

**BUREAU D'AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES  
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

IN ATTENDANCE:                    Mr. QUSSAÏ SAMAK, chairman  
   Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner

**PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE IRON MINE PROJECT AT LAC BLOOM PROPOSED  
BY CONSOLIDATED THOMPSON IRON MINES LIMITED**

**FIRST PART**

VOLUME 1

Session held at 7:00 p.m. on August 28, 2007,  
Premises of SAAN  
299, rue Le Carrefour  
Fermont

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## WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### THE CHAIRMAN:

5            Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the first part of the public hearing on the Lac Bloom iron mine project proposed by Consolidated Thompson Iron Mines Limited.

10           My name is Qussaï Samak. I have been mandated by the Chairman of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement to chair the commission on this project, and it is my great pleasure to share the responsibility for this commission with my colleague Michel Germain, who is also a full-time member of the Bureau.

15           I would like to make a quick presentation of the commission team since you will likely be working with them. To my left, or to your right, is Édith Bourque, who is an analyst in the commission team. I would also like to mention Stéphanie Dufresne who is an analyst, but who is not with us this evening, and Mr. St-Onge, who is also an analyst and who also is absent this evening.

20           Ms. Hawey, a communications advisor, is at the back of the room. Anne-Lyne Boutin, who is the coordinator of the commission's work from an administrative and organizational standpoint, is also present.

25           We would also like to thank the technical support team of the Centre de services partagés du Québec, Richard Grenier, accompanied by monsieur Martin Lajoie, sound technician, who are to my left, or to your right.

30           As you probably know, all of the public deliberations of the commission are recorded in transcripts which are available as soon as they are produced, and we have Lise Maisonneuve with us, to my left, who will make sure that these transcripts are made available to you as soon as possible, and we would like to thank her for her work.

35           I would also like to point out that the Commission's work, the current session and the sessions that will follow, where necessary, will also be available live via web broadcast on the BAPE's web site. And we would like to thank Pierre Dufour for allowing us to ensure this service.

40           I would also like to emphasize the fact that the sessions of the first part of the hearing will also be broadcast over the air by the Malitenam community radio station in Sept-Îles and that they will be translated into the Innu language at the time of the broadcast in order to make sure that the members of the First Nation concerned are kept informed of the deliberations of this part of the hearing. And, of course, the transcripts will be made available to these members as soon as they are ready, both electronically and in written form.

45 I would like to quickly read to you the mandate that the Bureau received from the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 in relation to this commission. It reads as follows:

*Mr. Chairman...*

50 - the chairman being the Chairman of the Bureau -

*... in my capacity as Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks and under the powers conferred on me by the third paragraph of section 31.3 of the Environment Quality Act, I mandate the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement to hold a public hearing on the Lac Bloom iron mine project proposed by Consolidated Thompson Iron Mines Limited and to report to me on its findings as well as on the analysis that it will have made thereof.*

*The Bureau's mandate will begin on August 20, 2007.*

60 *I have enclosed the applications for public hearing that were submitted to me concerning the project.*

*Yours truly,*

65 *Line Beauchamp, Minister.*

There you have the mandate. It determines the terms of reference that bind us, as members of the commission, from start to finish, namely up to the moment we submit our report to the Minister.

70 As you know, the BAPE has existed since 1978. It is a government body that reports to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks while being independent of the department. Consequently, the BAPE is an independent, autonomous body that is part of the Québec government apparatus.

75 Obviously, our mission is, as you know and as you are about to experience with us during these deliberations, is to listen to the public, to make sure that the public has access to all of the relevant information pertaining to the projects that are part of or that are the subject of a mandate, all the relevant information required or requested, to shed the greatest possible light on the projects that are subject to the hearings, and secondly, and I will be providing more details shortly, to receive the advice, concerns and opinions of citizens concerning the projects or the tasks that are the subject of the commission's mandate.

85 When I say "citizens", I am not only referring to natural persons, but also to legal entities, groups, organizations, etc.

90 In our work, and we have been doing it for a very long time now, the notion of environment which the BAPE and its commissions apply and use is a very broad notion that has been upheld by the courts of the land, a broad notion that is currently known as “sustainable development”, namely the environment in its ecological and natural dimensions, but also in its social and economic dimensions, etc., with everything that relates thereto, whether it be the health or cultural dimension, etc. Consequently, we apply a very broad notion and we have done so for many years, namely since the time the Bureau first began its work.

95 I would also like to point out that during the mandate, the members of the Bureau, as commissioners, are bound by a professional code of ethics and conduct, which all of us are required to adhere to, and during the mandate, commissioners take an oath and have the powers of commissioners in accordance with an *Act respecting public inquiry commissions*, that is to say all the powers conferred on commissioners under said Act.

100 Finally, the commissions of the BAPE, while reporting to the Bureau and with the minimal coherence required for the operation of a government body like the Bureau ... the fact remains that each commission of the BAPE is an independent commission, that its orientations, the analyses that it makes according to the terms of reference of its mandate are its own analyses, its own conclusions. And as such, the independence of the commissions of the BAPE is ensured at all times.

110 I also want to tell you that according to the environmental impact assessment process in Québec, both the procedure that binds the Bureau and its commissions, but which also are in effect otherwise, there are two simultaneous evaluation processes. There is the process in which you are currently taking part, which is carried out by the commission in front of you, but there is also an assessment that is made simultaneously by the technical division and the resources of the Ministère du Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs.

115 And finally, it is the results of these two analyses that are delivered to the Minister, and it is in light of these two analyses that the Minister makes her recommendations, so that the Cabinet can make the appropriate decisions in the public interest concerning the projects in question.

120 In the case that concerns us, given that the mandate lasts four months, the mandate began on August 20th; the Minister should therefore receive a report from our commission by December 20, 2007 at the latest. And as some of you perhaps know, the Minister has 60 days to make the report public. Of course, she could decide to make it public well before then, but the Act imposes the obligation of making the report public within 60 days.

125 You probably also know that we are not commissions that render binding decisions. The commissions of the BAPE do not render any decisions. Rather, they take stock of their findings and of the conclusions of their analyses. As for the decision concerning the project, the final decision lies with the government by way of the Cabinet. Consequently, the commissions of the BAPE do not render binding decisions. The commissions only issue conclusions, which they share with the Minister, according to the terms of the mandate as specified under the Act.

130

Now, a few words about the hearing. As you know, this is the first part of the hearing, which implies a second part. The aim of the first part of the hearing is basically to make sure that every citizen interested in the project can obtain all the information concerning the project through the usual method of receiving questions and making sure that answers are provided to them.

135

Thus, it is the time to obtain the greatest possible information about the project. It is not the time to give your opinions or to share what you think about the project. That will come later during the second part of the hearing. Consequently, the commission will only accept questions during this phase of the hearing.

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And when I say "questions", I mean questions with the least amount of introduction possible, single-component questions, because we have acquired a great deal of experience with questions involving three, four or five components; questions that do not necessarily entail lots of sub-questions or that do not have any sub-questions; it would be better if there were no sub-questions at all.

145

Each participant will have the possibility to ask two questions at a time, even if this means that the person has to register again to have another place, based on a register that will be opened shortly at the back of the room, and the principle will be that of "first come, first served".

150

I know that at times we are tempted to want to draw the lines of separation between what constitutes a question, advice and an opinion. I know that for those people who already have well established opinions about the project, it is very hard not to share their opinions with the commission. I invite you to resist the temptation because we are going to come back to this point and we will hear your opinions and concerns as well as various other things about the project during the second part of the hearing. I will talk about this a little later.

155

I can tell you that the second part of the hearing will be held in the last week of September, the 25th, 26th and 27th. And if I am mistaken, someone will correct me immediately, as you will see. And for the second part of the hearing, we will be holding a session in Schefferville, Sept-Îles and Fermont.

160

You will be informed of the details shortly by way of a press release. I can tell you that we will be back here in less than a month to receive the opinions and advice of the citizens of the Town of Fermont, just as we will hold a session in Sept-Îles and in Schefferville.

165

Allow me to make a few clarifications about the organization of the room. To my left and to your right, there is a table where the resource persons are seated. They are representatives of the departments and public agencies, which by reason of the nature of their mandate and the nature of their responsibilities, have a role to play in terms of supervising, planning, following up on or managing the project in question. These representatives will introduce themselves to you shortly.

170

175 And to my right, in other words to your left, are the representatives of the firm, the proponent, who are here to make a presentation of the project, to listen to your questions and to answer to them.

180 I would like to take this opportunity to ask the representatives of the departments and agencies if they have any documents to table knowing that the nature of the mandate, we already discussed it in our preparatory meetings. Ms. Loiselle?

**RENÉE LOISELLE:**

We don't have anything to submit, Mr. Chairman.

185 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay. I imagine that the same thing applies for your colleagues? Since you have the floor, I will now ask you to introduce yourselves one after another. Let's begin.

190 **RENÉE LOISELLE:**

195 My name is Renée Loiselle. I am project leader for the Lac Bloom project at the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs. I work at the Direction des évaluations environnementales. In other words, we examine pretty much the entire project.

**MICHEL RENAUD:**

200 My name is Michel Renaud. I work for the Ministère du Développement durable et des Parcs in Sept-Îles, at the regional office.

**DENIS BLACKBURN:**

205 Denis Blackburn. I am with the Ministère des Ressources naturelles, mines section. My Department's interest in relation to the project includes all the permits as well as the project's technical and economic aspects.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

210 Ms. Beaulieu.

**CAROLINE BEAULIEU:**

Hello. My name is Caroline Beaulieu. I am an advisor with the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones.

215

**JIMMY MORNEAU:**

Hi, my name is Jimmy Morneau, Executive Director of the RCM of Caniapiscau, in charge of the project from the standpoint of the development plan and its compliance.

220

**CHRISTINE LIZOTTE:**

Christine Lizotte, Director General and Treasurer of the Town of Fermont.

225

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you. Obviously, there are other organizations which, by the very nature of their mandate, are concerned by the project, but which are not necessarily present here this evening, and if questions are put to them, the commission will make sure that the questions reach the right person and that answers are obtained to these questions. These answers will then be made available to you as soon as we receive them.

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I am not sure but perhaps I should mention this, everything concerning the work and deliberations of the commission is available on the web site of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement. There you will find a link that will take you to the commission in question with all of the documentation that has been tabled, all of the questions, all of the answers, etc. Similarly, I will tell you shortly the location of the consultation centres, where the questions which will be answered later, where the transcripts, where all of the documents tabled within the context of the commission's works are also available for consultation purposes.

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As I mentioned to you, the first part, namely the current session, is devoted to questions. At the end of these introductory remarks, we will make public the requests, the applications for hearing that were submitted to the Minister. Incidentally, they are available at the back of the room if you would like to consult them.

245

Afterwards, I will ask the representatives of the proponent to make a presentation of the project, a summary presentation that takes up the main elements of the project.

250

We will then take a break, at which time the register will be opened at the back of the room for those among you who wish to register in order to be able to ask questions, as I explained a short while ago. And at the end of the break, we will immediately set the process in motion by asking the registrants to take turns asking their questions.



255 I don't think that I need to say this, but I will mention it all the same, everyone will be  
required to respect the general rules of the procedures that we follow, in other words, there shall be  
no show of approval or disapproval, and there shall be no offensive remarks to participants or  
stakeholders. I have no reason to assume that this will be the case, but it is my obligation to  
reiterate this point all the same, to ensure that the commission's deliberations unfold in an  
atmosphere characterized by tranquility, calmness and courtesy, which we must show one  
260 another.

I will immediately tell you the locations of the consultation centres where the commission's  
documentation will be available for consultation purposes. On the premises of the Maliotenam  
community radio station; at the offices of the Shaputuan museum of Uashat in Sept-Îles; at the  
265 office of the Naskapi Nation in Kawawachikamach. The Naskapi Nation, I imagine that it is in  
Schefferville, at least that is what I assume. At the Louis-Ange-Santerre library in Sept-Îles; at the  
Municipal Library of Fermont.

Obviously, all of the commission's documentation is available at the office of the BAPE in  
270 Québec City, at 575, rue Saint-Amable, 2nd floor, bureau 2.10, and, of course, on the site.

My colleague tells me that it is not in Schefferville. Where is it Michel?

**MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

275 It is on the outskirts of Schefferville.

**CHAIRMAN:**

280 There you have it, the office is on the outskirts of Schefferville. I am talking here about the  
Naskapi Nation in Kawawachikamach. I hope that I pronounced the name correctly; otherwise, I  
will never forgive myself.

The BAPE's web site is [www.bape.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.bape.gouv.qc.ca). Moreover, all of the commission's  
documentation is available at the Central library of Université du Québec à Montréal. For those of  
285 you who would like to go consult the documents there, you have to go to UQAM.

290 There is a little procedure that is fairly characteristic of our approach. When information is  
being sought, our task is first to obtain the information that you are looking for. So the first thing is  
to tell us what information you want. Afterwards, we will see if this information is available in a  
specific document or not.

295 Occasionally, the holders of the identified document may consider it to be confidential in  
nature, for any number of reasons. Once the claim is made that the document is confidential, the  
commission has a procedure that must be followed. We will first hear in closed session and in the  
presence of Ms. Maisonneuve the reasons justifying the confidential nature of the document.  
Afterwards, the commission will rule on the admissibility of this claim and the commission will

decide whether the document should indeed be disclosed in whole or in part or that the document is not relevant to the commission's analysis.

300 Does everyone follow me? That's the procedure. First, identify the information that you are looking for because sometimes, when we start with a document, we may be embarking upon a major task, whereas if we know the exact nature of the information you are looking for, it is possible and it is often the case that the information in question can be disclosed without any problem, whereas the remainder of the document is confidential in nature, something that may be legitimate.  
305 Specify the information that you are looking for from the outset and we will make sure that you will obtain it.

As I mentioned to you, the second part of the hearing, when you will have the chance to voice your opinions, concerns, etc., will begin on September 25th. It will start in Uashat in the Innu  
310 community and will continue on September 26th in Schefferville at Hôtel-motel Royal. And on September 27th, we will come back here, probably to the same room, in Fermont to seek your opinions and advice concerning the project.

And I invite you to get in touch with Ms. Boutin, coordinator of the commission secretariat,  
315 who is at the back of the room, to let her know as soon as possible, preferably this week, of your intention of tabling a brief or making an oral presentation to the commission. You are under no obligation to submit a brief; you can also come share your opinions with us orally. And you are invited to do so by September 21st.

320 There are other provisions for the second part of the hearing in relation to this deadline which we will convey to you later concerning the members of the First Nations. The commission has not excluded the possibility that certain elements of the project will only be fully known at the start of the second part of the hearing. In this case, the commission reserves the right, even the obligation, to grant a deadline extension for the second part of the hearing to receive the briefs  
325 from certain communities. Does everyone follow?

But with regard to Fermont, it is clear: by September 21st at the latest, we would like to know your intentions, those among you who would like to submit a brief or give an oral presentation, and in the case of the briefs, it is because we need a minimum amount of time in  
330 order to be able to read them. Between September 21st and 25th, that should give us some time to read them, but no later than that.

I will now ask Mr. Scherrer to introduce himself, to present his team, as the case may be, and then to proceed immediately to the presentation of the project.  
335

**RENÉ SCHERRER:**

340 Good evening. I would like to thank you for allowing me to introduce my colleagues. First of all, there is myself and Mr. Hubert Vallée who work for Consolidated Thompson. We are accompanied by André Allaire from BBA, Martin Larose from GENIVAR, and Denise Courteau.

And without further ado, I will let Mr. Vallée begin the first part of the presentation, after which I will take care of the second part.

345 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Vallée.

350 **HUBERT VALLÉE:**

Thank you, Mr. Samak. Thank you, René. Good evening everyone! We will give you the entire presentation. We will do it in two parts. René will follow with the environmental part. I will present the first items as well as the conclusion.

355 René and I are very pleased to be here this evening to talk about the great project we have, a project that we are very passionate about, one in which we have invested many hours, and we are convinced that we will finally be able to carry it out in the very near future.

360 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

I forgot something, it's just a detail but all the same, all the comments made by the stakeholders, whether it be you, the representatives of the departments or the public must be addressed to the commission.

365 **HUBERT VALLÉE:**

This is the first time for me.

370 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

It's okay, but it is...

375 **HUBERT VALLÉE:**

Should I turn my back to them?

380 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

No, stand here, that's all. Please proceed.

**HUBERT VALLÉE:**

We will just re-arrange the setup to be more efficient.

385 Good evening once again. We are going to talk about the company. We are also going to  
talk about the iron ore market, which is a very important consideration, the main reason that has  
led us to come together this evening and to talk with one another; the Lac Bloom project; the  
environmental issues, which include the study area, the optimization, the physical environment, the  
biological environment and the human environment; these items will be dealt with by my colleague,  
390 René Scherrer; as for the conclusion, I will come back to make the conclusion.

The company. We are a publicly-owned Canadian company listed on the Toronto Stock  
Exchange under the symbol CLM. We have approximately 80 million outstanding shares. Our  
mission is to explore, develop and put into production mineral deposits. We have full ownership of  
395 the titles to the Lac Bloom property.

Our Board of Directors is headed by Bruce Humphrey, who has more than 30 years of  
experience in the mining industry.

400 At the present time, we have some ten direct employees in the company. The  
management team: Richard Quesnel, who is President and Chief Executive Officer; myself, Project  
Director, Development; René Scherrer, Project Director, Mines; Marc Duchesne, Project Director,  
Finance.

405 The iron ore market. Iron ore is the main component of steel. I think that we are in a town  
that is well suited to talk about this subject. There has been phenomenal growth in the demand  
over the last three years. There has been a 33% increase in steel-making in China alone, which is  
the world's main market undergoing expansion at the present time. The pressure to increase prices  
is very strong. We are talking about 70% in 2005, 19% in 2006 and 9.5% in 2007, and the  
410 projections for 2008 are very interesting, which is very good for the community here.

Seventy percent of the production intended for export is controlled by three major  
corporations: CVRD in Brazil, BHP Billiton Limited in Australia and Rio Tinto, which own, among  
other properties, IOC, which is a neighbour. These three corporations have invested over \$8.5  
415 billion in reopening and optimizing their facilities, which means that, which is a sign that, when  
people make massive investments like that, they do not expect prices to fall.

Our project, the Lac Bloom project. There is a little animated presentation here. Is that it,  
René? We see Québec. Next, we see Réservoir Manicouagan appear, and close to the Labrador  
420 border, we see the Lac Bloom property between the Town of Fermont and the facilities of Québec  
Cartier.

The property is located in the RCM of Caniapiscau. It is 13 km northwest of Fermont, 8 km  
north of the deposit of the Mont-Wright mine.  
425

430 The project itself. We are talking about a mine, a deposit whose quality ranks at the international level. We have measured and indicated resources, which is very important, there are 638 million tonnes, a projected useful life of 34 years or more with an extraction rate of 7 million tonnes per year. We are talking about a content of 30%. We are talking about initial operations. In the region and I think that this is important, there has been no new major mining project put into operation since 1974.

435 Economic spin-offs. We are talking about direct economic spin-offs, namely the investment of Consolidated Thompson, of more than \$400 million. We are talking about building a concentrator at Bloom Lake, about developing and putting into production a mining site.

440 It is a privileged site. Why privileged? Because the infrastructures already exist. We are talking about the location, the geographical location. The railroad is accessible through IOC, it is a public railroad. There are access roads that go through Manic and that go down to Baie-Comeau.

We are talking about major electrical supply lines. Just 17 km from the project, there is a transformer station where we can obtain our power supply lines, from the lines coming down from Churchill Falls. We are also talking about an access in Sept-Îles, about a deep-water port.

445 Infrastructures. If we were talking about a project being opened in the Far North, all these things would have to be built. There are many of these elements which already exist, to which connections would have to be made.

450 Now, we will see a short animated overview of the mine. We see the fingerprint of the mine. These are all the holes to evaluate the resources. Here we have the geographical ore veins, at the surface and underground, which were used to estimate the extent of the reserves.

455 There are infrastructures that will be set up, hence created. We are talking about a conveyor. We have an example here at the top, a photo at the top on the right-hand side of the screen. We are talking about a cable conveyor that could be set up between Bloom Lake and the facilities in Labrador City, to then place the ore on the railroad or directly bring in a railway line operated by a third party. Both these hypotheses are totally feasible. We still have to determine which of the two will finally be chosen.

460 As for the power transmission line, we are talking about a 34.5 kV line measuring 13 km in length and originating from the Normand station, and in addition the construction of a concentrator, the result of which we see here, along with the building.

465            Operation of the mine. I don't think this is something new for you. It is a conventional open-pit mine, which is common in the region. We are talking about a 24-hour, 365-day-a-year operation; an average excavation of 33.6 million tonnes of ore and waste rock per year. We are talking about trucks, power shovels. We are talking about an average annual extraction rate of 17 million tonnes of ore and 16 million tonnes of waste rock to produce 7 million tonnes of concentrate.

470            The extraction of the ore will be done by drilling/blasting, loading /transporting. Here we have a 3D view of the *crusher* or crushing facilities. Below, it is more at the level of the concentrator.

475            The processing will take place by crushing, grinding, screening, enrichment, gravimetric treatment; as a result, there will be no flotation or chemical products.

480            Here is what we call "the management of tailings", but there is more on the map. Incidentally, there is a copy on the wall over there for those of you who wish to consult it. That is the result, what is it called? It is the approved Option D+.

485            Back in the month of June, we presented an option where Lac Mazaré, for those of you who are familiar with the region, was part of the tailing confinement area. In response to your comments and following the insistence of government authorities that we find solutions that can truly be used, innovative solutions to reduce to a minimum the impacts on the lakes and the environment, we worked with our consultants, and what we found, by applying a technology that currently exists in the tar sands of Alberta, a technology that will enable us to separate coarse particles from fine particles, tailings, waste rock, we will be able to reduce the fingerprint of the tailing confinement area, preserve Lac Mazaré and be able to set up our tailing confinement area, our waste-rock pile on dry land, avoiding any contact with the lake.

490            We have truly worked hard to find innovative solutions, to use cutting-edge technologies in order to truly optimize the use of the territory and to make sure that we have a minimum impact on lakes and streams.

495            We submitted this management plan on July 14th, namely before the end of the information period of the Bureau des audiences publiques. I think that it is important to make note of this point.

500            Water management. This is important. We are talking about water, air, soil, and the environmental impacts. At the process water level, there is domestic water and the water for boilers, the water that workers drink, the water used for washrooms and showers, there will be a treatment unit for wastewater at the level of the garage. We are talking about very small quantities. We are talking about 2 metres<sup>3</sup>/hour, 4 metres<sup>3</sup>/hour. This water, once it has been treated, will be returned to Lac Confusion.

505           As for process water, it will come entirely from Lac Confusion and it will be re-circulated. We are talking about a use of 98% re-circulated water. How are we going to do it? We will separate the water from the densifier. All the water that comes from the densifier will be immediately returned to the process water basin.

510           The management of the tailings will be done, as I mentioned to you, with cyclones. We will recover the rest of the water, which will mean that we will make sure that we recycle 98% of all water for process needs. This will mean that it will be necessary to manage in terms of emissions in the environment; this will concern the water from the snow melt. That is basically what will be left to manage in the basin that you saw earlier, the polishing basin.

515           At the surface water level. The water in question is run-off water. Hence, for any water where there is the possibility of contamination by oil or fuel, there will be water-oil separators, oil traps, before the water is discharged in Lac Confusion

520           At the mine drainage water level. Here we are also talking about settling basins, oil traps and discharge in Lac Confusion.

              As for waste-rock pile drainage water – it is rain water that will go into it, water from the snow melt – we will build a pit, a settling basin, and we will discharge the water in Lac Mazaré.

525           I will now leave it up to my colleague René to talk about the environmental issues. Thank you.

**RENÉ SCHERRER:**

530           Good evening. In terms of the environmental issues, we are going to cover different points here on the screen which correspond to the study area, the optimization of the project, we will talk about the physical, biological and human environment, the monitoring and follow-up program, the fish habitat compensation program, and the redevelopment of the mining site.

535           I don't want to repeat what Mr. Vallée said, so we will move on. At the environmental expertise level, environmental impact studies were carried out by the environment unit of GENIVAR, a firm of expert consultants in the environmental field. This firm has more than 140 professionals and their expertise is recognized at the national and international levels.

540           Here we see the study area. There is also a map at the back. We have used different colours to be able to differentiate the watersheds. On the south side we see the watershed that goes into Rivière aux Pékans and ends at Rivière Moisie. On the north side, where our entire project is located, including the waste-rock piles and the tailing basins, we find the watershed of  
545           Rivière Caniapiscau.

550 Here, I am going to present... Mr. Vallée talked about Option D which has been optimized. I just want to provide you with some background information. When we tabled our impact study in December, the tailing basin that we proposed, as Mr. Vallée pointed out, affected Lac Mazaré and the lakes on the north side of the property up to the Québec-Labrador border.

555 Following the responses, questions and comments, we came back in April 2007 with Option A+, which is an optimized version, from which we removed all contact with the lakes situated on the north side, but we kept, for economic reasons and space reasons, namely to minimize the number of dams that would have to be built, Lac Mazaré, which was used to discharge tailings and waste rock, also on a portion of the tailing basin.

560 Finally, in July 2007, in response to the questions and comments, we submitted Option D, which is the final optimization and which does not affect any lakes. We will look at the table which also provides some comparison data. Option A affected 952 hectares in a land environment, 111 hectares in a peat bog environment, and 236 hectares in an aquatic environment. With Option A+, we had reduced to 562 the number of hectares in a land environment, to 68 those in a peat bog environment and to 87 those in an aquatic environment. And in the case of Option D, we increased the number of hectares in a land environment somewhat, reaching 667. However, in a peat bog environment we lowered the number to 64 and in the case of the aquatic environment, the number fell to 7.3 hectares.

570 Allow me to remind you that a hectare is 100 metres by 100 metres. It is .01 square kilometre.

575 As for the physical issues related to air quality, one of the problems concerns dust and the raising of fine particles in the air associated with un paved roads, transshipment operations at waste-rock piles and ore-storage areas, at the level of the crusher and in the tailing confinement area.

580 As for mitigation measures, spraying will be used in the case of roads, dust removal systems will be used at transshipment points, and crushers and spraying will be used at ore-transshipment points in summer. In the case of the tailing confinement area, the surface area is reduced with optimized Option D, there will be progressive restoration during operations, the location is in a valley, and a cell concept will be used.

585 I don't know if you noticed it in the last drawing we saw, but there is a dam at the centre, which means that we will dump the tailings in winter and in the other cell in summer. As a result, in summer, the part that was deposited in winter, will have plenty of ice on top it, will melt while remaining in this moist zone, and in summer, the smaller cell will also remain moist.

And if necessary, an industrial sprinkler system which is also used elsewhere. These are giant-size garden sprinklers allowing us to take water and to spray those areas that will be dry.



590 Turning to the risks at the soil level, risk of contamination of soils by accidental hydrocarbon spills: solvents, grease and fuel.

Mitigation measures: fueling up and maintenance in specially designated areas; inspection and upkeep of machinery; emergency measures applied in case of a spill with a contingency plan,  
595 and sites set aside to accommodate contaminated soils.

As for the risks of contamination of the soils located under the tailing confinement area, the tailings will not be of the acid-generating type, the tailings are not considered as posing a high risk. I will come back to this point later on with a slide dealing with this level.

600 At the water level. Modification of the quality of water with peripheral drainage water, sanitary wastewater, water from the garage, mine drainage water and effluent from the tailing confinement area.

605 When it comes to mitigation measures, it is important to first note that the aquatic life will be preserved in the receiving environments, which are Lac Confusion, which Mr. Vallée spoke about earlier, and Lac D located at the western tip of Lac Mazaré.

610 Thus, we are going to discharge into a settling basin, then monitor the quality before discharging the water in Lac Confusion.

As for sanitary wastewater, it will be treated using the RBR Rotofix technology at a very low flow rate with discharge in Lac de la Confusion.

615 In the case of garage water, we will opt for at-source reduction via the work method, manual rougher flotation, a minimum use of water and soap, and then physico-chemical separation.

620 For mine drainage water, discharge in the settling basin before being discharged in the tailing confinement area. And for the tailing confinement area, on average four months a year, a flow of about .8 metres<sup>3</sup>/second of water coming from the snowmelt mainly.

625 As for changes in the groundwater flow net near the pit, no dewatering planned during the first years and the impact of the cleaning will be limited to the boundaries of the mining operations zone.

Once again at the water level, risk of groundwater contamination by spills of hydrocarbons, solvents, grease and fuel, as was previously mentioned.

630 Mitigation measures. There will be no underground fuel storage tank, which facilitates management and facilitates control; fueling and maintenance in areas identified for this purpose; inspection and maintenance of machinery; application of the emergency procedure in the event of a spill; and contingency plan.

635 Turning to the risks of groundwater contamination associated with the leaching of metals  
under the storage areas, waste-rock piles and tailing confinement areas. In terms of mitigation  
measures, there will be peripheral drainage. Among the important points worth noting, the tailings  
and the waste rock will not be of the acid-generating type. In the area under study, there are no  
groundwater users. There is a small usage potential in relation to the quality and quantity of  
groundwater. And the groundwater flows towards the northwest, one of the questions that had  
640 been asked at the time of the previous presentation in June.

In the lakes of the region, the pH is approximately 6.6. It should be recalled that neutral pH  
is a water pH of 7. Tailings and waste rock are basic. They are about 8 when they are put in the  
water. There are a few leachable metals: zinc, copper, lead, with the SPLP test and TCLP test,  
645 which are tests with an acidic pH of 4.2, and TCLP, phase 2, at 2.88. And it is important to note  
that the study area is not very sensitive to acid rain.

As for aquatic wildlife, there will be a loss of habitats associated with waste-rock piles,  
burden piles and tailing confinement areas, a loss of 37 hectares of lakes. This concerns Lac  
650 Pignac and Lac B. These lakes are not in the tailing confinement area zone but will be used to  
store the burden and waste rock near the pit, for safety reasons. Because these lakes are so close  
to the limit of the pit that, with blasting operations over the years, we want to avoid destabilizing the  
remaining wall and make sure that the water does not return to the pit.

655 And to come back to the comparison with Option A, the first that had been presented in  
December, we have reduced the area by more than 229 hectares with Option D, the last option  
that we presented, in relation to aquatic wildlife.

660 Regarding the compensation measures for aquatic wildlife, the initial measures that we  
examined concerned the laying out of fish habitats in the watercourses that will be diverted, the  
creation of watercourses, development in lakes near Fermont, and developments and  
enhancements of bodies of water located near the mining sites that are no longer in use.

665 At the present time, we are looking at the development of diversion works, the outlet of Lac  
H and a new flow pattern of Lac F and Lac G. The names of the lakes are indicated on the maps.  
These are lakes to the north of the tailing basin, between the tailing basin and the Québec-  
Labrador border, whereas at the time of the first option, Option A, they were included in the tailing  
confinement area.

670 There are 8 lakes near Fermont which were analyzed, but which do not offer a good  
potential for developments. There is still the old mine, mining sites that offer a good potential in  
terms of compensation measures.

675 As for avian wildlife, there will be a loss of habitats for birds. The infrastructures of the mine  
will lead to a loss of habitats for birds. However, the density of most bird species is not high in the  
study area, and similar replacements habitats are located near the mining site.

Turning to terrestrial wildlife, there will be 24 km<sup>2</sup> of habitat loss for big wildlife. This includes the small residual areas between our buildings, within the zone of the mine.

680

In the case of the caribou, this species covers large areas of territory and the habitat of the woodland caribou is abundant in the Fermont sector. The Rivière Georges herd does not frequent the study area on a regular basis.

685

There are very few black bear and moose in the study area.

In relation to the loss of habitats, we are talking about 10.2 km<sup>2</sup> of land habitats, .9 km<sup>2</sup> of peat bog and 1.2 km<sup>2</sup> of aquatic habitats for small game and micromammals.

690

And there are similar replacement habitats near the mining site.

Moving on to the human environment, there will, of course, be economic spin-offs in terms of job creation. During the construction period, there will be 400 direct jobs. As for the operating phase, there will be 250 jobs. Wherever possible, the company will recruit its employees from among the local, regional and Innu communities.

695

In terms of giving a boost to the economy. During the construction period, there will be \$400 million in investments. In the case of the operating phase, the costs are estimated at over \$5 billion for the life of the mine, which will help increase municipal tax revenues. And we are also working on setting up an economic spin-off committee.

700

From the standpoint of the use of the territory. As for the disturbance of the use made of the territory by the Innu, the mining infrastructures and activities will disturb the frequentation of the territory over an area of about 20 km<sup>2</sup> on trapline 243 which covers a surface area of 1845 km<sup>2</sup>. However, the mining activities will not prevent people from having access to the territory located to the north.

705

In relation to the disturbance of vacationing and recreational activities: the relocation of 10 cottages and minor changes to the snowmobile, quad and all-wheel vehicle trail.

710

As for mitigation measures, there is an agreement process under way with vacationers and cottage-owners. The snowmobile and quad trail will be comparable to the existing one in terms of safety and the distance that can be traveled. This is an important point that was noted at the outset with the initial drafts of the tailing confinement area. The fact of rerouting the snowmobile trail substantially. With the current tailing confinement area, we will continue to follow practically the same route, except for a few minor points. Discussions are under way with representatives of the Aboriginal communities.

715

At the level of the monitoring and follow-up program. Environmental monitoring during the work: integration of mitigation measures, meeting of commitments in the environment field.

720

725 Regarding the environmental follow-up and verification of standards: quality of the water and the effluents, quality of the groundwater, geotechnical aspects of the storage structures, biological follow-up including the compensation sites, follow-up on atmospheric emissions at the dust sampling stations in Fermont, and reference state prior to the commencement of activities.

730 As for the redevelopment of the postproduction mining site after a minimum of 34 years, there will be the dismantling of the buildings and infrastructures, a characterization study, the redevelopment of the pit as such of the tailing confinement area and waste-rock piles.

And now, I will cede the floor to Mr. Vallée so that he can present the conclusion.

**HUBERT VALLÉE:**

735 Thank you very much, René. In conclusion, you have a very broad timetable of the project, with the major items. The important point of this work project is that we believe that it is still possible to commence operations for the first quarter of 2009.

740 As for the opportunities related to the project, we are talking about training, technical training and professional training. We are talking about jobs at the mine. We are talking about jobs at the maintenance level. We are talking about jobs at the concentrator.

745 We are talking about contracts, construction, air transportation, and rail transport, development of lakes, environmental follow-ups and port activities in Sept-Îles.

750 I don't think that it would be possible to make this presentation without mentioning Wabush, Wabush Mines. We have made an offer to purchase Wabush Mines, which was accepted by two partners who own 71% of the shares of Wabush Mines, namely Cliff and Stelco, Stelco which was purchased by US Steel, and US Steel has said that they would honour the agreements that have been entered into.

What is the relation between Lac Bloom and Wabush Mines?

755 By the way, the date is September 6th. Dofasco will make known its right of first refusal on September 6th of this year.

760 The relation, if there were a synergy between Lac Bloom and Wabush Mines, we are talking about 150 jobs for the Lac Bloom site. We are talking about preserving jobs in Wabush and in Sept-Îles, in terms of the existing jobs at Wabush Mines, beyond 2013 which is the date currently set for the end of operations at Wabush Mines. We are talking about the modernization of infrastructures both in Wabush and Sept-Îles. We're also talking about plants. It is certain that the plant, the concentrator as such and the tailing basin would be situated in Wabush for the main lines.

765 In conclusion, we are convinced that we have a great project. We are convinced that we  
have worked hard on the environmental aspects to make it an example of sustainable  
development, of how to use new, innovative techniques to ensure that sustainable development is  
achieved. We have a total direct footprint of 12 km<sup>2</sup> on a vast territory, a territory that is already  
dedicated to mines for the most part.

770 We are also talking about a project that will create jobs for the region, high-paying jobs in a  
context where the regions have been hard hit by the job cuts in the forestry sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Samak, Mr. Germain, thank you for listening.

775 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Vallée and thank you, Mr. Scherrer. I would like to thank everyone for  
paying attention and for having followed the presentation.

780 We are going to take a fifteen-minute break, during which time you can register in order to  
be able to ask questions after the break. The register is now open. Thank you.

**SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION**

\*\*\*\*\*

785 **RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION**

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

790 It is now time to open the register in order to ask questions. I would like to once again  
remind you that this part of the hearing is devoted exclusively to questions and not to comments or  
opinions, which will be received with a great deal of recognition and attention during the second  
part of the hearing, which will be held during the week of September 24th.

795 So without further delay, I have seven entries in the register. I invite the first person to ask  
questions, Mr. Léo Saint-Onge, namely the nephew of the owner of lot 143. And as I mentioned to  
you, each person participating will be able to ask two questions at a time, after which that person  
will have to register again if he or she wants to continue.

800 Good evening, Mr. Saint-Onge, we are listening to what you have to say.

**LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

805 Good evening, sir. Are you the chairman?

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

Well, I have been so designated. Yes, I am.

**LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

810

First of all, I would like to welcome you.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

815

Thank you.

**LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

820

I think that this is important. I would like to thank everyone seated around the table. This is certainly a short presentation to find out about..., it is certain that I am not entitled to make comments. For our part, first question, Mr. Samak, there is certainly very little time to submit a brief. We only have a few days to do so, to truly master the file. I am speaking on behalf of the Saint-Onge Family also, which finds itself at the heart of the Lac Bloom project. I think that it is important here.

825

We also talked with one another last week at the office of the Band Council and we requested accommodations. And I thank you. It is certain that we did not obtain the accommodations, but we have come all the same.

830

First question, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Samak. You mentioned that the Aboriginal people would have an additional time period to submit a brief. Could you tell me the exact dates? Since we talked about a 60-day period in order for the Minister to comment on the presentation of the briefs, then to also permit a response.

835

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

I would just like to clarify one thing and afterwards we will proceed to your questions. As I mentioned to you, an extension will be granted to allow you to submit your briefs to us. We will announce the date of this extension when we see you on September 25th.

840

In the meantime, the commission will make sure, you attended the presentation, the commission will make sure that the transcripts of the session are available to you as soon as possible in written form. You already have the impact study and all of the documentation at the consultation centres, which are located nearby. I mentioned them earlier. And, exceptionally, we will take questions from members of your community, if there are any, in the second part, when we come to your community. And that is why we are going to extend the deadline for receiving briefs after the date. We will be with you that week.

845

850

It is important to avoid confusing this with the 60 days that the Minister has to make our report public, the report of this commission which will be submitted by December 20th at the latest. These are two different things.

855 As we assume that there will be new information for you, depending on the questions that you will ask, when we come to your community in the month of September, we will allow you to have an additional time period in comparison with the citizens of Fermont who are obliged to submit their brief by September 20th at the latest. There you have it.

I would now invite you to ask your first question, Mr. Saint-Onge.

860 **LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

865 It is hard to ask questions. I think that the public in general finds it difficult. Not many people signed up to ask questions, Mr. Chairman. There would be more comments on the presentation.

870 The presentation was certainly very short for such a large-scale project. It was very short as a presentation. I have barely grasped the project, the presentation was made so fast. I would truly like to receive all of the information concerning the project to be able to analyze all of its aspects, Mr. Chairman.

The other thing that is important is that I am unable to raise questions concerning the project. I have no idea what it is about, Mr. Chairman.

875 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

**LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

880 I know that they are talking about steel.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

Fine.

885 **LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

890 It was just to make some comments. I signed up so that people at least know us, we are here with my uncle... I know that it was Mr. Charest who was working on the human environment. I think that when you are working on the human environment, you should at least see the people with whom you will be working, see lot 243, my uncle Joseph who is here in the room.

895 I think that I would also like to greet our chief who is supporting us here, Georges-Ernest Grégoire who is with us, Mr. Chairman. I think that this is all that I wanted to say.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, very well.

900 **LÉO SAINT-ONGE :**

Thank you very much.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

905 You are welcome. I wish to take this opportunity to greet Mr. Grégoire, we talked together on the telephone.

910 I would like to make you an offer that I am sure you won't be able to refuse. We will make sure that this evening's presentation is sent by e-mail to Ms. Morrissette by tomorrow morning and that all of the information is available to you. If you have questions, any questions whatsoever concerning the project between now and the time we come to meet with you on your territory, send them to the commission either by e-mail or by fax, and we will make sure that we send you the answers before the meeting.

915 If you are unable to ask questions right away, consult the documentation as you see fit. You will have access to this evening's presentation. And we are open 24 hours a day to receive all your questions about the project between now and the second part of the hearing. Does that suit you?

920 **LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

I think that it would be perfect, Mr. Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

925

Okay.

**LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

930 It is important to receive the documentation. For us, it is truly important, Mr. Chairman, to truly understand the project and its impact before taking a position, Mr. Chairman.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

935 That is why we are here.

**LÉO SAINT-ONGE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

940 **THE CHAIRMAN:**



You are welcome, Mr. Saint-Onge.

I would now invite Mr. Dave Bouchard, please.

945

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

Good evening, Mr. Samak, Mr. Germain.

950

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

Good evening, Mr. Bouchard.

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

955

First of all, I would simply like to point out that I am originally from the region. I was raised in the Gagnon region. I was born in the Gagnon region and I currently live here. I am 43 years of age and have 43 years of experience in the North. I have 17 years of experience in a mine of the same type as the one that Consolidated Thompson wants to open.

960

And I would like to make a simple comment before asking my very concise question. This is the first time that I have seen a presentation... that I have seen a company that seems to be able to link sustainable development in the environmental, economic and social field to such an extent.

965

And my question lies within this perspective. I would like this: is it possible to promote sustainable development in the environmental field, can a formal bilateral communication and awareness promotion link be created between Consolidated Thompson and the community of Fermont?

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

970

Mr. Scherrer or Mr. Vallée.

**RENÉ SCHERRER:**

975

Yes. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bouchard, yes, I think that already with the numerous times that we have come to Fermont and to the region, in order to meet with various representatives of the community, the presentations that we have given, we have always been open whenever there were questions to be answered and we have been there to support projects at the community and social level. I think that we have also proven this in the past by our words and our deeds. In other words, the answer is yes.

980

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

985 Thank you.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

990 And the mechanism of such...

**RENÉ SCHERRER:**

995 There have been informal mechanisms. We also came to meet with the Municipality of  
Fermont on a formal basis. They informed us of their point of view and of the project, that they  
wanted to act with the community. We have always been attuned to the community. What we are  
aiming for is to improve the link between Consolidated Thompson and the various communities in  
what is commonly known as a win-win relationship characterized by mutual respect.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

1000 Very well. Mr. Bouchard, your second question.

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

1005 That was the only question I had. Thank you for listening to me.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

1010 You're welcome.

Mr. Germain.

**MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

1015 I want to come back to the subject of this question. Mr. Bouchard, if I understand you right,  
you are talking about a permanent link. What you want, is it a link while the project is in operation?

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

1020 Within the context of the economic operation, there is also the environmental aspect all  
around it. And the spirit of my question is this: at the present time, the orientation in the  
environmental field that Consolidated Thompson seems to want to take is one that I consider  
positive.

1025 In the mining fields, as I mentioned to you, I have 17 years of experience in mines here, I  
have worked in several fields and this is a structure, which I personally, am not accustomed to  
seeing so structured in time, starting from the very outset, like this one.

1030

It is true that the last mines that were opened here date back to the 1970s and that the notion of the environment was not as developed as it is nowadays. And it is pleasant to see a company wanting to open a mine show a level of respect for the environment that goes well beyond the government's requirements in this field.

1035

However, in the case of a long-term development, it is important to remember that these orientations are based on individuals who make up a group. This group forms a team and this team forms a company. But over time, the company will remain, but there are chances that the team and the group may change.

1040

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

1045

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

However, as for the community, it will remain.

1050

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

I agree.

1055

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

Do you follow me?

1060

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes

1065

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

If the community is bound, I would simply say... I am trying to choose my words in order to be clear, the community should be able to have a right, if only a right to see what is happening, a right to communicate with the company, regardless of the people who will be in the company. As a result, the community will succeed in creating over time an environmental context that will be pleasant to live in.

1070

Because it is important to bear in mind that the persons who will stay here, Mr. Samak, Mr. Germain, are the persons who are going to work in the Thompson mine eventually and in the mines around the region, and these persons are entitled to a healthy environmental climate.

**THE CHAIRMAN:**

It is very clear.

1075 **MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

A permanent link.

**DAVE BOUCHARD:**

1080 Thank you.

**MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Fine, thank you.

1085 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Bouchard.

1090 Mr. Normand Ducharme, please. Good evening, Mr. Ducharme.

**Mr. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

Good evening, sir.

1095 **CHAIRMAN:**

We're listening.

1100 **MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

I registered as a private citizen. Well, let me clarify, I'm also General Manager of the hematite Health and Social Services Centre here in Fermont.

1105 First of all, I'd like, if you'd allow me a short preamble, to say how refreshing I find the Consolidated Thompson project. It brings hope for the future for the Fermont community.

This evening, we've heard a lot about the environment. In my case, I'd like to ask one or two questions about the socio-economic impacts.

1110 **CHAIRMAN:**

Go ahead.

1115 **MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

1120 So my question is this. Have you thought about or reviewed your operating method as far as the organization of work is concerned? If you remember, at a past meeting you raised the question of a potential operating method...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1125 Mr. Bouchard, please address your remarks to the Commission.

**MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

I'm sorry.

1130 **CHAIRMAN:**

All right.

**MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

1135 You raised a possible operating method, which was to operate with 12 hour/four day shifts and for which people would in fact come to Fermont only to work, and wouldn't live here.

1140 So I'm sure you understand that for the local people, the community, this has some impacts: social impacts, economic impacts. Economic impacts, because people come to earn their money here but spend it down south. Sorry about the term "down south"; it's a local expression. So they'll spend their money somewhere else. That doesn't create a community, people who come to Fermont sporadically, to work. It's as though they're at a building site that ... if I were to make a comparison, I'd say James Bay.

1145 So my question is: Have people reviewed or thought about...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1150 The recruitment method.

**MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

... another way of functioning...

1155 **CHAIRMAN:**

Right.

**MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

1160

... for the organization of work.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1165 Mr. Vallée.

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

1170 I'll answer that. Currently we haven't rejected any options, and it's all about the availability of labour. You know it isn't easy to recruit here.

1175 So as far as we're concerned, we're not giving priority to one option over another, we're keeping all doors open. If there are people and if there are ways of working with a community or with people who live there permanently, we'll do it. And then we have to meet needs, let's say occasionally or temporarily, and they'll be workers who'll do "in and out". We're keeping our options open. So we haven't closed any doors, because we're not giving priority to one door over another.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1180 But to go back to Mr. Ducharme's concern, you've ... you've also proposed mechanisms that will facilitate matters for people who come from somewhere else but want to work with you, that will help them to settle and adopt this community in the long term. In other words, you'll have measures to help them make that choice as well.

1185 **MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

Yes, of course.

1190 **CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you. Mr. Germain.

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

1195 Yes, as an additional question. Right, for example, a short while ago in your presentation, you mentioned jobs for the Innu. If I remember well, the Innu are mainly present, in terms of being residents, in the Sept-Îles and Schefferville regions.

1200 With regard to these people who live at some distance, how have you envisaged ... how would you go about integrating them into the Fermont community, given the fact that, if I'm right, there's no Innu community located near Fermont?

**MR. RENÉ SCHERRER:**

1205 I can answer that, to complete my colleague's answer.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Go ahead.

1210 **MR. RENÉ SCHERRER:**

1215 That's what we were saying, it's precisely for this reason that we're keeping all our options open. Obviously, as a former resident of Fermont, I've been here for seven years, I'd prefer people to settle here. I myself come from a small place in the North Shore, called Havre-Saint-Pierre. We also know how important it is to plan the need for health centres and other facilities, in other words the size of the population, the people who'll be living in a place.

1220 On the other hand, we're aware that with the people living in the region, at Matimekosh, Lac-John, Uashat, Maliotenam, there are people who'd be interested in lifestyles, working on a project and going home to see their families after a period at work. That's why we're saying we're keeping all the doors open.

1225 We're aware of the importance of having a settled population, and we're also aware that with the need for mining labour in the coming years, there's going to be a shortage of labour. You have to be innovative in terms of solutions, to persuade people to work in the mining regions. That's why we're open to options that will satisfy the company and also the people who want to work for the company.

1230 I hope that clarifies things for you?

**CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Bouchard, your second question.

1235 **MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

It's a follow-up question. Since it's been so important to assess the environmental impacts of a project like this one, have the socio-economic impacts of the various solutions also been assessed?

1240 **CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Scherrer or Mr. Vallée.

1245 **MR. RENÉ SCHERRER:**

We've certainly assessed some of the socio-economic impacts with revenues in the region, jobs.

As for the rest, Martin, do you have more information on the socio-economic aspects?

1250 **MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

Can I take this?

1255 **CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, absolutely. Start by identifying yourself.

1260 **MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

Martin Larose, GENIVAR. The social impacts were measured with the project as it's presently known, in other words based on the fact that CLM is looking at all the options. We know that in the present context it was difficult for them to say: "We'll only have people from the region". So they considered the possibility of having "in and outs" and giving priority to local people. The social impacts and economic impacts were measured in this way.

1265 **MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

1270 If I may add something, you have to remember that we're talking about 250 new jobs in the region. It's major for the community.

Yes, the people, if some of them stay then go home, but they'll still want to live here for part of the time. So for the time being, we don't know what percentage, and we don't know the scope. I think it's difficult to establish more specific impacts on these different options.

1275 **CHAIRMAN:**

1280 So, Mr. Ducharme, if your organization has questions or concerns about this aspect, the Commission will be pleased to receive your opinions, obviously if you announce your intention of presenting a brief.



**MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

In the form of a brief.

1285 **CHAIRMAN:**

It would be much appreciated.

**MR. NORMAND DUCHARME:**

1290

Perfect, thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Ducharme.

1295

I'd like to invite Mr. Alain Méthot, please.

**MR. ALAIN MÉTHOT:**

1300

Good evening Mr. Samak.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Méthot, good evening. We're listening.

1305

**MR. ALAIN MÉTHOT:**

First, I'm a local contractor and I'd like to make a comment before asking my question.

1310

It's that for the Consolidated people, in the last few weeks, I'd say their environmental policies have been questioned somewhat because for the installation of the temporary camp, they ran up against some small problems with the environment.

1315

They had an opportunity to get around these particular rules, but they chose to settle things to everyone's satisfaction, including the Ministère de l'Environnement (Québec's environmental ministry), even though it created delays and additional costs for them. So this was a first ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1320

Point taken. Now, the first question.

**MR. ALAIN MÉTHOT:**

1325 I just wanted to know, for the Commission, because if a project like Consolidated is to see the light of day, they need a permit. The Commission's mandate is limited to environmental questions only, well, if at some point I have a dispute with Consolidated or they have one with, let's say, with the Innu or with a cottage owner or whoever, would the Commission consider all these elements or is the Commission's power only environmental?

**CHAIRMAN:**

1330 As I told you at the beginning, in my opening remarks, the BAPE has applied a very broad concept of the environment, in all its ecological, biophysical, social, community, health-related and economic aspects, for many years now. So, everything related to the project within this sphere of interest for society is of concern to us for the duration of our mandate.

1335 So, if questions are brought to our attention during our mandate, and I remind you that Madam Minister is expecting our report by December 20 at the latest, we're certainly going to take it under advisement and examine it. If there are implications for our analysis of the project, we're going to take it into account.

1340

**MR. ALAIN MÉTHOT:**

So, at the end of the line, it's the Minister who will make a decision, based on the recommendations that you make.

1345

**CHAIRMAN:**

The Minister will make her recommendations to the Council of Ministers, and it's the Council of Ministers that issues the order authorizing the project as presented or with the conditions it decides to impose in the public interest.

1350

**MR. ALAIN MÉTHOT:**

Ultimately, then, every government department can have its say?

1355

**CHAIRMAN:**

Absolutely, yes.

1360

**MR. ALAIN MÉTHOT:**

That's my question.

1365 **CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you.

Mr. Éric Cyr, please. Ah! It's not often that a question comes from the left-hand table.

1370

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

Hello. But I'm asking my question as a private citizen.

1375 **CHAIRMAN:**

Good evening, Mr. Cyr.

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

1380

Good evening. Earlier, during the presentation, there was mention of the environmental issues, the human environment, land use, and it was pointed out that the mining activities won't prevent access to the area towards the north.

1385

The question I want to ask the Commission is as follows. Isn't the construction phase, the economic activity generated by the development of the Bloom Lake mine, likely to become a problem for the fluidity and safety of road traffic along Route 389, especially in the Fire Lake-Mont Wright sector, which is already problematic even now? Are there plans to redo this stretch of road, or have discussions been initiated on this subject with the Ministère des Transports (Québec's transportation ministry)?

1390

**CHAIRMAN:**

Can you repeat the road number?

1395

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

389. I know the Commission members...

1400

**CHAIRMAN:**

389, yes, right.

1405

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

The Commission members probably came here by air.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Yes. We'd have liked to have travelled closer to the ground, but ...

1410 **MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

Yes, that's it, so it means...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1415

Right. I'm going to direct your question to Mr. Scherrer or Mr. Vallée. What impact do you anticipate ...

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

1420

With all due respect, this is a question that concerns the Ministère des Transports, the road between Fire Lake and ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1425

You haven't heard the question yet.

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

1430

Yes, yes.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1435

I'd like to know if you've looked at the volume of road traffic required for your operations, and compared it with the capacity of the present road, or if you haven't considered this question at all. All right?

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

1440

What we considered is the capacity of the bridges and infrastructures, whether they're capable of bearing the heavy vehicles that are going to be needed. As far as volume is concerned, we haven't really considered the question, given that it's a public road.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1445

So you haven't considered the question of whether the present road capacity is sufficient to meet the transportation requirements for your operations. That's what I understand.

1450 **MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

No, but it's a public road. I mean, if someone has a project to the north of Montreal, do they look at whether or not it's going to cause congestion on Highway 15? I don't know about that. We've considered a lot of things, but look, not that, not at the moment.

1455

**CHAIRMAN:**

No, but look, Mr. Vallée, if the Commission asks you a question for which you haven't done an analysis or haven't got an answer, it's not a criticism. You shouldn't take it so defensively. It's quite legitimate.

1460

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

It's not defensive ...

1465

**CHAIRMAN:**

Fine.

1470 **MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

... Let me clarify that we've looked at bridge capacity, infrastructure width and the road's ability to support the heavy vehicles that may be required to transport large pieces of equipment. That's what we've looked at so far.

1475

And I'd also point out that the workers won't travel by car. There will be an air bridge. So, as far as volume is concerned, and it would be a high volume, a lot of cars, it'll all be done by air. So what we're talking about is the transportation of equipment, which will take place over a period of roughly twelve months.

1480

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1485 Perfect, thank you, Mr. Vallée.

I'd also like to forward the question to the RCM representative, perhaps to throw some additional light on the matter. Mr. Morneau, would you like to react in any way to Mr. Cyr's question?

1490 **MR. JIMMY MORNEAU:**

Look, we know there have been traffic volume studies for Route 389, where the CLD has carried out studies. On the other hand, it was before the impact of Bloom Lake. So there's really nothing. Maybe the Ministère des Transports could assess the situation.

1495

**CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Germain.

1500 **MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

A few weeks ago I looked at a website to which I've referred, and it seems to me that someone, someone who's a regular user of Route 389, and he provided some interesting photographs along the road. It seems to me that the road was in rather a ... the Ministère des Transports would say under-sized or something like that. There seemed to be some fairly sharp bends in some places.

1505

Is that what you're referring to, Mr. Cyr? If I've understood properly, the road seems to be in good condition. When you come from Labrador, when you're traveling, the road seems to be in good condition. Is this the road that goes towards Baie-Comeau?

1510

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

In fact, a DVD has already been produced and sent to the Ministère des Transports, to the government department concerned. And I'm sure that, as you've already worked for the Ministère des Transports in the past, if you're aware of the issue, you'd agree with me that this particular road doesn't meet the minimum safety standards set by the Ministère des Transports du Québec, especially along the problematic stretch from Fire Lake to Mont Wright.

1515

Unless they have third world standards there? Because I don't know, look, I've been to Africa in the past and the roads there were better than this one.

1520

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

It's a question of very sharp bends.

1525

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

Extremely sharp, extremely sharp.

1530

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

It's more a question of safety than capacity. It's the state of the road.

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

1535

The fact that the road is dangerous, the state of the road. I mean, it's used by heavy vehicles that are getting heavier. It's this that bothers me mostly, I don't know, as far as the Ministère des Transports is concerned. There are three government departments present here, and the Ministère des Transports du Québec isn't here. We were told we could have other expert

1540

**CHAIRMAN:**

The Commission will look at the question, and if necessary we'll forward it to the Ministère des Transports and get their opinion of it.

1545

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

Perfect. That's all I had to say.

1550

**CHAIRMAN:**

Is that it?

1555

**MR. ÉRIC CYR:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1560

Thank you, Mr. Cyr.

So I was right to ask you not to do that at the beginning. You don't listen. I hope this will be the last time.

1565

Ms. Lise Pelletier, Mayor of Fermont and Prefect of the Caniapiscou RCM. Good evening, Madam Mayor.

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

1570

Good evening, Mr. Chairman. Good evening members, and Thompson. So, listen, you said at the beginning that we couldn't do certain things, but I'm going to anyway ... perhaps nearer the end.

1575

In any case, I have a question concerning the environmental aspect. At the beginning of the evening, you explained some of the reasons why you're here, because there are certain organizations or private citizens who sent letters to the Minister. Is that right?

**CHAIRMAN:**

1580 That is, there are certain applicants who asked for a public hearing.

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

1585 Right. And are those applicants all concerned with the environmental aspect?

**CHAIRMAN:**

Applicants aren't necessarily required to explain their reasons. It's ...

1590 **Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

1595 Because I know that at the entrance over there, at the beginning, I didn't have an opportunity this evening to read it, because we had one break of a few minutes, but I didn't have the chance to read everything in the file. So it isn't really a matter of having other questions, but I know that the citizens of Fermont really want this project here.

So I just want to take the time, Mr. Chairman, to make a short comment that's fairly constructive, if I may ...

1600 **CHAIRMAN:**

Madam Mayor, it's from little acorns that big trees ...

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

1605 Well, yes. Look, it's clear.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1610 ... that big trees grow.

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

1615 Yes, I know. But listen, Fermont has been a mining town for many years. It's a single industry town, and always has been. So the mine has been in existence for 33 years in Fermont. And it's the first time Fermont might get a large-scale project.

1620 Of course, I understand very, very well, we all understand the territorial aspect. As far as the territorial aspect is concerned, what I'd also like to say, is that the land can be shared with due respect for everyone's needs.



**CHAIRMAN:**

Fine.

1625

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

I think that in my case, it's an important point. We're certainly going to be able to submit a brief.

1630

**CHAIRMAN:**

That's what I was going to ask you to do.

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

1635

We certainly will, Mr. Chairman. So, listen, I know people, the members, the citizens of Fermont all care about certain things. Earlier, we mentioned the issue of Route 389. But this, I'd like to repeat the message.

1640

And I'd also like to salute the Innu people. The Innu are also present in Fermont. I know as Prefect of the Caniapiscau RCM, well, there's also the Kawawachikamach reserve in the Schefferville sector. So I know that they too have demands. That's what I hope.

1645

Listen, I'm going to do my political duty, the job I have to do, I just wanted to tell you this and thank you. I look forward to seeing you again. And thank you to the Commission members. Thank you to Thompson. I wish you good luck.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1650

We'll see you again ...

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

Perfect.

1655

**CHAIRMAN:**

... the last week of September.

1660

**Ms. Lise PELLETIER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1665 Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Mr. Richard Désy, please, from the Town of Fermont. Good evening, Mr. Désy.

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

1670

Mr. Chairman, Commission members, I have a question about ... I've read the main report published in December 2006 on the Environmental Impact Guide. Article 3.10 talks about residual materials. In this article, the entire industry is naturally going to generate waste. In short, it says:

1675 *The solid waste and household waste will be sent to the Fermont municipal management site.*

It's that right now the Town of Fermont, its sanitary landfill site is at the Québec-Cartier mine. I don't know if Thompson plans to operate or create a landfill site on its own land.

1680

**CHAIRMAN:**

For their own waste.

1685

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

Yes, because I don't really see the municipality going to get that amount of waste and manage it, plus all the recyclable waste as well.

1690

**CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Scherrer or Mr. Vallée, did you hear the question?

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

1695

Yes. As far as this aspect is concerned, we're certainly going to do as much recycling as possible, depending on distance and area. But this is something we're going to settle with the Town. We're a corporate citizen and it's a subject we consider to be municipal in nature.

1700

We've found creative ways of managing waste, I think we'll be able to find a solution to the problem by sitting down with representatives from the Town.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1705

Mr. Germain.

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

1710 My question is to the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des  
Parcs (Québec's ministry of sustainable development, environment and parks). What is the  
situation concerning solid waste management? Is there still a moratorium? For example, as far as  
the creation of new sanitary landfill sites is concerned, what is the Department's attitude or position  
concerning waste management, in other words by region or by RCM? Could we have some  
clarification please?

1715 So, if we have a specific situation here where we have a landfill site that is private and  
belongs to a mining company, is that company obliged to accept waste produced throughout the  
territory of Fermont? Can you clarify this for us please?

**Ms. Renée LOISELLE:**

1720 As my colleague pointed out, there's no longer a moratorium on sanitary landfill sites. On  
the other hand, we find ourselves here in a region inhabited by a relatively small population where  
there's already a trench landfill. It's a private landfill, of course.

1725 As the environment ministry, our point of view is that the legislation allows Consolidated  
Thompson to open a trench landfill if they want, but we don't think it's particularly logical to have  
two trench landfills operating alongside one another. So we raised this question in the questions  
and comments to the Consolidated Thompson people, and they answered that they'll try and  
negotiate an agreement. We're also going to press for this too.

1730 If the project is carried out, I imagine it will become a large taxpayer for the Town of  
Fermont and there should be some way of reaching a three-way agreement.

1735 From the environmental standpoint, it's clear for us, we prefer a single site capable of  
accommodating everyone in the area, along with, of course, the usual maximum salvage practices,  
recycling and so on.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1740 Just a question of detail. Would it be acceptable to presume that the rate of production of  
domestic waste, etc., is the same as the national average here, or below average? In other words,  
can we simply apply the rule of three tonnes of waste per inhabitant to calculate the annual  
tonnages, or would that not necessarily work here?

1745 **Ms. Renée LOISELLE:**

To answer that, I'd need information on recycling availabilities. I don't know what they do  
here in terms of recycling, but this is information I can find and give to the Commission tomorrow or  
perhaps a little later.

1750 **CHAIRMAN:**

Excellent, thank you. So ...

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

1755

As a sub-question, on the subject of ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1760

Or perhaps as a second question.

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

Second question?

1765

**CHAIRMAN:**

Yes.

1770

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

It's to complete the first.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1775

Yes, all right, go ahead.

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

1780

Hence the sub-question, perhaps it would be interesting to know the volume that the new mine would produce ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1785

Yes, I intended to ask that.

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

... to see how much we're going to have to manage, in terms of volume.

1790 **CHAIRMAN:**

As I already asked Ms. Loiselle, I'll ask you, too, how many tonnes per year do you expect, on average?

1795 **MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

We'll take the time to look at this properly.

1800 **CHAIRMAN:**

Excellent, very good.

Go ahead, Mr. Désy, with your second question.

1805 **MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

Second question. As a preamble, we all know that Fermont is currently looking for underground water north of Lac Perchard. I also know the June presentation suggested that underground water migration would be ... in there, in the same guide, it says...

1810

**CHAIRMAN:**

When you say "guide", do you mean the impact assessment?

1815 **MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

The impact assessment published in December.

1820 **CHAIRMAN:**

Fine, very good.

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

1825

It says it's likely that underground water will migrate according to the topography, or in the same direction as the surface water. They're about 13 km from our potential drilling site. We wanted to make sure the water wouldn't migrate towards our site, obviously because of contamination, given that the municipality has invested quite a lot of money in exploration.

1830 **CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Vallée, could such an assurance be given?

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

1835

I'll ask Mr. Larose to comment on this.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1840

Monsieur Larose.

**MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

1845

When we came back for the information session, we said drilling had taken place at the Bloom Lake site. Since then, we've been on the sites, we've done piezometric surveys, which allow us to read the water levels in the drill holes.

1850

According to these surveys, it confirms what we suggested in the impact assessment: that underground water migrates according to the topography, in other words towards the north initially, and then it turns towards the west, following the flow of the region's lakes. So there's no chance that it will migrate towards our prospecting site.

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

1855

That's why we didn't know in December. Then, in June, you did this study and it confirmed migration towards the north.

**MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

1860

That's right, no drilling had been completed at the time of the impact assessment.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1865

Mr. Germain.

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Mr. Larose, has this information been tabled or are you ...

1870

**MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

1875

This information hasn't been tabled because there's also going to be a follow-up to the study, where we're going ... in the field, more drilling is planned for the coming weeks on the tailing sites to complete the hydro-geological analysis and the analysis of the tailing site's impact on underground water. It'll be part of that report

**CHAIRMAN:**

1880 Well, the Commission would appreciate receiving a copy as soon as the information is available, so table it please.

**MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

1885 Yes, fine. This information isn't confirmed, the impacts we've proposed.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1890 I understand. And it goes without saying that you'll be tabling the presentation you made on the project this evening?

**MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

1895 Excuse me. What we could provide on a preliminary basis is a map confirming the direction of underground migration.

**CHAIRMAN:**

1900 Very good, very good. Thank you.

**MR. RICHARD DÉSY:**

Thank you.

1905 **CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Désy.

1910 Mr. Rosario Pinette, please, from the Itum Innu Council. Mr. Pinette, we had the pleasure of speaking on the telephone

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

Yes, yes.

1915

**CHAIRMAN:**

So, go ahead.

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

1920

It was very interesting, we'll continue our conversation. Mr. Chairman, I have two questions. Among others, I have questions, a more technical one for the Commission that might inform members of the general public who are listening to CKAU radio right now. It could be an introduction for you, Mr. Chairman, on the air. It's kind of an interview that I'm doing, but for the benefit of the Uashat mak Mani-Utenam population who might be listening. Perhaps just introduce yourself briefly, Mr. Samak.

1925

**CHAIRMAN:**

1930

Well, at the back of the room we have a Commission file containing a biographical note on Mr. Germain and myself, and I think that's available to you.

So you could refer to the biographical note.

1935

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

As we discussed ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1940

Yes.

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

1945

... on the telephone, we'd have liked to have hosted the information session in Uashat. We understand the problems that might have caused, and I think ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

1950

So, we'll allow it. You'd like us to introduce ourselves?

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

Yes.

1955

**CHAIRMAN:**

Fine. So, listen, it's not usual but anyway. Mr. Germain, go ahead.



**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

1960

So, for our audience in Maliotenam, let me welcome you. We're very happy that you're listening to the public hearings.

1965

So ... my name is Michel Germain and I've been a permanent member of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (the organization responsible for organizing environmental public hearings in Québec) since 2004. I was also a permanent member of the Bureau d'audiences in the 1990s, and a part-time member from the early 2000s. So far, I've probably done 15 or 16 public hearings on the environment. I've also spent most of my career in the environmental field.

1970

Among other things I've also had the opportunity to be involved in certain issues as a consultant with Aboriginal communities, although unfortunately never in Maliotenam. I've previously been involved in Cree land issues in Waswanipi. I also worked at Weymontachie with the Attikamekws. On several occasions I've had the opportunity to work, and also on an issue in the Natashquan area, so I've had the opportunity to work, the pleasure of working on several occasions with the Aboriginal communities.

1975

As for my background, I'm a geomorphologist. I also have a Master's degree in water science from the National Institute of Scientific Research, which is based in Québec City. That summarizes my work experience and training. Thank you.

1980

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

Thank you, Mr. Germain.

1985

**CHAIRMAN:**

So, my name is Qussaï Samak and I'm responsible for chairing this Commission, as I said earlier. I'm a chemical engineer by training. And like my colleague Mr. Germain, I've chaired and been involved in the work of BAPE commissions on several occasions, perhaps ten or so commissions in all.

1990

I've also had the pleasure of working on commission mandates connected with the interests of the First Nations, including proposed wind energy development projects in Gaspésie, as well as smaller projects such as the Oka ferry, which also had consequences for First Nations members in the Montreal region.

1995

I've worked in the environmental field, teaching at university, carrying out research or in professional practice, for perhaps 20 years. So there it is. It's a pleasure for me to share my interest in this issue with you, as part of my duties.

2000

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

2005 Thank you very much, Mr. Samak.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2010 Thank you.

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

2015 Now, perhaps to get down to things as far as the community is concerned, my Introduction was supposed to be in compliance with certain rulings by the Supreme Court, including Taku River, Haïda, which says that as far as the First Nations are concerned, it's not always a question of reasonable accommodation. It's often an obligation to reach an agreement with the First Nations. So, it's more from that particular standpoint.

2020 And I'd like to take advantage of the BAPE forum to allow non-Aboriginal people to get to know us better, and for us to get to know them a bit better, through the rulings of the Supreme Court or other courts, or through forums such as the BAPE.

2025 I don't think it's a way of ... it's more a way of getting to know one another. And I think that for the Uashat mak Mani-Utenam community, the fact of being in Sept-Îles, we're a long way from home. Home is here.

To continue with the question that I've been asked to raise, it's for the company. The project officer in this case ...

2030 **CHAIRMAN:**

Please address the Commission, Mr. Pinette.

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

2035 Sorry, Mr. Chairman. The project officer in this case, it's which company, which firm has worked ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

2040 Do you mean the impact assessment or do you mean ...

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

2045 No, I mean the project.

**CHAIRMAN:**

The mining project?

2050

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

Yes, the mining project.

2055

**CHAIRMAN:**

Go ahead, Mr. Scherrer.

**MR. RENÉ SCHERRER:**

2060

The answer is divided into two or three parts. Basically, the project is managed by Consolidated Thompson. As far as engineering, construction and construction management is concerned, BBA has been chosen. And for the environmental impact assessments, it's Genivar.

2065

**CHAIRMAN:**

It's Genivar – that's right.

**MR. RENÉ SCHERRER:**

2070

Yes. They are all outside firms hired as consultants to manage our project.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2075

Is that all right, Mr. Pinette?

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

Yes, that's perfect, I don't have anything else ...

2080

**CHAIRMAN:**

Second question?

2085

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

I beg your pardon?

**CHAIRMAN:**

2090 A second question, go ahead please.

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

2095 No. The two questions, it was just that people know you a bit better now ...

**CHAIRMAN:**

Fine.

2100 **MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

... the people listening in Uashat. And another question that was put forward, it was which are the big firms in charge of, running the project.

2105 **CHAIRMAN:**

2110 So, as I told you on the telephone and in the e-mail to Ms. Morrissette, we'll be with you. If necessary, we'll answer other questions, if you have any, on the project, when we come to see you. And as I also said, we'll give you some additional time to inform the Commission of your opinions by submitting briefs, if necessary.

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

2115 We'll continue to take part, we're very open.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2120 Excellent. And until then, as I said, if you have questions, send them, we'll look at them and get answers for you as quickly as possible.

**MR. ROSARIO PINETTE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2125 **CHAIRMAN:**

You're welcome, Mr. Pinette. Mr. Germain, is that all right?

2130 I've come to the end of the register. Are there any other registrations in the register? Let's break for ten minutes.

**HEARING SUSPENDED**

\*\*\*\*\*

2135

**HEARING RESUMED**

**CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Germain.

2140

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Thank you, Mr. Samak. I'd like to ask two or three questions, and then we could move on to the register. They concern what was said in the presentation earlier.

2145

Actually, I'll wait, Mr. Scherrer isn't here, and it's mainly him who answers the environmental questions. I'll wait for him to come back. Let's start.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2150

Mr. Germain.

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2155

First question, it's to clarify a point. In the presentation, when you talked about the mine tailings storage area, you mentioned, I think it was Mr. Scherrer who used the term, it was an improved version of Option D+. In the July document filed with the Department, you mentioned Option D. Is the improved version of Option D+ different from Option D?

2160

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

There are a few small areas affecting certain lakes. It's really a very minor clarification, just a small improvement.

2165

**MR. MARTIN LAROSE:**

In the options, there was Option A, Option A+ and Option D. There wasn't a D+. I probably just made a mistake when I was speaking.

2170

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

That's fine, you've clarified that particular point. With regard to the separation of particles – well, not particles, but let's say the finer elements as opposed to the coarser elements in the tailings, because you explained that there would be seasonal management, in other words one

2175 area for winter and another for summer, but what did you mean about the smaller particles as opposed to the larger particles? Would they be in different areas from these two?

**MR. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

2180 I'm going to ask André Allaire of BBA, who worked on this scenario, to explain things to us.

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2185 Very good. Thank you.

**MR. ANDRÉ ALLAIRE:**

Good evening.

2190 **CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Allaire, good evening.

**MR. ANDRÉ ALLAIRE:**

2195 Yes, in the most recent versions, in Option D, there are plans to manage solids. There's an opportunity in the process where, before consolidating the solids, they're cycloned, in other words the coarse particles are separated from the fine particles.

2200 So what we want to do in the most recent version of the tailings site is to pump the fine particles at the beginning, towards the tailings site. The coarse particles are cycloned and the water is removed immediately, so that they can be transported as solids rather than as slurry. That will allow us to place them in their definitive location, at their definitive thicknesses. And all this, it accounts for more than 80% of the solid volume. So there's an opportunity here to be able to place  
2205 the solids and replant much more quickly because they can be placed at their definitive thickness.

This type of system that we want to use, it's a technology that's used extensively in the sand industry, in South Africa, Florida and so on. The oil sand industry has started to use it only recently. The challenge lies in the winter operations aspect.

2210 We still have to develop operational methods, but in terms of opportunity, the ultimate footprint, it's the one we showed with the cells, Option D. And if we're able to develop these methodologies, it may even be possible in the longer term to reduce the footprint even further.

2215

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2220 For this particular aspect, you refer to it in the July document. I remember reading in a description that you were trying to optimize the process. So that's what you're referring to now?

**MR. ANDRÉ ALLAIRE:**

2225 Yes.

**MR. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Very good. Thank you.

2230 **CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Georges McKenzie to come forward, please. Good evening, Mr. McKenzie. Go ahead with your two questions.

2235 **Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

Good evening, Mr. Samak, Mr. Germain and the representatives of Consolidated, as well as my Chief and his representatives, the members of the Band Council.

2240 My name is Georges McKenzie and I'm a member of the Nation. I'm also the representative of the McKenzie family in a case pending before the courts. I'm one of the representatives in that case.

2245 From my point of view, I'm wondering... I'm glad to be here, because I think we're at, what you could call the information stage. We're here to gather information. From our point of view, the representatives of the families that are here today and the Council members, I think we're all here to gather information.

2250 The question I'm wondering about, since we're at the information session stage, the thing I'd really like know, just now we were talking about environmental problems for camps, construction camps or work camps. I thought since we're at the information stage, and some contracts for the project have already been awarded, the thing we seem to be hearing here is that they have environmental problems. It seems to me that we haven't...

2255 We, at least the party, us, we haven't agreed to the project yet. We're still at the information-gathering stage. What I'd like to know is, how come there are already some contracts that have been awarded at this stage in the project.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2260 First, Mr. McKenzie, I'd like to clarify one thing. Concerning the BAPE procedure, there is an information period. Right now, we're in the period for the public hearing, and for an investigation by the Commission, if necessary, that ends no later than December 20. And that is the period that goes on longer than the information period at the beginning to answer your questions.

2265 Now, for the question that you just asked concerning work that is currently under way, I will first ask Ms. Loisel, concerning work that can or cannot be carried out before Government authorization is received, what is the situation? Please clarify things for us a little and afterwards, if necessary, I'll refer the question to the promoter. Please, go ahead.

2270 **Ms. RENÉE LOISELLE:**

Well, obviously there were all the exploration stages, which were not part of the project, which have already been completed. And we know that right now, the Consolidated Thompson people want to start quickly, but the activities connected to the mine cannot be authorized until the  
2275 Government has made its decision.

On the other hand, there are some kinds of work that are a bit like related projects that we, at the Department, do not consider part of the project as such. This includes things like tree clearing, for which no environmental authorization is ever needed, a low-voltage power line, 34 kV,  
2280 and also an access road to Highway 389. From our point of view, these are all minor activities, which are also activities that can easily... that do not have an impact, do not leave a permanent scar, if you like, on the land. So, no environmental permits are needed for activities like that.

However, and this is getting out of my field, but I believe that the Ministère des Ressources  
2285 naturelles (Québec's department of natural resources) issues permits for these kinds of activities in terms of land planning, among other things.

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

2290 Does that include work camps too?

**CHAIRMAN:**

Obviously, if there is work that does not require authorization, the people required to do the  
2295 job, I imagine they have to be there. But I would still like to refer the question to the Ministère des Ressources naturelles. Is there anything you would like to add?

2300 **Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**



What workers.

**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

2305

I can't give you an answer for the work camps, the Consolidated people would have to answer.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2310

Yes.

**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

2315

All I can say is that at the present time they have not obtained a mining lease, which means that there can be no mine development, land clearing or mining activities as such on the site.

Concerning the work camps, they should be asked the question directly.

2320

**CHAIRMAN:**

Excellent, thank you. Mr. Vallée or Mr. Scherrer, do you have anything else to add?

2325

**Mr. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

Yes. Currently, we're setting up temporary camps on city land and we have a properly-obtained construction permit to do so.

2330

**CHAIRMAN:**

So, Mr. McKenzie, those are the limits of the work that can be carried out before authorization is granted.

2335

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

Good, thank you. The second question is also connected, we were talking about boreholes, about underground water flows. People were concerned about water flowing towards their borehole. From our point of view, too, we would like to ask the Commission if... we would like to get an assurance that for us, too, the water won't flow towards our occupants, who are hunting not far from here.

2340

**CHAIRMAN:**

2345

So, what is their exact location?

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

2350 Has any study been done concerning the Innu society that occupies the land and also  
hunts not far from there? They also want to be sure that the water does not migrate towards their  
underground water, and us too. Has Consolidated carried out any surveys on that subject for the  
Innu?

**CHAIRMAN:**

2355 Fine. I would just like to ask you to be more precise for the transcription: what direction  
from the site are we talking about?

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

2360 Us, our occupants, the people occupying the land, they are around the mine. You're well  
aware of the fact, we're surrounded by mines. This isn't the first time we've had to deal with a mine.  
Every time there's a mine, it has an impact on the exercise of the right, the subsistence of the Innu.  
That's what I want...

2365 **CHAIRMAN:**

I understand.

2370 **Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

What I'm wondering about, you make sure that you're not... that your water won't be  
contaminated. We also want to ask Consolidated: have they studied our situation?

2375 **CHAIRMAN:**

My question, Mr. McKenzie, is what location are you talking about? Northeast, southwest,  
east, just approximately so that the transcript identifies the zone you're interested in.

2380 **Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

If I said that there are about ten families that hunt around the mine.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2385 Around.

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

2390           Around the mine.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2395           Just that. Mr. Vallée.

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

          There are people who occupy, who use the land around the mine.

2400           **CHAIRMAN:**

          Right. Mr. Scherrer.

**Mr. RENÉ SCHERRER:**

2405

          Perhaps I can try to answer the question. With the environmental studies, we defined run-off patterns, the direction of the water run-off on the surface. We'll have to see also, with the details given by Mr. Larose, we looked at the direction of the water migration underground as well, but we'll have to see how it matches the drainage basin. Because around the mine is the drainage basin for the Caniapiscou river. A little further out, it's the drainage basin for the Pékans river that flows into the Moisie river.

2410

          Our project is all within the drainage basin of the Caniapiscou river. That means that if you're a little outside the mine zone, depending on where you are, we'll have to check the map, if you're outside the drainage basin, there's no water.

2415

          Perhaps Mr. Larose would like to clarify?

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

2420

          Just to clarify, what we're trying to say is that, first, the impact on underground water, what we suggest, concerns the risks of contamination of underground water by residue. The residue isn't high-risk. The concentrations that may leach out are low concentration.

2425

          So, if it happens, if the water from the mine tailings site with some metals migrates towards the groundwater, we don't expect there to be any impact beyond the mine site itself. When we talked about the impact on land use, we were talking about roughly twenty square kilometres, we were looking at more than just the mine site itself, which will have an impact of roughly 12 km<sup>2</sup>.

2430

          So, it's clear that if someone collects surface water to drink a few kilometres away from the mine, there will be no risk of contamination at that place.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2435 I would like to take advantage of your question, Mr. McKenzie, to check some information with Ms. Beaulieu.

2440 The environmental characterization given previously showed that the area affected is roughly 20 km<sup>2</sup> out of a total area of 1 845 km<sup>2</sup> with trapping rights and so on. Does this match the information you have at the Secrétariat des Affaires autochtones (Native Affairs Secretariat)?

**Ms. CAROLINE BEAULIEU:**

2445 I'm afraid I can't answer that question. However, the Uashat Mani-Utenam community and the Matimekush-Lac-John community are currently negotiating with the Québec government. The land covered by the negotiations hasn't yet been defined. But, on the other hand, I could...

2450 When Mr. McKenzie states that there are around ten families that hunt or trap close to Bloom lake, it's quite plausible because, according to the information available to us, it's entirely credible that the Innu use, used, use that land, the Innu of Uashat Mani-Utenam and Matimekush.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2455 To allow the Commission to effectively check the relative impact of the project on other land uses, the current land uses, it would help the Commission if you, on behalf of the Secretariat, could give us an idea of the area, the extent of the land that is currently used by First Nations people for their traditional activities.

**Ms. CAROLINE BEAULIEU:**

2460 All right. I'll find out what information I can give to the Commission. However, the delimitation of the land used by the Innu...

**CHAIRMAN:**

2465 That is currently being negotiated.

**Ms. CAROLINE BEAULIEU:**

2470 Yes, that's it.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2475 It's clear.

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

Mr. Samak, may I add something?

2480

**CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Larose.

2485

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

Concerning the area of 1 845 km<sup>2</sup> of land, I'm referring only to trapping zone 243 which is affected by the project, and not to the whole zone used by the Innu.

2490

**CHAIRMAN:**

The detail has been noted, thank you.

And thank you, Mr. McKenzie.

2495

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

Thank you. We'd also like to have the maps afterwards, the maps of water run-off, the direction of the run-off, us too.

2500

**CHAIRMAN:**

All the information will be available in a consultation centre near to your community. And between now and the second half of the hearing in the week of September 24, if you have any other questions, we'll try to find the answers.

2505

**Mr. GEORGES McKENZIE:**

Thank you, Mr. Samak and Mr. Germain.

2510

**CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. Germain.

2515

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

I'd like to continue to look at the question of surface and ground water, but first a little digression concerning the question asked by Mr. McKenzie.

2520

Mr. McKenzie mentioned around ten families. Now, we know that for the impact study you consulted various people. Concerning camps, I imagine the Innu must have favourite camp sites in the sector. Are there any surveys available showing the sectors preferred by the Innu?

2525

**Mr. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

Mr. Larose will reply.

2530

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

We didn't locate any camps. When we did our various surveys, because we conducted surveys in the zone under examination, we looked at various species as you've seen in the inventories, we spent several hours in a helicopter, we didn't see any camps, at least nothing that looked like a permanent camp on a specific site.

2535

We talked to the people of Uashat, people who use zone 243, but no sites were specified exactly. I don't know how they use the sites, perhaps they could tell us more about it, but there are no camps. What we currently have in terms of established camps are the vacation cottages of people from Fermont.

2540

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Good. Possibly we could come back to this with the Innu communities. When we hear them we could ask more specific questions to get more information.

2545

To continue with the question of water quality, in various documents, in particular referring to the last document you tabled to have up-to-date information, namely among other documents the "réponses aux questions complémentaires de juillet 2007" ("answers to the complementary questions of July 2007") filed under BAPE code PR5.2.1, just now we saw in other surveys other answers to complementary questions from April 2007, in PR5.1.

2550

I'm trying to establish a comparison between the leaching tests, the TLCP tests on your steriles and ores, compared to the expected performance of the outflow downstream from Mazaré lake.

2555

For example, I'm trying to make an approximate calculation, around 99% of the zinc would be removed based on the leaching tests, giving quite a low pH: 4.2 is an acid pH. On the other hand, for lead, we see that no percentage is removed; the proportions are roughly the same. For manganese, around 300 is removed... not 300, around 99.7%.

2560

How do you explain the high percentage of zinc or manganese removed in the leaching tests? Can you be more specific?

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

2565

The difference, to summarize, the tests that were used and the leaching tests that are used, are standard tests, these are tests that are conducted in acid environments, in other words with acid pH readings. This isn't what's expected on the Bloom lake site. The pH readings of the surface water are close to neutral or slightly acid. The ore and the steriles raise the pH.

2570

So, if you take the same ore, the same steriles, and expose them to an acid liquid, the metals will migrate more, and leach. In the case of a neutral or alkaline pH, they will not leach.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2575

So, that is the case. It's mainly with the pH conditions that you obtain your theoretical results, because they remain theoretical.

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

2580

Yes.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2585

But let's say that you expect, for example, to meet the standards, in particular for zinc, based on the leaching tests. Thank you.

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

2590

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2595

I would like to continue on the same question with Ms. Loiselle and Mr. Blackburn.

In terms of taking water quality into consideration, the tests that will be carried out, the characterization of the environment, compared to what the Department knows about the characterization methods, in terms of conclusions, what do you think about the promoter's characterization? It is acceptable?

2600

**Ms. RENÉE LOISELLE:**

2605 The characterization is acceptable. At least, we say that the study is receivable. If you'd like an explanation of the goal of the method, I can ask Mr. Francis Perron, who is in the room, to come and explain the classification of the various types of mine tailings, why they are classified that way.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2610 Mr. Perron, it's a pleasure.

**Mr. FRANCIS PERRON:**

2615 Well, Mr. Chairman, we generally carry out characterization tests to qualify the type of mine tailings we're dealing with, first of all this allows us to qualify them, and then to identify the type of layout that will be needed for long-term storage, in other words to get rid of the mine tailings.

2620 The tests that were carried out for this project were entirely consistent with what's normally required. So, we carried out TCLP 1311 and 1312 leaching tests. Generally, we have them carried out. And we also did an extra test with pH-neutral water.

The leaching tests showed that there were some metals, including copper and zinc that comes out in all the tests, except the last one.

2625 This allows us to conclude that, OK, there are some metals that come out but, at the end of the day, the material is entirely... in fact, it's a type of mine tailing that can be called leachable with the tests we carried out.

2630 So, the tailings will be stored in the tailings pile, and there will be, in fact, a liquid effluent that will move towards the water treatment ponds. And then, appropriate treatment will be provided to meet the requirements imposed by the Department.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2635 In the Consolidated Thompson proposal, there's the idea to not necessarily... they don't expect there will be any extra effluent. They suggest waiting, monitoring the situation during the first year of operation and then, based on the results, to decide whether the results are consistent with their laboratory characterization, and then they'll continue without adding any extra equipment for water treatment or, if there's a discrepancy, to add the necessary equipment.

2640 Are you satisfied with this approach?



**Mr. FRANCIS PERRON:**

2645 We're satisfied with this approach, given that we have a pretty good understanding of the anticipated problems for an iron ore mine. There's another mine in the vicinity, its characteristics are well known. And we know that when operating an iron ore mine, the main problems are the iron itself and also the control of suspended matter. So, if the retaining ponds are sufficiently large, the suspended matter will settle efficiently along with any metal contained in the effluent.

2650 As for the characteristics of the effluent that we have, the data we obtained, we know that the effluent itself contains only small quantities of metals and that, with what the company has proposed as a solution, we don't expect too many problems. If there are any problems, clearly there are appropriate treatment measures that can be installed, in particular coagulation, a coagulation process.

2655

**CHAIRMAN:**

Flocculation.

2660

**Mr. FRANCIS PERRON:**

Flocculation, that's it.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2665

Thank you.  
Mr. Germain.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2670

And this type of system can be installed quite quickly?

**Mr. FRANCIS PERRON:**

2675

Yes, this type of system can be installed quickly.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2680 So, you stay in contact, if a problem is detected, you discuss it, you define an agreement, it takes...

**Mr. FRANCIS PERRON:**

2685 First and foremost, it's important to note that the settling pond appears to us to be large enough to effectively cause the metals and suspended matter to settle.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Also called the polishing pond.

2690 **Mr. FRANCIS PERRON:**

As you say.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2695

Thank you, Mr. Perron.

Mr. Vallée, do you have anything to add? Is that all right?

2700

So, Mr. Blackburn, and then I'll come back to Ms. Loiselle.

You're familiar with the technical design proposed by Consolidated Thompson. As a technical design for a 21st-century mine compared to the approach that another speaker referred to at the beginning of the hearing, from the 1970s, how would you describe the technical quality of the design in terms of its impact on the natural environment and also its production efficiency?

2705

**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

I'm mainly going to speak about, not the relationship... OK, yes. Technically, I don't think there is any other mining process. There are maybe, I don't know, 100 iron ore mines in the world and one is an underground mine, the 99 other mines are open-pit mines. So, this is going to be a mine like the 99 others. Maybe it's 199 iron ore mines, but they are all going to follow the open-pit type. In other words, technically...

2710

**CHAIRMAN:**

2715

Inevitable?

**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

2720

Inevitable. Thank you, that's the right word. Concerning the spiral concentrator, it's traditional and technically correct. They originally thought about the possibility of using classifier systems or hydroclassifiers. Has that idea been dropped?

2725

**Mr. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

During the second phase, to recover magnetite, we will be looking at this type of equipment.

2730 **Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

For much finer particles, I imagine. Once again, this is the typical approach, and it's inevitable.

2735 Just as a reminder, maybe we haven't said what gravity is, but gravity is based on a physical law, Stokes' law. No chemical products, no...

**CHAIRMAN:**

2740 That's true.

**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

2745 Purely natural forces.

**CHAIRMAN:**

And Stokes' law is still valid.

2750 **Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

Yes, Mr. Stokes worked sometime around 1700. But it's like gravity, even though Mr. Newton found it in whatever year it was, it was there before he found it. So technically, I have nothing to say and I don't see how it could be done any other way.

2755 **CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Blackburn.  
Mr. Germain.

2760 **Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Yes. I'd like to continue with the question of water quality.

2765 Obviously, the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (Québec's department of sustainable development, environment and parks) issued what are known as environmental waste objectives to the promoter for effluent into pool D which is the outflow for the tailings site. If these environmental waste objectives are combined with the potential uses of surface water.

2770

Just now, Mr. McKenzie, I believe, mentioned that the Innu could use surface water in the area. So, for now let's look at surface water, especially around the temporary camps that are used intermittently.

2775 Do the environmental waste objectives for pool D ensure that, for that sector and downstream, the water is drinkable? Ms. Loiseau?

**Ms. RENÉE LOISELLE:**

2780 I would like to ask Ms. Martine Gélinau, who calculated the environmental waste objectives for the project, to tell us a little about how they are calculated. But in fact, I don't know if this is a situation... it's not a very common situation, but Martine can tell us if it works.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2785 Very well.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2790 Ms. Gélinau.

**Ms. MARTINE GÉLINEAU:**

2795 Yes. Maybe for everyone's benefit I could refresh your memories or maybe explain what environmental waste objectives (EWOs) are.

2800 It's a way to calculate the quantity of a given contaminant that can be introduced into a watercourse from an outflow point without compromising other uses of the water. That's the basic idea. The idea is to obtain the figures and then to compare them with the expected quality of the waste and get an idea of the residual impact that will be caused by the waste.

2805 It takes into consideration the so-called water quality criteria, which are a database found on the Department's website. In the end it's the water quality, when the water quality is present in a watercourse, that protects water uses. And the uses that are protected, are aquatic life in general, not only fish but also small vertebrates, and invertebrates that live in water.

2810 It also protects the people who eat fish, molluscs, crustaceans. It protects fish-eating wildlife. And when there are recreational uses, it protects them too, and when water is used as drinking water.

In this case, those criteria were not taken into account but, in my opinion, there isn't much of this activity. Actually, there aren't criteria of this type for all types of contaminants. So, when we established the environmental waste objectives, we didn't take into account the fact that the surface water could be drunk directly. That wasn't taken into account.

2815 **CHAIRMAN:**

Because it's not a common practice here.

2820 **Ms. MARTINE GÉLINEAU:**

Because it's not a common practice, you're right. Our criteria, when we use them, for example, in theory they allow us... as far as I remember, if that criterion was respected in a watercourse, it means that someone could drink, I believe 1 or 2 litres per day for their whole life, in addition to eating a small quantity of fish every day of their life.

2825

So, in fact, we're talking about long-term exposure. But, in general, obviously in Québec, we mainly use post-treatment water quality. So, our criteria are very, very safe. But in this case, they weren't used.

2830

As I say, if I recall correctly, the level of contaminants in the waste isn't expected to be high ... I'll have to check, but...

**CHAIRMAN:**

2835

And that applies just as much to citizens in municipalities that exist as legally-recognized entities as to users of the environment such as First Nations members who use...

**Ms. MARTINE GÉLINEAU:**

2840

Yes, yes. There's no difference.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Very well, thank you.

2845

**Ms. MARTINE GÉLINEAU:**

It applies everywhere.

2850

**CHAIRMAN:**

Excellent. Do you have anything to add, Ms. Gelineau?

**Ms. MARTINE GÉLINEAU:**

2855

No, unless...

**CHAIRMAN:**

That's fine. I have a question for the representative of the City, Ms. Lizotte. Is that correct?

2860

**Ms. CHRISTINE LIZOTTE:**

Yes.

2865

**CHAIRMAN:**

Will it be a problem to deal with the extra load that new residents, workers, etc., will create for the city's infrastructures, the drinking water supply, etc.?

2870

**Ms. CHRISTINE LIZOTTE:**

I can't answer your question at the present time. We've asked our engineering firm to look at the technical documents provided by BBA concerning the various volumes and so on. We expect to receive a report within a week.

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**CHAIRMAN:**

In that case, the Commission would appreciate getting a copy of the report as soon as you have the information.

2880

**Ms. CHRISTINE LIZOTTE:**

Yes.

2885

**CHAIRMAN:**

Good, thank you.

2890

I'd like to take this opportunity concerning the documents to ask Mr. Vallée, as soon as you have a response from Dofasco on September 6, to forward a copy of Dofasco's decision to the Commission with the details on the implications of your offer with respect to the project in connection with storage, etc., etc.

2895

**Mr. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

I'll do that.

**CHAIRMAN:**

2900 Thank you. Ms. Loiseau, the major positive change in mining in terms of environmental impacts comes from the water treatment systems and the level of recycling as we heard at the beginning, Mr. Scherrer told us: "It's practically 98%, there's only snow melt left," etc.

2905 Does the method used to deal with water as part of general operations match what you consider to be proper treatment of surface water for a mining operation of this size?

**Ms. RENÉE LOISELLE:**

2910 Certainly. For mining projects, water has always been the main issue. For smelting projects, the main question is atmospheric emissions. But here, it's a water issue. And the more the water is recycled, the lower the risk of releasing contaminants. It's a relatively recent approach.

2915 I began to work on mining projects for the environment department, as it was called, in 1990 and at that time, it wasn't possible to recirculate – it would have messed up the process, and so on. Gradually, people tried it out and now it's done like that everywhere. It's clear that it's not only better for the environment, but it often allows the use of lower-intensity reactants, and so on.

2920 The snowball began to roll at a certain point, and now everyone does it. The presence of the Department encouraged the mining companies to aim for a strong compliance record in terms of the environmental obligations they have to comply with for liquid effluents.

2925 So, from that point of view, it's obvious that a project like the Consolidated Thompson project that is submitted for environmental assessment is examined in the smallest detail. Francis and Martine, here, concentrate on water, the project really goes under the microscope and we can't accept anything other than best practice for a project that goes through our procedure.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Madame Loiseau.

2930 So, Mr. Germain, you can move on to another topic. Go ahead.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2935 Very well. I'd like to go back, I see from various documents, concerning the December 2006 impact study, OK, there were discussions with the Ministère du Développement durable (Québec's department of sustainable development). I also see that there were discussions with Fisheries and Oceans Canada concerning Mazaré lake.

2940 What I would like to understand, concerning water management now, because I realize that, OK, you've changed, your option D means that Mazaré lake will not be directly affected. But in

terms of water management, what will happen exactly? Could the water level in Mazaré lake drop when the mine is in operation?

2945 Especially during the final years of operation, we'd end up, if I understand correctly, with the bottom of the mine well below the bed of Mazaré lake. Do you anticipate a water flow at that point between Mazaré lake and the mine pit? If so, that would increase the need to pump out the drainage water. And how could you guarantee that the water level in Mazaré lake would be maintained?

2950 Can you explain to us what you expect in terms of water flow?

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

2955 Concerning the hydro-geological study currently underway, pumping tests have been carried out and will form part of our analysis of the pit to better characterize possible water in-flow when the mine is operating.

2960 But the distance, and André can tell us if I'm mistaken, the distance between Mazaré lake and the pit is quite large enough not to have problems of water draining from Mazaré lake to the pit given that, as the pit is dug, it'll be even further away. It's triangular, so it moves away from the lake.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2965 So, we should get more information from the hydro-geological study currently underway. At that point, if we compare the water level in the lake, we could see where the slope of the mine, the edge of the slope, would be located.

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

2970 The type of details we'll have, are details on rock permeability in the sector. By carrying out pumping tests, we'll know how fast a borehole can be emptied by pumping, that gives us an idea of the rock permeability, if there are veins, and so on, and how long it takes them to fill up when we stop pumping. All of this information will give us an idea of possible ways for water to enter the pit.

2975 **Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

2980 We can also see that the mine pit, OK, is in the drainage basin that feeds surface water to Mazaré lake. Also, part of the planned mine tailings site is in the drainage basin for Mazaré lake.

So, the drainage water, the water that collects in the mine pit, you plan to pump it to Confusion lake. That is a lake connected to, upstream from, Mazaré lake?

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**



2985

Yes, it's upstream from Mazaré lake. If we look at it from a hydro-geological standpoint, Mazaré lake will lose only about 20% of its average inflow, because of the presence of the mine tailings site to the north of the lake and the pit to the south. It'll still have 80% of its inflow.

2990

We don't expect any drop in water level, especially because of the topography in the sector, all the lakes involved have steep outlets. So, there's a sill at the outlet of each lake that helps to maintain the water level.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

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That was my next question. Possibly, to maintain the water level, work could be done on the sill of Mazaré lake.

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

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There are already some natural sills. But we don't expect any drop in water level, because only 20% of the inflow will be lost.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

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Thank you.

**Mr. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

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Could I add a detail?

**CHAIRMAN:**

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Go ahead, Mr. Vallée.

**Mr. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

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I've noticed that during the discussions, it was mentioned just now and I think that it's important, it sounds so easy, people say "Well, they tabled a plan in December. It was changed, and changed again. Why didn't we do the first one?"

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In December, what we tabled, as Mr. Blackburn mentioned, was a traditional management plan with minimum impacts in terms of operating costs for the company. With each new scenario, there's a substantial increase in costs.

What we're doing, we say that we want to do it because it's important and it's important for sustainable development, we're also going to find ways to reduce those costs, to re-use, as Mr. Allaire mentioned just now, to re-use the larger particles to build our dykes. But it has to be said,

those costs, we're going to have management costs, much higher management costs for the mine tailings site than the other mines nearby. I think that's important.

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**CHAIRMAN:**

Your comments have been understood and noted by the Commission. Thank you, Mr. Vallée.

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Concerning Mazaré lake, I don't remember where I missed the information, the trip time of the lake, you said, "It'll lose only 20% of its inflow, but its capacity, its time..."

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

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Its turnover time?

**CHAIRMAN:**

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That's it, yes.

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

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We haven't done the calculation, but the lake isn't very deep, it's not very big, and it has several tributaries. I believe the turnover time is quite short. We have the volume, we can calculate it for you if you like.

**CHAIRMAN:**

3055

20%, yes, that's it, that would be...

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

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We could calculate the turnover time for current conditions and future conditions.

**CHAIRMAN:**

3065

Yes, that would be useful. And the 20% reduction in inflow corresponds to what percentage of capacity?

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

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I don't understand your question.

**CHAIRMAN:**

Its capacity, in other words it represents what percentage of the lake's retention capacity?  
If you give us the information on the turnover time, that would be fine.

**Mr. MARTIN LAROSE:**

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Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN:**

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Thank you, Mr. Larose.

**CHAIRMAN:**

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So, you're lucky, you're going to have seven extra minutes for the break, and then we'll start up again immediately afterwards. Leave us seven minutes, and then we'll start.

**HEARING SUSPENDED**

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**HEARING RESUMED**

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**CHAIRMAN:**

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The Commission has exhausted the register of participants who want to ask questions about the project. It has also, for now, exhausted the list of its own questions about the project. Obviously, the Commission reserves the right to forward questions either to government departments or bodies or to Consolidated Thompson up to the end of its mandate. So, this brings the first part of the hearing to a close.

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Mr. Germain still has two questions to ask and I will continue my comments later. Mr. Germain.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

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Thank you, Mr. Samak. The last topic I would like to address concerns diffuse dust emissions. Just now, we were talking about fine particles and coarse particles that could be used, for example, to build dykes.

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In the case of fine particles, the Department, among others the sustainable development department, had some concerns. It appears that at Mont-Wright, there are problems with the emission of dust particles, if I understood correctly. The Department's QC.22.

What measures have you planned to prevent dust clouds moving towards areas used by the Innu or the community of Fermont?

3115 **Mr. HUBERT VALLÉE:**

I think that Mr. Allaire should explain to you at this point how we intend to store the residue, which will reduce the impacts you mention.

3120 **CHAIRMAN:**

Go ahead.

3125 **Mr. ANDRÉ ALLAIRE:**

Currently, several solutions are being examined. One was mentioned just now by Mr. Scherrer. If we need to spray, we will spray. But at the moment, this is just one of the solutions being examined because we always have to think about optimization.

3130 The first, separating fine from coarse solids, is to reduce the wet part of the tailings site substantially and to re-establish vegetation as quickly as possible on the coarse solids. There is a question of surface also in the volumes of dust that are emitted in dry weather, because we'll have a tailings site that's far smaller than those found in surrounding mining environments. This is one way.

3135 The second thing as well, the trick, is to keep things wet. What we want to try to do, is a tailings site for the finest solids, we're even looking at solutions such as building impermeable dykes to keep fine solids under water. This is probably one of the solutions that would be ideal for avoiding particles.

3140 So, in the solutions that we're looking at, we don't necessarily have an answer for everything. But the first possibilities involve keeping things as small as possible to make it economic to manage. Then, the easier it is...

3145 **CHAIRMAN:**

In terms of area.

3150 **Mr. ANDRÉ ALLAIRE:**

In terms of area, for fine particles. The smaller the area, the more reasonable it is to either spray or keep the tailings site wet.

**CHAIRMAN:**

3155 Thank you. Mr. Germain.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

3160 Of course, the slopes would be shaped. Would the slopes surround the wet, fine particles?

**Mr. ANDRÉ ALLAIRE:**

Yes, that's right.

3165 **Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

So, that means that you can plan... let's say, is it possible to manage, like a landfill site, to manage cell by cell? You close each cell with coarser material. Is that technique possible?

3170 **Mr. ANDRÉ ALLAIRE:**

That's what we're looking at. The advantage of separating the fine materials from the coarse materials, in other words, the coarse materials, to place them rather than to leave them...

3175 Currently, the residues are placed like on a beach. The slurry arrives, the staking is done, then there's a slope, 0.5%, 0.7%, then the residue spreads out. Obviously, when a large area is poured in the summer, there are some zones that dry out, and when it's windy, there's a mixture of coarse and fine particles that can create dust clouds.

3180 For the coarse particles, we're looking at putting them through a cyclone on-site at the tailings site for the 85% solids. So then, you can handle them and we're talking about handling them with a bulldozer or loader. That means that, you can move them around, rather than letting them spread out like on a beach, you can reach the final height quicker. Then, if the final height of the residue, it's a bit like tailings from the mine, if it's 50 metres high, you can build up the final  
3185 height quickly, then you can re-establish the vegetation or put coarse rock on top to prevent wind erosion.

So, there are ways to work with techniques like a cyclone to re-establish the vegetation quicker and have a smaller tailings site.

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The other important point, as you were saying, is that the coarse material can be used to build dykes. One of the main costs of dykes, one that increases the cost of the tailings site enormously, is the construction costs for transporting material, and it has an impact too if you create a quarry to provide moraine for the tailings site.

3195 In this case, what we want to do is to use this type of sand to build our tailings site as we advance with the geomembrane, in fact to find a way to use the residue from the concentrator to build dykes.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

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Interesting. Thank you.

Regarding – the question will be in the same vein – regarding the management of the mine tailings site, it's monitored specifically by the Ministère du Développement durable or also by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles? Madame Loisel, to start with.

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**Ms. RENÉE LOISELLE:**

It's a shared responsibility. The MRNF publishes the guide for the rehabilitation of mine tailings sites. But before accepting a rehabilitation plan, it generally consults the MDDEP. But everything to do with mechanics and funding is dealt with by the MRFN.

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**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

For the management of the site, is a specific authorization certificate issued for the management, the management method used for a mine tailings site?

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**CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Blackburn.

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**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

Thank you. If we're talking about the authorization certificate, I'll refer the question back to the MDDEP, but I can say that it's governed by the rehabilitation plan. In other words, the method used to store the residue, it's covered, and the strength of the dykes must meet the criteria. If you store residue, you also have to make sure there's no leakage, and that's covered by the mechanical criteria.

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I won't refer to any new laws, I've already talked about Stokes' law, but it's governed by mechanical criteria. It's the Ministère des Ressources naturelles along with people from the MDDEP.

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**CHAIRMAN:**

Of course you know, Mr. Blackburn, that not all laws are as immortal or universal as Stokes' law.

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**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

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Yes. I would just like to, if I may, add some more information...

**CHAIRMAN:**

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Yes.

**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

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... in a way by asking another question. I suppose that the people from Consolidated have undertaken to meet the criteria in the rehabilitation plan. I would like to ask a question at the same time.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

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Do you consider that the approach as currently proposed is satisfactory? If I recall correctly, the photo on page 26 of document PR5.1 is something that was sent by the Department, am I right, Ms. Loisel?

**Ms. RENÉE LOISELLE:**

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It's a photo that was taken by Michel Renaud here beside me. In fact, I'll ask Michel to answer. Your question concerns the specific authorization certificate for a mine tailings site, he's the person who knows more about it.

**Mr. MICHEL RENAUD:**

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In fact, no authorization certificate is issued to a mine for rehabilitation once mining has ceased.

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If I could mention another law: the *Mining Act*, section 232, which is under the responsibility of the MRN. A mine rehabilitation plan must be filed every five years, which must be examined. The two departments study the rehabilitation plan and either accept it or reject it. All questions concerning the rehabilitation of a mine tailings site are also examined.

**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

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And as a follow-up question, concerning the photo, are the MDDEP and the MRNF satisfied with the approach suggested by the promoter to minimize dust emissions at this point in the process?

3280 **Ms. RENÉE LOISELLE:**

At this point, we can only give the standard answer, which is that we haven't yet proposed anything about whether or not the project is acceptable. But on the other hand, with what we know so far, we know that the trick is to keep things wet. With what Mr. Allaire has just said, for now it appears to be correct, it seems to be on the right track.

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**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Very well. Thank you.

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**Mr. DENIS BLACKBURN:**

I'd also say that the promoters have said they would be willing to go as far as installing sprayers. That satisfies me as a way to keep the residue wet, but as an engineer I'm a little sad because it seems a costly solution. But if they're ready to do it, it'll be very effective.

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**Mr. MICHEL GERMAIN, commissioner:**

Very well. Thank you.

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**CHAIRMAN:**

As you can see, sympathy runs deep between people with a technical bent.

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It appears that the Commission has exhausted its questions for this evening. So, I'd like to remind you that the Commission still allows you to file written questions at the end of this part of the hearing and that you have until September 14 to send us, in writing, any further questions you may have concerning the project.

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I'd like to thank you for your participation. You now have all the information concerning the second part of the hearing that I distributed at the beginning, and it will be a great pleasure to see you again here and we will also be going to see you, Mr. Pinette, and also to Schefferville in the last week of September.

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So, thank you all very much for your attention and your interest in the project. Thank you for making yourselves available, and for the quality of the information you provided.

I'd also like to thank the representatives of the government departments and bodies who were here with us this evening.

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Our next appointment is for the last week in September. Thank you.

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3325 I, the undersigned, **LISE MAISONNEUVE**, official stenographer, swear under my official oath that  
the above pages are and contain an exact and accurate transcription of the stenographic notes  
recorded using the stenomask, in accordance with law.

Signed:

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**LISE MAISONNEUVE, s.o.**

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