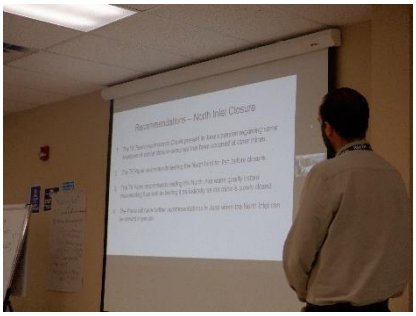
DDMI Traditional Knowledge Panel Session 14 Processed Kimberlite Containment, North Inlet, and Closure Criteria



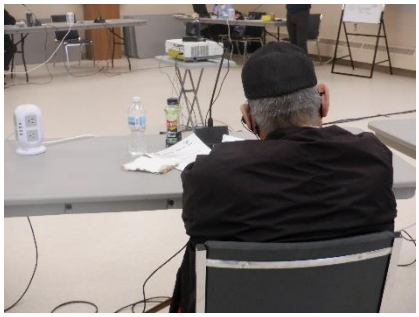


Photo Credit: Det'on Cho Environmental

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June 2, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2011, the Traditional Knowledge (TK) Panel has guided Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc. (DDMI) to consider Traditional Knowledge appropriately and meaningfully in operations, environmental management, and monitoring as well as closure planning at the Diavik Diamond Mine Site. The TK Panel consists of Elders and youth from Diavik's five Participation Agreement communities.

The TK Panel gathers at least once a year to discuss issues and concerns so Diavik can be made aware of their input and ensure that it is considered in project operations and closure activities. There have been 14 TK Panel sessions held. The most recent was from April 20th to 22nd, 2022 at the Tree of Peace Friendship Center in Yellowknife.

The purpose of this session was to explore the current closure plan for the PKC area and the North Inlet and what TK-based monitoring during and after closure could look like. This session had various goals related to the Mine's closure. These goals guided the preparation of the workshop agenda and included:

- Presenting the plan for closure of the Processed Kimberlite Containment area
- Presenting the plan for closure of the North Inlet
- Discussing a TK Monitoring Program at Diavik, post-closure.
- Receiving TK Panel feedback and recommendations on the session key themes.

This report summarizes the events of the 14th TK Panel session and outlines the recommendations put forth by the Panel regarding the closure of Diavik. The recommendations presented in this report are the same recommendations presented by the Panel participants to DDMI on the final day of the TK Panel Session. To contextualize the recommendations, they are presented in this report with a description of the rationale. This approach allows for DDMI to better address the recommendation, improve recommendation implementation tracking, and allow future participants to understand the nature of past recommendations.

This Executive Summary is not intended to be a stand-alone document, but a summary of the following Report. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the scope of services and limitations described therein.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES (WITHIN TEXT)

LIST OF FIGURES (WITHIN TEXT)

LIST OF APPENDICES

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
DCE	Det'on Cho Environmental
DDMI	Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc.
KIA	Kitikmeot Inuit Association
LKDFN	Łutselk'e Dene First Nation
Mine	Diavik Diamond Mine
NSMA	North Slave Métis Alliance
PA	Participation Agreement
PKC	Processed Kimberlite Containment
TK	Traditional Knowledge
YKDFN	Yellowknives Dene First Nation

1.0 BACKGROUND

Since 2011, the Traditional Knowledge (TK) Panel has guided Diavik Diamond Mines (2012) Inc. (DDMI) to consider Traditional Knowledge appropriately and meaningfully in operations, environmental management, and monitoring as well as closure planning at the Diavik Diamond Mine Site (Mine). The TK Panel consists of Elders and youth from Diavik's five Impact Benefit Communities. One male Elder, one female Elder, and one youth are selected by each of Diavik's five First Nations stakeholder groups:

- Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)
- Łutselk'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN)
- North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA)
- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN).

The TK Panel gathers at least once a year to discuss issues and concerns so Diavik can be made aware of their input and ensure that it is considered in project operations and closure activities. There have been 14 TK Panel sessions held. The most recent was on April 20th to 22nd, 2022 at the Tree of Peace Friendship Center in Yellowknife to consider options and criteria for closure of the Processed Kimberlite Containment (PKC) facility, the North Inlet, and to consider what a TK monitoring program may look like.

2.0 SESSION PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The purpose of this session was to explore the current closure plan for the PKC area and the North Inlet and what TK-based monitoring during and after closure could look like.

The PKC closure plan has changed since the last time the TK Panel discussed it. Before this, the plan involved a pond in the middle of the PKC that would be over top of the fines. However, since then it was recognized that the pond water levels could lower naturally over time unless maintained. The new plan involves letting the permafrost freeze the processed kimberlite fines and placing a cover of rock over the fines to protect wildlife. The TK Panel was asked to consider what they would look for to determine this cover to be safe for animals and be working as intended.

The North Inlet is an area that receives water from across the Mine Site and has a wastewater treatment plant to treat this water before releasing it into Lac de Gras. Most of the water that is sent to the wastewater treatment plant is groundwater that enters the open pits. This will no longer happen when the pits are filled with water. The remaining water that is sent to the North Inlet is water that contacts the Mine Site. Diavik intends to keep the wastewater treatment plant as one of the last remaining buildings on-site to keep treating the Mine Site water. In the future, and after closure, it is anticipated that the Mine Site water will no longer need to be treated and that the North Inlet could be reconnected with Lac de Gras. The TK Panel was asked to think about what they would judge the water on for it to be acceptable for reconnection to the North Inlet and what would make reconnection unacceptable.

As evidenced by the TK Panel, the incorporation of TK into Diavik's processes is of importance to both Participation Agreement (PA) groups and Diavik. To this end, Diavik is interested in establishing a TK-based program to observe the Mine Site after closure and judge if closure plans are performing as intended. A caribou monitoring plan developed by the Tłı̨chǫ Government was suggested as a starting point for discussion. The TK Panel was asked to weigh in on what this program could look like and what it would consider as part of the monitoring approach.

2.1 Session #14 Overview

In addition to the 11 participants, the facilitation team, and DDMI representatives, there were also 5 staff members from each of the Tłı̨chǫ Government, YKDFN, LKDFN, KIA, and 2 interpreters in attendance.

Table 1 TK Session #14 Attendees

Affiliation	Name	Role
Det'on Cho Environmental (DCE)	Peter Clarkson	Facilitator
	Brenda Michel	Facilitator
	Claire Tincombe	Facilitator/Transcriber
Diavik Diamond Mine Inc. (DDMI)	Myra Berrub	DDMI Staff
	Gord Macdonald	DDMI Staff
	Sean Sinclair	DDMI Staff
Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA)	Barbara Adjun	Participant
	Jack Kaniak	Participant
	Vikki Niptanatiak	Participant (youth)
	Skye Lacroix	Observer/KIA Staff member
Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN)	Albert Boucher	Participant
	Łutsel K'e Dene Elder*	Participant
	Sierra Catholique	Participant (youth)
	Sara Boucher	Interpreter
	Laura Jane Michel	Observer/LDFN Staff
North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)	North Slave Métis Elder*	Participant
Tłı̨chǫ Government	Joe Rabesca	Participant
	Violet Camsell-Blondin	Observer/Tłı̨chǫ Government Staff
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN)	Peter D Sangris	Participant
	Mary-Jane Francis	Participant
	Kelsey Martin	Participant (youth)
	Lena Drygeese	Interpreter
	Ryan Miller	Observer/YKDFN Staff Person
Environmental Monitoring Agency Board (EMAB)	Dylan Price	Observer/EMAB Staff

*These participants requested anonymity.

3.0 SESSION GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

This session's purpose was for members of the TK Panel to receive information on various aspects of closure planning at Diavik, provide their Traditional Knowledge perspective, and issue recommendations back to the representatives from Diavik.

Session #14 had various goals related to the Mine's closure. These goals guided the preparation of the workshop agenda and Included:

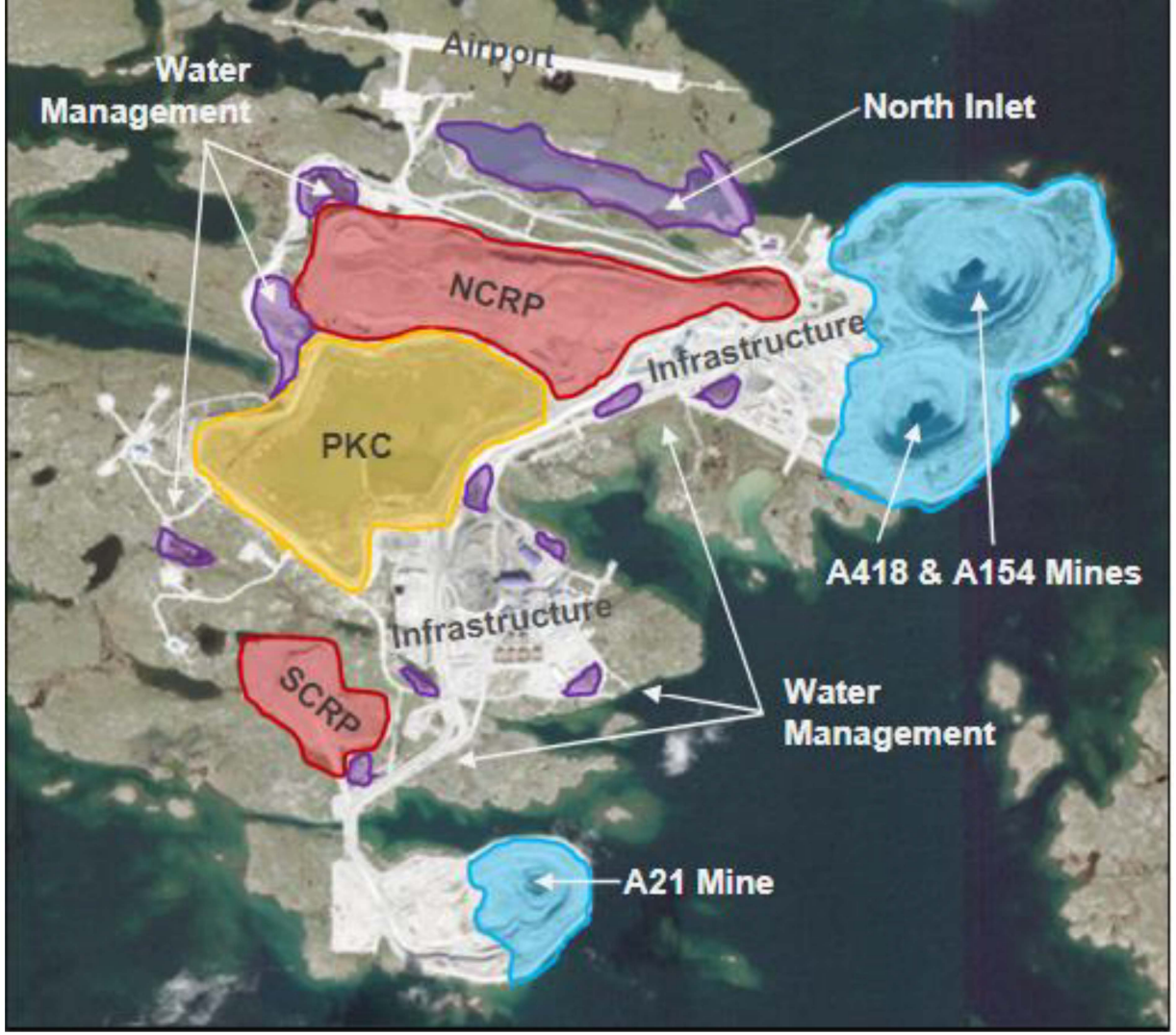
- Presenting the plan for closure of the Processed Kimberlite Containment area
- Presenting the plan for closure of the North Inlet
- Discussing a TK Monitoring Program at Diavik, post-closure.
- Receiving TK Panel feedback and recommendations on the session key themes.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions at Diavik, the TK Panel met at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in Yellowknife instead of travelling to the Mine site. The session was held in a large event room to enable social distancing. However, due to the location being away from Diavik, Panel members were not able to view areas of the site in person and instead relied on images, videos, and descriptions of Mine features.

Though some participants have been attending the TK Panel for many years, this TK Panel was the first one for some of the participants. This was also the first TK Panel for the new facilitation team. As such, the first day began with an icebreaker designed so that participants had the opportunity to meet one another and share stories of similar experiences. All participants, visitors, and presenters were asked to review and sign an Informed Consent form (**Appendix A**).

The session began with a review of the agenda with participants and any adaptations were made. A copy of the agenda can be found in **Appendix B**. To bring new participants up to speed, the facilitation team outlined the goal of the TK Panel and the expected outcomes of the sessions. DDMI began with an overview of the site, including the presentation of a fly-over video outlining the features of the Mine site. **Figure 1** presents the Closure Planning overview map which was presented to the TK Panel on the first day of the session. Additionally, DDMI presented on the planned submission of the Final Closure and Reclamation Plan to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board, Diavik's Closure Goals and Objectives, and engagement with communities completed in the last year.

Figure 1 Map of Diavik Mine Site Features



Mine Workings: Remove mobile equipment and hazardous materials, flood mines with water from Lac de Gras; dikes to be breached to allow full reconnection with big lake.

Rock Piles: Sloped sediment/till + rock cover to freeze potentially acid generating rock within NCRP; wildlife access ramps for safe passage on SCRP.

Processed Kimberlite Containment: Rock cover to separate PK from people and wildlife and create a stable surface.

North Inlet and Water Management: Reconnect natural drainages to allow surface runoff flow into Lac de Gras. Allow natural bioremediation of hydrocarbon impacted sediments for as long as possible before North Inlet reconnection takes place.

Infrastructure: Removal of all mine infrastructure, disposal of all inert materials in on-site landfill unless they can be practically recycled, donated or sold; targeted revegetation; investigate alternative options where some infrastructure left behind to fulfill alternative future use.

4.0 REPORT OUTLINE

This report summarizes the events of the 14th TK Panel session and outlines the recommendations put forth by the Panel regarding the closure of Diavik. The recommendations presented in this report are the same recommendations presented by the Panel participants to DDMI on the final day of the TK Panel Session. To contextualize the recommendations, they are presented in this report with a description of the rationale. This approach allows for DDMI to better address the recommendation, improve recommendation implementation tracking, and allow future participants to understand the nature of past recommendations.

The appendix includes the following:

- A copy of the Informed Consent Form (**Appendix A**)
- A copy of the Meeting Agenda (**Appendix B**)
- DDMI Presentation material (**Appendix C**)
- Verbatim transcription notes from each day of the TK Panel Session (**Appendix D**)
- Photos from the TK Panel Session (**Appendix E**).

5.0 PROCEEDINGS: KEY QUESTIONS, THEMES, AND GUIDANCE POINTS

To solicit feedback on the topics of interest for the session, DCE's facilitation team, along with DDMI representatives, developed a list of guiding questions. The following guiding questions were reviewed, adapted, and discussed during the session:

- How would you look at this landscape or water in the future and view it?
- What are your thoughts about the proposed cover plan? What do you want to see, or not want to see, in the future to say that this cover is working? What questions do you have?
- What would you want to see to make sure the cover and PKC closure is good?
- What are your thoughts about the proposed closure plan? What questions do you have?
- What would you like to see that would let you recommend reconnecting the North Inlet to Lac de Gras? What could you see that would cause you not to recommend reconnection?

6.0 PROCEEDINGS: RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Processed Kimberlite Containment Cover

DDMI representatives presented information on the planned PKC Rockfill cover plan. This rock cover is intended to separate people and wildlife from the Processed Kimberlite (PK). Originally, the plan was to leave a pond of water in the middle of the extra-fine PK. However, the plan has since been adapted to place a rockfill cover over the extra-fine PK after it freezes instead of leaving a pond. The new approach will speed up freezing and keep it frozen as it will provide insulation to the extra-fine PK layer. The TK Panel has made recommendations in the past about the need to create barriers to prevent caribou from travelling on the PKC, including the positioning of large boulders around the PKC to act as a physical barrier for wildlife.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed in **Appendix C**.

Following the presentation, the facilitation team used the following questions to prompt discussion and input from the Panel:

- What are your thoughts about the proposed cover plan?
- What do you want to see, or not want to see, in the future to say that this cover is working?
- What questions do you have?
- What would you want to see to make sure the cover and PKC closure are good?

These questions prompted discussion among Panel members resulting in the recommendations presented in **Table 2**. For future information on the discussion, refer to the transcriptions in **Appendix D**.

Table 2 PKC Cover Recommendations and Context

Number	Topic	Recommendation	Rationale/Context
14.1	PKC Animal Deterrents	The TK Panel recommends Diavik place large boulders around the processed kimberlite containment cover to keep the animals from going through it.	Boulders may be seen as a deterrent to large animals, such as caribou, and may make the animals opt to go around the PKC Cover rather than over/through it.
14.2	PKC Monitoring during Freezing	The TK Panel recommends Diavik monitor the freezing of the processed kimberlite containment cover by using thermistors.	Monitoring the freezing of the PKC Cover is important for understanding when the landscape might be safe for wildlife.
14.3	PKC Monitoring after Freezing	The TK Panel recommends Diavik continue to monitor the frozen processed kimberlite cover even after the Mine closure to ensure that it is not attracting animals and not leaking into surrounding waterways.	Ongoing monitoring is recommended to ensure that climate change is not affecting the stability of the PKC Cover.
14.4	Future Recommendations	The Panel will have further recommendations in June when the PKC Cover can be viewed in person.	Without being able to see the PKC area due to the session occurring off-site, the TK Panel agreed that they will likely have more recommendations when the PKC, and the landscape in which it is situated, can be viewed in person.

6.2 North Inlet Closure Criteria

DDMI representatives presented on the proposed plan for the closure of the North Inlet. The North Inlet is an important part of water management at Diavik and acts as a holding pond for surface and underground water. The water from the North Inlet is recycled for use in the process plant or is treated before being discharged into Lac de Gras. Solids that are removed from the water during the treatment process are put into the inlet where they settle to the bottom.

This process means that hydrocarbons (i.e., diesel fuel, hydraulic fluids, and greases) settle at the bottom of the North Inlet. DDMI is relying on bioremediation, the process of allowing naturally occurring organisms, like bacteria, to break down the hydrocarbon contaminants. The number of bacteria present in the environment has been assessed and it has been determined that there are enough hydrocarbon-eating bacteria to support the bioremediation of the inlet. The bacteria now need time to eat the contaminants. DDMI estimates that in 9 years there will be 50% fewer hydrocarbons.

The plan for contaminated surface materials was also presented and included 3 options:

- Leave in place and enhance natural bioremediation or cover to prevent animal or plant interaction
- Dig up and transport to the landfill where it will be covered and frozen in place
- Dig up and transport via Winter Road for disposal in a solid waste facility.

As for closing the North Inlet, the current plan is to fully reconnect it to Lac de Gras. The water in the North Inlet will be treated and discharged into Lac de Gras. Once water treatment is no longer needed on site and sediment in the North Inlet meets closure criteria, the plan is to breach the East Dam and allow for water, fish, and boats to get through. The secondary plan is to install a rocky material between the North Inlet and Lac de Gras to allow water to flow through, but not fish.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed in **Appendix C**.

Following the presentation, the facilitation team used the following questions to prompt discussion and input from the Panel:

- What are your thoughts about the proposed closure plan?
- What would you like to see that would let you recommend reconnecting the North Inlet to Lac de Gras?
- What questions do you have?
- What could you see that would cause you not to recommend reconnection?

These questions prompted discussion among Panel members resulting in the recommendations presented in **Table 3**. For future information on the discussion, refer to the transcriptions in **Appendix D**.

Table 3 North Inlet Closure Recommendations and Context

Number	Topic	Recommendation	Rationale
14.5	Fish in the North Inlet	The TK Panel recommends testing the North Inlet for fish before closure.	Though fish were removed from the North Inlet when it was created, the TK Panel would like to see it tested again for the presence of fish before it is reconnected to Lac de Gras.
14.6	Water Testing	The TK Panel recommends testing the North Inlet water quality before reconnecting it as well as testing it periodically as the Mine is slowly closed.	The water quality in the North Inlet was a concern for participants. Before reconnection, the Panel would like to know that the contamination levels have reached an acceptable amount.
14.7	Future Recommendations	The Panel will have further recommendations in June when the North Inlet can be viewed in person.	Without being able to see the North Inlet area due to the session occurring off-site, the TK Panel agreed that they will likely have more recommendations when the North Inlet, and the landscape in which it is situated, can be viewed in person.

6.3 TK Monitoring Approach

DDMI representatives presented their commitment to including a Traditional Knowledge-based approach program for post-closure. Currently, DDMI is working with representatives of the Tłı̨chǫ Government to learn from past work and years of implementing the Ekwǫ̀ Nàxoèhdee K'è Program.

The purpose of the TK Monitoring Approach is to understand and measure how closure activities are achieving closure goals through a TK perspective. This approach will be in collaboration with science-based monitoring and, where appropriate, each program may verify the results of the other. The primary focus for the monitoring would be on caribou, particularly herd health and habitat, and water as well as other aspects of the ecosystem.

DDMI envisions the program including walking the closure landscape and surrounding areas as well as boating the shorelines of the East Island and surrounding areas. Observations would be documented and linked to time and location. To add to the observations, DDMI proposes simultaneous collection of water samples for chemical analysis.

DDMI plans to have this monitoring occur every 2-3 years for a span of 7-10 with 10-15 TK monitors in attendance.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed in **Appendix C.**

Following the presentation, the facilitation team used the following question to prompt discussion and input from the Panel:

- Is this a foundation that you think we can build on to develop the program?

These questions prompted discussion among Panel members resulting in the recommendations presented in **Table 3**. For future information on the discussion, refer to the transcriptions in **Appendix D**.

In general, there was confusion regarding the language used to describe the approach, and as a result, the discussion had more to do with scientific monitoring rather than TK Monitoring. DDMI is considering new wording for the TK Monitoring approach, and it therefore may be represented differently in future sessions. See details in **Section 7.0** regarding the next steps.

Table 4 TK Monitoring Recommendations

Number	Topic	Recommendation	Rationale
14.8	Length of Monitoring	The TK Panel recommends monitoring occur for longer than 10 years, potentially up to 30.	TK is a long-term practice therefore a long-term monitoring approach is needed to allow for the TK holders to assess how successful closure has been.
14.9	Number of Monitors	The TK Panel recommends bringing 10-15 people out on the land over the next 30 years, 1-2 times per year to monitor the site after closure.	Inviting 10-15 people to act as monitors allows for the transmission of information between Elders and youth and allows for various perspectives.
14.10	Fish Camp	The TK Panel recommends hosting TK camps and fish camps at various locations around Lac de Gras, during different seasons, rather than just at one location.	The fish camp is a valued program offered by DDMI. However, Panel members would like to see the fish camp occur at different locations around Diavik to allow for the examination of fish in different water bodies.
14.11	Use of Scientific Language	The TK Panel recommends using simple language as well as scientific language when conducting TK Monitoring Programs.	This is to ensure Elders can understand and youth can learn the scientific terms for different parts of their environment.
14.12	Community Monitoring Programs	The TK Panel recommends inviting pre-existing community-based monitoring programs, such as Ni Hadi Xa, to Diavik as part of the development of the TK Monitoring approach. This should occur every year, potentially every season.	The TK Panel recognizes that there are several programs in existence that have similar objectives to what DDMI is looking for in the TK Monitoring Approach. The Panel does not want to "reinvent the wheel" but would like to see the Approach pull inspiration from pre-existing programs and the success they have had.
14.13	Inclusion of Youth and Elders	The TK Panel recommends incorporating youth and Elders into the TK Monitoring Program to pass on information, including information about the use of plants as medicine.	The transfer of knowledge to younger generations is a key aspect of TK. The Panel feels that youth should be present when Elders are discussing TK so that information is not lost.
14.14	Wildlife Monitoring	The TK Panel recommends monitoring all animals after closure.	The Panel expressed that there is often an emphasis on caribou protection when discussing closure monitoring. However, Panel members emphasized that monitoring all animals is important, not just caribou.
14.15	Additional Monitoring	The TK Panel recommends monitoring dust, vegetation, and berries around Diavik as part of the TK Monitoring Program.	There was discussion about the dust visible around Diavik on calm days and the potential for that dust to have landed on berries and vegetation in the area. During this discussion, it was noted that testing the berries around Diavik has not been part of past environmental monitoring programs and was only introduced in the summer of 2021 due to a recommendation from the TK Panel.

Number	Topic	Recommendation	Rationale
14.16	Lac de Gras Sediment	The TK Panel recommends testing the water in Lac de Gras and the sediment at the bottom.	Regarding the presence of dust at Diavik, the TK Panel is interested in how this dust settles in the sediment at the bottom of Lac de Gras.
14.17	Past Recommendations	The TK Panel recommends that DDMI look at all the TK Panel Session notes and recommendations and use those as guidance for a document summarizing what will be done for closure and the TK Monitoring Program.	Some participants on the Panel noted that some of the past recommendations made by Panel members are often repeated. A summary report on the recommendations that have/have not been implemented would help to reduce repetition.
14.18	Indigenous Environmental Monitors	The TK Panel recommends hiring Indigenous people who will work at Diavik for 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off as Environmental Monitors.	Diavik has employed Indigenous monitors in the past for wolverine monitoring during the winter. The TK Panel would like to see an Indigenous person working on-site, following a 2-week on and 2 weeks off schedule, throughout the year rather than just seasonally.
14.19	Coppermine River	The TK Panel recommends including testing of water and fish in the Coppermine River.	The fish of the Coppermine River have not been tested by Diavik. This is a concern for Panel members, particularly those representing KIA. The Panel would like to see testing (fish and water quality) done not just at the mouth but up the river.

6.4 General Recommendations

During a discussion of the 3 primary topics for the session, several other recommendations were made that apply to Diavik's closure but are outside the session's main topics. These recommendations were recorded throughout the session and are listed here as "General Recommendations". These general recommendations are regarding various topics from Mine infrastructure to community engagement.

Additionally, at the request of the participants, DDMI presented the current wildlife monitoring program in operation at Diavik as well as the chemical composition of the processed kimberlite. A copy of these presentations can be found in **Appendix C**. Some of the recommendations below pertain to these supplementary presentations.

Table 5 General Recommendations

Number	Topic	Recommendation	Rationale
14.20	Water Treatment Plant	The TK Panel recommends allowing the water treatment plant to be the last building to close and running all remaining water use on-site through the plant.	The water treatment plant is seen as a very useful and necessary part of the Mine. It is recommended that the plant be the last building to close and that all water, even little ponds, should be put through the treatment plant before closure.
14.21	Information Review Time	The TK Panel recommends providing participants with information before the meeting to ensure enough time for review.	Some information presented at the TK Panel, particularly the TK monitoring guidelines, was not provided to participants with much time for review and formulation of comments. Where possible, the Panel would like to see this type of material beforehand to better prepare their thoughts and opinions.
14.22	Fish Camp	The TK Panel Recommends hosting the fish camp every -2 years rather than every 3 years.	Currently, every 3 years DDMI hosts a fish camp which provides participants an opportunity to examine the health of the fish around the Mine. This camp is seen as very valuable and therefore participants expressed an interest in attending the camp more frequently.
14.23	Community-based monitoring programs	The TK Panel recommends that DDMI fund community-based monitoring programs.	During the discussion about the TK Monitoring Program, the Panel noted several community-based monitoring programs that already exist in the various PA communities. These programs are often looking for funding.
14.24	Communication with Communities	The TK Panel recommends that DDMI improve communication with communities about the timing of upcoming events or community meetings and provide information ahead of time for review. Better communication about where to find information about closure is needed.	Members of the Panel noted past instances where DDMI representatives travelled to their communities to present information, however, community members were not aware that they were coming. Improved communication from DDMI would allow for better community involvement.
14.25	Secondary translator	The TK Panel recommends that DDMI bring 2 translators per language to TK Panel Sessions.	Providing translation services can be very tiring. Having a secondary translator would allow translators to take breaks throughout the day.
14.26	Closure Examples	The TK Panel recommends DDMI present in June's session regarding some examples of similar closure exercises that have occurred at other Mines.	The Panel is interested to know how DDMI is using other Mine site closure procedures to guide the closing of Diavik and if these procedures have been successful at other Mine sites.
14.27	Remaining Structures	The TK Panel recommends leaving some accommodation structures on site.	This recommendation was made as it would help land users in the area in case of an emergency.

7.0 TK PANEL NEXT STEPS

The next TK Panel Session is currently planned for early June. The next session will be hosted at Diavik and will be a return to the former process where workshop discussion is accompanied by time spent on the Mine site visiting and viewing features around the Mine.

The June session will focus on TK Monitoring, including establishing a framework and name for the approach. Additionally, participants will be able to view the structures (i.e., the PKC and the North Inlet) discussion in Session #14 and provide further recommendations after being able to view the site with their own eyes.

8.0 CLOSURE

Following 2.5 years of interruption due to COVID-19, the 14th TK Panel Session was a successful return to the important work done by the Panel. The Panel provided valuable recommendations on several critical closure processes at the Mine site. These recommendations were pertaining to the PKC cover, North Inlet Closure, a TK Monitoring approach, and various general recommendations.

DCE sincerely appreciates the opportunity to have assisted with this project and if there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned by phone at 867.873.6333.

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Claire Tincombe, BA (Honours)
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Lead Facilitator

APPENDIX A

Informed Consent Form

Informed Consent Form

I (name) _____, give permission for Det'on Cho Environmental (DCE) and its technical service provider Hemmera Envirochem Inc (Hemmera), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ausenco Canada Inc. to record my comments, Traditional Knowledge (TK; also known as Indigenous Knowledge, IK), Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK), and Traditional Land Use Knowledge (TLU) for the Diavik Diamond Mine Inc Traditional Knowledge Panel #14.

Participation in the Project is voluntary and will include a 3-day TK Panel Session. The aim of these sessions is to promote the sharing of TEK and TLU information. The sessions will be documented through notes, photographs and may be audio/video taped for future reference. The results of this workshop will be shared in a summary final report and other project communications. Your comments and photographs may be used in the final report.

You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to, and you can withdraw your participation at any time (up until the Final Report is finalized) by letting the researchers know if and how you would like any of your contributions to date to be used.

We will undertake care to keep your contributions protected and secure. Information and contributions gathered during information sharing sessions will be securely stored and accessed only by Project researchers. Computer files (including audio/video digital files, if applicable) will be password protected and/or saved in restricted, access restricted folders on the Hemmera server. Written files will be kept in a locked file cabinet in the DCE/Hemmera, Yellowknife office. DCE and Hemmera will not use your contributions for any purpose other than for the Project.

We ask that you decide how you would like your contributions to appear in the workshop's findings. One of our ways of appreciating and acknowledging your contributions is to list your name as a contributor to the Project. **Please check 'yes' or 'no' to the following questions.**

Question	Yes	No
Do you consent to your name being used in the final report to reference your contributions to the discussion?		
Do you consent to your Indigenous Organization* affiliation being used in the final report beside your name? *Recognizing that you were chosen as a representative of your community but that your opinions are solely your own**.**		
Do you consent to pictures of you, taken during the session, being used in the final report?		

_____

Signature of Participant ***Date***

I believe the person signing this form understands the study and the nature of their involvement. I will only apply their contributions according to the conditions stated above.

_____

Signature of Researcher(s) ***Date***

Thank you for your time and contributions

APPENDIX B
Session Agenda

DIAVIK TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PANEL SESSION

DRAFT AGENDA

Dates:	April 20-22, 2022
Location:	Tree of Peace Friendship Center, Yellowknife
Presented by:	Diavik Diamond Mine Inc. Det'on Cho Environmental
File:	106573-01
Re:	Session #14 – Processed Kimberlite Containment, North Inlet Closure and TK Monitoring

Wednesday April 20, 2022

8:30 am	Opening Prayer and Welcome, Round Table Introductions, Review of Draft Agenda, Overview of Session Purpose: 'How would you look at this landscape or water in the future and view it?' Review of Process Housekeeping Items (ongoing COVID awareness: face masks, sanitizer, physical distancing)
9:30 am	Ice Breaker – Diversity Bingo
10:00 am	Introducing the 2022 Facilitation Team
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Presentation: Site Overview, Closure and Reclamation Plan Update, Community Engagement Group Discussion
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Presentation: Process Kimberlite Containment Cover Guiding Question: What are your thoughts about the proposed cover plan? What do you want to see, or not want to see, in the future to say that this cover is working? What questions do you have?
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Guiding Question: What would you want to see to make sure the cover and PKC closure is good?
4:30 pm	Close

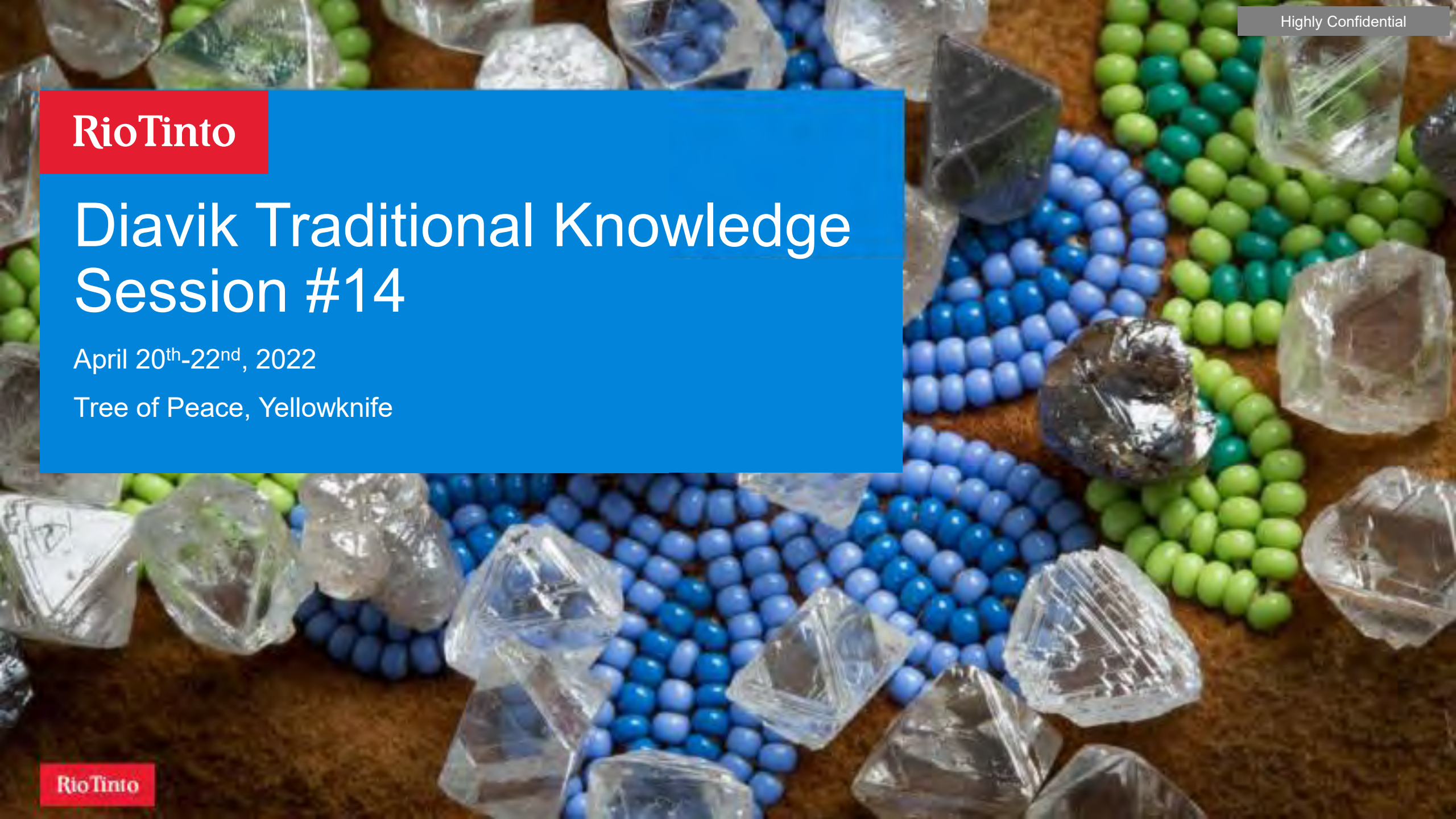
Thursday April 21, 2022

8:30 am	Opening
9:00 am	Presentation: North Inlet Closure Group Discussion: What are your thoughts about the proposed closure plan? What questions do you have?
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Guiding Question: What would you like to see that would let you recommend reconnecting the North Inlet to Lac de Gras? What could you see that would cause you not to recommend reconnection? Group Discussion
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Presentation: TK Closure Monitoring Approach Guiding Question: Is this a foundation that you think we can build on to develop the program? Group Discussion
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Continued Group Discussion
4:30 pm	Close

Friday April 22, 2022

8:30 am	Opening
9:00 am	Review draft recommendations from previous days Group Discussion
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Presentation of Recommendations to Diavik Group Discussion
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Presentation: Review of recommendations from all sessions Discussion
2:00 pm	Potentially adding additional community representatives to the panel
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Next Steps/Next Session: TK Closure Monitoring
3:15 pm	Closing Circle & Prayer
3:45 pm	Close

APPENDIX C
Presentation Material



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Diavik Traditional Knowledge Session #14

April 20th-22nd, 2022

Tree of Peace, Yellowknife

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Welcome & Agenda

- Opening Prayer and Introductions

1. Setting the context:
   - Site Overview video
   - Closure and Reclamation Plan update
   - Community Engagement
2. Processed Kimberlite Containment Cover
3. North Inlet Closure
4. TK Monitoring Approach
5. Recommendations

"As a group here, we all come together to try to express our feelings, to give back to Diavik our traditional knowledge."

– Bobby Algona, KIA Elder on the TK Panel

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Part 1: Setting the Context

Site Fly-Over Video (Footage from Fall 2021)

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Final Closure and Reclamation Plan Update

TK Monitoring

- Diavik plans to submit its Final Closure and Reclamation Plan to the Wek’èezhìi Land and Water Board by end of 2022.
- The Plan will include a framework for Closure TK Monitoring.

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Diavik Closure Goals: Developed with input from communities and approved by WLWB

1. Land and water that is physically and chemically stable and safe for people, wildlife and aquatic life.
2. Land and water that allows for traditional use.
3. Final landscape guided by Traditional Knowledge.
4. Final landscape guided by pre-development conditions.
5. Final landscape that is neutral to wildlife – being neither a significant attractant nor significant deterrent relative to pre-development conditions.
6. Maximize northern business opportunities during operations and closure.
7. Develop northern capacities during operations and closure for the benefit of the North, post-closure.
8. Final site conditions that do not require a continuous presence of mine staff.

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Main Closure Objectives – Land

Closure objectives relating to closure landforms, demolition, and site surface

Component	Objectives (Summarized)
Site Wide	- Dust levels safe for people, veg, aquatic life, wildlife - Re-vegetation for priority areas - Site landscape / mine areas safe for wildlife and people - Mine areas undisturbed during operations remain undisturbed at closure
Waste Rock & Till Area **PKC Facility**	- Stable, safe slopes that match the look of the natural landscape - Physically stable PKC area to prevent processed kimberlite from entering surrounding landscape or water - No adverse effects on people, wildlife or vegetation from closure of PKC
Mine Infrastructure	- On-site landfill safe for people, wildlife and environment - Prevent remaining infrastructure from contaminating land or water - Provide opportunities for communities to re-use infrastructure where possible

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Main Closure Objectives – Water

Closure objectives relating to closure of pond water, site drainages, and pit lakes

Component	Objectives (Summarized)
Site Wide	- Surface runoff and seepage water that is safe for humans and wildlife. - Surface runoff and seepage water that will not cause harm to aquatic life in LDG or the Coppermine River. - Ground surface designed to follow pre-development drainage patterns.
Open pit, underground, and dike areas	- Water quality in the pit and dike area should be similar to LDG, not harm aquatic life, and not have adverse affects on water uses in LDG, the Coppermine River, or of groundwater. - Pit walls and shorelines must be stable to avoid risk of failure and impacts to people, wildlife, or aquatic life. - Wildlife are kept safe during filling of the pits.
North Inlet & Waste Rock area	- Water quality and sediment quality in the North Inlet that is safe for aquatic life, wildlife, and people, and as similar to LDG as possible. - Water and sediment quality that will not cause adverse effects on water uses in LDG, or the Coppermine River. - Physically stable banks to limit risk of failure that could impact people or wildlife. - Contaminated soil/waste disposal areas that do not cause seepage/runoff that contaminates land or water.

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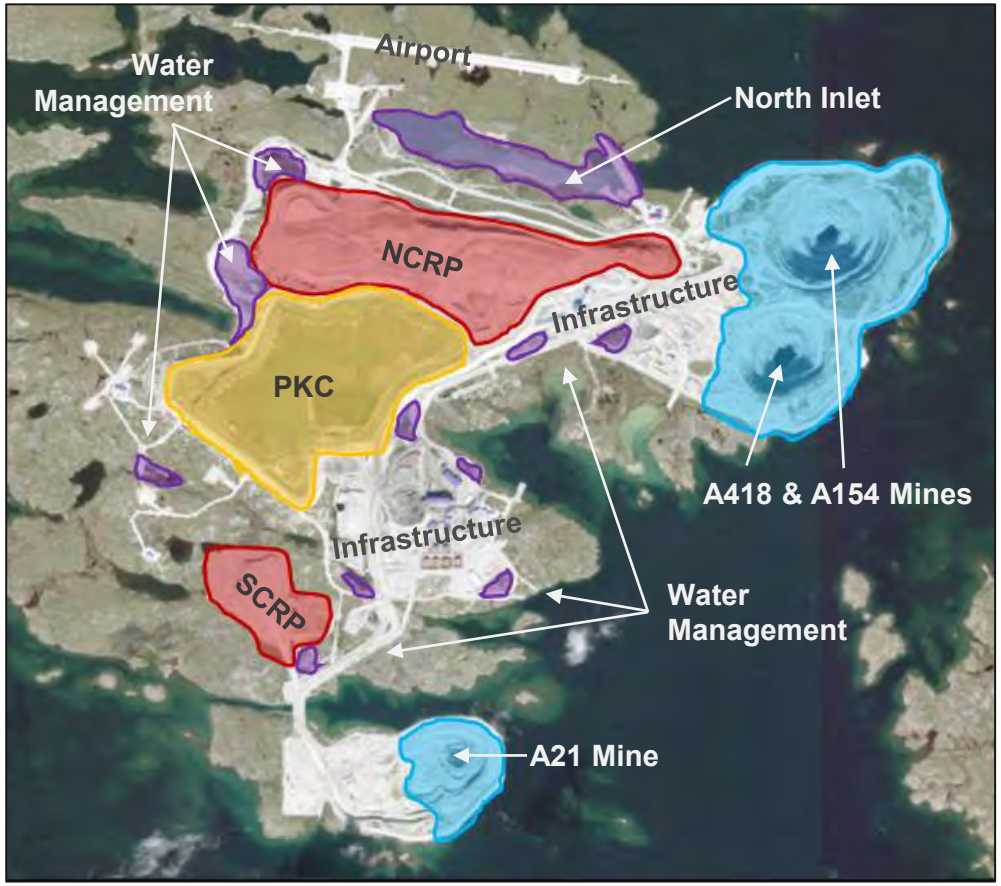
Closure Planning Overview



Mine Workings: Remove mobile equipment and hazardous materials, flood mines with water from Lac de Gras; dikes to be breached to allow full reconnection with big lake.

Rock Piles: Sloped sediment/till + rock cover to freeze potentially acid generating rock within NCRP; wildlife access ramps for safe passage on SCRP.

Processed Kimberlite Containment: Rock cover to separate PK from people and wildlife and create a stable surface.

North Inlet and Water Management: Reconnect natural drainages to allow surface runoff flow into Lac de Gras. Allow natural bioremediation of hydrocarbon impacted sediments for as long as possible before North Inlet reconnection takes place.

Infrastructure: Removal of all mine infrastructure, disposal of all inert materials in on-site landfill unless they can be practically recycled, donated or sold; targeted revegetation; investigate alternative options where some infrastructure left behind to fulfill alternative future use.

Engagement with Communities

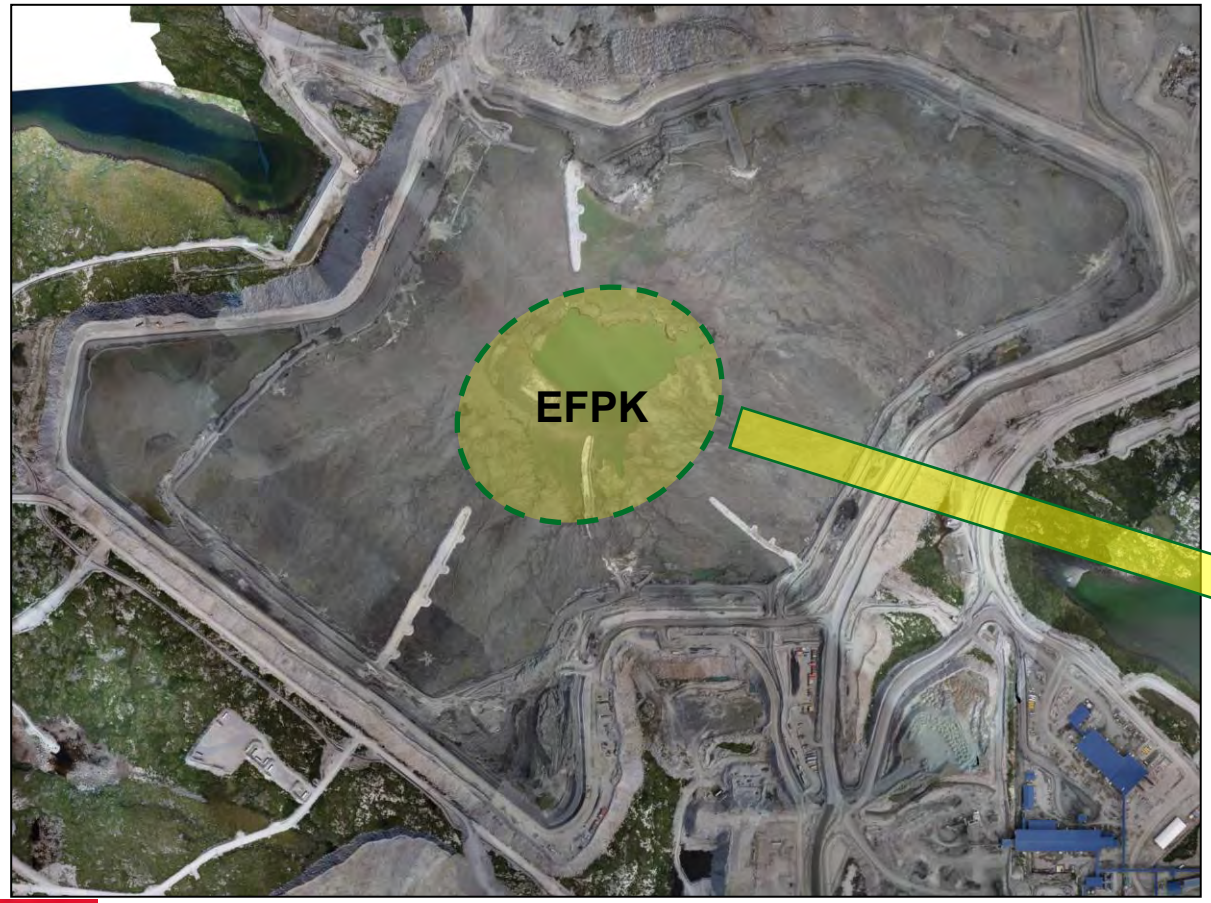
Indigenous Community	Regulatory and Closure Update Engagement	PKMW Engagement Protocol (Measure 5)	PKMW Cultural Water Quality Criteria Workshop (Measure 2)
KIA	Completed (June 30, 2020)	Approved (August 18, 2020)	Completed (October 13-14, 2020)
LKDFN	Completed (June 10, 2020)	Executed (July 10, 2020)	Completed (September 24, December 3, 2020)
NSMA	Completed (May 26, 2020)	Executed (July 30, 2020)	Completed (September 22-23, 2020)
TG	Completed (June 23, 2020)	TG feedback; DDMI draft 2 and Tłı̨chǫ Weghàà Ełeyatıts'eedı (September 5 / 11, 2020)	Completed (November 5, 12-13, 2020)
YKDFN	Completed (May 28, 2020)	Approved (February 17, 2022)	Completed (June 3-4, 2021)

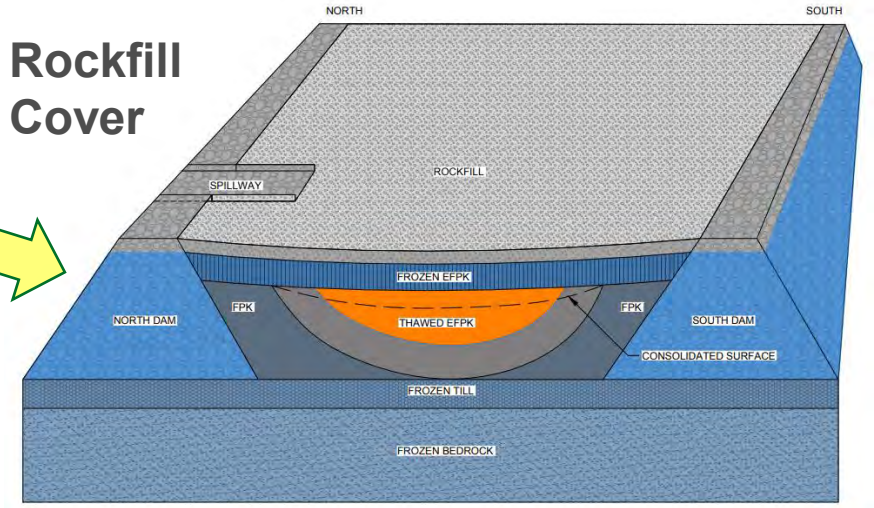
Indigenous Community	Regulatory and Closure Update Engagement	PKMW Engagement Protocol (Measure 5)	PKMW Cultural Water Quality Criteria Workshop (Measure 2)
DKFN	Completed (December 7 & 11, 2020)	Executed September 10, 2021	Completed (May 12-13, 2021)
NWTMN	Completed (September 1, 2020)	Approved September 14, 2021	Initial meeting completed (May 3-4, 2021)
FRMG	Completed (August 24, 2020)	in draft	Proposed

Part 2: Processed Kimberlite Containment Cover

Processed Kimberlite Containment: Rockfill Cover

- Rock cover on outer beach to separate processed kimberlite (PK) from people and wildlife.
- Access and cover of soft inner area is most technically challenging aspect of mine closure.
- Original plan was to leave a pond of water in the middle over the extra-fine PK (EFPK).
- Updated plan is to place a rockfill cover over extra-fine PK after it freezes.





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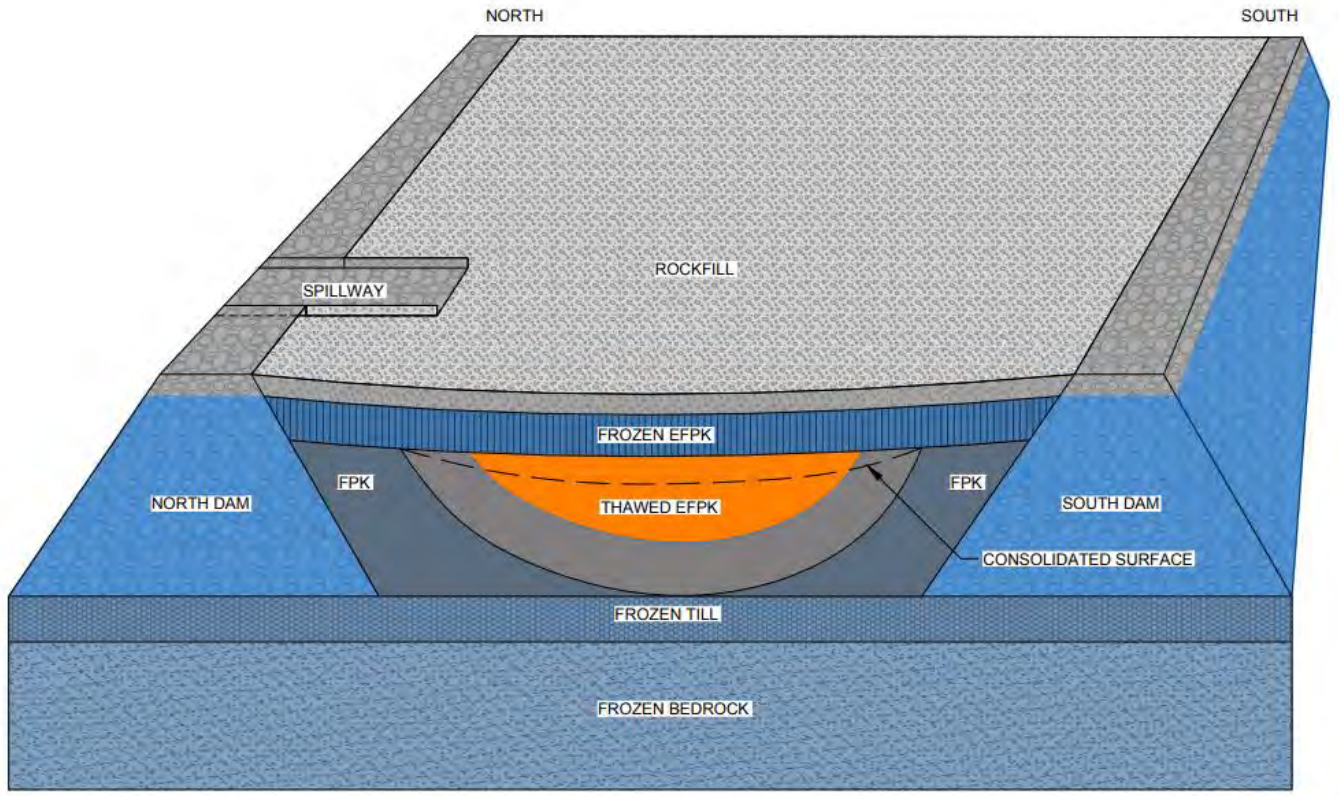
PKC Rockfill Cover

- Rockfill can be placed on fine PK material (outer beaches) any time of year.
- Rockfill can be placed on extra-fine PK when sufficiently frozen (similar to ice).
- Freezing increases with no pond in facility (our new approach). Freezing will speed up with the rockfill cover.
- Water from snowmelt or rainfall will travel over the rock surface to the spillway.



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PKC: TK Panel Engagement and Recommendations

Scope	Date	Summary Recommendations
TKP#6: Processed Kimberlite Containment at Closure Report (rec 6.1-6.22)	24-28 Oct 2013	- PKC cover to support insulation and revegetation; reclaim existing landforms; remove EFPK or demonstrate safe; ensure shoreline stability and support/create safe pathways for wildlife/caribou; restock with fish and bugs; support/create waterways to encourage fish habitat and fish migration
TKP#7: Focus on Re-vegetation (rec 7.7)	14-18 Aug 2014	- create barriers to prevent caribou travel from NCRP to PKC
TKP#8: Focus on Reefs & Water Monitoring (rec 8.11)	2-4 Dec 2015	- monitor and filter streams from PKC
TKP#9: Focus on Caribou & NCRP Closure Plan (rec 9.8)	13-16 May 2016	- place boulders around PKC pond
TKP#11: Options for Processed Kimberlite (rec 11.1-11.3)	10-14 May 2018	- move EFPK (“slimes”) from PKC to underground mine areas; revisit PKC closure plan; leave beach materials and rough kimberlite
TKP#12: Options for Pit Closure (rec 12.1-12.2)	12-16 Sep 2019	- place new and existing (in PKC) EFPK to underground mine areas

PKC Questions

What are your thoughts about the proposed cover plan?

What do you want to see, or not want to see, in the future to say that this cover is working?

What questions do you have?

What would you want to see to make sure the cover and PKC closure is good?

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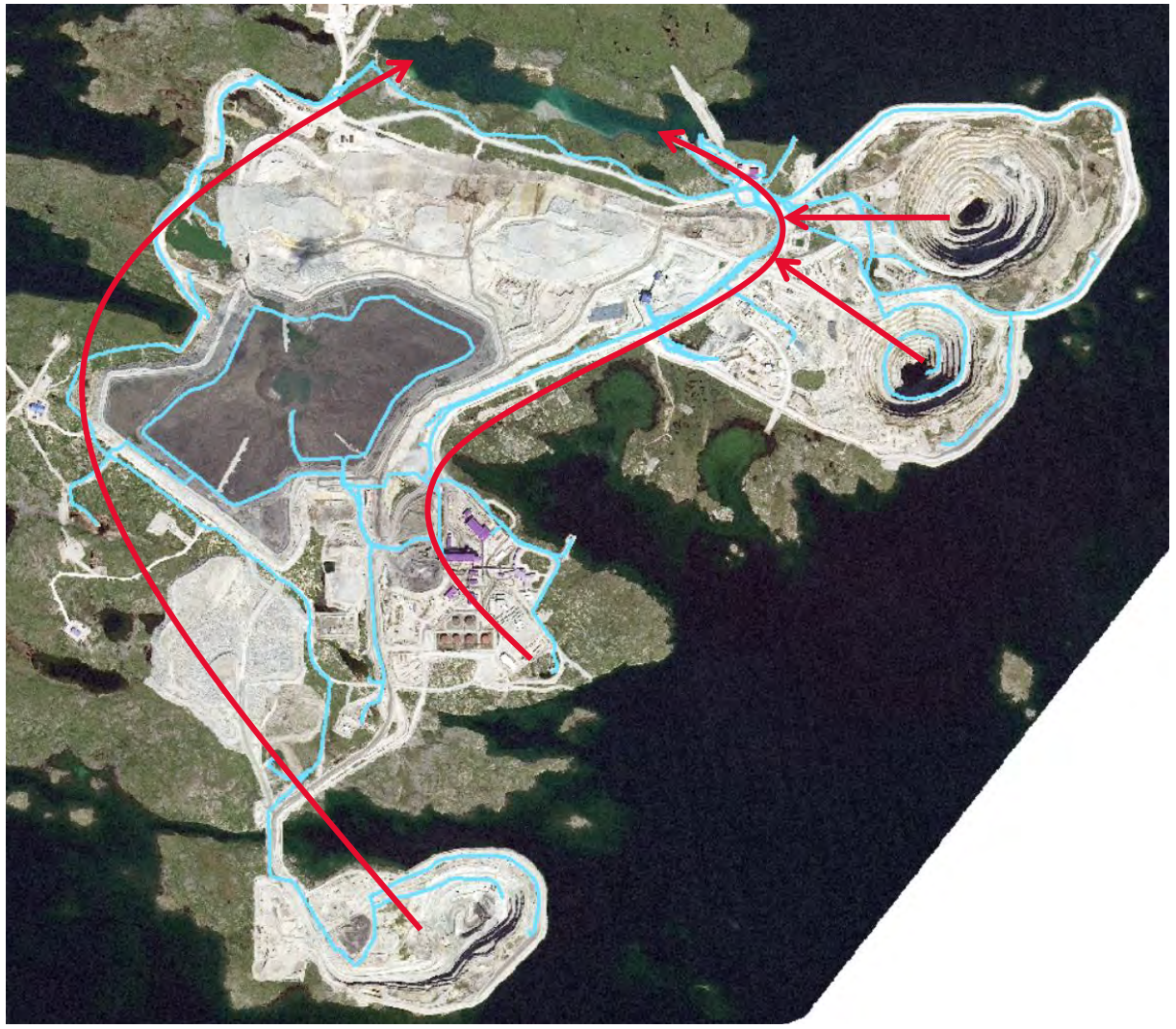
Part 3: North Inlet Closure

North Inlet during Operations

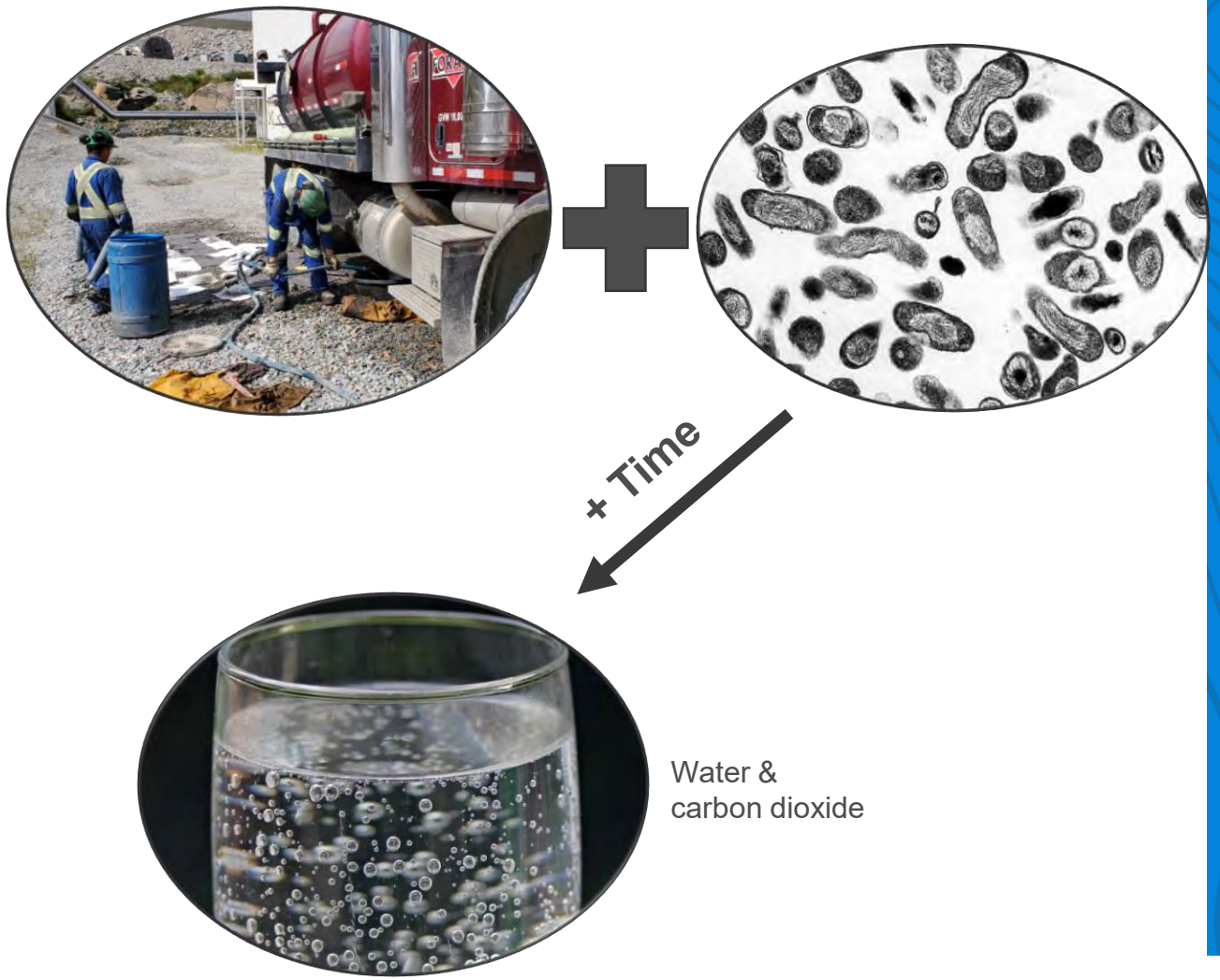
- The North Inlet is an important aspect of high-volume Operational water management and acts as a holding pond for surface and underground water.
- Water from the inlet is recycled for use in the process plant or treated before being discharged into Lac de Gras.
- Solids removed from the water during the treatment process are put into the inlet where they settle to the bottom of the inlet.

- Largest sources of water for NI
- Water pipelines on site



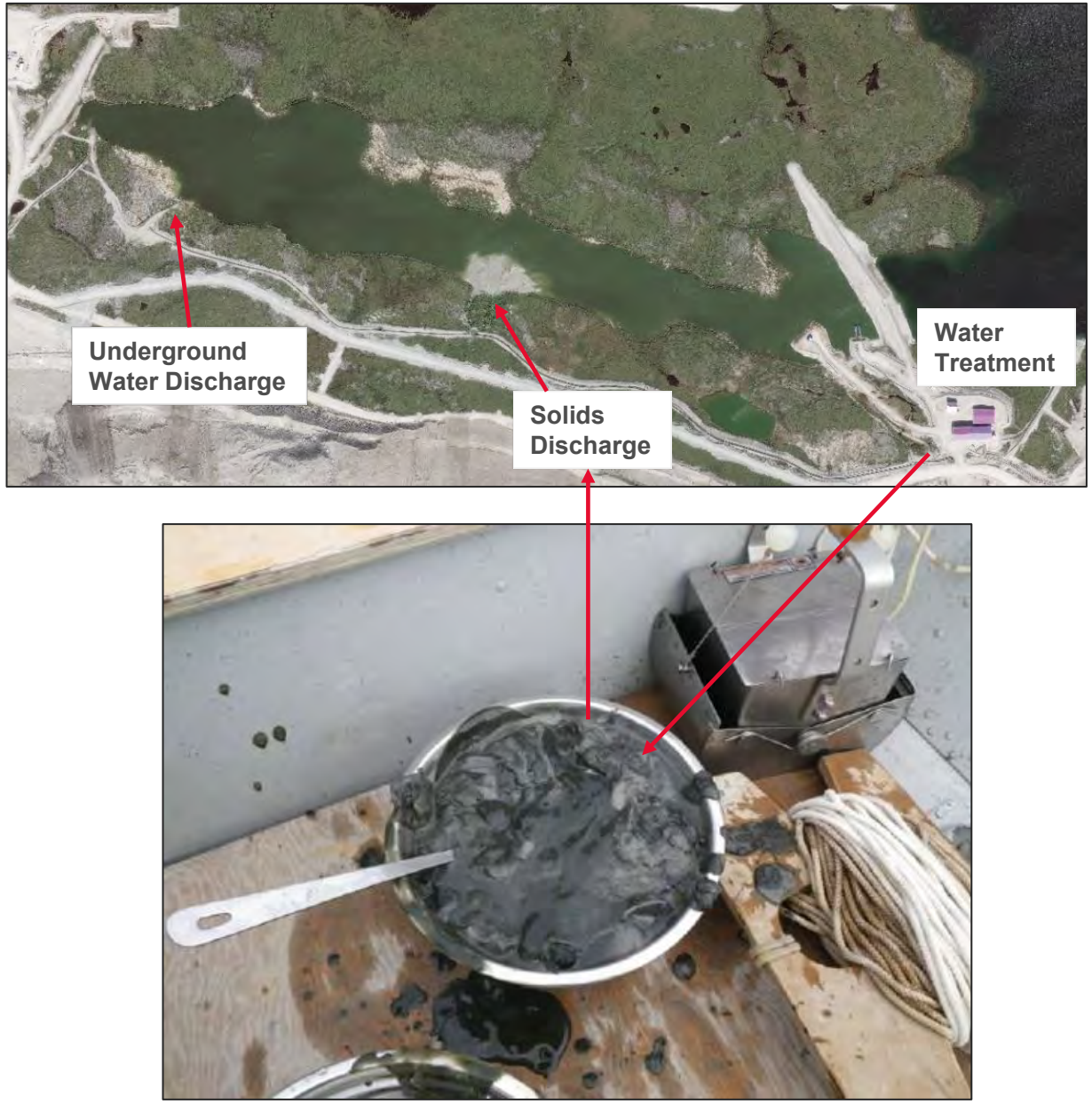
Hydrocarbons and Bioremediation

- A hydrocarbon is an organic compound of hydrogen and carbon. Small compounds can be gases (e.g. propane) and big compounds can be thick liquids (e.g. grease). At Diavik it refers to liquids: diesel fuel, hydraulic fluids, greases, etc.
- Bioremediation is the process of allowing naturally occurring organisms like bacteria to break down contaminants. Bacteria can use the big hydrocarbon molecules as food, eventually breaking them down to carbon dioxide and water.
- This natural process occurs at the North Inlet and on land. This process can be further enhanced on land through a process called “land farming”.



Natural Bioremediation of Inlet Sediments

- Water treatment produces solids that absorbs hydrocarbons. The solid residue settles onto the bottom of the inlet.
- Already confirmed to be enough nutrients and oxygen to support current community of hydrocarbon-eating bacteria.
  - No additional actions are needed, we just need to give the bacteria time to work.
- As a conservative estimate, in nine years there will be a 50% reduction in hydrocarbons.



Contaminated Surface Materials

At closure contaminated materials will be treated in different ways depending on the degree and type of contamination:

1. Leave in place and either:
   a) Land farm the material to enhance natural bioremediation
   b) Cover with rock to prevent animals and plants from interacting with the material
2. Dig up and transport to the landfill where it will be covered and frozen in place
3. Dig up and transport via Winter Road for disposal in an accredited solid waste facility

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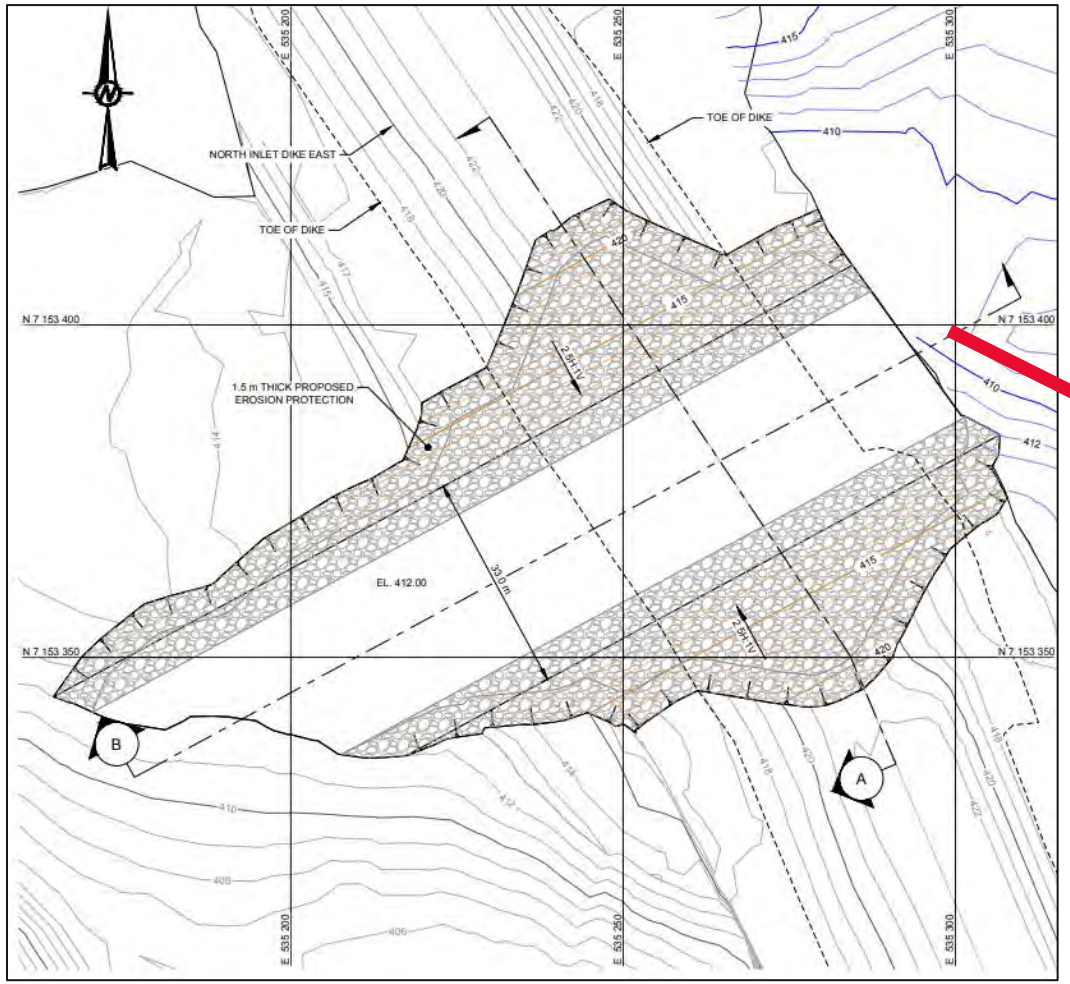
Closing the North Inlet

- Current plan is to fully reconnect the North Inlet with LDG
- Water in North Inlet will be treated and discharged into LDG (as it is now) to allow time for bioremediation.
- Once water treatment on site is no longer needed, and sediment in the North Inlet meets closure criteria, the East Dam will be decommissioned and a breach established that will allow passage of water, fish, and boats.
- The contingency plan will be to install a rocky structure where water can flow through, but fish cannot.

North Inlet Reconnection with LDG



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North Inlet: TK Panel Engagement and Recommendations

Scope	Date	Summary Recommendations
TKP#7: Focus on Re-vegetation (rec 7.14)	14-18 Aug 2014	- further discussion required for revegetation of North inlet
TKP#8: Focus on Reefs & Water Monitoring (rec 8.14)	2-4 Dec 2015	- regularly stock on-island ponds with bugs to improve water quality
TKP#9: Focus on Caribou & NCRP Closure Plan (rec 9.24)	13-16 May 2016	- Do not reconnect North inlet, open pits or PKC area with the lake/land unless water is proven clean and the same as Lac de Gras
TKP#13: Focus on North Inlet Closure Plan	TBD	[cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic]

North Inlet Questions

What are your thoughts about the proposed closure plan?

What questions do you have?

What would you like to see that would let you recommend reconnecting the North Inlet to Lac de Gras?

What could you see that would cause you not to recommend reconnection?

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Part 4: TK Monitoring Approach

Diavik Closure Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Approach

Context:

- Diavik is committed to including a Traditional Knowledge-based monitoring approach for post-closure.
- DDMI is working with representatives of the Tłı̨chǫ Government to learn from their experiences with the many years of implementing the Ekwǫ̀ Nàxoèhdee K’è Program.

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Diavik Closure TK Monitoring Approach

- Planned as a complementary “way of knowing” to understand/measure how closure activities are achieving closure
- Intended to be in addition to science-based monitoring but also integrated together
- Will also allow for “verification” science monitoring within the TK Monitoring Approach to assist in developing confidence in both programs
- Monitoring is to focus on caribou and water and related aspects of these ecosystems

“Do as Hunters Do”

“We Watch Everything”

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Diavik Closure TK Monitoring Approach

- focus on caribou herd health and habitat
- also monitor “impacts of industrial development on ekwǫ̀ habitat”
- applied to direct assessments of the reclaimed closure landscape
- include cultural water quality criteria to be considered for areas of Lac de Gras (Ek'atì) around the closed Diavik mine site
- walk the closure landscape and surrounding area and boat the shorelines of the East Island and surrounding area, documenting and linking all observations to time and location – “Do as Hunters Do” and “We Watch Everything”
- collect water samples for scientific chemical analysis; simultaneous “verification” program
- run for 7-10 days every 2-3 years; 10-15 TK monitors

Closure Objectives

SW1.	Surface runoff and seepage water quality that is safe for humans and wildlife.
SW2.	Surface runoff and seepage water quality that will not cause adverse effects on aquatic life or water uses in Lac de Gras or the Coppermine River.
SW3.	Dust levels safe for people, vegetation, aquatic life and wildlife.
SW4.	Dust levels do not affect palatability of vegetation to wildlife.
SW5.	Re-vegetation targeted to priority areas.
SW6.	Ground surface designed to drain naturally follow pre-development drainage patterns.
SW7.	Areas in and around the site that are undisturbed during operation of the mine should remain undisturbed during and after closure.
SW8.	Predation of caribou is not associated with residual features of the site.
SW9.	Landscape features (topography and vegetation) that match aesthetics and natural conditions of the surrounding natural area.
SW10.	Safe passage and use for caribou and other wildlife.
SW11.	Mine areas are physically stable and safe for use by people and wildlife.
Open-Pit, Underground and Dike Area Closure Objectives	
M1.	Water quality in the flooded pit and dike area that is similar to Lac de Gras or, at a minimum, protective of aquatic life.
M2.	Pit and dike closure that do not have adverse effects on water uses in Lac de Gras or the Coppermine River or on groundwater use.
M4.	Safe small craft navigation through dike and pit area.
M5.	Physically stable pit walls and shorelines to limit risk of a failure impacting people, aquatic life or wildlife.
M6.	Pit fill rate that will not cause adverse effects on water levels in Lac de Gras and Coppermine River.
M7.	Pit fill rate that will not cause adverse effects on fish or fish habitat in Lac de Gras and Coppermine River.
M8.	Wildlife safe during filling of pits
Waste Rock Storage Area Closure Objectives	
W1.	Physically stable slopes to limit risk of failure that would impact the safety of people or wildlife.
W2.	Rock and till pile features (shape and appearance) that match aesthetics of the surrounding natural area.
W3.	Contaminated soils and waste disposal areas that cannot contaminate land and water.
Processed Kimberlite Containment Facility Closure Objectives	
P1.	No adverse effects on people, wildlife or vegetation.
P2.	Physically stable processed kimberlite containment facility to limit risk of failure that would affect safety of people or wildlife.
P3.	Prevent processed kimberlite from entering the surrounding terrestrial and aquatic environments.

North Inlet Area Closure Objectives	
NI2.	Water quality and sediment quality in the North Inlet that is safe for aquatic life, wildlife and people.
NI3.	Suitable fish habitat in the North Inlet.
NI4.	Water quality in the North Inlet that is as similar to Lac de Gras as possible.
NI5.	Water and sediment quality in the North Inlet that will not cause adverse effects on aquatic life or water uses in Lac de Gras or the Coppermine River.
NI6.	Physically stable banks of the North Inlet to limit risk of failure that would impact the safety of people or wildlife.
Mine Infrastructure Closure Objectives	
I1.	Opportunities for communities to reuse infrastructure, where allowable under regulation and where liability is not a significant concern.
I2.	On-site disposal areas that are safe for people, wildlife and vegetation.
I3.	Prevent remaining infrastructure from contaminating land or water.

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Diavik Proposed Cultural Water Quality Criteria

Submission to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board of proposed water quality criteria that are culturally relevant, based on engagements with potentially affected Indigenous groups of the Processed Kimberlite to Mine Workings Project (EA1819-01 and W2015L2-0001)

PROPOSED CRITERIA	COMMENT
looks clear	water / ice should be free of foam, grease, soap, sediment, dust, dirt, materials
feels cool or cold	temperature is affected by location, depth, climate change, industrial development
smells clean and healthy	smell is affected by fish, wildlife, plants, rocks, temperature, location, saltiness, materials, sediments, industrial development; can have a fishy smell but not overpowering
tastes fresh	taste is affected by fish, wildlife, plants, rocks, temperature, location, saltiness, sediments, industrial development
sounds alive	water sounds are affected by movement as well as activity by people, fish, wildlife, birds, etc.)

The criteria will be monitored:

1. prior to flooding of the pit(s)
2. prior to breaching the dam and reconnection of the pit lake with Lac de Gras
3. after reconnection with Lac de Gras

TK Monitoring Approach Question

Is this a foundation that you think we can build on to develop the program?

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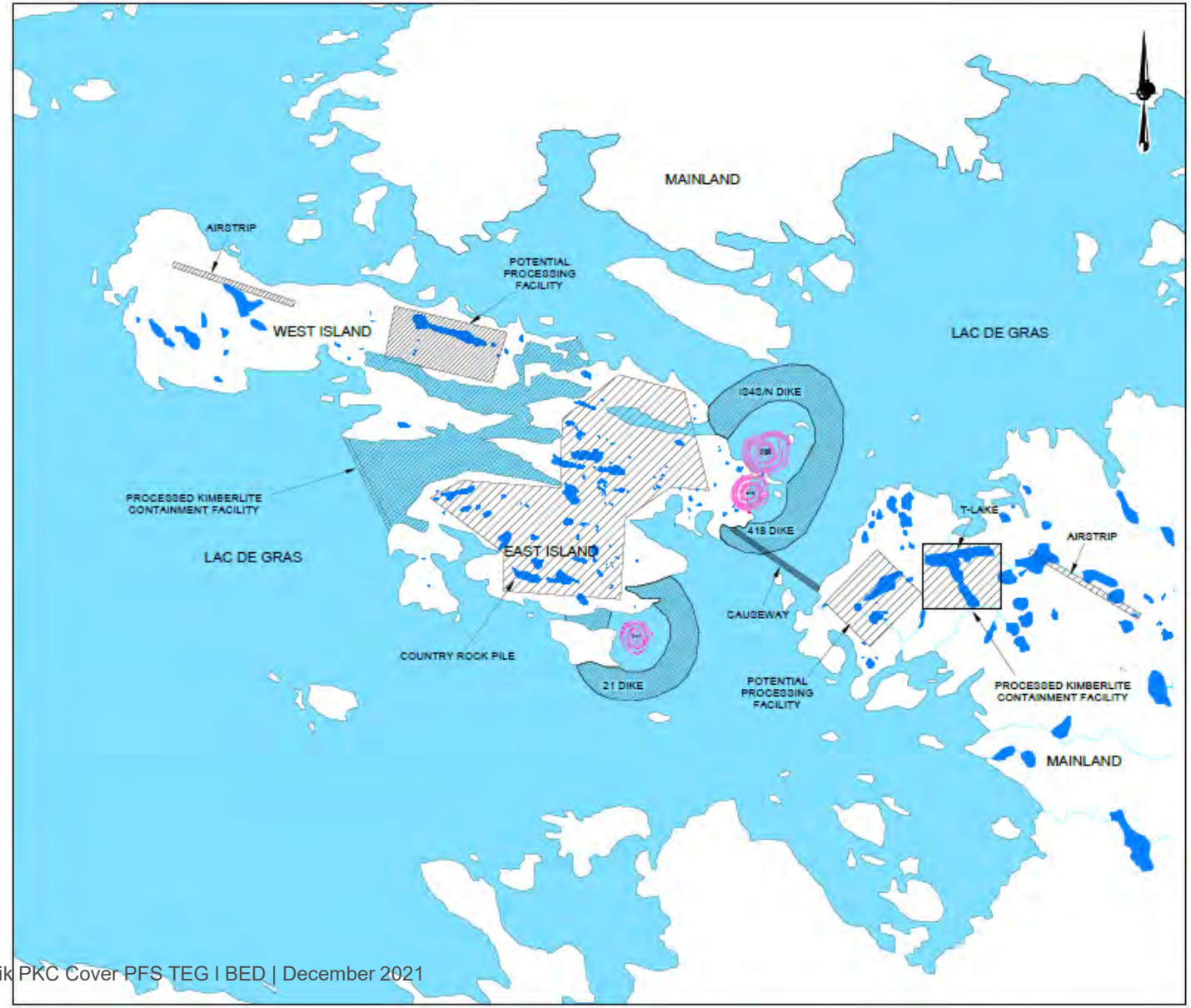
Closure Planning - Options Analysis 1996

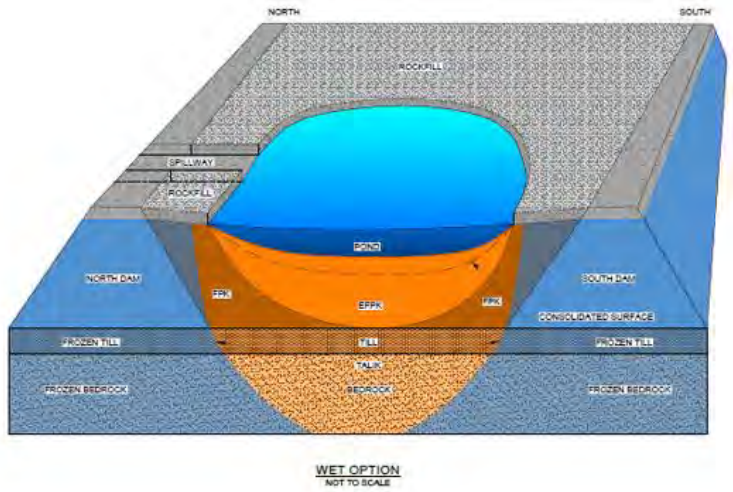


- Most impactful closure decisions were made during mine design.
- Facilities locations decisions influenced by regulators and communities.
- Subaqueous disposal of waste rock and PK not supported.
- Resulting on-land facilities now greatest closure challenge.

PKC Closure Design Evolution

1999 - Dome → 2013 - Wet → 2021 - Freeze

- geochemical emphasis



- identified constraints of PK physical properties – less geochem
- lower cost/schedule OoM option
- regulatory/community approval

- identified technical/cost concerns with wet option
- alternative advanced

Community Feedback on PKC Cover Design

Community /Group	Summary of comments re PKC Closure	Source	Notes
TK Panel	• Preference to move FPKC and EFPKC off site/out of the PKC facility. • Recommended slimes only be left on site if there would be no harm to environment as a result of the slimes • Cover PKC area with a combination of natural sand and soil to ensure that the PKC is not over-heating the area (and melting permafrost) and to support natural re-vegetation. • Recommend returning lake and shoreline to natural state (ie: gradual slope), ensure shoreline stability	TK Panel Session 6 (2013)	Removal of PKC later deemed unviable by DDMI for both geotechnical, economic, environmental reasons. Could not maintain gradual slope, natural lake bed.
TK Panel	• Climate change impacts must be considered for PKC options • If PK goes into mine workings, recommend all PKC be put back into the pits • If it is not possible to move all of the slimes in the PKC to the mine area and some of the slimes remain in the PKC, the TK Panel may recommend that the PKC is topped with large boulders to discourage wildlife and people from entering. • Beach materials/rough kimberlite should stay in PKC to support rock cover	TK Panel Session 11 (2018)	
EMAB	• PKC should be deposited into mine workings if it allows for the PKC Facility dry (freeze) cover field options and cover design analysis to occur prior to 2025 • Seepage rates should be calculated for dry (freeze) option as with wet option	ORS Comments - CRP Version 4.1	Tlicho had no comments specific to PKC closure. NSMA and YKDFN deferred to EMAB comments. EMAB's comments didn't indicate preference for one design or another.

Processed Kimberlite Whole Rock Geochemistry

Table 3 – Whole rock chemical analyses (wt%) of samples from PKC1

depth(m)	0	0.2	0.5	0.75	1	1.5	2	3
SiO_2	39.7	40	42	39.7	41.7	40.3	40.2	42.2
Al_2O_3	3.82	2.81	3.17	2.98	3.95	3.5	3.46	3.95
Fe_2O_3(t)	7.3	7.94	8.22	7.75	7.35	7.4	7.32	7.25
MgO	31.3	36.7	37.7	35.1	31.5	33.2	33.3	31.8
CaO	4.3	3.32	2.57	3.61	3.48	3.42	3.25	3.27
Na_2O	0.12	0.12	0.18	0.2	0.19	0.23	0.24	0.37
K_2O	0.67	0.41	0.46	1.1	0.91	1.14	1.25	1.15
TiO_2	0.47	0.42	0.52	0.49	0.4	0.38	0.37	0.38
P_2O_5	0.27	0.2	0.12	0.18	0.21	0.19	0.18	0.19
MnO	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Cr_2O_3	0.18	0.21	0.39	0.26	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.18
V_2O_5	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	nd
LOI	11.2	7.83	4.71	8.08	9.05	9.08	9.47	8.37
Sum	99.4	100	100	99.6	99.1	99.2	99.3	99.2
CO_2	3.37	2.3	1.66	3.18	2.39	2.97	3.02	2.85
S	0.32	0.21	0.24	0.19	0.37	0.35	0.31	0.27
SO_4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2

(t): total; LOI: Loss-on-ignition; nd: not detected; sample labels refer to depths in meter

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Processed Kimberlite Whole Rock Geochemistry

Table 4 – Whole rock chemical analyses (wt%) of samples from PKC3 and PKCSW

	PKC3								PKCSW				
depth(m)	0	0.2	0.5	0.75	1	2	2.5	3	0	0.2	0.5	1	1d
SiO_2	39.9	40.9	41.1	41.1	41.1	40.7	41.7	40.4	40.7	40.7	42.0	40.6	40.4
Al_2O_3	2.59	3.94	3.00	4.40	4.00	4.15	3.70	3.44	2.41	3.77	3.99	3.05	3.06
Fe_2O_3(t)	8.06	7.11	7.85	6.93	7.16	7.05	7.42	7.44	7.88	7.02	7.13	7.63	7.64
MgO	38.0	31.2	36.7	28.3	30.9	29.9	34.0	33.9	37.3	29.7	30.8	34.8	34.8
CaO	2.99	3.79	2.64	4.13	3.34	3.51	2.87	2.92	2.87	4.10	3.53	3.36	3.31
Na_2O	0.1	0.17	0.15	0.25	0.22	0.2	0.28	0.16	0.11	0.22	0.36	0.21	0.21
K_2O	0.4	0.72	0.54	1.32	0.85	0.78	0.81	0.66	0.39	0.79	0.81	0.83	0.83
TiO_2	0.4	0.46	0.34	0.47	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.38	0.35	0.46	0.43	0.38	0.37
P_2O_5	0.17	0.26	0.15	0.26	0.22	0.24	0.18	0.2	0.14	0.22	0.21	0.19	0.17
MnO	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12
Cr_2O_3	0.23	0.20	0.23	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.24	0.20	0.22	0.17	0.20	0.21	0.2
V_2O_5	nd	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	nd	0.01	nd	0.01	0.02
LOI	6.71	9.62	6.94	11.9	11.1	11.8	7.62	9.53	7.04	11.8	9.29	7.91	7.91
Sum	99.7	98.6	99.8	99.3	99.6	99.1	99.3	99.4	99.6	99.1	98.9	99.2	99.1
CO_2	1.95	2.66	1.57	3.06	2.25	2.51	1.99	2.01	2.67	3.84	2.89	2.83	2.72
S	0.23	0.32	0.2	0.34	0.32	0.33	0.28	0.25	0.17	0.33	0.27	0.24	0.25
SO_4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	nd	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

(t): total; LOI: Loss-on-ignition; nd: not detected; sample labels refer to depths in meter;
1d: duplicate analyses of 1

RioTinto

Processed Kimberlite Neutralization

Table 12 – Neutralization and acid-generating potentials based on quantitative mineralogy of samples from PKC1

depth(m)	*0*	*0.2*	*0.5*	*0.75*	*1*	*1.5*	*2*	*3*	avg	stdev	min	max
olivine (wt%)	48.3	56.0	56.3	43.9	39.9	38.1	36.5	40.2	44.9	7.8	36.5	56.3
calcite (wt%)	8.5	5.6	3.9	7.4	6.0	6.9	6.9	6.4	6.5	1.4	3.9	8.5
pyrite (wt%)	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.7
NP ol1	586	679	683	533	484	462	443	488	545	95	443	683
NP ol2	165	191	192	150	136	130	125	137	153	27	125	192
NP calcite	85	56	39	74	60	69	69	64	65	14	39	85
AP pyrite	10	7	7	7	12	10	10	8	9	2	7	12
NNP	172	196	193	158	137	134	128	142	157	27	128	196
NPR	18	30	30	25	13	14	14	18	20	7	13	30

NP ol1: congruent dissolution of olivine; NP ol2: incongruent dissolution case; NP and AP values in kg $CaCO_3$ eq/t; Refer to the text for the calculations of NNP and NPR.

Table 13 – Neutralization and acid-generating potentials based on quantitative mineralogy of samples from PKC3

depth (m)	*0*	*0.2*	*0.5*	*0.75*	*1*	*2*	*2.5*	*3*	avg	stdev	min	max
olivine (wt%)	56.4	41.6	54	30.5	41.1	43.8	48.1	48.9	45.6	8.2	30.5	56.4
calcite (wt%)	4.8	6.7	4	7.8	5.7	6.4	4.9	5.0	5.7	1.2	4.0	7.8
pyrite (wt%)	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.6
NP ol1	684	505	655	370	499	531	584	593	553	100	370	684
NP ol2	193	142	184	104	140	150	164	167	156	28	104	193
NP calcite	48	67	40	78	57	64	49	50	57	12	40	78
AP pyrite	7	10	7	10	10	10	8	8	9	1	7	10
NNP	196	145	186	110	142	152	166	169	158	27	110	196
NPR	30	16	29	12	15	16	21	21	20	7	12	30

NP ol1: congruent dissolution of olivine; NP ol2: incongruent dissolution case; NP and AP values in kg $CaCO_3$ eq/t. Refer to the text for the calculations of NNP and NPR.

Processed Kimberlite Minerals

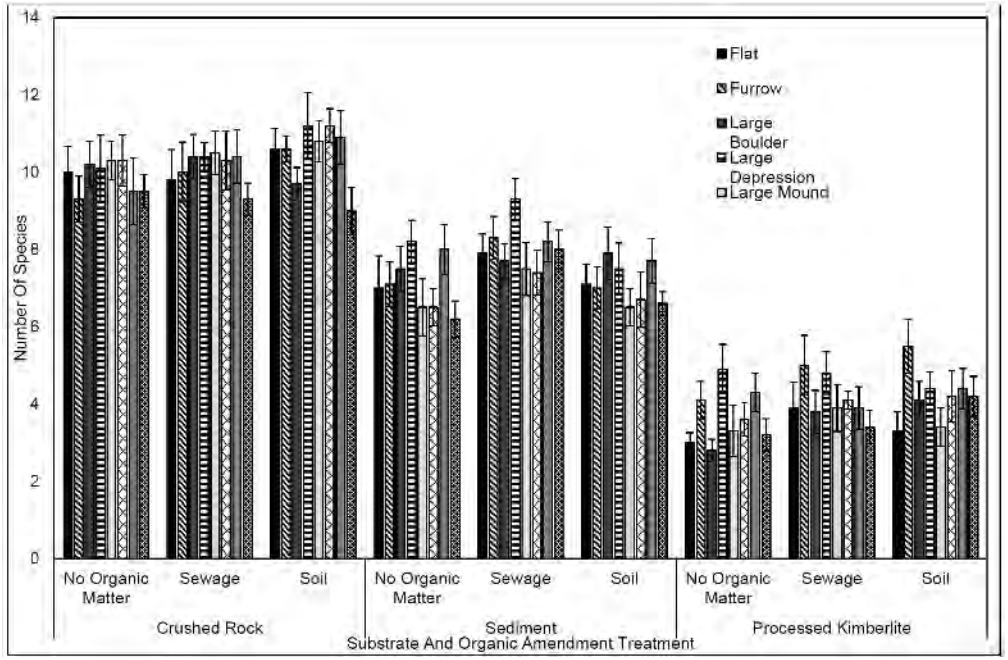
Table 6: Results of quantitative mineralogy by XRD with Rietveld refinement

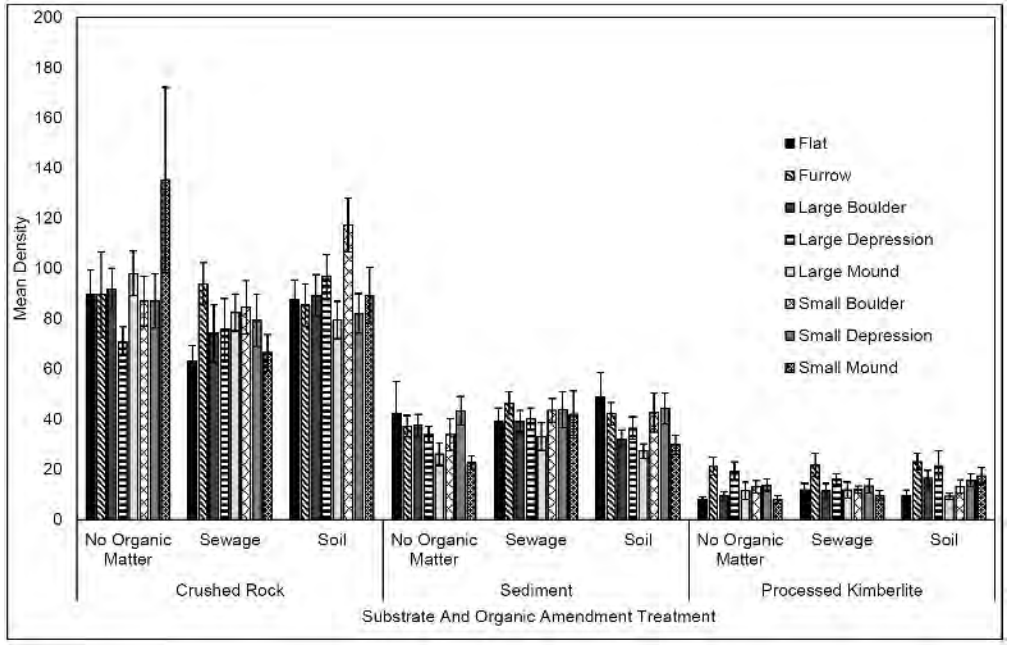
Mineral	Ideal formula	% CT	% FT	% MT
Almandine	$Fe_3^{2+}Al_2(SiO_4)_3$	6.3	1.1	1.7
Biotite	$K(Mg,Fe)_3(AlSi_3O_{10})OH_2$	3.4	3.4	2.9
Calcite	$CaCO_3$	3.6	4.1	4.9
Clinochlore	$(Mg,Fe^{2+})_5Al(Si_3Al)O_{10}(OH)_8$	2.6	7.0	3.7
Diopside	$CaMgSi_2O_6$	2.1	2.0	1.2
Forsterite	Mg_2SiO_4	46.0	32.0	38.3
Hematite	α-Fe_2O_3	-	0.3	-
Lizardite	$Mg_3Si_2O_5(OH)_4$	4.6	9.9	3.8
Montmorillonite model	$(Na,Ca)_{0.3}(Al,Mg)_2Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2 \cdot nH_2O$	27.0	32.2	40.1
Plagioclase	$NaAlSi_3O_8 - CaAl_2Si_2O_8$	1.3	2.5	1.3
Pyrite	FeS_2	0.5	-	0.4
Quartz	SiO_2	1.6	3.9	1.7
Titanite	$CaTiSiO_5$	1.0	1.6	-
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

RioTinto

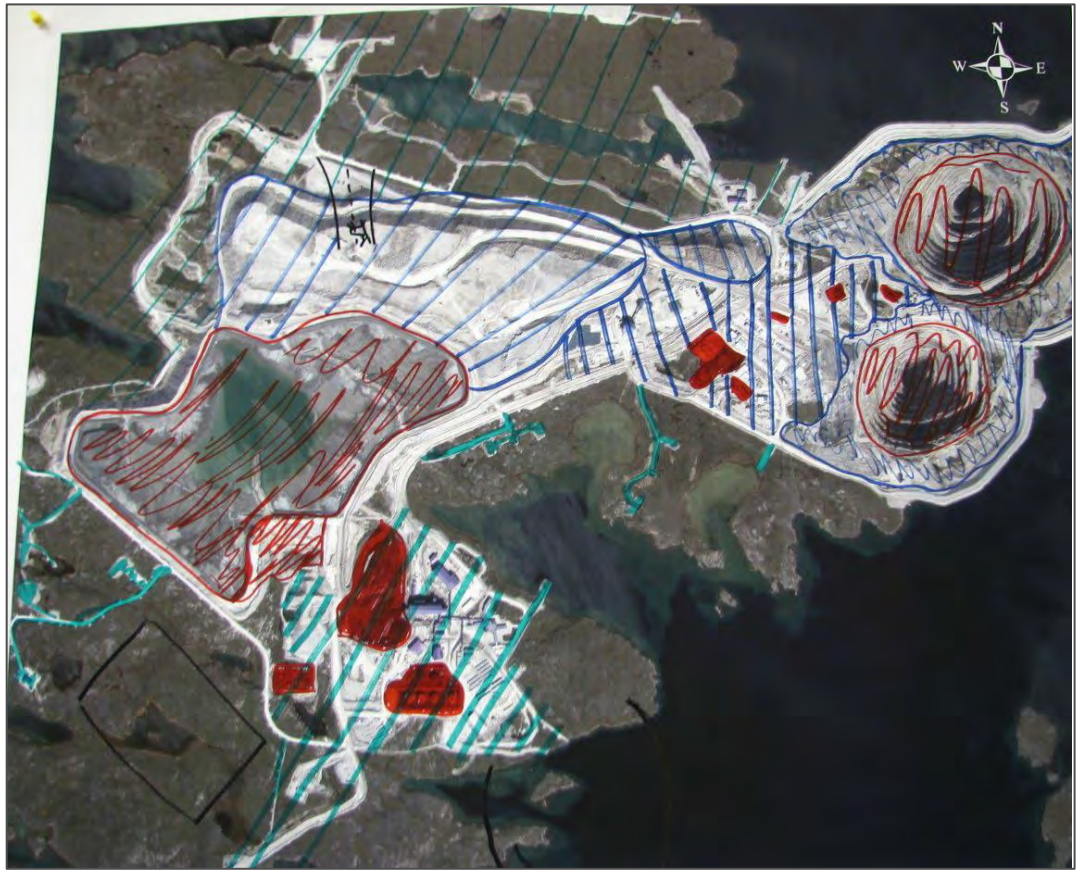
Revegetation Research

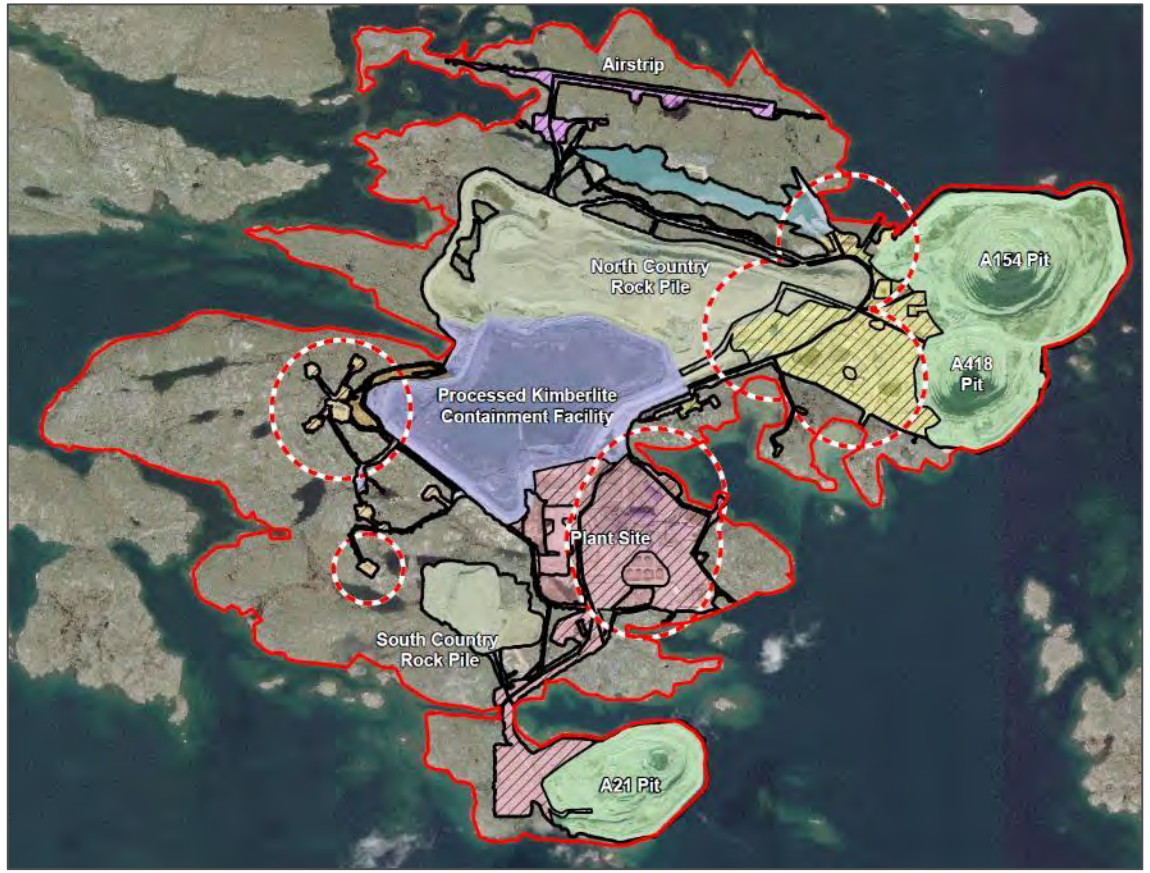
- Research conducted with University partner 2004 to 2017
- Crushed rock with organic amendments consistently resulted in high seedling emergence and growth
- However, plant performance was similar on unamended crushed rock after ten years
- Micro topography does affect where seedlings emerge, their survival and growth
- Grasses will facilitate soil development over time through addition of organic matter and nutrients from litter production and decomposition
- Considerable growth between years 5-10
- Without seeding, regeneration would be on the order of decades





Traditional Knowledge In-Design





Red – areas where you do not want wildlife to go;
Green – areas where you want to encourage re-vegetation or regrowth;
Blue – areas to encourage wildlife passage through modifications (e.g., landscape)

Targeted revegetation design (hashed areas) based on recommendations from TK Panel with a clear balance to not make the island an attractant for wildlife and in particular not attract wildlife to use the waste rock piles, processed kimberlite facility, and areas of previous hazardous waste storage. Allow these areas longer to 'heal' before wildlife are encouraged back.

Rehabilitation Methods

- Revegetation is not required for erosion control – purely aesthetic
- Scarification and deep ripping of ground using dozers
- Broadcast seeding with density of 25 kg/ha using ATVs
- Deposit seeds immediately before snowfall or after freshet melt
- 90% grasses, 10% forbs (native species)
- Regulatory success metrics still undefined – level of effort vs. plant density
- Revegetation remains a topic of interest with communities with a wide range of opinions between "*letting Mother Nature take its course and heal the area over time*" to active revegetation of all areas. Recommendations vary over time and by community
- Review of Final Closure and Reclamation Plan (late 2022 submission) will confirm requirements

Vegetation Cycle

Natural Tundra

Waste Rock Infrastructure

Seeding + 1 year

Seeding + 5-10 years

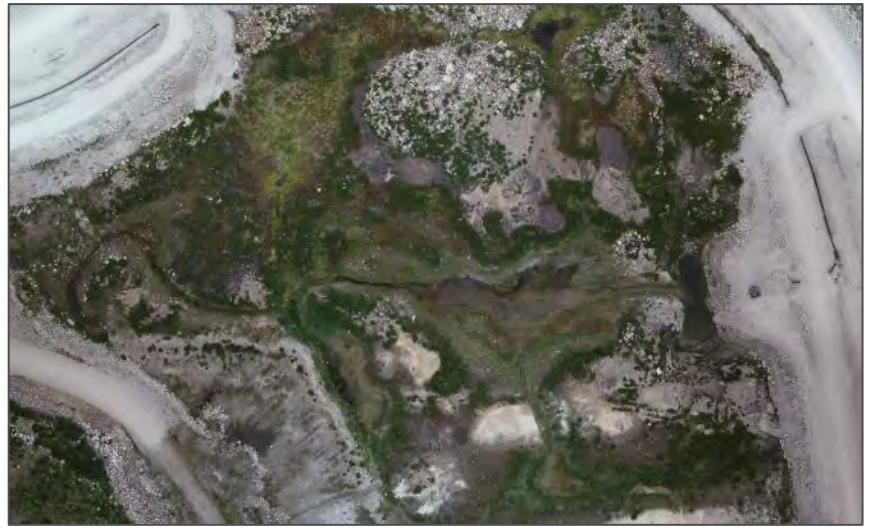
Seeding + 10-15 years

Decades?

Site Aerials

Natural Tundra

Seeding + 8yr

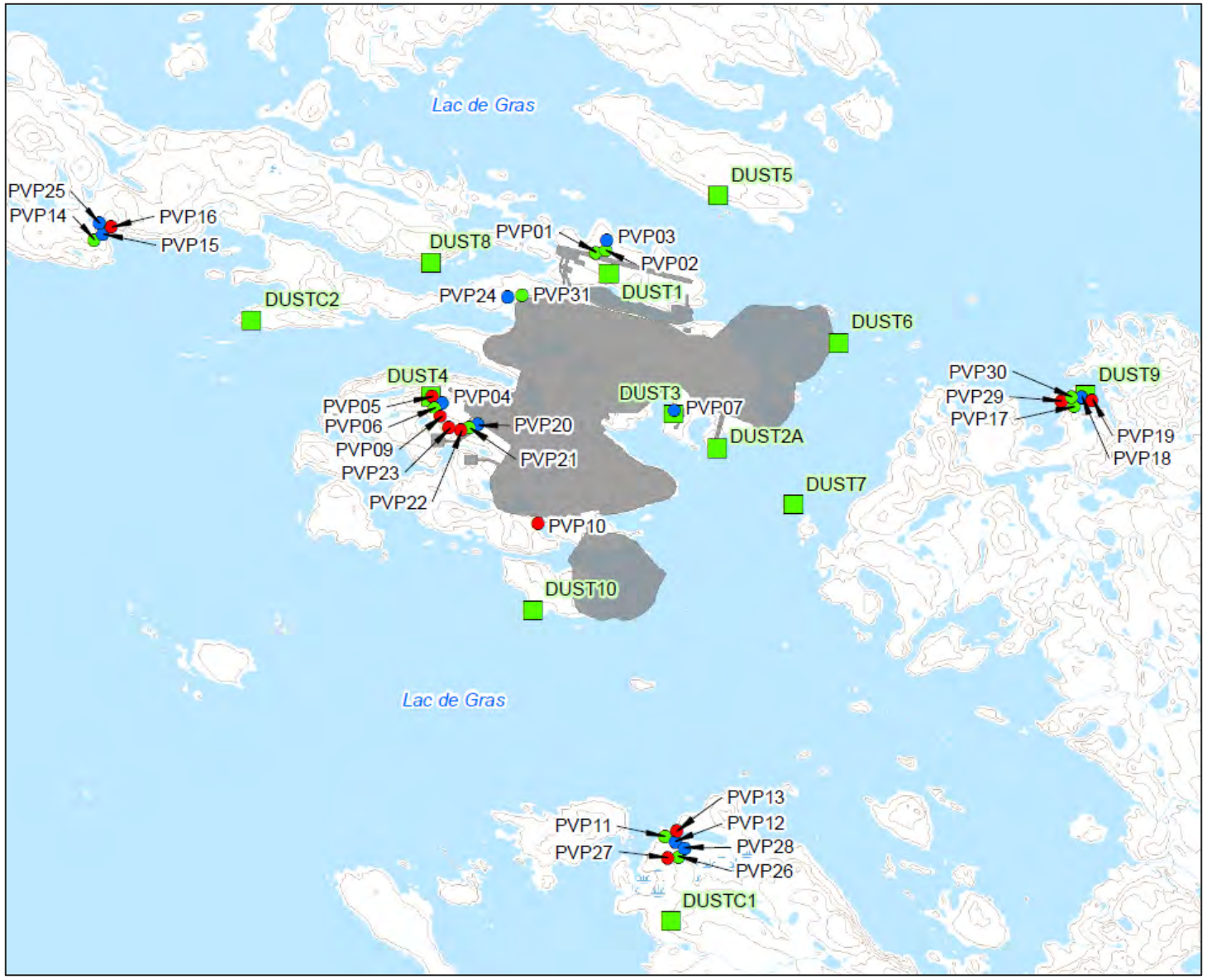


Natural lakebed growth + 20 yr

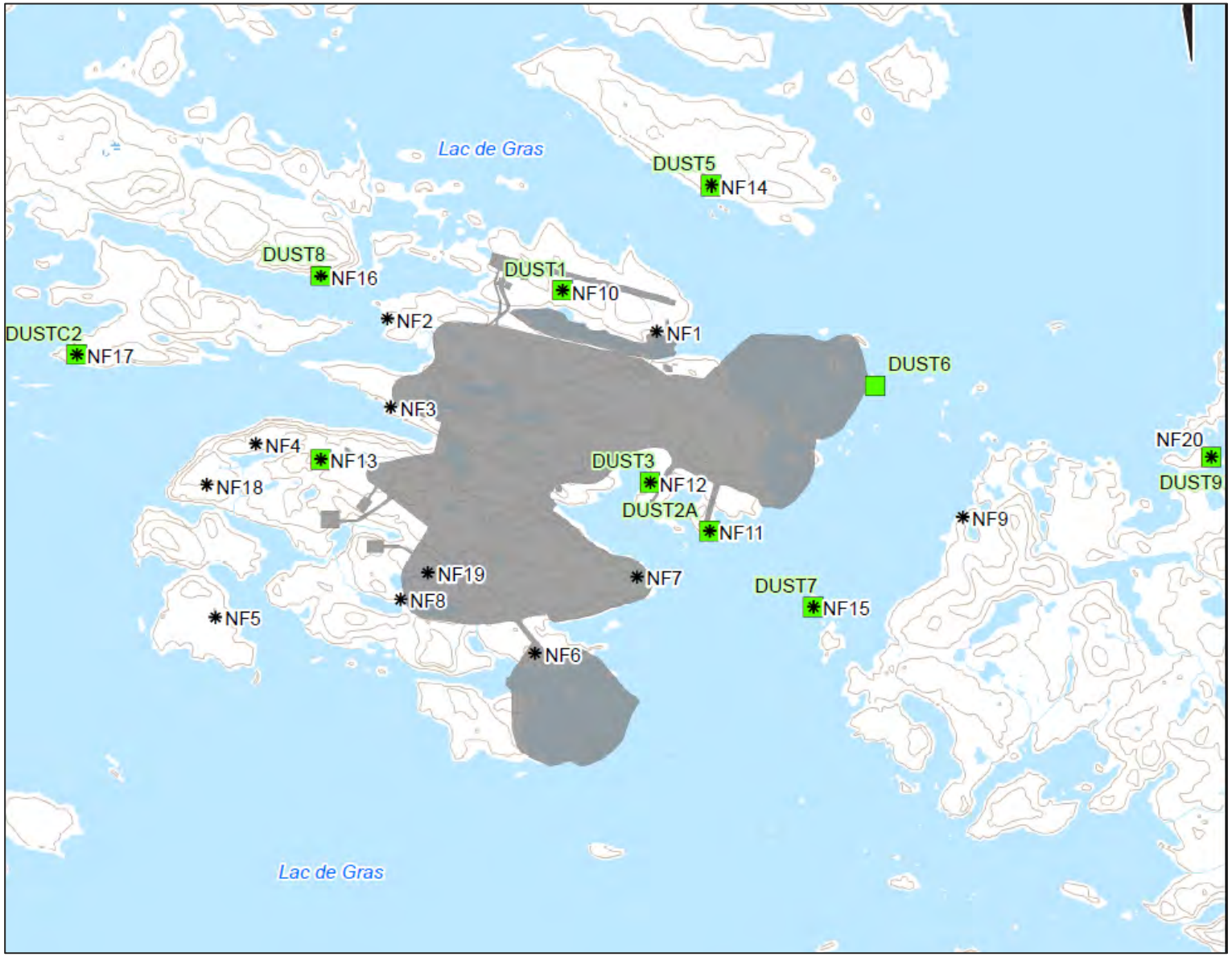
Seeding + 18yr

Natural laydown growth + 20 yr

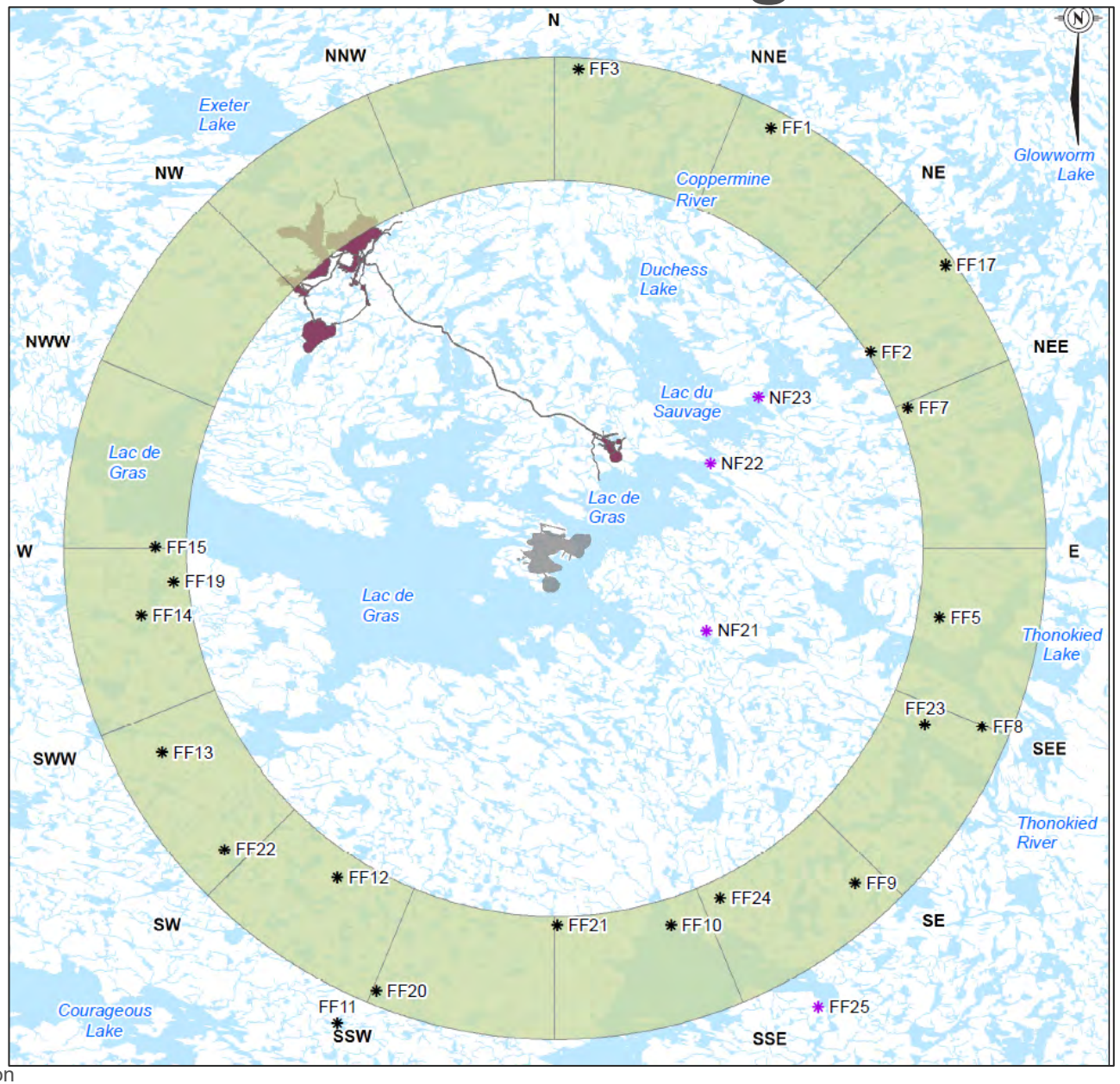
Scientific Monitoring - Vegetation



Scientific Monitoring - Lichen



Scientific Monitoring - Lichen



APPENDIX D
Session Transcription Notes

TK Panel Session #14: Day One Transcription

Peter: Good morning, everyone. we are going to go ahead and begin. There are two other people who will be coming. They are having a bit of vehicle issues so they might be another 10 to 15 minutes or so. We will start and when they arrive; we will let them introduce themselves to the group. To begin, today we are going to ask Elder Sangris to say an opening prayer and then we will begin with the rest of the agenda. So Elder Sangris if you can say the opening prayer.

Peter Sangris: I was asked to do the opening prayer this morning. We are talking about something very important, so we are going to be discussing that for the next few days. We are talking about things that are on the land, like fish, the water. And we are going to be listening to each other. I think that there are topics that we should discuss. One of them is fish, which we had seen last summer. Last summer, we were there at the camp and what we saw we did not like. So, what we should do today is really emphasize on that. The land has been there for us for a long time, and we survive from all the things on the land, we hope that it will be the same in the future for all the kids. We should say the prayer now.

OPENING PRAYER

Peter: Mahsi, Elder Sangris. Just a couple of housekeeping items before we get into the full agenda. Everyone should have an interpretive machine. Number 1 is English. Number 2 is Yellowknives Dene, and then Number 3 will be Lutselk'e. Those will be the 2 interpreters so if you hear the Elders speaking then you will need this for interpretation. As we are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, we will try to keep social distanced and if you are speaking, sitting, drinking, or eating it is your choice on the masks but we have hand sanitizer as well as everything you would need. The washrooms here are at the back, and there is a men's and women's washroom right through that door. There is an exit where you came in and another going past the washrooms.

Okay, so we are going to certainly welcome the TK Panel to the session today, and I have told the interpreters if anyone is talking too fast just to let us know. But what we are going to begin with is a roundtable introduction because there are some new panel members in the room, and some new staff in the room, and just so everybody will have a chance to hear who is in the room and learn a bit about them. So, what we are going to do for the introduction is to give your name, the community you are from, your experience with the TK Panel, something about yourself that will let everyone know a little bit about you as a TK member, and last of all, if you could say what success means, we are going to be here three days, so what would success mean to you after being here three days, providing your input, providing your opinion, and giving Diavik some guidance on their closure of Diavik. So those 5 things.

I'll start just so you have an idea of the introduction and that will help all of us know each other a little better as we are spending the next three days together.

My name is Peter Clarkson I live up in Inuvik and I have been there for 35 years. I lived in Yellowknife before then but it was too big, so I had to move north where it was smaller. Originally a biologist but since then have done a number of things in the community. This is my first TK panel that I have attended. Something about me, I enjoy spending time on the land, and I was telling Ms. Adjun that in 2012 I flew into Kugluktuk with a friend, and we hiked from Kugluktuk to Paulatuk for three weeks, 500 km. We didn't see anybody in three weeks. We saw caribou, wolves, foxes, and geese. But we didn't see another person until we got closer to Paulatuk where there were camps. So that is something I like to do, spend time on the land.

Success for me, by Friday afternoon, would be that all of you have had a chance to give your opinion, to express your thoughts, your concerns to ask your questions on the presentations on the mine closure that you feel you have had good input, and that it has been worthwhile for you. That would be a success for me.

We will start over here because you are supposed to start where the sun rises and then you move to where the sunsets. So, we are going to start here, so if you can - name community, TK panel experience, something about you, and success. All the microphones should work so that's good.

Łutsel K'e Dene Elder: My name is [redacted], I come from Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation. I think I know my traditional knowledge of where I came from in my community. I had been living off the land with my parents and I still do today. Something about me, for two years, because of COVID, I have been staying home. That is all I need to say, you can't do nothing. The lockdown is hard because of COVID. We all know, we all have to stay safe and watch ourselves because I really need to watch my Elders, because we only have a few in our community. I have my uncle here with me, who I really care about, and some of them at home and my aunties. Success for you, I have been in this TK panel with Diavik for a long time. All my traditional knowledge that I give to them, I hope they work on it really hard before the mine closes. Marsi Cho.

Sierra: My name is Sierra Catholique. I am from Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation this is my first time attending a TK Panel meeting. And something about me, I am graduating this year.

Albert: I am from Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, my name is Albert Buchais. I am an Elder from Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and now that we are here for the Traditional Knowledge Panel I have been working with, off and on, with the mining and other independent environmental, so when there is a closure, and when we talk about our land, we talk about the life that we live on our land, where we have [Łutsel K'e Elder] here with us, and another youth, so these youth are learning from us. This is good when we bring our youth. I am not going to say too much here but I will listen to you, and I will put in my voice to talk about something towards our land. Thank you very much again for being here.

Vikki: Hi my name is Vikki I am from Kugluktuk. This is the second panel because I got the opportunity to go to the camp at Lac de Gras. Something about me, I am in my fourth year of the teaching program so the experience of being around Elders and hearing stories of the land and gaining knowledge of the land as well, it's really great.

Kelsey: Hi my name is Kelsey Martin, I come from the community of Ndilo I am a YKDFN band member. This is my second TK panel; I was at Lac de Gras. And something about me is I like being on the land. Any opportunity or chance I get. Either fishing, setting nets, getting wood, or hunting any opportunity I get I go. And that's about it.

Barbara: Hi my name is Barbara Adjun I am from Kugluktuk, Nunavut. I don't have experience with this panel, but it is really nice to hear stories of the traditional knowledge that everyone has. Yesterday, I listened to an Elder and just the start of it was so interesting so I hope I can learn something from it. I'm 60 now so I'm an Elder I guess (laughs). I am a replacement for Nancy. She went to this before. She has been to the camp, the fish camp, at Diavik, and I just hope to learn something from everyone here and I hope I can bring something. I have a lot of questions about our fish; I hope that I can bring something to the table about traditional knowledge about fish. Thank you.

Peter: It was Barbara's dad who gave us a boat ride across the Rae and Richardson then dropped me and Carston off, then we were off for three weeks. So, I knew Carl from the wildlife days when he was the old wildlife officer. Elder Sangris?

Peter Sangris: I am Peter Sangris from Dettah First Nation. Mahsi Cho.

Mary Jane: I live in Ndilo, my name is Mary Jane Francis. I grew up on the land ever since I was very young. I used to be on the land a lot with my family. I have been attending meetings but not very often because I don't really know how the meetings operate but I am here to learn too. Thank you.

Joe: My name is Joe Rabusca, I have been going to a lot of meetings ever since I was young. It is good to see my friend over there who I had a lot of meetings with. I used to be the Grand Chief in Rae for many, many years; I am still involved today. I am the assistant to the Grand Chief right now and the special advisor to Jackson Lafferty who is the Grand Chief now. I work with him. I am happy to see the young people today because we as Tłı̨chǫ Government people have to bring our young people to every meeting, some are supposed to be here today, but they aren't here. The reason is that one day it will be you sitting between three of us here as an Elder. Look what happened to our leaders, of our Elders in the past, they are no longer here with us. One day that's what is going to happen. So, what we like to do is pass on our knowledge, work with young people. That's what I keep saying to Tłı̨chǫ young people. One day they are going to be here at the table, and we won't be around. So, we have to learn from our Elders when they are young. That's what I did, I got involved when I was very young. When I was 20 some years old, I got involved with politics. I talk so much at meetings because I do care about what we are going to talk about – our land, our water, and our wildlife. That's what the Elders always keep telling us because that is what we live on. We live on the wildlife that is out there on the land, we use the water, we use the land, the land feeds us, that's what the Elders always say. If we are involved with properties like we are talking about today, I was there when this started. I got involved. All the hearing that you can talk about Diavik and all the other mines that are out there now, I was involved right from the start, until they started and I'm still here, and now we are at a part where closure plans are going to commence. If you look at Ray Rock, we are kind of going backward. Ray Rock was there when I was young, but they made an awful mess leaving all that garbage out there and that's not the only one. So, we learn from what has happened at that mine and we work with the government to clean that up. Now that's not the only one, there are others. I live in Rae Behchokǫ̀ across straight to Great Bear Lake there are so many abandoned mines. Kind of getting away from what we are supposed to talk about, but we are in the same boat, and we don't want to see that because one day you are going to have to look after the land. There are going to be future mines. As we speak right now, they are finding a lot of gold close to Rae, about 18 to 20 miles from Rae. And the water goes through there and it is going to go to Rae. They are doing the same thing. Close to Snare Lake, just on that side of Snare Lake, could be about 30 miles. They've got a big property, that we allow them to do, but if they find anything what is going to happen? It is important that we come to a meeting, especially if we are young, because after we are gone it will be you coming to the meetings, meetings like this. That's why it is really important that we come to a meeting and listen carefully. When you are young and go to a meeting, next time they ask you to go you might not want to, but don't be like that. Who is going to look after the land that we are living on? You, you have to look after it and the wildlife that's on it, that is why I am here. That's why I do care what happens out on the land, because no one is going to do it for us. No one. So, when we speak, we speak because we do care about the land, what's out there, and what they do on it. We have to be partners with them. We have to work with the companies out there. We have

to help them so that we make the right decision so that our land is protected, our wildlife is protected. When I meet with mining companies, they are saying that there is less caribou, well it wasn't me that created caribou. God created the animal, God created the wildlife that is out there and our Tłı̨chǫ Elders, I bet you we heard the same thing here, that wildlife will never go down. One day, God will put more on there, that's the story I hear all the time. One day there is no rabbits, but in a couple months there are thousands. It is a God given thing. No human being made rabbits, we don't raise them, we don't grow them. God provided them. It has always been there; it is always going to be the same. We have to look after it, by looking after the wildlife we have to look after the land. I don't want to take over the meeting sir, but I just wanted to say that I have been involved right from the start, I'm still here, we have to be, there are going to be future mines in our areas, and the water flows down to our neighbours. We know it, so we have to look after our water.

Peter: Thank you Joe, that is some great advice, especially for our youth in the room. Métis Elder?

Métis Elder: [Redacted], North Slave Metis Alliance, first TK Panel I have attended. Something about me, born and raised in Fort Smith.

Claire: Good morning, everybody. My name is Claire Tincombe. I am here as an assistant facilitator, and I am doing the transcription of the session. I work closely with Peter and Brenda at Det'on Cho Environmental and Hemmera, those are the two companies that are here putting on this facilitation workshop. I guess, a fun fact about me is that I coach gymnastics here at the gymnastics club in Yellowknife and I find it to be very fun. My experience with the TK Panel, this is my first time here and I am really looking forward to hearing everyone's input and I am happy to be here. Thank you, mahsi.

Peter: Everyone is going to become very familiar with Ryan, Ryan works with Pido. He is the man who makes all this technology work, so thanks Ryan.

Lena: My name is Lena Drygeese, I live in Dettah, I am a Yellowknives Dene First Nation. I don't really go on the TK Panel board, but I have been interpreting for my Elders since the early 90s. I am a self-taught language survivor because I went to residential school, but I had to learn my language again so today, I am interpreting for my Elders and I feel so good about that. I am happy to be here. Mahsi.

Sarah: Good morning I am from Łutsel K'e Dene. I started interpreting when I was young in the 1970s and am still working as an interpreter. I have been to a lot of meetings and when you are trained, you are trained not to think about it just go word to word. I have a lot of experience and I am glad to be here. I have met most of the Elders from Tłı̨chǫ and Great Bear, around that area and I know a lot of people and on top of that I will be 80 years old in 2022. Marsi Cho I am glad to be here today.

Brenda: Hi my name is Brenda Michel, I am originally from Łutsel K'e. This is my first meeting here. Something about me. I used to be a student and I worked at all the mines Diavik, Gahcho Kué, Ekati, Snap Lake. I was the environmental monitoring person. And I learned lots working with air quality, water quality, and fish quality. I understand what this meeting is about and my Traditional Knowledge, I really believe in it. I like to take care of the water, and the fish, and the caribou. That was my goal when I was working up at the mines, so I think I am in the right place. My success is that I am going to try to work hard for you guys. And mahsi cho.

Laura Jane: Hi my name is Laura Jane Michel I am from the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation I am here to observe the meeting, I work with the wildlife and lands as the acting manager. About myself, I like going out on the land, so just listening to the panel and everyone's TK knowledge is something important to me and it is always good to learn from other people's knowledge and what they bring to the table. Marsi cho.

Skye: I am Skye Lacroix I am from Kugluktuk, Nunavut. I work at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association as the land and environment project officer, but I lived here most of my life in Yellowknife. This is my first TK panel, I am just observing as a staff member. Something about me is that I love berry picking. I hope everyone feels heard at this panel.

Myra: Good morning, my name is Myra Berub. I work with Diavik, and I have been working with Diavik for the last 3 years now. I live in Yellowknife but before that I lived in Hay River and have lived in the north for 19 years now. I know I don't look that old, I did come as an adult. This is my 3rd TK panel, we had hoped to have more but of course because of the pandemic we weren't able to meet as much. I have 2 children, Penelope and Sebastian, they are 14 and 12, they were born here, they are growing up here, I am raising them here. So, for me, success is also thinking about our youth, and they love going out on the land going camping, I want to continue to learn indigenous teachings because I live here, and I am raising my family here. So, thank you for being here today and letting me join you in these discussions. Mahsi, marsi, quana.

Gord: My name is Gord McDonald, I am Diavik's Closure Manager. I have been, I think with the exception of a couple of TK Panels, to every TK Panel session but I have missed the fish ones as those are operated by the site team. Something about me, I am actually the longest-serving Diavik employee. I have been with Diavik for almost 25 years now. It started with the original design, permitting and community engagement. Dealt with many of you when you might have been former Grand Chiefs, so I have a lot of history with Diavik. Success to me means answering a lot of your questions. If I don't have a lot of questions from you, I think that means we have not been succeeding. I also look forward to on Friday when I normally get to receive your recommendations on the session. Historically it has been a very engaging time, and it has been youth that presented the recommendations. I look forward to hearing your recommendations, answering your questions, and trying to explain the closure of the Diavik mine to you.

Peter: Thank you, mahsi for those great introductions. We are here for very serious work to provide our recommendations to Diavik. I just want to clarify Myra and Gord are the only 2 Diavik employees. Myself, Claire, and Brenda do not work for Diavik. We actually work for you, to record your recommendations. Although it is serious work, we also want to have some fun since we are here for three days, so what we have set up over here is what we are calling the prize table. There are all sorts of stuff, including some hoodies that Det'on Cho had. I brought some fish sticks from Fort McPherson, some dry fish, Rio Tinto hats, cups as well as some smaller items like Rio Tinto fishhooks.

We are going to, probably three or four times a day, we will draw a name and you can take any of the prizes you want. A couple hours later we will draw another name. Just to make it a little bit fun, and to go home with a few prizes. And when your name is drawn, you can pick anything you want from the table.

Next, we are going to go through the agenda, so everyone has an idea what the plan is. We are going to start, after the break, with a presentation from Diavik. Then we will have a group

discussion and questions. Then we will have a break for lunch. It will be provided here. After lunch there will be another presentation and then getting input from you about the presentation and what your recommendations are. Claire is going to be busy recording everything you say and marking the recommendations. Friday, we will go through the recommendations and make sure that all of those recommendations are recorded accurately. Thursday is very similar, with 2 presentations on Thursday, and then Friday is reviewing the recommendations, presenting the recommendations to Gord and Myra, and wrapping up at the end of the day with a prayer. None of us are used to sitting all day, we will take some breaks and will try to keep the day flowing best we can. Anyone who has a vehicle here, see Myra at the break, because she knows where you can park it, so you don't have to keep feeding the meter.

Any questions about the agenda? If, during the three days, anyone starts to feel a little bit sick, or starts to come down with something, let us know that you will be excusing yourself. We just want to make sure that everyone is comfortable.

Any other questions about the next three days?

The break is scheduled for 10:00 am, what we want to do is have a little bit of a game. That will be the first draw for the prizes, it is called diversity bingo. If you don't have a pen let us know, Claire will hand them out. The idea of the game is to write people's names under the questions and the first person to get all 9 questions with a person's name wins a prize.

They are local community type questions. We are going to do number one today and we will do number two tomorrow. Feel free if you can answer some of those, but you will have to go to other people to answer the other questions.

BREAK

Peter: Myra is going to be showing a video. Then we will have a presentation from Gord or Myra and then we will open it up to the floor for discussion.

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Peter: So that is the overview presentation that gives everyone a good view of Diavik and what you will see in the coming presentations. Gord will be giving the first presentation on the Processed Kimberlite Containment cover. So, Gord, the floor is all yours.

Barbara: When you use acronyms, I don’t know what they mean. Can you spell them out? I couldn't understand the acronyms that you used; I am new.

Gord: The interpreter asked me about LDG, means Lac de Gras so that is the lake where Diavik is. The one you'll hear a lot today is PKC, which stands for Processed Kimberlite Containment. Processed Kimberlite is the rock after we have taken the diamonds out and containment is just that it is being put inside a dam.

Barbara: I think we should use the full names of everything.

Gord: I will show you a map in a minute. Just before we start into this, I just wanted to make sure that if any of you have any questions about this change in facilitators. It was a big change of us, Natasha and Joanne had been facilitating this panel for over 10 years, so it was not an

easy change to have made. And I want to make it clear that it had nothing to do with whether they were good at their job, they were excellent. But it was just a change to allow a different approach, and also to bring on a more northern and indigenous partner, which is certainly one of our company objectives.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Since Joanne, Sarah, and Natasha are not here, do you know all my TK, traditional knowledge that I gave to Diavik over all those years that I have been going to the meetings? Hopefully, I do not have to repeat myself. Because it will be the same thing that my Uncle Albert will say. We gave all our knowledge to the mining company on how we want things to be done when the mine closes. So, I don't really want to repeat myself, it is kind of hard when you start all over again. Because we did give our good knowledge of our traditional knowledge to the mining company and when I first walked through the door, I felt different because we don't have the people that we had been going to the meetings with. Hopefully things will change for the better. We also need to learn more about the way the mine will be closed. I hope we have lots of good words for the past three days here, with that I have lots of questions for you, Gord.

Gord: That is a very good point, I don't think you should be thinking that you gave your TK to Natasha, Joanne, and Sarah. They were collecting the information, and writing it down, and putting it in a place in the reports that come with each of the panel sessions, and in the recommendations that really come all the way to Diavik through the facilitators. That is what the facilitators are there for. We do have all that information, you don't need to repeat any of it, it is all in reports that are being put with regulators. You should definitely not feel like you need to repeat yourself. Peter, and the team, have reviewed the past reports so are bringing themselves up to speed, you are still going to have to help them out a bit, there will be a bit of overlap but I don't think there will be a problem.

Łutsel K'e Elder: The other good thing is that I had all their emails, so whenever they wanted to ask me a question, I'd email them back. Which is really good, you know if I miss anything I will read it, and send it back to them. Communication is really good. It will be good with these people that are here. I will give you my email, and if you want it, and need my help I am here for that.

Gord: That is a great offer, we will get that down.

Albert: I just listened to [Łutsel K'e Elder] talking from the long time since the mine started. There were a lot of Elders that put in their TK into the program, and all that they say. When somebody talks, we all have the same culture, so, what our Elders put in place for us. I am here as an Elder and I went to a lot of meetings. So now that we are not going to change our words, or anything, because when there is a reclamation of the mine, we have to help get our land as clean as possible for the animals, and our Elders have told us, and now we are here as Elders, and we are saying the same thing that they said. The mining industry is a big issue for our land, our waters, and our animals. Especially the fish. Everything is not the same, but what we are going to do is to get all the animals, the fish, the water, clean so we are very concerned about the land, and I know the mining industry is interested in all the diamonds that are in the land. So as a TK panel, here we want the industry to work really good with us, so that when the mining is closed, our land will be sustainable for all our animals and well-being of all our people. Even the fish tasting was an issue, and the water, too, especially. Everything was good at the beginning, but now everything is not good, even the water, and the fish, it is not edible. The fish are really poor, skinny, dark colour, and all the sediment that goes in the water and it settles at the bottle, and the fish eat it. When there is wind the water moves around and this is the way the water moves around, and this is the way it spreads out on the lake. We don't have big books that tell

us where we come from, but we know what we are talking about because we live by the law of the Dene people. So now we are here again, there are a lot of people that are at home, and we are putting our thoughts and recommendations to the mine. And now there is the land where the mine is, there is caribou land in the old days, and the caribou held onto the land after the mining started, now I don't think they go there anymore. And there is lots of overflow in springtime from the snow that goes in the water. And if the land is contaminated, you can't control the overflow that goes in the water. It is kind of very hard when you think of things, and all these things started on account of the mine. And when it is our turn to go hunting on the land, we see a lot of different stuff that is not good for the land. Even set nets in the water and if the fish is not healthy, it's contaminated water they are living in. We don't know what is going to happen. Maybe there will be no fish, maybe the water is going to die. So, I state as an Elder, that I work with the mine people for a very long time. In the future, you said, you are going to start the vegetation again, even some years there is lots of snow and the water goes really high and it's going to touch all the contamination on the land. Even after the closure of the mine, there should be someone monitoring for at least 20 years, or something. So, if there is anything that is not right, it has to be reported, and if you work for the benefit of all the people, and the mine you have to do a good job working. I don't keep things to myself, it doesn't make me feel good when I know there is something wrong and I don't talk about it. So, I think about the people who are sitting behind me back home so now we have youth here I am very happy to bring some youth here because they learn from us. As people, we love our land, we love the water, [and] we love the animals because that is our life. This is why we don't come to meetings as often as we should, because of the pandemic. So even if there is newsletter going around a lot of people will find out what the TK Panel is doing.

Maybe, we will get some new ideas from other people. So this is why we are here as an advisory for the mine. This is what I want to say, and I thank you for letting me speak. Mahsi Cho.

Gord: That is a great introduction to what we want to do over the next few days. Listen to ideas about how to close the mine and how to monitor and demonstrate how the mine has been successful or not at closing.

Barbara: Yesterday, we were talking about the mine, and the overview of it, and one of the gentlemen that presented on the environment, he works for the environment department. I asked the question do they check the fish when they run before the Diavik reaches the Coppermine River? He said no they didn't, they don't test the fish after it goes into the Coppermine River. I want to make a suggestion: why not set nets at the Coppermine River, test the fish and look at the fish and see if any fish going down the Coppermine River are coming down from the lake, and see if Lac de Gras is contaminant free. Just to look at the fish, because there were times when we caught fish around Kugluktuk, and they were sick, scarred, or with sores. I'd like to get an answer from someone if the fish were coming from Lac de Gras. Thank you.

Gord: That's a good follow-up from yesterday, from Shawn's comments. The Coppermine River comes out here, and goes all the way north, about 300 km to Kugluktuk. The question was about the fish runs that come from Kugluktuk, [go] down, and go back up? And do we monitor those fish runs? And the answer was no, we don't monitor those fish runs. But what we do monitor are the fish in Lac de Gras. We started monitoring the large fish in Lac de Gras. But now we monitor the very small fish that live their whole lives beside Diavik. The reason that we do that is because from the science perspective, you mentioned dust coming off of Diavik, or contaminants coming off of Diavik. If those are there at levels that might harm fish, they'd harm

the ones right beside Diavik first, rather than the ones way down in the Coppermine River. So, we are looking at those first, and then we could look further down if there were effects there. But we are not seeing effects from Diavik in the fish right beside Diavik. I know there were lots of comments from last year's fish camp with the fish in Lac de Gras, and the parasites in Lac de Gras, and the skinny fish. It was surprising to me that the panel was seeing that for the first time. We have been seeing that since before we got there. When I first got there in 1996, that was one of the first observations we made was how skinny they are, and how high the parasite load was. But that is the scientific reason why we monitor close to Diavik, and not closer to Kugluktuk. We know that Kugluktuk has its own monitoring program with the char there, and we have been helping some of the scientists with those studies. But that is not the best place to monitor fish for an effect from Diavik.

Barbara: Where would be the best place?

Gord: The best place is to find the fish who live their whole lives right beside Diavik. So, it is a scientific approach, those little fish that live beside the island and they spend their entire life there. If there was something in the water that was going to affect the fish it would affect the first. That is why we look that, that is where the science looks.

We can talk more about that, and whether there is a different way that we can look at the fish from a traditional knowledge approach that would complement what we are doing from a scientific perspective.

GORD PRESENTING

Łutsel K'e Elder: So, when I travel my name is [redacted], but when I am at home my name is [redacted]. So, my name is [redacted], so if you come to my community after the meeting is over you can call me [redacted].

When you do your recycled water, [and] drain it back, is it beside the north inlet thing that it comes back out? After my meeting at the fish camp, and before that, 2018 or when the last one was, the fish were not healthy, and the weather was bad, so we didn't go out in the boat but instead fished from the shore. I remember that the two young boys were catching fish and we were looking at it, and the fish were not very healthy. Last year, my sister and I put nets in the water, and we brought the fish back. Almost all the fish were not healthy, and it made me really think about how long the mine has been there, how long they put the recycling water in there, how much dust that is flying, all those little insects that live at the bottom of the lake. The fish have no more food, maybe, because they are skinny, they are not healthy anymore. I did talk to some of my Elders because I took pictures and I brought them home and showed them to them. Just by visiting, or talking on the phone, I keep explaining to them that I don't think this is good. When you said the first time the mine opened there was stuff on the fish, but at that time I think that the fish were healthy and you didn't do too much of the recycling water in Lac de Gras, that is what my traditional knowledge tells me. The fish were healthier before the mine started. Today is 2022, and that is a long time now and the fish are not healthy.

We go out in the barren lands, and we catch our fish, it is orange, healthier, tastes better. This year we went to the barren lands at Diavik, none of us ate any fish there because there were so many things wrong with the fish and we all know it. We eat fish at home just about every day, and the fish is healthier. We take care of our land, we take care of our water, and we take care of our animals. And we talk to our people, our neighbours about how things are.

Here it is different, at the mine site, and I can see it. I don't think I've ever missed the meeting, except yesterday because I had another meeting to go to. I could have asked all sorts of questions there as my meeting went over because I sit on Gahcho Kué. There too, the fish is that way. The people that live off the land, and travel all over, they know when things are not the same.

I know there are Elders here that have been living off the land since they were young, and if they go back to the same place and see something, they will know the difference. I don't stay home, so I know the difference of what is wrong with the fish. I just wanted to say that because it is kind of on the back of my head, I need to leave it here, and see what we can do about it. Is it the recycled water they use at the mine site and then flush it back into the lake? And when you said the north inlet, where there is water that drains off and goes back into the water. Sometimes I think our traditional knowledge should go into the mine but because of COVID, we haven't been able to. But I really want to see how they drain the water into the lake because for me even though you say we put clean water back into the lake it kind of bothers me because you wash down your diamonds, and the PKC, and then you put that thing back there. There is all kinds of stuff going on over there, I really watch.

I ask my workers when they come back, or whenever I see them in town, 'how's things at work?' because everything that happens on our land is important to our people and our young generation that is growing up today because [of the] caribou I [travel] far away from my community, and the fish are unhealthy now. With that, Marsi Cho.

Gord: Thank you for that.

CONTINUES PRESENTING

Barbara: *Regarding PKC: Rockfill Cover slide* Right now, what are you doing to prevent caribou from going around there or in there?

Gord: We have people on-site, and when caribou come around the island which someone else mentions is not very frequent now that we are in operation. We keep track of the caribou, and we herd them if we need to, or we have temporary fencing if we need to. We keep them out now, but at closure when there is nobody there, we want to make sure they will also be protected.

Łutsel K'e Elder: So, because the mine is still open but when the mine closes and you put rocks, are you going to put rocks all the way around it, and inside?

Gord: Cut through the middle of this, we will put a meter and a half of rock over top of everything. The idea is to keep caribou from getting stuck or eating vegetation that is in the processed kimberlite. That is what we were asked to do is to keep caribou safe from ingesting, eating, or getting stuck in the processed kimberlite.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Year after year, everything is different we all know climate change. Some years we have lots of snow, and then last year our water went higher, so for me, what happens to the PKC when there is lots of snow? Is that kind of like muddy water, or fine sand-like quicksand, that can dissolve when the mine is closed and nobody is there, can that happen?

Gord: Right now, on this surface, in rainier years or snowier years, you will get wetter and muddier surfaces. That is one of the reasons why we are putting that cover on the op so it won't

be exposed. Let me come back to your question on climate change because Bobby from Kugluktuk yesterday had the same question, and I need to explain to everyone how we deal with climate change on the temperature side in a minute.

Łutsel K'e Elder: So, that PKC is very important, so if you are going to put a layer on it, rocks on it, and I don't know for how long you guys are going to be monitoring with our TK people to watch the PKC. I learned lots about the PKC, and how it is unhealthy for animals. I never saw a plant growing on it, but I know they are trying to grow grass on it by the shore when we went. I didn't walk on it but that's what I had seen. I don't really know if it going to be healthier, or not, for those plants, because maybe 10 years from now if we went and checked maybe it would be different. We still don't know.

Gord: We are not trying to grow plants. We did some tests to see if vegetation would grow. Science agrees with you that it doesn't grow very well on it, so we don't have plans to grow grasses directly in processed kimberlite. Our plan is to put rock on top of it, keep it separated from wildlife and people. We don't have plans to plant vegetation it it.

Łutsel K'e Elder: If you really want it covered, put big boulders on it so that animals don't go through

Gord: That is effectively what we are doing, is putting big mine rock right on top of it. So, thanks for confirming that is the right way to go.

Presentation Continued

Barbara: *Regarding PKC: Rockfill Cover Slide* How thick is that rock cover that you are putting on?

Gord: about a metre and a half.

Presentation Continued

Gord: So, I have a couple of questions for you. First do you understand it enough, you don't need to work out how we build it, but if we build it with a metre and a half on top, is that a good closure landscape for this island? And if you were going there in 10 years time, what would you look for for success?

Métis Elder: Any dead caribou around?

Gord: Yes, a stuck caribou would be a good indicator. A big crack or a sinkhole would be a problem.

So, Peter, I don't know if now is the time, but what we have done in the past is that now is the time to talk about your ideas going forward. I usually leave, so you don't have to talk in front of me. I just want to make sure that I answer your technical questions.

Joe: I don't have a question but just something to think about. You know, I travel all over the place, and I see a lot of development like this when I talk to people in different countries. I was in Mexico, and I look at what happened there, how a company will come in, similar to this, and not talk to people. Mines have started out near Great Bear Lake and left all kinds of mess. I talked to people, on the other side of the world, there are other places where developers never

talked to people; just did what they want and left, [and] just took the money out of the ground. I talk to a lot of people, and I have seen that happen. We are lucky here today that they are talking to you here today, it other places where I talk to people nothing like that ever happened. Just started a mine, and never listened to questions about water. But here we are different, we are lucky that companies come in and tell us we [want to go] through this exercise. I have seen this before so many times, we have met with them many different times. I know what he is talking about, cause I heard it over and over. But we need to work with them to do a good job that will last for a long time.

You asked about climate change, I quite often worry about climate change. Will we get a longer summer and shorter winter? I worry about that stuff, and we ask a lot of questions about it.

But they are here and working with us, which is good. I just want to share that with some of you because I have been in many places where company will come in and not talk to people, they do what they want. From my side, I am kind of waiting for some of my people to come in because there are supposed to be other people from Behchokǫ̀. I don't want to get ahead of them, but you know, I have been saying to our people, there is going to be a mine coming in. I saw this over and over, a mine will come in, they start development from the ground right to where we are, and they come and do what they want.

Now we are talking different in Tłı̨chǫ, instead of them coming in and developing what they want, why not be part of it, owned, part of it. That is the way we are talking now. I am getting ahead of my government. I am saying this to my government now. I am saying money comes from the other side of the world and invests up here taking all the money and the diamonds back down south, not leaving anything up here. I see that happen over and over, and you and I remain the same. We keep saying what we are saying, go to meetings. Most people come out here and take all the diamonds out that they can see.

I went to BHP one time, and I asked the president, there is a place out there where they are sorting out diamonds, I was looking at them from atop, and I asked the president if I could go down there and look at the diamonds and he said, “No”. You know what I said? I said, “I didn't come all the way from Rae just to look at your operations.” They said, “Okay, you can go down there.” I went in there and I stood like this looking at diamonds like this. I went around and Charlie said if I get too close, they would have to strip me from head to two. I never asked how much money it was. I asked the person and he said, “No” to begin with, and I said, “No, no I am going to go down there.” They took me down to Mexico, to see another plant down there. He said, “Joe, we spent all that money.”, and I said, “No, you take all that money from my homeland, and you use it to fly me down. You're not spending any money.”

We are learning as we go along. I saw mines coming up in our area. I told the government to go this way. Why don't you ask a company to put money up front so that there is always money there for us to do a proper clean up. Instead of me talking to you, that's the way it should go. What they are talking about it because we went over it, and we know what is going to happen. So, you can ask questions. It is good to ask question[s]. If we don't, how do we know what is going to happen in the long run?

Métis Elder: Yeah, but all mines are supposed to be like that. Even Giant and Con had money set aside but all these companies who were bought and sold, bought and sold, kind of disappeared.

Joe: How many times that mine company is sold to different people. And they think different too, that is another thing we face.

Gord: All really good points. Joe, you have been involved with a lot of mines. Unlike other mines we are bringing this from operating to closure. Rio is very committed to closing this mine. Even Rio used to do much more of the 'you sell it at a certain point'. We are definitely taking this all the way through closure which is why we are putting a lot of effort into it. We want it to be a showcase. We want it to be successful. So, we need your help getting it to success and showing success.

Barbara: Yesterday, one of the gentlemen talked about how you used Ekati as an example of how they closed a mine. Can you explain a little about how that went?

Gord: I think the example you are referring to from yesterday was about the underground mines and what we are going to leave, or take out, from the underground mine before they get flooded, and Ekati has done that already, not sure which pipe, and Snap Lake has done that already. That approach, of leaving some things behind with the approval of the inspectors and the land water boards, that is what he is referring to as the success. That is the only closure that has been done so far on the underground mines. We will be in the position to do that on one of our underground mines next year.

Barbara: Have the sites been tested again for any contamination?

Gord: Good question, I don't know the answer to that. I will have to see if they have any info on that, on demonstrating the success of the closure.

Łutsel K'e Elder: On your last comment, before you started talking to other people, I heard you say, don't worry about it, that we are going to be working on it, like your PKC cover. I worry about everything that happens on my land.

Gord: Can I clarify what I meant?

Łutsel K'e Elder: Because the way you said it, and I wanted to speak right away, but then Joe started talking. We sit here and give you our TK with Diavik to work together. When you said don't worry about it, that is not the question I wanted to hear, I want to work with you. We all want to do things to help, to have healthy water, healthy land, health plants, healthy animals after the mines closed. But when you said don't worry about it, we are working on this, and this is how it is. And for me when you said that word it kind of triggered me off. I thought, "Why am I here, giving you my traditional knowledge, when I want to work with you?" We have to work together, you guys leave Diavik, my own people in my own community, people from Yellowknife, people from Behchokǫ̀, all the Dogrib people live all the way around that area, and its our land. We live off the land, and the animals, and the fish, and the healthy water. Those are the things I want to see healthy, because once the mine is closed, I don't think you are going to come back unless you come back to my other land to destroy because it goes on, and on, and on.
Why do you think we have Thaidene Nëné? To protect areas that are more important to us. I just wanted to say that I have lots of things to say. I can't wait until you finish your presentation. Marsi cho.

Gord: What I meant to say, and you can worry about it if you want to, but I didn't want you to worry about how we push the rock out, like what equipment is used, how we do it safely for us

to do that work. If you have ideas or want to share information on that, people do, but I would rather you focus on what it looks like at the end and how it is going to protect the land, protect the caribou, and protect the water. What I meant is you don't need to worry about which dozers we use to push out the rock.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Okay if your dozer sinks in there, we don't have to worry about it, but you will worry about it. I just don't want our caribou, our moose, grizzly bears, and stuff like that sinking into the PKC.

Peter: Okay thanks Gord, and basically Gord has given both presentations for the day so our task now is to provide the input on the PKC, and the advice you, as a group, have. So that is really our job for the day. So, if we have any further questions or need any clarification then we can certainly ask them again. The only thing we are doing as far as facilitating is holding a safe space for everyone to speak. We haven't heard from some of the youth yet, but we will make sure that we get to everyone. I think we had one or two people who are tuned in online. Everyone gets the chance to speak, and everything is important. We are recording questions for follow up. There is no such thing as a question that shouldn't be asked. If you don't understand an acronym, or a word, just ask. If we are better informed, the better advice we will give. Keep in mind that everyone around the table may have something to say, and we want to give the time for that. The guiding questions for the rest of the day are:

- What are your thoughts about the proposed cover plan?
- What do you want to see or not see in the future to say that the cover is working?
- Are there any unanswered questions?
- What do you want to see to make sure that the cover is good? How do we want that site to look in 10, 20, 50 years from now?

LUNCH BREAK

Peter: For the benefit of the people who have just come, so that they know who is who, we will have them give the longer intro that we had earlier, and everyone else can just quickly go around and say our name.

INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW PARTICIPANTS AND REINTRODUCTION OF RETURNING PARTICIPANTS.

Jack: Jack Kaniak from Kugluktuk. I have been involved with one TK session in 2021, [the] summer camp. I was born in the Bathurst Inlet area, grew up around there and went to residential schools, and then moved to Kugluktuk over 26 years ago, and have been there ever since. I have been a member of the EMAB board for about 10 years probably. Success for me today, would be discussion to come up with hard recommendations. Thank you.

Peter: Claire is pulling out any recommendations, if someone says something should be done, she is flagging those, and we will discuss them later today, or at the very least on Friday.

Dylan: My name is Dylan Price, and I am here as an observer with EMAB. I live here, in Yellowknife. This is my first experience with the TK Panel, so I am very thankful and happy to be here. Something about me, is I love being outdoors, going camping, being in a canoe. Success for me would be some good discussion and to see some recommendations come out of it.

Violet: Violet Campsell- Blondin, board member representing EMAB from Tłı̨chǫ government.

Peter: English is channel 1, Dettah is channel 1, Łutsel K'e is Channel 4. For the newcomers, we have some prizes, everyone's name has been put into here and we gave out some earlier. We will give out one right now, and then get into the discussion. We will get Elder Francis to pick one then get into the discussion. Sarah, you get to go to the table again. We will have one or 2 more draws before the end of the day.

So, we had the presentation this morning on the overview, and video, and then Gord presented on the Processed Kimberlite Cover. For those of you who have come in, we will make sure you have a copy of the presentation. So, what we want to do now, whatever order you have, we will allow everyone the chance to speak and give their thoughts on the proposed plan: what you want to see, don't want to see, and in the future what you need to see to know its working. Myra is here to answer questions, and what she doesn't know, she can pull Gord back in to help answer. And then what you'd like to see to make sure the cover and the PKC closure is done good. That is what we are going to spend the rest of the day on.

I will leave it up to you that if we get to 3:30 and that is enough for the day we can leave it at that or if you want to move forward and hear the next presentation, we can do that. We will leave it up to you because the important part of this whole three days is getting your input on what Diavik plans to do for the closure. That is the important thing that we want to do today.
We can open it up and begin with any comments, concerns, things that sounded good from the plan, things you want more information on, anything at all. We did hear about some of this earlier, and Claire is recording those earlier comments, but we can add to them now and those will inform the recommendations on Friday.

Barbara: I am just trying to get an idea of how big this thing is, the PKC area.

Peter: Myra is just finding out now. From looking at the pictures, probably 300 to 400 m by almost 150 to 200 m.

Barbara: can you tell me in miles?

Peter: A quarter mile by another quarter mile.

Myra: The perimeter is about 6 kms around.

Peter: Oh, so it might be bigger than that. If you went all the way around the outside, it would be about 4 miles or 6 km. Violet, do you have a question?

Violet: I just made a comment that the consultants have to be quite versed about the project, because you are giving information to the Elders here. And the question was about 'how large is the open pit?', so they can have an idea about what cover, and how big the cover needs to be.
I know sitting from the Tłı̨chǫ government, we went with this information when a representative from Diavik came to Tłı̨chǫ government to provide questions and we provided some answers from our Elders to Diavik.

The other matter is that all the Elders that are sitting here have their Indigenous government that they are reporting to. So, how is Diavik going to treat comments from the Elders TK panel and Indigenous governments that are submitting questions to Diavik.

Peter: Do you want to answer Myra because those are directed at Diavik?

Myra: Det'on Cho Environmental is here to facilitate the session and we will work to answer the questions that participants have, including the one about the PKC facility. Then, like all of the previous processes with our TK panel sessions, there will be a report that is summarizing what we heard today which will include the recommendations that this group chooses to put forward to Diavik. And then the follow up process to that summary report is that Diavik provides a response to those recommendation, but we will also have an opportunity to provide initial response on Friday when we hear those initial draft recommendations.

Peter: And you have contacted Gord to get those exact measurements?

Myra: We are working on it. It is sort of a moving target, so I think they want to be quite precise in the answer they provide, so stay tuned.

Peter: As we remember, back on the presentation, on what Gord was talking about on how they are going to layer the PKC to freeze it back, and a metre and a half of the fine gravel, and 6 m of the other rock, and he talked about how it as going to be sloped for the caribou, so that they could pass by. Any other questions, comments, on that whole process? Jack?

Jack: For the fine PK, that is going to be frozen in this containment. I believe in the past the extra fine processed Kimberlite was going to be stored underground. What happened to the original plan on storing PK underground, or are they going to be sticking with this plan, with the rock cover? I have another one after that.

Myra: Thanks Jack. Yes, a number of you will be quite familiar with the PK to mine workings project. And that is meant for ongoing PK and EFPK. That slurry will go to pit 418 when we close it later this year. So, we are not going to re-mine the stuff that is already in the PK containment facility but any new PK that we have from our processing will go to the 418. Does that answer your question?

Jack: Yes. This containment of fine kimberlite will be covered with rock and frozen and covered with rock. I'm not too sure how deep the fine processed kimberlite is in that containment. I am sure it has been mentioned but over time climate change comes into play here. So, if over the years the plan doesn’t work, and the fine PK melts, what are the contingency plans for such a scenery?

Peter: If I remember correctly what Gord said earlier, the fine kimberlite was about a metre and a half thick, and then on top of that was 6 metres of the rock so that that would be frozen. We should ask Gord whether they are putting any thermistors because that would be important to know, because then you'd know if it is freezing or if it is thawing. It might be good for Gord to come back because there are a number of questions related to the presentation that would be good for clarification. And, it is better for it to come from the man who has been working on it for 25 years. That is what he had said earlier though, Jack.

Jack: Okay thank you [inaudible] that stuff goes all over the place.

Peter: When Gord gets back, we will have him answer that because they must have a plan. He did say that in order to freeze the entire space back it was going to take 30 years to freeze back. Because we know with permafrost that freezes from the bottom up and the top down, then each summer only the top layer should thaw, and the rest should stay frozen.

Albert: I've seen something like that at BHP mine, of how they were going to do it, we went there to look at how they were going to do it. They gave us a sample. We went there and then they put sediment and sand and then they cover it, [and] then they put rocks on top. Every summer and all year round they should keep watching that because the climate changes and even if there is frost in winter. Now the frost goes on the land and from the water, it goes to the land. And sometimes there is some grass and vegetation that grows on it. And there are animals that eat the grass, and the brushes and twigs, and when something is contaminated it's a cover there, and some day and sometimes there will be geese, ducks, any kind of waterfowl that will eat from there. Also, the bears and some animals will eat the grass so we have to watch these because the animals might get sick from it. And when there is some chemicals that are not good for the animals. Even though the grass is growing, its still contaminated grass that is growing, and then the animals eat it, and the pit too, you are going to fill it up with water.

And the once you put water in that pit, that pit is going to be there for a really long time. The water is not moving because it is in a containment and then you put all the chemical that is in the water, the water might die and then it will be no good. There are animals that drink the water also, and the birds that go there and land in the water. We have to think about it because in the future there might be hardly any ducks or anything. Us hunters that live off the land, we hunt for all these animals and if we get something [that] is not good we can visually see it but sometimes we don't now. So, I would suggest that there be monitoring there for a very long time, and they should even test all the vegetation around there that is growing after they fill it up. The bottom of the water, the sediment, fish eat that, and even the sediment will get contaminated although there is lots of water, on the land it is the same thing. One little leak, and it's going to spread to a big part of the land. I know you say it is going to be frozen, but the rocks will be very hot in the summertime, so there will be a lot of heat from the rock. I just want to prevent the animals from getting sick and poisoned by these chemicals.

Another thing I was thinking about, you said you are going to leave some of the equipment or water underground and you are going to cover it again. So, when there is metal that sits in water for a long time it gets so rusted and decayed. The water even underground keeps running. What is going to happen to the underground water? So now we are just thinking of how we are going to do the closure of the mine and see what is going to happen in a few years. So, the mine company is trying to think of the best way to do things and nobody knows it because it hasn't been done, I think or if it has, we didn't hear about it. They take a lot of money out of our land and all the animals that are on the land it's all our [inaudible], we consume these animals that is why we are so concerned about it. So, this is what I wanted to say, and I thank you for listening to me. Mahsi.

Peter: Mahsi Albert. Gord, earlier we had a question about the actual size of the processing containment area.

Gord: I am not quite finished my homework on the size of the PKC. So, in the north south direction it is 1.6 km, and in the east west it is 1.5 km, and all the way around is 5.2 km.

Peter: 1 mile is 1.6 km and 5.2 km is about 3.2 miles.

Gord: I hope that helps. The other question is with the hazardous materials underground. Anything with hazardous materials and hydrocarbons comes out of the underground mine. What stays in is ventilation, electrical cables, fibre optic cables, PVC pipes, there will be some metal that is left in there. All the structures of the underground tunnels have metal meshing, concrete,

that gets left in the underground. Those have already been done before at Snap and one of the Ekati mines and we were going to follow up on if there has been any water monitoring on that.

Peter: Before we go to Barbara, Jack had a question about what was going to be left in the underground or whether one area was going to be underground?

Jack: My question was that the PKC will be covered with rock, like you say 6 metres deep. Under that will be very fine PK, I'm not too sure how deep it is, but over the years the climate change scenario will come in and I'm just wondering if the containment facility melts are there any contingency plans to fix that up.

Gord: Jack, I don't think you saw this slide this morning, but this is a cross section, like a cut away, through the PKC and what the figure shows are the dams on both of the sides, and then it shows the grey material on the sides are this PK that is a much more solid, a fine sand, that we can drive on right now. It is frozen but even if it is thawed, it is a solid competent material. But what I think you are talking about is the center, the toothpaste-like material. So, the closure plan is to allow the surface of this material to develop a layer about 6 m thick of ice only so that we can then access it and push a rock cover over top that will be able 1.5 m thick.

What happens over time is the toothpaste like material will compress and consolidate and get stronger. And we are allowing for the settlement and that change over time in the engineering design. And we are evaluating all of this in a climate change scenario. So right now, all the blue is showing everything that is frozen, but if you went into a very worst-case condition some time in the future and it all thawed, by then, this material will have compressed enough that it can support the rock. What we would have, is a bigger depression in there than what we are designing for, and the contingency would be to go back and lower the spill way elevation so that they water would drain off the surface. It is all still contained and surrounded; this is all rock that stands there even if it is thawed. It will still hold all the material even if the worst-case scenario of a thawed environment.

You also have to imagine that the Lac de Gras area would be a very different place without permafrost, and this probably wouldn't be one of the bigger issues in the area. A complete loss of permafrost in the area to the level that this would thaw would be a very major change to the environment of Lac de Gras. That is what we are evaluating to make sure that it would stay where it is in that climate change scenario. A big part of the engineering design is climate change and predicting what it might look like. Good question, Bobby asked the same question yesterday.

Peter: Barbara, you had a question?

Barbara: I think that answers my question. Like rock in a glass of water it would sink, and the water would come up. In the worst-case scenario, the slurry comes up because the rock didn't withstand the fine ground material and the heavier material.

Gord: That toothpaste like material, don't think of it as water because it isn't water down there, but you are right if it doesn't have enough strength the rock will sink in, and the material will ooze around the side as that is what we are trying to avoid is it oozing up the sides and becoming available for caribou to get stuck in or to est. Some ways we are looking at that from if it thaws is putting down a material below the rock, it could be a fibre, so that if it does settle, the PK wouldn't ooze up around the rocks. You've got the right idea it just isn't water underneath, think of it as toothpaste.

Peter: Thank you, Gord. Any other comments or thoughts based on the presentation earlier?

Peter Sangris: We are going to be working on refilling the open pit. In the barren lands I thought it was mentioned that it was going to be a thick rubber layer, a cover. Are you going to put something there and cover that rubber, or some other plastic you put there, and make the rocks, or the sand, or the gravel, stick to that first then put the rubber on there? How thick is that going to be?

If the cover is there, and then you pour rocks on it, you have to overlap the covers so that it wouldn't be leaking water or chemicals from the open pit. Are you going to use some form of sticky substance so that the covers don't move around or slide around when you are dumping rocks on there?

I think it takes a long time for plastic to deteriorate, depending on what kind you use, so maybe it will be good for a good many years. At Tundra Mine they did that kind of a work, and I went on a site tour and had a look at it and was wondering if something similar was going to be done. And I know that they try to do good work and the way that it looked according to that picture I think that it might work for a while, for years, but I don't know if you are comparing them to other mines, and other places that do similar work. I just wanted to mention that because I went on a site tour.

Gord: It's being translated as open pit, it's not the open pit it's the processed kimberlite containment. That is the cover we are talking about. It is this area (on map) we are talking about. For most of it is just pushing mine rock, like you are making a road that goes over all of this area. There is no rubber and no plastic. It is just rock being placed over a solid ground. These are the mine pits so there is no cover on those, they get filled with water from the lake. I was probably confusing when I talked about it in the beginning, but they are two very different things. The only reason for the cover is so that caribou and people don't get stuck in the toothpaste. Thanks for asking the question.

Peter: Does that answer the question?

Peter Sangris: What cover? The ones that you are going to put only the rocks on the water into the open pit. I am not referring to the open pit I am referring to the yellow part. I know there are two different things. When you are talking about that whole site area, you mention the yellow coloured one, the red one, and the blue one, and some people are getting confused about what you are saying. The yellow colour one is the process kimberlite and the blue one is the open pit you are going to put water in that, right?

Peter: Yes, anything else?

Łutsel K'e Elder: I don't think we should call it toothpaste. We have quicksand all around our area. When something falls into the PKC right in the middle its like a quicksand where you fall in. You have to try to make it so the Elders understand what we are talking about. It kind of makes it hard for them to understand what they are talking about.

Peter: Good point, maybe we can call it mud or quicksand as a better description.

Łutsel K'e Elder: I don't want this mine to be like any other mines. When we started building Diavik, Ekati, Snap Lake, Gahcho Kué, and Giant Mine and Con Mine they left the metal underground.

Today, it is not like when I was young. Climate change, things melt. And putting metals underground, leaving it like that I can remember this when my parents were still alive, and we had lots of Elders in our hall in our meeting when we negotiated with mining companies and in there I was at the meeting. That was my first meeting I ever went to, because my dad asked me to understand what they were talking about and listen to your mom. So, when I went to a meeting, they said whatever we bring there, we will take out. My mom passed away 2004, and some of the Elders that said thing for TK to Diavik, today they don't keep the words of our past Elders. For me, it's like the negotiation we did with them. They didn't keep their words because you said, "Oh, we are going to leave, it doesn't matter if it is not going to be the same as any other mine." When you say something to us nice and clear, it comes in this ear and never goes out the other ear. I keep it. Even the Elders when they speak to me with all their TK of how they say things, and how they do things. Even in my meetings that I go to I write it down and I listen to them. It is not for me that I am speaking today, it is for my young generation that is sitting right next to me. How are they going to be living later on? And for my grandchildren.
That is who I speak for when I sit at the table. Thinking about them because we won't all be sitting here in the next 20 years, it will be different people, young people. That is who I speak for. So, when we ask, don't put anything underground, take it back where you got it from, recycle it, give it to the people in the community who want things. Because of COVID, everything is sky high, your gas, your rent, your groceries that we live on.

Our animals are declining. We have to think about those things. I just want to say this, when he says mud or toothpaste it should be clay or quicksand so you can understand it more. Because if an animal goes across it will fall in, it's like a quicksand. I just wanted to say that, marsi cho for listening to me.

Peter: Mahsi [redacted].

Łutsel K'e Elder: I have been to too many Diavik meetings, Ekati meetings, Gahcho Kué meetings. My next meeting is Snap Lake, I am going o be sitting there, they did spill fuel there so how do we think we feel when we hear that. It is important to my people, it is important for our fresh water that we drink at home, for our animals, our land, for our plants and all the insects that live in the water and everywhere else. That is why I sit on the board. I don't sit back and not say nothing. Don't sit back. It is time for you to say something.

Peter: That is why Diavik has brought everyone into the room, so they can say something. Just to make sure we have allowed the chance for everyone to speak, we will go to the youth next. If you don't have any comments, that's fine, but we want to make sure that everybody has a chance to speak or make any recommendations. Because Diavik wants to know what you want to make sure happens, or what you don't want to happen. Anything from the youth?

Kelsey: That PKC is that mud or clay material contaminated?

Peter: Gord will answer, but I believe not.

Gord: Contaminated is a very hard word for me to interpret. I would say no, in the sense of the word, I would say no, but it does contain components that are different than other rocks around it. Like different levels of iron or nickel than other materials at the mine site but it's not something

that if it rains on it and runs into the lake that there are any elements on it that would be hazardous to caribou or aquatic life. The simple answer is no, but you have to remember it does have a different chemistry than some of the other rocks around there so to some people, and this is why we are covering it, to some people it is a new material. Kimberlites aren't very common on the surface, so they think that it might be hazardous to caribou so that is one of the reasons we are covering it. It came out of the pit, it came out of the ground so all we have done is crush it up and take the diamonds out.

Vikki: What about the groups that go to these areas for recreation, hunting, and fishing? If there are any environmental impacts from this containment plan, how, and to who will it be report to?

Gord: We are responsible. Your question about future use of the area, not sure if you are aware, but [it is] something we are trying to develop with the communities. On the water side specifically, is culture use criteria. From a TK perspective, how could an Elder and TK holder go to the site and evaluate the water to determine if it could be used in the future for traditional use. We are trying to develop what that criteria could be so that anyone can go out and do that. And the reporting would be back to us, we are still responsible for it. Good question.

Peter: There is also the entire monitoring program which Gord will present tomorrow will identify other groups coming and using it. There will be a monitoring program from several years after that. We will touch on that tomorrow.

Jack: What Gord just mentioned that there is not contaminants in the PKC, but there is. That's why they are trying to keep it out of the water, we need to know what's in there. We need a breakdown of the chemicals in there and a breakdown of different rocks.

Gord: Jack, the chemical composition of all the materials on site have been reported since we started. It is in all the closure plans and EMAB has it in all the reports.
I can put a table of numbers for you but I'm pretty sure that is not what you want.

Jack: Thank you, we are aware of the chemicals, but the older generation here would like to know that as well. Thank you.

Gord: If that is a request to see the chemical composition of kimberlite, I can do that.

Peter: Yes, let's do that.

Peter: Gord is going to explain the table of the chemical breakdown of the kimberlite because Jack wanted a little more explanation of what made up kimberlite. Gord is going to explain this table in plain language and how that forms quicksand.

Jack: When you explain them, can you point out which ones are dangerous to wildlife?

Gord: Jack asked if I could provide a table of the chemistry of the processed kimberlite. What are we calling it, quicksand?

Elder: The PKC has all kinds of chemicals in there but when you put it on the tailings pond at the PKC-

Gord: This is the kimberlite material that we are trying to put a cover on.

GORD PRESENTING

Gord: Everything is hazardous at certain concentrations. The best example I can give is that coffee will kill fish. Anything up here can be hazardous. Chromium can be toxic to fish if it is pure chromium. Iron can be toxic, but you can see that all over the place in the environment. So, it is not an answerable question the way you phrased it Jack.

Albert: It is hard to believe how many numbers are bad, good, really bad. It is hard to believe how bad is the kimberlite.

Gord: I agree, that is why I didn't present the table, but Jack asked for it. I have thousands of pages of numbers like this. The best answer I can give from the aquatics perspective, because we have done more on the aquatics side, is when we take these materials and do toxicity testing in the lab. This Panel asked us to do that testing on kimberlite 10 years ago. We have done that testing and reported back and it is not toxic to fish or benthic invertebrates living on the bottom.

Jack: I just wanted people to know what's in there, and as you can see there is lots of stuff in there.

Gord: If I were to pull up a table for gravel from the parking lot it would look similar to this, different concentrations but it would be similar.

Barbara: Have you ever seen any of this stuff in fish?

Gord: We measure fish tissue for elements like chromium and manganese and they are all there in fish. But they are all there in the water, they are there in the water you drink. The highest thing we can see in fish is mercury, but it is naturally occurring mercury in Lac de Gras. It's not from Diavik, the mercury has been in the fish in the Northwest Territories frequently. So, we see all these things but is there anything we are seeing in the fish that is from Diavik? No.

Peter: Do we have any of the quicksand material in town here?

Gord: We have it here.

Peter: Myra has that material that we are actually talking about.

ACTIVITY: EXAMINING THE PROCESSED KIMBERLITE MATERIAL

Gord: Can we go back to the picture of the PKC and get away from these numbers? Each of the jars have a different size material in it, some of them are coarser and drier and some of it is quite muddy. So, if you can imagine we deposit it up along the edge then it drains down into the centre. So, the coarse bits fall out up here and make a much more solid material but once it gets down to the centre it is just that fine material you see in the jars. So, we have left it in water that is how it would be if it was mixed up, if you let it sit it clears to clear water and the material on the bottom is what that quicksand would be and if you leave it long enough, like hundreds of years it will get more solid.

Barbara: What part of this is the slurry?

Gord: This is how it comes out in a pipeline right here just like that. 70% of all of this is that stuff. And if you let that sit, you'll see that it goes clear at the top.

Albert: The water from that pipe, where does it go to, or does it go to another pond or to another treatment plant?

Gord: The water that collects here in the middle, we pump it back and reuse it in the process plant.

Albert: The water it just keeps getting reused from that pipe? And then you are telling us that you're using that same water from that pipe, and it goes through a process then you use it again.

Gord: That process is the process to take the diamonds out of the kimberlite. We break the rock, crush the rock, wash the rock with water and take the diamonds out. As the diamonds come out, the material comes back as the coarser stuff, and the fine stuff, and then the water gets used again. It goes around in a circle.

Albert: Where does the water go after it goes through the pipe after it is used to water the pipe?

Gord: A lot of the water stays with the material and is frozen into the ground but at closure, at the very end, we will take all of this water out of here. Then it will go to a treatment plant and then it will be discharged into the lake. But that will be at the very end after we are finished using everything.

Albert: Okay I understand.

Peter: We are still just checking to see if there are any more recommendations for the processed kimberlite containment covering. They are planning on freezing back the quicksand material, adding a metre and a half of the finer rock material and then 6 metres of the larger rock material to cover it then it will be sloped so animals can pass by.
But are there any other questions, concerns, recommendations to help them do a better job on that. The plan right now is to go to Diavik in June and see that with our own eyes, pick up the rocks, don't get in the quicksand. But are there any other comments that we want to make sure we get down?

Łutsel K'e Elder: Gord, when are you guys putting the cover on the PKC?

Gord: On the outside, remember I said we practice with this, we are going to start putting material on here at the end of this year. We think we need to wait until it's a little more frozen, but we will find out next week when we run our trial. And if it [is] frozen enough now, then we will keep going so we could have this cover on in 2 years.

Łutsel K'e Elder: I don't mind us looking at it before you put the rocks on.

Gord: When we go in June you will be able to see it.

Peter: Will there my thermistors in the ground to track it?

Gord: Yes.

Peter: With that earlier question about how we know it is freezing or thawing. They will be measuring with a long string. It will also tell them how much it melts in the summer with the heat so the monitors will be able to keep track of that the entire time. Any other thoughts on the PKC?

Albert: When we go out there on the site in June, we will understand more about it once we see it visually and then we will know exactly what you are trying to tell us here. So, when you see it with your both eyes and we know what's going to happen we will have a better idea of the outcome of it. So maybe if I'm still here by June I'll go out there to look at it.

Peter: Alright Albert hang in there. We will give the recommendations back to everyone tomorrow morning. Do we want to start on the next topic, or we can call it a day? Albert likes that.

Albert: Grandpa's getting tired anyway

Peter: Okay we will call it a day and come back tomorrow at 8:30 and go through the recommendations from today and then go into the next presentation.

END OF DAY ONE

TK Panel Session #14: Day Two Transcription

Peter: I want to check with the group to see if there were any recommendations or clarifications that were needed from yesterday. I want to make a correction because I confused what was happening at this pile with the PKC area. So, it is about a metre and a half which would be about this high, this fill would be on top of the quicksand material. And then there would be rock on top of that. It would be required for it all to freeze back before it can support that rock. Any other questions?

What we did last night, Claire went through all of the discussions that we did yesterday. We will hand that out later to check and make sure everything has been recorded properly. She also pulled out the actual recommendations that the group made about the processed kimberlite containment cover. There were some other recommendations that were about the underground, but we just wanted to focus on the PKC. Some of the other recommendations will be discussed today or at other TK Panel sessions. So, this is what was mentioned during some of the presentations, or after the presentation. Place large boulders, monitor the freezing, continue to monitor the PKC to ensure that it is not attracting any animals or leaking into the surrounding area.

Barbara: Did you experiment, I see your jar there and the slurry there, did you experiment on the slurry and put the fine gravel and then the rocks on top of it?

Gord: I think the experiment that we are talking about is what we are trying next week at the mine site, putting that material on top and seeing what happens with it. That will be our first experience on the quicksand material. We have done it on the pebbly stuff, but we will be starting on the quicksand material next week.

Barbara: But if you put it in a container and what if this happened to the slurry after they put the rocks in. What if it seeps out? Can you see that it is sinking, or does it have to be in the winter? When do you start?

Gord: It has to be in the winter to put the rocks on top or else the rocks will sink through it; it has to be frozen to put the metre and a half of rock on top.

Barbara: You are going to start with it frozen and then keep it frozen with the layers of the rock? Okay.

Jack: The outside wall of the containment area, I am worried about the water. How do you keep the water out of the bottom of that on the wall on the outside, I have seen the way the water will [inaudible] containment storing the kimberlite. Thank you.

Gord: So, Jack, I think you are talking about how do we know water isn't coming out of the dam. As we are building it and during operation, we do have water that comes out the bottom of the dam and we have been collecting and monitoring it. And we do that by actually putting a, well like a pipe, all the way down through here and measuring the water that is in there and collecting it. Slowly all of this has been freezing and so does all the water that is in there is freezing as well. And the seepage has been going down over time, it is almost at zero now. We used to have a pond on top and that was what was driving the seepage, but we took that off so it is essentially zero now. But the way we are going to check that and the way you can check that is to walk around the facility to check if any seepage is coming out. Good question, that is one of the reasons why we moved away from the plan where there would be a pond on top.

Albert: The question I wanted to ask was when you are going to put the rock pile on it? I was kind of thinking about that rock pile and how, like you said, you are going to put boulders so that the animals don't do on that area but in the future you don't know there might be vegetation growing in that area. We are always thinking about those things, not now but in the future, there may be vegetation growing on it. I understand that there is going to be big rocks and boulders, the caribou don't go to places like that. It will keep the animals away, especially the caribou. There will be vegetation growing in that area maybe in the future. Maybe if there is grass and vegetation growing the animals will go back to the area. Maybe you should circle that area with boulders so that animals don't go back there. Animals don't jump over rocks. So maybe that is what they should do. Because we are here as an advisory and we are also learning from you and this is why we come here to help you with our TK knowledge. So, for the future, that is what I'm thinking about. Not this present day, but what will become of it in the future. You need to make it good because it is going to be there forever, no one is going to take it down or do away with it. I am just worried about when the vegetation starts to grow in that. So can you do something so that no vegetation will grow and put the big boulders in there.

Gord: That is very similar to what we are thinking. We think over time there will be vegetation that grows there but we aren't going to plant seeds to make it happen. What you can't see is that all the way around is a big rock wall that I don't think caribou could get up. It is already going to make it so that caribou won't want to get on top of it. What we need to make sure that where we have roads that go up that we block those off. We want to make it safe for caribou but make it as hard for them to get there as we can.

Peter: Any further comments on the recommendations we heard yesterday? Any other recommendations or any other clarifications needed from yesterday's session?

Barbara: When you close the mine and you say you are going to monitor the closed mine, can you guys give us a real time as to how long you will be monitoring the site? Can't just say years to come, I want to see how long.

Peter: Gord will get into that in the presentation today.

Łutsel K'e Elder: For me, when you talk about PKC just to make the Elders understand what you are planning to do you should show it so they can understand. Like this is PKC, now you have rocks all around it and if you are going to put rocks in the middle, when you show things to the Elders, show it to them the way you are planning on doing it. He will show you how it can be better. If you show it top-down from a drone it is harder for the Elders to understand and we didn't see the walls of where the boulders were put but you know some of the people who didn't go the mine site, it is harder for people to understand. Try to make it clearer and understanding, and, show better pictures for our next meeting. So that they can tell you how it will be better because we are the ones that live off the land and we can see what is not good for us, and we will tell you. Sometimes when we go to meetings and we use the PKC and other things, me, I understand it because I have been to too many meetings, but make it clearer so everyone can understand it. And show more pictures, make it clearer, so that the elders can see it, so that the young people can see it. She is here with us today this is her first time at one of these meetings, if you show it better, maybe she can speak about what is better for us. We all have different minds, but we need them to work together. Marsi cho.

Peter: Great recommendations, if we had been at the site that would have been better. As Albert said yesterday, he is hoping to be around in June and so we will get back to the site in

June and then actually go around that perimeter and look at the rocks. That is really what we all need. There is the old saying, the map is not the territory. Nothing beats getting out there. It is like going on the land, you can look a pictures, but it is not the same as getting out there. Get on the trail, get on the canoe, whatever it is. We can get that in June and add to our recommendations. But we will also be able to see how high it is, see the test plan and add more comments then. I think we could almost include that as one of the recommendations, that when we are there in June that we will have other recommendations. Anything else before we move on to the next presentation?

Kelsey: Is the whole PKC going to be covered with liner?

Peter: No, it will just be the frozen materials in the jars and then 1.5 m or roughly 5 feet on top of that with rock and that rock was taken out of the pit, but it is not the acid bearing rock.

Barbara: Can you just mention that, will there be a liner inside or on top?

Peter: No liner, nothing in there at all.

Albert: Looks like I'm waiting for what I see in June, then I'll tell you.

Peter: Well hang in there, Albert, we want to see you there in June. Let's take a few minutes and then Gord is going to get set up for the presentation on the North Inlet.

BREAK

PRESENTATION: North Inlet Closure

Gord: If you don't mind I want to clarify that we are not putting a liner on the top bit. Someone asked if there are liners anywhere and there are in the PKC, but it is on the edges of the dam all the way around because this is rock, and we want to make sure that it can't get through the rock, but it doesn't go all the way underneath because of the permafrost underneath. It will be there forever because it is part of the structure.

Łutsel K'e Elder: How thick is your liner?

Gord: It is a fabric, a thin fabric. It is like a carpet.

Łutsel K'e Elder: So, nothing can drain through it?

Gord: Nothing can drain through it but there could be cracks or breaks in there. Anywhere there is an imperfection there could be seepage but now they are getting all sealed up by being frozen.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Now I understand, because if you throw any fabric on anything like this and you put stuff through it later on it kind of gets rotten or demolished or whatever but if it is going to be frozen, we also have to think about climate change.

Albert: I make a road myself, put cloth underneath. The same kind you guys are talking about. I used to put the cloth where there were swampy places. So, when I look there in June, when I go there then I will talk about it.

Peter: When we go there in June, we will have a sample of the cloth we are talking about.

PRESENTATION: NORTH INLET CLOSURE

Barbara: What is the highest level of water that you've taken out from them?

Gord: This would be a hard number to think about.

Barbara: I just want to get an idea of what is the highest level of water that has been in it. Is it as big as this room?

Gord: It would be as big as this room everyday, probably more that we pump out everyday. Because when you dig a hole in the ground that is in a lake you have to keep pumping it out so we can safely mine in there.

Barbara: Eventually you will release that water if it is the same as the lake?

Gord: At closure? Yes, I will get into that now.

PRESENTATION CONTINUED

Barbara: Can you explain hydrocarbons?

Gord: When you have any drips or leaks of fuel, either diesel or hydraulic fluid, anything that comes out of a machine mostly in the mine areas they get into the water and that water comes into the North Inlet and it goes to the treatment plant. The treatment plant will remove any of those hydrocarbons and puts them back into the North Inlet.

PRESENTATION CONTINUES

Barbara: Can you tell me if that lake ever freezes?

Gord: It freezes at the top, but it is deep enough that there is always water at the bottom. So, it is about 10-20m deep in a big area here but there is always water at the bottom.

PRESENTATION CONTINUES

Barbara: So, in the meantime, wildlife can't drink that water.

Gord: Its not in the water, it is in the sediment at the bottom. The biggest concern we would have is if we brought fish back into here because they would now be exposed to those hydrocarbons. When we say safe, we want to make it safe for the fish of Lac de Gras to go back into the inlet.

Jack: You were talking about bacteria eating the hydrocarbons, is Diavik helping the bacteria grow faster or putting more in there?

Gord: Our first question was is the bacteria even there to help break it down. So, we did a study, and a full population of bacteria are there at the bottom of the north inlet working at breaking down the hydrocarbons at the bottom. The other thing that the bacteria need is

nutrients, so nitrogen and phosphorous, so we wanted to know if more nitrogen and phosphorous would help the bacteria you might remember that both are naturally occurring. There is nitrogen from the explosives residue and phosphorous from the groundwater so there is more than enough in the water for the bacteria to use. The other thing they need is temperature, so if this were in a southern environment, they would work a lot faster but they are on the bottom of the lake so they don't freeze so they are all working all winter, just slower. If we wanted to help them, we would just need to provide more heat but that would be senseless, so we help them by providing more time.

Łutsel K'e Elder: I know Barb said how about animals, all around the mining area all the water that is around the mining area that you guys take from snow and pump it into the north inlet. I know that. All the dust, explosion that happens, in the springtime the water drains down from the rock pile or anywhere in that area that you guys put it back into the north inlet. And when that mine closes, because that used to be a creek.

And now, when Barb said how about wolverines, caribou, moose, muskox and you said it was okay. You have to think ducks, muskrats, beavers, otters do dive down to the bottom. But how would they know? I don't know how long you will be monitoring. The reason I am saying this is because when I went to fish camp, we really wanted to put nets near the north inlet dam. I know it wasn't far, so we put nets in the water, my sister Gloria was there, and we put nets in the water. The fish that we caught there were not healthy, there were bugs, cysts in there. We drove there because we thought it was a better place. Because we really wanted to monitor how things are going when you guys release your water and that is what we had seen. Some of you are new in this meeting and that is what I had seen. Any other year that I wanted to go close to there, bad weather. We were lucky that it wasn't windy there last year. The water is dark, you can't see the bottom. Just so you guys know what I had seen, Marsi cho.

Gord, I asked you a question, you said the animals were going to be okay. But what is going to happen to them? I want you to make it clear that everything will be okay. But it is not going to happen so that tomorrow everything will be okay, but I don't know how long you will be monitoring it.

Gord: So, I should be clear that from the science perspective, the most sensitive to hydrocarbons are fish, and particularly the little bugs at the bottom. So, according to the science, we look to the most vulnerable to determine if the other animals will be okay. We still have to show that to you, and demonstrate the science, and you need to help us with how we can demonstrate that from a Traditional Knowledge perspective but that is the logic for why we think they will be okay. When we get those hydrocarbons to the level that it will be safe for fish it will be safe for the other animals and people.

PRESENTATION CONTINUED

Barbara: When you talk about time, maybe put in another 5 years after that; 10 years to make sure?

Gord: What we are proposing is that we would keep this dam in place until we know that the levels are at a safe level, and then we will cut a hole in this and open it up. We want to agree that this is okay before we reconnect it and allow fish to come back in.

PRESENTATION CONTINUED

Łutsel K'e Elder: So, if it is not healthier to fish, what is going to happen to the North Inlet where you have a dam, and it is blocked both ways and there is water in there?

Gord: That is why we would break this and fill it with rocks so that the water can flow back and forth.

Łutsel K'e Elder: So, you will open the creek then?

Gord: Yes, so the water can move back and forth but then the fish are protected from going back and forth and the sediment will stay at the bottom.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Is there a layer of something at the bottom of the lake?

Gord: No, it is like the dykes. It has a layer of cement we would have to break but there is no liner in there.

Barbara: You are saying that you'd put rocks there in the dam. Is that going to be like a natural filter? Where water can go back and forth?

Gord: Exactly. Filter is a good word for it. And that is only if we, everyone, decides that the sediments back here should not be reconnected with the lake. The preferred plan is to break it and let the free movement of fish back in.

Peter: That north inlet is a fairly large body of water, is there fish in there now?

Gord: No, we had to remove all the fish as part of the construction, scientifically you have to believe that there probably are a few in there but we have never seen any. We do test the invertebrates and bugs that live at the bottom which is a very sensitive test we do to measure its health.

Jack: The previous slide before this was contaminated surface materials, are you going to talk about that?

Gord: The panel has been asking questions about it, but it is not easy to see.
It is a mud like you'd find on the bottom of a lake, the difference is it has a much higher level of hydrocarbons than you would find anywhere else. So that was the presentation, so the plan now is to talk about it and discuss it.

Peter: I think what we will do before we get into the full discussion let's take a 15-minute break.

BREAK

Peter: Okay we will go ahead and get started again. We had the presentation about the closure of the North Inlet. So, what we want to, for now until 11, is just allow everyone in the panel to be able to have an opportunity, make and recommendations, make any clarifications that we need in order to make comment on the North Inlet closure. We have already had some during the presentation but now is another opportunity to express their suggestions on what you feel would be the best way to deal with the North Inlet closure.

Barbara: Before that, has Diavik or the mine, ever seen animals go around the lake to drink water since they have been open? I am sure they have.

Peter: Like around the site? Myra, do we know what the current monitoring has seen since the mine has been open?

Myra: There is a team on the site that makes observations about that. We will have a guest, the wildlife monitoring superintendent will be with us later and can speak to that. We have a policy that when we see, we stop work and wait for the animals to move through, and they record numbers and locations. I just don't have all those details.

Barbara: I am just worried about North Inlet, what animals have they seen around that lake?

Peter: We can ask the monitoring person after lunch. We can go around the table, start thinking about suggestions for the closure of the North Inlet.

Łutsel K'e Elder: All I wanted to know is how long are they going to be monitoring the water that drains all around the mine in that area. I also asked, and didn't get a really good response, the ducks they do dive to the bottom of the lake in the springtime and feed off the bottom. Also, muskrats, beaver, otters. We don't even know if there is any fish in there or not. I know they tried to take those cisco's out of there, but I don't know. We are not at the mine site every day, so we don't know. I want to let the young people speak about the North Inlet or other presentation. Don't be shy, I used to be nervous saying I might be saying something right or wrong. My dad said it doesn't matter if you are right or wrong, you have to speak out about our land. We have to think about our fresh water, plants, fish, air. Everything that we live off of is very important to us so speak up, marsi cho.

Peter: When the environmental monitor supervisor is here, we can ask him about the ducks. And you're right there is never any wrong questions or wrong input. Everything is important to make sure what you are clear and that you have had the opportunity to make any suggestions.

Albert: When I ask a lot of questions when I don't understand, and I try to give the best of my ability to the animals that I know and lived with in the past when there was a lot of mines set up without asking the community members. Nowadays it is changes, they have respect for us. But these youth that we bring over here are going to be the future generation. They pick up your words, that is the way it is passed on. If I think about anything I will speak again. So maybe in the afternoon, when we have the presentation of the person that is coming, maybe I will listen to him and say something afterwards.

Peter Sangris: I wanted to say a few words about monitoring. Whatever concerns we have and whatever we want to ask questions about, you said that we could talk about it. The water treatment plant is very useful and very necessary that it is operating even after the mine closes. The water treatment plant should be the last building to be closed. So, all the works that you are doing to close the mine, even little ponds should be drained into the water treatment plan to make it better. So, the water treatment plant should be the last building on site so they can try to keep the water as clean as possible. We know that the mine would be closing, but I am suggesting that the water treatment plant be the last building to be close.

Peter: That is very good advice. That will go into our recommendations. Mahsi.

Jack: Getting back to the largest sources of water on site that are pumping into the North Inlet. We heard Gord say that there is natural seepage into the three pits, so they have to be pumping out that water into the North Inlet. Has Diavik ever thought about letting the pits fill naturally over

the years if they are not in use anymore, and once they are done at the site pump more water if they are not filing up yet from natural seepage.There is uncertainty about reconnecting the north inlet back to Lac de Gras if the north inlet is not clean enough. They are proposing a rock dam to keep fish out, but what worries me is if the inlet is not clean yet why would they let the water go back into Lac de Gras.

Peter: I wrote down your point about the seepage, so we can ask that later. Gord did mention earlier that the water is good, it is the sediment that is contaminated.

Jack: My worries that if it is not clean, that we will want to keep the fish out if it is not clean enough.

Barbara: I just want to reiterate again that I wouldn't mind seeing the mine monitored longer than 10 years, maybe 30 years. Until the lake is clean. I also want to see the inlet lake to see if there is any fish in there. Gord said they haven't tested for fish since they cleaned it out of fish. I am worried about our Coppermine River so I'll like to see some testing out of the lake. Test it now, and later on as you slowly close the mine test it then, when you connect to the Coppermine. Test for fish also at the site.

Peter: Thank you Barb, remember to bring that up at the monitoring session this afternoon.

Laura Jane: I do not often come to meetings where these words are used. I am learning a lot about this area. You have to do a really good job cleaning up this mine. I had a really big family, I am the only one of the siblings still alive. We were taught cultural ways by our family. We grew up living near the water and living with the water. There are animals all over, we were taught to live with them, watch them, and watch over the animals, and to only harvest one of the animals you live with if you are hungry. Even if you harvest, you have to inspect everything, the meat, the skin, organs, everything, and make sure it is healthy, look for any changes and anything that is not normal from what your family taught you was safe to eat. You can eat whatever you were taught was healthy, if there is anything that is healthy and it is not eaten or you were not taught to eat it, you offer the rest to the other animals you live with. If whole or part of an animal is not healthy, you burn it in the fire. I am worried about the youth not knowing enough about our cultural way of knowing how to harvest. When you close this mine, you have to do a really good job so Elders, youth, adults, families all feel like they can live there, and pass on their cultural knowledge there.

Joe: I think our government has a position on all of this stuff, we went through it ourselves. The staff in Rae are talking to me, I am here to observe and listen here. What we do here, and whatever the Land and Water Board decided to do there, given their approval when it comes time to closure plans, we are working with them. That is why we listen to people, we are neighbours all around that we have to respect, the water flows this way and all the way down the Mackenzie River. If our water is impacted by many different things, it will cause problems downriver that is why we work with people and listen to people.

Years ago, there was no such thing as the Land and Water Board, government just did what they wanted to do. But today is different, now they have rules that they have to follow. I know because I have been involved for many many years. A good part of my life, this is what I've been doing. I travel and watch how people deal in their countries. Our Aboriginal people are respected. Up here, we are different, look at our terrain and landscape look what we have. There is no way you or I are going to grow anything. That is why we talk about caribou so much. All of our wildlife and I have grandchildren living here in Yellowknife, all kinds of grandchildren. I

do respect them for who they are and what they are going to be long after I am gone. This land belongs to them, this land belongs to you. If you respect the land and the environment, it will take care of you. That is why I go to hearings all the time. And I learn by listening, and now the Tłı̨chǫ people, what they are doing is bringing a lot of young people to our meetings, I am just the only one here today, but any other meeting we go to it is important to them because who is going to talk about what we are talking about when we aren't here. We take them to meetings so they can get a good start. Because it is important, and it may have an impact on them in the future. Because I saw a lot of mines like this, a lot.

Colomac, a mining company came in and said we are going to start a mine, okay? Even though we didn't spend a lot of time with them they said a lot of good things and they got it all wrong. They left a whole bunch of mess. I flew there with the minister, and we looked at it. We had to get the federal government dollars to clean it up, that is how to works and they leave a mess. And to avoid that here is a good exercise. If we don't say anything, then they will leave, and we don't want that to happen. That's why I'm listening to you, sometimes it takes a lot out of you to go to meetings.
So, I am just sitting here because we have a government that has a position on this. We went through this for I don't know how many days. We tried to put rocks around it, we tried that at another mine, and they said no it is going to be a pond. If it is going to be another pond, fine.

Is there a similar exercise somewhere else in the world that this has happened? Can they show us an example? Has the grass grown back, have the aminals come back, what is it like? Is there something you can refer me to? So that we can see that it worked over there? Maybe it is in a hot country. The landscapes are different, temperature are different. But that is something to think about, something we can look at. The reason why I say that is we have a lot of abandoned mines. I want to look at that and do the same thing here and one day this exercise that you are talking about could be used as a model for someone else, somewhere else if they do a proper job. Clean it up good, the way we said they should. There will probably be facilitators standing up on the other side of the world standing up and saying, "This is what we have done on the other side of the world, and it's working". They might say that. This exercise that we are going through might get used somewhere else. I am concerned just like you are because whatever we do it is going to have an impact. If it is good fine, we did the right thing. That is all I wanted to say.

Peter: Mahsi Joe, some good points and I have written down a few of them.

Joe: Something else, you know what I told the company? You are here now so you do a good job because your reputation is going to speak for itself. People on the other side will know if you do a lousy job so your reputation speaks for itself. This isn't the only place they want to work so they have to work with people, respect the people, respect the land. I don't like to leave a mess out there, I have been there so many times. Three days I spent out there and there are lights all over and I'm thinking, how is a caribou going to travel out there, there are so many lights. Daytime it's okay but nighttime there are so many lights.

Peter: Mahsi Joe. Any other questions or concerns? Jack?

Jack: Thank you, Gord talked about the main dyke there which is on the north side. But there is a smaller one on the south side there, is that going to be the same plan as opening the smaller one? I guess that that smaller one connects to Lac de Gras.

Peter: This one here connects to some of those smaller lakes, but they will monitor this and once it is in a good condition to open up this would be opened up to a let water come in first and then the entire thing would be opened up and I think that would be the same for this side. We will ask Gord just to make sure, we will flag that as a question for him.

Łutsel K'e Elder: You know if we go there in June, and it is still frozen I would like to see it again when it is thawed out.

Peter: We will ask the Environmental Monitor how much of that ice would be gone. What we are going to do tomorrow is discuss a good time in June that works for everybody.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Since COVID started in 2019, none of us ever went to a mine site to check it out. It is 2022 now. So, if we get the chance, we should go check it out. And all those meetings that we had to go to, or were cancelled, or postponed, or were Zoom meetings. I can't stand Zoom meetings. I am going to tell you how I feel, Zoom meeting is not good for me. I like to sit face to face and talk to people. So, for me, if I got here in mid-June or first week or the end of the month and it is still frozen then I'd like to go back and see it again with my own eyes to see how it looks.

Peter: I think everyone agrees, Zoom is not how we are used to or not how we feel comfortable having meetings. Traditionally, no matter what we discussed, we get in a room and listen to people and say what we need to say. There is a lot you don't get via Zoom.

Łutsel K'e Elder: I have another question. I miss my friend and she is not in our meeting today. Her name is Nancy. We really wanted to go ice fishing but I don't know if she will be back for the next meeting. But that is what we had been talking about, to see how fish is under the ice. But if she is not going to be here then I don't want to go alone.

Peter: We will all be there with you, you won't be by yourself. You replaced Nancy right Barb?

Barbara: I replaced her because she went on a trip. I'm sure she will be back.

Peter: One thing we are covering tomorrow, it would be good to get some information now. When in June would be good for everyone? What time period in June would be the best for everyone?

Łutsel K'e Elder: Hide camp is first week of June, and then after that I go to another camp where I do my own hide so I think the end of June would be best.

Albert: In springtime there is a lot of run off and I want to look at all the runoff and where the water goes into. Because the mine is big and they use a lot of diesel, oil, and gas and there is surely contamination on the land from that, and all the runoff has to be accounted for because of all the vehicles. And all the oils don't go into the water, they stay on top, I know this. So, when the ducks are coming in, do they land in oily water, and that oil too catches onto the grass beside the shore. The ducks come in, they eat that, I want to know how things are going. So, when you don't visually see these, you don't see how the water runs and all the fluid from all the vehicles. All the snow is just black. I want to see what is going on out there, that is my concern right now. Because even looking at a picture everything looks okay but we don't know what it is like just from looking at it. Maybe there is something that needs to be looked into. So, this is why I wanted to go in springtime, when snow is melting, because I want to see where that water is melting. Even in a small lake, or a small pond, the ducks will land there, and the animals will

drink the water. Maybe they are drinking the water that comes off the mine? I am going to ask a lot of question this afternoon and I want to know how all the samples are collected and where they go. I have a lot of concerns about the closure of that mine.

Peter: Myra did you have a comment on the closure to the site?

Myra: There is going to be a June 15th Final Reclamation and Closure Plan session. That is more science and technical focused. What we were hoping is that we could share some of the information from this session, so if we could meet before that, that would be great. But if not, that's okay. But we can obviously do it after. With July, we can never get people to come, because they want to be out on the land, and not at the mine site. But if that is when everyone is available, we can make it work.

Peter: We will have a further discussion tomorrow on this tomorrow. Anything else on the north inlet closure?

Jack: This is not about the North Inlet closure; it is about what is being discussed. Early/Mid June would be best for our community because we aren't doing too much cause of the breakup and the ice because it is not safe to travel anywhere during that period. And early June to mid June is when the runoff is occurring at the site and I heard people wanting to see what. So, I think that would be a good time.

Vikki: My classes end beginning to mid June.

Barbara: Anytime.

Peter Sangris: Anytime.

Laura Jane: Anytime.

Peter: So now what? Lunch isn't here yet, but we have discussed as much as we wanted on the North Inlet closure. But, we are going to be getting a presentation from the monitoring supervisor and then we are going to discuss supervising in the afternoon. Anything else that you need input on that we can discuss now?

Myra: Do you want me to see if we can actually get folks here now? It is just a couple of doors down.

Peter: Yeah, why don't we just take a break and then we will have the monitoring supervisor now and that will give us all afternoon to discuss.

BREAK

Peter: Okay everyone we will start up again, Gord and Sean are both here now. We want to ask some of the questions that the group had questions about earlier about the north inlet or about some of the parts of the mine just to be able to get that covered off.

Gord: Thanks, I'll let Sean answer the hard ones. He has spent a lot of time at the mine site. The question on the mine pits, we could let them just fill up with groundwater but the water that comes in deep is not as good as the water that comes in from the lake. It has more salt content.

That is why we want to fill it up with Lac de Gras water rather than just let it fill up slowly with groundwater.

The smaller dam on this end of the north inlet, it still stays there. It is actually built on ground; it isn't built into the water. The reason we had to put it there was in case we wanted to bring the water level of the north inlet up as part of the operations so that it wouldn't flow out this way but it will still be there but more smoothed down, so it looks less like a dam and more like a road. It will still be there, but it won't hold any water back.

The ice goes out on Lac de Gras middle of July, but the ice goes out on the North Inlet by early June. Making Diavik the model is a great idea. The mining industry needs some good examples of closure, Rio Tinto really wants Diavik to be a model of closure. We are really interested in having a success story with your help.
We don't have a good history in the world of closing mines, it has only been since the 1980s that there has been much consideration for closure. Diavik is a modern mine and when we designed it, we designed it with closure in mind so it would be easier to close. And that is really starting to be a norm in the mining industry and we are hoping to see much more success in mine closure, starting with Diavik.

Sean: My name is Sean Sinclair, I have been up at Diavik for the last 10 years working in the environment area but more recently working in closure planning. So, I know a lot about the environment if you have any questions. We sample the North Inlet every 6 days for the last 20 years. Basically, that is all the water collected on site before we put it into the water treatment plant and there are higher levels, mostly of suspended sediment and turbidity from the water we collect from ponds and areas of the mine where there is a lot of dirt.
So that is probably the most obvious thing we see in the north inlet, also high amounts of nitrate from the blasting and phosphorus which is in the groundwater. A lot of that gets consumed by bacteria and algae. Then the water goes through the water treatment plant we remove most of the sediment and then the clean water goes into Lac de Gras and the sediment we remove in the treatment plant goes back into the North Inlet.

Barbara: We heard this already. What I want to know is, do you guys monitor any animals that go in the water like ducks or muskrats? Have they been close to the lake or drink the lake?

Sean: The most common animals we see at the north inlet are probably grizzly bears in the summer. Occasionally we will see caribou passing through, they don't usually stay for long. There are no fish in the North Inlet, we removed them 20 years ago.

We are too far north to have the muskrats or beavers that live in the water. We do get a lot of birds in the spring. There are migratory birds, like ducks, geese, swans that travel further north. Around June they will be flying from the south through Diavik and will stop there for a week or so until they continue their journey north, as well as a variety of smaller birds. In the summer they don't stay at Diavik, the go further north. The main birds we see all summer are peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawks and ravens.

Barbara: I used to work for the environment department in Goose Lake, east of us. We used to check the birds and see if they had eggs and how many they had and if they were nesting to get the bird’s eggs as they go, do you do that?

Sean: From 2002-2014 we had a lot of monitoring programs for the migratory birds, especially the geese and the ducks. So, the environment team especially during spring and walk all the

shorelines, document what birds are there, how many, what species. So, we have a long record of that but around 2014 we stopped that because there had been no change from the mine, so we have paused those programs. And then the plan will be that when we close, we will start them again to see if there is a different change when we close. But we don't have many nesting birds on site. It is mostly just migratory.

We built the 4 wind towers, that was back in 2013, and for the first few years we had to monitor to check if the birds were getting killed by the towers. And there weren't any so that was good.

Jack: Jack here, you state that Lac de Gras is too far north for those animals to go to. Kugluktuk has plenty of muskrats around, and an occasional beaver and otter.

Sean: Maybe we are too far east.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Any seagulls around the mine site?

Sean: I think I have seen a few seagulls, but they are not very common. We see ravens much more commonly.

Łutsel K'e Elder: All birds fly all over, every animal travels all over, there are also barren lands mice. They are chubby and small and swim in the water as well. If you don't see those smaller animals, you have to remember that it is climate change and those animals they do travel all over the place. Maybe it is not being monitored but those things should be, every animal should be monitor. Even you say the ducks, and the geese, and the swans, only are around for 2 weeks, but we still have to monitor them. We don't know if they were by the north inlet. You know ducks can dive. We just want to make sure that they are healthy because we live off all food, it is better than store-bought food. And if they were in the water where it is not healthy yet because you guys are going to be monitoring it during closure and then after that you still monitor for, I don't know how long. I just want everything to be healthy, safe, not only for animals, but for people that travel, because that is where the migration of the caribou used to go.

Sean: Is there a slide that shows the whole mine. This area here, we call it the shallow bays, this area is the most common for birds, especially for the birds migrating, because it melts 2-3 weeks before the big lake so that is where we see the birds most.

Barbara: How long have you been at the site?

Sean: I started 11 years ago, then I was working 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off. For the last 2 or so years I have been in Yellowknife more because there are different people who do more of the monitoring. I just help with the planning.

Albert: Now that spring is coming, we are worried about the ducks, and when you drive in winter, non-stop 24/7 tricks are moving and there is a lot of movement of the ground sediment, and there is oil, gas, exhaust, and if there is even a little bit of spillage from these trucks. Where do you dispose of the spills?

Sean: Any spills, we dig it up and place it in the waste transfer area. We have a land farm where we spread the material out and that is where the bugs eat the hydrocarbons. So, we just leave it there. It has a plastic liner underneath and there is a big fence around the whole area so no wildlife can get it, or most wildlife can't get in.

Albert: The reason I am asking this is because if there is a big spillage, or oil, and there is some leakage on the vehicle and when there is runoff in the springtime all the runoff into the pond then goes into the lake and I know it stays on the surface of the water. And there is grass there and it soaks up all the little oil too. And even that grass or vegetation in the water there, the ducks eat from that vegetation along the shore. If they eat that they might get sick and will no longer be healthy.

So, I am kind of worried even after the closure of the mine, maybe. How long are you going to keep monitoring around that area? Even for oil and gas because there are a lot of geese and ducks and waterfowl in that area that travel. Even the caribou if they go down to the shore to eat the will eat the vegetation there too.
That is what we want, we are always asking questions because the caribou and the animals that we hunt and eat and sometimes if the animal is sick and if we eat it, we are going to get sick too. Even the fish are like that if the fish are contaminated. Nowadays things are changing really fast with climate change and now the youth are going to be the stewards of the land and now what is going to be left if everything is no good by then. Because there is lots of caribou land where the mine site is right now.

So, if you are the environmentalist for the area it is your duty to look after everything and report to us. I think that is the way it should be done because I want the well-being of our people, water, land, and animals in that area. Maybe later on I will ask questions, but for now this is what I want to say. Mahsi.

Sean: I don't know if anyone has told you this, but for all of the surface runoff, it collects in the ponds, the purple dots, and we do sample that water for hydrocarbons and oil. So far, we haven't found any but we will continue to check. I agree that at closure we should continue to check.

Barbara: Is there someone that Diavik hires to help who is Indigenous? That helps you monitor the site. To help us so that the person can see that these are the animals that are going to the site. I just want to know if there is an Indigenous person there who helps you monitor.

Gord: We have had help, recently Patty Lockhart has been coming every winter for the last 5 years. He helps with wolverine monitoring. We go out on snowmobiles far away from the mine. I think the work that we are doing now is developing the monitoring plan to include more Indigenous people.

Barbara: I want to see an Indigenous person working there 2 on 2 off. We trust you guys, I am sure, but we have to believe everything.

Peter: Thank you very much, Sean and Gord, that answered a lot of the questions we had and will set us up well for the monitoring discussion this afternoon.

LUNCH

Peter: Thank you everyone for coming back this afternoon. This afternoon we are going to focus on the monitoring program before, during and after closure. We have both Sean and Gord here. We have already flagged some monitoring things that people wanted to make sure we asked those things earlier, but this will be a chance to hear what is going to be involved in the monitoring program, what's going to be involved in the monitoring program, look at some

recommendations that this panel has made for TK monitoring, opportunity to see the entire presentation and go into the discussion as we did before. Before we start, is there anything people want to clarify about this morning or any comments they want to make before we go into the monitoring? We will go into the monitoring now.

Gord: I want to start by talking about what we are looking for from all of you for monitoring. We will need to talk to you about the science monitoring that we are planning to do but what we really want to get from this group is how we can do a different type of monitoring and how we could do Traditional Knowledge based monitoring approach for closure. We have some ideas, but we are not tradition knowledge holders. We have been working with the Tłı̨chǫ, who have been doing some Traditional Knowledge based monitoring, and have a monitoring program, and have taken some ideas from there that we think could work for closure that we would like to present to you, and get your ideas on how we might do that kind of Traditional Knowledge monitoring program. We want to talk about the science monitoring, I know you are interested and want to know about it, but what we really want to do is turn it around and what could be a traditional monitoring program. And more about what you are asking about, having Indigenous people keeping track of some of this information. We think we have a pretty good idea of what we need for science, what we really need help with is how we can do this from a Traditional Knowledge perspective.

Laura Jane: We have Traditional Knowledge at the Gahcho Kué mine. We have Herman Catholique, and Kyle Enzo, and they work with the environmental scientists and they have western science they are learning. It is good that we have our own Indigenous people there to be doing the same work, not just winter, it should be a two-week on and two weeks off like how he works up there. It is important to have our own Aboriginal people there.

Gord: This is different, I understand what you are asking, but to me that's different from what we are actually talking about. What we are trying to get input into is, we would like to know how could we do it from a Traditional Knowledge perspective, not only having Indigenous people but having a completely different way of looking at the environment for closure.

Barbara: Even just being there to watch what he is doing, and he can ask the questions, why are you doing this, what will you do with the results. This is the type of question that should be monitored by Indigenous people, and it is important to us.

Gord: We will take this recommendation, but we want to talk about doing more than that. Maybe we will walk through it and see where it goes.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Can you make it so that we know where you are trying to go and what you are trying to say because there is western science and there is TK. I don't understand what you are trying to say. You say that you work with Tłı̨chǫ government, they have their own way of doing things. We sit around the table and put our Traditional Knowledge to Diavik of how we want to see things. It can't just be one-sided.

It has to be around the table that we negotiated with Diavik. We all sit on a board, and we say how we want to see things. You have to make sure you make me understand what you are trying to say how we can make things different because we already gave you our Traditional Knowledge on how we think we can make things better. I am asking the same questions again, and repeating myself over again. I don't like repeating myself. Once is good enough for me, once it is in black and white, I can read it myself at home. Can you make sure that I understand what are you trying to say please?

Gord: I will try. and I'll try again. We have tried to talk to this panel about a monitoring program for elders on the land, to tell us how the closure is performing. How is the closure performing, is it working and doing the things that you want it to do? How can we make that happen? How can we get people out on the land and observe from a different perspective whether the closure is working or not? This is not about the design of closure but about 10 years from now, 5 years from now, about having a program where people can go on that closed mine and provide observations and information about whether its not working or it is working.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Now I understand, Ok. You have a fish camp. You have our people go there and stay there monitor the lake, monitor in wintertime. You have it four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter). That we can see what's going on. I bet you we can spend money, but I don't think that's an option but if you really want us to help you and monitor, we can bring young people and elders. It doesn't have to be for long, as long as you go. I know that we all drive a skidoo. Some of my elders do not walk and in the fall time you can have quads. Now that we are going to be spending money like that, and then monitor everything. You got choppers, you got drones that we can see that doesn't have to fly high. We can see that; all we have to do is sit down and watch it.

We are going to do that because when you first started speaking, I could not understand. Now we can spend money and see how our monitors can monitor our land. If we don't go there, how are we going to monitor? We can monitor ducks that come in the spring time, geese when they leave, caribou when they migrate, fish that spawn. We can see all of that if we go four times a year.

Gord: Do you want us to jump forward to this instead of going into what we are doing from a science standpoint?

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Gord: So, one of our commitments as well as doing all of the science monitoring is to develop what we are calling the Traditional Knowledge monitoring program. Where we mean to get elders out on the land to see for themselves how closure is working and if its working and to report back to everyone how it's working.

Gord: We recognize that different communities have different ways they want to do this so we want to use this panel as the way to integrate all the ideas or bring together all the ideas to a way that would best monitor closure.
We started looking around at what the programs are, and I know there are a number of programs out there. We started looking at the one the Tłı̨chǫ is running it's called 'Boots on the Ground' tried to figure out if it was something we could adapt with your help, adapt for Diavik mine closure.

It is a program where they take a number of elders, I think it is 15 elders, they go out on the land onto an area, and they walk the land. When I ask them what do they do the answer was, "They do as hunters do and they watch everything". I was trying to get at the specifics of what they did but I heard was they look at everything and they do what hunters do and not break it down into little bits like science does, they try to look at everything. So, what I learned from this is to not make it a regimented program but make it very general and allow time for people to spend on the land, walking on the closed mine site, and for Diavik we think acting as hunters do and

walking on the land also would be going on the water on boats and doing as the fishermen do and understanding how the closure is working from the water.

Like you, they want to do a bit of science and collect samples like water or sediment, and have it chemically analyzed so that you have more confidence in the science if you see the sample collected yourself and have seen the results. So, we are thinking of a program where, for a few days, there would be some science people there as well, almost like the fish camp where they would collect, the elders might collect samples as well for science analysis.

We think one of the bigger gaps in our monitoring will be how caribou behave on that closure landscape. We were talking about the PKC and putting boulders out. We think this is something we will have to learn as we go with the closure – how the caribou will move on the landscape, how we can make them go where we want them to go or not go where we don't want them to go. Being there will be hard because we need to be there when the caribou are there so we can see how they interact with all of the new landscape features on the north country rock pile and the PKC. We have talked before about the cultural use criteria and these were developed with each of your communities to assess how you might look at water to decide if it is good or not good.

Barbara: You talk about caribou and how you want to watch them, and you have not started. There are books out there that Kugluktuk did on caribou, on how they travel, the trails they went in spring time, and winter time, and the knowledge that Inuit have, our people, and I am sure there were others on how Inuit and caribou are involved and others I guess with caribou, have you guys ever read any books on or found anything on caribou in the north?

Gord: From before we started mining, we got lots of good information around the Lac de Gras region area, and the Bathurst caribou herd and where they go and where they went on the island before Diavik built the mine so we do have that original information. We think things have changed, we have changed the landscape, so we want to write a book on how the caribou will move now on the Diavik mine site in the future. So, the same idea but for the change in the new landscape. We would add a water piece which is not something we have seen in the other programs we have looked at. It's not in the Tłı̨chǫ program the Tłı̨chǫ government has been running. The idea is to go out on the land in a group of around 10-15 people, whatever is the best sized group, and experience the landscape and the water. For the long term, for the next 30 years going out every few years to do something like this, we are thinking every 2-3 years for the long term to go out and observe that landscape.

Skye: I used to work for community-based water quality monitoring program with GNWT. There are programs out there that exist like this, and I do not think we need to create a whole new program, we could be supporting these other programs and flying them to Diavik and let them do their monitoring there.

Gord: it's a good example, take another program that already exists and ask it to be applied to the Diavik site. That's pretty much what we are doing. You are right and that is what we are doing. But how do you pick? Do we pick a number of different programs from a number of different perspectives? That's the conversation we want to have with everyone and what to do.

Barbara: Excuse me, Skye just mentioned that there is a monitoring program that is happening. We know the government of Nunavut does that already. They have a really good program in Kugluktuk they monitor the caribou through the air, I think they do it every year. They fly and do

arial surveys to monitor areas, especially the calving grounds, it would be good to keep in touch with someone already doing it. There are a lot of programs out there that are worried about Bathurst caribou, dolphin caribou and a couple of herds around Kugluktuk and they are watching other caribou even in the west and it would be nice to get in touch with these people that monitor them and ask if you can connect with them. Thank you.

Gord: We do connect with these people who do the herd level monitoring. What we need for Diavik is a very small, and at the Diavik size, to understand do we need to put boulders on the mine site, not the whole migration of the herd. Obviously, we need to connect the herd with what goes on, on the island. What we are talking about is a program to get all of you out to see how it is working on that very small part of the landscape.

Łutsel K'e Elder: I know there is all kinds of courses going on in our community. The arctic response that we have, and the people have went through those courses. We try to train our people so that we work really hard to see if they can go into the mines, so we try to train them. Because I sit on Gahcho Kué committee we always try to look for money for training and I know that we have lots of TK knowledge in our community that can monitor Wolverine, Muskox, Caribou. It can be other things, it doesn't have to be wolverine or caribou, it can be fish and birds. There are all kinds of animals that live on the land that we have to monitor and it can't be one it has to be all. Even human. We all care for our land, I think that is why we are all sitting here giving you our Traditional Knowledge and to leave the mine healthier and keep watching it so we don't destroy anything and move forward, if we do not take care of things, nothing will go right, maybe it will be unhealthy water in our lakes, I do know that the water is darker there because it has been recycled so many times at how long the mine has been there. You go anywhere else, you can see the bottom of the lake. It's not like that in Lac de Gras.

Let's not try to do one thing at a time, try to do two things, if we get to the mine site. I know every two or three years we go and do fish tasting. That is too long. For me anyways because climate change, we do not know how the fish health is. 2-3 years is a long time. I go to Nonacho Lake with my mom, and my son, and brother, and I really have to watch the ice now because it is different. Maybe it will be like that everywhere else. Things are moving things are different. Even one year coming from Łutsel K'e to Yellowknife, the way to devils channel the water was like chocolate – we could not drink it. All of the plants that grow by the shoreline, they all have their own things in plants and if it goes in the water the fish will get sick on it. Me and my son taught each other. If your water gets high, all the nutrients in the plants the fish eats it and it's not good for fish. That is how I was taught by my elder and I carry it today. Not only my elder, my mom and my dad. They are no longer with me, but I still carry it. I give it to my son and my son gives it to his kids or my daughter and it goes on and on and on. If you don't teach your kids like that, it's time to teach them. And we need to teach our young people that they need to be going to the mine site of what we talk about today. I think we should take more of our elders and youth to the mine and teach them and move forward. If we try to do something different then we should not do like 2-3 years, I think like 7-10 days. We were at the fish camp time went so fast. I had to leave early because I lost one of my family in the community. I did not plan on it but that's what it is. 7 days is too short its just we set a camp and we gotta do this. It depends on the weather too. We were lucky last week that the weather was good to us. Maybe next year it'll be different. The longer I am going to stay the happier I am and the more I am going to learn. Mahsi Cho.

Gord: That is the idea that we are going to work with Peter and the team on how you would like to see a monitoring program that is complimentary of the science programs, that we are already planning, that would get elders and youth on the land and evaluate the landscape.

Barbara: I would like to add to Łutsel K'e Elder's comment that these young people are really important to us. We have youth that are working on the planes because they are asked by the monitoring team that they include youth is the aerial flights and it is a good thing because they will learn, especially during calving season they will learn what the elders are looking out for. There are the elders and the monitoring team and they always make sure that they include an elder and a youth in these aerial surveys.

Gord: That is a good suggestion. Any questions on what we are trying to achieve? Is this something people would be willing to help us with?

Peter: Let's take a 10-minute break and then come back and have a discussion on what you would like to see on a TK monitoring approach. We have already had some suggestions: fish camps, Indigenous monitors such as 15 people out over 15-30 years and using existing programs but we will go around and see if there are some more suggestions.

Peter: Ok, we should be able to start again. We had one of the panel participants move online and he has sent Myra a couple of comments. we are going to look at [Métis Elder]'s comments. [Métis Elder] is from the North Slave Métis.

Myra: I will read them but [Métis Elder], come online anytime with your face on camera if you'd like.

"It's not just about the caribou, all wildlife should be monitored, mice, foxes, rabbits, wolves. If you watch the documentary about re-introducing wolves to Yellowstone National Park and how it impacted the ecosystem."

Myra: Métis Elder if you want to speak feel free and we will figure out how to share your voice. He says he'll be here bright and early tomorrow.

Peter: We wanted to make sure we are able to include that. So just as a bit of a review there were a couple of other comments. Fish camps on site, fall, spring, summer, winter, different times of the season, using Indigenous monitors in the monitoring, 10-15 people over the next 30 years 1-2 times per year, we didn't discuss having elders or youth, having some input on that would be good. Using existing monitoring programs to use at Diavik, if there are already good monitoring programs in the communities to use for that, that would be a good way to go. And then as has been said all wildlife, fish, and water should be monitored.

Barbara: I just wanted to add the wolves in our area, they have been watching them and they think they are overpopulating, and they are killing off the caribou. That is why they are dwindling. It'd just to help the caribou number go up again in our area. Now we have quotas, we never had quotas before, we have number of caribou we can get a year. There are some caribou we can hunt just freely, dolphin, union, I forget the other herd. They have to be monitored each year and they have a quota for them. I just wanted to say that there is caribou that are being watched and wolves are, they pay for each head.

Peter: They will pay money for the wolves that are harvested.

Barbara: Yeah, they have that up north right now so the numbers of the, because they were not hunting them as much before and there are a lot of young hunters going out now and they know they have to help keep the caribou herd, so they can have better numbers.

Peter: Now we want to go around and see if there are other suggestions for the TK monitoring approach. Things you would like to see implemented by Diavik in order to make the TK monitoring a better program so that it will complement the scientific monitoring program that will continue with some of those monitors on site and it will add to that monitoring based on the Traditional Knowledge that everyone around the table has and whatever you think will be beneficial to the site.

Łutsel K'e Elder: For our TK monitoring in Łutsel K'e, I don't know when this started, it's called the Ni Hadi Xa, the Watchers of the Land. Now that we have Thaidene Nëné Park, in our parks and way before the parks I worked for the Ni Hadi Xa, the Watchers of the Land, and the job was only in the summer. Every summer we test our water. There is a big, long tube with ten tubes we put it in the water with a buoy on top right by our community and we cross to wild bird bay and we drop off one and then we drop off one after Plummers then right by where, in McCog Bay, it's close to where Dave Olsen is, there is rivers coming down to our lake and we put one in Lockhart River. And we leave it there July, August, September. We pick it up in September and we check our water. We also do fish sampling there, and it is every year. When we shoot a moose or something we check on it. The only time we saw a moose that had a hole in its stomach, it must have fought with other animals, I'm not sure. It was not healthy, so we shot it and we burned it so the disease does not go to other animals. Teach them about plants, I work with the young people so I teach them about plants, which plants are healthy for medicine because a long time ago our ancestors only used medicine from the land and we see if the plant is healthier and stuff like that. Teach them about spiritual place, teach them where thin ice is, how you have respect for our lake when we travel, try not to make noise. That is how we teach our young people. The Ni Hadi Xa has a job all year because we have Thaidene Nëné. There is another program in our community on Richard Lake that is called Ni Hadi Xa that we go to watch the land. That's where Herman Catholic and Tyler Enzo work. And they walk because they do not a quad, all they do is walk in the summertime or fall time. And sometimes they can have boats if they want to travel around the lake and put nets in the water to check the fish. In the winter time they go by skidoo to see if there is anything that doesn't look right to them. And those jobs are there all year round. To me, at Diavik it's hard when you see every two to three years, it's a long time. The mine is going to be closing in 2025, that is too soon we want to have our monitors go there very often.

Peter: How often?

Łutsel K'e Elder: Maybe every year or 4 times in a year. We have lots of monitors in our community. We also have teaching and Arctic Response at home too where there is all kinds of course for people and I think everyone in my community in the middle age knows how to monitor and I think this is a good idea that we have this at Diavik. Because at closure, I just don't want to see every 2-3 years. At home when we do our fish its every summer and we fish every day. Now that the fish I saw last year is unhealthy I think we should go check and not leave it. I wish Nancy was here because she would be saying something on behalf of the fish and she wanted to see if we can do something in the Winter time and put nets under the lake. So we can see what's happening. With that, Marsi Cho.

Sierra: No comment.

Albert: Mahsi. I just want to say a few things, but I think there is a lot of things because I am an Elder, I am concerned about the water and the fish. I went there are a number of times before the mine was there. You are talking about reclaiming the land it is good if you go with TK and

scientific, that is very good if that is what I am hearing now that that is going to happen. Sometimes there is elders we all go there at one time or the other and then the most important issue I was going to say is that we need to teach or youth too. There is too different things right now, we have the scientific and TK and it is both different so if I go on the land and I take one white person with me the way I work they cannot do anything because they don't know what they are going to do they might just look at me. When I was ten years old I started going on the land on my own trap like so i know the ways of the animal. I see moose tracks and I know where they are going and I know where they are going to be.

Mostly I want the youth to go with us, and I am very happy we have a few youth here. This is the way we pass our Traditional Knowledge onto the youth. When you are not used to one another's traditional way of living and when you look at it scientific it is going to be different if we had to tell you what we want and so everything we learn we learn from one another.

Now that the land that we are talking about we are trying to better things the way it should be and for the closure of the mine. So, what is done is done but you can reclaim the land, the water and everything but it I going to be really hard to do it. We can learn from you in scientific way and you can learn from us in our culture to. If we help one another we will both succeed.

I have been listening about what happens to the land, the water the animals [inaudible] I have been fishing all over, some lakes are good, and some lakes are no good. Some have defects, some fishes in some inland lakes and some of them are not like that. Last year when I went to the mine, we use to have fish tasting and the fish was good and we use to cook it and eat it. Now we look at one other. So, the way I think about right now, I have been listening to what has been going on with the land, the fish, the water and the animals and I know I have been fishing all over, but I know that the fish aren't going to be like the Great Slave Lake that we live on. Some lakes are different, and the fish are different. But last year when I went to the mine, we had fish tasting and the fish was good and we ate it. And now there is a lot of Elders, we look at one another, and we cook it as natural as we can. And now I have not been there for a while but when I went there the fish are starting to taste different. When you boil a fish it has a natural taste to it. You could barbeque is outside. So, when you taste fish, it tastes different if you know it. Now when I went there last year again and we had nets in the water and we were going to taste the fish, but the fish were not edible, there were lots of bugs in the stomach. They don't eat nothing. They had only water and bugs in their stomach. So even there, there is a difference. And we could learn from one another. So, at the end of the day everybody will agree on what we want, and we listen to the scientific part and combine it. This is the way we call working together and we learn from one another also. There is a lot of animals on the land where the mine is, there is a lot of changes to the land.

This is what I mean when to us we go on the land and make fire and stay on land and the later and the next time I come back the land is clean and when a non-native stayed in the area you could see it is all different so now a days, we see a lot of that on our land. We love to keep our land as pristine as it could be for our future generation and our waters. We want the fish to be good. If there is a mine there, you see what happened to the fish at the beginning and no it is not good. We cut it and some had cysts on them. If something is eating good food the fish is healthy, but I am pretty sure the fish on that lake aren't healthy anymore. And the nets that we set close to the mine site and the fish were just lots. The water was kind warm, so I think the fish go to that warm water. There is stuff that goes in the water that maybe they are eat, these little insects too. You don't know. But even after the closure of the mine we have to keep monitoring that area, and the fish so there is going to be other mines coming up in our area, so we know what we are talking about and what we want.

It is good to work with scientific and TK both combined. There is a lot of things that Dene are always concerned about. You told us a lot of stuff and we listened to what you are doing and how you did it, that is good, and this is information that we need. But all that water that you pumped out and the way you talk about it, everything is so good the way you are doing things. But we see the difference though and I like to talk about things that I don't like to look on paper because I don't know how to read. On paper it looks good. But on the right here you have the place where you put all the water, that rock fill cover, I have seen some places where grass was starting to grow on that thing. So maybe we can learn from one another. I have my TK and my culture but sometimes I do not understand the scientific so I would like to be especially the water because the water is not good, nothing is going to live without water. So, I am happy to be here and talk sometimes and sometimes we have to learn from one another, so tomorrow is our last day and for today I think I said what I have to say.

Kelsey: Maybe more TK camp locations instead of just one area. Maybe monitor the whole area around Diavik.

Vikki: It is very important to have youth included because when I went to the fish camp that was my first time and I have gained a lot of knowledge about the water, the fish, the vegetation. I have never been to a camping site where there is no raven, seagulls, and [inaudible] that was very strange because there were no birds chirping. Usually, I get woken up by birds. And when we went to set the nets, we usually don't check the inside of the fish they usually just check how healthy it is but when we went camping, I asked my parents can we cut it open to see what is inside and it was very healthy so I think that is why it is important to have youth there with the elders to gain more Traditional Knowledge

Jack: The first one is Diavik is wondering how to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into their closure plans and the TK sessions have been going on since the mine started when they have produced tons of reports sitting somewhere. I think Diavik should look into all of these reports put this together and work with their partners to come up with what was said in the past during those sessions. And put forward a document about what they are planning to do for their closure.
Another one that I just received just before is dated April 6, 2022 and it is just being given out to the panel today. The panel hasn't had a chance to review it or digest it. That is an issue, contents of this letter is being discussed today, while this document has been available since April 6th. The panel should have had a chance to review the document before it was discussed. Similar to what I have just said about the summer 2021 verification meeting, when the TK summer camp of 2021. The verification of the report occurred that time in Yellowknife and the Kugluktuk team could not make it because of a flight change that we did not know about so when we went to do the zoom meeting like [redacted] mentioned was not very good for meetings.

Similar thing happened when documents were being given out just before the meeting or during the meeting and we believe no one had a chance to review them. The verification of those reports were not approved or done, a member of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation was not there to participate and therefore the reports were not approved.
I hear that Diavik has hired a new facilitator, different facilitators that we had, I am not sure who will be doing the verification of these reports or if they will be done, I think we should be doing the verification with the old facilitators because they are who knew what was going on at the time.

The fourth one that is being discussed here by Elders like Albert and Peter and the rest. The fish during the camp of 2021, all the fish that were caught were all skinny, starving, and no food contents other than some insects and bugs. Only one had a fish in their stomach out of all of them. This tells me that there is no more food for the fish and they are starving. I believe this is due to the disposition that goes in the lake, all the dust flies into the air and lands in the lake, the whole lake. On a calm day you can see all of the dust, the whole area is white, and all of this dust is going to the lake. On a windy day it is clear because the dust is blowing away and it is a big difference, I believe the study of the lake water and lake bottom need to be done as over the years the operations of the mines have been going on for over 20 years so there is already lots of dust that has gone in the lake and settled in the lake so we need to know what is in there. Thank you.

Peter: Thanks Jack, there are some good points there and I caught a couple of the points about giving the info out before the meeting. Is there any recommendation on what the TK monitoring can do to further assess? Is there anything in addition to maybe the fish camps a couple times a year to implement the TK monitoring?

Jack: It should be done more often like someone else said. But I believe Diavik has stated that there may be 2 camp outings, that is good to hear if that is true. They are planning to do reports every two or three years, but I think it should be done annually.

Peter Sangris: For the Traditional Knowledge monitoring approach and the scientific monitoring it is completely different so if we are going to be doing the scientific way of doing things those scientist people that are going to work with us, they have to use simple language to talk to us. All of these scientific words we do not know what it means but if they use simple words, we can understand them. If the youth are coming with us, they need to know the scientific words. If they are taught the words and the meaning of it, I am sure they will catch on. So those of you that are used to doing scientific work at Diavik mine, it will be good for you to also try to get the youth to work with you so that they will understand all the meanings of the scientific word.

If we are going to be working together, we need to understand each other and if they understand both ways it is easier for them to do their work properly. They also have to learn how to fix the fish, how to cut it, what to look or. When we look at these fish that we caught last summer there were still food in their stomach so we noticed right away. How will the fish get healthy again in the water there? We never heard anyone say that the water could be treated so that the fish could grow or get better. You have to watch out for the mercury levels in the water too and the mercury levels in the fish as well you have to check for that too.

Some time when you have iron mine or any type of steel mine or mineral mine all those things that they use affects the animals and lands around that mine. If the animals know that these things are harming them they probably realize not to don’t go near what is hurting them. The animals have a way of sensing things. The animals know what is harming them.
I saw the fish with my own two eyes when I look and saw this lady cutting the fish it looked so pitiful, so malnourished. So, by the time we caught that fish it was pretty big, but when it was just a little fish starting out I wonder what it was eating to get that big but when it was big it was so skinny and no food in the stomach. Maybe there is something different in the water that you should be checking for? You think that the fish is going to get healthy again later on after the mine closed? That is a good question I am not sure the answer, it is a hard question to answer. I can't talk very long I am not feeling well.

Mary-Jane: I am going to say a few words that I noticed over the years in different parts of the North Arm especially where I grew up. It seems that there is no food for the fish to eat over there in that lake. When I was a young girl we lived at Trout Rock. Eery day we used to catch lots of fish. now we go there and set nets and we noticed that the fish are getting thinner and thinner and skinnier. Everything is affecting our land now even the water. I think the water is getting bad because of the activity. Today when we set the net close to the shore and we catch fish and we cook the fish and eat it, it tastes like grass, like they are eating too much grass. When we make water to make tea we look at the tea and the water just looks dark. Everything is so different. Ever since I was a young girl, I have noticed how things have been on the land. Even to today I have noticed a lot of changes.

When I take my kids fishing and berry picking at white Beach Point, Enodah, Trout Rock, Boundary Creek. We get up early in the morning you, are sitting on a rock there and listening to the wind, the birds, the seagulls, all these birds you can hear them singing and making noise but lately when we go out and listen we do not hear no animals in the morning or in the day anymore. Now that those mines are open in the barren land it seems that the animals are avoiding their migration that is why we do not see the caribou coming to this area here. That is all I wanted to say.

Joe: We did ask all these questions and went through them; they talk about the dust. I think that is most of the first questions I will raise in our meeting with BHP, from there we went to Diavik about the same thing. The dust would fly all around and it will do harm to the ground, whatever the caribou feeds on would not be the same, that's that the Elders said, to begin with and somehow the elders knew about it, and they raised the question. And that was with BHP, no different from Diavik, they are the same.

When they blast rock, chemicals they use go in the water as the dust flies wherever the wind takes them. Goes in the lake and the elders who are negotiating and leading up to the hearing we went through and the meetings that we had, I can list them to you and say that this is what we all said in the past, but the elders said that because of the noise, and the area they live and feed on will change. That is what they said, everything we did is all documented on paper and on tape. It is all on tape, some of the meetings that we had it is on video and we do not want to lose all of the information. It is all recorded, we are lucky. It used to be in my office as Grand Chief. There are big cases, one Christmas I took 5 and looked at them. The elders that were in those tapes are long gone but their words are so powerful. From Rae there is an elder that walked all the way to Contwoyto Lake close to BHP and every year they follow the caribou. So, they know what they are talking about because they live it. When the mine came in all of that is going to change, the caribou route is going to change because of the noise and the food they ate. And that is what happened, I am not going to blame the mine, but that is what happened and now that we am here what do we do?

That is why at the beginning of this meeting I said we have to work with people, scientific people without Traditional Knowledge. There is going to be another mine similar to what we have in front of us. They are drilling close to snare lake right now and they are asking for the size of land, they want to make it double, the man power they have they want to double it and they will find something close to our community, the one in Rae could be closer. We use that land, that is where we go beaver hunting, that is where the ducks land in the fall time and that is where we use to go. I am thinking ahead, and this is an example I'm using. I keep thinking about when you talk, I listen. We have to help them, that is why the science comes in. Before the white man came in, we were out there making a living, people were never sick. There was a guy named Simon Football said the first time he saw white man clothes was when he was 18. People are

never sick we don’t have a doctor, people use to get to be close to 100 years, now why are the young people dying? He sits in my house and tells me stories. Something is wrong he says, something is changing. I am not blaming the mining company; we have to work with them and help them.

That water, we need to make it as clean as we can before it shuts down. If something goes wrong 10 years after they shut down, who is responsible for it after they are gone? Let's say something goes wrong. Global warming comes and all this begins to go in the water, who is responsible for it. We do not know yet. It is going to take a lot of money to clean it up because it goes to my neighbor there. Every animal and living creature used water. That may still happen, we do not know that is why we need to work with people like them to. This mine here, I have been there I have watched. No one goes there when the ice is there, only when it is warm That is what they said right off the bat. They said the landscape is going to change tremendously. That mountain wasn’t there, it is there now. They know what mining is like because we had experience with mines that came to our land, they did what they want and left, that is why we as Tłı̨chǫ people who were like we are going to get involved with them.

How can we work with them to make sure they don't make a mess? What happens down the road? Who's land is it on? It is our land, it is going to feed us. If something goes wrong that is what is worrying. Global warming is coming, we don't know when it is going to come. As I say yesterday, all these islands are disappearing, and that is all I see.
Slowly it is coming and how far is it going to go. If only we can work with them we can do a good job that is all I want, to help them and work with them. This is going to be an example. Everybody is going to be watching this. We aren't the only one, they will be watching.

The elder knew the dust will go in the water, the fish will not be the same. They knew about this, and they talked about it. On the barren land, things are different, very different. On one lake, you catch 10 fish, the next day it will go down and the third day you will not catch anything. That is the way on the barren land. Our elders they talk about it. It happened to us at Courageous Lake. We caught the first day, the second day. The elders say the fish out there are different than the ones we get on Great Slave Lake. Out there is different, very different, this is something I hear from the elders out there when I talk to them. Our government is going to work with it because we need to work with them otherwise, I don't see them going it alone. We have to have our voice in there even though at times they always ask why but we need to give input. This is not the only mine coming up and we have to work with them. I am just worried about the water mostly because every living create lives on water.

Barbara: I just wanted to add, we have to check vegetation too because he said a lot about the caribou eating this or that and we have to make sure that this is included in everything there. Dust is flying around and landing on the food that the animals eat, and I want to make sure that vegetation is also included in this monitoring.

Peter: Does anyone have a question or comment?

Jack: I was going to mention this earlier but this is information I would like to give because the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board to work with the TK panel and incorporate TK into their water plans. I guess Diavik has to listen to the TK recommendations and include them in the closure plans.

Peter: Anything else? I think we are done for the day. Thank you everyone, see you in the morning.

END OF DAY TWO

TK Panel Session #14: Day Three Transcription

Peter: Thank you everyone for all your hard work as we move forward with this today. Claire has passed out the information from yesterday. Your comments are highlighted so please feel free to look over them and let Claire know if there are any changes. We want to make sure that everything is recorded as accurately as possible. So, todays agenda is fairly simple, we are going to look at the past recommendations we made over the last couple of days on the processed kimberlite containment cover, on the north inlet, on the TK monitoring approach and then some general recommendations made not specific to those areas, and we'll make any changes on those. Hopefully Kelsey shows up and we can ask both Kelsey and Vicki to present those to Gord and Sean when they come back.

And then we have some other housekeeping items and a few other things to discuss and then we will wrap up the day and wish everyone a happy weekend. Before we do that, Myra has a video from some of the previous work at the fish camp that we thought people would enjoy seeing. We will play that and then get onto reviewing the microphone.

Myra: This is one of the fun videos. Too bad we don't have Nancy here.

VIDEO: NANCY'S GUIDE TO MAKING DRY FISH

Myra: I just wanted to let some of you that had not been to the camp, have a look at some of things we do at camp. The fish and the water observations are key to the camp. But it is also about having a community together and being out on the land. We had the opportunity to have videographers there, Artless, out there, this is just a fun video and there is still a documentary coming.

Peter: Myra will show one more, that will give a bit more time for Kelsey to get here.

VIDEO: KITCHEN KARAOKE

Peter: That looked like a lot of fun, that is way more interesting than being in a boardroom like this. Being out there catching fish and seeing the water. Hopefully in June we can do that again. Let's hope that all works out.

Myra: Just for clarity that is not what we will do in June. We will be at the mine site. That was the fish camp, we will do that again. That was the first time we were able to get together during the pandemic and everyone was really conscience of everyone staying healthy and safe. Thanks again to everyone that was able to come last summer

Łutsel K'e Elder: I want to make a recommendation that we don't go every three years, but we should go every two years because in 2025 the mine is going to be closed. And I keep hearing that Diavik has another three more years. Then we should go every two years so we can watch our fish. Three years is a long time and things change. The video they just played took me back and made me think because I lost my cousin that day and so she sang that song for me and people that came from Łutsel K'e. I was good but we didn't stay all the way through because we had to go home. How do you guys feel about changing it from Three years to two years? I want to put that recommendation out there before the end of the day. With that, Marsi Cho.

Peter: The last one was in 2021, so that would mean 2023 and 2025 before the final closing. Any other general comments before we review the recommendations?

Albert: Good morning, when we travel, and it is time for us to go home, I wish everybody safe travel. So today I am here, and I am glad that I am here helping out for the future generations. I am glad to look at that video because I am remember seeing that. Even though there was a meeting it is good to have fun like that because it makes you feel good. I am happy to be here today with you people. Even if you don't feel good about yourself, people need to make them a little thing like this so they can forget their problems and get help from their Elders. Sometimes the kids are too serious doing whatever they are doing they don't think of fun things. So, the Elders used to joke around with us or tell us funny stories. Although they are Elder Elders, they didn't think they were too old, they did what they had to do but it was for the benefit of the young people. We can keep our culture that way when we are out of the land. The children are the ones who will be looking after the land. And we will teach them like our Elders have taught us. They will keep the land. Now there is a pandemic here, but we try our best. And when we go out to other communities for meetings, we are really happy to see our friends and we greet them just like our brothers or sisters. So on the year 2025, it is going to be a closure of the mine. So, two years. Include more youth instead of just one or two. In a way, when we are out there with the youth, we are training them too. And they hear different stories other than what their family tells them, so you learn from all different people. Or maybe even every year until 2025. A year is not a long time. There might be something wrong with the water or the fish. And all the animals that are on the land, so we are here to help one another to do the best with our knowledge to have good closure of the mine. We all use that land from Yellowknife back home, so when you do something, you have to do the best with your knowledge to reclaim the land to look nice like the lord had created for us. And our children to, we have to do this stuff to set the example for the youth as Elders. So sometimes if something goes wrong and water and the fish and the land is all destroyed, who are we going to turn to fix it for us? What I think today, Łutsel K'e Elder suggested ever two years but that is not very long so we need to go there every year. This is for our future, for the lives of the Dene people and our animals. Today is going to be our last day, the comments that we are going to give, so we all have to think and say way we should be doing for the benefit of the Dene people and the Tłįchǫ people who us that land. We need to ask each other what to do to make the land as good as it can be. When we work together, we always do a good job and that is how the Elders have taught us. We have to have a lot of patience with one another and give good examples. I am glad to be here this morning. I am still hungry so I am going to have something to eat. Marsi Cho.

Joe: This might be a recommendation. I am thinking hard about where the caribou used to go, it is kind of far away from the mine. I' thinking about boots on the ground. I'm thinking of BHP and Diavik. The Elders were saying that one day the migration trails were changed so these Elders were looking at where the caribou migration trail was going towards there and coming down the other way. We look at what it used to be like, and because of the mine got in way and the migration trail changed. So, what the Tłįchǫ government decided to do what put some people out there some of these big lakes. One area in Courageous Lake and put camps all over o the lake. They are out there and one time they went to Contwoyto Lake and they stayed right in the middle and as the caribou crossed they watch and what the wolve does as the animals come. They made a movie out of it and they watch and monitor the caribou as they go through. The migration trail changed a little bit and its going to continue to change and the other thing is, I want Diavik to fund this program, It is going to help the caribou, the people, and the company. They are still working at it and they will be out this summer. Our neighbors can learn from this, they can watch it and learn. Its going to benefit all of us, the caribou and ENR too. They are saying that wolves are killing too many caribou. When the caribou are coming the wolves are there. The wolves take caribou especially the young ones and injured ones. That is something I wanted to raise, I am going to be going pretty soon. From Rae we took one dog team and hit

Snare Lake and hit Diavik and on to BHP. We just wanted to follow the trails of our ancestors, how did they do it? Even though they did not have gas stoves and candles. In those days, our people had nothing. I don't know how they did it but they did it. That's where the mine is right now. We made that trip and now we have all kinds of stuff we can use, and we got lost sometimes. We go to Diavik and end up in McKay Lake. It was very difficult, but they managed to, they had been there so many times. Looked at the land and the mountains and even with all the technology we had we still got lost. It's something for you to know that we made a trip with a dog team and five skidoo and made it all the way back to Rae. The dogs were tired, and we take them out of the harness, and they just follow us. We brought the dogs into the basement, there were too many wolves. But the dogs got loose. There are pictures out there of the trip we made. Before I go, this is a model we have in front of us. If we do a good job this will carry us to the next project. We don't know when, we don't know where. But when that happens as Elders we might not be around. But everything we do as Tłı̨chǫ people is recorded, and on TV. Our young people can watch me talk even after we are gone. We are collecting information like that for our young people who are going to follow us. One day we might not be around, but our voice will. That is why we are collecting all this information. And I think this Diavik that we are talking about the Tłı̨chǫ people went over and over and over. A lot of our people, Lou Rizo, and Joseph from Wekweètì has been working on this for many, many years. He's working now with the Boots on the Ground. He's seen enough to ask what can we do to protect the caribou. We know where the caribou goes. That information is very important. I talked to the staff this morning, and this isn't the last meeting. I'm hearing we should visit the site as much as we could. We have this global warming that is hanging over our heads. We don't know what that will bring but it is not going to be good. I seen the island disappear. I don't know what that means but its there. I just wanted to say that and ask Diavik to support the Boots on the Ground program which can be used by Diavik. Whatever we do we can carry to the next project if it ever comes. That's the way we look at but they are still going to be out there. They are always asking Tłı̨chǫ people, can we go out there and we say yes. Thank you.

Peter: Mahsi Joe. Let's look at the recommendations. We will also discuss next steps later this afternoon for the next meeting of the panel and other events that might be coming up

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Peter: We added one yesterday on the PKC, the panel recommends Diavik place large boulders on the processed kimberlite to keep the animals from going through it. The TK panel recommends Diavik monitor the freezing of the processed kimberlite through the use of thermistors. TK panel recommends Diavik continue to monitor the processed kimberlite containment cover even after the mine closure to make sure it is not attracting animals or leaking into the surrounding waterways. The panel will have further recommendations when they are there in June and can see it in person. Anything change or add to the PKC and that area?

Ok, seeing no changes to that. On the north inlet closure, the TK panel recommends Diavik present in June session some examples of similar exercises so the panel can see what was done in other places. The TK panel recommends testing the North inlet for fish to see if there are any fish in that area. Test the north inlet water quality and periodically as the mine is slowly closed. Further recommendations will come in June when the TK Panel can see it in person. Anything we need to add or change on those recommendations?

TK Monitoring. Monitoring may not be the right word; it might be observations or visiting the sight. The idea is to get the youth and Elders to the site to observe how things are being closed

and back to nature. The panel recommends monitoring for more than 10 years, potentially up to 30 years. The panel recommends 10-15 people out on the land, over 30 years, one to two times per year to monitor the site after closure. The panel recommends hosts TK camps and fish camps at different places and seasons rather than at just one location. Was the intent many different places around Diavik or further out from Diavik to get a look at where things are at around the lake?

Łutsel K'e Elder: Around Lac de Gras, because there is a river that goes to Coppermine and there are creeks. We wanted to go to this other river. And we wanted to put nets in the water in different places, but it didn't happen. Not just around the Diavik site, we want to monitor everything.

Peter: And Barbara had said about the outlet going down the Coppermine. We'll make sure it's bigger than just the Diavik site. The panel recommends using simple language as well as scientific language when conducts TK monitoring programs. This is so Elders can understand, and youth can learn the scientific terms. The panel recommends inviting pre-existing community-based monitoring programs, such as Ni Hadi Xa, as part of the traditional monitoring program instead of inventing a new program. This can occur every year, potentially every season. This was to look at other programs as good examples. The panel recommends incorporating youth and Elders into the TK monitoring program in order to pass information including information about the use of plants as medicine. The panel recommends monitoring all animals after closure. The panel recommends monitoring dust and vegetation as part of the Tk monitoring program. The panel recommends Diavik look at all the TK panel session notes and recommendations and use those as guidance for a document summarizing what will be done for closure and the TK monitoring program. The panel recommends hiring Indigenous people who will work two weeks on two weeks off as environmental monitors. Any changes to those 5? That's everything on the TK monitoring.

Skye: I think Barb was asking about doing monitoring up the Coppermine River not just at the mouth but all the way up the river. Nets and water sampling?

Barbara: I just want the river to be tested for the water quality at the outage of the Diavik and fish. They said they haven't tested fish. So, if they could set nets where it connects to the Coppermine River. To test for fish.

Peter: Claire has just added that in to test the Coppermine River for testing and monitoring also over that time period. Any other changes or thoughts on the monitoring program? Its about getting the Elders and youth out to the site to see for themselves the changes that are occurring.

Jack: For number eight, the TK panel recommends monitoring dust and vegetation, should be expanded to test that water in the lake and bottom of the lake for dust.

Peter: That is in actual Lac de Gras. Not just north inlet. Any other changes or thoughts on the TK program?

Albert: We said we were going to monitor everything around that area. There is a lot of things that we should monitor. We can't look at just one specific thing. The BHP and mines are close together so if we are going to monitor around that area and there are berries that grow on that land and the wildlife, birds and even those ground squirrels that eat those berries and there are a lot of animals that live on these berries. And even geese. And all that vegetation, so since we

are going to look at everything we might as well look at all the berries and see if there is any contamination because the berries will show and also the vegetation around that. Take a sample of the vegetation and look at it in a scientific way.

Vikki: The monitoring part, all that money that goes into community programming with the closure, can they set up a fund or a foundation or basically have that money that communities can access or continue to access. I think that communication is a big part of the meetings within the communities that around Diavik.

Peter: If we go to the last general comments, we can add that in. These are recommendations that came out but didn't refer to the PKC, north inlet or TK monitoring. We can add that in as part of the general comments. Diavik continue to look at community-based program and provide communications so the communities know what's going on. These are comments that came out but didn't refer to one of the specific topics. Add number three, and number four, and that is that the TP panel recommends that the water treatment plant be the last building allowed to close, just because it can be continues and TK panel provide information prior to the meeting to allow for timely review. And that was Jack's comment about that it would be good to get the information ahead of time. Anything else on general recommendations?

Barbara: I think before you come out to a community, while you guys were there, just recently, I went to a meeting and Jack and Nancy were there. There was a crew there, a monitoring crew and they wanted to meet the community, but we only found out they would be there from date to whatever day why not have that information ahead of time? So, people in the community can go to look at it? Look at what is being presented at the meeting and then people will go to these meetings. They might have nothing to say but they might have lots to say. Even though it's not really relevant, it's important to us.

Peter: Maybe we can add to that bit about communication. That to make sure communities are contacted in advance and provided information. So, people can attend and be more engaged. We will take a break and Gord and Sean will be back and we can present the recommendations to them.

BREAK.

Peter: OK, I think we're ready to come back. Ready to come back and Gord ad Sean have both come in, we made we made many of the changes that you suggested after reviewing the recommendations. So, we'll be able to present the recommendations with changes, and both Vicki and Kelsey have agreed to present them to the Gord and Sean. So, if you guys want to come on up and then if you want to put up the revised recommendations. So, we'll present the recommendations, and then if there's any discussion from the panel that you want to put additional comments through to Gord or Sean, we'll have the time to do that. And then after the recommendations, Sean has brought some in for our presentation on the vegetation monitoring, which was requested from yesterday. But the first and the priority is the presenting of the actual recommendations. And so, we'll do that and then we'll go from there.

Vikki: So, the recommendations from the process can contain containment cover, the first one was the Tk panel recommends Diavik placed large boulders on the process kimberlite to keep the animals from going through it. the second one. The TK panel recommends Diavik monitor the freezing of the process kimberlite containment cover through the use of the thermistors. On the third one, the Tk panel recommends Diavik to continue to monitor the frozen process

kimberlite cover even after mine closure, to ensure that that it is not attracting animals and not leaking into surrounding waterways. The fourth one. The panel will further will have further recommendations in June, when the PKC cover can be viewed in person.

Kelsey: Sorry. So, of the recommendations in the closure, the TK panel recommends Diavik presence in June session regarding some examples of familiar closure exercises that occurred at other mines. The second one, the TK panel, recommends testing the North Inlet for fish before closure. The third, the TK panel, recommends testing the North Inlet water quality before reconnecting it, as well as testing it periodically as the mine is slowly closed before it. The panel will have further recommendations in June, when the North Inlet can be viewed in person.

Vikki: The recommendations for the TK monitoring program, the tick, the TK panel recommends monitoring occur that occurs for longer than 10 years or potentially up to 30 years. The TK panel recommends bringing up 10 to 15 people out on the land that over for the next 30 years want to do one or two times per year to monitor the site after closure. The TK panel recommends hosting camps, TK camps and fish camps at various locations around Lac De Gras during different locations, rather than just one at just one location. The TK panel recommends using simple language as well as scientific language when conducting TK monitoring programs. This is to ensure that Elders can understand, and youth can learn the scientific terms for different parts of their environment. The TK panel recommends inviting pre-existing community-based monitoring programs. Such as Ni Hadi Xa, to Diavik as part of the ticket monitoring program rather than inventing a new monitoring program. This should occur every year, potentially every season.

Kelsey: TK monitoring program, continue number six, the TK panel recommends incorporating youth and Elders into the TK monitoring program to pass on information, including information about the use of plants as medicine. The TK panel recommends monitoring all animals after closure. The panel recommends monitoring the dust, vegetation, and berries around Diavik as part of the TK monitoring program. The TK panel recommends testing the water and Lac de Gras and the sediment at the bottom of the lake. The TK panel recommends Diavik look at all the TK panel session notes and recommendations and use and use those as guidance for documents summarizing what will be done for closure and the TK monitoring program.

Vikki: The TK panel recommends hiring Indigenous people who will work at Diavik for two weeks and two weeks off as environmental monitors. TK panel recommends including testing of water and fish in the Coppermine River.

Kelsey: Recommendations general. The first one is the panel recommends allowing the water treatment plant to be the last building to close and running all remaining water use on site through the plant. The second, the panel recommends providing participants with the information prior to the meeting to ensure enough time for review. The panel recommends hosting the fish camp every year or two years, rather than every three years. The TK panel recommends Diavik fund community-based monitoring programs. The TK panel recommends Diavik improve communication with communities about the timing of upcoming events or community meetings and provide information ahead of time for review. Better communication about where to find information about the closure is needed.

Gord: If we go back to the beginning and we can ask you some questions about the recommendations, mostly so that mostly so that we understand them is kind of what I was thinking. Bringing it back to the first one to maybe go through, then we'll go through them in order. So, just this first one. So, this is this is the idea of putting boulders like its specific places around the edge to help discourage or help block the caribou from coming onto the peaks. That's what you mean versus boulders on that on the cover, like in the middle of it. Is that right?

Barbara: I remember one of the Elders saying this that they wanted this if you if you can't keep the caribou out of the center, you know where the slurry is that you put rocks around the edge.

Gord: That's what it was. I meant that that's what I understood. That's what I understood as well.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Gord, we said on the PKC, when you put the fabric or whatever, you're going to put on the PKC that we want rocks all the way around it so that no animal can go on the PKC.

Gord: I didn't have anything else on this. So, this one about examples of closure for other mines, is that generally about closure at other mines or something very specific to the North Inlet, like somewhere where there is hydrocarbon contamination under a pond? I think I think we can bring you some, some information on closure of other mines and how that's worked and the best ones that are most similar to Diavik. But it might be hard to find something that's similar to the North Inlet. So just wondering what we were, what was the panel thinking there?

Łutsel K'e Elder: It's Łutsel K'e Elder here. We are having a meeting just about Diavik. I think we just want to see how things are in June that we could see with our own eyes. It's been like 2019. I think when COVID started that we'd never been to the mine site. So now your guys are [inaudible]. The mines going to be closing. That's what I'm hearing, and we want to see with our own eyes what you guys are been doing there. I mean, if we're going to be staying there, we would ask questions of what we've seen. And I know that in any other mines, they did something that's not similar to this, this mine, because they never clean up and they just left. That's not what we're talking about. We want to see what Diavik is going to be doing and how it is today. So, when we go there in June, we really want to see how things are there, you know, and so we can move ahead

Gord: But is it specific to the north inlet or just generally about closure?

Barbara: I think I wanted to see if there were other mines that are closed or closing and that is where you are getting your closure ideas. I just wanted to know if you were taking other ideas from those mines and using it here. I want to hear what happened to those mines and see if your ideas that come from those mines, did it work at that mine.

Gord: For any aspects? like filling the pits or covering the piles?

Barbara: I want to know if, like the slurry come out or did water come out of the sides or, you know, that kind of thing. There's mines in the north, you know, and they've closed and, you know, just want to know.

Peter: We can move that to the general recommendations.

Gord: That would be great. I think that is what confused me.

So, when you think about the when, when the Traditional Knowledge monitoring would start, so we continue to operate until 2025, then we have about five years when we're tearing down the buildings, doing all those closure activities and then all of then it's all, it's all finished. The closure is finished. And then and then we start, then we continue to monitor. Do you think the monitoring should start when we're finished all those closure activities and you're able to walk

on the mine site? Or should it start sooner? While the closure work is actually happening. Does that matter? Does the panel have thoughts on that, or is that too much detail for now?

Łutsel K'e Elder: It's not too much detail here. We want to see everything that's happening, like if you're know that the mine is closing, we still can look at our water, the fish and the buildings will be coming down and when we go back there, we'll see it that things are slowly disappearing and not just leave, not just say, OK, you guys here are your Traditional Knowledge, you can't go there right now because we're taking the buildings down. For me, it's a no no. I want to see everything that's happening for us, even though after it's close, we can walk on it, look at it. And then if we have maybe another 10 years, 20 years, we still want to see it. And I always say, it's not for me, it's for the young people, how it's going to be. You know, we have our, we have young people that would like to see, Oh yeah, it was like this before. Now it's like, this is it. Is it good for them? I mean, they come here to a meeting not to speak for myself, I speak for my community. I speak for the next generation and the generation after that. And it goes on and on and we can see climate changes. We can just not stop this. We still have to just go on and on. And I would like to see it like. Marsi Cho.

Gord: So maybe we could add to that first one, like starting as soon as possible. That's what I was trying to get to understand. I like this idea of being able to use pre-existing, so other programs. Science likes to do the same thing every year, like the same program all the time so that you get you can repeat things. What does the panel think about a program that might change the way it was done from one year to another year, depending on which program we were, we were using it. Did they see any problem with looking at looking at it from a number of different ways in different years instead of looking at it the same way every year?

Łutsel K'e Elder: Because we have fish camp or camp out there, you know, one year we can watch our fish. Then it'll be like caribou, our plants. That's why I said four seasons of the year, we can check on everything. But it doesn't seem it's going to be like that anyhow. Ni Hadi Xa goes there all year round and they watch everything. You know, if there's, they check that they put nets in the water, they do their own fish sampling and they look at plans. They look at maybe unhealthy caribou. If there's caribou they go, check it. Not only that, there's wolverine, grizzly bears, muskox, sik siks that live in a bear lands. I don't see ducks. It doesn't have to be. Maybe we can have, like three things in a year that we can try to monitor. It depends on how winter, spring, summer, fall. You know, we can check on those different things that are moving like geese and ducks. They leave in the fall time, they come back in the spring. We can monitor those things. But fish has to be all the time. Same with caribou moose. I know there's lots of moose that migrate to bear lands now, and there's muskox there all the time and there's grizzly bears. Who knows, we might see polar bears that will be moving to our site because of climate change. I mean, it is just better that we monitor all animals, plants, berries, everything. And that's why it's called Ni Hadi Xa means you watch everything out there and then we have another one at home where it says Ni Ha Ni Xa. Same thing there, too. They watch everything on the land. And I think that I, I was going to put in a recommendation saying the TK knowledge monitor program that taking the Ni Hadi Xa should be there because we are Ni Hadi Xa, we are the watchers of our land and that's what we speak for. That's a Traditional Knowledge and that clicked in my head when I was talking to Myra this morning and I, I wrote it down because we are the watchers of the land. But maybe that's what you need to put inside there. When we go out there, it's not the TK monitoring program. We watch everything. It's just like Joe said, we watch everything. We have footsteps all over the bear lands from our ancestors, you know, from

when they were there and told that it's not the same. I know that. And I think my uncle, knows that, too. So, I think it will be better if we just monitor everything. You know, maybe one day we can talk about something or two days and then we can talk about something else on our next meeting in Yellowknife. To bring up something, do you think we should talk about this because I have e-mails and I can send it back to you guys and say, because I always get something from John McKellar and Charlie every day and I see your emails every day. You ask me a question. I can give it to you. At home when I listen to anything, I write it down and it stays with me. It doesn't come out. This doesn't come out this one, because that's a good question. I heard today and for me, coming to this meeting, we are the ones that are watchers of our land, and we need to teach our young people that. So, the Ni Hadi Xa, and the Ni Hadi Xa should be just in there instead of saying monitoring program. That's the scientist the way we are the TK Ni Hadi Xa. with that Marsi Cho.

Gord: OK, I'm going to try the question again and I like I appreciate your answer because I understand what you're asking for there but go ahead. What I was going to, what I was trying to say is, is it? And it's not. I understand that we don't have the right name, and this is probably a much better name. But is it the same program year over year? Or do we have to pick one program and do the same program every year? We don't have to pick the same program. We could do a different program in different years. Is that, is that what people are thinking as well? Yeah. Go ahead, Jack.

Jack: Thank you. Well, for that number five, I think I think if Diavik used, different programs from different communities and regions who have their own monitoring programs that would be better there were two for each of their programs every year, really from all the monitoring programs and communities or different areas. I think we work better each year. We just usually work in one program all the time. Thank you.

Gord: Why do you think? Why do you think it'd be good to have different programs from different communities in different years, just if you could expand on that just a bit?

Jack: This is just due to the fact that there they have different views and how they do it and made better their observations or whatever were from different groups of communities that have programs, mentoring programs.

Peter: I think the other thing from the discussion that came out was not just a specific community program and using that but looking at maybe there's five or six programs that are currently being used and looking to see what might be best from five or six as we develop. And as this group develops the T.K monitoring. So, if there's some, some good aspects from the Tłı̨chǫ and from the Łutsel K'e, OK and from the KIA that there may be a combined approach that could be used, not just one program one year. Another program, another two years later.

Gord: But what you're saying is different than Jack was saying. Like one of, one of the things we were trying to do is to say, is there one program that takes the best out of all of these that we should then call the Diavik program? Or are they all different and they can each be applied at a different time to give the most perspective on what's on what's happening there, which is what I think Jack saying is that you can use a different you use a different. No, that's not what Jack said... Gord is not understanding.

Jack: What I was trying to say was that you could use each outreach programs from different communities. Use them all and come up with whatever it is you're trying to do.

Gord: Thank you. OK. So it is that. Yeah, thanks.

Peter: That was the impression I got as we are going through it.

Gord: That's why I asked the question. And so I make sure I understand. Go ahead.

Barbara: I want to add to Łutsel K'e Elder' comments that as we monitor all the animals. We are seeing the muskox near the treeline areas near the communities. They have never done that before because they are Tundra animals. I just wanted to say those are animals you should be watching. Muskox are animals you should be watching too.

Skye: Hi. Yeah, I'm going to contradict what I said yesterday a little bit. There is no perfect like CBM program out there or guardian program. But what I was suggesting you do yesterday was you help fund those programs so that they can become better and then they can then go to the camp and help you monitor and develop your TKI monitoring program.

Gord: So, funding as in training or capacity building

Skye: Exactly.

Gord: So, this one on the Coppermine River, I just want to I understand what you're asking for, but it presents a challenge for us that we have to do something with because it's not, it's not just Diavik that has an influence on the copper mine river. So, we need to speak with ACDC, the owners, the operators of a Ekati, because they also at that point, they're also contributing to what's going into the Coppermine.

Skye: Yes, but someone needs to monitor it.

Gord: I understand what you are saying, it's our problem, not yours. I'm just letting you know that's something we would have to do.

Skye: I will mention this to Ekati as well. We drink the water from the Coppermine River. You monitor the mouth. I've talked to Sean about this, and he says you just monitor the mouth. But we drink where the river touches the arctic ocean. We feel the effects of the mine there.

Gord: Understood. But we do monitor the Coppermine River. It's close to where we would be able to see a change. We don't monitor fish. That's the that's the piece that's missing.

Skye: And that's what Barb was asking.

Gord: Absolutely. And all I'm saying is we have a piece of work to do, but before we could do that.

Skye: I will mention this to Ekati as well.

Jack: The wording on the bottom one, the TK panel recommends that Diavik use the TK panel session notes and use those as guidance for a document summarizing what would be done at closure for a TK monitoring program. I think the wording guidance should be in there but more than that "incorporate" these recommendations should be included too.

Gord: What I hear from this is you have given us a lot of information over the years. We need to take those recommendations and bring those together in a report going forward. And how we have used those recommendations and why we haven't if we didn't use it.

Jack: Okay what I am trying to get at is. whatever we give solid recommendations, it should be incorporated not just as a guidance.

Gord: I can't say that we will be incorporating all of them. There may be ones we can't, or we disagree with. Our commitment to you was to tell you what ones we are and why we can't for the ones we don't use. You didn't like guidance, you wanted something stronger than guidance.

Vikki: I would like to know what the mine did differently as a result of consulting the TK. In a report but in more of an interactive way, like videos, stories, interactive mapping. And I think a lot of the times they just consult but give no idea of what they did differently. Like along a timeline of the mine from start to closing.

Gord: That is something we have been trying to look at is demonstrating how TK has been used in closure and back into operations. We do need to work on pulling that together, I agree.

Sean: Is this one hiring Indigenous people to work two and two as environment monitors, is this now? To do science monitoring?

Barbara: A monitor that can look at what everyone is doing in that department. If you have to hire 2,3,4,5 to work in each environment department, do it. It is so important that we look at the animals, the land and the water, everything that is out there that needs to be monitored. The vegetation. It's really important that someone Indigenous should be looking at this along with the scientist.

Łutsel K'e Elder: I know you guys hire Patty to do the monitoring for wolverines. Around this table we want to monitor everything. That's the whole different job. That's only for Wolverine around this table. We want to monitor everything. That's a whole different job. Whatever Patty does. We are trying to be looking for somebody to monitor everything around the mine not just I know. Sometimes you guys do monitor grizzly bears. You know other things. But we sit around this table as Traditional Knowledge. Ni Hadi Xa want to monitor everything because the mind is going to be closing. We can rotate people in our community and give people a job, maybe not only maybe two weeks from my community, maybe two weeks from different communities and rotate. It's a good idea. But next year I would like to see somebody from my community come back and say, "Oh yeah, [Łutsel K'e Elder], you and I went for the TK monitor". I think this that's just for this person. But he will update with us, whoever you that's going to be going to work with the committee because usually when we do things like that that we send out somebody to monitor caribou and they come back, they have a meeting with the wildlife. This is the Traditional Knowledge monitoring program. I think it's a really good idea that we should hire more people, and I think we should monitor or rotations different communities and just rotate and see how things are. You know, we all we all speak English, but we all have our own mother tongue. And when we talk in our language, our words are more powerful. I guess they're all like

that. And then if we come back and communicate, we'll see. There'll be something there that might be different. it's just like, if you wanted to see something different, this is what I need to see. It might work. It might not work but we could try. Why not spend money?

Sean: If you know people who want to do that definitely tell us.

Gord: About communications, is a website an appropriate way to communicate?

Barbara: Elders can't, unless they have someone familiar with the computer, not many Elders own a computer and can use a computer. So having some hard copies to read to them or show them. Our people can translate it for our Elders to look at. I know a family who used to live around Contwoyto Lake and probably around Lac de Gras before. They have descendants at home who are still around, and I would like to see them, like Bobby, I would like to see this information given in a hard copy and translated to our language. We have a translation team in Kugluktuk. They do work for the government, but they do work from home.

Gord: That is one of the things we struggle with is how many copies to send to each community without being wasteful.

Barbara: Just send them a website copy and they can print it like 10 at a time. As they need it, they would print it. That way we can save paper.

Gord: Can we rely on some of the youth for accessing the websites for some of the Elders?

Łutsel K'e Elder: You can use USB or something like that too.

Ryan: Go around the table to give everyone a chance to answer the questions.

Kelsey: Can you guys keep the air strip open for monitors in the future.

Gord: We are trying to make the same recommendation. We are asking the government if they can take it on as something to keep open forever as an emergency landing strip and keep long term monitoring access.

Peter: Going around the table now, any suggestions about recommendation five about communications. What the best way to communicate in the community?

Albert: I want to say I have another issue that I wanted to raise which I have forgotten because [the] airport, if it's still there and people could use it for emergency and then the right people go out on a land for monitoring. Maybe leave a couple of buildings and not tear down the one that's usable so that people could use it when they go out there to monitor the land, the water and stuff like that and even bring youth there to do studies on the land in the summer. So is this another thing that could help us in that in that way too. which is very good for me as this to be a lot of people that are actively monitoring in different areas and different communities. So, this is good. This will come in handy for us too. It's just a thought that I put that on a floor.

Vikki: About the upcoming meetings and informing. I think it is important to have the youth with me and we can go to the Elders. We live in small communities, and it is very hard to communicate over the phone. It would be good to have the youth go to the Elders house and handing over the documents to discuss it.

Skye: It almost seems like Diavik needs a part-time Diavik Community Liaison in each affected community. With closure coming up it almost seems like that is a necessary position.

Peter: Any other recommendations?

Peter Sangris: It's right that the young lady said that a lot of Elders don't read and write. It would be good to have the young person community to the Elders about what kind of work is going on and what will be going on. The person who is doing the interpreting should be a youth who understands their language and English that way they can have a one-on-one conversation with them.

I don't know if 30 years is a good number, it could go passed that because of how things are changing in the future with us. About the PKC, I think putting the big boulders with sharp edges there would be a good idea to prevent them climbing over it. Maybe you can put that steel fencing around after you put the big boulders there around the whole containment area. Grizzly's and wolves might tear through or go over it. So, if the caribou are going back in the area recalling their migration route, they may have to go around the containment area. The wolves or the grizzly could go after it. And that way even the Grizzly bears could be chasing the caribou in that area. If the rocks are too sharp, the caribou might kill itself on those. So, the steel fencing could go around the PKC to protect the caribou from hurting themselves along the edge.

Laura Jane: According to the pictures I have seen it looks good, it looks nice, but I have never been to those mines in my life. It looks like it would be good to have cloudberries and cranberries the area looks really good. But its you people that have to decide. I just can't do recommendations because I haven't been there in my life, but I think hearing what you have to say because all of the concerns come out.

I work in N'dilo at Kalemi School in N'dilo for 15 years. When we had the kids go out of the land with us and set rabbit snares and how to skin muskrat, catch fish. Then I taught some girls how to sew, to bead, I am retired now, and I stay home most of the time. But I still feel okay to go out sometimes. If I am asked to do some cultural things I say yes, I go help out. I want to teach the young kids how to do things, they remember it best when they are young. Even that young man there [Kelsey Martin], I remember him as a little kid going to school. I am 80 years old; my husband is still doing okay. We have been married for 52 years my husband and I and we are still doing ok health wise. We had 7 girls and 1 son. My son died of pneumonia. My girls are still working. Only one is living with us because she helps us with the house. I consider myself an Elder, but I don't think I could go out on the land. I feel good and I still like to come out and listen to meetings like this. But sometimes they ask me to come out and help the young people with any cultural events. And today there is a lot of bad influence such as alcohol and drugs available to young people; I wish they wouldn't do that too much. They have to learn for themselves and see the older people doing other things to get interested and show they youth by actions.

Gord: Thank you, and thank you to the panel. I appreciate all the recommendations and comments.

Jack: going back to #5. As Barb mentioned earlier there are interpreters in Kugluktuk and there are also independent ones who can help. You might want to look into that. Also, I am sure there are radio stations that people listen to in the community. That's another way.

Peter: Thanks Gord, thanks Sean. Let's do the presentation on vegetation before lunch. Also, before we break for lunch Myra wants to get a group photo. Let's take 5-10 minutes.

BREAK

Peter: Okay so the only thing we are going to cover in the text 15 minutes before lunch. Sean was asked to pull together an presentation on the vegetation monitoring, but before we do that [Łutsel K'e Elder] had something to share about the recommendations.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Being in Diavik workshops and meetings that we have lots of recommendations that we put and they only use some of it. Do you know the important ones on our recommendations that you never used that maybe it is useful that I want to use that part. Maybe on our next meeting you can show us that. The important ones. Also, last year we asked if we can have two interpreters instead of just one. When you are speaking, your jaw gets heavy, you are always thirsty, it is tiring. We need two interpreters. We have been saying that; I want to see two translators travel with me. With Gahcho Kue we always hire two people but with Diavik, we only see one person. It is tiring. I want to see that; with that, Marsi cho.

Peter: Mahsi [Łutsel K'e Elder] and I believe after lunch Myra will for sure address the first question and can address the other. And all the recommendations are important so we will get a report on those and when we are going to review those.

PRESENTATION - VEGETATION RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Barbara: Can we see what kind of results we are looking at for berries and lichen for caribou. Has the berry habitat changed? has the lichen habitat changed in those areas? I want to know what results you have gotten over the last 20 years since you started mining in the area. Just give us a quick explanation about those things. What has happened to the berries and lichen that were living there.

Sean: The main change we have seen is pretty close to the mines, within 1.5 kms. All the stations we sample there, we have seen a lot more dust there. There are different metals in the dust, but it is not so much that it is unsafe. But yeah, mostly we have seen dust and with that some of the density of vegetation has changed.

Barbara: A lot?

Sean: Not a lot, but it is noticeable.

Barbara: What about berries in the area, she was talking about cloudberries and how she used to go out and picked them. I just want to know about those things.

Sean: We haven't collected berries over the last 20 years, we did it last summer because it was a recommendation from the TK panel.

Łutsel K'e Elder: So now I know that the same questions I am going to be asking. How far does the dust fly, and you circle that thing but in meetings, you say no it doesn't fly far. But when the wind flies the dust goes all over the plane. Did you see dust at the fish camp? We have seen dust. We sat around the campfire outside, on a calm day we see the dust. Now I know that dust flies in the lake and the mining company will say, there is nothing wrong it is

okay. It is not okay for us. Look at our fish they are not healthy, look at their food, it is dying off in the water. For the way your science is and our Traditional Knowledge, whole different thing. Maybe we weren't working together good because if we were we would tell you how it is because we live off the land. They just come in to take diamonds off the land and not worry about everything else around it. But we live off of caribou, fish, everything around there. Even berries, plants, everything around there. The dust goes on it, and you said some of them are unhealthily. Maybe it lands on our berries and on our plants. Even on lichen that the caribou eats. I just want to say that so when I go home, I am going to visit with my uncle and I am going to say this is what I heard when I went to the meeting and he is going to explain to me that he sees that too. I have been repeating myself and keep saying climate change and they say everything is going to be okay. We as Dene, we know when things are changing, we watch everything. We notice that the snow is now powdery, it used to be rock hard. Now that the water is sky high because they opened the dam. Now that the water is so high the ice is thin. The ice is going to go fast this year. Maybe there will be less rain, more dry, with more forest fires. We all watch that; I was taught that when I travelled with Elders and my parents. And the dust flies far because in our community we don't have paved roads. We get dust, we put water down but you can see the dust in our community. Same with the mine site. Because they haul their diamonds to the process plant there is dust flying and we know it gets in the water. And they keep seeing it is sage.

If my fish was sick and that was the last thing on earth, I wouldn't eat it. Because I want to live longer. And the fish that we caught there we wanted to put it in the process plant and burn it so that no other animals could eat it because it wasn't healthy. Who knew if it had cancer or not, because fish do have cancer. Just like every other thing. You never know because we caught a fish at home that had a big thing on it, we sent it away and were told it had cancer on its head. Those are the questions I would like to get the results of. All the fish that have been sampled, I'd like to read it. So, I can tell my people. It wouldn't just be for Diavik, it would be for my community. If I found fish that were unhealthy, I would sent it out. Maybe it would be similar, I don't know.

I have never seen any unhealthy fish at home yet. They are all healthy, we will still eat fish. And the dust does fly far but they keep saying that there is nothing wrong. And they say there is a little bit of stuff in the dust from the explosions and the processing plant. You are really making me think, you are making me really think now, Sean, about where we are going to go next and how we are going to fix it. If we water our roads, because the roads dry fast when it is hot out, dust flies far. How can we do it better? I just wanted to say that. Marsi cho.

Sean: Thank you, and I think it is important to think about dust as we get to closure. We expect once we close and stop driving trucks, stop blasting, cover the PKC that most of the dust will stop. But we will have to monitor that, it will be an important thing to watch.

Barbara: You said you don't monitor berries or berry plant or the cloudberry plants. As a recommendation, I would suggest that you start, and for future mines. If you are going to use this mine as a model, look at berries and start monitoring. That is what you should do, you don't know if the berries died around the areas or if the plants died. We live off berries, we have four types in my area. We pick all those berries, and we freeze. I understand why you weren't monitoring berries in the start, it is kind of frustrating. Is there much dust there too? I wish we could see the dust collection in a picture.

Myra: I can pull up some pictures.

Sean: We collect dust from the snow. We take cores from the snow right from the surface to the ice or land and we have stations right at the mine up to about 8 kilometers away. Basically, we melt the snow and then we have the water with the dust in it and then we filter out the dust and then we weigh the filter to determine how much dust there was.

Myra: These pictures show some of the excursions that we did.

Jack: These pictures that are showing they are all pretty clear air. Seems like no dust in the air, probably because it all blows away in the wind. On calm days there is white dust in the air. That is because there is not only one mine in that area, they are all producing the same dust in the air. And then there is one in Lac de Sauvage, and so there are about four of them giving off dust for 20 years. It has to have an effect on that lake, where it is depositing all that dust on a calm dusty day you cannot see the buildings or anything on the Diavik site from the fish camp. On a clear day you can see everything. All that dust is being deposited in the lake and is having an effect on the lake and lake bottom. Thank you.

Barbara: The lichen, could you add more about the lichen that you've see in the area. Is it there still, and in the farther areas too?

Sean: For the lichen, it is similar to the vegetation, the changes we have seen have been in that very close ring around the mine. I can try to get some more data for you if you want. There is still lichen on all the rocks, it didn't go away.

Peter: I think getting on the site will be the most important thing. Thanks Sean.

LUNCH

Peter: This afternoon we just have some housekeeping items and Myra has some things to report back to the group and then we have some next steps about when we might be able to get to the site in June. And then we will do a roundtable and a closing prayer. Anything else anybody wants to make sure we talk about or address.

Barbara: Make sure we add the berries to the recommendations.

Peter: Yes, those have been added.

Myra: We will look at some pictures that Jack took and presented to EMAB of the dust. Do you want to look at these pictures and you can describe what you were talking about earlier in relation to dust?

Jack: *nods*

PRESENTATION OF PICTURES

Myra: There is primarily some housekeeping to go through. The first one is potentially adding additional community reps to the panel. So as reminder, especially for those of you who haven't been to the panel before. We have what we call Participant Agreements, but they are often known as IBAs with five communities. These were identified before the mine started. Łutsel K'e, Tłı̨chǫ, North Slave Métis Alliance, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, KIA. In recent years we have gone through an environment assessment with the MVIRB and there were some other

communities that were identified. The Deninu Kue, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation and the Fort Resolution Métis Government.

They have requested participation in this panel. We have EMAB here, Dylan as staff, which is the advisory board for Diavik, and it is part of their mandate to hear what the communities are saying and make sure that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing. I hate the word, but they are like the watchdog of Diavik, and the regulator also.

They were formed out of an environmental agreement that was started before the mine stuck. And your Indigenous communities were signatories to that environmental agreement. And that was how the TK Panel started and then EMAB asked Diavik to take on the TK Panels so they could hear from us directly. Back to the request. There are some other groups that want to join. So, if you could discuss the idea of including them in the TK Panel. If it is possible, could we invite them in June? Diavik is committed to engaging with them, but we need to know if we can invite them to this panel.

Łutsel K'e Elder: This committee or this panel that we do our Traditional Knowledge was only for Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Tłı̨chǫ, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, KIA, and Métis. Those are the only five people that are here NWT Métis and Fort Res Government Métis and Deninu Kue. This panel that we do our Traditional Knowledge was only for the five groups that are here. Now that we change our people who come in and sit on the board since Joanne and the rest of them aren't there, things change just like that. When I come here on behalf of Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation I have a leadership at home and a Chief at home. If they say okay, then I came back here and say okay to the people coming to join our TK monitoring program.

I can't just sit here and say okay they can join us, it doesn't work like that from my community. I have to bring it home and talk to my leadership. I cannot say yes to them joining us right now, I am sorry, but I can't. That is how it works in my community.

Peter: Maybe what we can do a formal letter to the individual groups to address that concern.

Albert: Good afternoon and thank everybody here for all our comments during the meeting to the group here. We are treaty Indians from our land. So, there is Treaty 8, Treaty 6, Treaty 11. I am just going to tell you a little story because as we live from Yellowknife, Łutsel K'e, Fort Resolution. We are all Treaty 8 members.

Sometimes we don't work well with the people and sometimes we help one another whenever we can. But nowadays we all go to the mines and that, Fort Resolution are included in our site visits. Then all the sudden they never showed up anymore. But us, we kept on going. But the treaty people from Yellowknives and KIA continued going to the meetings and help each other. The land that we are talking about is very important to all the people. And that is why we come to the meetings. We have to put our input into what we want on our land. In the past we all worked together and these Métis people. There were some Elders in the past who did not like the Métis people. Because they were our people, and they changed their lives to Métis people and I don't know why they did that but anyways and now they are claiming their dad's names and asking questions about the land to us. When we were young, we lived on the land and didn't see any Métis people. We knew some trappers from the south that came for a few years and then went back to the south but after that we haven't see any people. Now we have money on our land that we occupy for our animals and the well-being of our people.

We are always talking about the animals, and we survive by these animals. I have never seen a Métis come into our community and want to work with us. We can't make a big decision like this before we talk to our chief and our councillors. It is a hard decision to make on our own. We are only representatives, but we can't make a decision that should be made by the leadership. So, this is what I have to say, I am not going to say anything else. I am just concerned about the animals and the land. So, when I go back I will have to report to the leadership and we will hear on behalf of all the Łutsel K'e people not only us.

Kelsey: I would have to say the same thing.

Skye: It might be helpful to show a map of where the communities are in relation to Diavik because maybe the facilitators or Elders may not know where it.

Vikki: It is very undecided for me as what Skye said, let the Elders say their part. Also, I think that we could stick with the groups in the Impact Benefit Agreement.

Jack: We need to take this back to our leadership. I think the best course would be to write a letter to our leadership. These 5 TK panel members are all under the PA so I am not too sure whether legal stuff might come in.

Barbara: I just want to know why they want to come in now even though we all have been here since the beginning. It is like starting all over again. That is my own opinion. I will wait for KIA to say what they want to say, I think I will wait for them.

Peter Sangris: Where we are talking about the mine, it is closing pretty soon. It is going to be closing soon, so these recommendations were given to you. We already expressed our concerns, but we are just representing our community. I can't just make a decision without them knowing what is going on, in any kind of meeting that we go to. I am going to say no for now.

Laura Jane: For myself too, I don't really know too much about the other groups. Where they live and what they do. I have to really listen to what my community leaders say because I don't really know how we will work with them. So, my answer is no.

Peter: Thank you, the direction we are going to go is to send a letter to your leadership.

Myra: We will do that; we didn't expect an answer but appreciate the guidance. I just wanted to hear your thoughts. But the guidance I had heard is that we should be sending a letting to your leadership, your chiefs, your president. So, we will do that. Just so it is not a surprise, that is what we will be asking them. We are going to talk about the next steps, but there has been quite a bit of questions about the last session. As you know we had a session in August of last year and we had a verification session in December and normally with the verification session we would review the report together and watch a documentary of the session. Unfortunately, we weren't able to have all of the participants at that session so we couldn't finalize it. We do have all the participants now, and I don't mean today but we would like to do a final verification session with those who were at the TK Panel and the fish camp in 2021. And that is including the facilitators that were there at that time. And that would include the facilitators. I will work with your staff to find a time when we can get together to do that with hopefully all of the people that were there and hopefully the facilitators that were there.

Łutsel K'e Elder: The only people who were not there were Yellowknives Dene First Nation those are the people that did not make it to the meeting in December. That is why we did not

approve anything that happened at that meeting or watch the documentary. I know Jack, Nancy and Vikki were not there because their plane was delayed because of the weather.
Right now, we should book for that meeting some other time before we go to June's meeting at the mine site. If we are all together, we can approve the meeting. Because we had a really hard time approving anything because the Yellowknives Dene First Nation wasn't there.

Myra: Thank you [Łutsel K'e Elder]. We are working really hard to have that happen, I don't want you to think that has been forgotten. There is a draft report. We will bring everybody back that was there over the summer. We have over 200 recommendations. This is session 14. Let's say 210 recommendations. We want to go through that with you. But 200 is a big number. A lot of them do say very similar things. We have heard putting boulders around the site numerous times. So, we are incorporating that into the design.

Peter: Since there are that many, I think if we lump them into categories about what we have done, what still needs to be done. Or as Gord said today that if we are not able to do something then let the panel know that maybe it is outside the permitting or that somebody else is doing it.

Barbara: With all these recommendations can you put them down on paper and put "done, half-done". But make sure they are on the paper so that we, who haven't been here from the beginning, can see it. You can group them however you want but I want to see all the recommendations, and the results. We'd like to see something like that.
As you go along update it and say what has been done. You will see how much work you have done and how much still needs to be done.

Myra: We talked a little bit about communication this morning. You can find all the reports and the long list of recommendations on the EMAB website, but I know not everybody can access that information easily so if you think there is a way that we can share that better. But yes, it is up to date to number 11 but a lot has happened over the years with the environmental assessment processes, so we want to make sure that the information is up to date.
We appreciate that a lot has happened, and it is a little bit dated. So yes, we will group them by theme and then share them back to you. I do have a few slides, but we can do it on our next meeting if you'd like.

Łutsel K'e Elder: Can we do that at our next meeting? Because for me, it feels like our recommendations is being put last. And the meeting where the Yellowknives Dene never came has been in the back of my head since I left that meeting. We put in all our Traditional Knowledge and some of them that Diavik used, and some didn't. I like the way you said "incomplete", in Gahcho Kue committee meeting I do the same thing, if it is not completed, we talk about it. Here it is an ongoing thing, we repeat ourselves. This is the last day. Before we go to the mine, we should be talking about stuff like this. Make a copy of us or email us, if you send an email to me or Laura Jane we can sit with Albert and Sarah and talk about it. And then when we have our meetings at the mine site we can say, this is what we talked about. We will all have different recommendations and then we can tell the group what we agree or disagree with. Try to make things simple, not on the last day with a heavy load at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Peter: It will be a much longer discussion than the time we have on a Friday afternoon. Las thing is next steps on the meeting in June, we did discuss the meeting in June, but we want to discuss the next steps.

Myra: Everyone has different dates that work for them, but I will come up with the dates that work for the most people. Making sure that we represent for all groups.

Łutsel K’e Elder: In the barren lands everything thaws out in July. Now we all have plans because we have been in COVID since 2019, now we are free to do things. Like we get excited to go somewhere. It is kind of hard, maybe you can ask everyone when they get home to see what day works for them then communicate with them so that we can all say yes, this day is good for us. I can't really tell you right now because I have meetings, I have other things to do. So, when you let me know the date I can say yes I can make it but if I say no then it is not good for me.

Myra: We normally talk about what the topic will be for the next session, but I think that is pretty obvious. We are moving towards closure in 2025. We have had a lot of discussion about our closure plan and how we are going to close different areas of the mine and a lot of you have been listening in and participating on the Final Closure and Reclamation plan series that we do. Those are more technical, but I appreciate that some of you come out to those.

At the end of this year, we do need to submit something to the water board. It is a huge body of work, like 1000s of pages, but part of that will be a TK Program for closure. Because it hasn't been done before for closure it is hard to define what that means or what that will look like. But we are looking to you guys to help us to put something together to share at the FCRP session and also back to the water board. And it is not the science program, there can be some science, but it is really, what do communities want to see on the landscape at Diavik when we are gone. That is the big question I’d like you all to leave with and think about before we get to the next session. Because we will be talking a lot about that at the next session.

Peter: We will also have time to check out the things we talked about this week, such as seeing what we have been talking about this week.

Myra: I was taking notes like crazy but if there are things specifically that you want to make sure we see at site, tell your staff member, contact me or the facilitators. We want to make sure when we are on site, we see everything that everyone wants to see.

Peter: The last thing we want to do is hear some closing comments. Were the three days successful for you?

Łutsel K’e Elder: I'll make it short and sweet. When I go to meetings I constantly talk, I try to give other people a chance. Don't be shy, I used to be nervous when I first went to meetings. My palms were sweating I was nervous to say something right or wrong. Thanks to my dad, he taught me not to be scared and not to be shy. I hate repeating myself because I have been coming to these meetings for a long time. We repeat ourselves a lot. I write things down on my phone and I look back at the pictures I have seen.

And when we ask questions to people from Diavik and we don't get the right response back we take it to someone else who knows something. If we want to ask questions about the environment or Gord that was there at the fish camp. He is not here; he was there with us. He would have understood what I was talking about. Sean goes there every once in a while, I know that. I always argue with Gord, he knows that. He is say "Oh yeah, [Łutsel K’e Elder] you are going to say something" because he knows I can speak.

I am really happy to see KIA in our meeting today not in a zoom meeting. But I miss Nancy. I am really happy all of you came and spoke up. If something bothers you just say it, doesn't matter if it is right or wrong. Safe travel home. Marsi cho for coming.

Albert: Don’t fall asleep you guys. Marsi for inviting me. I would like to thank you again. We are doing some work here with a panel about the closure of the mine around the area and around the lake here and the people who came in from KIA. shows hat we are really concerned about our land and our waters. And the mining company too, we have to help them to reclaim the land. Put a good closure on it so we don't have to work.

And the next 20 years, what went on our land which is good in a way. We ask a lot of questions. After the closure of the mine, you should just keep monitoring the land. I suggested that maybe you could leave some houses there for the monitoring people to go there. Or maybe take our youth on the land to show where the mine was and tell them what happened in that area. I think we will benefit from the cabins or the houses if you don't tear them down. So, the building there is a lot of people travelling even from Rae. They go there in the winter. And if there is lots of caribou, they will go out on the land to hunt the caribou.So if you leave some building standing up it would be useful for all kinds of reasons, even bring the youth. So, demolish everything but a few buildings. That is what I am asking for.

The very last thing is that there is no wood, so we use to prefer wood stoves. Even going hunting and your skidoo breaks down and you don't know where to go you know there is a house there and you can survive.

So today I will put this on the floor but in the future, I would like to hear something back from Diavik. So today is the last day. It is up to you guys to do whatever and fix it because it is a lot of work that the TK has put into it. We have never seen and Fort Resolution people or the Métis from the South Slave. We still have to help one another as best as we can for the benefit of our land, our waters, everything. It is not only for us. It is for our future generation too.
We have to leave something that is good for our kids to survive on like our forefathers did for us. It is not going to be the same way as it was when I was a young person even after reclamation. We still try out best [inaudible].

This is why I am concerned about our land. So, when I start talking, I like to talk really long, so I want to close for now and thank you again for bringing us together and taking our thoughts and our words and our traditional way. We all come from different places, and I hope we all travel home safely. Our Elders used to tell us that and we are thankful for being here today and that God gave us another day to help.

Vikki: I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Traditional Knowledge Panel. Sitting around with the Elders and listening to their concerns and stories of the land. It will hold a special place in my heart. I am very grateful that I got to be a part of this again.

Jack: Thank you for all the participants and all the people who work here to make this happen. Diavik facilitators who are doing consultation work, thank you for putting this together.
I am glad that we are able to move forward ahead with less COVID restrictions in place. Zoom meetings are not too helpful sometimes. I am very glad that we do have a TK panel for this mine site not only on scientific alone as done in the past. A lot of mines only did the scientific way, and the land and animals were never thought of in the past. Sometimes these mines just leave whatever [inaudible] they bring on the land and destroy the area. An example of this is Giant Mine. I am very glad that the TK Panel was formed so they could help the land better and not destroy like it was done in the past. I thank everyone, I know hopefully we will all be together again to go over those 200 recommendations and the planned session in June.

Barbara: Thank you, I am really thankful that I came to this TK panel meeting. I really felt the Elders when they speak, they talk about when they were younger and how the land has really changed now that they are older. It is really nice to hear stories like that from the Elders. Our discussions regarding the closure was very informative.

It really concerns us people so I am glad that Diavik is doing this and hopefully they can continue until they are fully closed. Please speak up and say what you want to say, I was holding back from saying something, but Jack told me I needed to say how I feel and express myself. I am glad to be part of this team. Next time Nancy will be here. And for the Elders, thank you for being here. Quana so much for being here.

Laura Jane: I am glad to be here, we had a good meeting. I like being in this kind of a setting because I learn lots. I hardly know anyone here, but I know that we are all some how related. But we have to help each other and help our land. Our land is beautiful. In the morning when the sun comes up you look at it and you look outside your surroundings you have to say thank you. So, we all have to work together, go to meetings like this. Next time we see each other we say hello. Have a good trip back home. Thank you.

Peter Sangris: I would like to say thank you for having me attend this meeting here. What we all discussed here is very important. We all have to help each other. Even though it is very hard to discuss we all have to listen to each other and give each other words so that we can come to an agreement. If we work together, through that work and through the action it will end up good. We can't always just work for ourselves because our neighbour could be doing something else that is different from us.

Good words came out that I heard so far during this three-day meeting. We are talking about this mine that is going to close so what we want to do is have this mine and the workers all listen to each other and help each other to make the land good again.
I am thankful for that that we are all agreeing. We were all here for three days, but I am getting older now and I am getting tired. I am thankful that I am still here with you, to give you my thoughts. This was a very much this was a very interesting three days. Thank you so much.

CLOSING PRAYER

APPENDIX E
Photos

Photo 1 Members of the TK Panel discussing their recommendations

Photo 2 Prize Table

Photo 3 The translator booths and audio-visual equipment

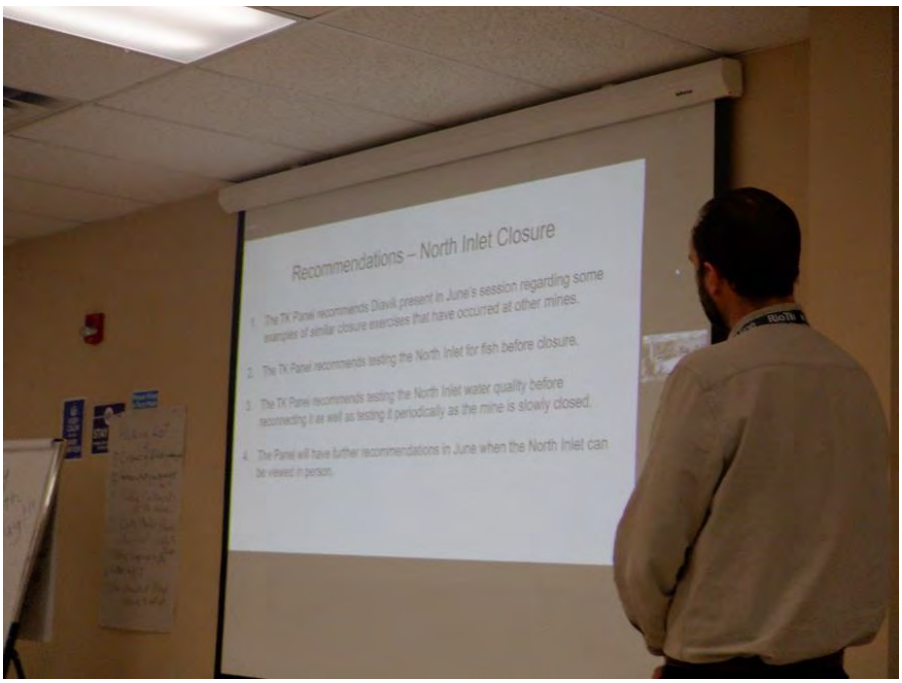

Photo 4 Sean Sinclair reviewing the Panel's recommendations on the North Inlet

Photo 5 Peter D Sangris and Mary-Jane Francis of YKDFN

Photo 6 Peter Clarkson asking the Panel questions about their recommendations on the PKC cover