



“When You Talk - We Listen!”



WEK'EEZHII LAND AND WATER BOARD

KWETJJAA RAYROCK REMEDIATION PROJECT

TYPE A WATER LICENCE APPLICATION

W2020L8-0003

PUBLIC HEARING

Board Members:

Chairperson	Joseph Mackenzie
Board Member	Mason Mantla
Board Member	Mike Nitsiza
Board Member	Rachel Crapeau
Board Member	Alex Nitsiza

HELD AT:

Yellowknife, NT

April 28, 2021

Day 1 of 3

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APPEARANCES

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Rhiana Bams)
Meaghan MacIntyre-Newell)
John Donihee (by Zoom))Board Counsel
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Andrew Richardson)
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Jacqueline Mo (by Zoom))
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Lou Spagnolo (by Zoom))
Jeff Mackie (by Zoom))
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2 Harriet Phillips (by Zoom)) CanNorth

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4 Luigi Larusso) Health Canada

5

6 Rebecca Studer-Halbach) PSPC

7 Chera Nelson)

8

9 Dave Bynski) DXB Consulting

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11 Drew Nolan) AECOM

12 Joel Nolin)

13 Rob McCullough)

14 Morag McPherson)

15 Denise Radich)

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17 Ginger Gibson) Firelight Group

18 Jenelle Croots)

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20 Regan Fielding) Fielding Environment

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22 Bobby Gon) Public

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24 Kaylee Nitsiza)

25 Sadetto Scott)

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1	LIST OF UNDERTAKINGS	
2	NO.	PAGE NO.
3	1	CIRNAC to provide the remedial options
4		analysis for Beta and Gamma lakes as a
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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:12 a.m.

2

3 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: ... Julian

6 Jeremick'aa, these are the people who will be doing
7 the drumming for us. We'd like Casper -- we'd like to
8 ask them to come over the desks near here to pick up
9 their drum, and you can all stand behind -- somewhere
10 behind that.

11 Joseph Scott will do the prayer for us
12 this morning to open the meeting. This is how we're
13 going to open the meeting today, by having the drummer
14 do the prayers -- song for us.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: We will be starting
16 shortly. The first thing we will do is opening with a
17 drum song. Just waiting for the drummers

18

19 (OPENING DRUM SONG)

20

21 (OPENING PRAYER)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: (TRANSLATION NOT
24 SWITCHED) ... because of the ongoing COVID-19
25 situation, the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board has

1 taken several measures to protect the individuals
2 attending the hearing in person.

3 In addition to restricting this event
4 to a maximum of fifty (50) people and screening upon
5 arrival, we ask that you be diligent in sanitizing
6 your hands, physical distancing, and wearing masks
7 when moving around the room and when you aren't able
8 to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres, 6 feet,
9 apart from the others.

10 Snacks have been wrapped individually,
11 and coffee and water will be brought to your seat by
12 Explorer staff to avoid unnecessary movement around
13 the room.

14 The emergency exits are located out the
15 doors you came in, and there are additional exits if
16 necessary along the side of the room. If there is an
17 emergency, please follow the instructions of staff to
18 exit the building safely.

19 The washrooms are located in the hall,
20 and there are additional washrooms in the lobby of the
21 hotel. Please ensure your phone is turned off or
22 silenced.

23 An agenda for this hearing was sent out
24 on April 23rd and can be found on the public registry
25 at www.wlwb.ca.

1 Thank you to our Tlicho translators
2 Violet Mackenzie, James Rabesca, and Francis Zoe who
3 are here today, and thank you to Wendy who is
4 overseeing the transcription remotely, as well as to
5 Jeff and Chris from Pido who are looking after the
6 sound and video conference feed.

7 Background of the Wek'eezhii Land and
8 Water Board: We recognize that not everyone is
9 familiar with the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board and
10 what we do, so I wanted to provide a brief overview of
11 the Board.

12 There are four (4) land and water
13 boards in the Mackenzie Valley. Each board is
14 comprised of five (5) individuals that are responsible
15 for the regulations of the use of land and water and
16 the deposit of waste. Together, the regional land and
17 water boards make up the Mackenzie Valley Land and
18 Water Board.

19 The Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board was
20 established after the Tlicho Land Claim and Self-
21 Government Agreement came into force on August 4th,
22 2005. It became the legally recognized management
23 authority for the area known as Wek'eezhii.

24 The Wek'eezhii management area is the
25 area where the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board

1 regulates resource development. The Wek'eezhii
2 management area is between Great Bear and Great Slave
3 Lake which includes Tlicho lands, community lands, and
4 territorial lands.

5 Our boards are appointed by both the
6 federal and Tlicho governments. My fellow Board
7 members are Mr. Mike Nitsiza and Ms. Rachel Crapeau
8 who are federally appointed members. Mr. Mason Mantla
9 and Mr. Alex Nitsiza are the Tlicho Government
10 appointees.

11 I now will also take this time to
12 introduce the members of our staff who are present
13 today: Ryan Fequet is our Executive Director; Rhiana
14 Bams is our regulatory specialist and the lead for the
15 Rayrock Remediation Project; Roberta Judas of Wekweeti
16 is the regulatory technician who lives in Wekweeti,
17 okay; Anneli Jokela is our regulatory manager; Jessica
18 Pacunayen is a regulatory specialist; and Mr. John
19 Donihee is the Board's legal counsel and is joining us
20 via Zoom.

21 Okay. What we do. The Wek'eezhii Land
22 and Water Board is responsible for regulating the use
23 of land and waters and the deposit of waste so as to
24 provide for the conservation, development, and
25 utilization of land and water resources in a manner

1 that will provide the optimum benefit generally for
2 all Canadians and in particular the residents of
3 Wek'eezhii.

4 The Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board has
5 authority over land use, permitting, and water
6 licencing. And these permits and licences are the
7 tools the Board uses to ensure that the land and water
8 will be safe for future generations.

9 Some projects of Wek'eezhii. This
10 authority applies to remediation projects, industrial
11 projects like the mines, and also the Tlicho
12 communities of Wekweeti, Gameti, Whati, and Behchoko.
13 These are a few examples of the projects the
14 Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board regulates.

15 This slide is Rayrock permitting and
16 licensing. We are -- we are all gathering for this --
17 for the next three (3) days to discuss the
18 applications submitted by Crown-Indigenous Relations
19 and Northern Affairs Canada which we will refer to as
20 CIRNAC moving forward.

21 Asking for approval to conduct
22 remediation work at the former Rayrock mine. CIRNAC-
23 CARD submitted applications to do this remediation
24 work in September 2020. A preliminary screening
25 determination was made by the Board in January 2021

1 and was not referred to Environment Assessment by the
2 Mackenzie Valley Review Board.

3 A technical session was held in January
4 2021. New proposed activities in areas were
5 identified during the technical session, and an
6 additional preliminary screening determination was
7 made by the Board in April 2021, and there was no
8 referral to Environmental Assessment by the Review
9 Board.

10 Interventions were received on April
11 8th from the Government of the Northwest Territories
12 and the Tlicho Government, and CIRNAC submitted its
13 responses to interventions on April 19.

14 The Board's process includes several
15 opportunities for review -- reviewers to provide the
16 information to the Board. The Board will make a
17 decision before September 2021.

18 It is a public hearing. The Wek'eezhii
19 Land and Water Board is required to call for a public
20 hearing to consider an application for a Type A water
21 licence.

22 The public hearing is a meeting though
23 that provides parties and members of the public an
24 opportunity to speak directly to the Board. It is
25 important for the Board to have accurate and fulsome

1 information in order for us to make the best decisions
2 we can.

3 So far, this reason -- so -- so, for
4 this reason, we ask all parties to explore one
5 another's understanding and to ask and answer
6 questions that will help us understand what the main
7 concerns are and what the options for addressing them
8 are.

9 Our executive director, Ryan Fequet,
10 will be serving as the Zoom facilitator. And we'll
11 now go over the Zoom and public hearing etiquette and
12 how the hearing will work. Ryan...?

13 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi cho. Denaze
14 (phonetic) everyone. My name is Ryan Fequet, with the
15 Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.

16 So, this public hearing is being
17 broadcast to Cabin Radio's Facebook page in an effort
18 to increase the ability of the public to participate.
19 This broadcast is also being live streamed on the
20 WLWB's website.

21 We suggest folks joining virtually
22 selecting the side-by-side speaker view from the view
23 icon on the top right of your screen as the optimal
24 way to watch the presentations and to participate.

25 We will hear presentations from CIRNAC

1 and from the two (2) parties who have chosen to
2 intervene, as Joe mentioned, the Tlicho Government and
3 the Government of the Northwest Territories
4 Environment and Natural Resources.

5 Interveners and members of the public
6 will then be provided an opportunity to ask questions
7 to each presenter following the order of questioning
8 as outlined in the agenda or as otherwise directed by
9 the Chair.

10 Members of the public can ask questions
11 through Cabin Radio's live stream, and it will be
12 forwarded on to Board staff and read into the record
13 at the appropriate time.

14 Please ensure you provide your name as
15 a name is required for the transcripts. And please
16 note that the Facebook feed is not part of the Board's
17 public record for this proceeding.

18 Members of the public may also email
19 Board staff, there's email addresses on our website,
20 or message Jessica through Zoom, and you'll be placed
21 in the queue.

22 There will also be a wireless mic in
23 the back corner of the Explorer for anyone who would
24 like to step up and ask a question at the appropriate
25 time. Please just remember to wear a mask.

1 There is limited space for members of
2 the public to join in person. So, during that time,
3 when the members of the public are allowed to ask
4 questions, we may need to ask others to step out of
5 the room to ensure that we don't go over capacity.

6 Please keep the Zoom phone number handy
7 should you lose internet so you don't miss out on
8 these events. Please remember to keep your microphone
9 and headset muted when you're not speaking. And
10 please only unmute yourself when the Chair or myself
11 has indicated it's your time to speak.

12 Please do not use the raise hand
13 function in Zoom as it will not be monitored.
14 Participants are asked not to take screen captures or
15 pictures of the hearings in -- in accordance with
16 privacy legislation.

17 And when participants are -- wish to
18 speak or want to get in the queue to ask questions, we
19 ask that people please turn on your video so that
20 everyone else in the meeting can see.

21 If anyone is experiencing technical
22 difficulties, please use the chat function in Zoom,
23 and WLWB staff will -- will help you, or email us.

24 There is internet backup system in
25 place for the hearing. So, if the internet goes out,

1 the hearing will continue. If there is a larger scale
2 power outage, we may recess and contact
3 representatives from each organization just to
4 communicate next steps.

5 And a reminder that a transcript of the
6 hearing is being produced as we speak, so please make
7 sure to state your name and organization each time you
8 speak.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. RYAN FEQUET: A reminder that
13 questions are intended to focus on seeking clarity on
14 issues that will assist the Board in making their
15 decisions at the end of the day.

16 The opportunity to ask questions is not
17 intended for parties to restate positions or introduce
18 new argument or evidence. Regular breaks will take
19 place throughout the hearing in an effort to keep
20 everyone fresh. Back to you, Joe.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: The -- the Board
22 would prefer that this hearing be as informal as
23 possible. However, as a judicial -- quasi judicial
24 body, we are bound by the rules of procedural
25 fairness.

1 As the Chair, I am responsible for the
2 conduct of this hearing, so please direct your
3 questions through our executive director and wait to
4 speak until asked to do so.

5 A reminder that this hearing is being
6 translated and transcribed, so please speak slowly and
7 use plain language at all times.

8 I want to thank Public Health Canada
9 and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

10

11 (AUDIO CUTS OUT)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Test, test. Okay,
14 back to -- I want to thank Public Health Canada and
15 the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for making
16 themselves available for this hearing.

17 And I appreciate Environment and
18 Climate Change Canada and the Department of Fisheries
19 and Oceans for also joining as observers. We would
20 also like to welcome the communities of Gameti, Whati,
21 Wekweeti, and Behchoko.

22 Now we'll do introductions. I would
23 now ask each organization for a single spokesperson
24 that can identify themselves and introduce the rest of
25 their teams. We'll start with the applicant, CIRNAC.

1 Next, I'd ask the Tlicho Government to
2 introduce themselves; next, the GNWT.

3 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.
4 Ozi (phonetic), everyone. I'm Ron Breadmore, CA. I'm
5 the project manager for the Rayrock remediation
6 project with CIRNAC.

7 And with me here today on my right we
8 have Andrew Richardson, our project officer and
9 technical lead. On my left, we have Bridget Rusk, our
10 project specialist and regulatory lead. And beside
11 her, Mr. George Lafferty, our consultation officer.

12 We'll also be joined today by our
13 regional director general, Matthew Spence (phonetic),
14 who will pop in and out of the hearing through the --
15 the three (3) days.

16 In KAT Room D we have our
17 communications people; Myranda Bolstad, our senior
18 communications advisor, and Jackie Mo (phonetic),
19 communications officer.

20 And also, we have our engineering
21 student, Gabe Mahammed (phonetic) who is joining us in
22 KAT Room D for the three (3) days.

23 Virtually, I will introduce our team.
24 Joining us from Calgary, we have Russell Hossain
25 (phonetic), our senior manager for CARD. From Ottawa,

1 we have Lou Spagnolo (phonetic), our senior director,
2 Northern Contaminated Sites Program. Jeff Mackie
3 (phonetic), director, Policy and Program Management
4 Directorate. Tara Chism (phonetic), manager, Program
5 Policy Planning and Reporting. Mark Yetman
6 (phonetic), senior advisor, Project Technical Office.
7 Emma Gibson (phonetic), analyst, Project Technical
8 Office. And Cassie Stead (phonetic), Project
9 Technical Office.

10 Also, here in Yellowknife, we have our
11 legal counsel, Mandy Samertuck (phonetic).

12 From Public Services and Procurement
13 Canada and their Technical team, in Edmonton, we have
14 Rebecca Studer Halbach, project manager; Chera Nelson
15 (phonetic), communications officer.

16 From DXB Consulting in Winnipeg, Dave
17 Bynski, PM support.

18 From AECOM, in their Calgary office,
19 Joel Nolin, project manager. From Halifax, Rob
20 McCullough, technical lead. From Edmonton, Morag
21 McPherson, aquatic biologist. All the way from Baton
22 Rouge, Louisiana, Denise Radaich, sediment remediation
23 specialist.

24 And last, but not least, from CanNorth
25 in Markham, Ontario, Harriet Phillips, risk assessor.

1 Masi.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.

3 Tlicho Government.

4 MS. VIOLET CAMSELL-BLONDIN: Violet
5 Camsell-Blondin, manager, Environment Department,
6 Tlicho Government.

7 We have Brett Wheler, our technical
8 advisor. Doreen Washie, regulatory coordinator
9 assistant. Pam Drybones, regulatory admin assistant.

10 We have Grand Chief George Mackenzie
11 with us this morning.

12 And on the virtual, we have Ginger
13 Gibson from Firelight Group. Regan Fielding
14 (phonetic) from Fielding Environment. Longadus Epi
15 (phonetic), regulatory specialist from Mississauga.
16 Jenelle Croots (phonetic), she's the assistant from
17 the Firelight Group as well too.

18 And what I'll do is I'll have each
19 Elder and the representative from our four (4) Tlicho
20 community of Behchoko, Whati, Gameti, and Wekweeti
21 introduce themselves as well.

22

23 (TRANSLATED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH)

24

25 MR. KOMODO JOSE: Komodo Jose.

1 Yes, good morning. It's a beautiful morning. I'm not
2 going to be here with you most of the time here.
3 We're supposed to have meeting at ten o'clock but I
4 wanted to be here to -- for the opening -- for the
5 hearing here, the meeting here.

6 I came here for this particular moment
7 to view the opening of this meeting. I want to view
8 all the people here. There are so many people sitting
9 here in this room. I'd like to say thank you to the
10 Land and Water Board and the government, federal
11 government. The members are here. And all the -- the
12 Tlicho members are here.

13 When I look at them, there are so many
14 young people here. Young womans, young mens here. I
15 am so pleased with this.

16 Eventually, possibly tomorrow, I will
17 make a presentation here. But as of now, I'd just
18 like to ask each of you to do a welcome for being here
19 this meeting. I'm hoping that you could listen
20 carefully to each other and we do know that people are
21 worried about this particular land area in Rayrock.
22 This has been talked about for many, many years. Many
23 Elders had -- had expressed a concern about this.

24 That's all I'm going to share at this
25 time. I just -- I just want -- I'm so pleased this is

1 -- for this reason, I am making this speech here at
2 this time.

3

4 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

5

6 MR. JOSEPH JUDAS: Joseph Judas, from
7 Wekweeti.

8

9 (TRANSLATED FROM TLIHO LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH)

10

11 MR. JIMMY KODZIN: I'm from Wekweeti.
12 I come from Behchoko. I constantly accompany the
13 trips and meetings with this group here.

14

15 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 (TRANSLATED FROM TLIHO LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH)

18

19 MR. LOUISE ZOE: I am from Gameti.
20 Louis Zoe is my name. I constantly come to visit --
21 to be part of the meeting here. I've been going to
22 their meetings quite often.

23

24 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

25

1 (TRANSLATED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH)

2

3 MS. NICOLE BLACKDUCK: My name is
4 Nicole Blackduck. I come from Gameti.

5 MS. THERESE ZOE: Therese Zoe, from
6 Gameti.

7 MS. MARION APPLE: Marion Apple, from
8 Gameti.

9 MS. SOPHIE WILLIAH: Sophie Williah,
10 from Whati.

11 MR. JOE RABESCA: From Whati. Joe
12 Rabesca. I'm here for this meeting.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MS. ROSA HUSKEY: Rosa Huskey is my
17 name. I'm from Behchoko.

18 MS. NOELLA KODZIN: Noella Kodzin, from
19 Wekweeti.

20 MR. BENJAMIN PEA'A: Benjamin Pea'a,
21 from Wekweeti.

22 MS. KAYLEE NITSIZA: Kaylee Nitsiza,
23 from Whati.

24 MR. JOSHUA JEREMICK'AA: Joshua
25 Jeremick'aa, Whati.

1 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 MR. JOSEPH KUZMA: Joseph Kuzma
4 (phonetic), from Whati.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (NATIVE TONGUE
6 SPOKEN).

7 MS. STEPHANIE BEAVERHO: Stephanie
8 Beaverho, from Whati.

9

10 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 (TRANSLATED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE TO ENGLISH)

13

14 MR. HUNTER MANTLA: Hunter Mantla,
15 from Gameti.

16

17 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

18

19 MS. SKY FOOTBALL: Sky Football,
20 Wekweeti.

21 MS. MARIE ADELE FOOTBALL: Marie Adele
22 Football, from Wekweeti.

23 MS. BETHANY APPLES: Bethany Apples,
24 from Behchoko.

25 MR. COLBY RABESCA: Colby Rabesca, from

1 Behchoko.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can we have the GNWT?

6 MR. RICK WALBOURNE: Good morning, Mr.

7 Chair. My name is Rick Walbourne. I'm the manager of

8 the Water Regulatory Group in the Water Management and

9 Monitoring Management with the GNWT-ENR.

10 Here with me today, I also have Ms.

11 Laura Malone, regulatory science advisor with ENR.

12 As well as Mr. Rohan Brown, from

13 Department of Justice, GNWT, who will be joining us

14 through Zoom.

15 I would just like to thank the Board

16 for providing us with the opportunity to present our

17 Intervention later in the week. We look forward to a

18 productive couple days of discussion with CIRNAC, the

19 Tlicho Government, and the other parties and Elders

20 that are here with us. Thank you very much.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Now, any

22 questions or presentations, please refer to Ryan

23 Fequet. He'll be facilitating.

24 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi, Joe. And now,

25 we'll have introductions from those folks online.

1 Maybe we'll start with Environment and Climate Change
2 Canada. And then -- first.

3 MS. ANNA GRAHAM (by Zoom): Hello.
4 Thank you. My name is Anna Graham. I'm with
5 Environment and Climate Change Canada.

6 And with me today supporting is Reg
7 Ejeckam and Kim -- Duck Kim (phonetic), Katelyn
8 O'Grayha (phonetic), Krupesh Patel (phonetic),
9 Georgina Williston (phonetic), and Anne Wilson as
10 water quality and mining experts. Thank you.

11 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi, Anna. Next,
12 Health Canada.

13 MR. LUIGI LARUSSO (by Zoom): Good
14 morning and thank you for inviting Health Canada as
15 observers today. My name is Luigi Larusso, I'm with
16 Health Canada contaminated sites division and with me
17 I have Aseesh (phonetic) Mahapatra (phonetic) from our
18 regional office in Calgary who is a human health risk
19 specialist. Thank you.

20 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi. Department of
21 Fisheries and Oceans.

22 MR. GABRIEL BERNARD-LACAILLE (by Zoom):
23 Good morning, this is Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille with
24 Fisheries and Oceans Canada. I'm a senior biologist,
25 and thank you for having me.

1 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi. CanNorth.

2 Might be Can Nor.

3 MS. HARRIET PHILLIPS (by Zoom): Good
4 morning, this is Harriet Phillips, with CanNorth and
5 I'm with the CIRNAC team.

6 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi. North Slave
7 Metis Alliance.

8 MS. JESS HURTUBISE (by Zoom): Hello,
9 this is Jessica Hurtubise with the North Slave Metis
10 Alliance.

11 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi, Jessica.
12 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

13 MS. DANA PANDOLFI (by Zoom): Dana
14 Pandolfi here, from the Canadian Nuclear Safety
15 Commission. As well, I have Samantha Klein (phonetic)
16 who's our radiation protection specialist.

17 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi, Dana. And I
18 know that some folks from PPSC and DOJ and AECOM
19 already got introduced but just wanted to double-
20 check, is there anyone else on the phone that hasn't
21 been introduced by way of their organization already?
22 Just to make sure we know who's all here.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Okay. Well, the
2 next item on the agenda is for the presentation from
3 CIRNAC-CARD and we'll hand it over.

4

5 CIRNAC-CARD PRESENTATION:

6 MR. RON BREADMORE: I'm reading my
7 opening statement first. Masi, Ryan and masi, Mr.
8 Chair and Board members and koamasozee (phonetic)
9 again to the Board, Tlicho representatives and Elders.
10 Once again, Ron Breadmore, CA, I'm the project manager
11 for the Kwetjjaa (phonetic) Rayrock Remediation
12 Project, which our team will now refer to as 'the
13 project'.

14 I've been the project leader on Rayrock
15 since 2009. We acknowledge that we are meeting today
16 on the traditional territories of the Yellowknife Dene
17 First Nation, Tlicho Nation, and the homeland of the
18 North Slave Metis. We also want to acknowledge that
19 the Kwetjjaa project and associated sites are situated
20 within the heart of Tlicho lands, within the
21 Wek'eezhii resource management area and the boundaries
22 of Monfwi Gogha De Niitlee.

23 Our goal for the project is to make
24 Rayrock and all the project sites safe again for the
25 Tlicho people and future generations.

1 Just to note, Mr. Chair, some of our
2 subject matter experts who are online may be not
3 connected at all times, but we will be available when
4 there's a request by the Board.

5 I would like to start by acknowledging
6 the Tlicho technical team, as already introduced
7 consisting of, over the years, DCLP regulatory and
8 your TR, TI offices, as well as Far Light Consulting
9 and Fielding Environmental.

10 The Tlicho team has been a true project
11 partner on Rayrock for these past ten (10) years.

12 And, Mr. Chair, before I continue with
13 our opening statement, in light of the tragic events
14 of this week related to workplace incidents: the
15 helicopter crash involving Great Slave Helicopter
16 Nunavut earlier this week; a mining fatality in the
17 Yukon just the other day; even looking back to March
18 5th and the -- and the passing of Michael Geena
19 (phonetic) from Power Corp, we would request that the
20 Board observe a -- a moment of silence at 11:00 p.m. -
21 - or 11:00 a.m. today, in recognition of the National
22 Day of Mourning. Masi.

23 Mr. Chair, our team sits before the
24 board today to discuss our Type A Water Licence and
25 Land Use Permit Applications. These will allow us to

1 remediate the Rayrock mine site and surrounding
2 project sites.

3 The Rayrock mine carries heavy
4 significance with the Tlicho. Before the mine opened,
5 the Tlicho used the lands and waters around Rayrock
6 extensively for hunting, fishing, and gathering.

7 Since the mine closed, the Tlicho have
8 been concerned about the mine's impact on land and
9 water, and they avoid these areas when conducting
10 traditional land use activities.

11 The Elders have told us that they are
12 especially concerned about possible impacts to fish,
13 wildlife, and plants on and downstream at the Rayrock
14 site.

15 Tlicho leadership has told CIRNAC that
16 they are concerned about possible downstream impacts
17 on water quality and community health in Behchoko.
18 CIRNAC has heard these concerns and will continue to
19 work with the Tlicho to make Rayrock safe again, to
20 restore Elder trust in the land, and to encourage a
21 return to traditional land use in the area by future
22 generations.

23 Mine exploration in the area took place
24 back in the 1940's and 50's, and the Rayrock mine
25 operated between 1957 and 1958. Some Tlicho citizens,

1 like the late Philip Husky, worked at the Rayrock mine
2 and have shared their extensive traditional knowledge
3 with us over the years. This knowledge has included
4 details relating to mine development, mining
5 operations, transportation to the sites, impacts to
6 surrounding land and water, and in some cases, impacts
7 to Tlicho workers themselves.

8 The mine -- the Rayrock mine only
9 operated for two (2) years but has left a lasting
10 legacy on the land and waters around the Rayrock site.
11 In 1996 to 1998, the Rayrock site was partially
12 remediated by Canada under the Arctic Environmental
13 Strategy. At that time, we capped the exposed
14 tailings and sealed mine openings.

15 In 2010, after ten (10) years of
16 monitoring, CIRNAC conducted a performance assessment
17 review that identifies some gaps in our monitoring and
18 made recommendations for additional site assessment.

19 Between 2013 and 2020, we've carried
20 out additional phase 3 environmental site assessment
21 work. It was during this period, in 2015, that CIRNAC
22 completed a comprehensive conceptual site model that
23 identified Mill Lake as a possible additional source
24 of uranium loading to the receiving environment.

25 Based on that information, and with

1 approval from our Northern Contaminated Sites Program
2 Project Technical Office in Ottawa, we were able to
3 advance further investigations and we carried out
4 additional sampling of the sediment in Mill Lake.

5 In 2017, that sampling confirmed
6 elevated uranium concentrations in Mill Lake
7 sediments. And a human health and ecological risk
8 assessment confirmed that the sediments posed a
9 potential hazard to human health and the environment.

10 Between 2018 and 2020, we developed a
11 remedial action plan based on these findings with
12 additional site characterization work continuing right
13 up until February of 2020. All this was to advance
14 the RAP to completion and to support our application
15 for Type A Water Licence.

16 While Rayrock carries the greatest
17 risks, we also identified a number of sites in around
18 Rayrock that formed part of the exploration work at
19 the time or the infrastructure used to support the
20 mines during operation. These sites do present risks
21 to land, water and wildlife and need to be addressed.
22 They include: Sunrose group of sites, MK, Ted, GS,
23 and REX Exploration sites, the barge landing at Marion
24 Lake, the winter roads spurs into the Rayrock and
25 Sunrose sites, and the power line between Rayrock and

1 the Snare hydro facility at Big Spruce Lake.

2 The Rayrock and Sunrose sites were
3 excluded from Tlicho land selection process during the
4 land claim exercise and therefore remain federal.

5 The remaining project sites in Winter
6 Road spurs into Rayrock and Sunrose are situated on
7 Tlicho lands. Mr. Chair, we want to make the project
8 sites safe through our remediation and Canada is
9 committed to managing the Rayrock site under our Waste
10 Nuclear Substance Licence issued by the Canadian
11 Nuclear Safety Commission.

12 Following our remediation, we're
13 optimistic that the Sunrose sites will be transferred
14 back to the Tlicho once our long-term monitoring
15 confirms the sites are stable. The initial
16 remediation of Rayrock in the 1990s was carried out
17 with little to no consultation between Canada and the
18 Tlicho. This oversight resulted in the traditional
19 knowledge study entitled 'The Trees All Changed To
20 Wood'. Commissioned by the Dogrib Renewable Resources
21 Committee, Dogrib Treaty 11 council in 1997.

22 In 2010, CIRNAC recognized this history
23 and the need for us to do better. Our response was
24 the creation of the Kwetjjaa (phonetic) Elders
25 Committee. Over the past ten (10) years, CIRNAC has

1 involved the Kwetjjaa Elders Committee, or KEC, in
2 site assessment and remediation planning phases of the
3 project and will enhance that engagement through our
4 project execution and in to closure.

5 The KEC has been involved with mapping
6 exercises, a risk workshop, site tours and site
7 blessings, an offsite watershed tour which was a first
8 for our program, a multi-day stay at Kwetjjaa, another
9 first for our program, as well as extensive KEC guided
10 site sampling and monitoring.

11 Our partnership with the Tlicho was
12 highlighted in 2020 with the finalization of the RAP.
13 Our previous two (2) RAP workouts at 50 and 75 percent
14 completion had been done in person, but of course this
15 wasn't possible in 2020 due to COVID.

16 The Tlicho technical team worked hard
17 to help us facilitate the 90 percent RAP workout and
18 to come up with alternative strategies to engage their
19 KEC, ultimately leading up to the KEC sessions we had
20 here in Yellowknife back in February.

21 This work allowed the RAP to be
22 finalized and allowed CIRNAC to submit its
23 applications to the Board. CIRNAC wants to highlight
24 that without this effort, and the Tlicho's willingness
25 to find those solutions, we would not be where we are

1 today speaking with you.

2 Through our engagement with the Tlicho
3 over the past ten (10) years, CIRNAC has gained a
4 solid understanding of the Tlicho's traditional land
5 use in the area before mining, as well as their
6 involvement at the site during mine operations and how
7 they view the land and water around the Rayrock site
8 today.

9 The Tlicho technical team has worked
10 extensively with the KEC to identify an exclusion zone
11 around the Rayrock site within which the Elders don't
12 feel safe carrying out traditional land use
13 activities. From these efforts, CIRNAC and the Tlicho
14 have created a shared vision for the Kwetjjaa project.
15 And that vision is to effectively carry out
16 remediation of the Rayrock project sites and shrink
17 that area or zone of avoidance such that the Tlicho
18 feel comfortable returning to traditional land use
19 practices in that area.

20 Our vision will be upheld through
21 transferring knowledge of traditional land use on and
22 around the sites, addressing human health and
23 environmental hazards associated with these sites,
24 including environmental quality on and downstream of
25 the sites, addressing these site risks through our

1 remedial actions and involving the Tlicho at all
2 stages of the project from remedial actions planning,
3 engineered design development, remediation execution
4 and into monitoring.

5 Mr. Chair, as you know the project
6 operates within a dual stream regulatory environment,
7 Wek'eezhii Land and Water Boards and the Canadian
8 Nuclear Safety Commission.

9 CIRNAC would like to acknowledge the
10 efforts and assistance of the Board and the CNCS to
11 date as true project partners, and this has really
12 helped CIRNAC and the Tlicho develop our applications
13 and move forward.

14 CIRNAC has also received strong support
15 from our fixed expert support departments, DFO,
16 Environment Canada, Health Canada, as well as our
17 partners, The Tlicho Government and the GNWT.

18 In addition to the Water Licence Land
19 Use Permit, CIRNAC also carries a Waste Nuclear
20 Substance Licence with the Commission and will be
21 required to ensure that our project contractors obtain
22 with the Waste Nuclear Substance Licence and comply
23 with those requirements, as well as all other
24 regulatory permits and requirements.

25 Under the Waste Nuclear Substance

1 License, CIRNAC will monitor and maintain the Rayrock
2 site for the foreseeable future. In our applications
3 to the Board, the project has presented a Remediation
4 Action Plan as opposed to a Closure and Reclamation
5 Plan, and by doing so we attempted to align our
6 closure criteria with Board guidelines and we
7 presented this as Table C1 in our RAP.

8 During the IR process, we provided a
9 revised closure criteria table that proposed revisions
10 and clarifications based on input received from our
11 reviewers.

12 The closure criteria are risk based and
13 we believe are protective of human health and
14 receiving environments.

15 CIRNAC has engaged the authorities
16 having jurisdiction heavily to date to better
17 understand our regulatory requirements and ensure that
18 our remediation activities are safe for Tlicho people,
19 workers and the environment. We've developed and
20 submitted comprehensive management plans, along with
21 our applications to the Board, and CIRNAC will be
22 working closely with DFO, Wek'eezhii Renewable
23 Resources Board and other groups on monitoring
24 strategies.

25 CIRNAC has also had discussions with

1 the Tlicho on the development of working groups, such
2 as AEMP, the Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program, and
3 risk communication strategies and these initiatives
4 are underway.

5 The Rayrock Kwetjjaa remediation
6 project is estimated to take about three (3) years to
7 complete and we want to start that work in 2022.

8 CIRNAC currently has project approval
9 and funding under fixed app. phase 4 which is in
10 effect until March 31st, 2025. A delay to the start
11 of the project will relay (sic) a result in the delay
12 of much needed remediation of these sites and
13 potential risks continuing for human health and the
14 environment.

15 CIRNAC has heard from the KEC members
16 as recently as February of this year that they would
17 like the plan to be finalized as soon as possible and
18 for the work to begin.

19 The project has and will continue to
20 provide social economic benefits to the Tlicho in
21 accordance with the Tlicho final agreement during
22 project execution and into post-closure with longer
23 term capacity building and worker and research
24 benefits.

25 CIRNAC is committed to returning the

1 sites to conditions greatly improved from both an
2 environmental and a human health perspective.

3 In summary, the regulatory process
4 confirms for us the level of concern among the Tlicho,
5 as well as our other project stakeholders. CIRNAC is
6 committed to working with the Tlicho and all of our
7 rights holders and stakeholders to effectively move
8 forward on these issues.

9 Our presentation today will focus on
10 the principles and themes set out by the Tlicho
11 government and the GNWT in their interventions, and we
12 would like to thank everyone again for their time and
13 effort in putting these interventions together.

14 As requested, we have a single
15 presentation prepared for you today which will start
16 with an overview of the technical aspects of the
17 project, and this will be led by Joel Nolin of AECOM.
18 We will follow that with an overview of how our
19 remediation aligns with the Tlicho principles and the
20 themes set out by the GNWT, and this will be led by
21 Andrew Richardson.

22 Mr. Chair, Rayrock is a complex
23 project, and the CIRNAC and Tlicho teams have put a
24 lot of work and hard effort into this project over the
25 past ten (10) years. There's a lot of information to

1 work through still, and there will be more challenges
2 ahead, and we appreciate the Board's time and patience
3 as we work through this process together.

4 We hope that the hearings this week
5 provide the Board with the evidence it needs to
6 prepare a water licence and land use permit to allow
7 us to carry out the remediation of the Kwetjjaa
8 Rayrock Remediation Project sites.

9 With this approval from the Board,
10 CIRNAC will deliver on its commitments to the Tlicho
11 by making Rayrock, and all the sites, safe for the
12 Tlicho people and their future generations.

13 In closing, Mr. Chair, on behalf of the
14 project, I would like to thank you very much for this
15 opportunity to present to the Board this morning, and
16 we look forward to the discussion this week and moving
17 the project forward to execution. Masi cho.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. We were
19 considering taking a break, but we'll continue.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair, Ryan, Tlicho Elders, community, and
25 participants. My name is Joel Nolin. I am with the

1 firm AECOM, who is supporting the technical aspects of
2 the project.

3 I'll walk through some of the technical
4 elements of the project, going through each of the
5 project sites. What I'll do with the slide deck is
6 just say 'next' when I'm ready for the next slide.
7 Thank you. Next.

8 As mentioned, there are a number of
9 project elements, the most complex being the
10 remediation of the sediments in Mill Lake. Today I'll
11 talk to you about how we will treat the water; how we
12 will construct a facility known as a Confined Disposal
13 Facility; the sediment transferred to the Confined
14 Disposal Facility.

15 For the project, we will need some soil
16 to construct; we will need to blast and crush some
17 bedrock to produce gravel; we will need to obtain some
18 clay soil for some capping purposes; and we will do
19 some grading and reclamation to restore the lands when
20 complete. Next slide.

21 Number of other activities at Rayrock
22 include the collection of contaminated soil, including
23 spilled tailings and waste rock; the removal of
24 concrete foundations from the site; how we will
25 address the mine openings into the former mine site.

1 At the Sun Main location and REX
2 location, there are exploration workings that need to
3 be addressed. There is an open shaft at Sun Main.
4 And there are some stockpiles at Sun Main that need to
5 be addressed. Next slide.

6 Furthermore, across all project sites,
7 there is waste at all locations that needs to be
8 collected and disposed of properly. Winter roads will
9 need to be constructed for the project. There are
10 power poles that need to be removed and the associated
11 waste cleaned up. And a few other activities that
12 I'll speak to. Next slide.

13 And, first, I'll speak to you about the
14 Mill Lake sediment remediation. Next slide.

15 Remediation of the Mill Lake sediments,
16 as mentioned, is the most challenging part of the
17 project. Sediments are the soil that can be found
18 along the lake bottom. As Ron mentioned, the
19 environmental testing has shown these sediments to
20 have high levels of uranium and the Environmental Risk
21 Assessment undertaken at the site have shown these
22 sediments to be of concern.

23 In the photos above are a raft
24 constructed by Tlicho Engineering that we used to
25 collect the sediment samples. And, on the right, is

1 how we collect sediment samples within the Lake.

2 Next.

3 Testing of the sediments in the last
4 two (2) years has provided a lot of new information.
5 We originally thought that the sediment thickness was
6 about half a metre. We now know that the sediment is
7 much, much thicker; in the order of about two-and-a-
8 half (2 1/2) metres thick.

9 The photos at the top shows it was
10 complex to investigate the sediments and we had to go
11 out in the winter to collect the materials. It was
12 complex, but, assisted with Tlicho support and a
13 number of other stakeholders, it was successful in
14 helping us to identify the problems at the site. Next
15 slide.

16 I wanted to communicate to you what the
17 sediment looks like since it's an important part of
18 the process. The photo at the left shows a sample
19 collected of the material and you can see it's a heady
20 substance and there is a solid's component and a
21 liquid's component to it.

22 On the right are photos of various jars
23 of -- showing field testing that we did. The testing
24 was undertaken to try to separate the solids from the
25 liquids. Next slide.

1 Field testing was important to help us
2 understand the problem. At the left, we see a
3 chemical injection into the sediment, the -- which
4 includes water and solids -- trying to separate the
5 materials. And on the right is a bag which we call a
6 pillow. The mixture was poured into the pillows and
7 the solids stay inside the pillow and the water drains
8 out. This information was helpful to know for us to
9 scale it up for the larger remediation process. Next
10 slide.

11 The photo on the left shows a similar
12 pillow -- white, instead of black -- and you can see
13 the clarity -- the clear water coming out of the
14 pillow after the sediment was put into the pillow. I
15 just wanted to show this as an illustration for how
16 clean water comes out of the pillow because that's
17 what we will be speaking to more for the larger
18 remediation.

19 The photo on the right is dried
20 sediment from the pillow. You can see it has a very
21 loose appearance. Next slide.

22 The next step is to talk about how we
23 will separate the solids from the liquids in the
24 sediment for remediation. Next slide.

25 This chart helps to show the picture of

1 what we're doing, and, the next slides, I'll get into
2 a little bit more detail.

3 We start with the lake sediment, which
4 is the mixture of soil and water. The mixture will be
5 placed into large dewatering tubes. And we will then
6 have two (2) streams.

7 Water will leave the tubes, it will be
8 treated, and it will be discharged to Sherman Lake.
9 The contaminated sediment will stay in the tube and be
10 kept in the CDF. You can think of the CDF as a
11 landfill. Next slide.

12 These photos show an example of pumps
13 that will be placed into Mill Lake. They'll -- the
14 pumps used at the site will look something like this.
15 The pump head will be lowered and the sediments sucked
16 out of the bottom like a vacuum, and it will be pumped
17 to the dewatering tubes. Next slide.

18 These are photos of dewatering tubes.
19 They are examples from other projects. You can see
20 how the tubes are filled and the water drains out of
21 the tubes. The water that drains out, again, will be
22 treated prior to discharge to Sherman Lake. Next
23 slide.

24 The pillows I was just speaking about
25 need to be stored somewhere and that is in this

1 Confined Disposal Facility. Next slide.

2 Again, the facility can be thought of
3 as a small landfill cell. The intention is to build
4 this cell on the solid ground where the former mill
5 was. It is shown by the dark red on this aerial
6 photo. Next slide.

7 This is another photo of the site. And
8 the pink outline shows approximately where the cell
9 will be built. To note in this photo is the very
10 uneven land in the location of the cell that will have
11 to be flattened out before construction. Next slide.

12 This is a -- what we call a cross-
13 section or think of it as a slice through the cell
14 showing how it will be constructed. First, the ground
15 is levelled and a liner is placed on the bottom. The
16 liner is like a piece of plastic that prevents water
17 from seeping into the ground underneath. On top of
18 the liner will be placed the tubes. These are the
19 oval-shaped objects shown.

20 These tubes are similar to what I
21 showed on the photos a few slides ago. These tubes
22 will be filled. The intention is to do so in 2022.
23 The tubes will take a little while to drain out. So we
24 plan on leaving the tubes there to drain over the
25 winter of 2022 and 2023, allow them to take the summer

1 heat of 2023, and not cover the tubes until late 2023.

2 The material will be covered -- the
3 tubes will be covered with the contaminated soil and
4 waste rock and spilled tailings. The material will be
5 graded to allow rain and snow to melt off and drain to
6 the sides. Another plastic liner will be placed at
7 the top to stop water from going into the cell. And
8 then, a layer of clean gravel will be placed on top.
9 The purpose of the clean gravel is to protect the cell
10 underneath. Next slide.

11 And this is an example, just looking
12 the other way, into the cell. If you were looking
13 from the mill pad and looking towards the ADIT, or the
14 Marian Ridge (phonetic), this is what it would look
15 like into the cell, and you see the tubes running the
16 other direction.

17 The blue line on the right represents
18 where Mill Lake is now and that will be -- that water
19 will be gone following the construction of the cell.
20 Next slide, please.

21 These are photos from other projects
22 that, I'm hoping, will illustrate what we plan to do.
23 Trucks and heavy equipment will build sidewalls, like
24 on the photo to the left, and that will go around all
25 four (4) sides of the cell.

1 And the photo on the right is an
2 example of the liner that will be placed on the
3 bottom. And a similar liner will be placed at the
4 top. Next slide.

5 Water treatment. As I mentioned, the
6 water leaving the cell needs to be treated to remove
7 contaminants before being discharged to Mill -- pardon
8 me -- to Sherman Lake. Next slide.

9 Again, these are example photos of what
10 a water treatment plant might look like on our site.
11 It will be a building that's heated, with the water
12 treatment equipment inside. The water treatment plant
13 will be brought to site on a winter road.

14 Water from within Mill Lake -- either
15 from the lake itself or as it's discharged from the
16 bags -- will be put through the water treatment plant.
17 No water will be discharged to Sherman Lake without it
18 going through the water treatment plant first. Next
19 slide.

20 One (1) of the first things we will do
21 once the water treatment plant is set up is lower the
22 lake water a little bit. The illustration on the
23 right shows what it looks like in the lake. There is
24 about three (3) metres of surface water on top. The
25 brown represents the organic sediment that we need to

1 clean up, and there is clay underneath in many
2 locations; sometimes bedrock.

3 Our initial step will be to lower the
4 lake water levels. This water will be taken directly
5 from the lake, run through the treatment plant, and
6 discharged to Sherman Lake. Next slide.

7 Water will be discharged approximately
8 where shown by the arrow. Water will be discharged
9 into the lake, offshore. The water in this location
10 is quite deep; over three (3) metres. Next slide.

11 As I mentioned, we will need two (2)
12 types of soil at the site; bedrock and clay. Bedrock
13 blasting is needed in order for us to develop a flat
14 pad for the Confined Disposal Facility. Bedrock that
15 is there right now will be blasted and then it will be
16 crushed and re-used to construct facility. Rock will
17 be used to form the walls, as well as for the cap of
18 the CDF. Next slide.

19 We also need a small amount of clay for
20 the project. This clay will be obtained from the
21 former airstrip and it will be placed in places of
22 waste rock near the mine ADIT.

23 These photos show us taking samples of
24 the clay last year at Rayrock. The photo on the right
25 shows the type of equipment that would be used to

1 place the clay onsite. Next.

2 An important part of the project is
3 grading and reclamation. Grading is moving soil to
4 allow water to flow in the direction we want.

5 Reclamation includes those activities primarily
6 associated with growing vegetation -- trees, shrubs,
7 plants.

8 Both grading and reclamation are very
9 important because these are the very last things we
10 will see with respect to the project. Next slide.

11 When the sediment and water are
12 removed, the lake bottom will be empty. At the bottom
13 we will see locations where the bedrock is high. We
14 will see locations with clay soil. And we won't know
15 what this will look like until the sediment is
16 removed.

17 Our intention is that the bottom -- to
18 grade the lake so that water continues to flow out and
19 the lake will not fill again.

20 We will have a number of ponds
21 constructed in the lake bottom and ditches to allow
22 water to transfer between the ponds. This will help
23 with plant growth. It will help to clean the water as
24 it leaves the lake.

25 And I will go to the next slide,

1 please. As I mentioned, vegetation growth is very
2 important.

3 Our plan is to use grasses, shrubs, and
4 trees to cover the ground. We intend to do a lot of
5 planting in the area. We expect a lot of trees that
6 we plant to die -- either through weather conditions
7 or maybe hungry animals -- so we will be planting a
8 lot of trees in the basin. Next slide, please.

9 We have a preliminary list of the types
10 of vegetation that we would like to plant at the site.
11 One (1) thing left to do on the project is we do need
12 to consult with Tlicho to review the list we have, to
13 learn more about traditional knowledge of the site,
14 and to confirm what the plant species actually will
15 be. We do still expect that there will grasses and
16 trees, shrubs, sedges, and shoreline plants. Next
17 slide, please

18 The photo on the left is the former
19 airstrip. This is where clay was taken in 1990s to
20 cap the tailings areas.

21 You can see, on the left, that there is
22 some growth coming back, but there are also a lot of
23 areas of dry exposed clay. The project will look to
24 rehabilitate these areas or plant seeds and grass and
25 additional trees and shrubs in these areas to return

1 to a more natural condition. Next.

2 The items I just spoke to are the
3 larger, more complicated parts of the remediation.
4 I'll now speak to you about different parts of the
5 project that we will be working through. Next.

6 There are several locations throughout
7 Rayrock where soil remediation is required. This
8 includes small pockets of contaminated soil. There
9 are spilled tailings along a former tailings pipeline.
10 There is waste rock in a number of locations.

11 These materials will be removed and
12 placed into the CDF, or Confined Disposal Facility,
13 that we talked about before. This material will be
14 placed on top of the tubes. It will actually help us
15 in the project in that it will help take the water out
16 of the tubes. Next slide.

17 As mentioned, in the 1990s, the
18 tailings containment areas and former waste dump were
19 covered with clay and capped, but there are still a
20 few activities left to be done.

21 There is still waste or garbage around
22 the sites that needs to be cleaned up. There are
23 locations of bare soil that need to be revegetated.
24 And there are locations along the shoreline that need
25 to be fixed to prevent erosion into the tailings caps.

1 Next slide.

2 There are a number of concrete
3 foundations across the site. These are from the
4 buildings located at site in the '50s. The concrete
5 will be removed, it will be crushed, and it will be
6 placed into the containment cell. Next.

7 Mine vents were closed at Rayrock in
8 the 1990s as well. The photo on the left is an
9 example of a concrete covered mine vent. It's covered
10 in concrete and there is a perimeter chainlink fence
11 around it.

12 Unfortunately, there are no records to
13 show how the concrete was placed and new concrete caps
14 need to be placed in order to get regulatory closure.
15 Next slide.

16 The mine ADIT was closed in the 1990s
17 and it was closed by filling the opening with waste
18 rock. The ADIT is the hole in the side of the rock
19 from which the miners entered or went underground.
20 The ADIT is currently performing -- or the seal is
21 performing well, and we do not intend to touch the
22 ADIT since it is performing well; although, there is
23 some waste removal that has to be undertaken.

24 Monitoring of the mine ADIT opening
25 will occur throughout -- in perpetuity for the project

1 -- in essence, forever with the project -- to make
2 sure that the seal holds in place and that there is no
3 leakage coming from the mine. Next slide.

4 Beta and Gamma Lakes are two (2)
5 smaller lakes near the Rayrock mine. The lakes were
6 modified, or changed, due to mining activities. The
7 Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment did not
8 identify the lakes to represent a hazard; that being
9 said, we are still looking at options to clean up
10 these lakes or work around the lakes as an
11 improvement. This is not part of the RAP, but it is
12 being looked at on the side. Next slide.

13 Sun Main is another main location of
14 the sites to be investigated. Sun Main is a large
15 bedrock dome that can be easily seen against the flat
16 landscape around it. This was not an operating mine
17 site, rather, it was an exploration site.

18 There are three (3) main issues with
19 Sun Main. They include elevated radiation levels at
20 exploration workings; they include an open mine shaft,
21 a deep hole in the ground; and a number of waste rock
22 piles from the exploration activities. Next slide.

23 The left photo is an exploration
24 working. There is not much to be seen. It is broken
25 rock at the ground surface. These are locations where

1 explorers used explosives to blast the rock to test
2 the rock for mining purposes.

3 The reason the miners looked at these
4 locations at that time was that they had elevated
5 radiation levels. The elevated radiation levels are
6 still there.

7 The project intent is to remove the
8 loose rock, manage it with the waste rock -- which
9 I'll talk about in a moment -- and to apply a concrete
10 slab on top of the areas of elevated radiation to
11 reduce the radiation levels outside of the exploration
12 workings at the exploration workings. Next slide,
13 please.

14 We need to close the exploration shaft
15 at Sun Main. The shaft is an opening into the ground
16 that's very deep. The opening has a fence around it
17 and we could call it a cover -- it's loose metal and
18 wood as shown in the photo of the right. Not very
19 strong. We'll be covering this with concrete to
20 prevent -- as a safety measure and to get regulatory
21 closure of the opening. Next slide, please.

22 There are several places of loose rock
23 or waste rock at Sun Main. The biggest being located
24 right next to the former shaft. The photo on the
25 left, if you look closely, you can see the perimeter

1 fence and the open mine shaft. And on the right of
2 that photo is a lot of loose rock. That loose rock
3 came from within the shaft. The photo on the right is
4 what this rock looks like.

5 This rock has elevated, but low,
6 radiation levels associated with it. The project
7 intent is to use a bulldozer and heavy equipment to
8 place this rock in a smaller pile, to cover the rock
9 with a liner -- the same type of liner that I showed
10 you a photo of for the Rayrock landfill -- then, on
11 top of that liner, to apply clean rock.

12 What this will do will minimize the
13 potential for radiation exposure to people in the
14 area. The rock provides a shield, or insulation,
15 against radiation.

16 Loose rock will be collected from two
17 (2) small waste rock piles, as well as the exploration
18 workings. At the top of the slide, these are labelled
19 as 'BP-1', 'BP-2', 'BP-3', and 'BP-4'. These are
20 small amounts of rock compared to the WR-1, which is
21 the main waste rock stockpile as shown on the left
22 photo. Next slide, please.

23 As I mentioned at the start, there is
24 waste located at every project site. In 2015 and
25 2016, some of this waste was collected at Rayrock and

1 placed in a small area. And the photo on the right
2 shows how hazardous wastes -- including materials with
3 asbestos and lead -- were placed in the wood boxes.
4 There is drum storage and metal storage.

5 Unfortunately, there is still much more
6 waste to be collected. For the project, waste will be
7 collected from each of the project sites, brought to
8 Rayrock, and hauled away for disposal or recycling.

9 Should any of the waste have elevated
10 radiation levels, it will not leave site and it will
11 be placed into the Confined Disposal Facility.

12 Next slide. I'll just ask my
13 colleague, Rob McCullough, to speak to the winter
14 road.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Okay.

19 Might be a connection with Rob.

20 Winter roads will need to be
21 constructed. These roads will come off existing
22 government roads located near Rayrock. While located
23 near, we still need to have spurs come from the main
24 roads to both Rayrock and Sun Main for construction.
25 This is in order to get heavy equipment and materials

1 we need to both locations.

2 Archaeological impact assessments will
3 be undertaken this year to assess the condition and
4 status of these potential winter roads. Next slide.

5 As Ron mentioned, there is a former
6 power line located between Rayrock and a hydro station
7 at Big Spruce Lake. There are a number of wooden
8 poles along the line, and, unfortunately, with some of
9 the poles, there is some garbage. This includes the
10 metal power line, it includes glass insulators, it
11 includes metal guy-wires, and other garbage. This
12 will be picked up as part of the project and brought
13 to Rayrock. Next slide, please.

14 Smaller activities that are needed and
15 required for the project include the -- the
16 construction of or expansion of floating docks at
17 Rayrock. The contractor will need an all-season camp
18 at Rayrock. There are a number of roads at Rayrock
19 that need to be repaired so that access and -- trucks
20 can run on the roads in good conditions and in bad
21 conditions where there is poor weather. And a
22 contractor laydown area is necessary. A laydown area
23 is where a contractor will store their materials prior
24 to their use in the project.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ryan, Tlicho

1 Elders, community, and participants. That's the end
2 of my portion of the presentation.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
4 Before we continue... There's another one?

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: To you want to
9 continue, Ron.

10 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair,
11 and we'll continue now with our presentation by Andrew
12 Richardson.

13 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Good morning,
14 Mr. Chair, and thank you for this opportunity to speak
15 about the Rayrock remediation project.

16 This portion of the project that we
17 will be reviewing, some of the concerns that we heard
18 during the intervention process. We will look at some
19 of the principles that were expressed in the
20 intervention documents and some of the interests that
21 were discussed and described to us. And we will look
22 at a number of the specific concerns and provide a
23 brief indication of our responses that we gave for the
24 concerns that were made.

25 Just to let you know, we will also, as

1 you may be aware, we're going to make a pause at
2 eleven o'clock so we're keeping an eye on the clock
3 and we will make a pause to remember the workers who
4 have lost their lives. But I'll be keeping an eye on
5 the clock, somebody will remind me if -- if I'm not
6 missing the time.

7 One (1) of the other things that I
8 would like to point out is that we are calling this
9 the Rayrock Kwetjjaa Remediation Project. Of course,
10 'Kwetjjaa' is the name of the area when it is clean,
11 and we have been using Rayrock to describe it while
12 it's dirty, and we hope that in the future we will
13 only be calling this area 'Kwetjjaa'.

14 One (1) of the principles that was
15 expressed throughout the document, the intervention
16 from the Tlicho government, was that they want to make
17 the site safe and to shrink the avoidance zone. The
18 zone that was identified by the Elders to -- where
19 they no longer complete traditional land use because
20 of their -- their concern with the contamination of
21 Rayrock.

22 The Rayrock remediation team shares
23 this goal of wanting to make the area safe again, and
24 we are looking forward to working with the Tlicho
25 government to make the Tlicho people more confident in

1 the Kwetjjaa area and more confident in the safety of
2 the plants and the animals that live in this area.

3 It is our hope that as the project
4 proceeds and after the remediation is complete that
5 this zone of avoidance, the area in red that is shown
6 around Rayrock, we hope that this area will shrink and
7 that people will be more comfortable with going to the
8 Kwetjjaa area to conduct traditional land uses.

9 Another principle that -- another
10 concern that the Tlicho government expressed was that
11 they want all spilled tailings picked up and it was
12 stated that leaving any tailings is unacceptable.
13 They also want all repairs -- all necessary repairs
14 done on the tailings containment areas.

15 The Rayrock remediation team current
16 proposes to pick up the tailings that are easily
17 accessible. And the reason that we have said it in
18 that manner is that in many places, such as the area
19 shown on the picture in the bottom right here, the
20 spilled tailings support trees, brush, forests, and to
21 go in to dig out these tailings, we would have to tear
22 down the trees and tear down the forests around it.
23 And that would do more harm than good.

24 These tailings are very thin layers and
25 they are not really harming people. They are not

1 harming animals. There's very little to them but they
2 are -- there is enough there to support plants.

3 So, we are not proposing to go in to --
4 to pick up in these areas where forests and trees are
5 growing, but we will continue to discuss this with the
6 Tlicho government to see how much of this area you
7 would want clear.

8 When it comes to the tailings
9 containment areas, it is -- we share the goal of
10 making sure that the tailings containment areas are
11 repaired in all areas where there are exposed liners
12 or other places where the tailings could be exposed,
13 they will be repaired.

14 Another Tlicho concern, and one (1)
15 that was touched upon by Joel during his presentation,
16 is that the Tlicho government has asked that the water
17 and sediment in Beta and Gamma Lake be improved.

18 The Rayrock remediation project's
19 current submission before the Board describes frequent
20 monitoring and -- and -- and the taking of water
21 samples, sediment samples, and sampling of benthic
22 insects and -- and the like throughout the project to
23 show that there is no effect.

24 But the RAP does not include any
25 remedial work at this time. And this is because when

1 we went in, we have done a lot of water sampling and a
2 lot of testing of both Beta and Gamma Lake, and the --
3 and we have determined that the risk associated with
4 the water and sediment is not enough that it -- they
5 should undergo the remediation process.

6 These water bodies are not currently
7 causing harm to people or to the animals that use
8 these areas. And it is Rayrock Remediation Project's
9 position that we need to be careful to not do harm to
10 the existing ecosystems. So, those ones that are
11 functioning, those lakes that are currently working
12 and supporting animals and supporting plants and
13 insects, we don't want to go and harm them. Our
14 remediation, when we do it, should do more harm --
15 shouldn't do -- should not do more harm than good.

16 However, the project team will continue
17 to discuss this with the Tlicho to find a resolution
18 and to find the best way forward to do something with
19 these lakes that we are all happy with.

20 The Tlicho government stated that they
21 want radiation and contamination controlled at Rayrock
22 for a very long time. During the work, CIRNAC will
23 require the -- the contractor to -- who does this work
24 to submit a site specific Health and Safety Plan that
25 will also include a radiation protection plan, so that

1 when people are working on the site, they have the
2 training and they will have the equipment necessary to
3 make sure that they can stay safe.

4 This Radiation Protection Plan will be
5 reviewed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and
6 it will have to meet their standards. Also, the
7 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission requires CIRNAC to
8 consistently maintain the Rayrock site. We will
9 always have to maintain the Rayrock site. And
10 monitoring will always occur to make sure that
11 everything that is buried stays buried in the manner
12 that it's -- it is supposed to be.

13 The Tlicho government requested that
14 the inlet and outlet to Mill Creek be sampled for
15 water sampling. As part of the cleanup process, as
16 Joel described, one (1) of the first things that we
17 are going to do is to lower the water level in Mill
18 Lake so that water -- any water coming from Mill Lake
19 after the project starts will only go through the
20 water treatment plant.

21 So, any water in the Mill Lake area,
22 after we get the project set up, will be treated
23 before it is allowed to go to Sherman Lake. What this
24 will mean is that Mill Creek will be dry from the time
25 we start the project until the final a grading is

1 completed and we allow precipitation to flow through
2 the channel again. That will not occur until all of
3 the remediation's complete and all of the repairs are
4 done, and that will be 2025.

5 So, during the project, there isn't
6 really an opportunity to sample the water within Mill
7 Creek. So, we are not proposing to do so.

8 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
9 Breadmore, CA, as previously requested I would
10 recognize April 28th as a National Day of Mourning for
11 places across Canada; use this day to remember those
12 who have lost their lives, or have become seriously
13 injured, or suffered illness due to work.

14 With the tragic events of this past
15 week, we'd like to reflect on everyone's commitments
16 to protecting health and safety, the well-being of all
17 workers, and especially those who have been affected
18 by COVID-19 with this past year. We can now observe a
19 moment of silence.

20

21 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

22

23 --- Upon recessing at 11:08 a.m.

24 --- Upon resuming at 11:23 a.m.

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We're ready
2 to resume.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Go ahead.

7

MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Okay, I guess
8 we're getting started again. Masi. It's Andrew
9 Richardson, from CIRNAC, continuing the presentation
10 on the principles and the interventions that were sent
11 to the Board from Tlicho Government.

12 So, we are discussing some of the main
13 concerns that were reviewed by the Tlicho and some of
14 the concerns that they had. And we're at the point
15 right now where one (1) of the main concerns that they
16 stated was that they wanted insects, vegetation,
17 animals -- and animals in the Rayrock lakes to be
18 monitored throughout the project.

19 The Rayrock Remediation Project
20 actually submitted a draft version of an Aquatic
21 Effects Monitoring Program. And the reason that we
22 did this is that the monitoring of the lakes in the
23 Rayrock area is a very important part of showing that
24 the cleanup that we are doing is working.

25 And one (1) of the things that we want

1 to do is to be able to start the pro -- the cleanup --
2 or start the monitoring before we start the cleanup so
3 that we can show that, as we do the work on the land,
4 the water doesn't change.

5 So, we want to have a water sampling
6 done before we start doing the work. We will then
7 continue to take water during the work, and -- and
8 then afterwards, as well.

9 And what we're intending to show is
10 that we're going to be very careful when we're doing
11 the work on the land to make sure that the water
12 doesn't get affected by the work that's being done on
13 the land and the water quality shouldn't change any --
14 at any time as we're doing this project.

15 This process is described in this
16 Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program. And we -- CIRNAC
17 will be working with the Tlicho Government to form an
18 aquatic effects monitoring working group that will
19 discuss exactly what monitoring is necessary and to
20 discuss the plan as it is submitted for -- and before
21 it is finalized.

22 One (1) of the important things to
23 consider when discussing monitoring is that we will
24 also be providing funds to the Tlicho Government that
25 are intended to do any monitoring in the Rayrock

1 region that is not being done by the Rayrock
2 remediation team.

3 These funds can be done on any Elder-
4 driven or Tlicho Government concerns, and they -- and
5 will allow the Tlicho Government to collect their own
6 information on the condition of the water, of the
7 wildlife, and of anything that they want to measure in
8 the Rayrock area.

9 And we will work together in
10 interpreting the data and in determining that the
11 project is not affecting the water in the region.

12 The Tlicho Government requested that we
13 monitor the drainage between Gamma Lake and Lake B.
14 Gamma Lake is the only lake on the Rayrock site that
15 does not drain to Sherman Lake.

16 Gamma Lake actually goes through a
17 series of swamps and small lakes and ponds on its way
18 between -- on its way to Lake B. We have done testing
19 through the area between Gamma Lake and Lake B, and we
20 have found that nothing of concern with -- with
21 respect to the metals and the levels of contamination
22 in the area that is below Gamma Lake.

23 This is not a surprise because with
24 these swamps filtering the water before it gets to
25 Lake B, any -- anything that's in the water will be

1 taken out as it goes through these swamps, and it will
2 not travel down to the lake -- Lake B or other -- or
3 even further down to the Marian River.

4 Uranium is a very heavy metal and
5 filters very easily, and especially through material
6 like this. However, if this monitoring is still of
7 interest to the Tlicho Government, we strongly
8 encourage them to include it within the Tlicho led
9 monitoring portion for which we'll be contributing
10 funding.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: The Tlicho
15 Government requested that we monitor air quality,
16 especially for dust and for radon. And, of course,
17 dust is a major concern when we're working on this
18 site because uranium contaminated dust is not
19 something that we want to have in the air.

20 As part of our submission package, we
21 submitted a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan which
22 outlined air quality monitoring that we will be doing
23 to show that dust levels are maintained at an
24 acceptable level throughout the project.

25 Radon monitoring has been done at the

1 site. And as -- and to date, we have not gotten any
2 concentrations which would be considered unacceptable
3 in the ambient air.

4 We can continue monitoring for radon,
5 but in an open environment such as we have at Rayrock,
6 the chances of radon collecting ore of having radon,
7 even if it's present, be in -- the chances of it being
8 in a concentration that could cause harm to people is
9 very low.

10 Radon, however, will be monitored when
11 we put buildings on the site if they -- especially any
12 building that's directly on the ground because it's in
13 buildings and it's in enclosures where the radon is
14 potentially a problem.

15 The Tlicho Government requested that we
16 complete under ice water quality monitoring. And the
17 Rayrock Remediation Project Team is -- is more than
18 willing to -- to do this if we're onsite.

19 The winters, however, there is a good
20 chance that the project will be shut down over at
21 least one (1) or two (2) of the winters because the
22 work that is being done can only be done through the
23 summertime.

24 As part of the project, we in fact will
25 be doing a full winter of work in order to do the last

1 phase of the project; this is anticipated within the
2 plan that we have. But the problem is, if we are not
3 onsite, we would not want to be regulated to have to
4 go in to take monthly samples under ice.

5 There is a real health and safety risks
6 to going to the site just to collect water samples.
7 However, when we were onsite, we will commit to -- to
8 taking water samples on a regular basis through the
9 ice.

10 The Tlicho Government wants to make
11 sure that we monitor for sediments in the water when
12 we're doing work near the water. This is a common
13 problem, and it is well described in the Sediment and
14 Erosion Control Plan that was submitted to the Board.

15 The -- we have very robust monitoring
16 requirements during any work activity that's being
17 done close to any of the lakes or pods.

18 We will be requiring the contractor to
19 strictly follow the -- the procedures that are
20 outlined in our plan as a minimum, and we will expect
21 them to submit a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan
22 that specifies exactly how they intend to make sure
23 that sediment does not enter these lakes.

24 The Tlicho Government requested that
25 water quality monitoring of the Marian River be

1 completed. The Marian River is where this -- all
2 drainage from Rayrock ends up, so all of the water on
3 the Rayrock site goes through 12 kilometres of small
4 ponds, waterways, swamps, and finally ends up in the
5 Marian River just upstream from where the Emile River
6 connects to the Marian River.

7 All of our monitoring to date,
8 including the monitoring done back in the 1980s, '90s,
9 and 2000s, all of the monitoring has shown that the
10 Marian River is not impacted by the Rayrock site.
11 We're -- we're saying this based upon uranium levels
12 in the water. They are not elevated in the water of
13 the Marian River.

14 However, again, we continue to strongly
15 support the Tlicho Government in -- in -- if they are
16 interested in -- in maintaining this monitoring. They
17 have done the monitoring of the Marian River in the
18 past as part of their work, and we strongly encourage
19 them to continue to do so.

20 The Tlicho have indicated that they
21 want Tlicho youth and Tlicho Elders to participate in
22 all of the work that's being done at Rayrock. The
23 Rayrock Remediation Project is committed to making
24 sure that the involvement of the Tlicho Elders and
25 youth are -- is in all phases of the work that we are

1 doing.

2 Work to date has been a real
3 partnership with the Tlicho Government, and we
4 encourage the Tlicho youth and Elders to participate
5 in the clean-up -- Tlicho youth to participate in the
6 clean-up and the Tlicho Elders to be available to see
7 the progress that we are making on the site.

8 This work is being done so that the
9 Tlicho people will feel comfortable with returning to
10 the -- the area, and the only way that this can be
11 done is with participation and through seeing that the
12 clean-up is completed.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: In the past,
17 we have done many programs through the Rayrock
18 Remediation Project to encourage Tlicho youth to get
19 more involved in the environmental sciences, to
20 understand both the environmental science and the
21 monitoring and the water quality and the science
22 behind the work that we are doing, but also to hear
23 from the Elders, to get the traditional knowledge and
24 the understanding of the land that they provide so
25 that Tlicho youth can get a full appreciation of the

1 beauty of the land in the area.

2 The science can tell us things like is
3 there uranium in the water, but to be able to say that
4 the water is healthy, it requires people to feel
5 comfortable with using the water and -- and with being
6 able to fish in the lakes. And that is very important
7 to us as we proceed forward.

8 We want to continue to involve the
9 Tlicho youth in this project and have them see the
10 work that we are doing because in the future there is
11 a lot of work that -- to be done in clean-ups. And
12 having them trained and understanding what needs to be
13 done is important.

14 The Tlicho Government stated that they
15 want us to continue discussions with the Tlicho Elders
16 on the project, in general, but specifically with what
17 to do with Beta and Gamma Lake.

18 The Rayrock Remediation Project
19 acknowledges that the Tlicho Elders have contributed
20 greatly to how -- our understanding of the problems at
21 Rayrock. Without their knowledge, without their
22 history of the area, we would not have been able to
23 understand the problems that we have at the Rayrock
24 site.

25 CIRNAC and the Rayrock remediation team

1 will continue to work with the Elders, and we will
2 find answers to the Tlicho questions about Beta and
3 Gamma Lake.

4 The Tlicho Government noted that the
5 Elders and the Tlicho youth have a lot of experience
6 with vegetation in this area, and they should be
7 available to provide guidance and participate in the
8 re-vegetation work that will be happening once all the
9 clean-up is done.

10 The Rayrock Remediation Project team is
11 -- will continue to develop a re-vegetation strategy,
12 and this will be done in partnership with the Tlicho
13 Government.

14 This work has already been started, and
15 it was mentioned by AECOM that Tlicho youth were
16 helping with the initial setup of some of the test
17 plots that we did to find some of the local plants
18 that would work well in growing in the Rayrock area.
19 They harvested some of the local plants and tried
20 various ways of replanting to find out what worked
21 best.

22 This work is very important and will
23 help the project find the best ways to make sure that
24 after we complete the project, that we can return the
25 land as quickly as possible to a place that would be

1 good to use again.

2 The vegetation also helps hold the
3 ground where it is, stabilize the earth, and it's very
4 important to get it established so that all of the
5 work that we do will be held in place for years to
6 come.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: The Tlicho
11 asked CIRNAC to commit to continuing communication and
12 -- and learning from science and -- and traditional
13 knowledge. This interchange of traditional knowledge
14 and science is very important, both to the Tlicho
15 Government and to CIRNAC. It's part of our mandate
16 And it's very important for the progress of this
17 project.

18 In order for us to understand the
19 Rayrock area, we had to hear from the Elders. We had
20 to get direction.

21 In order for the science to be
22 understood, we had to explain the scientific ideas in
23 terms that could be easily understood -- more easily
24 understood.

25 This interchange is extremely important

1 because it's the only way that we truly can
2 communicate and feel confident that the work that is
3 being done is the work that needs to be done. And we
4 look forward to continuing this information exchange
5 in the future.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: The Tlicho
10 Government also requested that the Elders be brought
11 into the Rayrock site for site visits on a regular
12 basis, so that they can see the progress of the work.

13 Earlier this week, I met with the --
14 with the Elders and with the Tlicho Government. And
15 specifically, we were requested to have at least two
16 (2) site visits per year with the Elders; preferably
17 during freshet and the other one either late summer or
18 fall.

19 We support this idea. We want the
20 Elders to see the progress that is being -- being
21 made, once we get work underway on this site.

22 It has been a long time of talking and
23 of studying. And we are finally moving to the point
24 in which we are doing something about the
25 contamination that is on this site. We are finally to

1 the point where we're going to be cleaning things up.

2 To have the -- the Elders available and
3 to have the Elders see this will be a very proud
4 moment for us. It will show our commitment to getting
5 this done right.

6 GNWT also provided a number of concerns
7 that I will go over as well.

8 GNWT suggested that the maximum average
9 concentrations be used when we're treating the water
10 for -- from Mill Lake, as well as maximum grab.

11 In our pres -- in our application, we
12 only included maximum grab. In other words, every
13 sample had -- that we took had to meet that criteria.

14 The GNWT suggested that we have two (2)
15 sets of criteria with the lower being applied on an
16 average from all of the samples that we take, and a
17 little bit higher for each individual one that we
18 take.

19 The method that we proposed is actually
20 -- requires better water quality. And so, we
21 discussed it with the Tlicho Government and it was
22 stated that they would prefer the one -- the method
23 that provides the better water quality.

24 We have to be more careful if we -- and
25 treat the -- make sure that the treatment works

1 perfectly if we do it in -- with a maximum grab
2 criteria. So they suggested that we maintain that
3 criteria as the one that we use for the water coming
4 from Mill Lake.

5 The GNWT suggested that the -- the
6 Surveillance Network Program sampling occur twice a
7 month, as opposed to the monthly sampling that we are
8 proposing at this time.

9 The Rayrock Remediation Project was, in
10 fact, a monitoring project before we started this.
11 Following the 1996 remediation, there were ten (10)
12 years of -- of water quality monitoring that was done.
13 And, in fact, we have water quality data extending all
14 the way back to 1979.

15 We have taken extensive water samples
16 throughout the project, in many locations, through the
17 -- through the Rayrock area and, in fact, regionally
18 as well.

19 And with over twenty (20) years of
20 water quality data from these lakes, the project feels
21 that the -- we have sufficient water quality criteria.
22 We -- or excuse me, we have sufficient water quality
23 data.

24 That, combined with the fact that the
25 water quality criteria that we are proposing is very,

1 very low, will mean that even though we're putting
2 Mill Lake water into Sherman Lake, the water quality
3 is going to be so good that it will not have an
4 affect.

5 So we strongly feel that monthly water
6 quality monitoring is -- is sufficient.

7 The GNWT requested that geochemistry
8 criteria be included in a Quarry Management Plan when
9 that plan is submitted.

10 The Rayrock Remediation Project will
11 include this criteria in the Quarry Management Plan.
12 We're happy to say, however, that to date -- one (1)
13 of the main things with respect to the geochemistry
14 criteria that is of concern is whether the rock might
15 produce acid that could cause problems with releasing
16 metals -- more metals into the lake, and with
17 potentially making the lakes more acidic.

18 All of our results to date indicate
19 that with the manner in which that we're planning on -
20 - on using the rock that we quarry, it should not
21 produce acid.

22 However, regardless, we will still
23 adhere to testing to verify that -- that all the rock
24 -- or the rock that we are quarrying is not acid
25 generating.

1 And, finally, one (1) of the last --
2 one (1) of the other GNWT concerns was that they
3 considered that the expansion work necessary to -- to
4 put more floats and expanding the dock that's in
5 Sherman Lake, they feel that should be considered in-
6 water construction, and they requested that sediment
7 and erosion controls be described for this in-water
8 construction.

9 The project team consulted with the
10 Department of Fisheries and Oceans. And the
11 Department of Fisheries and Oceans agreed that, if we
12 were to install this particular type of floating dock
13 and, in fact, place holes into the sediments, that
14 that does, in fact, meet the definition of in-water
15 construction.

16 However, the disturbance from putting
17 these two-inch (2) poles into the sediment is very,
18 very low. And sediment and erosion control measures
19 are not going to be necessary.

20 We are proposing to do expansion of the
21 dock so that more traffic -- air traffic can come in
22 and more work can be done on the dock itself.

23 These floating docks that we have
24 installed to date, that are shown in this picture,
25 have been very good for our purposes. And it's what

1 we propose to continue to use in the future.

2 Installation of these -- this style of
3 floating dock will not cause disturbance in the lake
4 bed sediments.

5 So that was a relatively quick review
6 of our responses to some of the Intervention concerns.
7 And I will send it back to the Chair and say thank you
8 very much -- masi cho -- for providing us with the
9 time to provide this presentation today.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi for your
11 presentation. We may be going for an early lunch.

12 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Masi cho. Just one
13 more order of business. We just had our legal
14 counsel, Mr. John Donihee, he just wants to make a
15 statement for the record. So, John, turn it over you.

16 MR. JOHN DONIHEE (by Zoom): Thank
17 you, Ryan. The -- the issue that I -- I'll speak to
18 on behalf of the Board relates to the scope of the
19 proceeding in relation to evidence that has been
20 provided by and is expected from the Tlicho government
21 and evidence that's -- that's come from -- from
22 CIRNAC.

23 The Land and Water Board considers both
24 traditional knowledge and western science in its
25 decision making process. The Tlicho government

1 intervention relies on both science and traditional
2 knowledge to provide evidence to the Board and
3 comments about the CIRNAC application.

4 Review of the Tlicho government
5 intervention indicates that it includes evidence and
6 recommendations for potential improvements to Beta and
7 Gamma Lakes and areas downstream of them, as well as
8 traditional knowledge for larger area including the
9 avoidance zone.

10 The Board also understands that the
11 Tlicho government and CIRNAC have discussed potential
12 remedial activities for some of these areas, and that
13 through the questions to presenters and during the
14 presentation of the Tlicho government intervention,
15 that the Board may hear about these potential remedial
16 activities in those areas as well.

17 Further, the Board expects to hear from
18 Elders and members of Tlicho communities through this
19 virtual hearing process. And it seems likely that the
20 evidence which will be presented through that process
21 will contribute to the story, the history, and
22 knowledge of the effects of the Rayrock mine, but that
23 they may go beyond the scope of the applications
24 before the Board, and the areas and activities that
25 were the subject of preliminary screening.

1 So, for the record and -- and for
2 purposes of the participants, the Board would like to
3 indicate that it will allow sufficient latitude with
4 respect to this evidence and these lines of
5 questioning because, in the Board's view, this
6 information will contribute to the historical and
7 traditional understanding of the site and the
8 surrounding area.

9 The Board wants to hear from Elders and
10 community members. And if CIRNAC is able to respond
11 to any questions that arise about these historical
12 concerns or the broader areas that may have been
13 affected by the Rayrock mine, the Board encourages
14 CIRNAC to do so. However, all parties should
15 understand that the decisions that the Board will
16 make, the licence applications, will only be based on
17 the evidence that is within the scope of this
18 proceeding and the preliminary screening.

19 If the Applicant makes commitments to
20 carry out activities that require regulatory approvals
21 that are outside the scope of the current proceeding,
22 such as armoring the shore of Beta or Gamma Lake,
23 these activities will have to be subject to new
24 applications or amendments to licenses and permits, if
25 issued.

1 While the evidence provided to the
2 Board about Rayrock's history and Tlicho traditional
3 knowledge will inform the Board's general management
4 and decisions about the permit and licence, and
5 they'll be -- they'll -- and will be constrained to,
6 well the applications -- the scope of the applications
7 that are currently before the Board.

8 Mr. Chairman, I -- I think that covers
9 this matter and I'll leave it there. Thank you, sir.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you,
11 John. All right. We'll break for lunch, come back at
12 1:30. Masi.

13

14 --- Upon recessing at 12:00 p.m.

15 --- Upon resuming at 1:38 p.m.

16

17 QUESTION PERIOD:

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: And now we're going
19 to comments and questions, if there's any from the
20 Tlicho community hubs. Tlicho communities -- Whati,
21 Gameti, Behchoko, Wekweeti.

22

23 (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN)

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We'll go to
2 the first community hub. We'll go to Behchoko.
3 Behchoko, any comments or questions from Behchoko?

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Looks like we don't
8 have any comments or questions from Behchoko, so we'll
9 go to Whati. Whati, do you have any comments or
10 questions to CIRNAC?

11

12 ELDER MARIE ADELE RABESCA:

13

14 (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN NOT TRANSLATED)

15

16 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

17

18 ELDER MARIE ADELE RABESCA: ...when we
19 gather like this, we gather like this, and sometime
20 men -- sometime three (3) to six (6) men, they would
21 talk among each other. They need to document all that
22 information.

23

24 We need to hold kind of like a form of
25 a group workshop consisting of Elders. Is it possible
that we need to do that kind of work?

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, for your
4 comments and questions. It's Marie Adele Rabesca from
5 Whati, but she's in the room here. We can either
6 answer that here and then go back to the communities.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. CIRNAC can
11 respond to Mrs. Rabesca.

12 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.
13 Ron Breadmore, CA. Yes, worker safety is -- is a huge
14 concern on all of our projects. Our projects are
15 complex. There's a lot of risk associated with our
16 work. Even just getting to and from our sites by air,
17 by road, which road, boat.

18 The contractors that we procure are
19 required to have very strong health and safety plans
20 that they must submit to the authorities having
21 jurisdiction for approval, and the contract requires
22 them to adhere to all the conditions in those
23 approvals from those agencies.

24 For Rayrock, Kwetjjaa, the contractor
25 will be required to develop very strict plans for

1 worker health and safety and submit those both to the
2 Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission for NWT
3 Nunavut for approval.

4 And as well, CIRNAC will be required to
5 take a portion of that plan, the Radiation Protection
6 portion of that plan, and submit that to CNSC for
7 their approval.

8 So it's -- it's very -- it's a high
9 priority of course for the project, for the
10 contractors, and priority is given to worker safety,
11 as well as public safety. We -- we have concerns with
12 people accessing the -- the project sites during
13 remediation by winter road or over land, so we need to
14 control access to our sites.

15 So, yes, worker safety is of utmost
16 importance to our project team, and we heard as well a
17 note in there about the details of the work. And
18 maybe I'll just let Andrew Richardson reflect on --
19 back on his presentation and describe the work in
20 general. Masi.

21 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Yeah. Andrew
22 Richardson, with CIRNAC.

23 Worker health and safety, as Ron said,
24 is a very important part of this project, and when
25 this work starts, it's going to be done a little

1 differently than some of the projects that have been -
2 - that people may have seen in the past.

3 On the projectors right now, I -- I'm
4 showing the area where the Confined Disposal Facility
5 will be located. That area is right beside Mill Lake,
6 and the area around Mill Lake, the area around the
7 Confined Disposal Facility, and all area that drains
8 into Mill Lake will be blocked off so that you will
9 not be able to go into that part of the site while the
10 work is going on unless you have the proper equipment
11 and unless you have been trained on how to protect
12 yourself when working around the uranium.

13 We're quite concerned that there are
14 high concentrations of uranium in this area, and we're
15 still in the process of developing exactly what the
16 people will have to be taught before they're allowed
17 to work in there.

18 However, the area, once remediation
19 starts, will -- you will only be allowed in after
20 you've been given the proper equipment and to -- and
21 the -- the proper clothing and protection that you can
22 wear to make sure that you -- that you do not take in
23 any of the uranium into your body.

24 You will also be -- everybody who works
25 in there will also be trained on how to keep

1 themselves safe. Everybody that works in the area
2 will also have to wear little machines that measure
3 how much radiation you are getting every day.

4 And every person that works there will
5 have to keep -- will be given one (1) of these, and
6 they will be monitored by the people on the site every
7 day to make sure that you are not being exposed to too
8 much radiation through the project.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: The worker
13 health and safety is very important. And the work
14 that we are doing at Mill Lake involves working with
15 dangerous materials.

16 So, we will make certain everybody that
17 is doing it will be properly trained and will have the
18 equipment and protection that they need to do the work
19 safely so that they can return home after finishing
20 their work at the Kwetjjaa (phonetic) remediation
21 project and go home to their families safely. Masi.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think she had

1 another question on whose permission or whose order
2 that this will be taken place, this remediation.

3 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
4 Breadmore, CA. So, we are applying for a Type A water
5 licence for this project, as well as a Type A land use
6 permit in order for us to get to our site and -- and
7 use the lands around Rayrock.

8 So, we will be required to uphold all
9 the conditions, terms and conditions, of those
10 instruments once issued. So, CIRNAC will be
11 responsible for complying with all of those
12 requirements.

13 As well, we will -- we hold a waste
14 nuclear substance licence with CNSC. And we are also
15 the licensee under that licence. And we are required
16 to comply with all the requirements of that
17 instrument, as well.

18 So, the ultimate responsibility is on
19 CIRNAC as custodian of the Rayrock and associated
20 sites. And through our contractors, we're required to
21 comply with a whole host of other regulatory
22 requirements from the other various agencies. We have
23 some of those groups with us here today. Masi.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you,
25 Ron. It may help if you explain that it's a donut and

1 that it's not the Tlicho lands that's been cleaned up,
2 right. So, it was federal -- it's federal land, so
3 you want to explain that part?

4 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.
5 Ron Breadmore, CA. I did mention in our opening
6 statement earlier just briefly about the -- the land
7 selection process.

8 And, yes, Kwetjjaa is a federal donut
9 within the Tlicho lands. It was excluded from land
10 selection because of its contamination, so it remains
11 a federal site. So, CIRNAC is responsible, is -- is
12 the owner. I am custodian for the Rayrock Kwetjjaa
13 site, as well as Sun Rose (phonetic). Those are both
14 federal packages of land. Masi.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Masi, the --
16 the -- you got your answers?

17

18 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 ELDER MARIE ADELE RABESCA: Yes. Yes.
21 At the same time, if we don't ask questions sometime -
22 - we -- we have to ask questions in order to know
23 what's happening.

24 Just now, he mentioned that Federal
25 Government is a responsible person that -- that owns

1 and is responsible for the land. And it sounds like
2 it's the money, federal money, that's also been used
3 to clean up.

4 Even that -- we had no idea, so it's
5 good to -- to hear that. And so, as we go along, it's
6 good to know more information clearly.

7 And the workers that are at -- going to
8 be at Kwetjjaa, they will sleep there as well as they
9 will work there. Is -- are they going to live there
10 and sleep there? Are they going to have a camp set
11 up? What's -- what's...

12

13 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

14

15 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
16 Breadmore, CA. I'll defer this detailed question to
17 Andrew.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Masi. Andrew
22 Richardson, CIRNAC. Currently, we are still in the
23 process of finding a contractor to go in to do the
24 work on the Rayrock site.

25

We expect this summer to -- to go

1 through the contracting process to hire the work --
2 the -- the company that will do the work. How that
3 company will set up the camp and what type of
4 rotations they will have will be up to the person --
5 or the company that is going to be doing the work.

6 What is typical for this type of a
7 project is that they will have shift work where the
8 workers will fly in for two (2) weeks of work, and
9 then they will be off for two (2) weeks of work; that
10 is quite common in the area.

11 There will be a camp set up at Rayrock
12 for the people when they are working on the site.
13 Right now, the camp is located between the Mill Lake
14 area and the float dock, which is located at the
15 bottom of that hill.

16 So, for the -- for the Elders who have
17 visited the site, they know -- they have seen the camp
18 is set up on a hillside in that area. We don't know
19 if the contractor is going to want to use that area or
20 someplace else to set up their camp because they will
21 want to set up something that's more permanent.

22 We will learn a lot of these details
23 later this year in -- after the contracting is
24 complete. And we will be able to report back to the -
25 - to the Board at that time.

1 Currently, all of our information
2 anticipates that we will be setting up though near the
3 area of the float dock and near Sherman Lake. Masi.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Any more
5 -- any other questions from Mrs. Rabesca?

6

7 (TRANSLATED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

8

9 ELDER MARIE ADELE RABESCA: It's good
10 for now. I'll -- I'm finished asking questions.

11

12 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
15 Now we are going back to the hub communities. Yeah.
16 We're -- right now we're in -- with Whati. If
17 there's's any questions, concerns, or comments from
18 Whati, it is the time say it now.

19 MS. STEPHANIE BEAVERHO: Hello, I'm
20 Stephanie Beaverho, from Whati. And I just want to
21 say masi for having me here from -- masi to the Board
22 and Tlicho Government.

23 Rayrock has been an issue for a long
24 time, but as I sit here, I have realized how serious
25 it is. I can understand how important it is for

1 Elders -- sorry, I'm kind of nervous.

2 Our land and water has always been our
3 way of -- our way of life. And I just wanted to bring
4 up what Jimmy Rabesca said in February 2021. We had a
5 community government present in our community that --
6 that could report back -- report back to newsletter or
7 any other means that would have been -- help us for
8 the younger generation with no -- while we will know
9 the department is doing for -- to help our -- to help
10 our leaders.

11 And he also said that if you work
12 together as a nation, we can accomplish lots; that's
13 what Jimmy Rabesca said in February.

14 And then, from what Joseph Judas said
15 too, Today we need more youth involved and training
16 for our youth to do -- to some more studying and
17 sampling for service and how to do some regulation
18 priority. Knowing that Elders are -- that are from --
19 from every community are in prison with us.

20 And I just thought that those two (2)
21 comments was very important, so I just wanted to say
22 that. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any comments from
24 CIRNAC?

25 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron

1 Breadmore, CA. Yeah, these are very important points
2 that Stephanie raises.

3 We -- we were lucky enough to meet with
4 Jimmy and -- and some of the other Kwetjjaa Elders in
5 February. And we did hear that there was a need to
6 have a newsletter or some other kind of a product that
7 we can use to report back to.

8 And we have done that over the years,
9 on past projects, like Colomac and we are considering
10 that again for Rayrock.

11 Today, we were able to assemble some
12 booklets and handouts for participants. And I think,
13 you know, it'll -- it'll take something like that to -
14 - that kind of shape or form. But it will be in the
15 form of a newsletter. We did hear that from Jimmy B.
16 in February. So we -- we are taking an action on
17 that.

18 And the -- the point regarding the
19 youth and having them involved is -- is very important
20 as well.

21 And, in 2016, CIRNAC, in partnership
22 with DFO, funded a BEAHR program, B-E-H-A -- sorry, B-
23 E-A-H-R -- Bettering Environmental Aboriginal
24 Resources -- Human Resources. And that -- that was
25 for the training of Tlicho youth on contaminated site

1 management.

2 That was, I believe, a three (3) month
3 program. It involved some time at the Rayrock site in
4 2016. Very successful program. I believe there was
5 twelve (12) or thirteen (13) graduates.

6 And, over the past few years, those
7 graduates have worked at the Kwetjjaa site conducting
8 monitoring and some other Elder-directed work.

9 So it's very important to have youth
10 involved. And, when possible, we like to have the
11 youth at site with the Elders, so they can learn from
12 each other. And we would like to do more of that.

13 Masi.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any -- any other
15 comments from Stephanie?

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. If
20 Stephanie's done, we are -- on our agenda, we have --
21 can't see it. We were going to the communities of
22 Behchoko. There was no questions or comments from
23 there.

24 Whati, the two (2) people that are here
25 that ask questions, comments. But we want to hear

1 from the outlying communities of Whati, Gameti, and
2 Wekweeti. And so, we're still going to ask if there's
3 anybody in Whati? I don't know how we -- anybody's
4 there. There's no comments, then we'll just go to
5 Gameti. Go ahead, Violet.

6

7

8 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 MS. VIOLET CAMSELL-BLONDIN: Joe,
11 we've never had this form of meeting like this before
12 in the past because of COVID-19, as well as the radio
13 opportunity for people to listen from the communities
14 as well. Mostly, our people -- because of COVID,
15 people are at home and listening to the radio.

16 People from Behchoko came in here to
17 the building, but left. From Whati, there was one (1)
18 person, one (1) of our employees reported what he came
19 in. And so, a lot of people are at -- in their
20 communities listening to us by radio.

21 And so, according to our agenda,
22 opportunity is here for Elders to ask questions. And
23 so, if there's, in the community -- in our community
24 government, any person who wishes to ask questions
25 here at this meeting, they're -- they're allowed to.

1 And so, if there's opportunity for
2 people from Whati, if -- and so, we -- we thought --
3 we meant virtual from Whati.

4 But this afternoon, the government will
5 do their presentation. After the government's
6 presentation, they will -- people will be given
7 opportunity to ask the government questions. Maybe
8 anybody on behalf of the Tlicho Government, as well as
9 our lawyers and our community people have
10 opportunities to ask questions of our people who
11 present today.

12 Tomorrow morning, the Tlicho people
13 will give their presentation. And so, at that time,
14 we will be -- there was a little bit of confusion
15 here, and so, according to the agenda, it shows that
16 there's opportunity for Elders to speak. So I just
17 wanted to sort that out.

18

19 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks, Violet. I
22 hope that clarifies that when we say the hub
23 communities, that means that the communities that --
24 people that are home. And so, Violet just said
25 there's no -- there will be no comments from the

1 outlying communities. People -- one (1) or two (2)
2 people show up and then they leave.

3 So -- so this -- same thing with -- but
4 I'll ask Gameti if there's anybody there that wants to
5 question or make a comment. The floor's open. If
6 not, we'll go to Wekweeti. So Gameti...?

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Andrew. Dolodi
11 (phonetic) means 'nothing'.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh, just wait. The
16 general public -- not yet. Just hang on, Bobby.
17 Okay. Any questions, comments from Wekweeti? Go
18 ahead, Joe -- Joseph.

19

20 MR. JOSEPH MOOSENOES: (TLICHO
21 LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 ELDER JOSEPH MOOSENOES: Regarding

1 CIRNAC's presentation, it looks like we have
2 opportunity for questions for two -- two (2) days yet.
3 So, as -- in regard to Marie Adele Rabesca, regarding
4 her questions to CIRNAC about the safety of workers
5 and safety of the clothing that they're using.

6 In the past, when the mine first
7 started in the beginning in the '60s and '40s, and
8 they just used ordinary clothing because they weren't
9 inform of the dangers of the -- the work that they
10 were doing. They weren't provided with that but
11 today, as we go forward we need to be -- keep our
12 workers health and safety.

13 And so this morning, Rob and Andrew
14 talked and -- and said -- they also talked about site
15 visit for one (1) year -- they can have two (2) site
16 visits in one (1) year. And so, this is a kind of --
17 we were wondering about that. We appreciate that kind
18 information because we should keep it like that, the
19 site visits. If we -- we visit during freshet there's
20 a lot of water and in the fall time, there's less
21 water on the land.

22 And so, employees, workers are working
23 in contaminated sites, so our people who visit the
24 site will see the site, they'll see the workers
25 clothed in protective clothing. And so, it would be

1 good to see that and to feel -- and so, it's good also
2 to hear monitors going around making sure that the
3 health and safety is done well, monitored well. And
4 site visits twice a year sounds good.

5 The Marion Lake water, how deep is it?
6 And according to your information that you have, you
7 might tell us how deep it is. As -- as well as from
8 the top of the hill in Sherman Lake. How long do you
9 think that sediment has been under Sherman Lake for --
10 for how many years do you think that the sediments
11 have been there?

12 And so, if the sediments are collected
13 and placed in two (2) bags -- I know we have this
14 presentation yesterday and it looks like in the bay,
15 over there, there's a small hole in an opening of a
16 rock. It seems like almost in a middle of the rock it
17 -- that mount of sediments it -- it's removed from the
18 lake and it's going to be placed on the ground. And -
19 - and then, over time there'll be how many layers and
20 -- and -- and you -- and also, if you did all that
21 work and it's all capped, we're still wanting that
22 whole area capped because that water is very -- could
23 be very contaminated, as well as the sediments there.

24 Maybe -- maybe we should put freshwater
25 back in there. We've mentioned that in a past. We

1 should put freshwater in that area. In a -- after
2 when they start work, they're going to start by de-
3 watering the Sherman Lake. So, if the water is washed
4 -- if the water is cleaned, only at that time when it
5 -- when it meets the safety standards it will be
6 released.

7 And so as well, we talked about
8 sediments need to be cleaned and so, all the set up --
9 all the set up will begin. The camp will set up,
10 equipment will be brought in. And that lake below the
11 hill, the Sherman has a little stream -- there's
12 streams as well, and all that water in Sherman Lake
13 has collected. And if that lake is empty -- and
14 eventually the water will come back into Sherman Lake
15 area. As well as all the streams, that water training
16 facility, the water cleaning facility will be -- be
17 placed I -- I heard the presentation on how they'll
18 put the camp and set up at Kwetjjaa (phonetic).

19 If there's something that we may have
20 missed or something that we may have not thought of,
21 we -- the communities of Tlicho, there's four (4)
22 Tlicho communities. There's not many Elders left in
23 our communities today. It's not only this kind of
24 work is -- has to be really planned well and then the
25 work can be done well. That's what I think.

1 The two (2) -- two (2) other waters
2 that they're talking about, the two (2) other waters
3 that they're trying to ignore, I really think it's
4 great opportunity while the camp is set up, while the
5 camp is in a form when it's set up for cleaning up
6 Mill Lake. We think that it's a opportunity to also
7 work on a two (2) lakes, Beta and Gamma. And so,
8 those two (2) lakes that we want to be thoroughly
9 investigated in -- we would like -- we would like to
10 get a feedback on people as to how well the work has
11 been done when it's completed.

12 As well as water -- people who issue
13 water licence -- because it's a land that we always
14 use in a past, those -- those river systems that flow
15 eventually into Behchoko is a concern and that's the
16 reason why we'd like to have the work done very well.
17 We still thinking further about more intensive work.

18 Maybe the women too, are also concerned
19 and -- and so, today when -- when the land like this
20 is suffering from being mined and left, I really think
21 today we need to give young people more opportunity to
22 expose themself with this kind of work that abandoned
23 mines and the cleanup. Eventually, when -- when they
24 will, in their lifetime work with mine industry, that
25 they'll know what to do.

1 And so, at this time, I really
2 appreciate the young people to make their minds sit
3 and to understand, and to listen to our leaders as
4 well as our Elders. And by listening and planning --
5 that's the only way you can plan well. So, if we
6 don't ask questions, we won't know what kind of better
7 plan to put in place because, eventually, all these
8 streams and water would come down and flow into the --
9 our communities and especially in Behchoko.

10 In a past -- in a past, how the land
11 used to be pristine and clean in our -- in our lands.
12 We know that it cannot be returned to that state but
13 can we return it to the best as we can do?

14 And so, this is a concern that we
15 always have, as well as our lawyer who is also -- we
16 have to make sure that our -- our -- our lawyer is
17 always involved with our concerns and -- and know
18 about our issues.

19 And so, if there's still, after the
20 work is completed, there still happens to be leaching
21 into the waters and contaminating our waters after
22 work's done, there will be a concern. So, I really
23 want to say we need to do a good job. I want to thank
24 the young people who are here. They're trying to
25 understand what kind of work our people are -- are

1 involved in. And so, I just would like to say that
2 much, Mr. Chairman.

3

4 (TRANSLATION CONCLUDED)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON Okay, masi, Joseph.
7 Response from CIRNAC on Joseph's comments and
8 concerns?

9 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.
10 Ron Breadmore, CA.

11 We have talked about Mill Lake
12 extensively with the Tlicho over the past three --
13 three (3) years, almost four (4) years now. And using
14 western-based science and engineering and, of course,
15 TK from Kwetjjaa Elders, we agreed that the lake
16 needed to be drained in order to remediate the
17 sediments.

18 To Joseph's point about refilling Mill
19 Lake with freshwater, we've also had some of those
20 discussions, and we touched on this in February of
21 2021, but that does come with some risk. And I'm
22 going to turn it over to Andrew now to describe those
23 risks a bit more. Masi.

24 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Masi, Andrew
25 Richardson, CIRNAC.

1 We had many discussions with the
2 engineers who are designing how to make sure that the
3 Confined Disposal Facility, once we put the sediment
4 into this Confined Disposal Facility, we discussed
5 with them, how can we make sure that it stays there,
6 that is doesn't move, that it always remains sealed
7 away so that plants and animals can not -- never come
8 in contact with it again.

9 And a concern that they had was that if
10 we let the lake come back, the lake could move the --
11 the rocks and stone that we put around to hold
12 everything in place. It could move it and wash it
13 away and loosen up all of the -- the seal, the rock
14 that we used to seal the sediment inside of this --
15 this containment cell.

16 So, if we let the water fill up again,
17 it might, and we're concerned that it would in the
18 future, wash away the support that holds the cell
19 together and the cell would start falling apart.

20 This is part of the reason why we
21 discussed with the Elders the idea of letting -- once
22 all of the water is gone, putting a channel in so that
23 the water will -- will flow out at a lower level and
24 just have a few small ponds in there afterwards.

25 I believe we have a photo of what it

1 would look like. So, what we want to do is to have a
2 series of small ponds and some screens that -- so that
3 when it rains, these ponds will fill up with rain
4 water. We will have plants, put plants in that will
5 grow in the ponds, and we will plant trees and bushes
6 around the area, and all of that will help hold
7 everything where it is for many, many years to come.

8 And with -- without the water there, it
9 will mean that the CDF won't have the water washing it
10 away, and -- and all of the -- all of the material
11 that's in the Confined Disposal Facility will be --
12 will be kept away from plants and animals for many,
13 many years to come.

14 The construction of the Confined
15 Disposal Facility will have a bottom which -- which
16 won't -- which will prevent water from coming up. It
17 will also have a seal on the top, which will prevent
18 water from going down into it.

19 So, once we get all of the water out of
20 those tubes, and once the material is dry, it is going
21 to be sealed in there and we never want it to get wet
22 again. We will put rocks around it and keep it
23 supported, and then put this -- this plastic or -- or
24 this material that won't let water go through it on
25 top, then we're going to put rocks on top of that and

1 all of that water will always flow down into these
2 ponds that we will set up after all of the water is
3 taken away.

4 So that when it is set up like this we
5 will feel much more confident that it will last for
6 many, many years and will -- it will keep people and
7 animals safe from this uranium material. Masi.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think Joseph also
9 asked about the depth of the water there and -- and
10 the depth of sediment.

11 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.
12 Ron Breadmore, CIRNAC. I'd like to turn that over to
13 our AECOM team, Joel.

14 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Hello. The
15 sediment is not at the same level throughout the
16 bottom. In some places the water is, I can't recall
17 exactly, but let's say it ranges between about three
18 (3) and twelve (12) to fifteen (15) feet deep. So,
19 the water level changes throughout.

20 We've tested six (6) locations in the
21 lake, and I think the average depth of the sediment
22 that needs to be removed is about eight (8) or nine
23 (9) feet. That's the best I can answer off the top of
24 my head.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MR. RON BREADMORE: Does that answer
4 the question?

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: And he also asked
6 about the depth of the -- how deep the sediment is.

7 MR. RON BREADMORE: Yeah, the sediment
8 is about eight (8) or nine (9) feet in thickness and
9 it's found anywhere between, say three (3) and twelve
10 (12) feet below the top of the water surface. It
11 changes throughout the lake.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, Joseph.
13 Okay, I guess -- we ask Wekweeti if they have any
14 questions from the town of Wekweeti, but it looks like
15 we're not getting any questions. So, we'll go to the
16 general public now. Anybody from the general public
17 can ask a question.

18

19 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

20

21 MR. ALPHONSE APPLES: Can you give me
22 a chance to say a few words, Mr. Chairman, about the
23 people who had said -- made comments about that
24 Rayrock mine?

25 I appreciate what's been said. We live

1 in Gameti, and the people that are living in -- in
2 Behchoko, yes, if anything happens to the water, it
3 will flow to our lake and it will -- it will be
4 trouble -- a problem to us.

5 You are doing things that would maybe
6 be healthy for us. In the summertime, we normally use
7 these rivers to -- to travel with our canoes in -- in
8 these areas. If the water's not good, what's going to
9 happen? Most of the water that comes from Rayrock
10 goes to Gameti and also goes to Behchoko.

11 So if anybody has any concern -- I'm
12 sure people have concern. I'm -- I know -- do know
13 that the people here are all assisting us, helping us
14 to make the water healthy for us.

15 Yes, if the water's not -- it's
16 contaminated or there's something wrong with the
17 water, it will go to -- to Gameti first. It's on our
18 path. It's on a route that we normally use. We have
19 a winter road coming through that Rayrock -- Rayrock.

20 In the summer, we still use that path.
21 It's -- it's -- with the river flowing past that
22 Rayrock. Yes, we normally bypass Rayrock even with
23 the boats, canoes.

24 And so when you talk about Rayrock,
25 yes, you -- you speak to us that it's -- that

1 radiation is -- is not good for the health of the
2 people. These are the kind of things we do understand
3 being a Aboriginal people.

4 That rock that you have there, it's
5 contam -- it's -- it has radiation. So when you say
6 you're going to do a remediation for that area, it's
7 important to me.

8 First of all, what can we -- we
9 prioritize to clean up? What should we -- what should
10 we do first? And then we'll do it step by step, went
11 to clean the water or the land.

12 We should prioritize what we should fix
13 first. When we're talking about remediation, that
14 means we're going to clean up the area which should we
15 -- we attack first? We are the only Elders that are
16 living among -- in our communities.

17 We are the actual Elders, and we have
18 many youth that are here with us. We're hoping that
19 they would collect all the information, vital
20 information they can get so they can gain -- so they
21 can make use of it in the future.

22 This is my thought. I think we should
23 come to some sort of solution here. Now, we were
24 talking about we could come up with some solutions.
25 What are the things that we should attack first in

1 cleaning up that area? This is what I want to be
2 done, the work that has been done. As for the -- the
3 contamination that you're talking about, it's going to
4 be -- you're going to do a bit of clean-up.

5 Thank you. Alphonse.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Tomorrow, the Tlicho
7 Government will do their presentation, and Elders will
8 also be included. You'll be make -- presenting their
9 presentation. After presenting your presentation, you
10 will be asked -- you will be questioned. Based on
11 your presentations, the questions will come to you. A
12 question will be forwarded to you.

13 As of now -- tomorrow you will be given
14 a chance to speak as -- if you have any concern, you
15 can speak and you can talk tomorrow. We are doing
16 this work in a proper way. I hear many good -- good
17 words are being shared, but at this time the question
18 is forwarded to CIRNAC.

19 The way you have spoken about every --
20 everything that needs to be done, talk about reroute
21 and that -- that remediation. I accept what you're
22 saying.

23 From public, we have Bobby.

24

25 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

1 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLIHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 MR. BOBBY GON: I remember work --
4 being in that area in the '70s and '80s. Jimmy Gon,
5 I was with Jimmy Gon during that era. We did some
6 work there. Actually, I was raised in that area there
7 when we were doing the spring hunting.

8 There's two (2) questions I have. I
9 want to say a few words. I want to share some words
10 with you at this time. I will -- I'll ask questions
11 later.

12 There was four (4) of us living in that
13 area. I think I was about 15 or 16 years of age at
14 that time that I was there with three (3) other
15 members. Eddie was with me. Eddie's passed away now.

16 They ask us to go with canoe there, on
17 a canoe trip there, so we did that in the area. He
18 was talking to Uncle Abia Gilbert (phonetic). There's
19 a lake called Duca (phonetic). There's a grave site
20 near the area. That place is called Duco in Tliho.

21 He asked me if he want -- if I want --
22 he want me to accompany him on a trip on a canoe to
23 that area, so I did that. We passed over two (2)
24 lakes. I remember him collecting water from the lake
25 with -- with the kettle. I was wondering what he was

1 doing, but he said that he could collect the water
2 with the kettle.

3 There was a portage there nearby. We
4 continue on to the portage. So we carried our rifle
5 and cross over the portage. It wasn't quite a great
6 distance. We seen -- we seen a people who were --
7 people might have lived there. There was a lot of
8 teepee -- tent frames there.

9 I want to see -- I understand -- I --
10 I've been through the area, and we used to play in
11 that area. We used to play -- play in that area, but
12 I pick up something from that man there. He wasn't
13 looking at me, my uncle.

14 I took that rock and there was some
15 seepage coming from it. I didn't know what it was.
16 We crossed the portage and we came to Rayrock. We
17 were using canoes, so we took that canoe over the
18 portage and continue on -- on to the lake, the next
19 lake, on the Rayrock lake.

20 And as I approached another area of the
21 lake, I seen a building there. There was no windows
22 or doors on it. I could -- it was visible that --
23 that there was no windows or door. I seen some dry
24 plants in that area. I seen that that tree must have
25 been dead and plants has been dead in that area. I

1 should have taken a picture of that.

2 I was alarmed by the sight. It must
3 have been 2 feet in the area that I approach. There
4 was 2 feet that were just covered by -- it was -- it
5 had a pale colour, white colour.

6 I seen the lake that it was really --
7 the -- the lake was really dark in colour, but I can
8 see the ducks coming onto the lake. I -- the -- I
9 wanted to drink some water, but my uncle told --
10 warned me, don't drink the water.

11 Yeah, I didn't see any beaver on the
12 lake there. I got -- I was really alarmed because my
13 -- my uncle told me not to drink the water. And I can
14 see -- we can hear that metal being hit together in
15 that area. I guess there were some metals left
16 behind, that the wind was blowing against the metals
17 and making sound.

18 I was alarmed. I was really scared
19 after what my -- my uncle told me, that -- that I was
20 -- I became alarmed that I couldn't -- shouldn't pick
21 up anything there or touch anything or be on the land,
22 so we went back to the main camp that we were -- we
23 were at.

24 I don't know what's going to happen in
25 the future, in fifty (50) years from now. Is it going

1 to be -- going to be clean completely and that it'll
2 be healthy to be there?

3 I'm sure that after remediation is
4 done, that there'll be an appearance of whether the
5 land is good. Will the land be good? And we're
6 hoping that anything -- that rubbish that they leave
7 behind or anything, waste that they might have, I hope
8 they're taking -- will take it away or bury it.

9 Yeah, it's got Quiauchi (phonetic),
10 that's what it's called. It's the river that's
11 attached to each other. There's another area that --
12 that that river leads into another lake. And then
13 there's -- and then goes all the way back to Behchoko
14 River.

15 I remember that there have been many
16 people there. Even there was grave sites in the area,
17 too, and that people that might have been, you know,
18 Cree or Slavey people. I'm hoping that they don't
19 make a mess like this again.

20 I know that any mine that comes up, I
21 hope they don't do any more damage to our land. What
22 I've seen, I -- I became too alarmed and I felt unsafe
23 in that area. And I'm hoping that I'll never see
24 another mine that does that again. And I'm hoping
25 that they could do a good remediation project and they

1 will be successful.

2 And I've worked there with many Elders
3 in the past. I know some Elders who have worked at
4 Giant Mine. They -- I've listened to them with their
5 stories. Even the Giant Mine, it's close to
6 Yellowknife.

7 So, you might know there's a tunnel
8 that goes all the way down to the -- on -- underneath
9 the lake. They're saying that they want to make --
10 you know, they want to do some digging in that area to
11 make it...

12 Actually, you know, it goes way
13 underneath the lake, Slave Lake. And if there's any
14 crack in the rocks there'll be seepage, and it will --
15 you know, there -- there'll be tailings coming from
16 that area.

17 We're hoping that all that remediation
18 project be successful because there's so many things
19 that we are afraid of. It might be harmful to us.

20 I'm hoping that the material that
21 they've brought in, if it's -- if they're able, if
22 they could take that rubbish back somewhere else, it
23 would be good.

24 I was raised in that area. I've been
25 there to do some trapping and spring trap/hunting.

1 This was the story that I wanted to share with you.

2 Thank you, CIRNAC.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.

7 Ron Breadmore, CA. And masi, Bobby, for your story.

8 Listening to you describe your trip

9 into the Rayrock site, it's very familiar to us. We

10 have heard similar stories from the Kwetjjaa

11 (phonetic) Elders travelling in around this area.

12 The way you described the sites is very

13 similar to what you might see on some of the posters

14 we have up on the walls here. And these -- these

15 photos were taken back in the 1970s and '80s before

16 the buildings came down, so I can just imagine how

17 alarming it must have been for you to -- to see that

18 for the first time.

19 And, as we mentioned earlier, we share

20 a vision with the Kwetjjaa Tlicho Government to clean

21 up the Rayrock and -- and associated sites and make

22 these sites safe for those types of activities again.

23 So, that is the goal of our

24 remediation. We want the remediation to be

25 successful, just like you and -- and all the others

1 around the table with us today.

2 And it's going to take a lot of time
3 and a lot of money and a lot of effort for this
4 project to be successful, but we -- we're convinced
5 that we can -- we can do that. And we're committed to
6 -- to working with the Tlicho and making the -- the
7 project successful.

8 So, masi, again, for sharing your
9 story.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you,
11 Ron. Now we can go to GNWT if you have any questions.
12 And then it'll be Tlicho Government after that. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Joe, sorry. It's
15 Ryan Fequet here, with the Wek'eezhii Land and Water
16 Board. I think there was one (1) question that just
17 came in through the Cabin Radio's live stream.

18 So, just before we get to GNWT, sorry,
19 guys, CIRNAC has it and can read it into the record
20 and provide a response.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MR. RON BREADMORE: Okay. Masi, Mr.
25 Chair. Ron Breadmore, from CIRNAC. I will read it

1 in. And I will ask Andrew to provide a response.

2 So, the question reads, and this -- can

3 I say the person? Yeah. This is from Sadetto Scott.

4 The question reads:

5 "During the CIRNAC presentation,
6 they explained that ongoing water
7 monitoring will occur from Mill Lake
8 and potential drainage of sediments
9 of water into Beta Lake.

10 Question: What is the considered --
11 what is considered a large enough
12 increase in drainage to instigate
13 action? I ask because most of the
14 North is experiencing high water
15 levels, and that may bring about
16 sediment flow between the two (2)
17 lakes through the swamp area they
18 mentioned."

19 And then added:

20 "Looking at a map, they may have
21 been talking about monitoring
22 between Beta Lake and Gamma Lake;
23 either way, the same question."

24 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Andrew

25 Richardson, with CIRNAC. This question would be

1 easier to answer if I can bring up a map showing the
2 area, so I will move back to a map.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: It's a large
7 presentation. Okay. Oh, sorry, I'm not able to find
8 the map that I was looking for. But the area that --
9 there are a few different lakes that were being
10 discussed within this question.

11 For Mill Lake, the water in Mill Lake
12 right now drains over a hill and down to Sherman Lake.
13 And that is the only place that Mill Lake drains to.
14 For Mill Lake, when the water's being -- the water in
15 Mill Lake will be treated through our water treatment
16 system.

17 If we do experience a year with heavy
18 rain where the water levels come up quite a bit, it
19 will mean all of that water that rains down in the
20 area will flow into Mill Lake, and we will have more
21 water that has to be treated to go through the -- to
22 go through the water treatment system.

23 The engineers designing the water
24 treatment system have expected a certain of
25 precipitation or a certain amount of rain, a certain

1 amount of snow melt that will go in the wintertime.

2 But we will be able to handle even
3 greater amounts, if necessary, for -- through the
4 water treatment system. It will just take longer. It
5 will take more water treatment in order to do it.

6 For both Beta and Gamma Lake the water
7 levels in those lakes are affected by the -- the
8 swamps and areas that surround them.

9 They could potentially flood somewhat.
10 And this is part of the reason why, when we are
11 talking about going to the tailings containment areas,
12 we want to put some protection along the shorelines
13 when we're doing the repairs on the tailings caps
14 because that protection will help. If the water level
15 does rise, it will prevent those lakes from washing
16 away the repairs that we are going to be doing.

17 Right now, especially at Gamma Lake,
18 there are quite a few areas right along the lakeshore
19 where the lake has washed out the repairs that were
20 done in 1996. Most -- if you walk across those
21 tailings containment areas, they look like two (2) big
22 beautiful fields with -- with green vegetation, with
23 lots of animals living on them. And those animals
24 that are living on them, they -- they can't come in
25 contact with the tailings because the tailings are

1 buried -- still buried -- in almost all locations --
2 under three (3) feet of clean soil. But around the
3 edges, there are problems. And it was caused by
4 washouts in the past along these edges.

5 So the -- one (1) of the things that we
6 need to do is to make sure that, when we do the
7 repairs to the tailings caps in the coming years, that
8 we put stones down and we put rocks down that aren't
9 easily washed away. And those will hold the tailings
10 where they are and hold -- and make sure that this
11 doesn't happen again in the future.

12 One (1) of the other things that you
13 can see on this map that's very important is there's a
14 little road that runs in between Beta Lake and Gamma
15 Lake in the 2017 version, in the 2017 photo. That
16 road is -- represents the -- the divide.

17 Everything on the side close to Beta
18 Lake, any rain, any snow that melts, any water that's
19 on the Beta Lake side of that road flows towards
20 either Sherman Lake or towards Beta Lake.

21 On the side of the road closer to Gamma
22 Lake, anything on that side of that road, any rain,
23 any snow, it will flow to Gamma Lake.

24 Gamma Lake doesn't -- doesn't flow into
25 Sherman Lake. It actually flows out the bottom of

1 that lake and down towards another set of lakes about
2 two (2) kilometres away. It's called Lake -- we call
3 it Lake B. And it goes through an entirely different
4 series of lakes.

5 So Gamma Lake is the only lake on the
6 Rayrock site that doesn't actually flow through
7 Sherman Lake.

8 When we go to do monitoring, we will be
9 taking water and we will be taking soil, we will be
10 taking insects, and sampling all of these throughout
11 the project to make sure that the water stays healthy.

12 We will also do it after we're complete
13 -- after the remediation is done to show that nothing
14 has changed throughout all the time that we have been
15 working at the site. Masi.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So we are on
20 to GNWT. Are there questions to presentation by
21 CIRNAC?

22 MR. RICK WALBOURNE: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. Rick Walbourne, GNWT.

24 I'd just like to start out, thanks to
25 CIRNAC -- Andrew and Ron -- for all the information

1 and, specifically, the responses to the Interventions.
2 Those were very helpful. So during our presentation
3 on Friday, we will have some updates on our
4 recommendations in response to some of that
5 information.

6 We do have a few questions of
7 clarification for the project team right now. So I'd
8 like to pass it over to Laura Malone, who has a couple
9 questions for CIRNAC.

10 MS. LAURA MALONE: Hi, it's Laura
11 Malone with ENR. My first question is related to the
12 SNP monitoring frequency.

13 In CIRNAC's response to GNWT
14 Intervention Recommendation Number 11, regarding bi-
15 weekly SNP sampling, CIRNAC stated that the health and
16 safety risk and additional costs to sample bi-weekly,
17 instead of monthly, during open water do not warrant
18 the slight decrease in statistical uncertainty.

19 GNWT notes that while we acknowledge
20 that monitoring has been occurring over a number of
21 years, as Andrew outlined in his presentation, we're
22 concerned with monitoring the water quality on and
23 around the site during the remediation activities.

24 Could CIRNAC please provide more
25 information on the additional costs and additional

1 health and safety risks that they are referring to?

2

3

(BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
6 Breadmore, CIRNAC. Thank you, Laura, for that
7 question.

8 Yes, as Andrew had pointed out, we have
9 done years of -- of monitoring around the sites. This
10 time around, it is different -- you're right -- with
11 the remediation work being carried out.

12 We have developed management plans that
13 will capture some of that monitoring within our SECP,
14 Sediment Erosion Control Plan. Also we have an AEMP
15 that has been drafted and that will be initiated this
16 year to set our baseline. It will be finalized with
17 the input from the Tlicho. They -- they share similar
18 concerns around how the monitoring should be done
19 around the site and what we should be monitoring for.

20 So we feel confident that, with those
21 plans, we'll have a good data set to work from for
22 water quality, as well as some of the other aquatic
23 ecosystems and -- and benthics.

24 With respect to the, I guess, issue
25 over health and safety, we do have to consider that.

1 On some of our other project sites, we -- we sometimes
2 sample into October; sometimes we do not because of
3 conditions. So it really depends on, you know, how
4 the ice is formed and if it can be done safely.

5 So those are considerations that we
6 take in as we're developing our plans. And I know
7 that the Board recognizes that as well. So just a
8 consideration around SNP frequency and timing.

9 But, yeah, I think Andrew has probably
10 some more detailed responses for you on those
11 questions. Thank you.

12 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Masi. Andrew
13 Richardson, CIRNAC.

14 With respect to the -- the cost, well,
15 if we -- if we double the frequency of the sampling,
16 quite clearly, the costs of the -- the sampling is
17 going to be approximately double through the period in
18 which you're discussing.

19 And one (1) of the things that -- that
20 is very important to consider, though, when looking at
21 the water quality of these lakes is that, currently,
22 the water quality of the lakes is very good on all
23 water bodies. The water quality has been found,
24 through a risk assessment, to be not -- to not pose a
25 risk that requires remediation of any of the water

1 bodies, except for Mill Lake.

2 And we have a great deal of historical
3 data, and that historical data has shown that there is
4 not a great deal of variability in the water quality
5 over time which means that we already have an idea of
6 what the water quality should be. And as such, doing
7 monthly sampling, as long as the water -- as long as
8 the numbers that we receive remain the same
9 throughout, whether you're seeing these same numbers
10 every two (2) weeks or seeing these same numbers every
11 month, makes -- doesn't make a great deal of
12 difference.

13 The AEMP allows for an increase in
14 sampling frequency should we start seeing trends in
15 increases of concentrations in metals or trends of
16 other things that we are measuring in the water.

17 But if we're not seeing trends, if
18 we're getting the same answer every time, we don't see
19 the advantage of putting people into boats, sending
20 them out onto lakes to take water samples. They're --
21 which albeit manageable, the health and safety risks
22 are real in putting people out onto the water and it -
23 - it -- the additional information that we would
24 receive -- in constantly getting the same answer,
25 which is what we want -- is what we expect, but the

1 additional health and safety risk is not, in our view,
2 warranted for the additional frequency. Masi.

3 MS. LAURA MALONE: Laura Malone with
4 ENR. Thanks Ron and Andrew for those answers. I just
5 wanted to quickly clarify a little bit on the cost
6 side of things.

7 So, when you say, Andrew, that it
8 doubles the cost of sampling, I guess, is that -- does
9 that include sending people to site each time or is
10 there a presence that is on site already that could
11 collect these samples? Or are you simply speaking to
12 the analytical costs doubling?

13 I guess I'm just trying to get a sense
14 of health and safety risk wise and cost wise. Are we
15 talking additional trips to site, additional
16 helicopter time, additional travel or simply -- simply
17 additional trips out onto the water to collect the
18 samples? Thanks.

19 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Andrew
20 Richardson, from CIRNAC.

21 I was actually speaking only about the
22 additional cost for the analytical on the doubling.
23 The people should still be on site, however, it is
24 also true that if they will be out monitoring -- doing
25 water qualify monitoring, we would expect that it

1 would take approximately a full day to do a water
2 sampling program.

3 The work that the people who will be
4 doing monitoring -- the work that it will be expected
5 of them is quite a bit. So, if they are doing an
6 extra day of water sampling, it would -- it will take
7 away from days that they could be doing other types of
8 monitoring, sediment monitoring, any of the various
9 other monitoring requirements that are built into the
10 -- the plans that we have put before the Board. But,
11 strictly speaking, on terms on cost we -- I was
12 speaking only to the analytical. Masi.

13 MR. RON BREADMORE: And Mr. Chair, Ron
14 Breadmore here. If I could just add to Andrew's
15 statement?

16 In addition to those -- those direct
17 costs, there's also cost associated with our health
18 and safety controls that the contract would have in
19 place.

20 So, if -- if a sampling team has to go
21 out, you know, every -- every so often as opposed to
22 monthly, that -- that increases the risk and we have
23 controls in place such as wildlife monitors and all
24 the other equipment that would be required. So, there
25 are a lot of costs that would have to be considered

1 and it -- it does increase pretty quickly.

2 So, just add to what Andrew was saying
3 around the analytical or travel costs was also the
4 associated costs with health and safety controls and
5 measures on our sites.

6 We have a lot of wildlife hazards, as
7 you know with -- with bears and other large mammals.
8 We have to have wildlife monitors for all the work we
9 do around the site. It does come at a cost. Masi.

10 MS. LAURA MALONE: Laura Malone, ENR.
11 Thanks again for those responses. I guess I'm going
12 to move on to some other questions but I just wanted
13 to sort of reiterate where GNWT is coming from with
14 this recommendation.

15 The concern is primarily around
16 ensuring that there's adequate water quality sampling
17 during remediation activities such as removal of
18 tailings, moving of tailings and waste to the Confined
19 Disposal Facility.

20 And so, that's where we're primarily
21 recommending that there be the additional monitoring
22 to capture any changes in the water quality as a
23 result of those activities specifically. Whether that
24 is captured in a SNP or an AEMP, we might give that a
25 bit more thought in our closing arguments going

1 forward. But it -- it's good to know that -- that you
2 feel that monitoring has been captured in the AEMP.

3 So, my next question is on surface
4 runoff monitoring at Mill Creek. So, in response to
5 recommendation number 12 from the GNWT, CIRNAC
6 described that after all impacted sediments have been
7 contained within the Confined Disposal Facility, a
8 drainage swale will be designed to promote drainage
9 towards Mill Creek.

10 CIRNAC noted that sedimentation will be
11 an issue during this phase and until vegetation is
12 established. However, CIRNAC has also stated that
13 they do not intend to monitor any runoff water in Mill
14 Creek.

15 I recognize, Andrew, you spoke to this
16 during your presentation. And so, I understand that
17 the runoff will only be directed towards Mill Creek
18 once the remediation activities have been completed.

19 I guess my question is: Could you
20 clarify how the expected sedimentation issues with
21 this runoff will be monitored to ensure that EQC are
22 being met without having a monitoring station at the
23 end of Mill Creek where it enters Sherman Lake?

24 Thanks.

25 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Andrew

1 Richardson, CIRNAC. Thanks, Laura, for -- for that
2 question.

3 With -- with respect to the runoff that
4 occur -- that will occur, at this point -- once we
5 reach this point of the project, we expect that we
6 will have started to plant the areas around these
7 ponds that we will have formed. But you are right,
8 there's going a problem with the potential sediment in
9 the water going down towards Mill Creek.

10 For the first while after this
11 remediation is complete, we anticipate to -- the need
12 to maintain sediment and erosion controls in the Mill
13 Creek outlet.

14 The water itself, however -- any
15 sediment loading with -- will be from the -- the
16 residual clay. Any -- all of the clay that will be
17 left over, anything that's left over at the bottom of
18 this lake will have been tested and shown to be low in
19 metals. We -- anything that's on top that is high in
20 the metals will be removed. The material that's below
21 will be tested to show -- to show that's it's low in
22 metals.

23 Our data to date actually indicates
24 that the metal concentrations in the clay that is
25 below the sediments are -- are quite low and, in fact,

1 very low in uranium. That would mean that the runoff
2 itself, any -- any rainwater that would flow into this
3 basin and any sediment that's picked up would be clean
4 sediment. It would be the same as -- the same type of
5 problem that we would have in the area -- the borrow
6 areas where we remove clean soil, and rain washes away
7 the sediment that's left over on that.

8 So -- but it still, as you say, there
9 still would be a problem with the sediment in the
10 water. So, the sediment and control measures would
11 remain in place until we can establish the vegetation
12 and prevent the sediment from flowing Mill Creek.

13 We still are not proposing, however,
14 any sampling along Mill Creek because the outflow,
15 even after we do the blasting, the outflow will
16 actually go over a rock face, and this is currently
17 the situation, when Mill -- Mill Lake, when the water
18 level gets quite high so that it flows out, it
19 actually flows over a rock face and down the side of a
20 sloped cliff into kind of a broad area where -- where
21 it's captured and then flows into a small creek.

22 That creek flows in some places where
23 you can see it; in other places it flows almost
24 underground, even when the water is flowing at its --
25 at its highest. It is not the -- you can tell where

1 it's wet but you can't always follow the whole length
2 of the creek.

3 This means that the -- if any -- if
4 there is any sediment in the water, that sediment will
5 -- that sediment will be picked up in the creek bed
6 itself.

7 So, there will be monitoring, of
8 course, as well that will be occurring at the time
9 with -- with the sediment controls. We will be
10 monitoring PSS. Unless the water is flowing, I'm not
11 sure that there will be opportunity to monitor it
12 through this area; that is something I believe that
13 we'll probably have to gauge and take a look at once
14 the remediation is formed.

15 We find that it is very difficult to
16 monitor Mill Creek because in the -- in the last
17 twenty (20) years when we have tried to go to monitor
18 Mill Creek, it is almost always dry. It only flows
19 after it has been raining for a while and when it --
20 when it spills over. We think that will be the same
21 even after the remediation is complete. Masi.

22 MR. RICK WALBOURNE: Thank you,
23 Andrew. Rick Walbourne, GNWT. Just had a quick
24 follow up question on that.

25 So, you did mention that sediment and

1 erosion control measures would be in place for a
2 certain amount of time after the works to -- you know,
3 as a -- to capture any potential sediment laden water.

4 Can you speak to how that will be
5 gauged? So, will that be then contained in the
6 Sediment and Erosion Control Plan that triggers
7 whereby we will not -- based on what you're seeing, in
8 Mill Lake you'll determine the length of time or at
9 what point you can remove those sediment and erosion
10 control measures?

11 I'm just trying to understand the
12 length of time or how you'll make a decision; at what
13 point that those can be removed and -- and where
14 that'll be contained, whether it be in the sediment
15 and erosion control plan or elsewhere. Thank you.

16 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Andrew
17 Richardson, CIRNAC.

18 I wouldn't -- because all of this will
19 be occurring after the remediation is complete, I
20 would anticipate the better location for describing
21 these -- this monitoring would be in a Post-closure
22 Monitoring and Maintenance Plan.

23 And within a typical Post-closure
24 Monitoring and Maintenance Plan, goals can be set for
25 removal of things such as sediment and erosion control

1 in circumstances like this, and it would fit better.

2 The Sediment and Erosion Control Plan
3 currently doesn't describe the -- the post-remediation
4 sediment and erosion control, except peripherally. It
5 -- there's a -- some description of it, but it doesn't
6 go into great deal of detail. And that is because
7 it's difficult right now to predict exactly what it's
8 going to look like. So, I would say that it would be
9 the -- in the long term monitoring plan -- the long
10 term -- or, the Post-closure Monitoring and
11 Maintenance Plan. Masi.

12 MR. RICK WALBOURNE: Thanks for that,
13 Andrew. Rick Walbourne, GNWT. Just a quick follow up
14 on that.

15 So, you mentioned post -- and just for
16 some background and I -- it's sometimes confusing for
17 federal remediation projects because I understand that
18 CIRNAC has separate requirements as well on under the
19 Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan, and -- and
20 certain steps such as post-closure monitoring.

21 So, can you just clarify, are you
22 speaking to monitoring that CIRNAC will be undertaking
23 under your own requirements under the Federal
24 Contaminated Sites Action Plan, and your monitoring
25 and your -- you know, post, remediation monitoring, or

1 are you anticipating that this will be part of the
2 water licence or both?

3 I'm just trying to understand where
4 that -- that post-closure monitoring document you
5 speak of, or a final monitoring plan, whether it's
6 your envisioning that as a water licence requirement
7 or if that's a separate document that you guys might
8 have requirements for under -- under the Federal
9 Contaminated Sites Program. Thank you.

10 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Andrew
11 Richardson, CIRNAC. It is our understanding that
12 post-closure or post-remediation monitoring and
13 maintenance plans are -- are submitted to the Board
14 towards the end of remediation projects and are part
15 of the water licencing process. Masi.

16 MS. LAURA MALONE: Laura Malone, ENR.
17 Thanks, Andrew. I just wanted to make one (1) very
18 quick clarification again going back to the -- the
19 surface of Mill Lake after remediation.

20 You said the material that would remain
21 at the bottom of Mill Lake following remediation would
22 be any clay residuals, but there's also been
23 discussion of regrading.

24 So, I just wanted to clarify: Will
25 material be placed on Mill Lake as well for that

1 regrading and to create a drainage swale, or will the
2 Mill Lake surface only have the residual clays that
3 were previously at the bottom of -- of the lake
4 remaining on that surface? Thank you.

5 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
6 Breadmore, CIRNAC. I'd like to turn this one over to
7 our AECOM team, Joel.

8 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Yes. Thank
9 you. Joel Nolin, AECOM.

10 Within the lake we have two and a half
11 meters or so of sediment that has to be removed. Once
12 that's done, we expect the -- we're not exactly sure
13 the clay -- what's the bottom going to look like but
14 expect it to largely be clay surfaced, but there will
15 be bedrock outcrops.

16 In the image to the left you can see
17 that there's a little island. We expect that by the
18 time we remove, you know, two and a half meters or ten
19 (10), you know, eight (8) to ten (10) feet of
20 sediment, there will be more bedrock outcrops like
21 that.

22 Once the sediment is removed, we will
23 survey the whole area and adjust this grading plan
24 that you see before you. When we do the grading,
25 it would be great if we did not have to import fill.

1 It would be great if we could excavate
2 some soil from the ponds, place it where we need it
3 elsewhere, and that would make it easier. But it is
4 possible that we may need to bring some clay from the
5 airstrip for the grading.

6 So, to answer your question, we expect
7 at the end of the day to have some bedrock surface, to
8 have some clay surface that is natural under the lake.
9 And there is the potential to bring in clay from the
10 airstrip area to ensure that we get the drainage we
11 want.

12 MS. LAURA MALONE: Laura Malone, ENR.
13 Okay, thanks, Joel, for clarifying that. I just have
14 one (1) final question, and this one's on the
15 geochemistry criteria in the Quarry Management Plan.

16 So, in response to GNWT intervention
17 recommendation 16, CIRNAC stated that geochemical
18 criteria for defining PAG, or potentially acid
19 generating material, would be included in the Quarry
20 Management Plan.

21 CIRNAC's response did not address the
22 inclusion of a Bedrock Geochemistry Monitoring Plan
23 that GNWT had also recommended as part of this
24 recommendation.

25 Does CIRNAC plan to include a

1 description of the bedroom geochemistry monitoring in
2 the Quarry Management Plan, as well as the geochemical
3 criteria? Could -- could CIRNAC just clarify that for
4 us, please?

5 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
6 Breadmore, CIRNAC. I will also have to defer that to
7 AECOM. Masi.

8 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Joel, with
9 AECOM. I just want to say that this is not my area of
10 specialty. My one (1) comment is that this could
11 certainly be incorporated into the plan. I would have
12 to consult with our geochemist on that.

13 I'm afraid I can't say much more. It's
14 just an area of my expertise, but I certainly see it
15 as being something that could be included.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Mr. Chair,
20 Andrew Richardson, CIRNAC. I'll speak to it a little
21 bit further because I'm in the process of building the
22 plan at this time, the Quarry Management Plan.

23 We have for the last couple of years
24 completed -- AECOM has completed a great deal of
25 monitoring of the rock of the area to determine the --

1 whether it might generate acid.

2 And all of the data that we have to
3 date indicates that the rock is not likely to be acid
4 generating. We intend to include a monitoring plan
5 for the rock, but we don't anticipate it to be that
6 extensive at this time because the rock is fairly
7 homogenous in -- in type through the areas that we're
8 going to be blasting.

9 Most of the blast rock that we're going
10 to be obtaining is in the area where the -- where
11 we're going to be blasting out the creek and the --
12 and we're going to be getting a lot of the rock that
13 we're using from the area where we have to blast the -
14 - the Confined Disposal Facility.

15 We will be doing continued testing at
16 the -- during -- after the blasting, but the results
17 that we have to date show us that -- that it does not
18 appear to be a great problem.

19 We're not seeing the indications of --
20 of the type of rock that generate acid, so, therefore,
21 we won't be having an extensive program, but we will
22 be doing some sampling. That is our current -- the
23 current approach that we have intended within the
24 plan. Masi.

25 MS. LAURA MALONE: Laura Malone, with

1 GNWT. Yeah, thanks, Andrew. I just wanted to clarify
2 that that monitoring that you just described would be
3 included in the plan.

4 It was my sort of expectation that it
5 probably would be, but it wasn't specified in the
6 response, so I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you
7 very much. I don't think GNWT has any more questions
8 at this time.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you,
10 GNWT. We will take a five (5) minute breaks -- five
11 (5) minute break, not six (6), five (5), so we can
12 finish by 4:30.

13

14 --- Upon recessing at 3:23 p.m.

15 --- Upon resuming at 3:34 p.m.

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Let's get
18 back to the meeting. The Tlicho Government will be --
19 have questions for CIRNAC.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM THE TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 MS. VIOLET CAMSELL-BLONDIN: This is

1 Violet. I would like to ask the Elders in the hallway
2 to come back into the main building. We see many
3 seats are empty here. We have many others who have
4 accompany on this -- accompany us on this trip, and we
5 want them to be present -- present.

6

7 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions for
10 CIRNAC? Go ahead.

11 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi, Mr. Chairman.

12 (TLICHO LANGUAGE SPOKEN). Tlicho Government staff
13 team has a -- has some questions for CIRNAC today.

14 We'll -- we'll start right off by
15 saying that -- that the legacy of -- of Rayrock leaves
16 a long shadow across Tlicho land and -- and in the
17 hearts and minds of Tlicho people.

18 We have -- Tlicho Government has a very
19 positive relationship with -- with CIRNAC and greatly
20 appreciates the work that we have done together to
21 plan the clean-up in a good way that would allow
22 Tlicho people to use the area again.

23 The first question is about CIRNAC's
24 response to interventions. In the response, CIRNAC
25 makes many positive commitments about ways that the

1 federal government will support the Tlicho Government.
2 In our view, these commitments for support will
3 require significantly more financial support than --
4 than CIRNAC has provided in recent years.

5 So our question is: Is CIRNAC
6 committed to -- to covering all the -- the reasonable
7 costs for Tlicho Government related to all those
8 topics where commitments are made in the response to
9 interventions? Masi.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
14 Breadmore, CA. Thank you, Brett, for that question,
15 and, yeah, it's -- it's timely.

16 We -- we've had some recent
17 discussions with yourself and Violet around funding,
18 and we're just starting to get some plans together for
19 getting funding in place for this next coming year.

20 The funding that's available has been
21 increased from last year, recognizing the additional
22 workload associated with -- with our plans for this
23 year.

24 I think the short answer is that, where
25 proposals come in that are -- are linked to the

1 project, to -- to Rayrock, to the Kwetjjaa Project,
2 group of projects, we can seek funding for that.

3 And that does include things that are
4 kind of a little bit around the borders, say around
5 research, and we've had some good discussions already
6 with the Research Institute and the U of A -- or,
7 sorry, University of Toronto around winter roads and
8 climate change, for example. So that funding is
9 available. We are committed to providing that.

10 Currently, we are looking at getting
11 more enhanced, project-specific training in place for
12 Tlicho workers. Radiation protection is very
13 specialized training, HAZWOPER, very specialized
14 training.

15 And there's a lot of coordination
16 that's required to get that delivered in -- in a
17 timely way, so we are committed to sitting down as
18 soon as we can with the Tlicho technical team and
19 getting that training plan together, getting that work
20 plan together.

21 Yes, and there's field activities this
22 year again with input from the Tlicho on the
23 archeological assessments. There's Wildlife
24 Monitoring Plans that we have to get in place and
25 surveys to be conducted that all require Tlicho input

1 and participation, so that -- that will be funded this
2 year.

3 I guess a general comment on behalf of
4 our regional director general as he was reviewing our
5 work plan for this year, he's -- he's also identified
6 that we -- we could seek out additional grants and
7 contributions funding for -- for the Tlicho,
8 recognizing the importance of the Rayrock work that
9 we're doing.

10 So I guess the short answer is yes, we
11 are committed, and we will match our funding to your
12 proposal where it is linked to the project and we can
13 make a good -- good argument for that. Masi.

14 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi for that, Ron.
15 I'll go through some of the specific items in the
16 response to interventions now.

17 In the response to interventions to
18 number -- number 6, TG number 6, CIRNAC commits to
19 supporting the Tlicho Government to develop maps and
20 tools to help communicate risk posed by the sites.

21 We certainly appreciate that support
22 and -- and what to -- and the very positive response
23 that -- that you just gave.

24 We also know that, due to the legacy of
25 Rayrock, risk communication is a monumental task that

1 will require more than maps and tools. And we feel
2 strongly that, to be effective, Tlicho Government
3 needs to take the lead on risk communication approach
4 and design.

5 Is CIRNAC committed to providing the
6 financial and in-kind support to Tlicho Government for
7 development and implementation of a risk communication
8 program that would -- would be for, at a minimum,
9 during remediation and at least during the period of
10 short-term monitoring, let's say around five (5) years
11 after?

12 Our work will need to be conducted in
13 Tlicho, and to be managed and designed by -- by Tlicho
14 people. So the second part of the question is:

15 Can you confirm that you will also give
16 leadership on this work to Tlicho Government and --
17 and work as a support where requested? Masi.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, Brett. If you
19 can slow down next go-around.

20 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.
21 Ron Breadmore speaking. And I'm -- I'm glad it's not
22 just me, Brett. I'll slow down as well.

23 Yeah, we -- just a little bit of
24 history on that. We -- we've had some discussions
25 already with your team around risk communication.

1 CIRNAC has reached out to our partners at CNSC and the
2 Radiation Safety Institute of Canada. We're also
3 getting some contacts through other similar uranium
4 projects in Saskatchewan: Gunnar, Cluff Lake.

5 So those contacts are being made, and
6 we can continue to do that. And I believe we've had a
7 initial discussion already within your research group
8 around the -- the Radiation Safety Institute of
9 Canada. So I think those connections are being made.
10 Just a matter of getting a more formal work plan
11 together and talk more about timing.

12 As you've indicated, the risk
13 communication strategy or program, that was a
14 commitment that we made in the technical sessions back
15 in January. And we've got confirmation from both CNSC
16 and Health Canada that they are willing to participate
17 and work with us and your team to develop that
18 strategy.

19 It will be challenging. As you know,
20 radiation safety is not an easy -- is not an easy
21 subject, but they are the experts and we would want to
22 pull them in and put together a good strategy.

23 It will be important probably more so
24 during remediation when that risk is higher, but also
25 during closure and post-closure monitoring.

1 So, CIRNAC is committed to seeing that
2 through, to getting that strategy, risk communication
3 strategy, in place. And we'll build that with the
4 Tlicho in a way that works best for your -- your
5 people.

6 And an example, I think, a couple years
7 ago would be the -- the hazard signs that we helped
8 the Tlicho develop for the Sun Rose (phonetic) winter
9 road access point.

10 We have photos of that -- of that sign
11 in place on -- on the winter road just recently.
12 Bridget took that a few weeks ago, and I think the
13 sign is fantastic.

14 So, that's an example where we can work
15 together and get that message out. So, yeah, we're --
16 we're looking forward to doing more of that with the
17 Tlicho. Masi.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. It's Brett
22 Wheeler, Tlicho Government. So, you're -- just to
23 confirm, you're okay to -- to let Tlicho Government
24 lead on -- on this work and -- and provide the kinds
25 of support that you -- you talked about? Masi.

1 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
2 Breadmore, CIRNAC.

3 Yes, to answer that question, Brett,
4 CIRNAC is comfortable. And, again, I would draw from
5 the example of the work your team did with the
6 avoidance zone, the exclusion zone.

7 So, that was fantastic work and we --
8 we've supported that. And that would be one (1)
9 example where the Tlicho has led successfully and we
10 support that through our funding. So, yes, we will
11 continue to do that.

12 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi for that, Ron.
13 Brett Wheler, Tlicho Government.

14 Regarding site visits, just a quick
15 confirmation. This morning, I think you said CIRNAC
16 was in agreement to have at least two (2) site visits
17 per year during remediation.

18 I'm not a hundred percent clear of
19 whether you -- you just like the idea or -- or whether
20 CIRNAC is committed to doing that. So, I just wanted
21 to confirm that with you. Masi.

22 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
23 Breadmore, CIRNAC.

24 Committed, Brett, yes. And, again,
25 another example would be -- I forget the year, maybe

1 2017/'18, we did get out to site with a small group
2 from the Tlicho under freshet conditions.

3 And we thought that was a great -- a
4 great day. We were able to see the -- the Kwetjjaa
5 (phonetic) site just at the end of freshet, high water
6 levels, maximum flows. And we do see value in having
7 those types of visits.

8 So, almost a spring and fall frequency
9 would be something that we would consider reasonable.
10 Masi.

11 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Brett
12 Wheler, Tlicho Government. You spoke this morning
13 about involving Tlicho people and use in the field.

14 Is CIRNAC committed to prioritizing
15 Tlicho hires for field operations and camp roles? The
16 first question.

17 Second, for monitoring, we -- we really
18 need adequate time to prepare. Is CIRNAC committed to
19 -- to field planning with Tlicho Government, for
20 example, in winter and early spring, so that we can
21 plan, train, and prepare youth and Elders for
22 meaningful involvement in those monitoring activities?
23 Masi.

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
2 Breadmore, CIRNAC. Yes, this -- this issue, Brett,
3 has been a bit of a sore spot over the past couple of
4 years.

5 We have made attempts to -- to get that
6 -- that planning and coordination earlier on in the
7 field season, but despite best efforts, it hasn't
8 worked out that well to date.

9 And I think there is some, I guess, on
10 -- on both sides where improvements could be made.
11 So, I think everyone recognizes that.

12 As far as -- I mean, we've done this in
13 different ways over -- over past years, either through
14 contribution agreement and -- and job shadows.
15 Getting that -- those resources coordinated with our
16 contractors has not always been easy.

17 So, recently, it's been a little more
18 effective to have the contractor hire those people
19 directly and put the contractor in direct contact with
20 your HR department.

21 So, again, improvements could be made
22 there, but I -- I think I would like to ask Rebecca
23 Studer Halbach, from Public Works, if she might have
24 any additional thoughts on that and if you have any
25 thoughts on how we could improve that planning and

1 coordination for -- for this coming field season.

2 Rebecca...?

3 MS. REBECCA STUDER-HALBACH (by Zoom):

4 Thank you, Ron. Rebecca Studer-Halbach, from PSBC, on
5 behalf of the Project.

6 Yeah, Ron, I -- I think you have it
7 covered quite well. There definitely are areas where
8 I think we can improve.

9 Lately, we've been working quite
10 closely with the Tlicho Government in discussing how
11 we can maximize Tlicho employment opportunities,
12 training, skills development in all of the work that
13 we do on the site.

14 So, I -- I think it's important that
15 those conversations continue. We have had quite a bit
16 of success in the past. As you mentioned, Ron,
17 putting our consultant in direct contact with the
18 Federal government HR and so I think that has also
19 been quite successful. Masi.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. It's Brett
24 Wheeler, Tlicho Government. Looking at water quality
25 criteria, we need to be really confident that water

1 being discharged from the remediation work is -- is
2 clean and is meeting criteria.

3 We are confident that -- we are
4 confident in the Board and we -- we fully expect that
5 the Board will -- will make sure that happens with
6 ever -- with whatever water quality limits are set in
7 the licence, but we also want to have a detailed
8 understanding of -- of the water management and
9 monitoring system. And if those details are not
10 available now, we -- we need to be engaged on it in
11 the future.

12 Does CIRNAC know which chemicals will
13 be monitored realtime or field tested for discharge
14 from the water treatment plant?

15 And -- and can -- can you explain what
16 the -- the selected parameters are that will be inline
17 analyzed, which I think were talked about in the
18 CIRNAC response to IR number 3? Masi.

19 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
20 Breadmore, CIRNAC. I think we'll tackle this from two
21 (2) angles, Brett. First, I would like to have AECOM
22 speak to the design and the performance of the water
23 treatment plan -- plant and the -- and the discharge
24 monitoring. Joel...?

25 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Thanks,

1 Ron. Joel Nolin, AECOM. There are two (2) types of
2 monitoring that will occur from the water treatment
3 plant.

4 First, there will be online analysers
5 for a selected number of parameters. I can't recall
6 which they are. I think there are three (3), uranium
7 being the key one, copper I believe is the second and
8 I'm afraid the third escapes me. These are detailed
9 in our -- I believe in our IR response.

10 Secondly to that, there will be onsite
11 field testing, so, in essence, grabbing water samples
12 from the treatment plant regularly during the day
13 testing in them field. And then, thirdly, samples
14 will be collected from the water treatment plant and
15 sent to Yellowknife for third-party testing of the
16 water.

17 These treatment requirements, I'll have
18 to ask Andrew to identify exactly which plan but the
19 exact monitoring sampling testing that we will be
20 doing is documented and will be shared with Tlicho.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Brett
25 Wheler, Tlicho Government.

1 How will radionuclides, other than
2 uranium, be monitored? Masi.

3 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom):
4 Radionuclides in the -- Joel Nolin, AECOM.

5 Radionuclides in the Mill Lake water
6 right now are not the larger concern as compared to
7 uranium and copper but they will, I believe, be part
8 of the third party -- third party laboratory testing
9 program. Those samples will have to go to an offsite
10 lab for testing.

11 Again, the radionuclides in the Mill
12 Lake water are not of paramount concern. It is the
13 uranium and the copper.

14 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. It's Brett
15 Wheeler, Tlicho Government.

16 Has CIRNAC looked into whether the --
17 the long turnaround time in analyzing some of those
18 samples of uranium decay products, whether that time
19 can be reduced? Masi.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Joel Nolin,
24 AECOM. We have not looked into accelerating the time
25 right now, but that can be a conversation that can be

1 held within the laboratory.

2 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Mr. Chair, I -
3 - Andrew Richardson, with CIRNAC.

4 I can add to that somewhat, in that one
5 of the things that we will be monitoring is elemental
6 uranium. And the fact is that the radionuclide series
7 that are -- that can be measured reflect the
8 concentrations that you get when you measure the
9 radionuclides, they're also reflected in the
10 concentrations you measure when you measure uranium
11 itself.

12 So if you send it off for an elemental
13 analysis, the elemental analysis will tell you this is
14 how much uranium you have. The radionuclide analysis
15 tells you you have this much of this type of uranium,
16 this type of another type of uranium, and the fact is
17 that if you're -- if you have low amounts of all of
18 the uranium, you will never have amounts of the --
19 each of the portions of uranium that are very high.

20 For example, if you have one (1) ppm of
21 uranium in water, which is one (1) part per million,
22 it means you have one (1) gram of -- it would be one
23 (1) microgram of uranium for a million micrograms of
24 water, which is a lot of water. So it's not very
25 much.

1 The amount that is in the radionuclides
2 is a fraction of that because the radionuclides, when
3 added up, make up the elemental.

4 So, in other words, the -- if you have
5 the total number, you know that the radionuclides have
6 to be low. And the numbers that we are looking at for
7 -- for the concentrations that we will be allowing out
8 of the Mill Lake water treatment system are so low
9 there is no way that the radionuclides can be high.

10 So while it is -- while we will be
11 measuring the radionuclide, we know what the answer
12 will be. Because they have -- they are a fraction of
13 the total number, we know that they will have to be
14 low. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Brett
16 Wheler, Tlicho Government.

17 Can the water treatment system achieve
18 a lower uranium concentration than point-zero-one-five
19 (.015) milligrams per litre in treated water?

20 We asked this in relation to
21 Information Request Number 12 and a proposed EQC for
22 uranium, noting that that proposed water quality is --
23 is a much higher amount of uranium than the average
24 concentration in Sherman Lake.

25 And we want to clarify because from --

1 from at least some previous discussions with CIRNAC
2 and Kwetjjaa Elders' committee, we understood that
3 water discharged to Sherman Lake would generally be
4 the same quality or cleaner than Sherman Lake water.
5 Masi.

6 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Joel Nolin,
7 AECOM. I can't remember the exact number you quoted,
8 but the water treatment plant has been designed and
9 specified to be able to meet the target criteria.

10 So, again, I don't know what the number
11 was but it will be able to meet the criteria
12 specified.

13 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Mr. Chair,
14 Andrew Richardson, from CIRNAC.

15 Just to add to what Joel said, we have
16 committed to achieve CCME freshwater aquatic life or
17 what's already -- or what's in Sherman Lake.

18 Is that -- that -- I'm -- I just want
19 to verify that that's what you were saying.

20 The reason that this becomes important
21 is because for one (1) of the components that we will
22 be treating is copper. Copper is naturally quite high
23 in the rock around Rayrock. All of the lakes in the
24 area have concentrations of copper that are above the
25 CCME guidelines.

1 This happens on occasion when you --
2 especially in areas with -- with bedrock and it's
3 quite common in -- in lakes in the north that,
4 occasionally, some metals will be higher than the
5 guidelines that are available for all of Canada.
6 Because the area has, in its rock, these metals
7 naturally.

8 It's also true for aluminum and iron.
9 Aluminum and iron are also quite commonly high in all
10 the lakes in the Rayrock area.

11 The water treatment that we will do --
12 we have committed to ensure that we will be below the
13 CCME freshwater aquatic guidelines. These guidelines
14 are designed for all of Canada and are very
15 conservative, in that they are considered to be very
16 low and considered to be safe for all bodies of
17 freshwater in Canada.

18 Otherwise, for things like copper,
19 where the -- the concentrations are a little bit
20 higher, in those cases we are proposing that the EQCs
21 be the same as the -- or better than the lake -- the
22 Sherman Lake water where the water will be going.

23 In other words, we will not be treating
24 the water to be much, much better than the water we're
25 putting it into. We want it to be as good as the

1 water we're putting it into. Masi, Mr. Chair.

2 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Brett
3 Wheeler, Tlicho Government.

4 So just to make sure I understand, the
5 -- the concentration of uranium, as -- as far as we
6 know, in Sherman Lake is quite a bit less than the
7 CCME guideline. So, for -- for uranium you're
8 proposing to treat the water to CCME in that case.
9 So, the effluent will have quite a bit more uranium
10 than what's in Sherman Lake now but will meet the CCME
11 guidelines. Is that -- is that correct?

12 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman,
13 Andrew Richardson, CIRNAC.

14 That -- we are proposing the CCME as
15 the criteria when the water is treated. In a typical
16 water treatment system that is the maximum that you
17 can have and the water -- the uranium in the water
18 will be much less than that.

19 We fully anticipate that the water that
20 -- the water treatment will be to levels that are the
21 same as Sherman Lake. It's the only way to run the
22 water treatment system safely and to feel confident
23 when you're putting the water out that it is going to
24 always meet those guidelines.

25 But, it isn't reasonable for us to --

1 since CCME is established to be safe for any lake in
2 Canada, it isn't reasonable to set water quality goals
3 that are more strict than the CCME Freshwater Aquatic
4 Guidelines. So that is why in a typical situation
5 like this, you would never propose something that is -
6 - is safer than safe, if you will. Thank you, Mr.
7 Chair.

8 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi for that
9 clarification. I have more to say about it but it's
10 not really in the form of a question so we'll save
11 that for later.

12 The next couple of questions are about
13 the Confined Disposal Facility where the sediment from
14 Mill Lake will be stored. We know that that facility
15 is meant to be a permanent structure and -- and we
16 need to -- to understand and be confident in the
17 management of that facility, including long-term
18 management and maintenance.

19 Can you please explain CIRNAC's short-
20 and long-term plan for monitoring that -- that
21 disposal facility? And -- for example, how will long-
22 term monitoring and maintenance be addressed in the
23 facility's management plan or -- or -- a similar --
24 similar plan?

25 And who will provide oversight of this

1 plan? Perhaps the Land and Water Board initially?
2 Perhaps CNSC over the long-term? If you could share
3 at least what you know about -- about that we'd
4 appreciate it. Masi.

5 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
6 Breadmore, CA. I'll take a first shot at this and
7 then I'll hand it over AECOM. And these, again, are
8 very good questions.

9 So, we are looking at initially --
10 obviously as -- as Brett mentioned, we have a short-
11 term and a long-term vision for the CDF. It's going
12 to be critical piece of infrastructure on the -- on
13 the Rayrock site that will require strict vigilance
14 and monitoring.

15 In the long term, that monitoring and
16 maintenance would be captured under our Operations
17 Maintenance Surveillance Plan; that would be likely
18 outside of the -- the water licence process, perhaps
19 overseen by CNFC.

20 But in the short-term, we've already
21 built some of our monitoring considerations into the -
22 - the design. We work through a failure modes and
23 effects analysis with -- with AECOM as lead and -- and
24 had Tlicho involved in that. And we -- we've talked
25 about a lot of these various risks and mitigations in

1 the design. So, maybe with that, I'll turn it over to
2 Joel at AECOM.

3 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Thank you
4 Ron, Mr. Chairman. Joel Nolin, AECOM.

5 Requirements for monitoring are going
6 to occur in a few different places with the cell and
7 as Ron mentioned, the cell will be monitored both
8 short-term and long-term. And the long-term
9 monitoring requirements might change based on the
10 outcomes of the short-term monitoring.

11 The three (3) things that come to mine
12 immediately with respect to monitoring the cell are,
13 Number 1, being settlement and by "settlement" I mean
14 the -- the cell changing shape a little bit as time
15 goes on. This is a possibility with the CDF in
16 particular because of the type of sediment.

17 In the slides earlier today, you may
18 recall a photo I showed of the sediment. It kind of
19 looked like a peat, it's organic. And that's a
20 little bit different than sediments we normally
21 manage, which are more like sands, and gravels, and --
22 and clays.

23 This is one (1) of the reasons we are
24 leaving the cell open for a year is to settle and
25 dewater and compress. Once we put waste rock on top

1 and we put the cover on, it's possible that this cell
2 will still continue to settle for a few years after
3 construction.

4 One (1) of the things that we will be
5 doing is placing a pile of rock near the cell so that
6 if monitoring shows settlement, we can add rock to the
7 cell and help the water to drain off properly. So,
8 settlement is one type of monitoring. And that could
9 be easily handled by standard survey practices.

10 Second type of monitoring that we will
11 do, is there will be three (3) plastic pipes that go
12 into the cell that will allow us to monitor water
13 levels within the cell.

14 Our intention is not to cover the cell
15 until it is dry as possible but there will always be a
16 little bit of water in that sediment despite our best
17 efforts. These three (3) pipes will allow us to both
18 monitor the water that's in the sediment -- or in the
19 cell but they will also allow us to remove the water
20 if it's necessary.

21 The third type of monitoring that will
22 be in place is gas. Because these sediments are
23 organic, they might -- they will decay overtime. And
24 when organic matter decays, it will give off gas and
25 that will contribute to -- somewhat to sediment as

1 well. The cell is designed with vents placed on top
2 so that the gases can come out of the cell. And that
3 would -- monitoring of those gases will be part of the
4 program.

5 The fourth type of monitoring that will
6 come up as well is just visual inspection around the
7 cell to identify potential points of leakage and I'll
8 leave it at that, Mr. Chairman.

9 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Brett
10 Wheeler, Tlicho Government. It's very helpful to -- to
11 understand those -- all those types of -- of
12 monitoring.

13 One (1) other area of monitoring is --
14 that we're interested in is water around that -- that
15 may be around or running off of the facility.

16 After construction is completed, how
17 will CIRNAC monitor the disposal facility and the
18 surrounding area to confirm that -- that water is not
19 interacting with the sediments and that seepage is --
20 is not occurring; or if it happens, that the seepage
21 is not contaminated?

22 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Mr.
23 Chairman, Joel Nolin, with AECOM.

24 I think, to answer your question, if I
25 understand, there are two (2) pieces: One (1) is

1 monitoring surface water and the other is infiltration
2 into the cell. So first I'll address surface water.

3 The cell will be shaped if -- if you
4 think of a tent or crown and the water will run to the
5 sides, and it will actually drain to Sherman Lake.

6 On the photo that's shown, you can see
7 a ditch sort of in front of the CDF and water will be
8 running from the top of the CDF for the most part,
9 into that ditch and into the Mill Lake.

10 During inspections of the facility,
11 part of the inspections will be to look at the
12 drainage paths and see how effective they are and if
13 there is sediment that is compromising the drainage
14 and if so, it can be fixed relatively easy onsite.

15 The second question -- or the second
16 part of the question was in relation to monitoring of
17 leakage into the cell. And I understand that to be,
18 let's say, there's a failure of the cover and
19 rainwater and snow melt is getting into the cell.

20 A moment ago I had mentioned that we
21 will have three (3) pipes going into the cell. The
22 cell will drain to the left or towards Mill Lake, and
23 the cell has a low spot in the bottom, and that's
24 where these pipes will connect to.

25 So, by monitoring the water levels in

1 these pipes, we will be able to see if the water
2 levels are going up in the cell. And if monitoring
3 does identify that to be occurring, repairs can be
4 undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. It's Brett
9 Wheeler, Tlicho Government. The Tlicho Government and
10 Tlicho people need to know that the remediation work
11 will last and will continue to perform in the long
12 term.

13 We have asked for engineering design to
14 be based on a one thousand (1,000) year outlook. We
15 know that in -- in past Land and Water Board decisions
16 the Board has recognized the limitations of climate
17 modelling beyond one hundred (100) years, which CIRNAC
18 also mentioned in its response to interventions.

19 But the Board has also said in past
20 decisions that engineering designs should be based on
21 the purpose of the structure that's being designed.
22 So, we ask: Is the disposal facility being designed
23 based on a one thousand (1,000) year engineering
24 design life considerations?

25 And, more generally, can CIRNAC please

1 describe how you have applied appropriate engineering
2 judgment to the design of the facility? Masi.

3 MR. RON BREADMORE: Masi, Mr. Chair.
4 Ron Breadmore, CIRNAC.

5 This is a big issue, so thank you,
6 Brett, for raising it. I'll start by saying that we
7 work through this process as part of our -- the FMEA
8 with the Tlicho led by AECOM.

9 But it's important for the Board to
10 know, as well, that, as part of that process, CIRNAC
11 tied in the -- our independent peer review panel out
12 of -- you know, led out of Ottawa, but including
13 members with decades of experience around geotechnical
14 stability and design, leaders in the industry, if you
15 will, this IPRP.

16 And I know that Tlicho values their
17 input as much as we do. So, it underwent a very
18 robust review as part of that MFEA PROCESS.

19 And I'll just maybe ask Joel to clarify
20 where we landed on that and -- and how the CDF fits
21 into that -- that lifespan analysis. Masi.

22 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Thank you,
23 Ron. Mr. Chairman, Joel Nolin, AECOM.

24 The -- the peer review and failure
25 modes analyses were very important parts of the

1 project design. The project design evolved a lot over
2 the last year and especially in the last six (6)
3 months.

4 Some of you may remember original plans
5 and as placed in the RAP that the cell would go within
6 the lake. And the intent was to minimize the
7 aesthetic impact of the cell.

8 Through engineering processes and the
9 input from the IPRP and others, including ourselves,
10 it was determined that placing the cell in the lake
11 carried too much engineering design risk, physical
12 stability risk, the clays were soft and, thus, we
13 moved the structure outside of the lake and on to
14 bedrock. This provides greater stability and greater
15 predictability over the long term.

16 With respect to designing for a
17 thousand years, it's very difficult to do that. We
18 would like to but the cost to do so would be
19 absolutely prohibitive because a thousand (1000) year
20 outlook from an engineering standpoint is very, very
21 difficult if -- probably impossible.

22 The cell design follows standard
23 engineering principles and considers a life more
24 likely of around one hundred (100) years, but what
25 will happen to be -- monitoring over the long term is

1 CIRNAC will need to manage this site over the long
2 term in perpetuity as part of their waste nuclear
3 substances licence.

4 Regular and ongoing monitoring of the
5 site will include monitoring of the CDF. If failure
6 modes are identified or if concerns are identified
7 during monitoring, they will be repaired.

8 With respect to climate change over a
9 thousand years, or a hundred years, again, difficult.
10 Our hydrologist, for those who consider precipitation,
11 rainfall, and water movement on the ground, consulted
12 with experts within our firm, as well as with
13 Environment and Climate Change Canada to come up with
14 the modelling of precipitation around the site.

15 For the most part, climate change
16 modelling really only affects drainage within Mill
17 Lake. And that will be revisited again once we know
18 what the bottom looks like. But with the cell now
19 constructed on solid bedrock, that provides must
20 greater stability over the long term.

21 So, again, we build it to meet
22 standards of the day looking to the future for a
23 robust facility, but nothing is a given and the long-
24 term monitoring provides the opportunity to identify
25 if something was changing for corrective actions to be

1 undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3

(BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Brett
6 Wheeler, Tlicho Government. Over to Mill Lake
7 revegetation.

8

CIRNAC is proposing to cover the dry --
9 the dry lake bed of Mill Lake with grasses and shrubs.
10 The Elders have told us how important vegetation
11 studies are and how important vegetation is for a
12 healthy future environment.

13

Can CIRNAC commit to having a
14 vegetation workout session with the Tlicho Government
15 to verify the list of vegetation species, what types
16 of plants and grasses will be planted in Mill Lake and
17 around the site in general? Masi.

18

MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
19 Breadmore, CA. Yeah, since we last engaged the KEC in
20 February, there has been, obviously, advancement
21 within the design itself.

22

We're at 90 percent and approaching 95.
23 At the 90 percent phase we -- we saw room for
24 improvements around the -- the revegetation approaches
25 for Mill Lake; that has been flagged.

1 There's been information shared from
2 the Kwetjjaa (phonetic) story map with respect to the
3 KEC's seed inventory that's been developed over the
4 last couple of years. So, that now is being used as
5 an input into the design to make that more appropriate
6 for site-specific conditions.

7 As Joel noted earlier, only species
8 that are Indigenous to the Rayrock site would be used.
9 But the question, I think, remains: Are those species
10 appropriate for the Mill Lake basin? We don't yet
11 know how the Mill Lake basin is going to perform in
12 the long term, how it's going to flow.

13 And Bridget from our team here might
14 have some additional information to add to that, but
15 first I'll turn it over to Joel, and just maybe you
16 can update us, Joel, where you are with the -- that
17 re-vegetation information from the KEC.

18 MR. JOEL NOLIN (by Zoom): Thanks, Mr.
19 Chair and Ron. We have a preliminary list of seed
20 species. I would call this a placeholder for now.

21 The project team has always recognized
22 that it needs to engage with the Tlicho to confirm and
23 identify species based on traditional ecological
24 knowledge and site-specific knowledge to the site, so
25 that is a gap.

1 I really like the idea personally of a
2 workout session. I think that would be fantastic for
3 the project and would benefit the project. Thank you.

4 MR. RON BREADMORE: My Chair, Ron
5 Breadmore, CIRNAC.

6 And just further to Joel's comments on
7 that, we are working to fill that gap, and at the 95
8 percent check-in that we are planning over the next
9 couple of weeks to have with the Tlicho, I think we'll
10 have that deeper dive into that -- that type of
11 information.

12 And then Bridget I think wanted to add
13 a few thoughts on -- on the re-vegetation of the
14 basin.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MS. BRIDGET RUSK: I'm Bridget Rusk,
19 with CIRNAC.

20 I just wanted to echo what Ron and what
21 Joel have said in regards to selecting the appropriate
22 vegetation for the basin. That not only ensures that
23 it is a successful re-vegetation following the
24 project, but also that it is a successful re-
25 vegetation that meets vegetation that the Tlicho would

1 like to see in the area. Thank you.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
6 Breadmore, CIRNAC. So just back to the commitment,
7 Brett, to confirm.

8 I think the -- it would hit the first -
9 - hit the ground first at the 95 percent stage, and
10 from there we could maybe talk about additional
11 technical meetings to have that -- to -- to flesh out
12 the re-vegetation in more detail. So I -- I think
13 that's where the commitment would start at that 95
14 percent design check-in.

15 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. It's Brett
16 Wheeler, Tlicho Government.

17 Talking about the Human Health Risk
18 Assessment now, the Tlicho Government do not fully
19 accept the findings of the Rayrock Human Health and
20 Environment Risk Assessment and believe that some
21 aspects of risk to humans and the environment has been
22 under -- underestimated.

23 In order to document the improvements
24 to site following remediation and long-term changes to
25 site in the future, Tlicho Government is asking for

1 CIRNAC to commit to updating the risk assessment
2 following remediation, and after that on a -- a future
3 schedule that can be set in -- in collaboration with
4 radiation safety experts, Tlicho Government, and
5 Tlicho Elders, and with full involvement of Tlicho
6 Government and Tlicho Elders. Masi.

7

8

(BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
11 Breadmore, CA.

12 In our IR responses, we took the
13 position that we -- we stand by the -- the Human
14 Health and Ecological Risk Assessments as -- as they
15 stand. They were conducted, completed by a qualified
16 risk assessor, many years experience in the uranium
17 mining field.

18 The -- the drafts of the risk
19 assessments were then -- underwent a robust peer
20 review process, including all of the expert support
21 departments from the federal government, as well as
22 the IPRP. That risk assessor has experience on the
23 Giant Mine project.

24 So we feel very confident in the risk
25 assessments as -- as it stands. We understand and

1 we've heard the concerns from the Tlicho, but we do
2 stand by the -- the risk assessment and the process
3 that we -- we underwent.

4 I'm not sure, Rebecca, if Harriet is
5 still online, if she would be available to comment
6 further.

7 MS. REBECCA STUDER HALBACH (by Zoom):
8 Hi, Ron. Rebecca Studer-Halbach, PSPC.

9 Harriet, would you mind fielding that
10 question?

11 MS. HARRIET PHILLIPS (by Zoom): Yes.
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Harriet Phillips, CanNorth.
13 Yes, we stand by what we've done in the Risk
14 Assessment.

15 The Risk Assessment looked at actually
16 conservative estimates of risk associated with the
17 Rayrock site.

18 As Ron mentioned, it has also been
19 reviewed by the CNSC and Health Canada, departments
20 that were very involved in what was done. We also
21 have presented the information to the community on
22 several occasions, the Risk Assessment.

23 Actually, after we did the first
24 version of the Risk Assessment, we went to Wekweeti
25 and presented the results, and based on feedback from

1 what we got, we went out and we did additional
2 sampling at the site to address some of the issues
3 around vegetation, berries collected at the site, and
4 small mammals.

5 And we took that into account, and we
6 then redid the Risk Assessment and then also had
7 additional work done in terms of gamma radiation and -
8 - and radon at the site.

9 So we stand by what we did. We think
10 it's a very conservative assessment, and we do not
11 believe that there are risks to human health
12 associated with the Rayrock site. Thank you. Masi.

13 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Brett
14 Wheeler, Tlicho Government. Just to be clear, I was
15 not asking for additional work to be done at this time
16 on the Human Health Risk Assessment.

17 My question was: Will CIRNAC commit to
18 updating the Risk Assessment following remediation,
19 with hopes of showing a reduction in risk following
20 remediation, and to looking at a future schedule for
21 updating the Human Health Risk Assessment together
22 with the Tlicho Government? Masi.

23 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
24 Breadmore, CIRNAC. Apologies, Brett, for not
25 understanding your initial question, but I will have

1 to get back to you on that commitment. That process
2 is not that familiar to me. I see merit in post-
3 remediation risk assessment checks.

4 We could have a pre and post, but, as I
5 say, I'm not that familiar with that -- that process.
6 It hasn't been applied on my other projects that I've
7 been involved with, but I'm not sure, Andrew, if
8 you've got anything to add to that with your risk
9 assessment experience.

10 MR. ANDREW RICHARDSON: Mr. Chair,
11 Andrew Richardson, CIRNAC.

12 It -- it would be very -- it would be
13 highly unusual to do a post-remediation risk
14 assessment simply because the risk assessment
15 identifies the problems that you have at the site and
16 -- and the harm that might be -- that -- that those
17 areas might represent to humans and the environment
18 and the ecological components that use that
19 environment.

20 Once you determine that these -- that
21 those particular areas do represent a risk, the
22 remediation is then planned to do something about that
23 risk. So by going through the remedial action, in this
24 case, taking all the sediments out of the lake,
25 burying them, not allowing the lake to re-form, it

1 means that the risk from the water from Mill Lake will
2 be removed because we're going to treat all of the
3 water and remove it from that area.

4 The risk from the sediments is removed
5 because they're going to be buried. They're not going
6 to be accessible to animals or humans ever again.

7 So to then do a risk assessment of
8 that, the answer is -- is -- it becomes quite obvious
9 because the risk -- you're actually taking something
10 that you're shown in its -- in the natural environment
11 to represent a risk, and then, you're removing it
12 completely, which is the absolute best scenario that
13 you could have under remedial conditions.

14 For that reason, it is not typical to
15 go and do post-remediation risk assessments, unless
16 you're doing -- unless natural attenuation or some
17 other form of long-term just leave it alone type of
18 monitoring is associated with it. In those cases,
19 then it is common.

20 But when physical remediation is
21 occurring, such as we are proposing for this
22 particular project, it is not common.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. It's Brett
25 Wheeler, Tlicho Government.

1 We're -- we're asking about this
2 because the -- the contamination is -- is not, in our
3 view, being removed completely.

4 The contamination is -- is staying on
5 site. It's being moved around. And we certainly hope
6 -- and to a large, large, large part agree with the
7 plans that -- that CIRNAC has to contain -- for
8 example, contain the sediment in -- in Mill Lake.

9 But we know that the cleanup will not
10 be complete. That there will be -- material will
11 still be on site. They will be contained. And that,
12 as we just heard about the importance of monitoring
13 and maintenance of a Confined Disposal Facility, that
14 the site will never be a static site. The -- the
15 environment will still be at work and the risks on
16 site could -- could evolve in -- in the long term.

17 That's why we're asking. And the other
18 reason we're asking is that, if it is, in fact, simple
19 to -- to demonstrate the change in risk, then -- then
20 that should -- that should, in a way, make it -- make
21 it easier and -- and more possible to do.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MR. BRETT WHEELER: I'm not -- I'm sure

1 we're going to get further on it today, but I'll pause
2 for a moment in case you -- you want to respond at all
3 to the clarification. Masi.

4 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
5 Breadmore, CIRNAC.

6 I've just received a short note from
7 our subject matter expert that these types of risk
8 assessments are not -- not generally done post-
9 remediation.

10 We do understand the concerns. We are
11 managing these residual risks on site. CIRNAC would
12 like to think that our post-closure monitoring and
13 action levels and triggers would be the -- I guess,
14 the comfort that the Tlicho would be seeking. Of
15 course, we understand that we'll be bound to that
16 monitoring in perpetuity, perhaps, by our Waste
17 Nuclear Substance Licence with -- with CNSC.

18 As we develop those monitoring plans,
19 we recognize how critical it is to have the Tlicho
20 involved with the development of those plans and have
21 that input. So I do believe there's -- there's that
22 opportunity for Tlicho participation and KEC to have
23 that input in the development of -- of those
24 monitoring plans.

25 So, yeah, I think that's where we'll

1 leave it for today. If we do have any other
2 information that we can draw on or come back to you
3 with, we will follow up at a later time. Masi.

4 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. It's Brett
5 Wheler, Tlicho Government.

6 There -- I think there may be a way to
7 -- to get at the substance of that through monitoring
8 planning and risk communication program.

9 Next question is about the tailings
10 areas. In the response to Interventions Number TG/11,
11 CIRNAC states that -- that cleanup of the tailings
12 water bodies would destroy the current aquatic
13 ecosystem.

14 We understand CIRNAC's perspective, but
15 we feel strongly that the decision of whether it is
16 worth it to destroy the current aquatic environment to
17 remediate the tailings water bodies is a values-based
18 decision that's best left to the Tlicho people and the
19 Tlicho Government.

20 These areas are undeniably affected by
21 the historic mining operation. They're in the heart
22 of Tlicho traditional territory. And all this has had
23 a major impact on Tlicho people's ability to travel,
24 camp, harvest, practice culture, and generally use the
25 Rayrock area.

1 Tlicho Government has serious concerns
2 about CIRNAC's plan to leave Gamma Lake and Beta Lake
3 the way they are; not remediated.

4 Leaving them this way could jeopardize
5 the remediation goal of giving Tlicho people
6 confidence to use the area again, and shrinking the
7 avoidance zone.

8 We don't know exactly what approach to
9 use to do this cleanup work because discussion and --
10 and information sharing about the options for these
11 water bodies only started a couple weeks ago.

12 You have shared an options analysis
13 with Tlicho Government. Masi for doing that. We ask
14 now if you can submit that options analysis either in
15 draft or -- or some other form as a public hearing
16 undertaking for the Land and Water Board record.
17 Masi.

18 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
19 Breadmore, CIRNAC.

20 I guess, just to close off Brett's
21 previous question about the post-closure risk
22 assessment, we just received a note from CNSC that
23 that will be a requirement of our post-closure plan
24 under our Waste Nuclear Substance Licence -- is to
25 have a risk assessment conducted so there will be an

1 opportunity to have input at that time.

2 With respect to Beta, Gamma, yes, we've
3 had a lot of discussions over -- over these tailings
4 lakes since February. It took a long time to, I
5 guess, convey the Tlicho concerns in, I guess, a
6 legible manner, a meaningful manner, to AECOM for
7 their consideration.

8 They put a lot of effort into that
9 remedial options memo that you've seen. But as you've
10 noted, it -- it is in draft form.

11 And, I guess, I can say, on behalf of
12 CIRNAC, if -- if the Tlicho and the Board are -- are
13 okay with the memo as -- as it sits now with -- you
14 know, it's in draft form, then CIRNAC has no concern
15 submitting that as a, you know, post-hearing
16 undertaking. Masi.

17 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Thanks, Ron. Ryan
18 Fequet here, from the WLWB. So Board staff will
19 record that as Undertaking 1 from CIRNAC.

20

21 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 1: CIRNAC to provide the
22 remedial options analysis for Beta
23 and Gamma lakes as a public hearing
24 undertaking for the WLWB record.

25

1 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi for that.

2 It's Brett Wheeler, Tlicho Government.

3 Is CIRNAC committed to working with the
4 Tlicho government and the Kwetjjaa Elder's committee
5 to better understand the options, the costs and
6 benefits, and to make a serious effort to come
7 agreement on improvements for Gamma and Beta? Masi.

8 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
9 Breadmore, CA.

10 In my opening statement earlier today,
11 we hope we had highlighted the -- I think the
12 relationship we have with the Tlicho over the last ten
13 (10) plus years on -- on Kwetjjaa. I -- I believe the
14 commitment is -- is demonstrated there with the
15 efforts that we have to date.

16 What I would like to highlight is that
17 in -- in 2015, CIRNAC identified Mill Lake as -- as a
18 risk to human health and the environment, and we
19 pursued project approval and funding on that basis
20 after consultation with -- with the Tlicho.

21 We made a finding, we identified a
22 risk, and we reported back. We, you know at that
23 time, we -- we had extensive discussions and workouts,
24 and exchanged western science and engineering, and
25 traditional knowledge and came up with a risk based

1 common sense approach for -- for Mill Lake. An
2 approach that met the needs and values of the Tlicho
3 and we were able to secure project funding and
4 approvals based on that input.

5 We feel that we're at a similar -- a --
6 a point right now with Beta, Gamma. We are fully
7 committed to continuing to work in closely with the
8 Tlicho to come up with a solution for Beta, Gamma. We
9 first need to get a -- a better understanding of the
10 issues at hand. We need to work through a cost
11 benefit analysis. Look at all our potential remedial
12 options and how the work can be done cost effectively
13 and without doing any harm to the environment.

14 So, it's -- it's a remedial options
15 process outside of our existing plan and -- and scope
16 of our work right now. But we recognize this is a
17 area of concern for the Tlicho. We are committed to
18 working forward with -- moving forward with the Tlicho
19 in coming up with an agreement on Beta, Gamma.

20 CIRNAC is committed to doing everything
21 it can to implement the agreed upon improvements once
22 we -- we reach that stage. When we have our preferred
23 options set with the Tlicho, we can then seek approval
24 and funding to carry out this work.

25 From there, we can then proceed with

1 obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals we will
2 need to carry out this additional work for the
3 improvements at Beta, Gamma. Masi, Mr. Chair.

4 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi, for that,
5 Ron. It's Brett Wheeler, Tlicho government.

6 Thinking back for a second to the human
7 health risk assessment, does CIRNAC recognize and
8 agree that that risk assessment is not the only
9 relevant perspective and should not be the only tool
10 for deciding which areas to remediate, and the extent
11 of remediation work that is warranted? Masi.

12 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
13 Breadmore, CIRNAC.

14 Yes, we do recognize that our formal
15 risk assessment process is not the only lens to view
16 these concerns through. We have many examples on past
17 projects where we have worked with both the risk
18 assessment process, as well -- as well as hearing
19 concerns from the Tlicho Elders. Wildlife movement
20 and the caribou movement around the Colomac site is
21 one example where -- where that concern was heard and
22 addressed outside of the risk assessment process.

23 So, we're in the middle of -- of
24 working through that right now with Beta, Gamma. And
25 -- and the discussions are still pretty fresh. As I

1 say, it was raised formally by the Tlicho in February
2 and we -- we thank them for that.

3 Aspect of those -- of those water
4 bodies were already captured, we feel, within our
5 application around, you know, some of the tailings
6 management work that we had lined up. But not to the
7 same detail. So, it is -- it is out of scope. But,
8 as I say, there's a separate process for -- for
9 dealing with this and we will start that -- I think
10 that process formally at our 95 percent check in.

11 We don't have a date yet. We were
12 suggesting sometime around mid May after the hearings
13 here. And it might be that we have that meeting first
14 with your Tlicho technical team. Kind of come up with
15 a rough set a -- of remedial options that might be
16 suitable for the Tlicho and the Kwetjjaa Elder's
17 Committee. And then maybe turn that over to the
18 Tlicho technical team at that time to then reach out
19 to KEC and ask, you know, for their feedback on -- on
20 what they think of these options.

21 So, we would again like to highlight
22 that Mill Lake is different than Beta Lake, and Beta
23 Lake is different than Gamma Lake. They are different
24 water bodies and the remediation or the improvements
25 for each one is going to be different. No lake sits

1 in a -- in a really tight bowl of bedrock. It's very
2 easy to drain and -- and attack the sediments.

3 Beta and Gamma sit almost at the same
4 water level as Sherman Lake and in fairly close
5 proximity. And we need to be very careful and
6 cautious as we look at options for dealing with those
7 impacts in Beta, Gamma that we don't create more harm
8 to the environment in trying to address those
9 concerns.

10 So, again, we're very early in the
11 stages of those discussions with the Tlicho team and
12 they -- they need to be advanced. So, it'll start at
13 95 percent and it will be a series of meetings after
14 that to get us to 100 percent and to get as much of
15 that work scoped into the design for the remediation
16 contract as we can.

17 And I guess on that note, I would like
18 maybe to hand that over to Rebecca. If you want to
19 have any comments on that, Rebecca, and how you see
20 that fitting into our design process.

21 MS. REBECCA STUDER-HALBACH (by Zoom):
22 Thank you, Ron. Rebecca Studer-Halbach, PSPC.

23 Ron, I -- I think you have it captured
24 quite nicely. As you mentioned, you know, there --
25 there are additional discussions that we need to have

1 so we can sort of flush out these remedial options
2 with the Tlicho government. I don't have anything
3 specific to add. Thank you.

4 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi. Recognize
5 it's been a long day and everyone's getting tired.
6 I'll skip ahead to the last question from the Tlicho's
7 government staff and consultant team.

8 The Tlicho government is still learning
9 about the CNSC oversight for Rayrock mine and we need
10 to understand this better.

11 Can CIRNAC and CNSC commit to sharing
12 all regulatory documents with Tlicho government from
13 that process? For example, CNSC inspection reports,
14 CIRNAC reports to CNSC, a radiation protection plan
15 that was mentioned earlier, and -- and other CNSC
16 instructions to CIRNAC, including, upon Tlicho
17 government request, past documents?

18 And also, if it's okay, I'd like to ask
19 CNSC if they can confirm a commitment that they made
20 at the technical session, that they're willing to work
21 with the Tlicho government on joint monitoring and --
22 and site visits? Masi.

23 MR. RON BREADMORE: Mr. Chair, Ron
24 Breadmore, CIRNAC.

25 Yeah, I -- I don't have a quick answer

1 to that right now, Brett. I'm not sure if CNSC is
2 still on -- still online, but their process is
3 slightly different than Land and Water Board. They
4 don't have a public registry, I think you understand
5 that.

6 I -- I don't see any -- any concerns
7 with sharing as much of our -- of that information as
8 we can. I mean, we are the licensee and I -- I think
9 we do have some latitude and ability to move
10 information around. I don't have any concerns with
11 that.

12 But if Dana is still on, she might be
13 able to provide some clarity on how that process
14 typically rolls under licences. Dana...?

15 MS. DANA PANDOLFI: Masi. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair, Dana Pandolfi from the Canadian Nuclear
17 Safety Commission.

18 So, we can provide inspection reports
19 upon request and other information but, as Ron
20 indicated, it would have to be in agreement with the
21 licensee.

22 As for the commitment to do monitoring
23 and to come on site visits, so long as it -- it -- it
24 isn't causing any risk to people attending the -- the
25 site visit, then the CNSC has no -- no issue with

1 that. Masi, thank you.

2 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Masi, Mr. Chair,
3 and masi for all the answers, CIRNAC team. Tlicho
4 government has no further questions at this time.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, I want to
6 thank CIRNAC for their presentation and Tlicho
7 government for their intervention.

8 MR. RYAN FEQUET: Ryan Fequet here,
9 with the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.

10 So, just noting the adjustment in the
11 agenda for tomorrow morning. So, we will continue
12 with questioning for CIRNAC on its -- its presentation
13 first thing in the morning before we move into the
14 presentation from the Tlicho Government.

15 So, a reminder that the -- the public
16 hearing will be live as early as 8:30 Mountain
17 Standard Time. So, anyone joining virtually or
18 needing help or screening and signing in for the
19 hearing to please come between 8:30 and 9:00 and the
20 hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: We'll reconvene
22 tomorrow morning, 8:30. Thank you.

23

24 --- Upon adjourning at 5:00 p.m.

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Certified Correct,

Wendy Woodworth, Ms.

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