

"Madam Chair and members of the Board, I would like to start off by thanking our hosts for these past two weeks, the community of Baker Lake. We've enjoyed being in the community, as always, and have been taken care of well.

I would also like to thank all of the community representatives who have come to these hearings from the communities of Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Repulse Bay, and Whale Cove. Each of the community representatives has worked very hard to raise the questions from their communities. We want to acknowledge all of the work that you have done in these efforts to become more informed about our project. It is not always easy to come forward in these public hearings, and we want to fully acknowledge your contributions and thank you for giving us your experience and your knowledge.

We would also like to thank all of the community members from Baker Lake who have come and listened to these hearings and participated through the questions and comments. We would like to thank all of the intervenors for their efforts throughout the review in both the technical hearings last week and the community hearing this week. Finally we would like to thank the Board and the Board staff for your management of this review process and for conducting the review process in these public hearings in a way that provides AREVA, all of the intervenors, and all of the communities with an opportunity to bring forward their questions and concerns in a way that is both helpful and constructive.

How did we get here? We followed a process enshrined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and ratified by the people of Nunavut, which gives the Nunavut Impact Review Board the authority and responsibility to review the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a proposed project. Project certificates issued by the Board enable proponents to advance to subsequent decision-making.

The Nunavut territory has given special consideration and planning to uranium development. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated developed a policy on uranium development, and the Government of Nunavut has provided guiding principles which have provided clarity and direction for the development of potential uranium projects in Nunavut. These policies have been useful for proponents such as AREVA to understand clearly the expectations required for uranium development in the territory, if the individual projects met the requirement for development, the protection of ecosystem integrity, and the promotion of Inuit well-being. AREVA's values and sustainable development commitments, along with existing Canadian law and international agreements, ensure consistency between the NTI uranium policy and the Government of Nunavut guiding principles in the proposed Kiggavik project. AREVA is committed to sustainable development that does not compromise the land or people of Nunavut. The Nunavut Impact Review Board review process

started with the minister's decision in 2010 and has been very thorough.

Throughout the process, we've tried to be respectful in responding to issues and concerns raised by all parties. With respect to this final hearing, we worked hard to consider and provide responses to final written submissions from each of the intervenors issued in January and have given careful consideration to each of their presentations at this hearing. We believe that we have been able to mutually resolve issues, and for any that remain, we have made reasonable responses. As noted at the end of the technical hearing this past Monday, we've been pleased that most of the federal and territorial regulators, landholders, and other parties have concluded that the final environmental impact statement is satisfactory in its conclusions that the project can be built, operated, and ultimately closed in a manner that avoids or minimizes effects on the environmental components and on the valued socioeconomic components.

We are concerned that in the dialogue between AREVA and various intervenors throughout the technical sessions that we have not clearly distinguished between issues which involve the assessment of effects and issues which relate to the monitoring and mitigation plans which support the environmental impact statement. Issues identified as outstanding primarily relate to the monitoring and mitigation plans intended to be further developed during the licensing phase of a project when more detail is available. This may have resulted in public misunderstanding of intervenor confidence in our effects assessment. There have been many questions in the last two weeks requesting clarity.

To be clear, there is abundant detail in the assessment to conclude the project, operated as designed, will not have significant adverse effects.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission reviewed the final environmental impact statement and concluded as follows: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission staff conclude that the environmental assessment for the Kiggavik project, taking into consideration the mitigation measures proposed in the final environmental impact statement and post-environmental assessment commitments made by AREVA, will not result in significant adverse environmental effects for topics under the CNSC. We note that ... Environment Canada in its submission and presentation also confirmed that, while there are some issues to be addressed at the regulatory phase, they too were satisfied with the conclusions of the final environmental impact statement and that the project would not have significant impacts on matters within their jurisdiction, in particular water quality and the aquatic environment.

Similar conclusions were reached by the other federal regulators, namely Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Natural Resources Canada.

The Government of Nunavut and the Kivalliq Inuit Association raised a number of issues in their very-detailed submissions and presentations, all of which we are confident can be addressed at the regulatory phase.

We note that the Government of Nunavut was concerned with the details of our wildlife mitigation and monitoring plan, particularly with respect to the protection of caribou. These are primarily concerns with our ability to confirm our conclusions in the future, rather than with our predictions of effects.

AREVA has had further discussions with representatives of the Government of Nunavut throughout the hearing, and we believe the consensus on updates and details under that plan will be reached, and ongoing productive working relationships will continue.

We have also, over the past few weeks, had further discussions with the consultants to the Kivalliq Inuit Association. We are confident that issues in relation to matters such as air quality and monitoring and water quality can be addressed in the regulatory licensing phase and in compliance with terms and conditions issued by the Board.

AREVA has worked very hard to build a baseline of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for consideration in all aspects of the final environmental impact statement.

We are pleased that, in general, federal and territorial regulators and the Kivalliq Inuit Association's submissions were generally satisfied and sometimes complimentary with our efforts to incorporate IQ into the final environmental impact statement.

Following the submission of the draft environmental impact statement, AREVA heard intervenors' comments that it was not clear how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was integrated into the -- into and informed the assessment. The Kiggavik project final environmental impact statement contains IQ references through the baseline and assessment documents, a clear methodology explaining how IQ was incorporated, and a roadmap to show where and how IQ was used.

We include a range of comments and opinions, good and bad, recognizing the variation in individual experiences.

We are proud of our IQ work that we have done to date. In fact, we believe we have contributed to a new high standard in the consideration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in an final environmental impact statement. We are committed to continue to incorporate IQ and IQ principles in project mitigation and management plans, should the project be approved.

We can use local knowledge and preference to better position the final alignment of our access road and the location of our dock site to respect traditional and current land use.

As noted by Baker Lake representatives and community members during the hearing, many people in Baker Lake and other Kivalliq communities shared the best information they have, and AREVA would like to acknowledge this and thank those that shared their knowledge to strengthen the project design and effects assessment.

As we indicated at the close of the technical hearing last Monday, project timing is dependent on a number of factors. If this project receives a project certificate to allow it to proceed, it will require a number of regulatory licenses and authorizations before proceeding further. In particular, it will require a water license from the Nunavut Water Board that will require a further public hearing.

In addition, as a uranium project, the Kiggavik project will also be subject to further detailed review and a further public hearing to obtain licenses from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission provides an additional level of regulatory oversight over and above other types of mining operations. They can provide confidence that the project will meet the stringent standards for protection of the environment and human health.

We expect those approvals to each take at least two years, and they may have to be done sequentially. This means we have at least four or five years of regulatory process ahead of us before the regulatory licenses and authorizations could be completed.

As well, we have indicated that, as with other mining projects, the financial circumstances must be feasible and meet financial requirements.

The Nunavut Impact Review Board and other stakeholders at any point in the future have the ability to review the terms and conditions of the project certificate under Article 12.8.2 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

Under Section 12.8.2, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has the ability to reconsider the terms and conditions contained in the project certificate if it is established that circumstances relating to the project or the effects of the terms and conditions are significantly different from those anticipated at the time the certificate was issued.

If construction and operation of the project was delayed for a number of years, provisions for flexibility in relation to certificates enable the Nunavut Impact Review Board, either on its own account or upon application of a designated Inuit organization, the proponent, or

other interests, to reconsider the terms and conditions of the project certificate, if circumstances were significantly different.

The issue was repeatedly raised throughout the hearing by a number of intervenors requesting an expiry date for the project certificate, should one be provided by the Nunavut Impact Review Board. AREVA strongly believes that sections under Article 12, Part 7, 8, 9, and 10 adequately address the concern of changing circumstances, and Section 12.8.2 provides the mechanism at any time to add, remove, or modify project certificate terms and conditions.

There has been a lot of discussion about the location of the proposed Kiggavik project in relation to caribou calving and post-calving grounds, so we have included some figures in our presentations as posters displayed at the final hearing and submitted as a final hearing exhibit.

These figures show the locations of caribou calving grounds and post-calving grounds in relation to the proposed Kiggavik project that were shared with AREVA and informed by both IQ and western science. The information provided was from the Government of Nunavut, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, the Hunters and Trappers Organizations, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and others. There is strong agreement that the proposed Kiggavik project is not located in caribou calving or core post-calving areas.

There's hesitation by some responsible authorities to advance another resource development with the resulting increased demand in regional monitoring and services, given their already-stretched capacity and resources. There's likely to be a gap on what responsible authorities can provide from the top down and what AREVA can provide from the bottom up.

The only solution is for both groups to recognize this and then take reasonable steps to narrow the gap, rather than waiting for each other to fill the needs. Proponents should not act as government, but rather support and grow capacity. The words "collaborate" and "cooperate" should not be viewed as offensive but instead as responsible.

Regional uncertainties exist with or without the proposed Kiggavik project for both terrestrial and marine environments.

If the Kiggavik project is approved and acquires the required licenses, permits, and authorizations, AREVA will be another partner in Nunavut to work together to gain a better understanding of these regional issues.

The Kiggavik project, should it proceed, would have significant economic benefits, primarily through local employment and contracting opportunities. We expect a construction workforce averaging around 750 people.

During operations, between 400 and 600 people will be employed, with approximately half working at site at any one time due to the rotational work schedule. The economic opportunity, we believe, contributes to the vision of Nunavut.

We've made strong commitments to giving priority for training, employment, and business activities to the Kivalliq region. We are committed to ensuring that people in the Kivalliq region have the greatest level of opportunity for employment in these jobs. We'll provide advance notice of the employment opportunities and provide training opportunities to support these objectives.

We've committed to picking up employees in each of the Kivalliq communities for transportation to the project site and back home. We plan to build on our successes achieved at our Saskatchewan operations and learn from the experience of operators in Nunavut, as well as learning from and listening to Kivalliq residents with experience working at mining projects in Nunavut. There would also be significant contracting and other business opportunities for Inuit-owned companies.

Nunavummiut demand that uranium is used only for peaceful purposes. AREVA and the Government of Canada agree. Our company is committed to only supply uranium to nations that comply with international provisions in force for non-proliferation.

The global demand for energy continues to grow. At the same time, the world's carbon footprint must be reduced to minimize effects of climate change. Uranium mined at the Kiggavik project would be used for nuclear power plants to generate electricity as a low-carbon-emissions energy option.

We've heard concerns during our roundtable session that the community had not been told about the negative health effects which will result from uranium mining. In fact, they heard repeatedly that there are no health effects to workers expected from the Kiggavik project, and that uranium miners today are as healthy as the rest of the public.

AREVA concluded that there would be no significant effects on workers or the public through a comprehensive ecological and human health risk assessment. A worker at a uranium mine today does not have to trade their health for employment. There will be no need to change land use and harvesting, as the health of the environment is not compromised, and country food will remain safe.

The problem is one of perceived risk. The perceived risk of the Kiggavik project is far, far greater than the actual risks encountered in uranium mining. People unfamiliar with uranium mining may fear it. Uranium mines, however, exist in other jurisdictions where workers and the public are healthy, and the environment is protected. Uranium mines are well regulated and well controlled.

Respecting that fear can place unhealthy stress on a community. AREVA has provided public information throughout the review engaging residents often and through various forms to increase understanding. We've committed to addressing issues of perceived risk in our community involvement plan.

Should the project be approved and advanced, AREVA plans to continue contributing to the efforts of advancing the translation of the uranium mining and nuclear industry terminology into Inuktitut.

AREVA understands and values not only the ability of the Inuktitut speakers to participate in the environmental review, but also the need to equip them with the words and concepts in Inuktitut so that future Inuit workers are able to clearly communicate to their families and communities about their workplace. AREVA will support the continued work of the Inuit Language Authority, Kivalliq Inuit Association, and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on this initiative.

Due to the gap in perceived risk and actual risk, a framework for development of a future community monitoring program based on land use is provided in our environmental impact statement.

AREVA is very respectful of the responsibility that the Board has in determining whether the project should be allowed to proceed. There's heaviness within the company representatives knowing that the project may experience a lag in start date when many Kivallimmiut are anticipating to take advantage of new employment and business opportunities now and in the near future. And as mentioned numerous times throughout the hearing, there is no consensus within and among communities or families.

AREVA wants to acknowledge that those participating in the hearing, those who recommend a decision, and those that will approve or reject may also feel this. AREVA's planning, communication, and continuation of the Nunavut Impact Review Board review for the proposed Kiggavik project is being guided by transparency.

AREVA started the review process in 2008 with a project proposal at a time when economics supported construction and operations. Over the last several years, AREVA has provided updates to Kivalliq community residents and organizations outlining company activities, plans, and advancements.

AREVA has continued to advance the project because the territory communicated its openness to resource development, including uranium, if the proposed project strongly demonstrated it could be operated without compromise to the ecosystem and with contributions to the well-being of Inuit. It is under these overarching conditions that we have continued the environmental assessment.

It is AREVA's expectation to contribute to the well-being of Inuit and the sustainable development of Nunavut, and this must be done without compromise to the land or the people, and it must be done with positive economics.

Taking into account our careful design of the Kiggavik project and taking into account our commitments and the mitigation and monitoring plans, we proposed and -- which we have agreed to -- we're confident that we can build, operate, and ultimately close the Kiggavik project in a way that is protective of the environment and provides significant social and economic benefits.

We are confident that the Kiggavik project meets the standards under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement for resource development, which enhances the well-being of the residents and communities in Nunavut. We request that the Board recommend approval and a project certificate with reasonable terms and conditions to enable us to proceed with the Kiggavik project.

Once again, on behalf of AREVA, we wish to express our thanks to the Chair and all of the Board members for conducting this final hearing in a manner that is fair and accessible to all parties.

We also thank all the participants, including each of the seven Kivalliq communities, for their presentations, their questions, and for their sharing of knowledge and experience with us.

Thank you to the translators, Josie, Thomas, and Johnny, who have capably communicated on our behalf and advised us in making ourselves better understood.

Thank you to everyone who has travelled to attend, leaving your families for these two weeks, to share your voice and views in this hearing.

Thank you, Madam Chair. That completes our closing statement."