

Katlo'deeche First Nation Community Scoping Session Summary Notes Pine Point Mine Project July 6, 2021

This report summarizes the comments and questions from people Katlo'deeche First Nation during the community scoping session for Pine Point Mining Limited (PPML)'s environmental assessment, on July 6th, 2021 at Katlo'deeche Reserve. Review Board staff facilitated the meeting in-person with technical, translation, meal and venue assistance from Katlo'deeche First Nation. The meeting was graciously hosted at Chief Lamalice Hall at KFN. Residents/elders from Katlo'deeche were present in-person at the community hall.

Presentation links

The Review Board presentation shown at the community meeting is here:

[MVRB community scoping presentation - Kat'odeeche First Nation - July 6](#)

Pine Point Mining Limited presentation is here:

[Pine Point Mining - community scoping presentation](#)

Community meeting July 6, 2021. 3pm – 5pm:

Opening prayer, introductions, start of meeting

MVEIRB presentation, Pine Point Mining presentation

The following is a summary of questions asked and general discussion by people at the Katl'odeeche First Nation Reserve with responses by Pine Point Mining Limited except where questions are answered by Review Board staff as noted.

Q: Lots of access from previous project. Water piped in from lake. Concern about air quality control.

When Pine Point was going – we would get the dust and debris over here at Katlodeeche. How is that going to affect us here. Affect birds, trees, berries, traditional medicines, topsoil and black dirt.

The company talks about building around what's currently there. Without water, we are nothing. It is key.

People before had a plan, but when we looked at quarries, lots of remnants left from before. What are we doing to help that?

We drove in to the old mine site, literally just rows of old core samples. Rows and rows everywhere from previous mine. Then they left. Why was this stuff not taken care of? How will you make this different?

All these little things need to be put into place to ensure environment is protected.

Do not want this for 20 years ahead of us – impacts to trees, berries, medicines – all things we depend on as traditional people. Had a look around at all the berries and things there. Learned there was a water treatment plant there already, noticed lots of impacts from previous mine that were still there. There was a plan for that, but what happened?

A: Dust – all mines have a plan now to manage it. We can have water trucks running up and down to keep the dust down. Can appreciate that. Dust on vegetation is not a good thing.

Will be a dust management plan we are working on. Will affect lots of things like harvesting of plants and medicines. Keeping dust down will help for community harvest as well as animals.

For birds, lots of migratory birds. We will have to check for nesting sites at all times. Stop working until birds fledge and leave nest.

Water – lots to talk about. Will use the water that was there in existing pits for process plant to start. Will need some water from Great Slave Lake.

We have been trying to use old cores and re-log them. We will clean up the ones that we cannot use. Could use the cores for road material, construction. Would make sure this material does not have mineralization so no problems with it.

The Developer's Assessment Report will be a big undertaking with lots of work. Talking to people about what will work and what will not.

Q – I think it is time we learn from each other. Elders always say that. Use knowledge, skills and experience. A lot of elders do not read or write but use knowledge, skills and experience. Reminds me, when I am going to do something on someone else's land – Forget to do the ceremony, and forget who's land it is. Important to us. Our land will be affected. Know there will be some damages and changes. Will affect rivers and streams, groundwaters, plants, animals, habitats, traditional territory.

Burial Grounds – One of Most important thing on our traditional lands – Sacred spaces – need to respect that. Traditional medicines of the land – spruce gum, shrubs, berries.

Need to respect, listen, learn, share. What I know you don't know. What you know, I don't. Haven't forgot traditional teachings from grandmother. Support going both ways -knowledge transfer.

Tailings ponds – what do they affect? Groundwater. Lots of birds that land on there, and we eat those animals. How safe is it to eat these? Explain – what is it – the tailings - and what are the effects?

We need to help each other. Hear lots as interpreter and lots from other elders. Need respect. Other's opinions and what they say. It's our traditional land.

First company went by. Didn't ask us. Today, asking now. If someone owns something, you ask for their permission and explain why. Have to come back for answer.

Elders don't answer right away. Need to think, and come back. Can't just be one-way. Have to go both ways. You want us to help you? Help us.

Best way to explain to people, use a workshop format. As an elder I know how to do these. Know how to hold one. We didn't read in past, we learned by listening, and sharing. Accepting and helping support each other.

A – Tailings will be put in mined-out pits, mostly near the process plant. Mineralization has been removed and is not in tailings.

Tailings placed in pits, water extracted, pits covered over with waste rock and overburden. In 20 years, wont' even know pits were there. Will not be filling all the old pits.

Q – In today's world, growing economic development. Need to know history of people.

Always here first, always connected to land. Traditional knowledge and traditional food. Using land, language taken away from us from - Residential School impact. Need to look at these from a holistic approach. Spiritual. Environmental – air, water and land.

Traditional knowledge is a key thing here.

Language is a key thing here.

Suggest materials – workshop style--- give the information to our youth, and elders in today’s world.

I look at it now for the future – future grandchildren - the impact 20-30 years down the road.

Lived down Buffalo River before. Land and traditional medicines important. Holistic approach to environment before contact. Environmental impact will have an effect.

Influx of people – working – will have an effect – social impacts. 500 years of violence towards our people.

Land and way of life is #1. Intergenerational impact key in future.

Not against economic growth but need to know of Traditional Knowledge and culture. Include those. Just joined KFN council in January. Not sure how much Traditional Knowledge included so far.

Economic growth – Pine Point currently not using our store. We have groceries and gas right now.

Need to include our people, elders. Protocol – there are ceremonies – need to look at a holistic approach.

A - Big part of the EA is Traditional Knowledge and how land is being traditionally used. We will be looking at traditional land use in detail.

Look at updating Traditional Knowledge studies of past, within protocols of communities. Bring this into the assessment. Understand it is important.

Socio-impacts. There have been diamond mines in NWT for 25 years. Have seen some of those impacts on communities. We will try and learn from that. Mitigate the adverse effects, enhance the positive effects.

Process will need to involve discussion from community.

Q: Joe had asked about the tailings and their effects on birds, trees, etc. Did not hear company touch on that. What will happen to tailings ponds? Waste chemicals in the ponds, from cleaning products?

Tailings ponds across Canada are extremely dangerous to animals around them. What is the plan to better manage that/how will they be managed?

A – Proposing something different from tailings in other mines in Canada. Different from what Teck did in the past - leaving tailings there, and having to collect water that leaches, and treat it every year.

Because we have these open holes (former pits) in the ground already from Cominco, it is natural to want to put material back in there. Will not be a traditional tailings dam as in other mines. Will use these pits for tailings.

Will use overburden, waste rock from before. There is still lots of work to be done before we put tailings into pits. Need to understand the water, etc. A tailings plan will be developed over the course of the assessment.

Idea that there's concern with sitting tailings is understood. Will try and restrict birds from visiting, fence off to ensure animals cannot get into it, until we've reclaimed that pit.

Q- Describe what's in the tailings?

A- To mine the rock, need to get other minerals out. Process plant takes minerals out of the rock. In order to make it profitable, need to extract as much as possible. Tailings are what's left after extracting as much mineralization as possible. What's left – limestone, with some trace amounts of other minerals. Essentially limestone back into limestone. 90-95% of the minerals removed.

Q – You're using a process. What's in those chemicals in the process? Need to explain this.

A- Chemicals are listed here: [PPMP EA Initiation Package - Project Description p58](#) Tailings may have some remnants of those chemicals. Flotation cells used. Soap bubbles collect concentrate. Limestone sinks.

Q –Tailings ponds - Lots of trees and shrubs are dead. Animals eat that, are they affected? Then we hunt them.

Heard tailings are a salt lick coming from the ground? Sulphur Point. Certain animals that eat that will be affected. These things need to be looked at.

A: These are obviously things we need to look at in the Developer's Assessment Report. Will need to minimize effects.

Q – Will tailings ponds have a covering, or lining? Or just a dugout. If a dugout – it will affect the groundwater. And the lake, and fish there. These are connected.

A – Ponds on tailings in pits during filling will be very temporary. Water will flow into an area. Wet for a year at most.

Will fill up to bedrock surface elevation. Limestone rock put on top will create firm surface. On top of that, soil fill material for future vegetation to grow. Encourage growth back in area.

No linings present in pits for tailings.

Groundwater vs tailings. Will study and see if tailings push into groundwater, or groundwater pushes back (unknown at present).

Q: KFN assembly 1st week of August. Would be helpful for company to do a presentation there to community-members. Elders and Youth.

A: Andrew – Sure, we are up there in end of July. Could happen then.

Ended at approximately 5pm.

Dinner served in the Hall 5-6 pm.

Meeting July 6, 2021. 6pm – 8pm:

Introductions and discussion

Chief Martell – Welcome everyone. Have to leave early to do hand-games.

Q: Comments from Chief Martell

- Talked to Premier – Important project for KFN, Territory, and important for MVEIRB.
- Went to tour of site. Pine Point kept land clean.
- Previous developer left a mess for the government. Whoever was there just before left a big mess. Lots of rocks and wood.
- Currently drilling in KFN area and have agreement, however.
- Land needs to be taken care of
- People need to be taken care of
- Want some areas cleaned up beforehand
- Premier and I excited by the project.
- Need to move through a lot of hoops thru land process. Now 3 years for applications to be processed. People need to know about this process and timelines.
- Lots needs to be fixed with mine.
- Protection of lands in our backyard and traditional territory
- Letting members know what's happening in that backyard
- Wasn't happening before, weren't aware of that destruction prior
- Communication AND Development both key AND protection.
- Need more communication to our membership.

MVEIRB presentation

Pine Point Mining presentation

Q&A and facilitated discussion summary

The following is a list of presentations and summary of questions/dialogue by meeting participants with responses by Pine Point Mining Limited except where questions are answered by Review Board staff as noted.

Q – Dumping rocks at the loading site for shipment. How are they going to be keeping this safe if they're using trucks (dust) How will the roads be protected?

Water – Pumping Great Slave Lake water to the site, then back in the ditch in same condition?
Everything flows back to the Lake. How will they protect the water?

Q – Before they start-up, two communities close to the mine. Hay River Katl'odeeche, and Fort Resolution.

Suggest they take concerned people into the area and look at the site with own eyes. Where it will be shipped from, etc. If they want people to agree to some of the things they'll do, they have to show people what they plan on doing.

A- We'd like to take people around the site to have them share their Traditional Knowledge with us.

Trucking the ore: When transported, it will be called concentrate. Looked at putting ore in containers. Wasn't practical. Looked at putting covers on the ore. Still might be looking for other options to contain concentrate and limit dust. If we can, even zero level dust would be nice.

Water and Great Slave Lake – Water stays within the project. By limiting where water is placed, limits how it goes through environment before Great Slave Lake. Monitoring wells at downstream locations.

If we see unusual things going on, we can mitigate. Details yet to come, but this is our approach so far.

Q – Do they still use a chemical to stop weed growth along the railbed?

A – Not that I'm aware of. It's a federal site those tracks. Will go on a tour this summer to listen to what they'll use to turn it back to a natural state. Not using herbicides any more.

Q – It goes into water. Poisons fish. Stopped using on Mackenzie because of poisoning. Used on road?

A – No, mowing the grass, but that's about it.

Q – Wintertime, affects wildlife through thaw.

Q – What level of traffic are we looking at – Pine Point to Hay River? Stockpile of ore in Hay River?

A – Still lots of details to work out. One idea – store in a large grain warehouse. Wait until railcars arrive. Will not be done without any mitigation. Preferably an enclosed area. Need feasibility study. Don't want to contaminate soils or vegetation in area.

A - Traffic – 15 trucks a day, total. Had some discussion about effect on highway. Don't believe there's going to be a big impact at all. Trucks 24hrs a day – less than 1 truck per hour.

Q – Can road conditions handle that type of traffic? Road not built heavy duty. Look at Edzo to Yellowknife highway – roads is really bad. Now vertical-bad, used to be horizontal-bad.

A – From what we've found so far, level of traffic not that high, but need to still do work with GNWT highways department to make sure. Feasibility study will be done – has all of the detailed info and will become part of information in the EA.

Q – Monitoring – Can assess area, but think we need someone from each community to be there, that knows the land to see how things are going. Can we use the gravel? How will it affect future use? How to monitor is important; well into future.

A- Agreed, essential to have that perspective while monitoring, local community members.

Q – How big is the camp they are going to setup, and what will it look like? The workforce. Ensure training programs for KFN and Fort Resolution? Need support for those training programs so people can go work there to monitor, etc. Families were there, at old Pine Point site, before. Now it's a work camp.

A- Committed to training local people. Mine Training Society program for people on drill rigs – this is where the work is now. Approached some drill companies to see if they're interested in hiring those people – they said yes, definitely. Five have attended so far.

For mine, we need people in certain areas trained with specific skills. We'll make sure we have training people available.

It will be like a typical diamond mine camp. No consideration for families right now - not like old Pine Point. Will transport people from Katl'odeeche and Fort Resolution to the site for safety. Will probably be a two-week rotation (2 weeks on, 2 off – own bedrooms for each worker).

Q - Most all employees on those mines are from down south. Not from the North. Need to look at sources of money from the mine, so it stays north, and doesn't go down south.

A – Want to start by providing lots of training to local people as much as we can. It also can be a challenge. Not everyone's idea of the best job is working in a mine. Can be challenge to find people who like the work. There's a variety of work – equipment operators, accountants, etc. Need to train up for those positions. Committed to training as many locals as possible.

Q – How long has the process been going on?

A (Review Board) – EA is one piece of the project. We started in February 2021. Pine Point working on it for longer.

A – 2017 -- Darnley Bay started the project. Big drilling program 2017-18. 2019 drilling slowed. 2020 not a lot. This drill core info went into a Preliminary Economic Assessment Report. Provided info to submit to the Review Board for the EA process.

Q – Are there a number of different parties on this project from the start?

A – There's one company. No, I'm not the owner. Employees -- only 4 fulltime. Public traded company. About \$0.50 share at present.

Q – Where are you from? US or Canada?

A – Australia originally.

Q – You mentioned you need people to work at the site. Need to have our own people, teach them what you're looking for, and how you monitor. Need our own people to work in the lab area, not just doing all the leg-work. Is it possible for this to happen?

A – Yes, very likely. Many jobs, across the project. In terms of getting involved in lab-work, lots of opportunity.

Environmental department a good place for people to work because you understand local area setting and can help us.

Q: Interested in training for young generations. Need to benefit from whatever happens. Tell us what's going on once in a while, and what support you can give us, how they can help whole culture.

Q – Should work directly with First Nation leadership in communities. Town council should be involved as well. No longer working separately, should be working altogether with company to have people benefit in the workforce. Support the First Nation.

A – Would be happy to come back, 1st week August – talk about project, opportunities. We've talked to Hay River Council, Ft Smith Town Council, Hamlet in Fort Resolution, Fort Resolution Metis Government, the Deninu Kué First Nation. We spread as wide as we can and provide information.

Q – We need to be informed of what's going on. Can't be forgotten. Need to sit with you to make decisions. Will help both of us. It's First Nation. If you don't know land, why making decisions on our behalf? Liaison persons for both sides.

A – Think there is a lot of value in liaison persons for the project. Can share our perspective and improve it overall. At end of day decision will come down to EA approval, which communities are heavily involved in.

Q- When do you start the work?

A – 2025

Q – Some people looking forward to it opening up. Good thing if we can make it work and have First Nation input. Both sides do right thing.

A- Appreciate the encouraging words and thoughts there.

Q- Would like to see the Review Board, Board Members. Talking to an "Owl" (Camera for online use for Andrew, PPML). Would like to see people's faces to interact with. Because, only heard Andrew (PPML) talking, haven't heard the Review Board. How do I know these things are documented?

In Dene culture, elders are ones who need to be heard. In regards to land, natural environment, and people. They need a voice. Didn't see elders in faces of Review Board members.

A – (Review Board staff) Review Board members from a variety of backgrounds (composition: Some appointed by GNWT, some by Feds and four from indigenous governments)

Sometimes there are elders. It depends on who is nominated. Always changing, 3-year terms. half women, half men right now. Board members there now will stay on for Pine Point assessment in its entirety.

Q- Is it possible to have something set up for the regions – a voice here? Working relationship among parties in the area. Needs to be fairness both ways.

Camp- is it possible for First Nations to set up the camp? Keep equipment going? How many will be needed? Have a voice here for back & forth.

Q – (Review Board) – Working groups sometimes set up for projects. Would Pine Point consider this?

A – Andrew – yes, working group will be setup for caribou, for instance. Other opportunities for them.

Q- Haven't heard at all from these government folk yet (GNWT and CanNor in-person)

A – (GNWT response) We are here to listen, and are taking detailed notes. But we want to let you know that we are doing more than taking notes. We listen to everything that you say throughout the EA, to understand your concerns. We also note when the developer makes a commitment to address the concern. We do this so that at the end of the EA, we have an understanding of what we believe are any outstanding concerns that you have raised.

Once the Review Board has completed it's process, it releases a Report of Environmental Assessment. Government will then reach out to see how you believe your Treaty and/or Aboriginal rights were addressed during the process. We do this via letters and a follow-up phone call once the Report of EA from MVEIRB comes out. Specifically, we will ask you - does the Report address concerns you raised regarding impacts to your Aboriginal and / or Treaty rights during the EA process? This is the time to let government know if there are outstanding concerns - before there is a decision on the Report of EA.

What we do specifically: our note taking today (and throughout the EA process) will go into a tracking-table. When we hear a commitment from developer, it is tracked. We take everything you write incredibly seriously.

We assess each and every concern raised by you and whether we believe more needs to be done or not. We look at the concerns raised and see if we believe a commitment, measure from the Review Board, or existing government or other program addresses the concern. Based on all the information we have, we then determine whether we believe consultation is meaningful and adequate. We always inform the ministers of our full assessment before a decision is made. This is why your input throughout the process is so important.

Q: (Board Staff) Pine Point Mining will send presentation copies to Patrick at KFN so he can print and send to community members.

Tomorrow, July 7 we will be at Recreation Centre in Hay River, Don Wieterman room. 1 -4 pm.

8 pm next steps described, closing prayer.

Participants List

Kat'odeeche First Nation, July 6, 3-5pm:

Online

Pine Point Mining Limited - Andrew Williams

In person:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board - Chuck Hubert, Catherine Fairbairn, Jeremy Freeman

Katlo'deeche First Nation residents

Joyce Studney, Shirley Lavaluie, Aaron Tambour, Joe Tambo – Interpreter, Patrick Riley (online)

GNWT (Lands)- Melissa Pink

Government of Canada (Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO)) - Katie Bakker, Allana Nakashook-Zettler,

Katl'odeeche First Nation, July 6, 6-8pm

Online:

Pine Point Mining Limited - Andrew Williams

In person:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board - Chuck Hubert, Catherine Fairbairn, Jeremy Freeman

Katlo'deeche First Nation residents

Chief April Martel, Georgina Fabian, Alec Sunrise, Pat Martell, Aaron Tambour, Joe Tambo, Patrick Riley (online)

GNWT (Lands)- Melissa Pink

Government of Canada (Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO)) - Katie Bakker, Allana Nakashook-Zettler