everyone, it was in no means intended for the HTO/Elders to commit to anything. The purpose of the meetings was to encourage dialogue and seek feedback, and the site visit was intended to familiarize the participants with the sites (both Meadowbank, Amaruq proposed road and Amaruq exploration site). AEM hosted a TK workshop for the Amaruq exploration access road in December 2014, acquired knowledge from elders, gave this information to scientists and biologists in 2015, they collected additional information that corroborated and now we are presenting that information and our plans, along with visiting archaeological sites. AEM has integrated TK from the beginning.

HTO asked about the figure outlining the 2014/2015 baseline information, and “who did the survey?”

AEM responded that they had considered several routes, and the route that was selected as the route with the least impact on the environment (few stream crossings, a direct route to Amaruq from Vault Pit and minimized impact to the esker which will only be used for borrowing), and this will be addressed in more detail during the presentation. Engineers, biologists and scientists were involved in deciding the route.

HTO asked if there will be quarries when road construction starts

AEM responded that the intention is to source the material for the southern portion of the road from Vault pit, then from Eskers 1 to 7 to continue building the road northward to Amaruq.

CLARC asked if grave sites were identified along the route?

AEM responded that no grave sites were identified along the proposed exploration road route, but one grave site was identified in the exploration area, and AEM will discuss this in more detail

CLARC member indicated that he believes his relatives' grave sites are located SW of the exploration area (3 of them), and another grave is located in the exploration area (potentially a grandchild). These were marked on the TK map to the SW of the Amaruq exploration site.

HTO asked if the main esker is being used to take gravel for construction

AEM responded that is was being used; much of the esker will be kept untouched and only a few areas along the esker will require material taking.

HTO stated that there might be some dens located there

AEM explained where the borrowing of material will occur from the Eskers, and showed the locations on the maps and the areas that had dens (Esker 3)

HTO indicated that near esker 2 there are possible wolf dens and a caribou migration route. These were marked on the map.



AEM responded that they will not disturb the den sites if they are active. AEM showed where the den sites were identified by biologists during their field surveys in 2015, as well as the archaeological sites.

HTO stated that once construction will start, the wolves will leave the area/their dens

AEM responded that the literature suggests that wolves will find other sites for denning if they are disturbed (so there is little predicted impact)

HTO stated that possible wolf dens are located on the east side of the exploration area, and to the north. These were marked on the maps.

HTO added that there are also potential fox dens north of the exploration area, which were also marked on the map.

HTO stated that there's a wolf travel route that runs east/west near esker 1, and it is used during March/April. They added that there is a lot of wolves in this area. This wolf route is already marked on the map.

HTO added that during the 2014 workshop they had requested that AEM/biologists look for dens at this location (near esker 1)

AEM responded that biologists did look in this area for wolf dens based on their recommendation; however they did not identify any dens in that area.

HTO asked whether any explosives will be used to get the source material?

AEM responded that the first plan is not to use explosives and just to excavate the material, however it will depend on how frozen the ground is

HTO added that for Meadowbank they used explosives and asked again if they will need to do this for Amaruq?

AEM responded that in their experience, the material in eskers is quite porous and coarse, therefore it should not have too much ice and will not be frozen in the first lift. At this point AEM does not think explosives will be needed, even during the winter.

13:45 - we looked over the environmental baseline figures summarizing the 2014/2015 baseline findings.

HTO indicated that some grave sites were used a long time ago and are very old, therefore they (those present at the meeting) might not be familiar with all the sites and it is possible some were missed

HTO (Basil) mentioned that his family took him to the lakes in the study area for fishing when he was young, and the area is still used today. These sites were marked on the map.

HTO (David and Joan) marked fishing areas on the map and stated that there are lake trout throughout the Amaruq exploration area (baseline study area)

CLARC mentioned that there is a caribou migration route that crosses the road

AEM acknowledged this route, adding that at different times of the year caribou will migrate through the area, and there will be strict traffic rules put in place to minimize effects to caribou, including, if deemed necessary, closing the road during migrations.

HTO (Joan) stated that last November a large caribou herd was trying to cross the Baker Lake to Meadowbank road for 3 days and they could not cross

HTO (James) added that the caribou were approx. 20-30 feet from the road and trying to cross; he requested more monitoring and quicker response and possibly closure of the road should be done.

AEM mentioned that they close the Baker Lake to Meadowbank road during this time to stop traffic and allow caribou to cross. AEM added that there is always room for improvement and that we continue to improve our practices; as an example there were no mortalities last year! Currently we have the environment team do surveys twice a week during migration and use the road operators call information along the road to ensure mitigation measures. If there is ever a concern anyone can call AEM Environment or Ryan directly.

CLARC (Thomas Elytook) asked if there are wildlife monitors on the road, and added that one is needed to contract out this work and wildlife surveys should not be done in the van, not just at the gates.

AEM responded that they now have a vehicle that drives along the road with 2 staff twice a week during migration and once otherwise to survey for wildlife, and added that AEM has improved. AEM stated that he will talk to the environment department about their concerns and will consider their recommendations.

All of the information shared during the wildlife information review was added to the TK and IQ maps during the meeting.

14:15 –Jennifer Tischer (Stantec) - Archaeological Consultant for AEM - presented an overview of the archaeological sites along the road.

HTO noted that the “markers” (referring to the photo in slide) was used for drying fish, with a rope that is placed across the rocks

CLARC noted that families used to make a bundle of dried meat, using caribou skin to wrap and tie it with, and then rocks were placed on top (referring to the cache photo/slide)

CLARC confirmed that the wooden pegs were used for drying caribou skins which were used to stretch it with (referring to photo of pegs/slide)



CLARC noted that some of these tent rings are not always visible

CLARC noted that the hiding places (blinds) are there because they are near caribou crossings/narrows (referring to photo/slide)

CLARC noted that the trap in the photo was probably used for wolves

HTO inquired about the photo of the gravesite (#3), and if AEM could guarantee that it would not be disturbed? HTO asked whether AEM could commit to not disturbing the grave site "even if you find gold there"?

AEM responded that if the HTO absolutely did not want it disturbed, a buffer would be required to place around it. AEM added that they want to work with the HTO/CLARC to find a solution for mitigation.

HTO stated that once construction/disturbance begins, it keeps going. They added that their ancestors would not want any sites disturbed.

AEM responded that they will not disturb any sites without the community's support for mitigation, and that their input was important. AEM added that they would be looking at these sites during the site visit so they could observe how far the sites are from disturbance (the exploration area).

CLARC stated that any artifacts that are found should not be touched; they have to be left alone out of respect. They added that Inukshuks were knocked down, and when this type of disrespect/disturbance to important sites occurs, "we feel it in our hearts". They added that in Baker Lake people are littering and it is disrespectful.

AEM acknowledged this and asked if it was possible to excavate these sites and move them (Esker 2)?

HTO responded no, that they should stay where they are.

CLARC re-iterated that artifacts should be left where they are found, adding that this message was observed on a television advertisement.

HTO (Joan) inquired about the fact that 17 archaeological sites were found in 2014/2015, adding that there must be many more sites in the study area, and that it might not be able to recognize all of them. In the past, local people used to wrap the deceased (bodies) in skins and put a few rocks on them to keep the animals away (so they are difficult to identify/ locate). When campsites are identified, it is important to also identify which season they were used in (which you can tell by certain features). The hiding place (blind) that was identified is still very important today, because they are near caribou crossings.

HTO (Warren B) asked AEM what was meant when it was indicated that support would be needed before moving grave sites? Who do you need support from to in order to make a decision? The HTO?

AEM responded that they are not sure how the HTO is formally structured to make these decisions, however they would like them (the HTO/CLARC) to take the information away with them after today and think about how these sites could be mitigated.

KWB asked whether AEM was comfortable if they (the board) put AEM's promise to the Elders on record to not disturb the grave site and to work with the HTO/Elders to come up with a solution in mitigating impacts to the archaeological sites

AEM responded that they were, however that they should first visit the sites to investigate them and see how far they are from disturbance, and then they could continue the discussion.

15:00 pm –the majority of the group left for the archaeological site visit (the majority of the members could be accommodate in the 214 helicopter except Camila, Joan Scottie, Jeff Hart, James Kulluk and Michael Akilak).

15:30 - Helicopter briefing

16:00 – Site # 1 visit – tent rings, tent pegs, hearth – north of borrow source 1 along the proposed road

Approximately 30 caribou were observed south west of the proposed road route during the site visit. HTO members commented that this site may have been occupied by Thomas and Phillipa's (HTO) family at one point in time, as they were in this area. It was also reported that the family/parent of James Kalluk (not present) were also in this area.

Phillipa noted that the wooden piece might be a walking stick. She indicated that avoidance is the preferred mitigation measure at the site. She indicated that she would be ok with removing the artifacts if necessary, but any human remains should never be moved. Thomas (Elytook) confirmed that avoidance is the preferred option.

It was the preference of the CLARC Elders and HTO that the main archaeological camp site be avoided. AEM believes the road could be shifted east, however an excavation might need to be done of one of the hearths. AEM agreed a reasonable distance/ buffer from the main site could be established and HTO/ CLARC members stated that if AEM could create the greatest distance "humanly possible to avoid the sites at site 1" it would be appreciated.

AEM agrees and a detailed archaeological survey may be need and mitigation measures could be considered in collaboration with the GN heritage and cultural department, HTO and elders who will be consulted during the archaeological excavation and prior to the construction of the road. AEM could bring Phillipa and others back to the sites during the excavation.

16:45 – Visit of other site west of the proposed road route with many tent rings

17:10 – Site #2 visit – tent rings and camp sites on Esker 3 -

A wolf was observed chasing caribou about 5 miles to the east of this Esker. HTO members noted 2 wolf dens near the esker and stated that it is likely that there is a lot of wolf activity.



Most of the camp sites (tent rings and hearths) were set approximately 50 m away from the proposed borrow area.

AEM agrees and a detailed archaeological survey may be needed and mitigation measures could be considered in collaboration with the GN heritage and cultural department, HTO and elders who will be consulted during the archaeological excavation and prior to the construction of the road.

17:45 – Site # 3 visit – grave site near Amaruq exploration site –

It was evident to all, that the grave site was far from the current exploration activity. AEM ensured that the site would not be disturbed within the next 5 years of exploration, but does not know what the future may entail. HTO and CLARC requested that this site was not disturbed. HTO did not like the idea of excavating the grave site as it was the blood of the person that is in the earth that cannot be disturbed. It is possible the grave was one of Phillipa's husband (Thomas's) family members that were buried there. Phillipa noted that she herself has camped north of here. Basil noted that in 1958 his family moved from the Back River to Baker Lake, generally through this area.

AEM thanked everyone for the information that they shared and hoped everyone enjoyed themselves. It was apparent that everyone enjoyed the site tour. HTO (Philippa) extended a special thanks in the helicopter; she mentioned that it brought back many fond memories.

17:00 - while the group was visiting the archaeological sites, James provided some TK /TLU that was marked on the map

18:30 - the group returned and everyone had dinner

19:25 pm- resumed with meeting to summarize the site visit

AEM thanked everyone for their input during the archaeological site visit. AEM asked for thoughts on the archaeological site visits and if there were any appropriate mitigation measures such as excavating and archiving the relics.

HTO (David) requested a ¼ mile buffer be placed around the grave sites and possibly all of the sites.

AEM indicated this was not possible for the sites along the road, but agreed with the comments in the field by the HTO, that "AEM should do what is humanly possible to avoid or go around the archaeological sites" and asked if this buffer was the wish of everyone or just HTO (David's) request.

There were no other comments about the buffer.

HTO (Joan) stated that not everyone from the community could be here, and that it was important that the wishes/requests of everyone was represented



CLARC (Thomas Elytook) indicated that the Elders were tired and perhaps they could continue the discussion tomorrow at the meeting in Baker Lake. They added that in the future meetings should be held in Baker Lake when the HTO/CLARC requests them and not when AEM decides they should be held, such as only quarterly meetings.

AEM responded that in the past they have had meetings in Baker Lake whenever it was requested by the HTO. The idea of having “quarterly” meetings was to make sure meetings happened often enough, but we can meet more often or less as requested.

HTO (Warren B.) noted that a lot of TK had been collected and marked on the maps, and asked whether there would be an opportunity for the Elders to review the information, and when AEM proposed this could be scheduled?

AEM stated that we can have a meeting at the end of November in Baker Lake to review the information collected and the revisions to the maps.

HTO (Warren B.) added that this was a good idea because a lot of information had been collected that needed to be reviewed, adding that there was potentially a lot more traditional land use information that could be added.

AEM agreed, adding that this was a process, and that the community’s feedback was important for moving forward, especially related to the archaeological sites that are close to the road and near the esker.

HTO inquired about the crossings and asked why were culverts being proposed instead of real bridges, and what was an arched culvert?

AEM explained that arch culverts and bridges were planned to be built over any large bodied fish bearing stream, and piped culverts would be constructed for smaller streams with no fish or very small fish. AEM explained that Arch culverts are essentially bridges.

CLARC noted that one thing to consider is the impact that dust will have on caches that are located near the road.

HTO stated that AEM has said in the past that they will use water or calcium chloride to suppress dust from the roads

AEM stated that the NIRB commitment is to suppress dust if needed and we are committed to apply dust suppressant in areas that were predicted to have an impact, which is only at the mine site where traffic is heaviest. No impacts were predicted along the MBK road. We will continue to monitor the dust along the road and use calcium chloride or water where there may be an impact.

CLARC inquired if they could see a copy of the report that outlines this NIRB commitment (condition), and asked if it could be faxed over.



AEM indicated that it is in the NIRB conditions that have been sent in the past, and that NIRB has that information and that AEM can send it to them the next time AEM meets.

HTO mentioned that there is a snowmobile trail/route that crosses the road near Baker Lake that needs to be fixed.

AEM responded that the HTO should email the location with the KM post, and AEM will ensure that it is fixed within the year

AEM thanked everyone for coming, and for their input and feedback

7:45-end of meeting. HTO and CLARC drove back to Baker Lake