

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS BY EACH OF

(a) CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE LIMITED FOR A
RIGHT-OF-WAY THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS
CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE YUKON TERRITORY AND
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, and

(b) FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD. FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY
THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS CROWN LANDS
WITHIN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

and

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND ECONOMIC IMPACT REGIONALLY OF THE CONSTRUCTION,
OPERATION AND SUBSEQUENT ABANDONMENT OF THE ABOVE
PROPOSED PIPELINE

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Berger, Commissioner)

**Detah, N.W.T.
August 26, 1976**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 77

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Ph: 604-683-4774 Fax: 604-683-9378
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APPEARANCES

Prof. Michael Jackson, for Mackenzie Valley
Pipeline Inquiry

Mr. John Steeves, for Canadian Arctic
Gas Pipeline
Limited;

John Burrell, for Foothills
Pipelines Ltd.;

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1 Detah, N.W.T.
2 August 26, 1976
3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)
4 (JOE TOBIE RESUMED AS INTERPRETER)
5 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
6 gentlemen, I'll call our hearing to order and we'll
7 spend! our time this evening listening to the people who
8 still have something to say, so I think we're open for
9 business.
10 (INTERPRETER TRANSLATES ABOVE)
11 CHIEF JOE CHARLO resumed:.
12 THE INTERPRETER: He said
13 this opening of the hearing here, this is the last
14 evening so anybody who wants to make their
15 presentation, they're free to do so. Whether it's
16 going to be the old -- the old and the young, it's up
17 to the people who want to speak. I said my speech last
18 night but this is the last night so I want to say
19 something but I'll wait until the end of the evening
20 (WITNESS ASIDE)
21 FRED BETSINA resumed:
22 THE WITNESS: Mr. Berger, I'm a
23 Dene person right here in Detah village and I've listened
24 to a lot of the Inquiry here, you know, and I've listened
25 to the Inquiry in uptown there too and I haven't been up
26 to the Mackenzie Delta or nothing and when I listen to my
27 people, what they say, you know, like my Chief, what he
28 said last night, I listened to that too, you know. And
29 the people don't want the pipeline going through. Like
30 myself, I'm a young man. I'm only 35 years old and I'm

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you sir
2 (WITNESS ASIDE)
3 CHIEF JOE CHARLO resumed:
4 THE INTERPRETER: He says the
5 people are here to discuss about their land and the
6 pipeline. Whoever wants to say something, it is up to
7 the individual. We're not going to tell you to speak
8 up. Come here and sit down, and sit on the chair and
9 speak up. So the chair is free there.
10 (WITNESS ASIDE)
11 JOE TOBIE resumed:
12 THE WITNESS: It looks like
13 somebody's waiting for me and so I might as well do my
14 little presentation now. I was waiting for later, but
15 while we're waiting maybe I should make my little
16 presentation here.
17 My name is Joe Tobie and I
18 work for C.B.C. and I've travelled with the Inquiry,
19 south, north, west and east. I've learned about this
20 pipeline, what the people say, and I've learned from
21 all of them. Some for a pipeline and some against the
22 pipeline.
23 Like we were down in the
24 south and the people say, why don't we wait for so many
25 years. Like, the people study the pipeline and they
26 got a pipeline already, gas and oil and the people say,
27 the ones that study the gas and the oil, they say we
28 could wait for 300 years, why the rush now? Well, the
29 gas, we might need it in the future, but maybe we
30 should fix us a land claim first.

1 | the village here, all the native people here. We've
2 | been here before the town of Yellowknife or city of
3 | Yellowknife. All the native -- all the Dene, we say
4 | this is our land and that's true, but what happened is
5 | the Minister of Indian Affairs, does he know this is
6 | what we're going to say in the future? I don't think
7 | he knew that we were going to say this.

8 | I got to go back to the city
9 | now again. What happened in 1970's, I think, Northern
10 | Affairs Minister, Arthur Laing, nobody invited the
11 | Chief or councillors, to their banquet I think, I think
12 | it was a banquet, anyways, when he made the speech
13 | there, I just heard him on the radio. At that time he
14 | was -- there was a capital of the Northwest Territories
15 | in Fort Smith. Without telling your native Chiefs or
16 | Dene Chief, "Look you leaders, this is what we want,"
17 | why didn't he say that at that time. Without telling
18 | the Chief, I heard him on the radio and said, "We need
19 | a capital, we need a government in the Northwest
20 | Territories." I heard him on the radio one time, so,
21 | in about two or three years later the Territorial
22 | government is here.

23 | Well, before any white
24 | skinned people or person that was in this Yellowknife
25 | Bay, there was all the Dene people here. They live off
26 | the land, have good water, have good food from the
27 | lakes and this is where all the Dene people is. Well,
28 | before the white man came, I don't know if they called
29 | this, where we live here in the north, I don't know if
30 | they called this the Northwest Territories at all. I

1 think maybe that came from some government, I guess.

2 Well, the government should
3 think about this -- yes, the government should think
4 about this you know, why didn't we tell the Chief that
5 we're going to have a capital city in the Northwest
6 Territories and where it's going to be. Well, at that
7 time I don't -- maybe the Chief would have told I mean,
8 maybe the Minister would have told the Chief but maybe
9 the Chief wouldn't understand, what would that mean,
10 the capital?

11 So, anyway, at that time,
12 when the government, I mean the Minister made his
13 speech the minister of Indian Affairs, that was Arthur
14 Laing and the year or three years after it was the
15 government of the Northwest Territories and
16 Yellowknife, I think that was 1969, I think, and now
17 there's still a government here and yet, the
18 government, they say -- they probably say that we're
19 going to do this and then they just go ahead and do it
20 without telling the Chief and the Band Councillors not
21 having a meeting with them. Like now, our doorstep
22 here, a city, which they call Yellowknife city now.
23 The highrises rising, this is going on just like day by
24 day. They don't bother asking Dene Chief. I was just
25 thinking, well, this is Denes land they should at least
26 tell the people or Dene Chief or Band Councillor and
27 say, this is what. we want to do, what do you think?
28 At least they should say that, but no one has said
29 that, Why? Because the Territorial Government arrived
30 up to the north and they have their own councillors

1 spoke and I hope the government could listen to people
2 in the north. That's what I want to say.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
4 Mr. Sangris.

5 (WITNESS ASIDE)

6 ALEXI LACORNE Sworn

7 THE INTERPRETER: These
8 people, they spoke about a pipeline, how it's going to
9 spoil, and I agree, I agree with them. I don't want to
10 see this -- our land, to see it spoiled.

11 Like the white people, they
12 have money in the bank. We got no money in the bank.
13 but yet the bush is our bank.

14 The Lord made this earth.
15 and, he made everything for us to use in the bush. So,
16 the bush is our bank.

17 When the people talk about this
18 pipeline, I don't agree with it, but some people, they said
19 when they mentioned about the railroad -- it might be
20 safer. Maybe it's just not as dangerous as the gas line.

21 In the north you see the way
22 we live. Sometimes we'll go hungry in cold weather but
23 yet we survive. We survive because the land is not
24 spoiled but what will happen if the gas goes through
25 and spoils our land? I don't want to see that.

26 I don't usually talk in a
27 meeting like this, but I wasn't here last night and I
28 heard there was a meeting here. But now tonight I think
29 I understand what they're talking about so this is why I
30 came here.

1 | the animal could smell around that caribou, they can't
2 | go there. See, some guy says I got a trap down there
3 | but I see some new tracks but I didn't catch anything.
4 | Why? Because they smelled the gas. He can't go down
5 | there, he can't go down to caribou, he can't go down to
6 | the trap.

7 |
8 | Now, like the people, white
9 | people came to Yellowknife before that the people that
10 | used to be learning lessons from their parents and now
11 | they're all mixed up now. They're all mixed, up with
12 | their kids and even now when you - our kids don't
13 | listen, they just don't listen to their parents now and
14 | even the dogs, we don't have any good 'dogs now.
15 | Before it used to be the people had good dogs, now all
16 | the white people came and brought their small clogs
17 | around, they're all mixed up now. Everything they're
18 | spoiling. Even the mine here is spoiling. They
19 | spoiled everything. They spoiled the water, they
20 | spoiled a person too. They're cutting wood for, the
21 | mine there, now, we can't do nothing, we have to buy,
22 | something. We can't -- if we want to go get some wood,
23 | we got to go of wood about three or four hours away to
24 | get it now, by dog team.

25 | If they have the pipeline
26 | here, well, I think it will be the same as a highway
27 | road. If a highway road, you can see highway roads, all
28 | the signs down on the highway road, it's all make --
29 | it's all shot, you can see all the shots on the signs.

30 | Well, what are you going to
do if they have a pipeline there? Maybe some people

1 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Go Ahead.
3 We're ready.

4

5 MURIEL BETSINA, sworn:

6 THE WITNESS: Mr. Berger,
7 good evening ladies and gentlemen. In the past and
8 present, I have listened to your Pipeline Inquiry. In
9 my knowledge, I am very young woman and mother of seven
10 children.

11 I am very happy that my great
12 grandfather and my grandfather did live on this land
13 without pollution. They did their trapping and hunting
14 without a struggle.

15 My father, Edward Blondin was
16 a great man. He died at the age of eighty, All his
17 life he was trapping and hunting and he never did ask
18 for a penny from the government. In his early years he
19 did live like his forefathers. As he got older, he was
20 beginning to see changes.; He used to tell us stories
21 of his early age, of his early years, how white man
22 used to come and go on this great land of ours.

23 He said the white man
24 surveyed in cutting down timbers on the land where he
25 used to hunt and trap. Slowly he started to struggle
26 to pay, as he started paying for his debts because his
27 trapline was destroyed by a white man coming in and
28 started prospecting all over the North.

29 Yes, my father has seen and
30 lived through pollution and struggled to live as we

1 creature animals roam across the land to west side
2 and across that mountain valley to Yukon Territories,
3 to Alaska State and back to east Northwest
4 Territory.

5 If you build a pipeline
6 across, it's going to affect all the creature animals.
7 It's going to be like an iron curtain for all the
8 animals. I, myself, someday in the near future, I'm
9 going back in the bush to teach myself as my ancestors
10 did for themselves. I want to keep my Indian culture.
11 I think of the environment and pollution and if the
12 pipeline ever comes through, that which will affect my
13 children and how am I going to teach my children the
14 Indian culture?

15 Mr. Berger, in all the
16 travelling you did in the North, the majority of
17 speeches were made by man. For us native women, we
18 feel very strongly towards our children as they grow We
19 are the ones crying for our children's future. What's
20 going to happen to them? We are mothers to our
21 children. We are the ones keeping moosehide moccasins
22 on their feet.

23 What's going to happen if
24 the pipeline ever comes through the North? Mr. Berger,
25 you will be the one to destroy our Indian culture if
26 the pipeline ever comes through. Where will I get
27 moosehide moccasins for my children's feet and my
28 people? I wonder sometimes, someday in the future, if
29 my grandchildren will ever know what moosehide
30 moccasins is or was.

1 | people? He probably thought about our future. Maybe
2 | this is j why we're still here. At that time, that's
3 | how they signed the Treaty and I saw that and then this
4 | is why I talk about it and I'd like to see my young
5 | people, that they live okay now. This is what I'd like
6 | to see. This is why I mentioned it.

7 | Talking about the pipeline
8 | that's a big project and it's going to be a big job.
9 | Whether it's going to be underground or above the
10 | ground, I cannot agree with it because it seems to me
11 | it's real dangerous. Talking about gas, I heard lots
12 | of people saying that if the gas line breaks or a pipe
13 | breaks, there's going to be lots of damage done to
14 | their land and animals and I agree with that.

15 | When I heard lots of people
16 | spoke about the pipeline, they don't agree with the
17 | pipeline. When they talk about the railroad, I agree.
18 | with them too, and this is what I've got on my mind
19 | too. If the pipe breaks, we are going to have lots.
20 | of problems for humans, not only humans but the things
21 | that live on the ground or on the earth or in the bush.
22 | It will spoil all of them.

23 | Talking about gas, really
24 | strong. Maybe that's why you see something goes on the
25 | air, like an airplane, and all the boats on the lake,
26 | the boats go as fast as they want. It must be strong
27 | stuff. The people in the hall here, they've probably
28 | seen the ice break in the Mackenzie River. That's only
29 | water but yet it's really strong.

30 | In the past, I did my good

1 | our children and their children in the future.
2 | How will they hunt? How will they survive on the
3 | land?

4 | If the pipeline construction
5 | gets on, how many thousands of people are going to come
6 | from outside, from the South, and where are we going to
7 | go? We see this problem already. This is why we're
8 | speaking about it already.

9 | We are talking about this
10 | land and where we live. We live in the cold
11 | weather. If the pipeline comes through, sure the
12 | white people will be okay, but how about us Dene?
13 | We are going, to really have a problem. If the
14 | pipeline comes through, then we will really suffer.
15 | The things we live on like the fish, wood, animals,
16 | so when the, pipeline comes through, then if you
17 | think about it, it seems like the White people are
18 | just going to put us Dene in jail.

19 | The people who come from the
20 | South, you're okay. But we Dene in the North, where we
21 | are now, we got no money in the bank. Our bank is on
22 | the land; not only where we are here now but all over
23 | the North. I don't think that people will say okay for
24 | the pipeline. Now you're sitting on a chair listening
25 | to the people. What will happen -- if something
26 | happened to your son, maybe it won't look good for you.
27 | This is how we feel too.

28 | If something happened to us
29 | then we're not going to feel good. Maybe it would look
30 | worse. Us Dene, we live by the land, we live on the

1 | land. But me, pretty soon I'm going to get back to the
2 | land. That's where I'm going to live, What would
3 | happen if the pipeline is there and if it busts, what's
4 | going to happen to the animals where I go?

5 | I'm not talking for myself.
6 | I'm talking for all the people. So, when I speak like
7 | this and the God he's a big boss. I hope he's
8 | listening to us now and help us. When we talk about
9 | the pipeline and lots of people, lots of Dene say the
10 | pipeline will destroy lots of things and I agree with
11 | them and I thought about it too.

12 | Yes, I am very pleased to
13 | tell you what I thought. This is what I had on my mind
14 | and I'm very pleased that you will hear what I have to
15 | say. This is all I have to say.

16 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

17 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank, you
18 | very much, sir.

19 |
20 | FRED ERASMUS sworn:

21 | THE WITNESS: I'll translate
22 | my own language in the Northwest Territories. I 11
23 | speak English, if I could understand English.

24 | Mr. Berger, you're a lucky
25 | man. You're a brave man. You've been travelling for
26 | the last two years without having three or four hours
27 | and you're back. You're a lucky man. Also, these two
28 | engineers here.

29 | Mr. Berger, I want to ask you
30 | one question. Why are you guys teasing these poor

1 | people here? See these poor people here? Why are you
2 | teasing them? Why do you do that?

3 | THE COMMISSIONER: Maybe you
4 | could tell us your name and then go on with your
5 | presentation.

6 | THE WITNESS: Right. My name
7 | is Fred Erasmus and I worked for the government for the
8 | last ten years when I first started here in
9 | Yellowknife. I was here in Yellowknife in 1940. Since
10 | then I have learned a few little things. I worked with
11 | the government for ten years as a carpenter, as a
12 | carpenter's helper.

13 | Then I thought I'd go on my
14 | own since I thought I was a man. You think that too.
15 | That's why you're here, don't you? Since then, I got
16 | my own sub-contract everyday after that. After I
17 | worked for the government for ten years, I quit the
18 | government and now I've got my own sub-contract at
19 | anytime, anyplace, anywhere.

20 | Like you're doing right now
21 | fooling me, right? I remember when I was young, when I
22 | was a kid. There were some not too very old Indians
23 | who used to come in with fur at Ft. Rae. They used to
24 | bring in a bunch of fur, three to four big bags full of
25 | fur. They used to bring it into the Hudson's Bay, the
26 | old Hudson's Bay. That's the first white man the
27 | Indians seen in young days.

28 | So, me, I was very small too
29 | at that time, So, I was very interested in this. I
30 | watch and I was very careful trying to keep track on

1 Yellowknife area, after they opened tip this roaster
2 to burn the gold in order to save their own lives
3 or just to make money, that's the white man way
4 of doing it. That's where you ruined that road
5 there.

6 I have seen dogs die. I have
7 seen horses die. Mr. Bevan moved over here, he had a
8 good farm down here, close to the airport. He moved
9 out of here because two cows of his died with arsenic,
10 He had to move out of here, Yellowknife, on account of
11 Giant and Con. The white man is supposed to be well
12 educated.

13 You are a brave man, Mr.
14 Berger. Then that was not enough. So, all of a sudden
15 the government decided that the people, they should
16 drink, the Indians. The government decided the people,
17 they should have a drink. Them days, it was not open
18 for nobody, for the Treaty Indian. So, the government
19 decided, maybe we should open it because he figured
20 that there's too many minerals. in this Northwest
21 Territories, It's a rich country. So, what they did,
22 he tried to get in touch with a Chief and tried to get
23 in touch with everybody. We should open this liquor,
24 oh yeah. Well I guess, that's the easiest thing in the
25 world to do.

26 So, that's what he did. That
27 went through. All right, that went through. What the
28 government found out is that this is a rich country.
29 Like you guys now, you're after the pipeline, right?
30 It's just the same thing, The Chief should never have

1 THE WITNESS: Well, sure I'm
2 saying it. I'm telling you.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Let's get
4 on with it.

5 THE WITNESS: I'm telling
6 you.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Carry on,
8 Mr. Erasmus.

9 THE WITNESS: Sure, I'll
10 carry on. Don't get scared when I start talking. I'm
11 not finished with you guys yet. Maybe I've got a point
12 that you don't even know what I'm coming at.

13 Now, after all, that, after
14 they had their choice, now like what I said, All right,
15 the government had its choice now. It went through.
16 All right, everybody started drinking. No you know
17 exactly what's going on. You know exactly what's going
18 on now you guys. Now the government is not helping the
19 Indians, no, no. By far he is not looking after the
20 Indians. He's looking after more or less the white man
21 or before he's looking after the Indians, I found that
22 out. He's giving us a little piece of candy just to
23 keep them shut up, just to keep his little mouth shut.
24 He's given a little piece of candy like I used to do
25 when my little kids used to cry. If there's a bottle
26 with a little bit of milk in there, if it's not too
27 sour, I used to give it to him just to keep him shut up.

28 That's what the government is
29 doing. That's what you guys are doing right now, isn't
30 that right? Like the other day there you said to the

1 Chief, I'll keep you in mind and I'll keep you on tape,
2 you said, when he mentioned something there. First you
3 mentioned six thousand people is going to work. and
4 make it sound good you said that, is that right? Just
5 spill the candies down on the floor so everybody could
6 grab it like a bunch of kids. That's what you did. Is
7 that right, Mr. Berger?

8 THE COMMISSIONER: You know,
9 I'm here to listen to you but maybe you ought to get to
10 the point. You see I want to make sure that people
11 understand. No, no, you just let me finish. I want to
12 make sure that people understand what this pipeline
13 project is all about. Now, there's only one way they
14 can understand what it's all about. That's if I tell
15 them.

16 THE WITNESS: If you tell
17 them.

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Now, just
19 let me finish. You're not used to listening. I
20 listened to you. Now you listen to me for a minute.
21 Now, I've been to thirty-five places in the North to
22 hear from people of all races to find out what they
23 have to say, about what happened in the past and what
24 the future ought to hold for them and I've been,
25 listening to them and I'm still listening to them and I
26 don't mind people speaking their minds the way you have
27 done and they have been doing it, many of them, in just
28 about every place I've been to.

29 Now, you're entitled to think
30 what you like about me. All I ask of you is that you

1 | carry on and tell me what's on your mind and come to
2 | the point and I can tell you that I'll give you my full
3 | attention.

4 | THE WITNESS: Yes. Well now,
5 | that's exactly what you're doing there, young fellow.
6 | You're going to put -- after what I said, I went
7 | through all these. I went through the Hudson's Bay, I
8 | went through the arsenic, through the Giant. Now, you
9 | guys, what you're trying to do is after you put that
10 | pipeline in, you are going to -- that's the finishing,
11 | touch of the Indians around town, in this Northwest
12 | Territories and you know it.

13 | That's exactly what you're
14 | looking for, you guys. If you ever put that pipeline
15 | through there in this Northwest Territories here,
16 | that's the finishing touch for this Northwest
17 | Territories here. Why don't you kill us off before you
18 | put the pipeline in? That would be a better idea.
19 | That would be way better. I'll tell you one thing.

20 | We are not going to settle
21 | these things unless we get this land claim settled now
22 | and then you guys could go ahead. Okay? It's up to
23 | you guys. It's up to you guys. That's all I want to
24 | say, Mr. Berger.

25 | (WITNESS TRANSLATES THE ABOVE)

26 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

27 | THE COMMISSIONER: Okay,
28 | Thank you. Well, I'm still here and I'm still willing
29 | to listen to anyone else who has anything to say.

30 |

1 ALEXI POTFIGHTER sworn:
2 THE INTERPRETER: I wanted to
3 say something about the first Treaty. I was there and
4 I want to talk about it. He's Alexi Potfighter. I
5 want to talk about the first Treaty and how it
6 happened. Henry's dad, he was the leader. That was
7 before the white man came. Nobody knew anything about
8 the chiefs. When he said something at that time, he's
9 talking about the hundred years ahead when he took the
10 money and said his words.

11 When they had the Treaty,
12 both the white man and the Dene Chief, they said okay,
13 we're going to be friends from now on. But yet from
14 there on we never got nothing, not even one thing free
15 from the white man. When they had the first Treaty,
16 they talked about the sun rising and setting and the
17 river runs. If the river always runs, doesn't run
18 back, the promise will not be broke. So, that's how
19 they made the Treaty.

20 But now when you talk about
21 something, you're talking about something now. I
22 think I talk about it because when the first chief,
23 was talking about what he talks about, that word
24 just hit my thought or my mind. When they first
25 made a Treaty, they said, okay, from now on we're
26 going to help each other. But after the first chief
27 that made the Treaty, he died three years after the
28 first Treaty.

29 When we were discussing about
30 or got together about this pipeline. I heard about

1 | here, this is why we don't live like in the old days.
2 | We are getting poorer and poorer every year. We can go
3 | out and trap where we want. If we go out, there's no
4 | fur. Sometimes when we travel on the barren lands, we
5 | go and keep on travelling without food for so many
6 | hours. This is how we travel in our time and then some
7 | people are here in the building. This is how we all
8 | live. It's kind of late right now. This is why I just
9 | wanted to tell you a little story about that.

10 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
12 | sir.

14 | GABRIEL DOCTOR sworn:

15 | THE INTERPRETER: Talking
16 | about the pipeline, I'd like to say a little thing
17 | about it too. I'm a trapper. I trap every winter. I
18 | go out on the land with my children. When I'm out on
19 | the trapline, I live out there. I hear on the radio
20 | talk about this pipeline and I hear that nobody agrees
21 | with the pipeline at all.

22 | When we Dene think about this
23 | pipeline, we think we shouldn't have the pipeline
24 | because it's really dangerous. But the road on the
25 | land is not that bad. It's not only for us but our
26 | children that are going to school now, if they learn
27 | about the whole thing, it's okay for them but not for
28 | us. The younger generation, it is okay for them. We
29 | cannot say okay for a pipeline. We have got to think
30 | for our children.

1 All the Dene say no pipeline.
2 They don't want a pipeline. Well, when we say the gas
3 is no good because it smells, I know because when I was
4 way out on my trapline, I stayed out there and as the
5 winter road goes by there's a good example to tell you.
6 When a fresh truck went by over the fresh road, where
7 the vehicle has went, there is always gas smell and no
8 caribou can get near to that road and I know it because
9 I've been there.

10 Not only that. Well, I use a
11 gas stove too. When I use a gas stove after that,
12 maybe the gas smells on my clothes and set a trap out
13 there and at that night or that day, the fur wouldn't
14 go near the trap. It will get there but it takes about
15 one or two nights before the fur gets to my trap
16 because of the sign of gas.

17 We are out trapping. We live
18 off the land. We say we live off the land. But
19 according to the older people, the way they live off
20 the land, we're just staying out there. We are just
21 out there it seems like for nothing. It's because the
22 Game Department, they destroy all the fur with the
23 poisoning. So, we're out there but we're not there to
24 get rich. We don't get as much fur as, for instance,
25 the older people, they used to get.

26 Like we're talking about the
27 pipeline here. All Dene say that they don't want a
28 pipeline. What will happen if the pipeline is there
29 and the caribou try to cross it? If the caribou get to
30 the pipe, wherever he's facing, if he can cross the

1 | pipe wherever he's facing, he will, go where he's
2 | facing. We don't know where he's going to go but
3 | wherever he's facing, that's where he's going to go.
4 | That's why we don't want a pipeline. Instead we'd like
5 | to have a road.

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

7 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

8 | PETER SANGRIS sworn:

9 | THE WITNESS: Mr. Berger, I'd
10 | just like to say a few words about the pipeline. But
11 | anyhow, Mr. Berger, before the pipeline goes down the
12 | Mackenzie Valley, we want the land claim, to settle
13 | first and all the native people, they don't want the
14 | pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley.

15 | If the pipeline companies
16 | really need the gas, they should build the railroad
17 | down the Mackenzie Valley, not a pipeline. We live in
18 | the North. This is our land. We are hunters and
19 | trappers. So, we don't want to get our land spoiled
20 | just because we live off the land. We are hunters and
21 | trappers. We live on the north's idea of Great Slave
22 | Lake at the Yellowknife Bay. We don't want the
23 | pipeline before the land claim is settled. Thank you.

24 | (SUBMISSION BY PETER SANGRIS MARKED AS EXHIBIT C-662)

25 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

26 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
27 | sir.

28 | NOEL BETSINA sworn

29 | THE INTERPRETER: When we're
30 | talking about the pipeline, who is in charge of the

1 | will be part of the permanent record of the Inquiry.
2 | (SUBMISSION BY ALIZETTE POTFIGHTER MARKED EXHIBIT
3 | C-663)

4 |

5 |

HELEN TOBIE sworn:

6 |

THE INTERPRETER: There's a

7 |

lot of people that spoke about the pipeline and they.

8 |

say it's no good and I agree with them. Where we live

9 |

right now we just live by the water. Well, even though

10 |

the pipeline is not here, we are having a problem with

11 |

the water right now. There's lots of children in the

12 |

summer, they go in the water and they swim and they

13 |

drink water, There 's lots of them, they've been in the

14 |

hospital and probably the parents don't know that they

15 |

get Sick from the water. This is why they get the

16 |

children in the hospital. But I don't think the doctor

17 |

tells the parents that it's from the water.

18 |

I want to talk about the

19 |

water. The water is no good, I know, because they've

20 |

been testing water here so often. When my husband used

21 |

to work for the Health Department, they used to test

22 |

the water here every week. They're telling people,

23 |

don't use the water. If you're going to use that water

24 |

for drinking, make sure you boil, the water before

25 |

their children drink it. We know that the water is not

26 |

too safe. This is why we've been getting water

27 |

deliveries from town since last three years. We pay

28 |

six dollars a month.

29 |

So, they still use the water

30 |

from the lake. Why? Because some of them are not --

1 am glad I'm here to speak to you on what I feel and it
2 makes me real glad.

3 (WITNESS TRANSLATES THE ABOVE)

4 (WITNESS ASIDE)

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
6 very much.

7 ISADORE TSETTA resumed:

8 THE INTERPRETER: It seems
9 like the hearing is going to end pretty soon. It looks
10 like nobody wants to speak. So, I just want to say a
11 little word. After I'm finished probably, the Chief
12 will say something. I'm really pleased to see all the
13 people here. You heard all the people spoke and you
14 got everything down on everything. The way all the
15 people spoke I here and I hope the government listens
16 to us that the one thing we say that we don't like and
17 it's no good for us and I hope the government could
18 listen to us. Yes, we are councillors. We just want
19 to say thanks. This is what I wanted to say. So, this
20 is all I wanted to say.

21 (WITNESS ASIDE)

22 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

23

24 FRED BETSINA resumed:

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, thanks a
26 lot, Mr. Berger, for having so much patience like that
27 and listening to all this talking there, I know it's
28 been two years since you've been going on this Inquiry
29 there, you know, and I really appreciate that you've
30 come down here for two nights in a row, staying up this

1 | really thank them too.

2 | Like today we're having a
3 | meeting here. When we're going to talk, we're sworn in
4 | by the Bible to tell the people our truth, what we
5 | think. When we do speak, just before we do speak, we
6 | are sworn in by the Bible and when we are sworn by the
7 | Bible, we think about God. What we have to say, we
8 | hope that God listens to us. This is what we've got on
9 | our mind when we are sworn in.

10 | We've been here for the last
11 | two nights and we've been talking about the pipeline.
12 | We heard from lots of people that they said they don't
13 | want a pipeline because it will bring disaster to their
14 | land. So, for the last two nights this is what we've
15 | been talking about. When we talk about this land we
16 | know the earth is round and what about the gas in the
17 | center of the earth? If it catches fire, what's going
18 | to happen? It's just going to blow and that will be
19 | it.

20 | We've been having a hearing
21 | here and then talking to the Berger. Berger is
22 | listening to us. When we talk, we talk like we talk
23 | from the bottom of our hearts and we -- it seems like
24 | we're just begging to tell Berger to tell the
25 | government not to push the pipeline through. When I
26 | heard about this Pipeline Inquiry, it's been on just
27 | about two years now, and I hear that the Inquiry has
28 | been visiting all the communities and when I thought
29 | about that, I didn't know that we will have a hearing
30 | here. But now, here we are.

1 I'm not speaking your
2 language but I've got a translator here. It seems that
3 I'm just speaking your own language and whenever I
4 speak and while looking at you and you looking at me,
5 and I'm really pleased that you came down here and I
6 wish Berger, if he gets down to Ottawa, I hope he will
7 tell the government about this. You guys have been
8 through all the North, to all the communities and
9 you've heard from the people and this is the last one
10 here. So, we should both try to tell the Lord to help
11 us, each other.

12 I hope you think about what
13 we talked about and I hope we get the help from the
14 Lord that in the future, that what we said about this
15 pipeline, that it might destroy and hope that God will
16 listen to us and help us. This is going to be the
17 last, so even though we are not the same colour but yet
18 we're still cousins and brothers and sisters. So, this
19 is all I want to say and I'm very pleased that you came
20 down here to have a hearing here and hope in the future
21 that we'll get help from God that we can work together.
22 Thank you.

23 (WITNESS ASIDE)

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
25 very much, chief, and members of the Council and those
26 of you who participated in the hearing. This is our
27 last community hearing and we have had a long journey
28 to visit every city and town and every village and
29 settlement in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories
30 along the route of the pipeline and we've listened to

1 | hundreds of people of all ages and all races and I
2 | think it's fitting that our last hearing should end at
3 | one in the morning because they usually do.

4 | If I may, Chief, while we're
5 | here and since this is our last meeting, I want to
6 | thank my friends, Joe Tobie and Louis Blondin and Jim
7 | Sittichinli and Abe Okpik and Whit Fraser who have
8 | travelled with me throughout the North to thirty-five
9 | communities and have told people all over the North and
10 | all over Canada what has been said at all of those
11 | hearings.

12 | Strong feelings have been
13 | expressed tonight and that has happened again and again
14 | at the hearings we've held and I think that is a good
15 | thing because it means that when people come to this
16 | Inquiry, they speak their minds. We have tried to find
17 | out all we can about the North, about its peoples and
18 | its environment. So, we have asked the people that
19 | live here to tell us what they know about the creatures
20 | of the bush and the Barrens and the rivers and the sea.
21 | We have asked the people who live here to tell us about
22 | their past and what they believe the future ought to
23 | hold for them.

24 | It has taken time but it's
25 | been worth it because we have seen much and we have
26 | heard much and we have learned much. We have a
27 | decision to make about the future of the North, about
28 | the construction of a gas pipeline and an oil pipeline,
29 | about the establishment of an energy corridor and this
30 | Inquiry's job is to make sure that we understand the

1 | consequences of what we're doing, to consult with the
2 | peoples of the North who will have to live with
3 | whatever decision we make, and to see that that
4 | decision is one that will stand the test of time. So,
5 | I must say good night.

6 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

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