IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REVIEW PANEL ("JOINT PANEL")
ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE JACKPINE MINE EXPANSION,
FORT MCKAY, ALBERTA, ("PROJECT") PROPOSED BY SHELL
CANADA LIMITED ("SHELL")

AND IN THE MATTER OF ALBERTA ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD ("ERCB") APPLICATION NO. 1554388

AND IN THE MATTER OF CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY ("AGENCY") CEAR NO. 59540

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION

ACT R.S.A. 2000 C. E-10

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE OIL SANDS CONSERVATION ACT, R.S.A. 2000, C.0-7

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT, 2012, S.C. 2012, C. 19, S. 52

BY THE

ALBERTA ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING

NOVEMBER 20, 2012

VOLUME 16

PAGES 3815 TO 4254 (With Footnotes)

Сору

Held at:

Four Points by Sheraton Edmonton South 7230 Argyll Road Edmonton, Alberta

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1	Tuesday, November 20, 2012
2	(8:30 a.m.)
3	(Edmonton, Alberta)
4	(Zamerreen) intertal
5	THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone. Is
6	there any housekeeping? Mr. Perkins.
7	eners any neasonesping. The remine.
8	HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS SPOKEN TO:
9	MR. PERKINS: Mr. Chairman, we, and I mean
10	the Secretariat, has received the responses from
11	ACFN witnesses, and Dr. Schindler, as well as a
12	reply to that from Shell, and we'd like to suggest
13	exhibit numbers for that material. I can run down
14	the list, if you'd like.
15	THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
16	MR. PERKINS: The response from Dr. Komers
17	Dr. Gutsell, and Ms. Hechtenthal, we'd like Exhibit
18	No. 006-030 for that.
19	
20	EXHIBIT 006-030: RESPONSE FROM DR. KOMERS
21	DR. GUTSELL, AND MS. HECHTENTHAL
22	
23	THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
24	MR. PERKINS: For Mr. Bruce MacLean,
25	006-031.

1		
2	EXHIBIT 006-031	: RESPONSE FROM MR. BRUCE MACLEAN
3		
4	MR. PERKINS:	And for Dr. Candler, 006-032.
5		
6	EXHIBIT 006-032	: RESPONSE FROM DR. CANDLER
7		
8	MR. PERKINS:	For OSEC, Dr. Schindler's
9	response, if we co	ould have 017-051.
10		
11	EXHIBIT 017-051	: DR. SCHINDLER'S RESPONSE
12		
13	MR. PERKINS:	And as a separate number, and
14	I hope I describe	this correctly, the Rasmussen
15	World Class Graph,	, 017-052.
16		
17	EXHIBIT 001-052	: RASMUSSEN WORLD CLASS GRAPH
18		
19	MR. PERKINS:	And finally, sir, the reply
20	from Shell, if we	could have exhibit number 001-116
21	for that, sir.	
22		
23	EXHIBIT 001-116	: REPLY FROM SHELL
24		
25	THE CHAIRMAN:	Thank you.

1	MR. PERKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2	THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other
3	housekeeping? I take it not.
4	Is Shell ready to proceed with its argument?
5	Mr. Denstedt?
6	
7	FINAL ARGUMENT OF SHELL CANADA, BY MR. DENSTEDT:
8	INTRODUCTION
9	MR. DENSTEDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
10	Members. I'm pleased to be here today to present
11	final argument on behalf of Shell Canada Limited
12	for the Jackpine Mine Expansion Project, which I
13	will refer to generally as "the Project" in my
14	remarks today.
15	I've provided a copy of my notes to the Court
16	Reporter and I'd ask that the headings and the
17	evidentiary references be included in the
18	transcript so that I need not to refer to them as I
19	go. Where I deviate from my notes, I would ask
20	that my oral remarks be reflected in the
21	transcript.
22	Mr. Chairman, developing an oil sands mining
23	project is not an easy task. It requires financial
24	strength to provide the financial wherewithal to
25	ensure processes to capitalize and execute a

1	multi-billion-dollar project, technical expertise
2	to ensure processes are constantly reviewed and
3	improved, environmental responsibility to ensure
4	environmental impacts of development are avoided,
5	minimized or mitigated, and social responsibility
6	to ensure all of this is carried out in a manner
7	that provides information to stakeholders, involves
8	them in decisions that affect them, and provides
9	assistance where appropriate.
10	Shell, Chevron and Marathon embody all these
11	traits.
12	Shell has been involved in the oil sands
13	since the 1950s. ^{1 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 216} Shell already
14	operates the Muskeg River Mine and the Jackpine
15	Mine Phase I, and has demonstrated that it can
16	operate oil sands projects in a responsible way.
17	For example, the Jackpine Mine was started up
18	in 2010 without a single process safety incident.
19	2 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 218
20	In 2011, Shell was awarded CAPPs Health and
21	Safety Performance Award for its oil sands
22	operations. ^{3 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 220}
23	Shell has a proven track record of
24	successfully constructing and operating projects of
25	this type and magnitude.

1 Shell has been working with regulators and 2 stakeholders for more than six years to study the 3 potential impacts of this Project and optimize plans to avoid or minimize those affects.

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The reason that the Pierre River Mine was combined with this Project for the purposes of the EIA was to address stakeholders' and regulators' desire to see Shell's full development plans for the oil sands. ^{4 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 234}

Shell's testimony was that the baseline studies for this Project were the most extensive that have ever been conducted for oil sands projects. 5 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1410 Shell has responded to more than 1500 Information Requests from regulators and stakeholders and filed more than 20,000 pages of documentation in support of this Project. 6 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 250; Exhibit 001-006, 001-009, 001-011, 001-051, 001-063

Through this process, Shell has significantly modified the Project to assess concerns that have been raised and to meet evolving regulatory and economic developments. The result is a project plan that balances Shell's obligation to develop the province's oil sands resources and the need to ensure that development is done in an

1 environmentally and socially acceptable manner. 2 For the reasons I am going to discuss, 3 Mr. Chairman, Shell has clearly demonstrated that this Project is in the public interest and should 4 5 be approved. 6 So let me start with the nature of this 7 application. NATURE OF THE APPLICATION 8 9 First of all, Shell is applying to the Energy and Resources Conservation Board and Alberta 10 11 Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to 12 amend and renew the Jackpine Mine approvals in 13 order to expand the already existing Jackpine Mine development, and the area underlying the oil sands 14 15 resources to increase the production by 100,000 barrels per day to an average nominal capacity of 16 300,000 barrels per day. $^{7 \text{ Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 235}}$ 17 The proposal will allow for a development of 18 19 the resource contiguous to the already approved 20 Jackpine Mine in a northerly direction incorporating Leases 88, 89, AT-36, 15 and 631. 21 22 The additional mining area and equipment, 23 processing facilities and other infrastructure will 24 extend the life of the Jackpine Mine to 2050. 2.5 Updated and expanded tailings management,

1	reclamation and closure plans for the Jackpine Mine
2	are also included in the Application. 8 Transcript
3	Vol. 3, pg. 235, Exhibit 002-004, Adobe 2
4	To implement the proposed development, Shell
5	will require:
6	
7	- An amendment to ERCB approval
8	number 9756C for the additional
9	mining tailings and processing
10	facilities pursuant to Section 13
11	of the Oil Sands Conservation Act.
12	9 R.S.A. 2000, c. O-7, s. 13
13	- It also requires renewal and
14	expansion of the 10-year operating
15	EPEA approval and renewal 10 R.S.A.
16	2000, c. E-12, s. 67 and 70; Exhibit 002-004,
17	Adobe ² ; and
18	- Amendment of the Jackpine
19	Mine Water Act approval. 11 R.S.A. 2000,
20	c. W-3, s. 49-51, 54 and 59; Transcript Vol. 3,
21	pg. 242
22	
23	Shell will also require approvals from
24	various federal regulators including:
25	

- A new authorization under
Section 35(2) of the Fisheries Act
for the harmful alteration and
destruction of fish habitat in the
new project area; 12 R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14,
s. 35(2); Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 243, Exhibit
$^{005-002}$, $^{\text{Adobe }1}$ and.
- A river crossing approval
under Section 5 of the <i>Navigable</i>
Waters Protection Act for bridge
and utilities crossings. 13 R.S.C.,
1985, c. N-22, s. 5; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 243,
Exhibit 001-029, Adobe 1
In addition, Shell will apply for a variety
of ancillary approvals if the expansion is found to
be in the public interest. And the potential
environmental impacts of these ancillary works have
been included in the Environmental Impact
Assessment that is before this Panel. 14 These include
approvals from Transport Canada for the diversion of the Muskeg River,
pursuant to section 23 of the Navigable Waters Protection Act; from the
Alberta Utilities Commission to construct and operate co-generation power
plants, pursuant to section 11 of the Hydro and Electric Energy Act (R.S.A.
2000, c. H-16, s. 11); an amendment or new Mineral Surface Lease under

section 20 of the Public Lands Act (R.S.A. 2000, c. P-40) for the new 1 project area; an amendment to development permit No. 2006-0374 pursuant to 2 the Regional Municipality's Land Use Bylaw 99/059; and historical resource 3 clearances under the Historical Resources Act (R.S.A. 2000, c. H-9) 4 5 6 FRAMEWORK FOR THE REVIEW 7 Let me start with a review of the legal framework and the Joint Review Panel that the Joint 8 9 Review Panel is operating under, and the dual roles and responsibilities of this Panel. And I'll 10 11 briefly go through some of the specific 12 requirements of a CEAA review and an EIA under the 13 EPEA as I deal with the merits of the Application. 14 15 Purpose of Environmental Assessment Environmental Assessment is the first formal 16 step towards project approval and is required to 17 ensure environmental matters are considered early 18 19 in the Project's planning stage to both protect the 20 environment and to avoid the waste of resources. 21 One of the reasons for conducting an 22 Environmental Assessment early in the planning 23 process is so that the Environmental Assessment can 24 influence design decisions, execution plans, 2.5 mitigation, and monitoring. It is well accepted in

1 Canadian jurisprudence that environmental 2 assessment is a planning tool used to help achieve 3 the goal of sustainable development by providing an effective means of integrating environmental 4 factors into planning and decision-making processes 5 early in the planning stage of projects. $^{15\ Bow\ Valley}$ 6 Naturalist Society v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage), [2001] 2 F.C. 7 461 (C.A.) at para. 17 8 9 Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the focus of an assessment is to determine 10 11 whether the likely environmental effects of a 12 proposed Project are significant and, if so, whether they can be justified. Information that is 13 14 produced through the Environmental Assessment 15 process that shows broader cumulative effects 16 through the region, particularly information 17 showing changes from pre-industrial conditions to a Planned Development Case is useful to inform 18 19 regional planning but should not be used to make 20 decisions on whether a specific project is in the 21 public interest and should be allowed to proceed. 22 23 Joint Process 24 In January of 2007, Shell filed a Project

Description for the Project and the Pierre River

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1 Mine Project with the Federal and Provincial Governments. The Draft Terms of Reference for the 2 3 EIA were provided for stakeholder and regulator 4 input, including input from Aboriginal groups, 5 Environment Canada, Health Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. $^{16\ \text{Exhibit 004-003, Adobe 3}}$ 6 These Terms 7 of Reference were finalized in November of 2007 and 8 the Application for this Project was filed the 9 following month. Between 2007 and 2010, Shell responded to 10 11 three mounds of supplemental information requests

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three mounds of supplemental information requests from the ERCB and ESRD, as well as Information Requests from Environment Canada, Health Canada, DFO, Natural Resources Canada, and Transport Canada. Shell also responded to hundreds of technical review questions from Aboriginal groups.

17 Exhibit 001-026; Exhibit 001-032; Exhibit 001-050; Exhibits 001-039A through K In October of 2010, Alberta Environment deemed the EIA complete.

18 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 249 In December of 2010, the review of the Project was referred to a Federal Review Panel on the request of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

A Joint Review Panel agreement between the ERCB and the Government of Canada was finalized on September 13th of 2011 to allow a joint review of

1	this Project. 19 Exhibit 002-024, Adobe 3 The Agreement
2	sets out the mandate and authority of the Panel,
3	its composition and project review guidelines.
4	This joint review must satisfy the requirements of
5	the CEAA, the Oil Sands Conservation Act, and the
6	Energy Resources Conservation Act. The Panel has
7	distinct obligations under each of those Acts.
8	20 Transcript Vol. 1, pg. 6, Exhibit 002-024, Adobe 4
9	
10	The Joint Review Panel's Role as the ERCB
11	As the ERCB, the Panel is guided by the
12	purposes outlined in the Oil Sands Conservation
13	Act, and let me just run through those purposes for
14	you this morning:
15	- To effect conservation and prevent
16	waste of the oil sands resources of Alberta.
17	- To ensure orderly, efficient and
18	economical development in the public interest of
19	the oil sands resources of Alberta.
20	- To assist the government in controlling
21	pollution in the development and production of the
22	oil sands resources of Alberta; and
23	- To ensure the observance in the public
24	interest of safe and efficient practices in the
25	exploration for, and the recovery, storing,

1 processing and transporting of oil sands discard crude bitumen derivatives of through bitumen and 2 21 Oil Sands Conservation Act, Revised oil sands products. 3 Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter 0-7, s. 3, Adobe 7, 8 4 5 While performing this ERCB function, the 6 Panel must also have regard to Section 3 of the 7 Energy Resources Conservation Act which requires 8 the ERCB to give consideration to whether this 9 Project is in the public interest having regard to the social and economic effects of the Project and 10 11 the effects of the Project on the environment. 22 Energy Resources Conservation Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, 12 Chapter E-10, s. 3, Adobe 6 13 It's a blend of all those obligations that 14 15 this Panel must fulfill as the ERCB. The Panel's mandate is broad. It must 16 17 consider the interest not only of the Applicant and 18 Interveners in this specific case, but also the 19 interests of all Albertans who own the resources 20 and have leased the rights to and imposed the 21 obligations on Shell and its joint venture partners 22 to recover these resources. 23 In determining whether a proposed energy 24 development, in this case the expansion of the 2.5 Jackpine Mine, is in the public interest, the Panel

1 is charged with balancing the Proponent's property 2 rights in its lease, the public's legitimate expectations to receive value from the resources it 3 owns, the economic benefits of the proposed Project 4 5 such as jobs, taxes and royalties, and the 6 potentially negative environmental and social 7 impacts of the Project. It is Shell's position that the evidence 8 overwhelmingly demonstrates that the Jackpine Mine 9 Expansion meets the purposes of the legislation and 10 11 that approving this Project is in the public 12 interest. 13 The Joint Review Panel's Role under the CEAA 14 15 Under the CEAA, and the agreement, the Panel 16 must conduct an environmental assessment of the 17 Project by collecting and considering the evidence it considers is necessary to make recommendations 18 19 on whether the Project is likely to result in significant adverse environmental effects. $^{23\ Canadian}$ 20 Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, S.C. 2012 c. 19 s. 52, s. 22, Adobe 14 21 22 This Panel must consider the following issues 23 as part of its CEAA mandate: 24 (a) the need for and purpose of the Project;

(b) alternatives to the Project and

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1	alternative means of carrying out the Project;
2	(c) environmental effects of the Project,
3	including the likelihood and significance of those
4	effects within temporal and spatial boundaries;
5	(d) impacts and the capacity, impacts on the
6	capacity of renewable resources to meet the needs
7	of present and future generations;
8	(e) possible accidents and malfunctions from
9	the Project; and
LO	(f) Shell's proposed monitoring and adaptive
L1	management programs.
L2	Shell has addressed all of these matters in
L3	its evidence filed with the Panel.
L 4	
L5	The Joint Review Panel's Mandate regarding Aboriginal
L 6	Rights and Interest
L7	Finally, I would like to briefly outline the
L 8	Panel's responsibilities with respect to Aboriginal
L 9	issues.
20	Section 6 of the Joint Review Panel Agreement
21	allows the Panel to receive information from
22	Aboriginal groups related to the nature and scope
23	of their Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in the
24	Project area, as well as the potential adverse
> 5	environmental effects on those rights 24 Exhibit

002-024, Adobe 5 1 The Terms of Reference for the Panel also 2 3 require that the Panel consider any evidence concerning potential Project effects on established 4 5 or asserted Aboriginal or Treaty Rights, including 6 the potential effects on traditional land and 7 resource use and access into areas used for 8 traditional uses, and Shell's plans to mitigate any such effects. ^{25 Exhibit 002-024}, Adobe 12 9 This information must be considered by the 10 Panel in determining whether the Project is likely 11 12 to result in significant adverse environmental 13 effects, but the agreement is clear, that the Panel 14 is not required to determine the validity of any 15 asserted rights, the scope of the Crown's duty to 16 consult, or whether the Crown has met its duty to consult. ^{26 Exhibit 002-024, Adobe 5} 17 18 19 THE ISSUES - OVERVIEW 20 With that in mind, Mr. Chairman, I would like 21 to review what Shell believes are the key issues 22 raised at this hearing. And they were: 23 (a) the Need for the Project; 24 (b) Alternatives to the Project and means of 25 carrying out the Project;

1	(c) the various environmental issues;
2	(d) Aboriginal consultation and impacts on
3	traditional land and resource use;
4	(e) regional, socio-economic impacts and
5	infrastructure and intensity of development; and
6	finally
7	(f) technical operations and resource
8	recovery issues.
9	Shell submits that all of these issues have
10	been addressed in its evidence and the Panel can
11	rely on the conclusion in Shell's EIA which is a
12	comprehensive and conservative assessment of the
13	Project's potential impacts.
14	Further, we provided a Table of Concordance
15	for this argument, and the Panel's list of issues
16	that was set out last Friday, and I'd ask that it
17	be included as an addendum to this argument.
18	
19	PROJECT NEED, PURPOSE AND ALTERNATIVES
20	So let me start with the need for the Project
21	and the Project's alternatives.
22	Shell analyzed the need for the Project as
23	well as alternatives to and alternative means of
24	carrying out the Project in accordance with the
25	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's

1 Operational Policy Statement on need, purpose and alternatives. ²⁷ CEAA Operational Policy Statement: Addressing "Need 2 for", "Purpose of", "Alternatives to" and "Alternative Means" under the 3 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Available online: 4 <Http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/Content/5/C/0/5C072E13-8440-4123-9F66-85589234C2</pre> 5 B3/Addressing Need - Purpose - Alternatives under the CEAA.pdf

> The OPS defines need for a project as the problem or opportunity the project is intending to solve or satisfy. In contrast, the purpose of a project is what is to be achieved by carrying out that project. The OPS states that the need for and purpose of a project should be established from the perspective of the project proponent and that provides the context for consideration of alternatives to the scoped project. Similarly, alternatives to a project are to be considered in relation to the project need and purpose and also from the Proponent's perspective.

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Need for and Purpose of the Project

In terms of the need for the Project, Shell has made considerable investments in obtaining its lease holdings in the Athabasca Region and defining its resources. The leases for the Project contain approximately two billion barrels of recoverable

28 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 316 bitumen. Shell has responsibility to its shareholder and project partners to develop these lease holdings in economically efficient ways in order to realize value from its investments. In addition, Shell has a legal obligation to the people of Alberta, who own the resource, to develop it in a timely and efficient manner. 29 Transcript Volume 3, pg. 230

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The Project is an expansion of an existing mine and will take advantage of existing facilities and infrastructure. The Project will also allow development of the existing Jackpine Mine Phase I to be optimized through integration with the expansion. ^{30 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 231}

More generally, the Project will provide benefits to the people of Alberta and the rest of the country. Developing this Project will cost approximately eight to twelve billion dollars.

31 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 310 That investment will result in increased employment, income, business revenue, and government revenue. The Alberta economy is expected to receive 50 percent of the total construction expenditures for the Project amounting to between four and six billion dollars. Of this, between 265 and 400 million dollars will accrue to

1 regional companies and workers. During Project 2 operations, annual expenditures will be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, 40 percent of 3 which will be spent on regional companies and 4 workers and 75 percent of which will be spent in 5 the province of Alberta. ^{32 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 302} 6 7 Outside of Alberta, businesses and workers in 8 the rest of Canada are expected to receive between two and three billion dollars in project 9 construction expenditures, and almost 10 percent of 10 annual operating expenditures. $^{33 \text{ Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 303}}$ 11 12 For the Federal and Provincial Governments, the Project is estimated to generate \$17 billion in 13 royalties and taxes over its life. This is over 14 15 and above the taxes and royalties already 16 associated with the Muskeg River Mine and the Jackpine Mine Phase I. $^{34 \text{ Transcript Vol. 3, pg. } 302}$ 17 The Project will also add to the Regional 18 19 Municipality tax assessment base and at current 20 rates will pay between 23 and 34 million dollars annually in property taxes. $^{35 \text{ Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 301}}$ 21 22 In terms of employment, the Project is 23 estimated to generate 9,310 work years of onsite 24 employment. There will also be 3,100 work years of off-site employment in Alberta. $^{36\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 3}$, 2.5

pg. 300 1 At peak, the construction force will be 2 4,400 people. The Project will also create 750 full-time jobs during operations. $^{37 \text{ Transcript Vol. }3}$, 3 pg. 300 4 5 Many of these benefits will accrue 6 specifically to local Aboriginal communities. 7 example, Shell has spent more than \$1 billion on 8 Aboriginal contractors and businesses in the Athabasca Region in the last six years. $^{\rm 38\ Transcript}$ 9 Vol. 3, pg. 301 10 11 Finally, this Project will enhance Canada's 12 security of energy supply. Shell's expectation is 13 that global energy demand will double by 2050 from 2000 levels. ^{39 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 245} To meet this 14 15 growing demand, the world will require all types of 16 energies, including biofuels, wind, nuclear, and fossil fuels. 40 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 245 17 The oil sands are an important part of this global energy mix and 18 19 will be used to meet Canada's domestic energy needs 20 as well as the needs of our export markets. 41 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 246 21 This Project, together with 22 other oil sands development, will enhance Canada's 23 role as an emerging energy superpower. 24 In summary, Mr. Chairman, this Project is 25 needed to satisfy Shell's obligations to both its

shareholders and the people of Alberta, and it will generate significant benefits for the region, the province, and the country. The purpose of this Project is to develop the Jackpine Mine Expansion leases to realize the value of that resource, investment that Shell has made to obtain the leases, and to fulfill Shell's obligations under its oil sands leases to the Province, and at the same time, provide material economic benefits to Canada's economy.

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Alternatives to the Project

In terms of alternatives, Shell considered alternatives to the Project in accordance with the CEAA agency's OPS, which require that any alternative must be capable of fulfilling the need and purpose identified for the Project by the Proponent. The OPS also confirms that the level of detail on alternatives should reflect the conceptual nature of the project at this stage of the process.

42 CEAA Operational Policy Statement: Addressing "Need for", "Purpose of", "Alternatives to" and "Alternative Means" under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Available online:

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Shell has investigated alternatives to developing the Jackpine Mine Expansion resources and has concluded that the Development Plan described in this Application represents the most practical, economical, and sustainable means of extracting this resource. Currently, given the local geology, there are no viable or realistic alternatives to this Project such as in-situ extraction, because the resource is too close to the surface and mining is the only viable method of extracting the bitumen.

Again, it is also important to bear in mind that this is an expansion of an existing oil sands mine and the Project will allow for the continuing development of the resources underlying Shell's leases in an integrated fashion promoting the efficient development of the Province's resources.

43 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 231

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Alternatives Means of Carrying out the Project

Since there were no viable alternatives to the Project identified by Shell, Shell focused its assessment on alternative means of carrying out the Project, meaning the different types and placement of facilities within the overall oil sands mining

1	scheme. 44 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1458 One of the primary
2	alternative assessments that was carried out was
3	related to mining around the Muskeg River. In the
4	2007 EIA, Shell presented three options:
5	- Leave the river in place by only mining up
6	to it;
7	- Divert the river through a pipeline; or
8	- Divert the upper sections of the river
9	into Kearl Lake. 45 Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 375 The
10	pipeline diversion option was selected as the
11	preferred alternative among those three at the
12	time.
13	Through ongoing engagement with local
14	stakeholders and Aboriginal groups, it became clear
15	that diverting the Muskeg River through a pipeline
16	was considered unacceptable by most local
17	communities. Concerns were raised by several
18	Aboriginal groups that diverting the Muskeg River

communities. Concerns were raised by several Aboriginal groups that diverting the Muskeg River through a pipeline would negatively impact the spirit of the river and also navigability.

Concerns were also raised about water quality in the river, particularly as a result of Shell's original plan to flow the Muskeg River through end pit lakes containing mature fine tailings post-closure.

46 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 241

1 As a result of those discussions, Shell 2 reconsidered its options and it eventually put 3 forward the Muskeq River Diversion Alternative. This alternative involves several modifications to 4 5 the Project at substantial cost, including centrifugation of all mature fine tailings at the 6 7 end of mine life to eliminate tailings from the end 8 pit lakes which flow into the Muskeg River, and construction of an open diversion channel instead 9 of a pipeline, including the sterilization of 10 11 approximately 27 million barrels of bitumen. 47 Exhibit 001-015A, Adobe 9-16; Transcript Vol. 6, pg. 1151 12 While 13 that represents a significant cost to Alberta in 14 lost resource, it represents a reasonable balance 15 of economic, social and environmental issues, in 16 Shell's view. 17 In terms of social impacts, the evidence suggests that the upper reaches of the river that 18 19 flow through the Project lease have a low use by 20 Aboriginal groups. Therefore, Shell focused on 21 protecting the lower reaches of the river that were 22 considered part of the Aboriginal fishery. 48 Transcript Vol. 8, pgs. 1557-1558 23 At the same time, the 24 Muskeg River Diversion Alternative allows for 2.5 continued access by watercraft along the river, and

1 addresses some of the issues around losing the 2 spirit of the river. In particular, Shell's 3 closest Aboriginal neighbour, Fort McKay, has not objected to the proposal. 4 In terms of environmental issues, Shell's 5 analysis demonstrated that the diversion would 6 7 result in negligible to low effects on water quality, aquatic health and fish habitat in the 8 Muskeg River. 49 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 111, 128 and 129 9 To the 10 extent fish habitat will be lost in the diversion, 11 that habitat will be compensated for through 12 Shell's No Net Loss Plan. Therefore, the 13 assessment of the Muskeg River Diversion Alternative resulted in the same overall conclusion 14 15 as the original EIA that there are no likely 16 significant adverse effects on the Muskeg River due to the Project. 50 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1558 17 Finally, in terms of economic issues, the 18 19 diversion will eliminate sterilization of the bitumen resources on Shell's leases. $^{51 \text{ Transcript Vol. 3}}$, 20 pg. 448 21 22 In the EIA, Shell considered leaving the 23 Muskeg River in place and mining up to the south 24 side of the river. That option would sterilize

424 million barrels of bitumen. $^{52 \text{ Exhibit 001-001A}}$,

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Adobe 375 1 Subsequent to submitting the EIA, Shell 2 considered the implications of mining within 200 metres on either side of the river. That scenario 3 4 introduced greater concerns about seepage losses 5 from the river due to mine pit dewatering. 53 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1560 6 It also would sterilize 172 million barrels of bitumen. $^{54~Exhibit~001-102}$ 7 Ιf 8 Shell were only able to mine the south side of the 9 river, revised estimates based on additional drilling information has suggested that 412 million 10 11 barrels of bitumen would be sterilized. 55 Exhibit 001-102 12 In contrast, under the proposed diversion, only about 27 million barrels of bitumen 13 will be sterilized. ^{56 Exhibit 001-015A, Adobe 16} Balancing 14 15 environmental, social and economic considerations, Shell determined that the Diversion Alternative 16 17 represented the best option for managing the Muskeg 18 River. 19 20 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES 21 I would now like to address the key 22 environmental issues that were raised during the 23 hearing and in evidence, and I'll start with a 24 general discussion of assessment methodology. I'll 2.5 follow that with discussions of air quality,

greenhouse gases and climate change, water

management and water quality, fish and fish

habitat, human health, terrestrial issues including

wildlife, migratory birds and tailings ponds,

reclamation, wetlands and old-growth forest, and

finally cumulative effects.

I will then conclude this part of the argument with a general discussion of uncertainty in the assessment and responses to the Federal Government's recommendations.

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Methodology

At the outset, I would like to point out that a substantial portion of the evidence filed by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the Oil Sands Environmental Coalition reflected differences in Environmental Assessment methodology between those parties and Shell. For example, ACFN's Integrated Knowledge and Land Use Report used different study areas than Shell to assess Project effects and determine significance based on effects to the most sensitive land users, not the collective ACFN community. ⁵⁷ Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2409

Similarly, many of the technical and expert submissions from ACFN and OSEC contained critiques

1 of Shell's Assessment but failed to provide any 2 evidence to support a contrary position. 3 Dr. Carver's own words: "I didn't do the research. I'm looking at other people's research." $^{58\ \mathrm{Transcript}}$ 4 Vol. 10, pg. 2367 5 6 I will address the specific expert reports 7 later in my argument, Mr. Chairman, but it seems 8 clear that the primary debate is a difference of 9 opinion on assessment methodology. In that regard, 10 I'd suggest Shell took the correct approach. 11 Shell's EIA methodology was based on the Terms of 12 Reference for the Project, quidance from the CEAA 13 agency, methodologies recommended by the Cumulative 14 Effects Management Association, and standard 15 Environmental Assessment practices. 16 While some parties take issue with these standard approaches, Shell's methodologies have 17 been widely accepted, are consistent with 18 19 regulatory guidance, and have been applied in 20 numerous project assessments throughout this 21 country. They have been tested through extensive

Finally, I would also like to note that

appropriate in these circumstances.

IRs over several years and as a result I submit

that Shell's EIA methodologies are reasonable and

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several of the interveners' experts gave lengthy

presentations during the hearing summarizing their

written submissions, most of which critiqued

Shell's Assessment but failed to present any new

assessment of their own.

Mr. Chairman, if Shell and its experts had given similar presentations for each of their areas of expertise, we'd still be giving direct evidence.

That's how detailed the information is.

Air Quality

Let me turn to air quality. OSEC in particular has focused on NO_{x} and SO_{2} emissions from the Project and has asserted that Shell has forecast exceedances of air quality thresholds established in the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan. $^{59~\mathrm{Transcript}}~^{\mathrm{Vol.~9,~pg.~1771}}~^{\mathrm{However}},~^{\mathrm{the~LARP}}~^{\mathrm{is~clear}},$ that for air emissions, modelling results are to be used for regional planning purposes and not for determining exceedances. $^{60~\mathrm{Exhibit~001-070A,~Adobe~29}}$ In addition, there are no predicted exceedances of the LARP triggers due to the Project. Shell's EIA concluded that for the Application Case, the Project will actually reduce SO_{2} emissions by 0.1 percent and NO_{x} emissions by 0.2 percent.

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As a result of changes to approved emissions from the Jackpine Mine Phase I, SO_2 and NO_x emissions from the Project will constitute less than 1.0 percent of the region in total, in part because the Project does not include an upgrader.

61 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 251, Exhibit 001-051I, Adobe 31 As a result, the EIA concluded that these emissions from the Project would have a negligible to low effect.

Environment Canada's Mr. Fox suggested that air emissions from the Project's mine fleet may have been underestimated without providing any analysis to support that view. $^{\rm 62\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 13},$ pg. 3273 However, Shell's evidence is that the assessment was both reasonable and conservative; Shell assessed their mine-fleet emissions based on the maximum year of emissions over the life of the Project. 63 Exhibit 001-001F, Adobe 512 For regional mine fleets, the model assessed the maximum emissions from each project and assumed that their emissions were occurring simultaneously. $^{64~\text{Exhibit 001-001B},~\text{Adobe 158}}$ As shown in Figure 3.2-1 of Appendix 3.2 of Shell's May 2012 Submission, this approach results in a conservative assessment of regional mine-fleet emissions. 65 Exhibit 001-0511, Adobe 13 The air quality model validation conducted for the EIA concluded

1	that NO_2 predictions near the mine sites were
2	overpredicted by a factor of two to three times.
3	66 Exhibit 001-001F, Adobe 102 In addition, Shell's
4	witnesses explained during the hearing that it has
5	been recognized that NO_2 modelling in the region is
6	overly conservative and that work is currently
7	underway by CEMA to refine those models to reduce
8	some of this over-conservativism. 67 Transcript Vol. 8,
9	pg. 1575 As a result, Shell submits that its
10	assessment of mine-fleet emissions was both
11	reasonable and conservative.
12	Shell recognizes, however, that maintaining
13	air quality in the Oil Sands Region is of critical
14	importance. And, as a result, Shell has committed
15	to several operational standards as part of its
16	project, including:
17	(a) committing to purchasing TIER-IV trucks
18	for the project fleet as soon as they are
19	available;
20	(b) monitoring truck idling with the goal of
21	minimizing emissions;
22	(c) implementing pit-stop practices to
23	minimize idling during shift changes;
24	(d) using condition-based monitoring and
25	maintenance rather than time-based maintenance to

1	ensure optimal fleet performance; and
2	(e) ensuring that the cogeneration units and
3	boilers used for the Project meet the best
4	regulatory standards available. 68 Exhibit 001-001B,
5	Adobe 154-155; Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 21; Transcript Volume 3, pg. 252
6	Mr. Roberts explained during the hearing that
7	Shell is also working with equipment suppliers to
8	improve air emissions from new purchases. Shell is
9	the first oil sands operator actively considering
10	hybrid diesel shovels, and it is actively
11	investigating alternative fuels to diesel.
12	69 Transcript Vol. 5, pgs. 834-835 Shell is also an active
13	participant in ongoing management initiatives in
14	the Oil Sands Region focused on regional air
15	quality. These initiatives include monitoring
16	through the Wood Buffalo Environmental
17	Association's Terrestrial Environmental Effects
18	Monitoring Program. 70 Transcript Vol. 3, pgs. 252-253,
19	Exhibit 001-001B, Adobe 155 Shell is managing potential
20	emissions from its projects and is working with all
21	of its stakeholders to address this regional issue.
22	A related issue is acid deposition.
23	Dr. Schindler's critique suggested the EIA findings
24	associated with acid deposition are that "23 lakes
25	in the area already suffer from deposition of

1	acidifying sulphur and nitrogen compounds that
2	exceed their critical loads." ^{71 Exhibit 017-016C, Adobe 1-17}
3	This statement is false. First, the EIA shows that
4	18 lakes are naturally below a pH of 6 in
5	Pre-industrial conditions, three additional lakes
6	were predicted to exceed critical loads in the Base
7	Case, and two will exceed those loads in the
8	Planned Development Case. 72 Exhibit 001-0511, Adobe pg. 131
9	The assessment conducted by Shell was conservative
LO	and was consistent with regional guidance. And it
11	predicted that there will be negligible
L2	acidification effects from the Project on soil,
L3	vegetation and water receptors, and that none of
L 4	the 414 model lakes will become acidified due to
L5	this Project. ^{73 Exhibit 001-001B, Adobe 157; Exhibit 001-001F,}
16	Adobe 1412; Exhibit 017-035, Adobe 20 Second, a predicted
L7	exceedance of a critical load does not mean lakes
L8	are suffering, but rather, that monitoring should
L 9	be conducted on that lake as a precautionary
20	measure. 74 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3725
21	Dr. Schindler's critique also quoted from
22	selected articles in a 2010 special issue of the
23	Journal of Limnology, but he ignored several key
24	findings in that issue. Those findings were
25	summarized by the editors of that special issue,

1	Aherne and Shaw, who wrote:
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3	"The assessment of lakes in
4	northern Alberta using
5	macroinvertebrate,
6	paleolimnological and
7	hydrogeochemical modelling
8	approaches suggest that industrial
9	activities associated with the oil
10	sands presently have limited
11	influence on lakes." 75 Transcript
12	Vol. 15, pg. 3730
13	Mr. Vandenberg explained that the narrative
14	provided by Dr. Schindler took quotes out of
15	context in order to make the case that damage has
16	occurred, when the authors of those papers were
17	clear in their conclusions that that is not the
18	case and that oil sands developments are having
19	limited if any effect on lake acidification.
20	76 Exhibit 017-016BB, Adobe 1; Exhibit 017-016I, Adobe 48; Exhibit 017-016O,
21	Adobe 182; Exhibit 017-016E, Adobe 233; Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3726
22	Furthermore, Shell has designed the Project
23	to minimize acid-forming emissions and continues to
24	provide a leadership role in regional initiatives
25	addressing the issue. Shell supports CEMA's

1 Regional Acid Deposition Management Framework 2 designed by CEMA to prevent any damage from acid 3 deposition. Shell was directed by the Terms of Reference to conduct the EIA in accordance with 4 5 this framework and Shell has committed to comply with it. 77 Transcript Volume 3, pg. 252, Exhibit 001-001B, Adobe 155 6 The Acid Deposition Management Framework is 8 designed to ensure critical loads are not exceeded in the region and industry will require to adapt 9 its plans as required to ensure the chemical 10 11 characteristics of regional soils and lakes are 12 protected. CALPUFF model runs in 2010 by CEMA's Air 13 14 Working Group suggests that the region is currently 15 well below the framework's management criteria. 78 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 40 This is also reflected in 16 17 WBEA's Annual Report which shows very little change in the NO_2 levels in the region since 1998 and 18 19 shows all stations well under the LARP thresholds. 79 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1275; Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1574; 20 Exhibit 017-016G, Adobe 217 21 In fact, measured 22 concentrations at some stations have been 23 decreasing. Similarly, community receptors for SO₂ 24 emissions are well below the LARP thresholds and 2.5 emissions have been declining due to installation

of flue-gas scrubbing at Suncor and Syncrude.

2 80 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1578

Again, Shell is doing its part to address
this regional issue and the Project will not result
in any significant adverse environmental effects.

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Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change

So let me turn to greenhouse gases and climate change. Another issue that OSEC has raised in this proceeding relates to that issue. And, Mr. Chairman, as we heard through the course of the three weeks, it's a global issue. And Mr. Huat from OSEC confirmed that in his testimony. 81 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 1833 Shell is a leader in the oil sands industry and is committed to using commercially viable technologies, operating practices, training and continuous improvement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Project towards an aspiration goal of eventually reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the oil sands to the same level as the equivalent basket of imported crude into North America. 82 Transcript Vol. 5, pg. 949 Mr. Huat agreed that Shell's existing oil sands projects were on the leading edge of Oil Sands Projects in terms of minimizing greenhouse gas

1 emissions. 83 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 1880

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Since greenhouse gas emissions and climate change are global issues, the Project's greenhouse gas emissions must be considered in that context.

Based on the information provided in Environment

Canada's latest Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trend

Report, Shell has estimated that this Project's
emissions will represent approximately 0.5 percent

of Alberta's emissions and 0.2 percent of Canada's
emissions.

84 Exhibit 017-016D, Adobe 44 From a global
perspective, the Project's emissions will represent

0.004 percent.

85 Exhibit 017-016D, Adobe 13 In this
context, the Project's greenhouse gas emissions are
clearly insignificant.

A similar conclusion was reached by the Royal Society of Canada's expert panel who concluded that oil sands emissions account for less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and that completely shutting down the oil sands industry would have a minimal impact on global greenhouse gas emissions. 86 Exhibit 001-092, Adobe 5

That doesn't mean it's business as usual for Shell. Shell has recently announced its intention to proceed with its Quest carbon capture and storage project which will capture more than one

1	million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.
2	87 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 253 Specific initiatives that
3	Shell has committed to for this Project to reduce
4	greenhouse gases include:
5	- Designing facilities to be CO ₂ capture
6	ready where practical and economically achievable;
7	- Optimizing and continuously improving
8	energy efficiency in the design and operation of
9	processing facilities; and
LO	- Applying best practices to minimize
11	fuel use for haul vehicles including regular
12	maintenance and computerized mine-fleet dispatch.
L3	88 Exhibit 001-001B, Adobe 251, 252; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 253
L 4	Shell will also comply with the requirements
15	of Alberta's Specified Gas Emitters Regulation, and
16	any future Federal regulatory requirements when
L7	they are put in place. 89 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 255 The
L8	Federal Government testified that it has already
L 9	made significant progress on reducing greenhouse
20	gas emissions in the country and further
21	regulations are being developed. 90 Transcript Vol. 13,
22	pgs. 3163-3164 The Panel should take comfort that the
23	government is continuing to address this issue and
24	that Shell is committed to being a part of the
25	solution to this global challenge.

1	In terms of climate change, Environment
2	Canada and ACFN have both expressed concerns with
3	Shell's methodology for predicting the future
4	effects of climate change and how those effects
5	will interact with the effects of the Project.
6	91 Exhibit 005-020, Adobe 79-82; Exhibit 006-13QQ, Adobe 442; Exhibit
7	006-022, Adobe 81 and 95 In particular, these parties have
8	suggested that Shell did not use the most
9	up-to-date data for climate change modelling in the
LO	EIA. While Shell recognizes that climate change is
11	real and is likely to influence future operations
12	and environmental impacts, it also recognizes that
13	there is a lack of consensus around the approaches
L 4	to predicting and managing climate change. This is
15	evident in the lack of alignment in the review
16	documents provided by various interveners, and
17	multiple approaches compiled in the literature
18	review that Shell completed as part of their
19	climate change analysis. 92 Exhibit 001-001F, Adobe 134-142
20	Dr. Bonsal for Environment Canada agreed that there
21	is considerable uncertainty among the different
22	models. 93 Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3523 Dr. Carver for ACFN
23	also agreed with Shell's conclusion on
24	uncertainties associated with global climate model
25	outputs. 94 Exhibit 006-028 Hence, there is no single

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approach to this issue that would satisfy all reviewers in the area. In the absence of a standardized approach, Shell has produced a reasonable and defensible set of predictions that were used to assess the uncertainty associated with climate change effects on environmental impact predictions and has outlined the resulting uncertainty on each component of the EIA.

Old-Olf, Adobe 90 and 181-182; Exhibit Old-Olf, Adobe 422-424

Shell's evidence is that the EIA used the most up-to-date climate-change model inputs at the time the assessment was completed and that its climate scenarios remain realistic. 96 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 52 Shell's methodology is consistent with the methods used by others to assess the uncertainty of climate change on stream flows. 97 Exhibit 017-016H, Adobe 157 to 180; Exhibit 001-96; Exhibit 001-097 Shell also provided additional evidence that the approached suggested by ACFN will yield similar results to the results used by Shell in the EIA. $^{\rm 98~Exhibit~001-070R}$ Dr. Biftu for Shell explained during the hearing that based on ongoing work he has been doing, even if updated data were used in the assessment, the conclusions would not have changed. 99 Transcript Vol. 4, While Shell has predicted long-term

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decreases in river flows in the Athabasca River, other more recent assessments have suggested that flows may actually increase through higher levels of precipitation in the future. 100 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 53 For example, the Royal Society of Canada's expert panel concluded last month that "Increased precipitation will be expected to cause increased flow rates in the Athabasca River." 101 Exhibit 001-092, Adobe 15

As a result, Shell's methodology for climate change was conservative. If river flows actually increase over time as a result of climate change or decrease less than Shell's EIA predicted, the cumulative effects in the region will be less than has been assessed in the EIA.

In addition, Shell has demonstrated in its evidence that it has the ability to adaptively manage if climate change effects turn out to be materially different than what Shell has predicted. These issues would also be addressed through the Phase 2 Framework for the Athabasca River, as well as through other means such as water storage.

Therefore, Shell submits that its assessment of climate change impacts is reasonable in these circumstances and should be accepted by the Panel.

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Water Management and Water Quality

Water Management

Mr. Chairman, let me turn to the issue of water management, and in particular water withdrawals from the Athabasca River.

ACFN has raised concerns regarding potential effects due to water withdrawal from the Athabasca River, particularly during low-flow periods.

102 Exhibit 006-013B, Adobe 12; Exhibit 006-013QQ, Adobe 443-453;

Exhibit 006-022 They have suggested that at present there are times when the flows in the Athabasca are too low to support the exercise of ACFN Treaty Rights.

103 Exhibit 006-013B, Adobe 12

The Project will require additional water withdrawals from the river. However, Shell has planned this Project to reduce the amount of water withdrawal from the river as much as possible through capturing groundwater and surface water runoff for use in the extraction process. Shell's current plans for the Project include 30 days of water storage onsite, although Shell will be able to draw from additional sources of water onsite in the event of prolonged periods of low flow on the river. 104 Transcript Vol. 5, pg. 856; Transcript Vol. 7. Pgs. 1309-1310

1 In addition, Shell has committed to complying 2 with the Water Management Framework for the Lower 3 Athabasca River to ensure that water withdrawals 4 from the Athabasca are reduced as necessary during 5 low-flow conditions. Shell actively participated 6 in development of the original framework and the currently recommended Phase 2 Framework. $^{105\ \text{Transcript}}$, 7 Vol. 3, pg. 256, 257, Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 523 Through that 8 9 process, Shell has committed to reduce water withdrawals to 0.2 cubic metres per second whenever 10 11 the total flows in the river reach 87 cubic metres 106 Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1306-1307 per second or less. 12 The Phase 2 Framework will also require Shell to 13 construct additional onsite storage. $^{107\ \mathrm{Transcript}}$ 14 Vol. 5, pg. 856 15 16 In the context of total river flows, the 17 amount of water that Shell is proposing to withdraw 18 is less than 0.1 percent of the mean annual flow, 19 and ranging from 0.04 percent of average flows in 20 the summer to 0.3 percent average flows in the winter. 108 Exhibit 001-051F Adobe page 61; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 256 21 22 To put that in context, the predicted change in the

Athabasca River water level is less than

1 millimetre, a change that would have no

discernible effect on the Athabasca River or the

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1	Peace-Athabasca Delta. 109 Exhibit 001-051F, Adobe 62-63; Exhibit
2	001-051K, Adobe 23; Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 45

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ACFN's concerns are primarily regarding cumulative effects on flow in the Athabasca River and the Peace-Athabasca Delta. Mr. Makowecki for DFO testified during the hearing that these issues are cumulative issues and are not specific to any one project. 110 Transcript Vol. 13, pg. 3210 The cumulative effects on the Peace-Athabasca Delta are influenced primarily by historic changes in flow of the Peace River caused by the Bennett Dam. $^{111~\text{Exhibit 006-013H}}$, Adobe 323-326 Total allocation of the Athabasca River is about 3.5 percent of total annual average river flows with allocations for oil sands mining projects accounting for 2.2 percent of the total flow, and actual water usage of about 0.7 percent of the annual average river flows. $^{112~\text{Exhibit 001-070EE}}$, $^{\mbox{\scriptsize Adobe 139}}$ Nonetheless, ACFN and OSEC expressed concerns that the current Water Management Framework and the Phase 2 Framework recommendation do not adequately consider Ecological Base Flow, EBF, or Aboriginal Base Flow, which are the flows required for ongoing navigation within the Athabasca River using traditional and current 113 Transcript Vol. 9, pgs. 1764-1769; Transcript Vol. 10, means.

pg. 2117 1 Mr. Makowecki for DFO explained that the development of the Phase 2 Framework recommendation 2 3 did consider both the development of an Ecological Base Flow and navigability. 114 Transcript Vol. 13, pg. 3225; 4 Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3463 5 Ms. Vollema from Transport 6 Canada also testified that the Athabasca River was 7 historically dredged and that the river is now returning to its pre-1940 levels. $^{115\ \text{Transcript Vol.}\ 14}$, 8 9 This likely explains the increased occurrence of sandbars in the river that ACFN 10 11 members have raised concerns about.

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Shell conducted a thorough cumulative effects assessment to determine the cumulative effects of the Project together with existing, approved and planned oil sands developments on surface water hydrology of the Athabasca River. $^{\rm 116~Exhibit~001-001C},$ starting at Adobe 417; Exhibit 001-051F, Adobe 62-63; Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 94-95 Shell also conducted a supplemental assessment to look specifically at cumulative effects on the Peace-Athabasca Delta. $^{117~{\rm Exhibit}}$ 001-051K These assessments were completed based on the current Water Management Framework. Using this framework, the results of the assessment indicated that the predicted changes in water level for the Athabasca River through the Planned Development

Case will be very small; less than 5 centimetres.

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Framework comes into effect, there will be further restrictions on water withdrawal from the Athabasca

River which would further reduce these cumulative

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effects.

Mr. Chairman, this assessment demonstrates that the cumulative effects of the Project, together with other existing and planned developments on surface water hydrology in the Athabasca River and the Peace-Athabasca Delta are not significant. Transport Canada similarly concluded that significant adverse effects to navigation are not anticipated from the Project. 119 Exhibit 005-020, Adobe 133 Furthermore, these are issues that industry, stakeholders and regulators have been actively involved in managing, and the Water Management Framework is designed to ensure that cumulative water withdrawals by oil sands projects from the Athabasca River do not significantly alter the health of the river or the use of it. $^{\rm 120~Exhibit}$ 001-070L, Adobe 19, 22 and 29; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 257 efforts are ongoing, and have culminated in the recently recommended Phase 2 Framework which Shell has supported.

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With respect to the Muskeg River, questions arose regarding the status of the Muskeg River

Interim Framework for water quantity and quality which was developed in 2008 to manage the quality and quantity of the Muskeg River watershed.

121 Exhibit 017-023, Adobe 17 A comprehensive framework to replace the Interim Framework has not yet been put forth by ESRD given the status of the development in the watershed. But Shell has worked with ESRD on making the Interim Framework operational and Shell is committed to working with ESRD to develop the comprehensive framework.

In addition, Shell has conducted a rigorous assessment of effects of the Project on the lower productive reaches of the Muskeg River and has concluded that the integrity of the Muskeg River will be maintained. 123 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 258-259

Mr. Makowecki for DFO agreed that the Muskeg River will remain productive if this Project is approved and that a comprehensive framework is not required before the Project can proceed. 124 Transcript Vol. 14, pgs. 3665-3666 Therefore, while Shell is committed to working with regulators to finalize a comprehensive framework for the Muskeg River, this Project will not compromise the integrity of the river and can

1 be approved in the absence of that final framework.

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A final issue related to water management is overburden dewatering and aquifer depressurization.

In order to safely mine the Project area, the mine must first be dewatered. Overburden dewatering will be accomplished through a combination of shallow wells and ditching. If the quality is suitable, this water will be discharged to the environment, otherwise it will be retained for use as process water. 125 Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 167 and 295 Basal groundwater will, similarly, be removed through depressurization wells which will be progressively drilled as the mine advances. Basal water from the depressurization wells will be used as process water thus reducing the need for withdrawals from the Athabasca River. 126 Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 297 and 301; Exhibit 001-006B, Adobe 172

Development of the Project will also require mining through upper parts of the Pleistocene Channel Aquifer, or PCA, and managing seepage into that aquifer. Shell's EIA considered the effects of partial removal of the PCA, temporary drawdown, and seepage from tailings disposal areas. Removal of portions of the PCA was addressed by assessing the effects of dewatering on the groundwater

1	receptors, such as reduced Base Flow to the Muskeg
2	River. While the EIA concluded that there would be
3	reduced groundwater discharge into the Muskeg River
4	as a result of dewatering, the residual impacts
5	from the Project on the Muskeg River were
6	determined to be negligible. 127 Exhibit 001-001C, Adobe 220;
7	Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 111, 128 and 129 The effects of
8	temporary drawdown on the PCA were specifically
9	assessed in the EIA and the EIA concluded that the
10	PCA water levels will reestablish following
11	completion of dewatering activities. 128 Exhibit 001-001C,
12	Adobe 206 Finally, with respect to seepage of
13	produced water into the aquifer, the PCA and all
14	other groundwater sources were considered in terms
15	of project effects on water quality. And I'll
16	discuss this issue specifically in a few moments.
17	As a result, impacts on the PCA were included in
18	the EIA, and no significant impacts were predicted.
19	Shell will continue its efforts to refine its
20	understanding of the PCA, working cooperatively
21	with both Syncrude and Imperial Oil to ensure
22	proposed mitigation measures for the PCA remain
23	appropriate. 129 Transcript Vol. 6, pg. 1203
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Water Quality

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The next issue I'd like to discuss is water quality.

OSEC and ACFN have both raised concerns about water quality, and this was also the subject of critiques filed by Dr. Schindler on behalf of OSEC and Dr. Carver on behalf of the ACFN.

These parties have expressed concerns about the level of mercury, PAHs, and other compounds in the Muskeg River watershed that result from air emissions and water emissions from oil sands development in the region. ^{130 Exhibit 017-016C, Adobe 14;} Exhibit 017-016D, Adobe 1

I addressed the issue of air emissions earlier and again the evidence clearly shows that the Project's air emissions will not result in any measurable change to water quality in the region. Dr. Schindler in particular seems unaware that this Project and Shell's oil sands mines generally have no upgraders. In terms of water emissions, Shell is committed to capture runoff and groundwater that comes into contact with the Project area and to reuse it. Shell will also divert streams around the Project area to reduce the potential for project effects. 131 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 258 Shell is

1 committed to maintaining water quality in the 2 Muskeg River in compliance with the Interim 3 Management Framework for the Muskeg River and the 4 comprehensive framework once it is developed. 132 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 20; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 257 5 Shell will 6 also comply with the cumulative water quality limits for the Athabasca River under LARP. $^{\rm 133~Exhibit}$ 7 001-070A, Adobe 57 8 9 To address seepage from its external tailings disposal areas, Shell has proposed mitigation 10 11 measures that have already been applied 12 successfully at its existing oil sands mines, 13 including internal drains to relieve pressure in 14 the pond, collecting water from these drains in a 15 perimeter ditch, and recycling that water back into 16 the process. 17 Shell will also use collection wells around 18 the perimeter of the tailings pond to collect 19 seepage that would otherwise flow into surface 20 aguifers. Again, water will be captured and returned back to the process for reuse. $^{\rm 134\ Transcript}$ 21 Vol. 3, pg. 259, 260 22 23 Groundwater monitoring will be in place prior 24 to operation of the Project to establish baseline 2.5 conditions and will allow of informed mitigation

for any seepage that may occur. It is important to note that seepage moves very slowly underground. This allows for ample opportunity to detect losses and formulate mitigation plans to effectively control that seepage. Given the mitigation that Shell has successfully used at its other oil sands mines, and its ability to adaptively manage, Shell has demonstrated that it can adequately control any seepage that may occur from its tailings ponds. 135 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 260

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Finally, post-closure, Shell has designed the closure landscape to preferentially drain toward construction wetlands and pit lakes which will provide active, or passive water treatment, I should say, to ensure water quality in local streams is consistently protected. Shell will closely monitor the performance of these treatment facilities and no water will be released into the environment until the water quality meets accepted standards. 136 Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1330-1332 Shell's EIA conservatively predicts water quality will be acceptable within 15 years of mine closure.

As a result of these proposed mitigation measures, the EIA predicted that the Project will have negligible effects on water quality in the

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Athabasca River and the Muskeg River, with no significant effects on fish, fish health, or human health. ¹³⁷ Transcript, Vol. ³, pg. ²⁶¹ The models that were used to reach these predictions were also used for the Muskeg River Mine Expansion and have been verified and provide a conservative estimate of what the water quality will be. ¹³⁸ Exhibit ^{001-070A}, Adobe ³⁰

In terms of cumulative effects on water quality, Shell has presented evidence that existing and approved projects are predicted to have low to negligible effects on key water quality constituents, including acute and chronic toxicity, labile naphthenic acids, total dissolved solids, and tainting potential in receiving watercourses and waterbodies. Shell's evidence is that existing and proposed mitigation measures will ensure that acute and chronic toxicity and tainting potential will be at levels appreciably lower than the corresponding threshold values. $^{\rm 139~Exhibit~001-001C},$ Adobe 91-92 With respect to effects on the Peace-Athabasca Delta, Shell's assessment concluded that there would be negligible effects on the delta with respect to flows, water levels, water quality, sediment quality, and air quality. $^{140~\text{Exhibit 001-051K}}$,

1	Adobe 23 The findings of independent studies, that
2	were published after the May 2012 Submission,
3	support these conclusions. 141 Exhibits 001-070V, 001-070P,
4	001-07000, 001-070NN
5	Shell's conclusions on water quality were
6	challenged by Dr. Schindler, particularly with
7	respect to mercury and PAHs. Dr. Schindler claims
8	that mercury concentrations in predatory fish of
9	the Athabasca River and delta have been elevated
10	for years, that recent studies show increased
11	mercury deposition in snow near oil sands
12	developments, and that a study by Harris et al. in
13	2007 shows that mercury when added to a lake is
14	detectible in fish within months. 142 Exhibit 017-016C,
15	Adobe 3 According to Dr. Schindler, this
16	demonstrates that oil sands operations are
17	aggravating an already serious problem. 143 Exhibit
18	017-016C, Adobe 3
19	But there are two main problems with
20	Dr. Schindler's critique:
21	First, Dr. Schindler ignored the recent
22	finding by Evans and Talbot that found clear
23	downward trends in mercury concentrations in fish
24	tissue in the region. 144 Exhibit 017-016I, Adobe pg. 33
25	Second, and perhaps most important,

1 Dr. Schindler failed to relay a key finding from 2 the 2007 Harris study he relied on. That finding 3 was that 99, 99 percent of the mercury that was applied to the environment was retained by the 4 watershed and did not contribute to changes in fish 5 or water mercury concentrations. 145 Exhibit 017-016BB, 6 Adobe pg. 14 7 8 A comparison of the findings from Harris et 9 al. study against Shell's Aerial Deposition Study for the Project, indicates that Shell's modelling 10 11 assessment is highly conservative because that 12 assessment assumed that nearly all 13 aerially-deposited metals would reach the aquatic receptors. 146 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3742; Exhibit 001-051L, Adobe 15 14 15 Given that the Project will have nearly 16 negligible emissions of metals, and this has been 17 confirmed for Shell's existing projects in the National Pollutant Release Inventory data that has 18 19 been reported by the government, this is an 20 important aspect of the conservativism in Shell's assessment. 147 Exhibit 001-015A, Adobe 77; Exhibit 001-109; 21 Transcript Vol. 14, pgs. 3616-3617 22 23 Dr. Schindler also took issue with the EIA 24 finding that regarding polycyclical aromatic 2.5 hydrocarbons, or PAHs, the EIA assessed potential

1	PAH effects through multiple pathways and analysis.
2	One pathway examined aerial deposition to waters,
3	which was conducted in 2012 specifically in
4	response to Dr. Schindler's 2009 and 2010 papers
5	with Kelly et al. $^{148~{\rm Exhibit}~001-051L}$ This assessment
6	was ignored by Dr. Schindler. That's a surprising
7	omission considering Mr. Vandenberg has been
8	e-mailing Dr. Schindler over the past two years in
9	an effort to collaborate on this topic and share
LO	the data. 149 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 2560; Exhibit 017-016E, Adobe
11	pg. 227; Transcript Vol. 15, pgs. 3737-3738 Given
12	Dr. Schindler's emphasis on transparency and data
13	provision and sharing, 150 Exhibit 017-016C, Adobe 1 his
L 4	silence in this situation is somewhat surprising.
15	Another PAH pathway that Shell assessed was
16	deposition in the Lower Athabasca River and the
17	delta sediments through aqueous and aerial
18	pathways. In his critique on this topic,
19	Dr. Schindler relied on two studies, one by Kurek
20	et al, which is not publicly available, and the
21	other, Timoney and Lee, which has been strongly
22	criticized by the Royal Society of Canada's expert
23	panel. 151 Exhibit 001-092 Dr. Schindler ignored the
24	Hall et al. paper, described by Mr. Vandenberg,
25	which stated that:

1	"Thus, despite rapid growth
2	of oil sands development during the
3	past 25 years, the data reveal no
4	measurable increase in
5	concentration or proportion of
6	river-transported
7	bitumen-associated indicator PACs."
8	
9	Another definition for PAHs. And:
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11	"Results also reveal no
12	evidence that industrial activity
13	has contributed measurably to the
14	sedimentary concentration of PACs
15	supplied by long-range atmospheric
16	transport and deposition in the
17	vicinity of the PAD as was also
18	found for key metals of concern."
19	152 Exhibit 001-070V
20	
21	In his testimony, Dr. Schindler dismissed the
22	Hall study and said that a yet-to-be-released
23	report based on federal monitoring trumps that
24	study.
25	While the recently released abstract for the

1	federal study confirms that aerial deposition does
2	occur in the region near the oil sands, witnesses
3	for the Federal Government characterized the
4	federal study as representing preliminary results
5	that have not yet been vetted, 153 Transcript Vol. 13,
6	$^{ m pgs.~3181-3182}$ and they also confirmed that the Hall
7	study and the recently announced federal study are
8	not directly comparable. 154 Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3507
9	The federal studies do not change the conclusions
10	by Hall et al. that natural sources comprise the
11	majority of PAHs being deposited in the delta and
12	that deposition has not increased in recent decades
13	despite an increase in oil sands development.
14	155 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3740; Exhibit 001-070V, Adobe 14
15	Finally, Dr. Schindler has repeatedly stated
16	that upgraders are the primary source of aerial
17	deposition of PAHs and mercury to snowpack. And
18	Shell supports continued efforts by the joint
19	Alberta-Canada Monitoring Program to verify whether
20	in fact this claim is accurate. However, Shell is
21	not applying for an upgrader as part of the
22	Jackpine Mine Expansion Project.
23	
24	End Pit Lakes
25	A related issue that attracted considerable

1 attention during the hearings was end pit lakes, 2 and particularly, concern that there is a lack of 3 certainty that end pit lakes will effectively treat process-affected waters that are directed towards 4 those lakes post-closure. 5 6 Shell's evidence demonstrates, I would 7 submit, that there is a high degree of confidence around the effectiveness of its end pit lakes based 8 9 on the following: the basic fundamental principles of 10 11 hydrology, limnology, and water treatment, are all 12 standard practice; 13 the conservative models that have been 14 used by Shell in its assessment; 15 the findings from both CONRAD and CEMA 16 research on wetlands, experimental ponds and pit 17 lakes: experience with pit lakes and other 18 19 mining industries that demonstrate pit lakes can be 20 used successfully; 21 the mitigation and contingency options that are available in the event that the current 22 23 plans are unsuccessful; and 24 the fact that considerable research 2.5 continues to be carried out and Shell will not be

1 completing its end pit lakes for several decades. 156 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 428; Transcript Vol. 5, pgs. 771-774; Exhibit 2 001-070A, Adobe 33 3 4 Shell also filed a recent report from CEMA 5 that provides a range of adaptive management 6 options to address potential future risks associated with end pit lakes. $^{\rm 157~Exhibit~001-070K}$ 7 This 8 document provides guidance for mine planners on how best to plan, design, monitor, assess and adapt end 9 pit lakes in the oil sands, and it outlines a 10 11 number of technical considerations and key 12 milestones that can be used to verify that each pit lake is on a trajectory towards 13 14 self-sustainability. 15 This document also provides a number of 16 mitigation options to consider in the event that 17 the pit lake is not following the anticipated trajectory. These options will be refined through 18 19 the life of the Project as end pit lake plans 20 continue to be optimized. 21 While there is some uncertainty associated 22 with end pit lakes, the predominant uncertainty 23 relates to the rate of biodegradation of initial 24 constituents in the pit lake and the input from 2.5 placed tailings deposits. Therefore, the

1 uncertainty is essentially one of time, first how 2 long it will take for the pit lake water to retain 3 a quality such that the lake outflow can be released to the natural watershed, and second, the 4 time for the lake to achieve a sustained state of 5 6 productivity from the growth of natural flora and fauna in support of fish habitat. 158 Exhibit 001-070K, 7 Adobe 203; Transcript Vol. 5, pgs. 768-775 Therefore, the main 8 question is when, not if, end pit lakes will work. 9 Shell has predicted that the end pit lakes will 10 11 contain acceptable water quality that is suitable 12 for discharge to the receiving environment in 2065, 159 Exhibit 001-051M, Adobe 85 16 years after mine closure, 13 14 and will be capable of supporting fish and other 15 aquatic organisms within two to three decades after that. 160 Transcript Vol. 5, pg. 775 Shell will be 16 17 responsible for all tailings and reclamation liabilities associated with the operation of the 18 Project. 161 Exhibit 001-006B, Adobe 2 19 This future 20 obligation is guaranteed through the Province's recently updated Mine Financial Security Program. 21 162 Transcript Vol. 8, pgs. 1639-1640 22 23 Dr. Miller on behalf of OSEC presented a 24 report specifically on the uncertainties associated 2.5 with end pit lakes. That report however was based

1	on a number of inaccuracies, including:
2	- a belief that Shell's end pit lakes
3	will contain mature fine tails and will be
4	meromictic;
5	- that Shell did not consider seepage
6	into the lakes from end pit and external tailings
7	disposal facilities; and
8	- that Shell did not consider the
9	cumulative impact of multiple pit lakes on the
10	landscape in terms of water quality, wildlife, and
11	human health.
12	All of those beliefs were wrong.
13	And Shell explained these inaccuracies in its
14	October 15th Reply Submission. 163 Exhibit 001-070A,
15	And Dr. Miller conceded many of those in
16	his testimony. 164 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1683
17	Dr. Miller admitted to having only read
18	portions of the EIA and having no experience with
19	end pit lakes in the oil sands context. $^{165~\text{Exhibit}}$
20	001-070A, Adobe 33; Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1701 Dr. Miller
21	himself conceded that the oil sands are distinctly
22	different from the hard-rock mining operations that
23	he has experience with. 166 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1702
24	Dr. Miller's testimony and evidence were to rely
25	from experience with hard-rock mining where acid

1 drainage and metal leaching are consequences of The oil sands tailings contaminants of 2 concern. 3 primary concern are organic molecules originating in the bitumen that, when in solution in 4 5 process-affected water, biodegrade over time. 167 Exhibit 001-070K, Adobe 195; Exhibit 017-021, Adobe 6 6 As a result, the Panel should afford Dr. Miller's report 8 limited weight and should rely on the assessment conducted by Shell's environmental consultant that 9 Dr. Miller characterized as "a very good analysis 10 of pit lake dynamics." 168 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1707 11 12 Similarly, Dr. Schindler recommends no 13 further approvals of end pit lakes until monitoring 14 is put in place at several existing pit lakes in 15 order to confirm that end pit lakes are working. 169 Transcript Vol. 11, pg. 2545 However, Shell is 16 17 participating in the Syncrude Base Mine Lake Project which is presently gathering the data that 18 19 will be required to demonstrate the efficacy of end pit lakes. 170 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 41; Transcript Vol. 5, pg. 764 20 In addition, Dr. Schindler conceded that he hadn't 21 22 actually reviewed the data on end pit lakes from Syncrude's research program. 172 Transcript Vol. 11, pg. 2556 23 and 2560 24 2.5 OSEC also raised concerns that Shell has not

1	conducted detailed assessments of alternative water
2	treatment options in the event the end pit lakes do
3	not work as intended. However, Shell has put
4	forward a plan for end pit lakes that is based on
5	sound scientific and engineering principles, and
6	monitoring will be carried out to verify these
7	predictions and determine whether additional or
8	alternative treatment options may be required. The
9	CEMA guidance document shows that there are a
LO	variety of adaptive management measures that can be
L1	put in place if necessary. Shell has a high degree
L2	of confidence in the overall functioning of end pit
L3	lakes and there is considerable time available to
L 4	implement adaptive management in accordance with
L 5	the CEMA guidance if monitoring indicates that
L 6	alternative water treatment is necessary.
L7	172 Transcript Vol. 5, pgs. 796-797; Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1327
L 8	
L9	Fish and Fish Habitat
20	Fish Habitat
21	On the issue of effects on fish and fish
22	habitat, Shell has developed a No Net Loss Plan
23	which describes the options Shell plans to
24	implement to achieve the necessary compensation for

expected losses in habitat area due to the Project.

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1	173 Exhibit 001-001c, Adobe 677 The No Net Loss Plan was
2	developed with consideration of the No Net Loss
3	guiding principle for fish habitat, pursuant to
4	seeking approval from Fisheries and Oceans Canada
5	for the Project under the Fisheries Act. Shell
6	considered eight different alternatives for fish
7	habitat compensation but ultimately chose the
8	construction of a compensation lake at the Big
9	Creek and Redclay Creek drainages on the west side
10	of the Athabasca River as the preferred option.
11	174 Exhibit 001-064B, Adobe 35-37 This option provides
12	flexibility in size of the lake, would not require
13	ore sterilization, and was determined to have the
14	least disturbance footprint per hectare of lake
15	created. 175 Exhibit 001-064B, Adobe 37 Its location will
16	also provide good fish passage, good outlet
17	maintenance flows, and natural fish colonization of
18	the lake. 176 Exhibit 001-064B, Adobe 38
19	Shell held meetings with Aboriginal groups to
20	provide information about Shell's proposed
21	compensation lake and to understand any concerns
22	they may have with it. 177 Exhibit 001-057, Adobe 59-60, 77 and
23	Several groups, including ACFN, conducted
24	reviews of the No Net Loss Plan and submitted those
25	reviews to Shell. ^{178 Exhibit 001-057, Adobe 90-91} Shell

responded to each of those reviews and incorporated
the concerns into the updated Draft No Net Loss

Plan which was filed in September. 179 Exhibit 001-062,

Adobe 9, 21 and 33; Exhibit 001-114

The Draft No Net Loss Plan has been designed to provide new fish habitat that will cumulatively have a level of productive capacity equal to or greater than the habitats affected by the Project. Overall, a net gain in the productive capacity of available fish habitat is predicted as a result of the Project. Based on this proposed habitat compensation, there are no predicted adverse impacts on fish habitat due to changes in habitat area resulting from the Project. ¹⁸⁰ Exhibit 001-001C, Adobe 679</sup> Mr. Makowecki for DFO testified that he has "a high level of confidence in the success of this fish habitat compensation plan." ¹⁸¹ Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3647

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Effects on Fish

In terms of effects on fish themselves, the fish community within the direct Project footprint is comprised of relatively few resident fish species. And the upper Muskeg River, generally does not provide habitat for migratory species from

the Athabasca River. 182 Exhibit 001-001C, Adobe 654 1 2 Muskeg River diversion channel will maintain 3 connectivity and fish passage and will function to 4 support the upper Muskeg River fish community during operations. 183 Exhibit 001-015B, Adobe 25 5 6 result, fish abundance and diversity in the lower 7 reaches of the Muskeg River will be maintained. 184 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 259 Post-closure, the aquatic 8 habitat reclaimed within the closure landscape will 9 further support local fish populations in the 10 long-term. 185 Exhibit 001-064B, Adobe 107 11 As a result, 12 taking into account the mitigation that Shell is 13 proposing, including the Muskeg River diversion channel and the No Net Loss Plan, the EIA concluded 14 15 that the residual effects of the Project on fish were negligible. 186 Exhibit 001-001C, Adobe 708; Exhibit 001-015B, 16 Adobe 25 17 Dr. Schindler's report expresses concern 18 19 about cumulative impacts to the fish community in the upper Muskeg River since the 1970s. $^{187~\text{Exhibit}}$ 20 017-016C, Adobe 6-7 21 These findings are not supported by other studies of the river and Shell's EIA that 22 23 show fish communities in the upper reaches of the 24 Muskeg River today are comparable to the fish

communities that existed in the 1970s. $^{188\ \text{Exhibit}}$

2.5

001-070A, Adobe 32 1 To support this position, Dr. Schindler quoted a 1979 study by Bond and 2 3 Machniak to demonstrate that damage to fish in the Muskeg River is understated and that Shell erred in 4 5 concluding that there were never arctic grayling in the upper reaches of the Muskeg River. $^{\rm 189\ Transcript}$ 6 Vol. 11, pg. 2520 7 In fact, Bond and Machniak themselves stated that "Grayling were never observed in the 8 Muskeg River upstream of Hartley Creek", which is 9 downstream of the Project. 190 Exhibit 017-016U, Adobe pg. 108 10 11 The RAMP data presented in the EIA and in 12 Dr. Schindler's presentation do show declines in 13 arctic grayling numbers in the Muskeg River and 14 this was acknowledged in the EIA. However, 15 declines in arctic grayling have been documented 16 throughout Alberta and prior to major oil sands development within this watershed. $^{\rm 191\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 5},$ 17 pg. 966 The Bond and Machniak study referenced by 18 19 Dr. Schindler actually supports the conclusions in 20 the EIA and the Draft No Net Loss Plan that the 21 species distribution within the upper Muskeg River 22 at the location of the Project is primarily 23 restricted to a few resident species and is largely 24 not used by the migratory fish species from the Athabasca River. 192 Exhibit 017-016U, Adobe pg. 48 2.5

1 Dr. Schindler's report also states that the 2 benthic invertebrate community of the Muskeg River has been in "catastrophic decline," in his words. 3 193 Exhibit 017-016C, Adobe 4 Dr. Schindler quotes from a 4 5 1979 study by Barton and Wallace that there was a 6 diverse community of benthic macro-invertebrates in 7 the Muskeg River in 1979 that Dr. Schindler now 8 believes has been lost. Dr. Schindler claimed that 9 these data were ignored by the EIA. 10 assertions are wrong. Dr. Schindler ignored data 11 from RAMP presented in their 2011 Technical Report 12 which clearly show a consistent presence of these 13 species in the lower reach of the Muskeg River. 194 Exhibit 001-070BB, Adobe 2827 14 15 Mr. Vandenberg explained that the 1979 Barton 16 and Wallace study is simply not comparable with 17 more recent studies, having collected their information at sites far downstream of the upper 18 19 reaches of the river and such a comparison cannot 20 be used to support a loss of invertebrate taxa. 195 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3733 21 22 Finally, in terms of data inclusion in the 23 The EIA in fact examined additional sources 24 of historical data not considered by Dr. Schindler 2.5 and added a specific sampling site for examining

1	the benthic macro-invertebrate community within the
2	Project footprint. 196 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3732
3	The damage to benthic invertebrates in the
4	Muskeg River suggested by Dr. Schindler is simply
5	not supported by the evidence. Dr. Schindler
6	simply did not bother to read the EIA and the
7	appendices. If he had done so, these facts would
8	have been obvious to him.
9	Finally, Dr. Jones on behalf of the ACFN
10	filed a report on fish health in the Athabasca
11	River that was generally supportive of Shell's
12	conclusions. The report concluded that:
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14	"There is no statistical
15	evidence, from the morphometric
16	data, of consistent health impacts
17	on species, site or seasonal
18	basis."
19	
20	And:
21	
22	"There do not, at this time,
23	appear to be any frank health
24	effects of the fish exposed to
25	contaminates." 197 Exhibit 006-013,

1	Appendix	E,	Tab	67,	Adobe	2

2	The report also concludes, however, that in
3	general this data supports the hypothesis that
4	contaminants from oil sands operations are reaching
5	the aquatic food webs of the Slave and Athabasca
6	Rivers. 198 Exhibit 006-013, Appendix E, Tab 67, Adobe 2 As Shell
7	explained in its October 15th Reply Submission, the
8	conclusion that contaminants from oil sands
9	operations are entering the aquatic food chain is
10	not supported by the evidence. 199 Exhibit 001-070A,
11	Adobe 50 Researchers have been unable to determine
12	the proportions of PAHs in the Athabasca River that
13	are natural versus anthropogenic in origin,
14	although recent studies indicate that the majority
15	of PAHs are from natural sources, which supports
16	the EIA findings. 200 Exhibit 001-070V Dr. Jones agreed
17	during the hearing that his study could not
18	distinguish between natural and anthropogenic PAHs
19	in fish tissue, so there is no basis for his
20	conclusion that any observed increases in fish PAH
21	are related to oil sands operations. 201 Transcript
22	Vol. 10, pg. 2179
23	Finally, Mr. Lambrecht asked questions during
24	the hearing about Shell's proposed compensation
25	lake and whether Shell could ensure that fish

1		exposed to methylmercury in the early years of the
2		compensation lake's operation would be prevented
3		from entering the Athabasca River. 202 Transcript Vol. 6,
4		pg. 1155 Mr. Kovach for Shell explained that Shell
5		has mitigation plans to ensure that humans and
6		wildlife do not consume fish with elevated mercury
7		levels. 203 Transcript Vol. 6, pg. 1155 This mitigation will
8		remove the higher trophic-level fish from the lake
9		so that any fish remaining will have lower levels
L O		of mercury. 204 Transcript Vol. 6, pg. 1157 Given Shell's
L1		experience with its existing Jackpine Mine
L2		compensation lake and the extensive monitoring plan
L3		that Shell plans to carry out, Shell is confident
L 4		that it will be able to manage any methylmercury
L5		issues at the lake. 205 Transcript Vol. 6, pgs. 1157-1162
L 6		However, Shell has also committed to working with
L 7		regulators, like Alberta Environment and
L8		Sustainable Resource Development, and Fisheries and
L 9		Oceans Canada, to implement additional safeguards
20		if monitoring determines them to be necessary.
21		206 Transcript Vol. 6, pg. 1166
22		
23	Human	Health
24		This brings me to human health, which is
25		another concern that has been raised in the

1	hearing. OSEC and ACFN have both expressed
2	concerns about potential loss of access to and the
3	contamination of traditional food and water
4	quality, and the associated psychological stress
5	this can cause, and elevated health risk at Fort
6	Chipewyan.
7	Let me start with a quote from the Royal
8	Society of Canada's expert panel 2010 Report, which
9	stated the following about health effects in Fort
10	Chipewyan, and I quote:
11	
12	"Timoney and Lee (2009) and
13	Kelly et al. (2009) both referred
14	to the controversy in Fort
15	Chipewyan concerning apparent
16	elevated cancer rates by noting
17	that PAH are known carcinogens
18	[] these references to
19	PAH-related cancer risk, even
20	nuanced as they are, are
21	unfortunate because results from
22	neither study provide any evidence
23	to support a human cancer risk from
24	measured PAH. [] While valid
25	concerns about effects on aquatic

1	organisms from observed PAH
2	concentrations are raised, any
3	extrapolation to or speculation
4	about human cancer risk is
5	unsupported by any of the available
6	toxicological evidence on PAH.
7	Such speculation, in the absence of
8	credible quantitative evidence,
9	does not serve to accurately inform
10	downstream residents and seems
11	likely to create fear." 207 Exhibit
12	001-070A, Adobe 32
13	
14	The paper that the Royal Society experts were
15	responding to was co-authored by Dr. Schindler.
16	Not surprisingly, Dr. Schindler took issue with the
17	Royal Society statement during his testimony and
18	claimed that he had communicated with the community
19	of Fort Chipewyan to explain that contaminants were
20	getting into the river but the assessment of
21	dissolved contaminants in the water showed that
22	current levels did not pose a health risk.
23	208 Transcript Vol. 11, pg. 2531 He claimed that this
24	information would have actually allayed the fears
25	of the community, although the testimony of Chief

1 Adam was clear, that the community still believes 2 that human health is being affected by water contamination. 209 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 1967 3 In this proceeding, Dr. Schindler has made 4 similar conclusions about water quality, acid 5 6 deposition, and reclamation. This information has 7 led to unfortunate perceptions among local 8 residents that are not supported by the facts. Mr. Chairman, experts should use facts, not 9 10 fear, to communicate with the public. 11 Dr. Schindler's assertions are, quite frankly, 12 suspect given his history and the rhetoric in his 13 critiques. Dr. Schindler's claims that environmental 14 15 exposures and the potential implications to public 16 health -- despite Dr. Schindler's claims, 210 Transcript Vol. 11, pgs. 2529-2532, environmental exposure 17 and potential implications to public health have 18 19 been closely monitored in the oil sands. 20 Mr. Koppe's testimony discussed a number of 21 community health studies that have been conducted 22 since 2000, all of which have shown no adverse 23 health effects caused by oil sands development. 211 Transcript Vol. 8, pgs. 1583-1586 Further investigations 24 2.5 into concerns related to health are planned for the communities of Fort McKay and Fort Chipewyan to
ensure that oil sands operations are not causing
any adverse health effects in those communities.

212 Transcript Vol. 8, pgs. 1583-1586

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For the Project, Shell has conducted a Human Health Risk Assessment which used extensive baseline data and took information on cumulative air emissions and water discharges and looked at different ways that people could be exposed to chemicals of potential concern. $^{\rm 213\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 8},$ pgs. 1589-1592 It then looked at the risk to the health of the most sensitive local receptors from all possible routes of exposure. $^{214\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 7},$ pg. 1461 What it concluded was that Project emissions alone or in combination with other regional sources are not anticipated to result in a noticeable increase in health risks in the Oil Sands Region. 215 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 271 In addition, existing air quality, water quality, and food quality, are not associated with negative health effects and environmental health risks are expected to remain low over time. ^{216 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 51} I should note that this Health Risk Assessment was a quantitative exercise which followed the prescribed approach that has been developed by regulatory agencies

1 across the globe. ^{217 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 51}

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Put simply, Mr. Chairman, emissions from this
Project are expected to have a negligible impact on
human health. That conclusion will be verified
through a comprehensive monitoring program. Shell
will also continue to support regional monitoring
efforts like the Wood Buffalo Environmental
Association, the Regional Aquatics Monitoring
Program, the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring
Institute, and now the joint Canada-Alberta
Implementing Plan for Oil Sands Monitoring.
218 Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 476 and 487; Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 12-13 and
19-20; Transcript, Vol. 3, pg. 271

In its October 15th Reply Submissions, Shell submitted that it is difficult to assess perception issues in the EIA and Health Risk Assessment process as these assessments use a quantitative assessment methodology. However, this is an issue that can be addressed through public consultation and information, ongoing ambient monitoring, and the regular provision of information results to stakeholders during Project operations and closure phases. Shell has committed to each of these measures. ^{219 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 51} It is also served by fact-based discussions instead of

1 rhetoric-fuelled media events.

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Terrestrial Issues

Wildlife

Let me move on to terrestrial environment and specifically effects on wildlife. This is another topic that attracted considerable attention in the hearing and in the submissions leading up to it.

In their October 1st submission, ACFN submitted that historically important subsistence species such as woodland bison and woodland caribou are at dangerously low levels and are scarcely available for traditional resource use throughout the region and that the regional landscape is changing in ways that may lead to the disappearance of wildlife species, including caribou, bison and moose, and to the invasion by other species, including deer, magpies, and invasive plants.

220 Exhibit Number 006-013, Adobe 10

Similarly, OSEC's October 1st submission claimed that the Project will have significant adverse effects on 13 of 22 species at risk and valued wildlife species.

221 Exhibit 017-016A, Adobe 8 and 17

OSEC relies on the CEMA Terrestrial Ecosystem

Management Framework, or TEMF, and claims that the

1 Planned Development Case set out in the EIA for the 2 Project will exceed the threshold in TEMF for 3 intensive use of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. 222 Exhibit 017-016A, Adobe 8 and 21 4 5 There are several problems with OSEC's 6 submission in this regard. 7 First, it relies almost entirely on changes from the Pre-Industrial Case, which considers all 8 development that has ever occurred in the RSA, to 9 the Planned Development Case, which presents a 10 11 future-looking scenario that includes projects that 12 may or may not occur in the region. 13 These planned projects will be subject to 14 their own regulatory process and public-interest 15 decision should they proceed to that stage in their 223 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 27 development. 16 While the 17 Planned Development Case and comparisons to Pre-Industrial Case may provide useful information 18 19 for regional planning purposes, they are not useful 20 to determine a project's effects. 21 Similarly, the issue of disturbance 22 thresholds on the regional landscape is a matter of 23 government policy on regional or regional land use 24 planning, not the subject or a project-specific

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review.

1	The basic regional planning document in the
2	Oil Sands Region is the Fort McMurray Athabasca
3	Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, or IRP.
4	That's been mentioned by OSEC and has been recently
5	approved in the LARP. $^{224~\text{Exhibit 001-070S, Adobe 4}}$ The
6	Project is located within the IRP's Mildred-Kearl
7	Lake Resource Management Area. The management
8	intent for that area is, I quote (as read):
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10	"To promote the orderly
11	planning, exploration and
12	development of resources with
13	emphasis on the area's oil sands
14	reserves." 225 Exhibit 001-070H, Adobe 45
15	
16	This is the only stated management intent for
17	the area.
18	There is no balancing mentioned.
19	OSEC has relied on TEMF but TEMF was not
20	adopted by the government and the government has
21	instead focussed on the LARP, which was finalized
22	this Fall. ^{226 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 1820} While the
23	biodiversity framework under LARP will not be
24	finalized until next year, the LARP explicitly
25	recognizes that one of the primary goals for the

1 region should be to optimize the economic potential 227 Exhibit 001-070S, Adobe 37 of the oil sands resource. 2 3 Mr. Chairman, and Panel Members, it is perfectly acceptable land-use planning to designate certain 4 areas like the Mildred-Kearl Lake area for 5 6 development, and others such as the Richardson 7 Backcountry, for complete protection. That's good land-use planning. 8 9 Even the TEMF itself contemplates that energy 10 development will remain a regional priority and a 11 dominant driver of land use in the region and that 12 the achievement of all goals found in TEMF will not 13 be possible on all landscapes in the region simultaneously. 228 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 28 14 15 OSEC has relied on the Natural Range of 16 Variability threshold for the region, or NRV, that 17 was established under TEMF, but the TEMF explicitly states that in some areas of the region, indicators 18 19 will be far outside NRV while in other areas they would be within NRV. 229 Exhibit 001-0701, Adobe 2 20 The TEMF 21 was intended as a strategic document and was 22 explicitly not designed for species at risk. 230 Exhibit 017-016BB, Adobe 30 23 24 In addition, although OSEC suggests that the 2.5 Planned Development Case presented in the EIA for

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the Project exceeds the TEMF threshold for intensive use in the region, Shell's evidence is that the estimated area of intensive use in the region is only about 8.0 percent, which is below the threshold. ^{231 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 28}

Finally, the Panel should make its decision on the Project based on the likely effects of the Project itself, not based on what might happen in the future. Any recommendations in relation to the Planned Development Case should be to governments and regulators for planning and management purposes.

Dr. Komers for the ACFN filed a report claiming that by 2042 there would be no undisturbed areas left within ACFN's self-defined Regional Study Area. 232 Exhibit 006-0130, Adobe 3, 4, 10, 11, and 16 This was based on his assumption that wildlife would completely avoid all areas within 250 metres of an industrial disturbance, including seismic lines. 233 Exhibit 006-0130, Adobe 12 In other words, Dr. Komers assumed that there are half-kilometre-wide buffers around every seismic line in the region within which there is no effective wildlife habitat. These corridors are much wider than many of the major pipeline corridors in the country.

1 In cross-examination, Dr. Komers could not 2 identify any literature or research to suggest that 3 wildlife completely avoid any disturbance feature. 234 Transcript Vol. 11, pgs. 2618-2619 In fact, he relied in 4 5 part on a paper written by Mr. Dyer from OSEC that 6 showed caribou, which are particularly sensitive to industrial disturbance, actually prefer some areas 7 within 250 metres of seismic lines. $^{235~\text{Exhibit 001-051N}}$, 8 Adobe 8 9 Dr. Komers also did not consider that large 10 11 portions of the ACFN RSA were conservation areas and parks. ²³⁶ Transcript Vol. 11, pg. 2622 12 Rather, Dr. Komers took the historical rate of disturbance 13 14 in the region and applied that as a constant into 15 the future without any consideration of external 16 factors. 17 What he did was he took two numbers, he 18 multiplied them together without any analysis or 19 thought. What that proves is that Dr. Komers knows 20 how to do math. It does not present any reasonable 21 prediction of cumulative effects in the region and 22 its conclusions defy both logic and commonsense. 23 Shell's witnesses explained at the hearing 24 that literature suggests wildlife will treat 2.5 different types of disturbance differently, and

1 there is no complete loss of habitat within zones of influence. 237 Transcript Vol. 6, pg. 1045 2 This was the 3 approach that was used in the EIA and reflects a realistic and thoughtful analysis of what the effects are likely to be of the Project. 5

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Turning specifically to effects on wildlife, Shell's EIA focused on three types of effects to determine ecological consequences: Habitat loss; wildlife movement; and wildlife abundance. assessment concluded that the environmental consequences of habitat loss during construction and operations are high at the LSA scale for all affected species prior to closure. $^{238\ \text{Exhibit 001-051F}},$ Adobe 114 The Project is also expected to result in indirect habitat loss through sensory disturbance and surficial aquifer drawdown. While species like the yellow rail, rusty blackbird and horned grebe will experience net losses of habitat due to the loss in wetlands, particularly peatlands, species including black bears, Canada lynx, beavers, and the Canada warbler, will benefit from the large increases in productive forests and associated terrestrial uplands that develop after reclamation. 239 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 207; Transcript, Vol. 3, pg. 265

At the local scale, habitat loss for the

1	Project will have a high environmental consequence
2	for several species that rely on wetlands,
3	including yellow rail. However, for those species,
4	the best available information suggests that
5	species abundance is not limited by habitat in
6	northeast Alberta. 240 Exhibit 001-015C, Adobe 3 An ABMI
7	report recently concluded that songbird
8	species-at-risk habitat in the Oil Sands Region is
9	89 percent intact. 241 Exhibit 001-070B, Adobe 31 In
10	addition, there will be abundant alternative
11	habitat in the region for these species. 242 Exhibit
12	001-001E, Adobe 182 Wetlands comprise approximately
13	39.8 percent of the total region at Base Case and
14	the Project will only reduce that number to
15	39.3 percent. 243 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 266, Exhibit 001-001E,
16	Adobe 135 Therefore, wetlands will remain abundant in
17	the Regional Study Area and wildlife that depend on
18	wetlands will have extensive alternative habitat
19	available for them. As a result, the EIA
20	concluded that habitat loss from the Project is not
21	likely to affect the viability of the regional
22	populations of any wildlife species.
23	In terms of wildlife movement, the Project
24	will have an adverse effect on wildlife movement,
25	but wildlife movement around the Project footprint

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is expected to be sufficient to maintain genetic connectivity in the RSA.

244 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 47

This conclusion will be verified through Shell's commitment to monitor the presence, relative abundance, and distribution of wildlife in the Project area, and its involvement in regional monitoring initiatives, such as the Wildlife Habitat Effectiveness and Corridor Program

Technical Committee under CONRAD which conducts regional-scale wildlife monitoring to examine movement patterns and inform decisions regarding appropriate setback distances and corridor widths for wildlife along project boundaries and adjacent to rivers.

245 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 47

For wildlife abundance, the EIA concluded that direct mortality for wildlife as a result of site clearing, interactions with Project infrastructure, and Project vehicles, removal of nuisance wildlife, and sensory disturbance, will have a negligible-to-low-magnitude effect after mitigation measures have been implemented. 246 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 167 The measures include the relocation program that Shell has committed to for the western toad. 247 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 18 There will be no effects on site clearing on species like

1 black-throated green warbler and yellow rail because clearing will occur during the winter when 2 these species are not present. $^{\rm 248~Exhibit~001-006E}\text{,}$ 3 Adobe 374 As a result, the EIA concluded that the 4 effects of the Project on wildlife abundance would 5 6 be low to negligible for all indicated species. 249 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 172 and 175 7 8 Significance of adverse ecological consequences was determined by examining the 9 ecological context within which the ecological 10 11 consequences occur, in accordance with guidance 12 from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 250 Exhibit 001-063, Adobe 67; CEA Agency, Reference Guide: Determining 13 Whether a Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse Environmental 14 Effects (Ottawa: Federal Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1994), 15 online: <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/D213D286-2512-47F4-B9C3-08B5C01E5005 16 /Determining Whether a Project is Likely to Cause Significant Adverse 17 Environmental_Effects.pdf> at 190 The ecological context 18 19 includes the concept of resiliency. "Resilience" 20 refers to the ability of ecological systems to 21 absorb disturbance and maintain system integrity and function. 251 Exhibit 001-063, Adobe 67 22 For the 23 purposes of Shell's Wildlife Assessment, cumulative

effects to wildlife were considered to be

significant if they compromise resilience such that

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1	the populations are likely no longer to be
2	self-sustaining, ecological effective populations.
3	²⁵² Exhibit 001-063, Adobe 67 Using the concept of
4	ecological context to ascertain the significance of
5	project and cumulative effects requires that the
6	assessment of significance be considered at a scale
7	beyond the Local Study Area, because the
8	environmental consequences at the local scale are
9	for the most part de facto high. The CEAA Agency's
10	guidance is clear that it is important to evaluate
11	significance in consideration of other than just
12	local direct effects. 253 CEA Agency, "Cumulative Effects
13	Assessment Practitioners Guide" (February 1999) online:
14	<pre><http: 43952694-0363-4b1e-b2b3-47365faf1ed7="" cumulative_<="" pre="" www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca=""></http:></pre>
15	Effects_Assessment_Practitioners_Guide.pdf> at 17 Therefore,
16	Shell's assessment considered the effects on
17	wildlife indicators and species at risk at the
18	scale of the Regional Study Area.
19	The Joint Review Panel for the Joslyn North
20	Mine Project stated that, as a result of the
21	Species at Risk Act, the Alberta Wildlife Act, and
22	the Migratory Bird Convention Act , and I quote (as
23	read):
24	
25	"The measure for determining

1 significant adverse effects should 2 be any net harm to an individual of 3 a species, its resident, or its critical habitat." ^{254 Exhibit No.} 4 017-016DD, Adobe 72 5 6 7 Mr. Wiacek reiterated this position in his testimony during the hearing. $^{\rm 255\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 14}\text{,}$ 8 pgs. 3672-3674 9 With respect, Shell disagrees. Using this definition fetters the discretion of Panels to 10 11 actually consider the evidence before it and 12 determine objectively what the impacts of a project are. At law, this is incorrect. $^{\rm 256\ Robert\ W.\ Macaulay\ and}$ 13 James, L.H. Sprague, Practice and Procedures Before Administrative 14 Tribunals, loose-leaf consulted on November 5, 2012, (Toronto: Carswell, 15 1988), at 5B-21-5B 24.4 16 Perhaps more importantly, it also 17 ignores the application of ecological consequence and resilience when determining the significance of 18 19 adverse effects, which the CEAA agency recommends, 20 and is also contrary to standard environmental 21 assessment practices. 22 If significance were always to be determined 23 at the local scale, any new development would have 24 significant effects. This would be nonsensical. 2.5 As suggested by the agency, the significance of

environmental effects should be based on the

following criteria: Direction, magnitude,

geographic extent, duration, reversibility,

frequency, and ecological context. This was the

approach taken by Shell. 257 Exhibit 001-15C, Adobe 14

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Based on a combination of effects on habitat loss, wildlife movement, and wildlife abundance, followed by an examination of the ecological context in which the ecological consequences of the Project would occur, the EIA concluded that the effects of the Project on wildlife are not likely to be significant. ^{258 Exhibit 001-051E, Adobe 87}

OSEC has argued that a 20 percent decline in habitat for any one species is an ecological threshold that should be equivalent to a significant adverse impact. 259 Exhibit 017-016, Adobe 17

This is the basis for OSEC's claim that cumulative effects will be significant for 13 of 22 species at risk and valued wildlife species, even though the habitat loss numbers that OSEC uses for this calculation are from Shell's assessment of cumulative effects from the Pre-Industrial Case to the Planned Development Case, and are thus not specific to the Project. In addition, despite OSEC's earlier submission that this 20 percent

limit was an ecological threshold, $^{260~{\rm Exhibit}~017-016A}$ 1 $^{\mbox{\scriptsize Adobe 18}}$ OSEC conceded during the hearing that the 2 3 20-percent threshold was more of a social-economic 4 threshold and was somewhat of a value judgment in 5 terms of what proportion of wildlife habitat 6 Albertans and Canadians are willing to lose. 261 Transcript Vol. 9, pgs. 1754-1755 and 1822 7 Mr. Dver explained 8 that this threshold was not based on any ecological criteria suggesting catastrophic decline but was 9 more akin to a socio-economic threshold like a 10 speed limit. 262 Transcript Vol. 9, pgs. 1822-1823 11 12 The literature suggests that using 20 percent 13 habitat loss as a threshold is highly conservative. 14 For example, in Swift and Hannon's review regarding 15 critical thresholds for a number of taxa, the 16 authors concluded that although evidence was 17 limited, most empirical thresholds fell in the range of 10 to 30 percent remaining habitat, or 18 disturbance of 70 to 90 percent. $^{263~\text{Exhibit 001-070HH}}$, 19 Adobe 16 Similarly, Romprey et al. concluded that, 20

70 percent. 264 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 28 Another study,

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for species with large home ranges, such as birds,

thresholds are generally between 30 and 40 percent

of habitat still remaining, or disturbance of 60 to

Betz et al. studied songbird habitat and concluded

that landscape thresholds ranged from 8.6 to

2 28.7 percent habitat remaining, or disturbance of

roughly 70 to 90 percent of the habitat. 265 Exhibit

001-051E, Adobe 23

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Nevertheless, Shell's EIA did use the conservative value of 20 percent habitat loss as an indicator of high-magnitude habitat loss. does not mean, however, that 20 percent habitat loss is necessarily a significant adverse effect. The determination of significance was based on the combination of all aspects of the assessment and wildlife ecology and not just the amount of habitat lost or remaining. ²⁶⁶ Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 28; Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1375, 1377-1378 If a certain species is not habitat limited, for example, 20 percent habitat loss will likely not be significant adverse effect for that species. Again, this approach is consistent with guidance from the CEAA agency which is that significance determination should be determined on several criteria, which I've outlined already. Environment Canada endorsed this approach to determining significance as well. $^{\rm 267\ Transcript}$ Vol. 14, pg. 3610 It also reflects that the Panel's decision should be based on fact and analysis and not arbitrarily-imposed numbers.

1	Although Environment Canada agreed with the
2	overall approach Shell used, Mr. Wiacek
3	misinterpreted how the approach to determining
4	significance was applied. 268 Transcript Vol. 14,
5	pgs. 3605-3606 Mr. Wiacek interpreted Shell's
6	methodology as meaning that if a species is
7	extirpated over the long-term within the Regional
8	Study Area, the effect will not be significant if
9	the Project has no contribution to the overall
10	resilience of that population at either the
11	provincial or national scale. 269 Transcript Vol. 14,
12	$^{ m pg.~3605}$ He went on to state that Shell did not
13	assess significance appropriately because Shell
14	expanded the area that was considered to the
15	provincial and national scale. 270 Transcript Vol. 14,
16	$^{ m pgs.~3605-3606}$ That interpretation is not correct.
17	Shell's approach is that if a species is
18	declining in Alberta or across its North American
19	range, but the cause of the decline is not
20	associated with the Project or cumulative effects
21	within the RSA, the cumulative effects assessment
22	would conclude that the effects within the RSA are
23	not in fact significant. 271 Exhibit 001-063, Adobe 67 This
24	approach is appropriate because it focusses on the
25	effects within the RSA that may act cumulatively

1 with the effects of the Project.

2 With respect to ACFN's concerns around wood 3 bison, caribou and moose, ACFN claims that the opportunity for bison recovery is dwindling with 4 5 the increasing disturbance of bison habitat. 272 Exhibit 006-0130, Adobe 25 6 That assertion is not 7 supported by the facts. ACFN's own expert, 8 Dr. Komers, agreed with Shell that bison are not habitat-limited in northeast Alberta. $^{273~\text{Exhibit}}$ 9 001-070A, Adobe 47; Transcript Vol. 11, pg. 2620 10 Disease has been 11 one of the reasons for historic population declines. 274 Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3519 12 In addition, at 13 present, some wood bison populations in the region 14 are actually increasing. For example, Mr. Wiacek 15 for Environment Canada testified that between 2001 16 and 2012, wood bison populations in Wood Buffalo 17 National Park have increased approximately threefold. 275 Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3617 Finally, the EIA 18 19 concluded that the Project will have negligible 20 effects on wood bison because wood bison do not 21 occur on the east side of the Athabasca River where the mine will be located. $^{\rm 276~Exhibit~001-070A,~Adobe~46}$ 22 23 Woodland caribou are also virtually absent 24 from the Project LSA and the Project is located 2.5 many kilometres from the nearest caribou herd

range. Shell concluded that the Project will have
negligible effects on caribou. 277 Exhibit 001-015C, Adobe 2;

Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1429 and 1434 Shell acknowledges that
caribou are declining in the Regional Study Area as
a result of indirect cumulative effects of
development, including issues such as predation.

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However, the regional decline in caribou populations is part of a national trend for many caribou herds and that has led to the recent release of the Federal Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou. This Recovery Strategy requires the provinces to develop range plans for each non-sustaining caribou herd to ensure long-term recovery of woodland caribou across Canada.

278 Exhibit 001-0700, Adobe 55 Shell continues to support these and other caribou initiatives in the Oil Sands Region, including through bodies such as the Oil Sands Leadership Initiative and COSIA.

For moose, population levels in the Regional Study Area are affected by a number of factors, including habitat, predation, access, and hunting.

280 Exhibit 001-083, Adobe 4; Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1618 Although moose populations in the region are likely to be declining, there is nothing to suggest that the

1 primary cause of this decline is habitat loss as 2 habitat quality and availability assessment 3 suggests that moose populations remain well below the carrying capacity of the environment. $^{\rm 281~Exhibit}$ 4 $^{\rm 017\text{-}024,\ Adobe\ 4}$ Shell's witnesses explained during the 5 6 hearing that the primary cause of moose decline in 7 the region are likely hunting and predation, which will be unaffected by the Project. $^{\rm 282~Exhibit~001-083}\text{,}$ 8 Adobe 4; Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1618 As a result, the EIA 9 10 concluded that the likely impacts of the Project on 11 moose abundance, habitat, and movement, after 12 closure and reclamation in the RSA will either be low or negligible. 283 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 47; Exhibit 13 001-051F, Adobe 109 14 Similarly, the cumulative effects of 15 effect of development on moose are not considered to be likely significant adverse effects. $^{284~{\rm Exhibit}}$ 16 001-083, Adobe 4 17 Finally, counsel for the CEAA agency also 18 19 raised questions about effects of the Project on 20 yellow rail and conservation offsets. 21 Mr. Jalkotzy explained that declines in yellow rail 22 populations across North America are largely due to 23 wetland losses in the prairie region further south. 285 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1441 24 In addition, there is a 2.5 substantial amount of yellow rail habitat available

1 in the Regional Study Area outside of the Project 2 footprint and therefore yellow rail will have extensive alternative habitat for them. $^{286\ \mathrm{Transcript}}$ 3 Vol. 7, pg. 1442 As a result, the Project was predicted 4 5 to have negligible effects on the yellow rail within the RSA. 287 Exhibit 001-015C, Adobe 3

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In terms of conservation offsets, the witnesses explained that the Project itself is not likely to result in any significant adverse effects and therefore Project-specific offsets are not necessary. ²⁸⁸ Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1413-1414 On a regional basis, cumulative effects should be addressed by all industry and government through regional planning initiatives like LARP. The Province is in fact taking steps to address these cumulative effects through conservation areas under LARP, which expanded conservation areas from 6 percent of the region to 24 percent of the region, $^{\rm 289~Exhibit}$ $^{\rm 001\text{-}070S\text{, Adobe }83\text{-}84}$ developing a biodiversity framework for the region and a Land Disturbance Plan by the end of 2013, both of which are likely to be in place before Shell's proposed start-up of the Project, and also the Province's Wetlands Policy, will also address this issue. 290 Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1413-1414

1	In it's October 1st submission, Environment
2	Canada referenced its Operational Framework for Use
3	of Conservation Allowances. 291 Exhibit 005-020, Adobe 65
4	At page 6 of that document, Environment Canada
5	states this, and I quote:
6	
7	"Another jurisdiction may
8	have established a conservation or
9	land-use plan that adequately
10	addresses the proposed impact. The
11	measures put in place by the other
12	jurisdiction would need to be
13	reviewed carefully to ensure that
14	Environment Canada's allowance
15	criteria are addressed. For
16	example, a province or a regional
17	land-use plan may contemplate
18	expected land or resource-use
19	activities and set aside protected
20	areas ahead of time in anticipation
21	of the adverse environmental
22	impacts associated with these
23	expected activities. In this case,
24	the protected area could function
25	as a 'habitat bank' from which

1	future allowances could be
2	obtained."
3	
4	The Alberta Government is managing the Oil
5	Sands Region and has identified through the LARP
6	areas where development can occur and areas that
7	are required to be protected. Based on Environment
8	Canada's document, the Panel can rely on these
9	conservation areas as compensating for habitat loss
10	from this and other projects in the region.
11	Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure when you wanted to
12	break, but this is a logical spot.
13	THE CHAIRMAN: It's just right, sir. I have
14	10:20. We'll break for 20 minutes.
15	
16	(The morning adjournment)
17	
18	THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, the
19	Reporter advises me that when the subject matter is
20	as dense as it is in final argument, we need to
21	take a break about every hour, so I'll ask for the
22	cooperation of counsel in watching the clock and
23	trying to find a natural break to do that.
24	So I have about 10:42. So we'll look at it
25	in an hour and see if we want to take our lunch

1	break then, depending on where you are,
2	Mr. Denstedt.
3	MR. DENSTEDT: Mr. Chairman, I'm exactly
4	halfway through, and I was thinking I could split
5	the last half of the argument in two pieces, and if
6	we could do that before lunch, my friends would
7	then have the lunch hour to think about what I've
8	said as well. Does that make sense?
9	THE CHAIRMAN: Excellent.
10	MR. DENSTEDT: Shall I start?
11	So where we left off was at migratory birds
12	and tailings ponds, which is the next issue that I
13	wanted to talk about.
14	
15	Migratory Birds/Tailings Ponds
16	Several interveners, including ACFN, raised
17	concerns about migratory birds and tailings ponds.
18	For example, Ms. Hechtenthal submitted an Avian
19	Hazard Report on behalf of ACFN that raised
20	concerns with birds becoming oiled in tailings
21	ponds and the effectiveness of mitigation measures
22	to address that concern. 292 Exhibit 006-013AA
23	The effects of tailings ponds on waterfowl
24	and other migratory birds was assessed explicitly
25	in the EIA as well as in Shell's 2012, May 2012 and

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September 7, 2012 submissions to the JRP. ^{293 Exhibit} ^{001-070A, Adobe 48} This assessment relied on experience with existing oil sands tailings ponds for which comprehensive monitoring programs are in place to detect bird mortalities. At Shell's existing operations, for example, Mr. Martindale explained that each tailings pond is monitored every day specifically for bird mortalities, amounting to thousands of person hours every year, and all detected mortalities are reported to the government. ^{294 Exhibit 001-006C, Adobe 330; Transcript Vol. 4, pgs. 593-597}

To deter birds from landing on its tailings ponds, Shell uses an on-demand radar-activated deterrent system that is an improved modification from current industry practices. ²⁹⁵ Exhibit ^{001-006C}, Adobe ²⁹²; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. ²²⁰; Exhibit ^{006-013U}, Adobe ¹⁶¹ The system also fails on; that means that if the system goes down, the cannons will continue to operate based on stored solar power. ²⁹⁶ Transcript Vol. ⁴, pg. ⁶⁰⁴ The bird-deterrent system has been highly effective in preventing waterfowl from landing on Shell's tailings ponds. ²⁹⁷ Transcript Vol. ⁴, pg. ⁵⁹² In addition, Shell continues to work with other industry members to improve bird-deterrent technology and will

1 continue to implement new measures that are found 298 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 17 to be more effective. 2 3 According to the 2011 Annual Report of the Regional Bird Monitoring Program for the Oil Sands 4 Region, the total number of birds recovered from 5 all the tailings ponds in the Oil Sands Region in 6 2011 was 70, with most of them being ducks. 7 299 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2464; Exhibit 006-103W, Adobe 3 8 9 Shell's tailings ponds, the total was 15. Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 604 In contrast, wind turbines kill 10 11 hundreds of thousands of birds each year, and Ducks Unlimited members hunt tens of millions. $^{\rm 301\ Transcript}$ 12 Vol. 4, pg. 604 13 Ecojustice and Earth Justice submitted that between 22 million and 170 million birds breed 14 in the Oil Sands Region. 302 Exhibit 021-009, Adobe 3 15 16 Ms. Song for Environment Canada estimated that the 17 boreal forest region supports between 12 and 14 million waterfowl and that the main sources of bird 18 19 mortality are residential buildings and cats. 303 Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3670 20 While any bird mortalities are clearly 21 22 unfortunate, and Shell is working to prevent all 23 bird mortalities through its bird-deterrent system, the number of bird mortalities that can be expected 24 2.5 for the Project are clearly insignificant in this

1 broader context.

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Ms. Hechtenthal claims that it is highly likely that industry reports do not account for all avian deaths because oiled and waterlogged birds sink out of the view quickly and likely go undocumented. 304 Exhibit 006-013AA, Adobe 8 However, Shell explained in its Reply Submission in October that the number of bird mortalities reported by industry is not underreported, because any birds that become waterlogged and sink will ultimately gasify and float to the surface as they decompose. 305 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 48 Therefore, Shell concluded it is unlikely that waterfowl mortalities occur on tailings ponds that are not recorded and reported.

A further specific issue that was raised by Environment Canada relates to the whooping crane. Shell's witnesses explained during the hearing that despite extensive surveys over the last 20 years, there have been very few sightings of whooping crane in the Oil Sands Region. 306 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1435 While recent radio-tracking data shows that whooping crane migrate over the oil sands, it also shows that whooping crane have avoided existing oil sands tailings ponds. This is likely due to the fact that whooping crane prefer to rest in fens

that are very different habitats from tailings

ponds, as well as the effectiveness of

bird-deterrent systems that oil sands operators

have in place. 307 Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1436-1438

Let me move on to reclamation.

Reclamation

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ACFN's expert Dr. Gutsell suggested that reclamation simply does not work. 308 Exhibit 006-0130, Adobe 35 Similarly, Dr. Schindler on behalf of OSEC submitted that reclamation to a landscape of equivalent habitat is not possible. 309 Exhibit 017-016C, Adobe 12 Mr. Chairman, those statements do not rely on reality.

The reclamation requirement in Alberta is not to create a landscape that is identical to the pre-disturbed state, as Dr. Gutsell seemed to suggest. The goal is to reestablish a functional landscape that provides equivalent land capability.

310 Conservation and Reclamation Regulation, Alta Reg. 115/93, s. 2 It also considers the decisions of locally-affected stakeholders, and in particular Aboriginal groups, who will be using the reclaimed landscape post-closure. Returning the reclaimed landscape to equivalent capability is not only possible but it

1 has been done or is in progress at a number of 2 sites in the Oil Sands Region, including tailings ponds. 311 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 32; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 422 3 4 addition, there are a variety of examples around 5 the world and in Canada of mine reclamation being successful. 312 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 456; Transcript Vol. 7, 6 pgs. 1445-1446 7 Successful reclamation is not new to 8 this province. Oil sands reclamation has been the focus of 9 10 considerable research through CEMA, CONRAD, and 11 other bodies, and Shell is an active supporter of that work. 313 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 32; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 458 12 13 There is a large volume of research on the subject 14 of boreal reclamation with particular emphasis on 15 reclamation in the Oil Sands Region and it shows 16 that reclamation in the oil sands can be effective. 314 Exhibit 001-104 17 Wildlife are returning to these reclaimed sites. 315 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 422 18 19 As a result, the Royal Society of Canada's 20 expert panel report concluded that functional upland landscapes in the oil sands can be reclaimed 21 using current reclamation technologies. $^{\rm 316~Exhibit}$ 22 001-070EE, Adobe 310 23 24 In addition, CEMA's Guidelines for 2.5 Reclamation in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region

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provide more than 400 pages of information about reclamation techniques and monitoring results in the region and are among the most comprehensive in any industry. 317 Exhibit 001-070K This was a document that ACFN's expert, Dr. Gutsell, completely ignored in her report without comment. It seems to be a fundamental fallacy to ignore the actual reclamation guidelines used by developers while at the same time criticizing their efforts.

Vegetation, succession, and ecosystem development, is a long process under natural conditions and the same is true for reclamation sites. 318 Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 617 Studies have shown the ingress of native species onto these sites and continued research has indicated other techniques such as woody-debris placement can be used to enhance reclamation diversity and ecosystem functionality. 319 Exhibit 001-104; Vitt et al. 2011, cited in Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 32 It is expected that over time, emergent properties such as biodiversity, structural complexity, and microbiotic activity, will continue to develop on the reclaimed landscape. 320 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 616, and 627-628 Shell has shown a commitment to progressive

landscape at Muskeg River Mine and Jackpine Mine by

1 maximizing areas of permanent and temporary 2 reclamation on areas completed by operations and available for reclamation activities. Although 3 some interveners have pointed to the lack of 4 reclamation that Shell has achieved to date on its 5 6 existing oil sands mines, the reclamation process 7 takes many years, and reclamation cannot be started 8 until operations in a specific area are completed; which for long-life production projects such as 9 Shell's, can be decades. 321 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 425 10 11 Shell's Oil Sands Projects are still in the early 12 phases of development. 13 Mr. Martindale testified that Shell is 14 already doing as much as possible towards progressive reclamation. 322 Transcript Vol. 6, pg. 1169 15 16 Shell is required to report to the Alberta 17 Government on an annual basis and to meet with them to discuss Shell's Reclamation Plans and 18 19 demonstrate that they line up with industry standards. 323 Transcript Vol. 3, pgs. 425-426 20 21 Shell is also required to comply with the 22 Province's Mine Financial Security Program, which 23 ensures that sufficient funds are secured in 24 advance to cover the costs of reclamation. 2.5 In addition, if Shell or any other operator

1 fails to meet its progressive reclamation targets as set out in its plans, there are serious 2 penalties imposed upon them. $^{324~\mathrm{Transcript~Vol.~8}}$, 3 pgs. 1639-1640 4 5 Shell has filed Preliminary Closure Drainage 6 and Closure Conservation and Reclamation Plans for the Project, 325 Exhibit 001-002B which are based on the 7 8 CEMA guidance and the requirements of ESRD. Closure Drainage Plan explains how both groundwater 9 and surface water will be managed and integrated 10 11 into the surrounding landscape through features 12 like sand-caps, closure channels, constructed wetlands, and pit lakes. These closure landscape 13 14 features have been designed geomorphically to act 15 like natural systems that are capable of managing 16 anticipated flux of process-affected groundwater and a range of runoff flow conditions. $^{\rm 326~Exhibit}$ 17 001-022, Adobe 11-13 and 18 18

In addition, the end pit lakes have been configured and appropriately sized in consideration of a number of factors, including hydrologic sustainability, flood attenuation, water-treatment capability, littoral-zone development, and shoreline protection. 327 Exhibit 001-002B, Adobe 23-24 and 45-47

25 For terrestrial reclamation, Shell determined

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1 that direct placement of subsoil and topsoil on a 2 newly-prepared landscape is a preferred method of 3 reclamation as it can take advantage of an active and viable seed bank in the soil. It reduces the 4 amount of land required for soil storage and it 5 6 allows operations to handle the material only once. 328 Transcript Vol. 5, pgs. 927-930 7 After the plants and 8 seeds in the topsoil have germinated and 9 established, the site will be evaluated and additional trees and shrubs may be planted in order 10 11 to achieve the ecosites described in Shell's 329 Exhibit 001-002B Reclamation and Closure Plan. 12 The success of this type of terrestrial reclamation has 13 been well documented in the literature. $^{330\ \mathrm{For\ example}}$, 14 Exhibit 001-104 15 16 Shell's Closure Drainage and Closure 17 Conservation and Reclamation Plans for the Project will be updated regularly taking into account 18 19 knowledge gained from ongoing reclamation research 20 being undertaken by Shell in groups like CEMA's 21 Reclamation Working Group, Canadian Oil Sands 22 Network for Research and Development, the Oil Sands 23 Tailings Consortium, and now Canada's Oil Sands Innovation Alliance. 331 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 264 24 These 2.5 plans will also incorporate input from Aboriginal

1 communities through bodies such as the Shell Fort McKay Reclamation Focus Group. 332 Exhibit 001-040E, 2 Adobe 41; Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 464 3 Shell has also committed to developing a 4 biodiversity monitoring program to monitor the 5 6 success of reclamation and establishment of 7 biodiversity for the Project. This monitoring 8 program will consider protocols established by the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, which 9 Mr. Dyer for OSEC has called "world class," 10 333 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 1826 including protocols for 11 12 winter track counts, breeding-birds surveys, 13 vegetation surveys, and incidental wildlife observations. 334 Exhibit 001-001H, Adobe 843 It will also 14 15 comply with the Biodiversity Framework under LARP which is expected to be released next year. $^{\rm 335~Exhibit}$ 16 001-070A, Adobe 16 17 This monitoring will determine the effectiveness of reclamation, and based on the 18 19 results of this monitoring, and any subsequent 20 adaptive management, Shell will ensure that the reclaimed landscape is returned to an equivalent 21 22 landscape capability post-closure. 23 24 Wetlands and Old Growth Forest 2.5 Another issue that was raised by OSEC in the

hearing was the effects of the Project on wetlands and old-growth forest.

> Shell recognized the Project will have an adverse effect on wetlands, direct and indirect effects of the Project will affect the majority of the wetlands within the Local Study Area. will have high environmental consequences at the local scale. At the regional level, however, effects of the Project on wetlands will be negligible. 336 Exhibit 001-051F, Adobe 90 In the Base Case, wetlands comprise approximately 39.8 percent of the total Regional Study Area. The Project will reduce that number to 39.5 percent, $^{337 \text{ Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 266}}$, Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 135 a change of 0.3 percent. developments in the Planned Development Case will reduce this number by a further 2.0 percent.

17 338 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 136

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However, wetlands, including peatlands, will remain abundant in the Regional Study Area, and wildlife that depend on wetlands and peatlands will have extensive alternative habitat available for them. Shell's Reclamation Plans also include large constructed wetlands that will provide a number of important functions in the closure landscape, including habitat provision, run-off flow

1 attenuation, biodegradation, and sediment capture. 339 Exhibit 001-002B As a result, Shell concluded that 2 3 the Project will not have significant adverse 4 effects on wetlands or peatlands in the RSA. 340 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 29 5 While Shell's EIA conservatively assumes 6 7 peatlands will not be recreated on the site, Shell 8 is currently providing funding and participating in studies spearheaded by Syncrude and Suncor to 9 construct peatlands on reclaimed mine areas. 10 341 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 145; Exhibit 001-070MM 11 Dr. Schindler, 12 in his testimony, dismissed the Vitt et al. 13 research as not applicable because it was conducted in the Peace River country and focused on 14 15 reclamation of well-sites and therefore could not 16 be applied to reclamation of mined lands. 17 However, the first question posed by those researchers was this: "Will locally available 18 19 peatland vascular plants establish on wet compact mineral soils?" 342 Exhibit 001-070MM, Adobe 2 20 Wet mineral 21 soils will be used for reclamation of the mine 22 areas. The results of the work are directly 23 applicable to reclamation on the Project lands, 24 contrary to Dr. Schindler's assertions. 2.5 Shell has also partnered with Wetlands

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International and Ducks Unlimited Canada to develop its reclamation strategy, and Shell continues to actively participate in research activities of CEMA's Wetlands and Aquatics Group and CONRAD's Environmental Research Group.

343 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 267,

These efforts will supplement the government's regional planning, initiatives such as LARP, to ensure that the region retains viable healthy ecosystems. In that regard, Shell is committed to comply with both the pending Biodiversity Framework being developed under the LARP, and the Alberta Wetlands Policy, once they are released.

344 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 16

In terms of effects on old-growth forest, the Project is expected to result in the clearing of approximately 390 hectares of old-growth forest.

345 Exhibit 001-051F, Adobe 88 This represents about

40 percent of the old-growth forest in the Local

Study Area, but approximately only 0.1 percent of old-growth forest in the RSA.

Given the very small percentage of old-growth that this Project will affect within the RSA, the EIA concluded that the Project's effects on old-growth forests will not be significant.

Adobe 105-106

1	Ms. Campbell for OSEC suggested that since
2	the post-closure landscape in the LSA will be dryer
3	than at present, it will be more prone to forest
4	fires and will thus not likely support old-growth
5	forest in the future. 348 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 1761 When
6	these types of questions were put to the Shell
7	witnesses, however, they testified that the Project
8	area will support the return of old-growth in the
9	future and the LSA will not necessarily be more
10	prone to forest fires. 349 Transcript Vol. 5, pgs. 942-943
11	As I discussed earlier, climate-change models for
12	the region produce a variety of predictions, some
13	say it will be warmer and drier; others say it will
14	be warmer and wetter. 350 Exhibit 001-092, Adobe 15 If the
15	climate becomes wetter, the frequency of fire will
16	likely decrease. Given the uncertainty regarding
17	the effects of climate change on precipitation,
18	Shell simulated forest fire using model inputs from
19	modelling constructed for the LARP, which
20	represents the best available knowledge at this
21	time. 351 Exhibit 001-051H, Adobe 21 and Adobe 66
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23	Cumulative Effects
24	Next I would like to talk about cumulative
25	effects, which, in Shell's view, is the most

1	important management and policy issue in the Oil
2	Sands Region. I've already touched on this issue
3	to a certain extent, but let me start by saying
4	that Shell conducted a cumulative effects
5	assessment in accordance with the requirements of
6	the CEAA and the guidance documents published by
7	the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.
8	These documents require that all
9	Environmental Assessments conducted under the CEAA
10	consider the likely effects of the proposed project
11	that overlap with the effects of other projects in
12	the area that have been, or will be, carried out.
13	The Joint Review Panel for the Express
14	Pipelines project set out a three-part test for
15	assessing cumulative effects under the CEAA, and
16	that panel stated as follows: And I quote (as
17	read):
18	
19	"First, there must be an
20	environmental effect of the project
21	being assessed.
22	Second, that environmental
23	effect must be demonstrated to
24	operate cumulatively with the
25	environmental effects from other

1	projects or activities.
2	And third, it must be known
3	that the other projects or
4	activities have been or will be
5	carried out and are not
6	hypothetical." 352 NEB-CEAA Joint Review
7	Panel, Environmental Assessment of the Express
8	Pipeline Project: Joint Review Panel Report OH-I-95,
9	(May 1996) at 187-88
10	
11	Therefore, in order for there to be
12	cumulative effects under the CEAA, there must be
13	overlap between the effects of the proposed project
14	and other activities. If there is no overlap,
15	there is no cumulative effect for the purposes of
16	CEAA.
17	Secondly, there must be some certainty that a
18	future activity will in fact be carried out for it
19	to be considered in the cumulative effects
20	assessment.
21	The Panel for Express Pipelines described
22	this as (as read):
23	
24	"Some probability rather than
25	the near possibility that the

1	cumulative environmental effect
2	will occur." 353 NEB-CEAA Joint Review Panel,
3	Environmental Assessment of the Express Pipeline
4	Project: Joint Review Panel Report OH-I-95, (May
5	1996) at 98
6	
7	In addition, CEAA agency guidance states as
8	follows, and I quote (as read):
9	
10	"When the details for future
11	projects, e.g. design, technology,
12	mitigation measures, are unknown,
13	or the information is not
14	accessible, it adds to the
15	uncertainty about the environmental
16	effects of future projects and how
17	these effects will interact with
18	those of the project in question.
19	Available information and the best
20	professional knowledge and judgment
21	should be used. In most cases,
22	only qualitative assessments of
23	cumulative environmental effects
24	will be possible." 354 CEA Agency,
25	Reference Guide: Addressing Cumulative Effects

1	(Ottawa: Federal Minister of Supply and Services
2	Canada, 1994), online:
3	<pre><http: 9742c481-21d8-4d1f-ab14-<="" pre="" www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca=""></http:></pre>
4	555211160443/Addressing_Cumulative_Environmental_
5	Effects.pdf> at 140-141
6	
7	In terms of activities that are induced by
8	planned projects, like access roads, the CEAA
9	Agency's guidance is that consideration of induced
10	actions should be done only if there is sufficient
11	information describing them to allow an adequate
12	assessment of their effects. 355 CEA Agency, "Cumulative
13	Effects Assessment Practitioners Guide" (February 1999) online:
14	<pre><http: 43952694-0363-4b1e-b2b3-47365faf1ed7="" cumulative_<="" pre="" www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca=""></http:></pre>
15	Effects_Assessment_Practitioners_Guide.pdf> at 19
16	So let's turn to Shell's evidence.
17	So Shell's witnesses explained during the
18	hearing that future activities, like seismic
19	exploration, were not included in the Planned
20	Development Case because there is no information
21	about these activities today. We don't know when,
22	where, or how these activities will be undertaken.
23	Therefore, there is no ability to predict with any
24	degree of certainty what their environmental
25	effects may be in the future. 356 Transcript Vol. 5, pg. 1051

1	However, for other future activities, like
2	announced in-situ projects where there was
3	insufficient information about the project, Shell
4	conservatively assumed that the entire lease for
5	the in-situ Project would be disturbed. 357 Transcript
6	$^{\text{Vol. 5, pg. }1052}$ As that will clearly not be the case
7	for in-situ projects, Shell's approach
8	conservatively overestimates disturbance from these
9	types of projects. 358 Transcript Vol. 5, pgs. 1052-1053
10	Mr. Dyer for OSEC acknowledged that Shell's Planned
11	Development Case was both conservative and
12	reasonable. 359 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1721
13	The cumulative effects assessment that was
14	undertaken for the Project followed the
15	requirements of CEAA.
16	First, the environmental effects of the
17	Project were assessed.
18	Second, Regional Study Areas, or RSAs, were
19	developed that were considered by
20	discipline-specific experts to be the areas in
21	which the effects of the projects could overlap
22	with the effects of other activities in a
23	non-trivial way.
24	Finally, the effects of the Project were
25	considered in combination with the effects of other

1 projects or activities within the RSA that were 2 either existing or planned future activities. 360 Exhibit 001-001B, Adobe 21-22; Exhibit 001-051H, Adobe 5 3 At the request of the Panel, Shell assessed 4 cumulative effects from a Pre-Industrial baseline 5 6 and updated its Planned Development Case to include 7 all projects that had been announced as of September 2011. 361 Exhibit 001-063 Shell's EIA 8 indicates that there will be no significant adverse 9 effects to species at risk or Key Indicator 10 11 Resources with the exception of cumulative effects 12 to woodland caribou and the black-throated green 13 warbler. 14 As the Project contributes 0.4 percent to the 15 cumulative habitat loss for black-throated green 16 warbler and its populations are predicted to 17 recover following reclamation, the Project's environmental consequences at the RSA scale are 18 19 anticipated to be negligible. 20 Similarly, as woodland caribou are virtually 21 absent from the Project area, and the nearest 22 designated caribou range is several kilometres 23 away, negligible effects due to the Project are 24 anticipated. 2.5 Shell acknowledges that the PDC information

1 it has filed demonstrates that cumulative effects 2 in the Oil Sands Region must be planned for to 3 ensure that ecological thresholds are not surpassed 4 in the future, and that if left unmanaged, cumulative effects may become significant. 5 6 information, however, should not be used to suggest 7 that the Project is not in the public interest 8 simply because other activities may or may not 9 occur in the future. Rather, this information is useful for the 10 11 purposes of informing regional planning and policy 12 development by regulators and government such as 13 LARP and the Panel should make the appropriate recommendations to those bodies to consider Shell's 14 15 information in their planning and management activities. 362 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1600 16 17 Industry is also working with stakeholders, governments, and Aboriginal groups, to address 18 19 cumulative effects in the Oil Sands Region. 20 Cumulative Effects Management Association was 21 created to bring together a range of these 22 interests to assess regional cumulative effects and 23 to make recommendations on how future projects

Shell has been an active participant of CEMA

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should proceed.

1	since its inception in 2000, as noted by Mr. Dyer
2	for OSEC, $^{363 \text{ Transcript Vol. 8, pg. } 1728}$ and has continued
3	to maintain a strong leadership position. The LARP
4	is also intended to address regional concerns
5	through setting regional objectives and
6	quantifiable targets and setting aside new
7	conservation areas. In Shell's views, these are
8	the appropriate forums to address and manage
9	cumulative effects across the oil sands, and CEMA
10	is in fact taking steps to address these issues.
11	Shell will continue to support cumulative
12	effects focused management frameworks, including
13	those developed through LARP and the
14	Federal/Provincial Joint Monitoring Program.
15	364 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 16, 19 and 31
16	The next issue I would like to discuss is
17	uncertainty.
18	
19	Uncertainty
20	During the hearing, Panel Member Cooke asked
21	the Shell witnesses questions about uncertainty
22	around several issues in the EIA and how those
23	uncertainties will be managed.
24	Uncertainty is inherent in any Environmental
25	Assessment. In its Operational Policy Statement on

1	Adaptive Management, the CEAA agency states as
2	follows, and I quote:
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4	"Due to factors such as the
5	complexities of ecosystems and
6	difficulties predicting details of
7	future development, all
8	[environmental assessments] involve
9	some level of uncertainty regarding
10	the identification of environmental
11	effects, the assessment of their
12	significance, and the effectiveness
13	of mitigation measures. The
14	[Canadian Environmental Assessment]
14 15	[Canadian Environmental Assessment] Act implicitly recognizes
15	Act implicitly recognizes
15 16	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a
15 16 17	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a follow-up program for all projects that undergo an assessment by comprehensive study or a review
15 16 17 18	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a follow-up program for all projects that undergo an assessment by
15 16 17 18 19	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a follow-up program for all projects that undergo an assessment by comprehensive study or a review
15 16 17 18 19 20	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a follow-up program for all projects that undergo an assessment by comprehensive study or a review panel." 365 CEA Agency, Operational Policy
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a follow-up program for all projects that undergo an assessment by comprehensive study or a review panel." 365 CEA Agency, Operational Policy Statement: Adaptive Management Measures under the
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a follow-up program for all projects that undergo an assessment by comprehensive study or a review panel." 365 CEA Agency, Operational Policy Statement: Adaptive Management Measures under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (March 2009)
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Act implicitly recognizes uncertainty by requiring a follow-up program for all projects that undergo an assessment by comprehensive study or a review panel." 365 CEA Agency, Operational Policy Statement: Adaptive Management Measures under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (March 2009) online:

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2	This guidance reflects the fact that an
3	Environmental Assessment is intended to make
4	reasonable predictions about what is likely to
5	occur in the future and not what is speculative.
6	It does not and cannot be expected to predict all
7	effects with certainty or finality. This was
8	confirmed by the Federal Court of Appeal in Alberta
9	Wilderness Association v. Express Pipelines when it
10	held that, and I quote:
11	
12	" no information about the
13	probable future effects of a
14	project can ever be complete or
15	exclude all possible future
16	outcomes." 366 [1996] F.C.J. No. 1016 (Fed.
17	C.A.) at para. 10
18	
19	Uncertainty is managed through monitoring to
20	verify predictions and implementing adaptive
21	management if the actual effects are different from
22	what was predicted. The Federal Government
23	witnesses agreed with this approach. 367 Transcript
24	Vol. 14, pgs 3500-3501

The Shell witnesses responded to Mr. Cooke's

1 questions by explaining that uncertainty is 2 something that is inherent in any development and 3 companies like Shell evaluate those uncertainties and the risks associated with those uncertainties as part of every decision they make. $^{\rm 368\ Transcript}$ Vol. 8, pgs. 1622-1624

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Shell's history in the Oil Sands Region, as well as the extensive work that has gone into the EIA for this Project, provide a high degree of certainty that these types of risks can be managed proactively. 369 Transcript Vol. 8, pgs. 1624-1626 The oil sands industry has shown that when new challenges present themselves, whether they be through new regulatory requirements or new information from environmental effects monitoring, the industry will collaboratively work together to address this new issue and will modify their operations as necessary. 370 Transcript Vol. 8, pgs. 1629-1631 This strong track record demonstrates that Shell will be able to adaptively manage any outcome from the variety of uncertainties that has been identified.

In short, Shell has managed uncertainty for the Project through using conservative assumptions and models in the Environmental Assessment, validating those models, and in some cases

verifying those models based on actual monitoring results, by developing comprehensive follow-up and monitoring plans, committing to adaptive management if monitoring shows different results from what the EIA predicted, and participating in multi-stakeholder industry groups such as CEMA and COSEA to study and address these issues and proactively work to resolve them.

Let me now turn to government recommendations before I wind up the environmental section. This is the final issue I'd like to address in this area.

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Government Recommendations

Mr. Chairman, several of the recommendations from the Federal Government are not required for the purposes of this process since most have been addressed already on the record or are more appropriately the subject matter of regional multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the FiSH Committee.

The purposes of a Fisheries and Oceans

Canada, Environment Canada, Natural Resources

Canada, and Transport Canada's participation in

this process is to provide advice to the Panel

1	pursuant to Section 20 of the CEAA. The advice is
2	to assist the Panel in determining whether there
3	are any likely significant adverse environmental
4	effects.
5	Shell provided its response to each Federal
6	Government recommendation in its Reply Submission
7	dated October 15th. And I would urge the Panel to
8	have a look at that submission carefully to
9	determine whether a proposed recommendation is
10	necessary to mitigate the environmental effects of
11	this Project.
12	And in conducting that review, Panel, let me
13	give you a simple test to evaluate the
14	recommendations that have been put forward. I
15	think you should ask yourself this first question:
16	
17	"Is the recommendation
18	required to ensure that the Project
19	is not likely to cause a
20	significant adverse environmental
21	effect?"
22	
23	That's the question you should ask yourself.
24	This assessment should consider the
25	assessment on the record. For many

1	recommendations, federal regulators have not
2	provided evidence to suggest they are required, or
3	have provided any nexus between the risk of a
4	significant effect and the recommendation itself.
5	They also have provided no evidence which would
6	contradict Shell's conclusions.
7	If the recommendation is not required to
8	ensure that the Project is not likely to cause a
9	significant adverse effect, it should not be
10	included in the Panel's report unless it is
11	directed to government or regulators to plan for
12	and manage regional issues.
13	And the second test you can apply in respect
14	of monitoring recommendations, you should ask
15	yourself this question:
16	
17	"Is the level of uncertainty
18	such that there is a risk of a
19	significant adverse environmental
20	effect?" 371 Canadian Environmental Assessment
21	Act, 2012, S.C. 2012 c. 19 s. 52, s. 31(1)(a),
22	Adobe 18
23	
24	And if the answer to that question is "yes,"
25	then the monitoring to verify the prediction and

adaptively manage the issue is required, and the recommendation should be required.

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Finally, it is important to recognize that Alberta already regulates many of these issues through legislation and Shell's environmental **EPEA** approval. And they do it very well. 372 Exhibit 001-001B, Adobe 70 This Panel can - and should - rely on Alberta's ability and constitutional right under the law to regulate these matters.

With that context, let me discuss just a couple of the specific recommendations that were made by the Federal Government.

First, many of the DFO's recommendations were discussed with Mr. Makowecki during the hearing and he agreed that several of the DFO recommendations can be achieved through Shell's participation in regional multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the FiSH Committee. 373 Transcript Vol. 14, pgs. 3531 and 3534 Specifically with respect to DFO recommendation two, which recommends that Shell's No Net Loss Plan include a minimum compensation ratio of 2:1, Mr. Makowecki agreed that DFO will work with Shell on its No Net Loss Plan and will consider a variety of factors in determining the appropriate compensation ratio, and that DFO's recommendation can be amended

to require Shell to aim for a 2:1 compensation ratio as opposed to requiring a minimum 2:1 compensation ratio. 374 Transcript Vol. 14, pgs. 3532-3534

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With respect to Environment Canada's recommendations, Shell responded to each of these recommendations in its October 15 Reply Submission, and I won't repeat them here. I would, however, like to discuss three of the recommendations specifically.

Recommendation 1(b) was for Shell to identify and implement measures that avoid the affects of drawdown of the lenticular patterned fen and yellow rail habitat during Project construction and operations. 375 Exhibit 005-020, Adobe 65 Shell provided information in response to IRs that outlined potential mitigation measures to reduce drawdown of the lenticular fen, including establishing a mine setback or constructing an engineered mitigation such as a barrier and pumping system. $^{\rm 376~Exhibit}$ 001-009, Adobe 117 However, these mitigations are very expensive and Shell concluded that they were not required to avoid significant adverse environmental effects. 377 Exhibit 001-051F, Adobe 97 and 117; Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 14 Environment Canada conceded that their recommendation was provided based solely on

1 environmental concerns and did not consider other 2 factors such as cost or resource sterilization. 378 Transcript Vol. 14, pgs. 3537-3538 3 In these circumstances, 4 Panel, the balance of the evidence is that this 5 recommendation is not necessary to avoid 6 significant adverse effects and monitoring will 7 show whether additional mitigation may be required 8 in the future. Second, I already addressed Environment 9 Canada's Recommendation 1E in the context of 10 11 conservation allowances and why Shell's position is 12 that conservation allowances are not required or 13 appropriate in these circumstances. Environment 14 Canada was clear during the hearing that 15 Recommendation 1E was simply intended to suggest that conservation allowances be considered as one 16 17 of a variety of tools in the mitigation toolbox. 379 Transcript Vol. 14, pg. 3637 Again, Mr. Chairman, 18 19 conservation allowances are not needed here, 20 particularly given Alberta's land use planning 21 efforts under LARP. 22 Finally, Environment Canada's Recommendation 23 number 8C contemplates public disclosure of Emergency Response Plans. 380 Exhibit 005-020, Adobe 93 24 2.5 Emergency Response Plans are sensitive documents,

Mr. Chairman, and Shell cannot publicly disclose
these plans. But Shell will of course continue to
work with the Board to ensure that the Emergency
Response Plans for the Project are developed in
accordance with the Board's requirements.

381 Exhibit
001-070A, Adobe 22

Let me now turn to the next primary or main issue, which is Aboriginal consultation.

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ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION AND TRADITIONAL LAND USE

One of the primary elements of Shell's sustainable development policy is its ongoing substantive involvement with its stakeholders and neighbours that allows Shell to identify issues and address them in a meaningful way. 382 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 277, Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 47 Put simply, Shell's public consultation program ensures that its Aboriginal neighbours have input into its decisions.

383 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 277, Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 2, 14, 27, 38

Mr. Chairman, I think the results of Shell applying these principles to its daily operations speak for itself. The Fort McKay First Nation, Fort McKay Métis Local 63, Mikisew Cree First Nation, and Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation, all had concerns about the Project. 384 Transcript Vol. 3,

pg. 279, 280 1 Shell worked hard to resolve those 2 concerns, and, through a collaborative and 3 consultative process was able to address those 4 concerns. Others have continuing concerns - and 5 Shell respects those concerns - but parties can and 6 do disagree about issues. It is then up to the 7 Panel to assess what the actual effects of the 8 Project are. Before I get into the details of Shell's 9 consultation record for this Project, I think it's 10 11 helpful to briefly outline the legal framework 12 around Aboriginal consultation and what is 13 required. Section 35 of the ${\it Constitution Act}$ ^{385 The} 14 Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act, 1982 (U.K.), 15 1982, c. 11 (the "Constitution Act") provides that the existing 16 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of the Aboriginal 17 18 peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed. 386 "Aboriginal peoples" includes "Indians, Inuit, Métis and 19 other Aboriginal people". The term "First Nation" is generally used to 20 refer to an Indian band under the Indian Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-5 21 22 Aboriginal Rights are elements of a practice, 23 custom, or a tradition integral to the distinctive 24 culture of the Aboriginal group claiming the right. 387 R. v. Van der Peet, [1996] 2 S.C.R. 507 at page 310 2.5 Treaty

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Rights, by contrast, are those rights granted through a Treaty between an Aboriginal group and the Crown. For example, Treaty 8 granted the signatories to the Treaty the right to hunt and trap on unoccupied Crown land within the geographic boundaries of the Treaty, subject to the Crown's right to take up those lands. 388 Exhibit 006-013C, Adobe 9

It is important to recognize that Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are held by a collective, they are a right of the people in common and not individual rights. 389 R. v. Sundown, [1999] 1 S.C.R. 393 at page 412

Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights are not absolute and may be infringed if justified. Thus, where an Aboriginal community can establish that it has or is likely to have Aboriginal or Treaty Rights in an area affected by a particular project, the Crown will be required to demonstrate that any infringement resulting from a project is justified. The infringement of Aboriginal interests from an activity does not arise from the project itself, but, rather, from the government's approval of the project pursuant to legislation and regulation. And one of the factors in determining whether the infringement is justified is whether the Aboriginal group has been adequately consulted about potential

impacts of the project which is the subject of government action.

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The Supreme Court of Canada in *Haida*established the basic principle for Aboriginal
consultation in Canada, namely, that the honour of
the Crown demands that government consult and
possibly accommodate the interests of Aboriginal
people when government conduct may infringe on
their Section 35 rights.

390 Haida Nation v. British Columbia
(Minister of Forests), 2004 SCC 73 at para. 25 [Haida]

Similarly, in *Mikisew Cree v. Canada*, 391 2005

SCC 69 [Mikisew] the Supreme Court of Canada held that
the process by which lands taken up by the Crown
under Treaty 8 is dictated by the duty of the Crown
to act honourably and that includes the duty to
consult. And I give this by way of background to
help us understand the fulsomeness of consultation
in this Project.

Aboriginal Rights fall along a spectrum with respect to their degree of connection to the land. At one end of the spectrum are practices, customs and traditions that are integral to the distinctive Aboriginal culture and the group claiming the right, such as religious ceremonies, language and dialect, site-specific rights that are dependent on

the use of the land, such as harvesting, fishing and trapping are somewhere in the middle of that spectrum, and Aboriginal title being an indefeasible-like interest in land is at the other end of the spectrum.

392 Delgamuukw v. British Columbia, [1997] 3

S.C.R. 1010, at para. 138

The scope of the Crown's consultation obligation is proportionate to the strength of the asserted right or title and the seriousness of the impact on the proposed decision on the exercise of traditional rights. 393 Haida, at para. 39

On the deeper end of the spectrum, the Supreme Court of Canada has held that meaningful consultation requires that the Crown (i) provide those claiming the Aboriginal or Treaty Right an opportunity to make submissions; (ii) permit those claiming a right to formally participate in the decision-making process; and (iii) provide written reasons to show that Aboriginal concerns were considered and to reveal the impact they had on the decision. 394 Haida, at para. 44

Even when the duty to consult falls on the deeper end of the spectrum, the Supreme Court in **Taku River** held that the regulatory process can be used to satisfy the duty to consult. 395 Taku River

Tlingit First Nation v. British Columbia (Project Assessment Director), 2004 1 SCC 74 [Taku] 2 Similarly, in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation 3 v. Canada, the Federal Court confirmed that when 4 determining whether and to the extent the Crown has 5 a duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples about 6 projects or transactions that may affect their 7 interests, the Crown may fairly consider the 8 opportunities for Aboriginal consultation that are available within the existing processes for 9 regulatory or environmental review. $^{\rm 396\ 2009\ FC\ 484\ at}$ 10 para. 25 11 This is not a delegation of the Crown's duty 12 to consult, but only one means by which the Crown 13 may be satisfied that Aboriginal concerns had been 14 heard and, where appropriate, accommodated. 15 The duty to consult, therefore, boils down to 16 sharing information with potentially affected 17 Aboriginal groups, providing opportunities for those groups to review the information and provide 18 19 input to the decision maker, and for the decision 20 maker to consider Aboriginal concerns in making 21 their decisions. 22 The courts have been clear that the duty to 23 consult does not require a project proponent to 24 offer any particular form of accommodation to 2.5 Aboriginal groups, nor does it provide any

1 Aboriginal group with an effective veto over a proposed project. 397 Haida, para's 47 to 49 2 Rather, 3 courts have held that the Crown's fiduciary duty to 4 Aboriginal groups must be balanced against its responsibilities towards all Canadians and that the 5 6 decision maker should balance societal and 7 Aboriginal interests in making decisions that may affect Aboriginal claims. 398 Ermineskin Indian Band and Nation 8 v. Canada, 2009 SCC 9; Haida, para 14 9 The hearing for this Project is part of the 10 11 consultation process. The hearing provided 12 opportunities for Aboriginal groups to submit 13 information on the nature and scope of their Aboriginal or Treaty Rights in the Project area, as 14 15 well as the potential adverse effects on those 16 rights and Shell's plans to mitigate any such 17 effects. Under its Terms of Reference, the Panel is required to consider this information in 18 19 determining whether the Project is likely to result 20 in significant adverse environmental effects. 399 Exhibit 002-024, Adobe 12 21 The Panel is also required to reference this information in its report. $^{\rm 400~Exhibit}$ 22 002-024, Adobe 5 23 24 Turning to Shell's consultation for this 2.5 Project, Mr. Chairman, Shell's public consultation

1	process involved gathering input from communities,
2	individuals and groups, to identify and understand
3	issues and concerns, determining what can be done
4	to address their concerns and implementing
5	agreed-upon actions. 401 Exhibit 001-006A, Adobe 84 Shell
6	has placed extensive Consultation Logs on the
7	record for all Aboriginal groups that expressed an
8	interest in the Project and has made significant
9	efforts to provide those communities with
LO	opportunities to participate in the planning of the
11	Project. 402 Exhibit 001-006A, Adobe 100-196; Exhibit 001-057;
12	Exhibit 001-061 Shell has been consulting with
13	Aboriginal communities in the Project area for more
L 4	than 15 years. 403 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 282 For this
15	Project, Shell developed a Consultation Plan which
16	was approved by Alberta Environment in 2007.
L7	404 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 524; Exhibit 008-001 This plan was
18	subsequently updated in 2010. $^{405~\text{Exhibit 001-057, Adobe 13}}$
19	Shell consulted in accordance with this
20	Consultation Plan. It consulted with each
21	interested community to determine how that
22	community wished to be consulted and how they
23	wished to contribute to the Project. 406 Transcript
24	Vol. 3, pg. 282 Shell provided regular updates about
25	the Project and provided opportunities for

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potentially affected groups to provide input and express any concerns they might have. Communities were also given opportunities to conduct Traditional Land Use Studies. In addition, Shell included Aboriginal representatives from participating communities in the carrying out of vegetation and wetlands, wildlife, fish and fish habitat, and archaeological biophysical studies all in support of the EIA. 407 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 91-92

Notwithstanding Shell's generally strong and positive relationship with Aboriginal communities in the Project area, evidenced by the support of the communities in closest proximity to the Project, several of the identified Aboriginal communities have expressed concern about the Project. 408 Exhibit 001-006A, Adobe 92-96 Shell has documented all of the engagements that have taken place with each of these communities and has summarized the issues, the issues discussed, and the outcomes of those engagements. 409 Exhibit 001-006A, Adobe 100-196; Exhibit 001-057; Exhibit 001-061

Not all of the concerns that were raised by Aboriginal communities related to project-specific issues. Many of them dealt with cumulative effects of regional development that were unrelated to this

1 Project. Or they related to capacity building for 2 the community that would allow the community to 3 participate more fully in future developments that again were unrelated to this Project. For the 4 5 concerns that relate to this Project, Shell has 6 responded to those concerns and proposed 7 Project-specific mitigation measures. For the 8 broader issues that were raised that extend beyond 9 the scope of this Project, Shell has committed to working with governments and other stakeholders to 10 address those concerns. 410 Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 433 11 12 Shell does not believe this proceeding is the forum 13 to address those concerns that extend beyond the 14 scope of the Project. 15 Let me now turn to Shell's record of 16 consultation with Aboriginal groups that were most 17 active in this proceeding. First, with respect to ACFN, Shell has been 18 19 consulting with ACFN since the mid-1990s. 411 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 286 20 Shell had a number of 21 agreements with ACFN for both the Muskeg River Mine 22 and Jackpine Mine Phase I projects that seek to 23 mitigate the effects of those projects on the community. 412 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 286-287 On its existing 24 2.5 oil sands project, ACFN businesses have received

1	more than \$200 million in business from Shell.
2	413 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 289 Shell has also invested
3	millions of dollars on cultural and community
4	initiatives in Fort Chipewyan. 414 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 290
5	ACFN has suggested that consultation must be
6	meaningful. Shell agrees with that. But if
7	Shell's consultation with ACFN on this Project has
8	not been meaningful, I'm not sure what would be.
9	Shell has been consulting with ACFN on this
10	specific Project since 2006. The parties entered
11	into a Protocol Agreement in September of 2008 that
12	confirmed the process and core principles of
13	consultation for the Project. 415 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 526
14	Consultation with ACFN has included meetings with
15	the Chief and Council, meetings with Elders,
16	meetings with the ACFN Industrial Relations
17	Committee, and consultants, and Open Houses in the
18	community of Fort Chipewyan. 416 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 17-18
19	Shell funded an ACFN Traditional Land Use Study for
20	the Project in 2008. 417 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 19 In 2009,
21	Shell funded ACFN's Technical Review of the Project
22	Application which resulted in ACFN providing more
23	than 300 technical questions to Shell, each of
24	which Shell responded to. 418 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 19
25	Shell also funded an updated Traditional Land Use

1 Study for the Project in 2011 and again in 2012, and ACFN's reviews of Shell's Draft No Net Loss 2 3 Plan, Shell's Muskeg River Diversion Alternative, and Shell's Socio-Economic Impact Assessment. 4 419 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 15, 17 and 19 5 6 Shell explained during the hearing that ACFN 7 input was incorporated into the Project in a variety of ways, including the Muskeg River 8 Diversion Alternative, Shell's Reclamation Plans, 9 the No Net Loss Plan for the Project, monitoring 10 11 programs, and employment and contracting opportunities. 420 Transcript Vol. 4, pgs. 489-495 12 13 Shell has summarized its engagement with ACFN 14 in the Consultation Logs for the Project, but has 15 also detailed ACFN's substantive concerns and provided responses to those concerns. $^{421~\text{Exhibit}}$ 16 001-026; Exhibit 001-039A through K; Exhibit 001-050; Exhibit 001-086; 17 Exhibit 001-093; Transcript Vol. 3, pgs. 461-462 18 Shell also 19 provided opportunities to ACFN and other groups to 20 review the Consultation Logs and provide input, which was also recorded. $^{422\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 4,\ pg.\ 503}$ 21 22 Finally, since ACFN has entered into mitigation 23 agreements with project proponents for past oil 24 sands mines in the area, including the Muskeg River Mine Expansion and Jackpine Mine Phase I, $^{\rm 423~Energy~\&}$ 2.5

Utilities Board Decision 2004-009; Energy & Utilities Board Decision 1 2006-128 2 Shell attempted to negotiate a mitigation 3 agreement with ACFN for this Project. However, ACFN requested a precondition to these negotiations 4 5 that was considered unacceptable by Shell, hence no 6 agreement could be reached by the parties. Parties can and do disagree. 424 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2214 7 8 Throughout this process, including during the 9 hearing itself, ACFN has provided its perspective and concerns to Shell and to the Crown. 10 11 Notice of Question of Constitutional Law hearings, 12 ACFN's counsel submitted as follows, and I quote: 13 14 "The Athabasca Chipewyan 15 First Nation has been providing 16 comments and information, the basis 17 of its rights, to Canada and 18 Alberta for four years. They've 19 been telling the Crown what they 20 say the impact this Project will 21 have on their rights has been. So 22 this should not be the first time 23 that the Crown considers what the 24 impact of the Project will be. The 2.5 Crown has had a lot of information

1	about that." 425 Transcript Vol. 1, pg. 94
	about that.
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3	Simply put, Mr. Chairman, ACFN has provided
4	thousands of pages of submissions in this
5	proceeding and has participated throughout the
6	regulatory review process, including commenting on
7	the Panel's Terms of Reference, the Joint Panel
8	Agreement, and the CEAA's agency Draft Consultation
9	Plan. $^{426 \text{ Exhibit } 008-001}$ Shell has attempted to work
10	with ACFN to resolve their outstanding concerns,
11	but let me be clear - this is not a dispute about
12	consultation. This is a dispute about EIA
13	methodology and ACFN simply not agreeing with the
14	conclusions in Shell's assessment. In Taku River,
15	the Supreme Court of Canada stated that, and I
16	quote:
17	
18	"Where consultation is
19	meaningful, there is no ultimate
20	duty to reach agreement. Rather,
21	accommodation requires that
22	Aboriginal concerns be balanced
23	reasonably with the potential
24	impact of the particular decision
25	on those concerns and with

1	competing societal concerns."
2	427 Taku River Tlingit First Nation v. British
3	Columbia (Project Assessment Director), 2004 SCC 74,
4	para. 2
5	
6	Therefore, failure to agree with ACFN does
7	not mean that consultation has been in any way
8	inadequate. On the contrary. I encourage the
9	Panel to review Shell's consultation records with
10	ACFN closely to see exactly how much time and
11	effort has been invested in Shell's engagement with
12	ACFN on this Project. Then it can move on to
13	consider what the actual impacts of the Project are
14	and balance those potential impacts with the
15	potential benefits of the Project.
16	Let me turn now to Fort McMurray First Nation
17	468. Fort McMurray 468 has also been engaged from
18	a very early stage in this Project. Shell funded a
19	Traditional Land Use Study in 2006 which
20	demonstrated that the Project area is located at
21	the very northern fringe of their traditional
22	territory and that the vast majority of TLU sites
23	are much further to the south. 428 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 39;
24	Transcript Vol. 3, pgs. 292, 414-415 and 417 This was again
25	reflected in the maps that Fort McMurray 468

provided to Shell in December of 2011. $^{429 \text{ Exhibit}}$

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As Ms. Jefferson explained during the hearing, Shell has repeatedly invited Fort McMurray 468 to provide additional traditional land use information to demonstrate potential impacts of the Project, but based on the information that has been received to date, there is no potential for the Project to significantly impact the TLU of that community. 430 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 415 Therefore, Ms. Jefferson explained that Shell was not willing to fund additional Traditional Land Use Studies for Fort McMurray 468.

Panel, the Energy and Resources Conservation
Board in the original Muskeg River Mine approval
held that information specific to each Aboriginal
community is not required. 432 Energy Resources Conservation
Board, Decision 99-2 for the Muskeg River Mine Application, page 14 In
this case, Shell relied on the TLU information from
other Aboriginal groups in the area that have far
more likelihood of being affected by this Project
as to the use of the area for the exercise of
Treaty 8 Rights which were common rights to all
signatories to the Treaty.

In addition, it is also important to note

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that Fort McMurray 468 has not had its evidence adopted in this proceeding, and has not provided Shell and other parties with the ability to question them or cross-examine their evidence. As a result, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that Fort McMurray 468 has been adequately consulted on this Project and the exercise of its rights will not be significantly impaired by this approval.

Next, the Métis Nation of Alberta has participated in this proceeding both on its own behalf and on behalf of several Métis Locals and Métis individuals. In a January 25, 2012 meeting with MNA Region 1, Shell was advised that Region 1 was pursuing a new mandate to give greater representation to Métis Locals in regulatory matters and that it would be intervening in Shell's Project in part to pursue greater recognition from the Crown for a Métis Consultation Policy. $^{433~\text{Exhibit}}$ 001-057, Adobe 96 However, it remains unclear whether Métis Locals in the region intend to be represented by the MNA Region 1 for the purposes of consultation. The MNA Region 1 claims that it represents all Métis in the region, but it does not represent Métis Local 63 in this hearing, despite the fact that Local 63 is the closest Métis Local

1	to the Project. 434 Transcript Vol. 12, pg. 2949 As late as
2	July of this year, Métis Local 125's position to
3	Shell was that the MNA did not represent them in
4	consultation and Shell should consult directly with
5	Métis Local 125. 435 Exhibit 010-020, Adobe 1 In addition,
6	the Locals and the MNA both claim to be Métis
7	rights-bearing communities. 436 Transcript Vol. 12, pgs. 2948
8	and 2951 The Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley
9	held that in order to demonstrate Métis rights, the
10	claimants must belong to an identifiable Métis
11	community with a sufficient degree of continuity
12	and stability to support a site-specific Aboriginal
13	Right. 437 2003 SCC 43 at para. 12 Courts have subsequently
14	determined that to meet the test under Powley,
15	claimants must produce significant evidence
16	addressing each of these factors. 438 Kane v. Lac Pelletier
17	(Rural Municipality No. 107), 2009 SKQB 348 at para. 59
18	Mr. Chairman, it is not clear to Shell who of the
19	Métis Locals, the MNA, and the MNA Region 1,
20	constitutes an identifiable Métis community for the
21	purposes of the Powley test. This is all very
22	foggy, in the words of Mr. Cooke, and it seems
23	appropriate that in the absence of a Métis
24	Consultation Policy, Shell focused its consultation
25	on the Métis Locals which represent the Métis

1		individuals that actually have the potential to be
2		impacted by the Project. 439 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 45;
3		Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 675
4		Shell proceeded on the assumption that the
5		Métis had the rights they asserted. 440 Transcript Vol. 4,
6		pg. 618 Shell's evidence is that it has consulted
7		with all potentially affected Métis communities and
8		the MNA Region 1 and has done so since 2007.
9		441 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 63
10	MR.	PERKINS: Mr. Chairman, apparently, I
11		don't know about others in the room that may have
12		LiveNote, apparently there's a problem with it on
13		the staff side, but there's no problem in terms of
14		capturing what's being said in argument, so there's
15		not a transcribing problem, I should say, there's
16		just a LiveNote problem, so maybe the best thing to
17		do would be to continue and we could try to deal
18		with it at the lunch break.
19	THE	CHAIRMAN: Yes, let's continue to your
20		next break, sir.
21	MR.	DENSTEDT: Shell provided Project
22		information, including the EIA, Project Updates,
23		and Responses to Supplementary Information
24		Requests, to the MNA, MNA Region 1, Fort McKay
25		Métis Local 63, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125,

Conklin Métis Local 193, Chard Métis Local 214,
Willow Lake Métis Local 780, Fort McMurray Métis
Local 1935, and Fort McMurray Métis Nation Local
2020. 442 Exhibit 001-006; Exhibit 001-057; Exhibit 001-061

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Through preliminary consultation and concerns raised, Shell was able to determine that Fort McKay Local 63, Fort Chipewyan Local 125, and Fort McMurray Local 1935, were the only Locals Métis members whose Aboriginal Rights might be impacted by the Project.

The first of these Locals, Fort McKay Métis Local 63, has been represented by the Fort McKay First Nation through its consultation office and has been included in the traditional knowledge and traditional land use initiatives completed by the First Nation. 443 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 64 Métis Local 63 has removed its Statement of Concern along with the Fort McKay First Nation and it is no longer objecting to the Project. 444 Exhibit 009-009

For the other two Locals, Shell provided numerous opportunities for these Locals to understand the potential adverse impacts of the Project and to discuss their concerns so that they could be addressed by Shell. Shell held dozens of meetings with Métis Locals 125 and 1935 in which

Shell discussed the Project, provided updates on
the Project, and specifically to discuss Shell's
Draft No Net Loss Plan for the Project. 445 Transcript
Vol. 15, pgs. 3709-3719 Shell has Good Neighbour
Agreements with both of these Locals and has been
cooperatively working with both those Locals
through annual work plans. 446 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 291
Shell has provided funding to both Locals to
collect traditional land use, including The Mark of
the Métis study that MNA Region 1 filed during the
hearing. 447 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 46; Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3723
Shell has responded to each of the concerns that
the Métis Locals have raised and those responses
are on the record. 448 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3722;
Exhibit 001-006A; Exhibit 001-057; Exhibit 001-060; Exhibit 001-061;
Exhibit 001-062; Exhibit 001-065; Exhibit 001-114
The relationship between Shell and these
Métis Locals has been and continues to be in
Shell's view, and in the words of the president of
Local 125, "very good." 449 Transcript Vol. 12, pg. 2950
Shell was only recently made aware that Locals 125
and 1935 might have outstanding concerns in respect
of the Project. 450 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 661; Transcript Vol. 8,
pgs. 1605-1606
MNA Region 1's historian, Mr. Fortna,

1	repeatedly expressed concerns during his testimony
2	that consultation between Shell and the Métis was
3	not meaningful because capacity funding was not
4	provided to the MNA or Métis Locals to allow them
5	to meaningfully engage in the Project. $^{451\ \mathrm{Transcript}}$
6	Vol. 13, pgs. 3061 and 3068 This testimony is incorrect,
7	Mr. Chairman. Since 2007, Shell has provided for
8	or committed to more than \$700,000 to Locals 125
9	and 1935 based on the needs identified by those
10	communities. 452 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3722 In addition,
11	the MNA Region 1 received in excess of \$80,000 in
12	funding from the CEAA agency to assist the MNA
13	Region 1 in its participation in a review of this
14	Project and the Pierre River Mine Project. 453 Exhibit
15	OO2-O21 Presumably this funding should have at least
16	been sufficient for the MNA Region 1 to conduct a
17	review of the Project Application. The MNA
18	Region 1 submission on October 1st contained
19	assumptions about water quantity, water quality,
20	and effects on McClelland Lake, which are
21	unsupported by any evidence and inconsistent with
22	the conclusions in Shell's EIA. 454 Exhibit 010-004A,
23	Adobe 15; Exhibit 001-051F, Adobe 63-64; Exhibit 001-011, Adobe 8
24	Mr. Fortna conceded that these assertions were made
25	without considering any of Shell's evidence and

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were based solely on the perception of community members. 455 Transcript Vol. 13, pgs. 3061 and 3064 In addition, in response to MNA Region 1's questions during the hearing about capacity funding to review Shell's No Net Loss Plan for the Project, the CEAA agency specifically invited the Métis Locals to apply to that agency for additional technical funding to review the No Net Loss Plan for the Project in February of 2011. 456 Exhibit 010-028, Adobe 3

Finally, John Malcolm has sought to represent the Non-Status Fort McMurray Band, the Non-Status Fort McKay Band, the Clearwater River Paul Cree Band No.175, and the Wood Buffalo Elders Society. These groups were not allowed to file evidence in the proceeding as their submissions were filed after the submission deadline, but they provided oral evidence at the hearing.

Despite the fact that these groups have been determined by the agency and the Government of Alberta not to have Aboriginal Rights for which the duty to consult is owed, Shell consulted with these communities and provided funding for an April 2008 study which included traditional land use information from members of the Wood Buffalo Elders Society for use in Shell's current oil sands

1		applications	457 Exhibit 001-062, Adobe 45
2		In sur	nmary, Mr. Chairman and Panel Members,
3		the evidence	e shows that Shell's engagement with all
4		Aboriginal o	communities with the potential to be
5		affected by	this Project has been exemplary. Shell
6		has made rea	asonable and appropriate efforts to
7		engage with	each of these Aboriginal communities
8		and has inco	prporated their input into Project
9		planning.	
10		And th	nat's a logical place for me to stop,
11		Mr. Chairmar	n.
12	THE	CHAIRMAN:	Very good, sir. We'll resume
13		at 1:00 p.m.	
14		I misı	understood. Did you want a short break
15		now or lunch	1?
16	MR.	DENSTEDT:	It would be useful for us to
17		have a short	break now and then my friends could
18		have the ent	cirety of my argument before lunch.
19	THE	CHAIRMAN:	Ten minutes.
20			
21			(Brief Break)
22			
23	THE	CHAIRMAN:	We should take your places,
24		please.	
25	MR.	DENSTEDT:	Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Aboriginal Traditional Land and Resource Use

That brings me to the issue of impacts on traditional land and resource use, which was one of the main issues we heard during the hearing.

The Registry contains numerous extensive assessments of TLU in this region, including assessments conducted by Shell and its consultants as well as by many of the Aboriginal groups and 458 Exhibit 001-001E; Exhibit 001-022, Adobe 12 their consultants. to 27; Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 153; Exhibit 001-051R; Exhibit 001-006F, Adobe 39; Exhibit 001-088; Exhibit 001-006A, Adobe 95; Exhibit 001-017B; Exhibit 006-013I, Adobe 185; Exhibit 006-013I, Adobe 1; Exhibit 007-009; Exhibit 010-024; Exhibit 011-009 ACFN alone has filed several TLU studies specifically for this Project that were conducted by its consultants Fire Light and MSCS. Shell's assessment of potential effects of the Project on TLU relied on these studies, as well as on studies from other Aboriginal groups in the Project area such as the Fort McKay First Nation, and Métis Local 63, and the Mikisew Cree First Nation. Shell also relied on many other TLU studies from past projects in the area, including the Muskeg River Mine and the Jackpine Mine

1	Phase I. 459 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 245; Exhibit 001-051R, Adobe 8
2	Shell conducted a traditional land use
3	assessment and a traditional land use Environmental
4	Setting Report for the Project in support of its
5	2007 EIA. 460 Exhibits 001-001E and 001-001J Focusing
6	specifically on ACFN, TLU information was provided
7	by ACFN in 2008 and later updated in 2011 based on
8	an agreed-upon workplan with Shell. Shell filed
9	ACFN's Integrated Traditional Land Use Study for
LO	the Project in April of 2011. 461 Exhibit 001-017B
11	After receiving ACFN's updated information, Shell
12	provided a draft TLU assessment to ACFN for their
13	review. ACFN provided comments on that draft and
L 4	Shell responded to ACFN's comments in writing and
15	in a meeting in June of 2011. $^{462 \text{ Exhibit 001-057, Adobe 75,}}$
16	^{78 and 80} In November of 2011, Shell filed its
L7	Updated TLU Assessment together with a copy of
18	ACFN's concerns regarding the assessment. 463 Exhibit
19	001-022, Adobe 3-6 and 12-27 Shell's assessment concluded
20	that the updated traditional land use information
21	provided by ACFN and other groups was consistent
22	with the information that informed the EIA and
23	therefore the conclusions in the EIA remain
24	unchanged. 464 Exhibit 001-022, Adobe 18; Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1520
25	Shell also funded additional revisions to

ACFN's Integrated TLU Study which was submitted as

part of ACFN's evidence on October 1, 2012.

AGE Exhibit 006-0131 Again, the ACFN TLU information

that was filed in 2012 was reviewed by Shell and

was found to be consistent with the conclusions in

Shell's EIA.

ACFN's Integrated TLU Study which was submitted as

part of ACFN's evidence on October 1, 2012.

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Shell also consulted with Métis Locals, as I discussed earlier, to provide opportunities for them to provide input into the Project including providing information about Métis land and resource use. Shell provided funding to Métis Local 125 in 2009 for a Traditional Land Use Study that has not yet been completed. 467 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 64

Also in 2009, Shell provided funding to Métis Local 1935 in accordance with their wishes and direction for support of the Mark of the Métis study, the video portion of that study which was completed and considered in Shell's Assessment of Project Affects on Traditional Land Use. 468 Transcript Vol. 15, pg. 3771-3773 Métis Local 63 was included in the extensive Traditional Land use work that was done with the Fort McKay First Nation and that was also included in the Assessment, including the Fort McKay Community-Specific Assessment that considered the effects of the Project specifically on those

469 Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 64; Exhibit 001-088 1 2 As a result, Shell has a thorough 3 understanding of Aboriginal traditional land and resource use in the Project area and the broader 4 5 region. 6 Shell examined the evidence provided by those 7 groups regarding the areas in which they exercised 8 Aboriginal Rights including hunting, fishing, 9 trapping, and other activities, and determined how the Project would impact those areas. $^{\rm 470~Exhibit}$ 10 001-039H, Adobe 3 11 This assessment considered how the 12 Project would affect the availability of resources 13 that are harvested by Aboriginal groups for their continued use, as well as how the Project would 14 affect access to those resources. $^{471~Transcript~Vol.~8}$, 15 pg. 1493 16 17 The EIA concluded that during construction and operation, the Project will result in a direct 18 19 loss of land for hunting, trapping, and plant 20 harvesting, for traditional land users, 21 particularly the six Registered Fur Management Holders and their families. $^{472~\text{Exhibit 001-001E}, \text{ Adobe 274}}$ 22 23 Given that information collected on traditional use 24 indicated almost no subsistence fishing within the 2.5 Project footprint, the EIA concluded that the

1 Project would not have a direct effect on traditional fishing within the LSA. $^{473~\text{Exhibit 001-001E}}$, 2 Adobe 275 3 This conclusion was supported by Marvin L'Hommecourt's testimony where he said that nobody 4 really uses the portion of the Muskeg River that 5 crosses the Project. 474 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2261 6 7 Overall, the EIA determined that the Project will 8 not prevent traditional land users from accessing any areas in the region except within the Project 9 development area itself prior to site reclamation. 10 11 Combining the assessment of Project effects on access with the assessed effects on terrestrial and 12 fish resources, the EIA determined that the Project 13 is not likely to have a significant effect on 14 15 traditional hunting and trapping, traditional plant 16 harvesting or traditional fishing within the region. 475 Exhibit 001-022, Adobe 21 17 Within the broader region, the EIA concluded 18 19 that the Project would result in a negligible to 20 low environmental consequence on the availability of traditional resources in the RSA. $^{\rm 476~Exhibit~001-051R}\text{,}$ 21 Adobe 31 22 For example, project-related disturbance 23 will affect less than 1.0 percent of the area of ACFN's traditional territory. $^{477~\text{Exhibit 001-070A, Adobe 52}}$ 24 2.5 On a cumulative basis, roughly 11 percent of the

1	ACFN's traditional territory was considered
2	disturbed at Base Case, and the Planned Development
3	Case will increase that number to 13 percent.
4	478 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 155 Changes in access resulting
5	from Project activities will have negligible
6	environmental consequences at the LSA and the RSA
7	levels. 479 Exhibit 001-051R, Adobe 50
8	Shell has also committed to the following
9	initiatives to minimize the Project's impact on
10	traditional land and resource use. These are as
11	follows:
12	- Undertaking progressive reclamation
13	wherever practical;
14	- Facilitating access across the Project
15	area by trappers to their traplines;
16	- Providing compensation to trappers
17	directly affected by the Project as per industry
18	standards and past precedent;
19	- Negotiating mitigation agreements with
20	willing First Nations whose traditional land uses
21	are directly impacted by the Project, which in this
22	case currently include Fort McKay First Nation,
23	Métis Local 63, and Mikisew Cree First Nation;
24	- Actively participating in regional
25	multi-stakeholder planning and research initiatives

1 to address the long-term sustainability of effective traditional land use, including the 2 3 Reclamation Working Group, and the Sustainable 4 Ecosystems Working Group; 5 Continuing to consult with all 6 potential affected Aboriginal groups, including Fort McKay, Mikisew Cree, ACFN, and the Métis 7 Locals: 480 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 464 and 8 9 Implementing the mitigations outlined throughout the EIA, as amended, to minimize effects 10 11 of the Project on the resources that are relied on 12 for traditional uses and activities. 13 Shell is also committed to providing a system 14 for cultural diversity awareness training for their 15 employees and contractors regarding respect for 16 traditional resource users, traplines, cabins, trails and equipment. $^{481 \text{ Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 464}}$ 17 Mr. Chairman, through different initiatives, 18 19 Shell has shown a commitment to working with 20 Aboriginal groups to ensure that they can continue 21 to use the land and resources in a traditional way. 22 Shell has been successful in addressing the 23 concerns of the Chipewyan Prairie Dene First 24 Nation, and in reaching agreements with Fort McKay, Fort McKay Métis Local 63, and MCFN to address 2.5

1 their concerns and has entered into similar 2 arrangements in the past with ACFN for the Jackpine 3 Mine Phase I. Shell has implemented initiatives to 4 minimize any Project-related impacts on traditional land and resource use, and these have proven 5 6 effective as there will be negligible effects on 7 the availability of traditional resources at the 8 RSA level and changes in access to the LSA and RSA 9 levels. As a result, the Project is not likely to have any significant impact on the users of those 10 11 resources. 12 So ACFN's traditional land use expert, 13 Dr. Candler, submitted several reports that purport 14 to assess the impacts of the Project on ACFN 15 traditional land and resource use, but 16 Dr. Candler's approach is inconsistent with CEAA 17 agency guidance as well as the nature of Aboriginal Rights. 18 19 Dr. Candler assessed impacts on ACFN TLU on 20 the basis of strong concerns for the most sensitive 482 Exhibit 006-013I, 21 individuals impacted by the Project. 22 Dr. Candler was explicit that his assessment 23 was not an assessment of impacts on the entire 483 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2409 community. 24 His assessment 2.5 was that, if an individual ACFN member experienced

1	significant effects, that would be a significant
2	effect on the ACFN community, based on his
3	methodology. This is inconsistent with standard
4	environmental assessment practice that considers
5	significance from the broader community level, not
6	the individual. 484 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 468 It is also
7	inconsistent with what was arguably the most
8	extensive Joint Review Panel of potential impacts
9	on traditional uses ever conducted in the country's
10	history. In the Final Report for the Joint Review
11	Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project, that panel
12	stated as follows, and I quote:
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14	"There may well be impacts on
15	regions or communities that would
16	be significant. To those regions
17	or communities but which the Panel,
18	in its collective judgment, has
19	concluded are not significant in
20	the context of its overall Mandate.
21	There may well be impacts on
22	individuals that, from an
23	individual perspective, would be
24	significant but which, again, the
25	Panel might conclude would not be

1	significant in the broader
2	context." 485 Final Report of the Joint Review
3	Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project, at pg. 102
4	
5	The idea that there are degrees of importance
6	which must be considered when determining
7	significance under the CEAA has also been
8	acknowledged by the Canadian courts. In Alberta
9	Wilderness Association v. Express Pipelines, the
10	Court of Appeal stated as follows, and I quote:
11	
12	"[T]he principal criterion
13	set out by the [CEAA] is the
14	"significance" of the environmental
15	effects of the project: That is
16	not a fixed or wholly objective
17	standard and contains a large
18	measure of opinion and judgment.
18 19	Reasonable people can and do
19	Reasonable people can and do
19 20	Reasonable people can and do disagree about the adequacy and
19 20 21	Reasonable people can and do disagree about the adequacy and completeness of evidence which
19 20 21 22	Reasonable people can and do disagree about the adequacy and completeness of evidence which forecasts future results and about

para. 10 1 [Emphasis added.] 2 3 Therefore, in considering whether adverse effects caused by the Project are likely to be 4 significant, the Panel must ask itself whether any 5 6 likely adverse environmental effects are 7 significant in relation to the size and the scope of the environment in which the Project will be 8 9 carried out and in the broader context of the long-term benefits of the Project. 10 11 In addition, as I discussed earlier, 12 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are collective rights, 13 not individual rights. Therefore, assessing impacts on a community's Aboriginal Rights on the 14 15 basis of certain individuals does not reflect the 16 legal nature of the rights potentially being 17 affected. This is particularly true given that Dr. Candler's assessment relies primarily on a 18 19 single trapline. And as Ms. Somers correctly noted 20 in her testimony, commercial trapping rights are much different than Treaty Rights. $^{\rm 487\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 10},$ 21 pg. 2201 22 23 The trapline relied on by Dr. Candler is also 24 included in Fort McKay's traditional land use work, 2.5 which suggests that traditional use by the most

1 proximate Aboriginal groups, who are not objecting 2 to the Project, also occurs on this trapline. 488 Transcript Vol. 11, pgs. 2501-2506 Furthermore, individual 3 4 or commercial impacts, like those on 5 Mr. L'Hommecourt's trapline, are dealt with through 6 Shell's trapper compensation program. Impacts on 7 ACFN's collective rights must be considered at the 8 community level. 9 Dr. Candler's assessment also suffers from 10 other methodological shortcomings. For example, 11 Dr. Candler explained that habitation sites could 12 represent different physical sites used for 13 habitation or they could represent multiple references to the same site from different 14 interview participants. 489 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2395 15 16 For example, 25 habitation sites could mean 17 25 different cabins or it could mean one cabin that 25 different people visited over the course of 18 19 That makes no sense in attempting to assess years. 20 what the impact on the use of lands for traditional 21 purposes is. His study area also excludes the Wood 22 Buffalo National Park and other areas in the 23 vicinity of Fort Chipewyan that are used by ACFN 24 members. This overrepresents the effects of the 2.5 Project on ACFN traditional land use. Finally,

1 Dr. Candler estimated that about 10 percent of the ACFN community uses the Project area, $^{\rm 490\ Transcript}$ 2 $^{\mathrm{Vol.\ 10,\ pg.\ 2402}}$ even though he could only confirm 123 4 ACFN members that reported using the area, and Dr. Candler's assessment does not distinguish 5 6 between active frequent use of an area and one-time users of the area. 491 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2391 7 8 The ACFN witnesses were asked if their use of 9 the Project area is unique. And they responded that it was. 492 Transcript Vol. 10, pgs. 2246-2247 10 11 there's no evidence to support that conclusion. When asked for a list of resources that have been 12 13 harvested in the Project footprint, the ACFN witnesses did not identify any resources that do 14 15 not exist elsewhere throughout the region and ACFN's traditional territory. $^{493~\text{Exhibit 006-029}}$ 16 Furthermore, the ACFN traditional territory is 17 approximately 4.4 million hectares. $^{494~\text{Exhibit 001-051G}}$, 18 Adobe 155 19 Their consultation area is approximately 20 245,000 square kilometres or 24.5 million hectares, an area nearly the size of Italy. $^{495\ \text{Transcript Vol. }11}$, 21 pg. 2587; Exhibit 006-029 Meanwhile, the entire ACFN 22 community is about 1,000 individuals, $^{\rm 496\ Transcript}$ 23 $^{\mathrm{Vol.~9,~pg.~1955}}$ which includes a substantial number of 24

members living in places like Edmonton, $^{\rm 497\ Transcript}$

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1 Vol. 11, pg. 2487 which means that each ACFN individual
2 has in excess of 200 square kilometres to exercise
3 their rights.

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The Project is also located roughly 150 kilometres south of ACFN's main reserve, outside of ACFN's homeland area. The Project is already surrounded by existing oil sands development, which, according to ACFN's own depiction of disturbance put forward by Dr. Komers, means that the Project area itself is already disturbed and not available for use. ACFN has characterized this area as not being prime land. 498 Transcript Vol. 10,

ACFN's evidence supporting the Bennett Dam inquiry suggests the ACFN TLU was focused on the ACFN reserves near Fort Chipewyan prior to the dam's construction only a few decades ago. During that inquiry, one ACFN Elder testified that he had never trapped off ACFN Reserve 201. 499 Exhibit 006-013H, Adobe 118 others testified that all their families' needs were obtained exclusively from the reserve. 500 Exhibit 006-013H, Adobe 120 and 132 ACFN's position during that inquiry was that the Bennett Dam had changed water flows to the Peace-Athabasca Delta and that forced members to change their patterns of

1 traditional land use.

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In addition, the area identified by the ACFN as their homeland area is surrounded by parks and conservation areas created under the LARP, including the Richardson Backcountry area, which was referred to as important use area by ACFN 501 Transcript Vol. 9, pg. 2002; members during the hearing. Exhibit 001-070S, Adobe 64, 84 and 96-97 There are no petroleum and natural gas rights or forestry agreements in 502 Exhibit 001-099; Exhibit 001-100; Transcript Vol. 11, that area. pgs. 2489-2490 To suggest that this Project will result in significant effects on the exercise of the entire ACFN community's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights is not supported by the facts.

With respect to the MNA, Mr. Fortna critiqued Shell's assessment of likely effects of the Project on TLU on the basis that it gave insufficient weight to historic land use by Métis. His submission presents a history of Métis families in the general region of the proposed Project that attempt to show that traplines currently held by non-Aboriginal trappers such as RFMA #2331 were previously held and used by Métis families.

503 Exhibit 010-027 Mr. Fortna's approach to critiquing the Shell EIA is problematic for two reasons:

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First, the TLU assessment was done to determine the Project's effects on current traditional land uses, not historic ones. For example, Mr. Fortna indicated that RFMA #2331, which has been held by a non-Aboriginal trapper for more than 20 years, was previously held by a Mr. Ducharme, a Métis trapper. While the history of the trapline's ownership is of interest for historical reasons and potentially for a rights claim, the fact remains that Mr. Ducharme no longer holds the trapline and will not be affected by the Project. Furthermore, while Mr. Fortna believes the Shell EIA is lacking for failing to consider the history of trapline ownership, he failed to provide any specific evidence that RFMA #2331 is being used by Mr. Ducharme or any other Métis person for traditional activities.

Second, Mr. Fortna's emphasis on historical use of the region by Métis is consistent with the general thrust of the MNA Region 1 and Métis Locals concern that they had been ignored by the Province of Alberta in the government's consultation guidelines and their desire to be treated more like First Nations. Shell has never disputed that Métis may have Aboriginal Rights in the Project area.

1 For the purposes of this Project, Shell assumed 2 that the rights existed and consulted with all 3 potentially affected Métis Locals and the MNA. 504 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 637 Again, evidence of historic 4 5 use does not demonstrate that any Métis 6 individuals' or communities' current use of the 7 land for traditional purposes will be affected by 8 the Project.

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Like ACFN, the MNA Region 1 witnesses were asked if they used the Project area in a way that was unique. And they suggested that they do. 505 Transcript Vol. 12, pg. 2961 However, also like ACFN, the evidence does not support that conclusion. While several of the MNA Region 1 witnesses testified that they currently use lands in the region for traditional purposes, all of these lands are considerably to the north of the Project. Similarly, the Mark of the Métis atlas that MNA Region 1 filed during the hearing contains a variety of maps showing Métis Local 1935 traditional land use sites, and with the exception of a single moose-hunting site in the vicinity of the Project, no other TLU sites in the LSA were identified. 506 Exhibit 010-024, pgs. 94, 95, 98, 117, 127, 139 and For the Métis Local 125, like ACFN, their home

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community of Fort Chipewyan is located roughly 150 kilometres north of the Project and is surrounded by parks and conservation areas created under LARP. While Shell's assessment assumed members of Local 125 used the Project area, there is no evidence to suggest that this Project will result in significant effects on the exercise of that community's rights in the region.

Several communities also raised concerns about land use in the vicinity of the proposed Red Lake compensation lake. While the plans for this lake are still being developed in conjunction with regulators and Aboriginal groups, any terrestrial disturbance effects are predicted to be negligible. 507 Exhibit 001-064, Adobe 85 The purpose of the lake is to create a healthy and functional lake that will be used by fish, wildlife and traditional land users. The fish community selected for the compensation lake incorporated First Nations and Métis input to identify species that were important to them as a fisheries resource. 508 Exhibit 001-064B, Adobe 94

Finally, the ACFN has requested that the Project should not be approved until a traditional land and resource use management plan or traditional use plan for ACFN is put into place.

509 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2124 1 The traditional use plan 2 would identify the resources and associated 3 thresholds and criteria required to support the 4 practice of ACFN rights currently and into the future. 510 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2109 ACFN witnesses 5 6 stated that developing this plan would take approximately two years. 511 Transcript Vol. 10, pg. 2234 7 8 So, Mr. Chairman, to be clear, Shell is not opposed to ACFN's traditional land use plan 9 10 proposal. However, the traditional land use plan 11 is designed to manage cumulative effects throughout 12 the region, and as such, the development of this 13 proposal should involve governments and all of 14 industry. It should also take into account the 15 rights and traditional land uses of other 16 Aboriginal groups, not just the ACFN. This is a considerable task, and the words of Ms. Nicholls, 17 has a lot of variables. $^{512\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 10,\ pg.\ 2234}$ 18 19 While Shell is willing to participate along with 20 other industry participants to explore the 21 traditional land use concept, it has provided 22 extensive evidence on how Aboriginal traditional 23 and resource use was assessed for this Project and 24 why the Project will not result in significant 2.5 effects. In these circumstances, it would be

1	unreasonable to delay the approval of this Project
2	indefinitely until such time as the traditional
3	land use plan is finalized and put into place.

Two final and related issues are impacts of the Project on Aboriginal culture and socio-economic impacts on Aboriginal groups.

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Cultural Effects and Socio-Economic Effects on Aboriginal Groups

ACFN filed a review of the Socio-Economic and Traditional Land Use Assessments for the Project in February of 2010 which expressed concerns about Shell's assessment of socio-economic and Aboriginal Rights impacts on ACFN. $^{513~{\rm Exhibit}~001-039H}$ Shell provided detailed responses to that review in May of 2011. ^{514 Exhibits 001-039I, 001-039J} Shell also conducted a cultural effects assessment at the request of First Nations who expressed concerns that Shell had not addressed the cultural effects information that was included in the studies provided, and as well as the assessment of the socio-economic impacts on Aboriginal groups. 515 Exhibits 001-051R and 001-051S Both of these assessments were included in Shell's May 2012 Submission and included Aboriginal community input from a variety

1 of sources including the consultations carried out 2 by Shell and studies and reports prepared by or on 3 behalf of the Aboriginal groups in the area. 516 Exhibit 001-051R, Adobe 6; Exhibit 001-051S, Adobe 9 4 5 The scope of Shell's assessments regarding 6 cultural effects and socio-economic impacts on 7 Aboriginal groups was provided to ACFN in August of 8 2011 at their request, and ACFN declined to 517 Exhibit 001-057, Adobe 80; Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 576 comment. 9 10 However, following submission of the assessments in 11 May 2012, ACFN raised concerns with the methodology 12 used. As a result, Shell provided funding to ACFN 13 to review this supplemental information, conduct a 14 gap analysis of the information available, and 15 collect supplemental cultural and socio-economic 518 Exhibit 000-061, Adobe 1 information. 16 ACFN filed their 17 review of these assessments in its October 1st filing. 519 Exhibits 006-013I, 006-013K, Exhibit 006-013L, Exhibit 18 006-013M, Exhibit 006-013N, Exhibit 006-013O, Exhibit 006-013P, and Exhibit 19 006-013AA 20 The purpose of Shell's cultural effects 21 22 assessment was to take the cultural information 23 that Aboriginal groups had provided in their TLU 24 studies and provide an assessment of the cultural effects of the Project. 520 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 575; 2.5

Transcript Vol. 8, pgs. 1501-1502 1 Shell's cultural assessment determined that the effects of the Project on 2 3 tangible and intangible elements of culture will range from negligible to moderate. Many of the 4 effects were considered small, such as 5 Project-related effects to the availability of 6 7 land, availability of wildlife habitats, ability to 8 pass on traditional knowledge, and Project-related 9 effects on language retention, and increases in non-Aboriginal population. The larger effects were 10 11 assessed to be Project-related effects to visual aesthetics, which was in effect wilderness 12 character, and a sense of solitude. $^{\rm 521~Exhibit~001-051R},$ 13 Adobe 50 However, none of these effects were, in 14 15 Shell's view, considered to be significant. 16 With respect to Shell's assessment of the 17 socio-economic effects on Aboriginal groups, 18 Shell's assessment shows that Aboriginal people and 19 communities in the region lead many other 20 Aboriginal communities in the country in terms of 21 income, community well-being index, and housing 22 quality and quantity. However, Aboriginal 23 communities in the region continue to trail the 24 regional population as a whole in these indicators. 522 Exhibit 001-051S, Adobe 63 2.5

1 Shell recognizes that oil sands development in general has contributed to a number of 2 3 socio-economic pressures on Aboriginal communities such as increasing social stressors, psychosocial 4 5 effects, and pressures on local services and infrastructures. 523 Exhibit 001-051S, Adobe 62-63 6 But Shell also noted that oil sands 8 development has provided a number of benefits, such 9 as increased wages and benefits, increased employment and business opportunities, increased 10 11 access to education and training opportunities, and 12 increased access to a broader range of local 13 services and infrastructure. 14 These are regional issues that are not the 15 result of any one project and should not be the 16 responsibility of any one project proponent to 17 solve. For its part, however, Shell is committed to 18 19 taking a number of actions to minimize the stresses 20 and maximize the benefits from its Project on 21 Aboriginal communities. Those actions include: 22 Providing financial and inkind contributions for

local community social groups, education

institutions, and healthcare providers, supporting

Dene gatherings, Elder youth programs, language

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retention initiatives, and video documentation of traditional knowledge. It includes supporting historical preservation initiatives such as the Fort Chipewyan museum, working with industrial relations corporations and employment coordinators to identify and remove barriers to employment wherever possible, and carrying out a fly-in/fly-out program for workers living in Fort Chipewyan which allows Aboriginal individuals to continue to practice traditional living while participating in the wage economy and avoid the high costs of housing in Fort McMurray. 524 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 450; Exhibit 001-051S, Adobe 64; Exhibit 001-051R, Adobe 46

ACFN hired several experts who submitted reports addressing cultural and socio-economic effects on the ACFN community. The first,
Dr. McCormack filed a detailed research report on the ethno-history of the ACFN community and how the ACFN culture has been impacted over time. 525 Exhibit 006-013K, Adobe 1 During the hearing, Dr. McCormack also challenged the approach that Shell took in its cultural assessment. The second ACFN expert,
Dr. Larcombe, filed a narrative of encroachment which explains various pressures on the ACFN community through history and up to the present.

526 Exhibit 006-013L, Adobe 1 1 While this submission 2 discusses oil sands development generally, it does 3 not address any specific impacts from the Project. 4 Finally, Mr. MacDonald with the Firelight Group filed a supplemental social, economic and cultural 5 6 effects submission for the Project to address perceived gaps in the Shell Assessment. $^{\rm 527~Exhibit}$ 7 006-013M, Adobe 1 This report discussed cumulative 8 effects on the ACFN community over time and into 9 10 the future primarily based on the perceptions of 11 the ACFN community members. 12 Mr. MacDonald and Dr. McCormack both 13 critiqued Shell's cultural and socio-economic 14 assessments on the basis of a lack of participation 15 by the First Nation groups in the Assessment and a 16 lack of ethnographic and ethno-historical 17 information. Mr. Chairman, these criticisms are unfounded. 18 19 Shell's Cultural Assessment was led by a qualified 20 cultural anthropologist who has conducted dozens of social impact assessments including for past 21 projects in the oil sands. $^{528~\text{Exhibit 001-073},~\text{Adobe 119-127}}$ 22 23 Also, in conducting its cultural and 24 socio-economic assessments, the authors drew on a 2.5 variety of sources including consultations carried

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out by Shell with First Nations and Métis groups in the regions, and reports that were prepared by the First Nations themselves or by their consultants.

529 Exhibit 001-051R, Adobe 6; Exhibit 001-051S, Adobe 9 Furthermore,

Shell's Cultural Assessment focused on potential effects of the Project.

530 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1503 It was not intended to address cumulative impacts on Aboriginal culture over time, which is beyond the scope of an EIA for a single project.

As a result, Mr. Chairman, while the reports of Dr. McCormack, Dr. Larcombe and Mr. MacDonald may be interesting in understanding the history and challenges of the ACFN community, they do not assist the Panel in understanding the potential impacts of this Project on Aboriginal culture or communities.

Finally, Shell's Assessment also acknowledged the benefits of initiatives that oil sands developers have made to validate Aboriginal culture and support retention of aspects of culture, initiatives that were ignored by Mr. MacDonald and Dr. McCormack and which are important in understanding how potential effects of the Project and culture may be mitigated. For example, Shell supports numerous cultural retention initiatives in

1 the region which aim at helping Aboriginal 2 communities to maintain their social cohesion and unique characteristics. 531 Exhibit 001-051R, Adobe 46-47 3 4 Many of these initiatives have focused specifically 5 on the communities of Fort McKay, Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray. $^{532~\text{Exhibit 001-051R},~\text{Adobe 46-47}}$ 6 This 7 demonstrates that Shell is committed to doing its 8 part to help address regional issues that are caused by cumulative effects of oil sands 9 development which would otherwise not exist. 10 11 So let me turn now to socio-economic issues, 12 which is an area that was raised by the ACFN and 13 its consultant, Firelight, OSEC, and the Regional 14 Municipality. 15 16 SOCIO-ECONOMIC 17 Intensity of Development & Pressures on Municipal 18 Infrastructure 19 To be clear, these issues are not specific to 20 the Project, but are broader issues associated with 21 oil sands development over the past several 22 This is reflected in the fact that the decades. 23 Regional Municipality is not opposing this Project, 24 but rather, is raising broader cumulative concerns 2.5 with the Provincial Government primarily in

1 relation to the availability of developable land, 2 transportation and traffic, and work camps. 533 Transcript Vol. 12, pgs. 2639 2777 3 In addition, many of 4 the socio-economic concerns raised by Chief Adam of the ACFN, such as high food prices, are issues 5 6 common to many northern communities and are not directly a result of the Project. $^{534~\text{Exhibit 001-051S}}$, 7 Adobe 30 8 Oil sands development has brought challenges 9 to the region. There's no doubt about that. But 10 11 it has also brought substantial benefits. 12 Provincial Government has made a number of 13 investments in recent years to address many of these concerns. 535 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 161 and 179-184 14 15 Socio-economic issues like affordable housing, 16 infrastructure, education and health care, are the 17 responsibility of the various levels of government. Government, not industry, is best equipped to 18 19 respond to the social needs of the people allowing 20 businesses to do what they do best, which is to 21 provide economic opportunity and wealth to society. 22 The Joint Review Panel for the Muskeg River 23 Expansion Project confirmed that local 24 infrastructure and capacity are the 2.5 responsibilities of governments, not project

1 proponents, and that the panel did not have the 2 mandate to resolve pre-existing socio-economic 536 EUB/CEAA Joint Review Panel Report (EUB Decision 2006-128) issues 3 (December 17, 2006) at pgs. 15 and 16 Having said that, Shell 4 5 works actively with various levels of government 6 and regional planning initiatives in funding innovative solutions to resolve the regional issues 7 8 that have been raised in this proceeding. 537 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 297; Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 471 and 490 9 Shell also invests in the communities 10 11 affected by its operations. For example, Shell has 12 spent more than one billion dollars on Aboriginal 13 contractors and businesses in the Athabasca Region in the last six years. $^{\rm 538\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 3,\ pg.\ 301}$ Shell 14 15 has also spent millions of dollars on local 16 community infrastructure and programs like daycare 17 centres, health care, education and social programs. 539 Transcript Vol. 3, pgs. 221-229 Finally, Shell 18 19 has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with 20 the Regional Municipality that will allow Shell to 21 support the Municipality's efforts in addressing regional socio-economic issues. 540 Transcript Vol. 3, 22 pg. 297 23 24 In addition, the billions of dollars that 2.5 will be invested in capital expenditures for the

Project with result in direct benefits to the local communities and the country through increased employment, income, contractor revenue, and government revenue.

541 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 301, 302

The bottom line is that Shell proactively engages in the issues within its control. It has supported and will continue to support community initiative aimed at improving the quality of life for residents in the region.

Let me talk briefly about a few specific issues. The first being housing.

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Housing

OSEC and ACFN have raised concerns regarding supply and affordability. It is no secret that housing in Fort McMurray is both expensive and in short supply. 542 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 465 However, Shell is doing what it can to mitigate potential effects of the Project on housing. For example, Shell will operate a construction camp for the duration of construction for the Project which will include recreation, health care and leisure facilities and services, as well as a fly-in/fly-out approach for transporting workers in and out of the region, thus reducing the need for temporary housing in Fort

1 McMurray and taking pressure off the housing 543 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 450, Transcript, Vol. 3, pg. 227 market. 2 3 During Project operations, Shell will abide by the 4 Regional Municipality's desire that operational 5 workers reside in the community as permanent 6 residents and it will not use an operations camp. 544 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 461; Transcript Vol. 12, pgs. 2732-2733 7 8 Government authorities continue working towards addressing housing issues in the region. 9 Since 2007, the Government of Alberta has invested 10 more than \$50 million in affordable housing in the 11 region. 545 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 182 12 As well, several 13 planning initiatives have been completed or are underway to make sufficient land available for 14 15 residential and other uses in the various 16 communities in the region, such as the Provincial 17 Government's commitment of \$241 million to develop lands in the Parsons Creek and Saline Creek Plateau 18 areas. 546 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 182 19 The most significant 20 of these is a assigning of a Memorandum of 21 Understanding between the Province and the Regional 22 Municipality for the creation of an Urban 23 Development Subregion which will enable the 24 Municipality to keep pace with the demand for 2.5 residential, commercial, industrial, and

1	institutional land. 547 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 182
2	
3	Education
4	In terms of impacts on the school system,
5	Shell has voluntarily taken steps to address
6	various issues related to the education system in
7	the region. Examples include:
8	- Providing ongoing support for
9	e-learning in Fort McKay; 548 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 474,
10	Transcript, Vol. 3, pg. 229
11	- Supporting other Aboriginal education
12	initiatives identified by schools in Fort
13	Chipewyan, Fort McKay and Fort McMurray;
14	- Supporting Keyano College through
15	financial donations including funding to open a new
16	campus in Fort Chipewyan; 549 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 474;
17	Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 223
18	- Supporting Aboriginal scholarships
19	through contributions to the National Aboriginal
20	Achievement Foundation and environmental education
21	of Aboriginal students in the region;
22	- Bringing science and technology camps
23	and workshops to Fort Chip and Fort McKay through
24	ACTUA; 550 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 474, Transcript, Vol. 3, pg. 228
25	- Delivering drilling rig and driver

1 training in Fort Chipewyan; 2 Sponsoring delivery of the Building 3 Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources Program in Fort Chipewyan; and 4 5 Implementing environmental monitoring 6 programs and training to allow local workers to 7 take advantage of job opportunities available in the oil sands industry. $^{551~{\rm Exhibit}~001-001E}\text{,}$ Adobe 474 8 9 10 Health Services 11 Chief Adam's testimony also raised concerns 12 about health care. Shell acknowledges that health 13 care service providers in the region face a number of challenges including difficulty in recruiting 14 15 and retaining health care professionals and the 16 need for additional regional health infrastructure. 17 However, progress has been made on a number of 18 fronts over the past few years in addressing these 19 challenges. Examples of this progress includes: 20 An additional \$177 million in funding 21 that was provided to the Northern Lights Health 22 Region between 2007 and 2010 to address regional 23 health related growth pressures; 24 Additional doctors that have been 2.5 recruited to the area, the fact that emergency

1	department wait times have been reduced, and
2	investments in regional health infrastructure that
3	have been made. 552 Exhibit 001-051, Adobe 161
4	To further mitigate any impacts of its
5	operations on regional health services, Shell is
6	committed to the following:
7	- Establishing an onsite health care
8	facility at the Albian Village site that provides
9	24/7 onsite primary emergency and occupational
10	health service;
11	- Continuing to provide financial
12	contributions to the Northern Lights Health
13	Foundation where appropriate, including \$1.2
14	million to the Inner City Health Initiative;
15	553 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 222 and
16	- Working with other industrial
17	proponents to address the cumulative socio-economic
18	effects of their projects on the region. This
19	includes ongoing discussions with Alberta Health
20	Services about medical infrastructure and services
21	needs, and how industrial proponents might
22	contribute to addressing those needs. 554 Exhibit
23	001-001E, Adobe 481
24	Traffic
25	Concerns were also raised about traffic in

1	the region and specifically traffic on Highway 63.
2	Shell has committed to taking a number of steps to
3	minimize Project effects on the local road network,
4	including the following:
5	- Using construction camps at the Project
6	site;
7	- Using the Albian Sands Aerodrome as the
8	primary conduit for transporting construction
9	workers;
10	- Busing Fort McMurray-based Project
11	workers on a daily basis; and
12	- Scheduling construction truck traffic,
13	including oversized loads, during off-peak hours.
14	555 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 489, 490
15	Shell has also committed to working with
16	other developers in the region to address
17	transportation issues outside of its control, this
18	includes Shell's participation in the Oil Sands
19	Development Group Transportation Committee to
20	ensure continued awareness of all discussions
21	related to highway safety and improvements.
22	556 Exhibit 001-001E, Adobe 490; Exhibit 001-006D, Adobe 26-27
23	On the Province's part, there has been a
24	commitment to twin Highway 63 south of Fort
25	McMurray. A five-lane bridge across the Athabasca

1 River in Fort McMurray has been constructed. 2 construction of interchanges at the intersections 3 of Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way with 557 Exhibit 001-051G, Highway 63 were completed in 2011. 4 Adobe 183 5 6 Lastly, the long-range planning for future 7 road improvements in the Wood Buffalo region The Alberta Oil Sands Sustainable 8 continues. 9 Development Secretariat, in cooperation with a number of Alberta government departments and local 10 11 area municipalities, has developed the Athabasca 12 Oil Sands Area Comprehensive Regional 13 Infrastructure Sustainability Plan, CRISP, which 14 lays out the infrastructure requirements, including 15 highways, required for future scenarios in which 16 the Athabasca oil sand region produces six million barrels per day of bitumen. $^{558~\text{Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 161}}$ 17 In addition, a new advisory committee called the 18 19 Athabasca Oil Sands Area Transportation 20 Coordinating Committee has been created comprised 21 of municipal, provincial, and industry 22 representatives, who review and make 23 recommendations on current and future transportation needs in the region. $^{559\ \text{Exhibit 001-051G}}\text{,}$ 24 Adobe 183 2.5

1	Let me now turn to the role of the Province
2	and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in
3	addressing these regional concerns or issues.
4	
5	The Role of the Province and the Region
6	Since the Municipality and other regional
7	service providers began raising socio-economic
8	concerns at regulatory hearings in 2006, the
9	Province has contributed \$3.6 million over three
10	years to provide strategic municipal planning
11	support to the region.
12	It's provided \$103 million in direct funding
13	in addition to a \$136 million four-year
14	interest-free loan to build a replacement
15	sewage-treatment facility and an upgraded water
16	treatment plant in Fort McMurray.
17	\$30 million to support the lower town site
18	water collection system upgrader.
19	\$15 million for regional landfill
20	development.
21	\$33.4 million for the Keyano Sports and
22	Wellness Centre.
23	\$54 million for the Wood Buffalo Housing and
24	Development Corporation.
25	\$10 million plus land for the construction of

1 the south cell block and station. 2 And they've contributed another \$52 million 3 for Phase I of the new RCMP Detachment in Timberlea. 560 Exhibit 001-051G, Adobe 161, 179-184 4 5 Further, while the region may be experiencing 6 rapid growth and its accompanying pressures, it is 7 also experiencing unprecedented tax-base growth. Property assessment in the Rural Service Area of 8 9 the Regional Municipality, which consists mostly of oil sands facilities, grew by an average of 10 11 24 percent per year from under \$6 billion in 2005 to more than \$24 billion in 2011. $^{561~\text{Exhibit 001-051G}}$, 12 Adobe 183 13 For its part, the Project will contribute 14 for annual property tax payments estimated at 15 between 23 and 34 million dollars, assuming current 16 rates, while Project-related activities will have minimal effect on municipal costs. $^{\rm 562\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 3}\text{,}$ 17 pg. 301 18 These property tax payments will be in 19 addition to the more than \$50 million in annual 20 property taxes already paid by Shell for its existing facilities in the region. $^{563~\text{Exhibit 001-001E}},$ 21 Adobe 493 22 23 During its presentation to the Panel, the 24 Regional Municipality emphasized its 20-year Municipal Development Plan and the various 2.5

1	initiatives it is taking to respond to issues in
2	its communities, including moving forward with
3	investments of upwards of \$2 billion in such things
4	as its downtown redevelopment and transit corridor.
5	The Municipality
6	also demonstrated that it is attempting to engage
7	with its provincial counterparts on priority issues
8	such as land availability and transportation,
9	though it expressed concerns with the Province's
LO	lack of responsiveness. 565 Transcript Vol. 12, pgs. 2738 and
L1	²⁷⁵⁵⁻²⁷⁶³ While shortfall may remain, the
L2	Municipality, the Province and Shell, are all
L3	taking steps to address these regional issues.
L 4	Mr. Chairman, the last topic that I'm going
L5	to deal with today relates to Project operation
L 6	issues primarily raised through questioning from
L7	Panel and Board staff.
L8	
L 9	PROJECT OPERATIONS
20	Let me first talk about tailings.
21	Tailings
22	The first of these issues is tailings
23	management. In 2009, the ERCB released Directive
24	074, which requires all oil sands mining operations
25	to capture a minimum percentage of fine tailings

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and ensure that tailings disposal areas achieve a minimum undrained shear strength of 5 kilopascals within a year of deposit and 10 kilopascals within five years of deposit. ^{566 Energy Resources Conservation Board,}

Directive 074: Tailings Performance Criteria and Requirements for Oil Sands

Mining Schemes (February 2009), Adobe 4-5 This will ensure that tailings disposal areas have the strength, stability and structure necessary to establish a trafficable surface within five years after active deposition has ceased.

In December 2010, Shell received approval for its ERCB Directive 074 compliant Jackpine Mine
Tailings Management Plan. The plan included
detailed information on the management of tailings
in the Jackpine Mine - Phase I Project area,
including the construction and operation of sand
cells, dedicated drying areas, densification, and
the start-up and operation of end pit tailings
using non-segregated tailings technology.

This plan includes the use of tailings thickeners which have not achieved expected solids content in the fine stream to date at the existing Jackpine Mine, but this will be upgraded through a project that Shell is currently in the process of implementing. ⁵⁶⁷ Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1262-1263</sup> The plan

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also includes the use of atmospheric fines drying which has been used successfully at Shell's existing operations, and centrifuge technology which is currently being demonstrated at the commercial scale. ⁵⁶⁸ Exhibit 001-051E, Adobe 122</sup> Shell has provided detailed information to the Panel describing how the expansion tailings management plans align with existing approved plans to ensure continued compliance with *Directive 074*.

Shell has continued to actively collaborate with other industry participants through initiatives such as the Oil Sands Tailings Management Framework that is currently under development in a collaborative effort between ESRD and CAPP industry members and COSIA. $^{569\ \mathrm{Transcript}}$ Vol. 3, pg. 248 and 276 Shell has also played a proactive role in the formation of the Oil Sands Tailings Consortium, or OSTC, whose members include the seven primary oil sands mining companies who together have invested approximately \$500 million into tailings research and new tailings technology. In 2011, OSTC companies dedicated \$75 million to support additional tailings research. $^{\rm 570\ Transcript}$ Vol. 3, pg. 273 These efforts will lead to continued improvements in tailings technology and will ensure that the entire industry works together to share

successes and address this important industry-wide

issue.

A specific issue with respect to tailings management for this Project related to the placement of mature fine tailings, or MFT, into end This was a feature of Shell's original pit lakes. application but was raised as a key concern by most Aboriginal groups. 571 Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 240-241 Muskeg River Diversion Alternative involves removing all MFT from end pit lakes, which requires a combination of centrifuges in conjunction with in-pit placement of NST. $^{\rm 572~Exhibit~001-015A,~Adobe~25}$ While removal of MFT from pit lakes will certainly improve pit lake water quality from that of a lake with MFT, outstanding concerns about final distribution of process-affected water from the centrifugation process into end pit lakes was also raised at the hearing. When questioned on this, experts from Natural Resources Canada confirmed that Shell's plans for managing this remnant water in the end pit lakes was an appropriate method. 573 Transcript Vol. 14, pgs. 3564-3565

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Bitumen Recovery

1 The Board staff also asked questions of 2 Shell's track record regarding bitumen recovery in relation to the Board's Interim Directive 2001-7. 3 Shell acknowledged that historically there have 4 5 been challenges meeting the bitumen-recovery 6 targets at the Muskeg River Mine. This is an issue 7 that Shell is currently working through with the 8 Board and that Shell is taking steps to address. 9 Mr. Mayes detailed all these changes during the hearing. 574 Transcript Vol. 7, pgs. 1226-1230; Transcript Vol. 8, 10 pgs. 1569-1572 11 12 The Jackpine Mine was designed to incorporate 13 several improvements over the Muskeg River Mine 14 design in terms of bitumen recovery, including a 15 longer conditioning pipeline, primary separation 16 cell design improvements such as improved feed 17 distribution, and froth underwash and increased flotation capacity. ⁵⁷⁵ Transcript Vol. 3, pg. 237 18 19 These design improvements have resulted in 20 improved performance relative to the Muskeg River 21 Mine, and according to Mr. Mayes, Shell's current 22 data indicates that the Jackpine Mine is expected 23 to exceed the ID 2001-7 requirements for 2012. 576 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1572 24 2.5 Shell is also planning further capital

investments over the next several years to further
improve bitumen recovery, and the Project will
benefit from those investments. 577 Transcript Vol. 8,

pgs. 1572-1573

In summary, Shell has committed to complying with the Board's bitumen recovery targets and its recent success at the Jackpine Mine demonstrates its ability to perform in this regard.

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Solvent Recovery

A further operation issue is solvent recovery. In extracting bitumen from the oil sands, Shell first uses hot water and then applies a froth treatment which includes a solvent which separates the bitumen from other constituents. 578 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 539 The froth treatment tailings are processed in the tailings solvent recovery unit, or TSRU, to recover more than 99 percent of the solvent and to comply with ERCB criteria of limiting solvent losses to less than four parts per thousand parts of bitumen produced by volume. 579 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 541 For this Project, Shell has committed to not discharge any untreated TSRU tailings during plant operations. 580 Exhibit 001-113, Adobe 2

1 Solvent recovery performance is an area where 2 the Muskeg River Mine had difficulties in its 3 earlier years due to equipment reliability issues, but since 2008, all of Shell's oil sands operations 4 have been fully compliant with the Board's solvent 5 recovery requirements. 581 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 543; Transcript 6 Vol. 8, pg. 1567 In addition, to the extent that 7 8 solvent reaches Shell's tailings ponds, 9 Mr. Martindale explained that Shell has conducted testing for two years to determine whether solvent 10 11 in the tailings ponds could have adverse effects on 12 waterfowl that come into contact with it, and it has not identified any adverse effects. $^{\rm 582\ Transcript}$ 13 Vol. 4, pgs. 587-588 14 15 During the hearing, Board counsel asked 16 questions regarding the placement of discharge from 17 the TSRU tailings piping into the tailings ponds. For the Muskeg River Mine, Shell was originally 18 19 required to discharge the TSRU tailings in a 20 subaqueous manner a minimum of three metres below 583 Transcript Vol. 7, the surface of the tailings pond. 21 pg. 1366 22 This is also the method of discharge that 23 Shell is applying for in this Project Application. 584 Exhibit 001-001A, Adobe 204; Exhibit 001-051, Adobe 136 24 2.5 Subaqueous discharge was imposed as an

25	Asphaltene Rejection
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23	Mine as well. 588 Transcript Vol. 8, pg. 1538
22	subaerial discharge arrangement for the Jackpine
21	successful, Shell will apply to the ERCB for
20	monitoring confirms that subaerial discharge is
19	odour problems at site or at Fort McKay. If this
18	confirm that subaerial discharge is not causing
17	Mine tailings ponds will occur for several years to
16	Monitoring of odour emissions from the Muskeg River
15	was approved in 2011. 587 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1367
14	subaerial discharge of its TSRU tailings and this
13	Fort McKay, applied to the Board for approval of
12	emissions. As a result, Shell, with the support of
11	trials identified no discernible increases in odour
10	subaerially on to exposed tailings beach and these
9	conducted trials in 2010 with tailings discharge
8	tailings piping. 586 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1366 Shell
7	ice formation at the surface and freezing in the
6	however resulted in operational challenges such as
5	pg. 1366 Compliance with this approval condition
4	cause increased odour emissions. 585 Transcript Vol. 7,
3	that surface discharge of the TSRU tailings would
2	result of concerns from the Fort McKay First Nation
1	approval condition in the Muskeg River Mine as a

1 The issue of asphaltene rejection was also 2 raised during the hearing. Asphaltene rejection is the mechanism in the paraffinic froth-treatment 3 process that removes water and fine solids 4 contaminants from bitumen. The extent of 5 6 asphaltene rejection affects the extent of 7 contaminant removal and thus the higher rate of 8 asphaltene rejection, the higher quality of bitumen produced. At its existing operations, the current 9 design basis for the high temperature 10 11 froth-treatment process is to reject less than 12 10-weight-percent asphaltene based on bitumen production on an annual basis. $^{589~\text{Exhibit 001-009, Adobe 40}}$ 13 14 During the hearing, Shell accepted that same limit for this Project. 590 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1288 15 16 In terms of lease boundary issues, which were 17 raised by Syncrude in submissions leading up to the hearing, as well as by Board counsel during 18 19 cross-examination, Shell has committed to working 20 with all adjacent leaseholders to address any lease boundary issues that may arise. $^{\rm 591\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 3}\text{,}$ 21 pgs. 297-298 22 Shell currently has cooperation 23 agreements with both Syncrude and Imperial and is 24 working with those companies to coordinate reclamation and watershed drainage. $^{\rm 592\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 3},$ 2.5

1 pgs. 297-298 To the extent that issues cannot be
2 resolved between the parties, disputes will be
3 brought to the ERCB for adjudication. 593 Exhibit 001-071

A specific lease boundary issue that arose during the hearing was a modification of the south external tailings disposal area at the existing Jackpine Mine. While this modification was included in the original Application for the Project, the footprint for the modification was included in the original Jackpine Phase I approval. 594 Transcript Vol. 7, pg. 1252 Shell has now applied for this modification separate from this Project Application as part of its Directive 074 filings, which have yet to be approved by the Board. Based on its existing approval conditions for the Jackpine Mine, Shell will work with adjacent leaseholder Syncrude to reach an agreement on the appropriate design and setbacks for this modification of the south tailings disposal area, which minimizes ore sterilization and forms the basis of a final submission to the Dam Safety Branch of ESRD and to the ERCB. $^{595\ Transcript\ Vol.\ 8},$ pg. 1550

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Cell 2A and Geological Risks

1 The next issue relates to Devonian risks and 2 Cell 2A that occurred at the Muskeg River Mine in October of 2010. This was an incident that ACFN 3 asked a number of questions about and they 4 expressed concerns about the risk of a similar 5 6 event occurring for the proposed Project. 596 Transcript Vol. 4, pg. 550 7 In his response to ACFN's 8 questions, Mr. Mayes explained that the Cell 2A 9 incident was the first event of its kind in the oil sands' 45-year history of large-scale mining in 10 eight different mine pits. 597 Exhibit 001-077, Adobe 1 11 12 Mr. Mayes also explained that despite the fact that 13 Cell 2A was an entirely unforeseen occurrence, it was effectively contained to the mine pit and at no 14 15 time was there any release or any threat of a release to a surface watercourse. $^{598 \text{ Exhibit } 001-077}$, 16 Adobe 1 17 18 As a result of the Cell 2A incident, Shell 19 has committed to carrying out geological surveys at 20 its current mines to develop a complete 21 understanding of the Devonian geology in the area 22 so that Shell can identify areas of potential risk 23 within the Muskeq River Mine and Jackpine Mine 599 Transcript Volume 6, pg. 1200, 1201, Exhibit 001-077, footprints. 24 Adobe 1 2.5

Shell has also developed a process for

assessing and managing any risks that are

identified. 600 Transcript Volume 6, pg. 1201 If the Project

is approved, Shell is committed to carrying out

this same risk assessment for the Project to ensure

that the likelihood of an event such as Cell 2A is

remote in the future. 601 Transcript Volume 6, pg. 1201

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Accidents and Malfunctions

The final operations issue I would like to briefly touch on is the issue of accidents and malfunction.

Shell provided details about a variety of potential accidents and malfunctions and the likely environmental consequences of each in its response to the Panel's Supplemental Information Request 33 in May of 2012. 602 Exhibit 001-051E, Adobe 93 None of the potential scenarios were concluded to be likely.

19 603 Exhibit 001-051E, Adobe 95 and 98-104

The Sierra Club Prairie has focused their intervention on the safety of tailings pond dams and ensuring that these do not fail. Mr. Roberts explained during the hearing that a tailings dam failure would be very serious, and as a result, huge efforts are in place to ensure that failure

604 Transcript Vol. 6, pgs. 1096-1099 1 does not occur. These 2 efforts include designing dams to meet Canadian Dam 3 Safety Association Guidelines, and the Mining Association of Canada's Tailings Management 4 5 Protocols, conducting regular independent audits, 6 and monitoring dam stability on a 24/7 basis. 605 Transcript Vol. 6, pgs. 1097-1099 7 Based on these measures, 8 a tailings dam failure was concluded to be remote. 606 Exhibit 001-051E, Adobe 99 9

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CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, Shell's evidence is that there is not likely to be any significant environmental effects caused by this Project that cannot be mitigated. The benefits of this Project to local communities, Alberta and Canada are significant, and the negative effects, most of which are regional issues, can all be managed with the initiatives that are already in place or that are underway and which Shell is committed to supporting.

We ask that you approve the Project as the ERCB and as the CEAA Joint Review Panel, we ask that you recommend that this Project is not likely to cause any significant adverse environmental

1	effects that cannot be mitigated.
2	Based on the evidence before the Panel, Shell
3	urges the Panel to approve the Project.
4	Mr. Chairman, you and the other Panel Members
5	can be confident that Shell's Expansion is in the
6	public interest and that it will continue to be a
7	leader in the development of this world class oil
8	sands resource.
9	Thank you for your time and attention over
10	the last three weeks.
11	Particularly, I would thank the Court
12	Reporter for her incredible patience with me this
13	morning.
14	And if there are any questions, I'm happy to
15	
	give it a try.
16	THE CHAIRMAN: We have no questions,
17	Mr. Denstedt. Thank you.
18	MR. DENSTEDT: Thank you, sir.
19	THE CHAIRMAN: We'll take our lunch break
	and resume at 2:00 p.m. It would be helpful to the
20	and resume as 2.00 p.m. It would be neight to the
20	Panel if counsel could huddle with Mr. Perkins and
21	Panel if counsel could huddle with Mr. Perkins and
21	Panel if counsel could huddle with Mr. Perkins and prepare a rough schedule for the balance of the

1	(The Hearing Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.)
2	(The Hearing Reconvened at 2:00 p.m.)
3	
4	THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, everyone.
5	Thank you for your estimates. So we have a time
6	management problem, but we'll proceed and take a
7	reading at about 5 o'clock and decide what to do.
8	In the meantime, I've asked our reporter,
9	Ms. Nielsen, to feel comfortable in advising if
10	anyone's going at too great a clip, so you can
11	expect that.
12	Mr. Roth for Syncrude.
13	
14	FINAL ARGUMENT OF SYNCRUDE CANADA LTD., BY MR. ROTH:
15	MR. ROTH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
16	Members of the Panel. I have, or actually
17	Ms. Ladha of our firm has e-mailed to the court
18	reporter a copy of our argument and I plan to stick
19	to it very closely. However, what I would request,
20	if it is acceptable to the Panel, I think the same
21	as what Mr. Denstedt requested, that footnotes,
22	references to the footnotes Ms. Ladha has been
23	here over the past couple of weeks and did a very
24	diligent job in footnoting and referencing my
25	argument. And what's she's also done is put some

1 headings. And I'd ask that those appear in the 2 transcript as well, if that's acceptable to the 3 Panel. THE CHAIRMAN: It is, sir. 4 5 MR. ROTH: Mr. Chairman, I was happy to 6 get Mr. Perkins's letter on Friday providing an 7 issues list for final argument. I had not yet 8 started to draft argument, and Mr. Perkins's list 9 provided me with a very useful structure for argument. Not only did Mr. Perkins provide me with 10 11 the structure for my final argument, but as you 12 will hear, when I get into the substance of some of 13 the issues I will address, I'll be relying on his cross-examination for clarity that it brought to 14 15 the record on the principal issue that brought 16 Sycrude to this hearing. 17 Before I get to the issues list, however, I would like to discuss the two core regulatory 18 19 principles that underlie Syncrude's argument on 20 each issue that I will address today. 21 The first is the principle of equity. 22 underpins why the ERCB has a public hearing mandate 23 that is being fulfilled through this Joint Review 24 Panel process. Equity demands that if a person's 2.5 rights could be directly and adversely affected by

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a regulatory decision, that person has the right to be heard. They also have the right to be provided with notice as to how their rights may be affected.

It is adherence to this fundamental principle by the ERCB, its predecessors, and regulatory tribunals that may assume its mandate in the future, which has allowed Alberta to attract the breadth and depth of investment necessary to develop its world-class energy resources.

The second core regulatory principle I will address is conservation. As its name suggests, resource conservation is central to the Energy Resources Conservation Board's public interest mandate. The Board exists to ensure that the energy resources that we are endowed with in this province are not wasted. Over the years, this mandate has evolved to include conservation more generally, including the equally important objective of conserving our resources in the natural environment. The Board currently shares this responsibility with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

As I proceed to discuss the specific issues identified by the Panel from its issues list for final argument, it should become clear that these

two regulatory principles of equity and

conservation are not competing principles. In this

case, they work together to arrive at outcomes that

are both fair and in the overall public interest.

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Sand Cell 2 External Tailings Disposal Area (ETDA)

Expansion

Syncrude's argument starts with the specific issues identified under paragraph 4.c. of the issues list. It was the first item on this list, Sand Cell 2 ETDA expansion, that caused Syncrude to file its intervention.

Syncrude has been trying to resolve the issue of the offset of Shell's south ETDA for quite some time. As noted in Shell's Application and again in its Opening Statement ^{1 Shell Canada's Opening Statement, JPME}

Hearing Transcript, Volume 3 (October 30, 2012) at pages 199-307 Shell had requested an amendment to the approval of the south tailings facility for Jackpine Mine from that which was originally approved by the Board as part of its Jackpine Mine Application. Shell, however, had filed its Amendment Application back in 2007, prior to the Board's issuance of Directive 074.

2 ERCB Directive 074, "Tailings Performance Criteria and Requirements for Oil Sands Mining Schemes (February 3, 2009)

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When Syncrude tried discussing Shell's proposed expansion and extension of its south tailings facility footprint in proximity to Syncrude's lease boundary, Shell responded by saying the ERCB had already approved the extension.

Leading up to this hearing, Syncrude thought that it had managed to convince Shell otherwise through its intervention which went into the details of exactly what was and was not approved by the Board. Syncrude then exchanged correspondence with Shell in which Syncrude agreed not to pursue this particular issue during the course of the hearing in exchange for, and only after, Shell had agreed with Syncrude that it would not be asking for any approval of its expanded South ETDA at the hearing until Shell and Syncrude could reach an equitable agreement on managing the resources on the south ETDA boundary with Syncrude's lease in accordance with the objective of conservation.

Syncrude was surprised to then hear Shell during the course of the hearing suggest or imply that the reason it did not need approval of its expanded tailings area and offset from Syncrude's lease through this Application was because it had already applied for such through a different

1 process and believed that the Board had given that 2 approval or at least had no concerns with what 3 Shell had proposed. During the course of cross-examination by 4 Mr. Perkins, it became clear that Shell was relying 5 6 on its Annual Mine Plans and Directive 074 7 submissions to suggest that the Board had already 8 approved the amended configuration of its south tailings facility. ^{3 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 7 (November 5,} 9 2012) at pages 1249-1253 10 11 Now, at the outset of my argument, I had 12 suggested that I have something to thank 13 Mr. Perkins for other than his issues list. Syncrude is grateful for his follow-up on the 14 15 undertaking response provided by Shell on the 16 offset that it believed was approved from Syncrude's lease boundary. 4 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 8 17 (November 6, 2012) at pages 1547-1555 18 By the end of 19 Mr. Perkins's cross-examination, the record was 20 clear. Shell has now conceded that it does not 21 have approval for its expanded tailings area and 22 amended setback and it is not seeking such approval 23 in this Application. 24 There is much more work to be done in order 2.5 to ensure that the principles of equity and

resource conservation are achieved in the location
of Shell's south tailings facility. The
information that had been provided in support of
Shell's Application and the information provided in
its successive D074 submissions, did not allow for
any reasoned decision to be made based on these
principles.

Shell has committed to work with Syncrude to resolve these matters and bring the results of that work back to the Board for its consideration and ultimate approval. Syncrude is also willing to participate in such process and is in fact reliant on this process.

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Mature Fine Tailings (MFT) at Closure - End Pit Lakes

This takes me to the second item under the specific issues identified in paragraph 4.c. under the issues list dealing with MFT at closure end pit lakes.

Syncrude submits that this is another area where parties are confused regarding the intention behind *Directive 074*. There are some who argue that the Board, in issuing *Directive 074*, foreclosed the use of end pit lakes for the treatment of MFT as part of reclamation.

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Panel, this makes no more sense than for Shell to claim that it obtained regulatory approval for its south tailings facility through the *Directive 074* submission process.

Regarding the principle of equity, it would mean that Syncrude's approved Reclamation Plans that rely upon end pit lakes are based on decades of research and careful planning along with hundreds of millions of dollars of investment have effectively been amended without any hearing process.

Water capping of MFT is the most researched reclamation technology that currently exists to deal with MFT. No other technology has a higher degree of certainty. Further, as even Dr. Schindler admitted, if the technology works as it is designed to, it would be preferable to alternative reclamation options that have far 5 JPME greater energy and surface land requirements. Hearing Transcript Volume 11 (November 9, 2012) at pages 2570-2571 For reasons of equity and resource conservation, Directive 074 cannot reasonably be interpreted to abandon or in any way affect the use of end pit lake technology to address inventories of MFT or other soft tailings products produced by all

1 current mining and extraction processes.

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End Pit Lakes

a) Risk/Uncertainty of the Strategy, Syncrude

Demonstration Lake

That takes me to paragraph 4.e. of the issues list that directly deals with end pit lakes. The first issue in this paragraph is identified as "Risk uncertainty of strategy: Syncrude demonstration lake."

I have already stated that more research has been done and there's more certainty with respect to water-capping MFT than any other reclamation technology for soft tailings. People like Dr. Miller ⁶ Dr. G. Miller Presentation, End Pit Lake: Unresolved Issues (Exhibit 017-031) at slide 2 and Dr. Schindler 7 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 11 (November 9, 2012) at pages 2542-2547 come to this hearing and suggest to you that end pit lake technology is based on modelling and modelling alone and there's no certainty in modelling. have not, however, gone through the realtime data that exists from decades of research from Syncrude's test lakes. Not knowing their size, Dr. Schindler calls them small. $^{\rm 8\ JPME\ Hearing\ Transcript}$ Volume 11 (November 9, 2012) at pages 2556-2557 although it is

true that they are smaller than the base mine lake,

they are large facilities that provide decades of

valuable data that neither Dr. Miller nor

Dr. Schindler have reviewed.

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As I suggested to Dr. Schindler in my questioning of him, there was a voluminous record already back in 1993 regarding the state of the science of end pit lake technology. He did not look for this information or review any of it, and expressed relief that he did not have to sit through the longest hearing in the history of the oil sands.

9 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 11 (November 9, 2012) at pages 2553-2556

In my questioning of Dr. Schindler, we discussed at some length the science of limnology and the analytical tools used by that science.

10 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 11 (November 9, 2012) at pages 2540-2544

Syncrude's research and demonstration of end pit lake technology uses the very analytical tools that Dr. Schindler confirmed formed the basis of the science of limnology.

Syncrude's initial conceptual approval of water-capping MFT in end pit lakes was based on years of data derived from large-scale test facilities. From the data derived from these

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facilities, Syncrude and others developed models and we are now at the point of validating this work through Syncrude's Base Mine Lake demonstration project. It is essential in the public interest that this important research and validation continue to completion.

Dr. Schindler speculated that the reason that Syncrude's approval for the base mine lake was conceptual was because of uncertainty associated with it. That is not correct. The reason that approval is conceptual is because of the jurisdictional mandates of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and the ERCB. The conceptual approval is an ERCB approval. It is Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource

Development that is responsible for the ultimate approval of all forms of reclamation, including end pit lakes.

Syncrude has been working with Alberta

Environment for years on the Base Mine Lake

Demonstration Project. Syncrude requires approval from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource

Development to conduct its Base Mine Demonstration

Project under the Water Act 11 RSA, 2000, c W-3, and, ironically, DFO required that Syncrude apply for a

HADD authorization 12 Harmful Alteration, Disruption and 1 Destruction (HADD) authorization, pursuant to the Fisheries Act RSC, 1985, 2 c. F-14in order to divert water from Syncrude's 3 Beaver Creek diversion system into the base mine 4 5 lake to provide the water cap. 6 The reason I say it is ironic, is that at 7 pre-development, Beaver Creek did not sustain any 8 fish populations of significance. Syncrude's 9 diversion system, in the opinion of DFO, provided fish habitat that had to be compensated because it 10 11 lowered water levels in the diversion system that 12 Syncrude had constructed. This resulted in an 13 approximate two-year approval process. 14 Dr. Schindler suggests that even if end pit lakes 15 work, they will eliminate creeks and streams that 16 constitute fish habitat, he is wrong. Oil sands 17 operators have already created this type of habitat and will continue to do so as part of the drainage 18 19 plans that will incorporate end pit lakes. 20 Syncrude agrees with Dr. Schindler's 21 recommendation regarding the need for a number of 22 end pit lakes to be constructed and studied. 13 Dr. David Schindler's Expert Report (Exhibit 017-016B) at page 15 23 24 As Dr. Schindler suggests, each lake will be 2.5 unique. Dr. Schindler agreed that within a couple

of decades we will have the data needed to confirm
the success of Syncrude's Base Mine Lake.

Hearing Transcript Volume 11 (November 9, 2012) at pages 2570-2571 This
will in turn lead to further demonstration of the
technology at Syncrude's north mine and again, with
success there, at Aurora North. Each lake,
however, will be unique and must be successful.

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b) Contingency options

The next item under paragraph 4.e. of the issues list dealing with end pit lakes is contingency options.

Contingency options were a requirement of Syncrude's conceptual approval of end pit lakes.

During the 1993 hearing, work was just commencing on consolidated tailings technology. A decade later, this technology was commercially proven.

Then, well before the issuance of Directive 074,

Syncrude started working on centrifuging technology, which was discussed by Mr. Roberts in questioning by the Panel. 15 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 8 (November 6, 2012) at pages 1637-1642 Centrifuging is a viable contingency option for end pit lakes with MFT. It would not, however, be a contingency option for other forms of soft tailings reclamation

technologies in the event that they do not deliver
a trafficable landscape. The fact is that the best
understood reclamation technology for soft tailings
is water capping and it is also the technology that
is best suited for the application of contingency
options.

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c) Liability Management

The next item under paragraph 4.e. is liability management for end pit lakes.

There is a legal response to this issue as well as a practical response. And the two are related.

Starting with the practical response, oil sands mining will continue for decades. On a number of occasions, Shell has indicated that the expanded Jackpine Mine has more than a 40-year reserve life. Syncrude is just completing its investment made as part of Syncrude 21 that involved investing billions of dollars, not only for further upgrading capacity but in retrofitting existing upgrading capacity to address acid-gas emission concerns.

These significant investments have been made in a reliance on mining approvals that Syncrude

1 currently holds at Mildred Lake, Aurora North and 2 Aurora South. At its current rate of production, 3 Syncrude will be producing and utilizing its significant upgrading facilities for decades to 4 come. Not only does this accommodate progressive 5 6 reclamation using end pit lakes, it assures the 7 financial capability to see that reclamation 8 through to a successful conclusion. 9 This practical response is related to the legal answer because the reality of valuable oil 10 11 sands reserve back-stopping reclamation success is 12 at the heart of the mine liability management 13 system that has been recently adopted and was 14 spoken to by Mr. Broadhurst in questioning by the Panel. 16 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 8 (November 6, 2012) at pages 15 1637-1640 16 17 18 CEMA Guidelines - Applicability and Suitability d) 19 Moving on to the last item under 20 paragraph 4.e. that I will address on behalf of 21 Syncrude, we arrive at the issue of the CEMA 22 quidelines applicability and suitability. 23 Mr. Cooke, your question of Shell's witness 24 panel made this a very important issue. You've 2.5 apparently been struggling to understand why

Syncrude would not have endorsed guidance provided through CEMA. ^{17 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 8 (November 6, 2012)}

The fact that Syncrude would have reservations about this guidance seems to have undermined your confidence in end pit lake technology.

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To understand the letter Syncrude submitted in respect of CEMA's guidance document $^{18\ \mathrm{Syncrude\ Letter}}$ dated August 21, 2012 - Appendix to CEMA Recommendation to Alberta Government - End Pit Lakes Guidance Document (Exhibit 02-39), one must understand the history of CEMA. Although it is a science-based organization, it is also one that is constituted by multiple stakeholders that have their own perspectives. There's government, industry, First Nations, environmental organizations. Given that CEMA has been a consensus-based organization, there have been occasions upon which compromise is sought in order to obtain consensus. There would be a number of participants in CEMA who may be the same groups and organizations that interpret Directive 074 as abandoning end pit lakes as a reclamation option for soft tailings. This bias on the part of some members of CEMA led to an implication in the document that the introduction of MFT into end pit

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lakes posed additive risks. There is absolutely no science behind any such implication or suggestion and it is one of the concerns Syncrude voiced in its comments to explain its concerns with the CEMA document.

This is what Syncrude is responding to in its letter. The Panel Secretariat put this question to Dr. Schindler directly. He pointed out that end pit lakes will have to contend with surface and groundwater that encounters products of tailings streams which will have to be managed in any event.

19 Dr. Schindler's Responses to Secretariat Questions (Exhibit 017-051) - Questions 12 and 13 at pages 6-7

No one knows the science of end pit lake technology better than the scientists who work for and with Syncrude. When Syncrude expressed reservations regarding CEMA's science document, it was based on its experience. To the extent that CEMA guidance document can in any way be interpreted as suggesting that the risk of proceeding with end pit lake technology is increased by water-capping MFT, Syncrude submits that the science simply does not support those taking that view. Just as Directive 074 does not prejudge Syncrude's Base Mine Lake Project, neither

1 should the CEMA guidance document.

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In conclusion, the core regulatory principles that instruct and guide regulators, industry, and government, are equity and resource conservation.

All regulations, directives, and guidance documents must be developed based on these fundamental principles. Once they are written, they must be interpreted using these principles, and, if necessary, they must adapt in order to meet these principles. The ERCB and its predecessors have a long history of responsibly applying these principles to both conventional oil and gas resources, and now, for almost 50 years, the oil sands.

Regulators, governments and industry all at times face pressure that could cause them to want to stray from these principles, we do so, however, at our peril. It is adherence to these principles that has made the oil sands industry not only commercially viable, but one of the most significant energy resources in the world. The oil sands industry has attracted investment and long-term commitment from the world's leading energy companies. This in itself has substantially mitigated the historical, technological, and

1	environmental risks, that the industry has had to
2	confront.
3	Not so many years ago, there were those that
4	insisted that the oil sands would never be a
5	commercial success. Not many of those sceptics
6	remain. They have, however, been replaced by
7	sceptics that suggest the oil sands industry,
8	working with government and its regulators, will
9	not achieve reclamation success. Experience has
10	shown that the vigour of these sceptics will surely
11	dissipate with time. 20 JPME Hearing Transcript Volume 11
12	(November 9, 2012) at pages 2543-2544
13	Those are my submissions. Thank you very
14	much, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Panel. If you
15	have any questions, I would be happy to respond.
16	THE CHAIRMAN: We have no questions,
17	Mr. Roth. Thank you.
18	MR. ROTH: Thank you.
19	THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Buss for Fort McKay First
20	Nation.
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22	FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION AND FORT
23	MCKAY MÉTIS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, BY MS. BUSS:
24	MS. BUSS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
25	Members of the Panel, staff, and the other counsel

1	and parties in the room.
2	My first order of business is to file an
3	amendment to Fort McKay's pre-hearing submission.
4	And I took the liberty of providing copies to the
5	Panel during the break and to my friends at Shell,
6	as well I have an extra copy for Board counsel.
7	And so this exhibit is a replacement for the
8	Requested Disposition section in Fort McKay's
9	Exhibit 009-008. And I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman,
10	if we might have this filed. I believe it will be
11	Exhibit 009-011.
12	THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is.
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14	EXHIBIT 009-011: REPLACEMENT FOR THE REQUESTED
15	DISPOSITION SECTION IN FORT MCKAY'S
16	EXHIBIT 009-008
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18	MS. BUSS: Now I've also provided the
19	court reporter with my speaking notes, which
20	include references to the evidence which I will not
21	be repeating in oral submissions but ask that that
22	be inserted into the transcript. And I may also
23	deviate from my speaking notes, in which case I ask
24	that my verbal comments take precedence.
25	Mr. Chairman, I'm also not going to read into

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the record the Requested Disposition in order to save time, but I am going to speak to why we're asking for that disposition and specifically the recommendations, what evidence you have to rely upon in meeting our request, and just briefly highlight some points in the evidence that we would like you to be cognizant of.

So, firstly, why does Fort McKay seek these recommendations? Fort McKay would find it very helpful for the Panel to make the recommendations requested because both Canada and Alberta's consultation frameworks and policies rely, in part, upon the findings and recommendations of this Panel, or panels like yourselves. Therefore, in order to be eligible for further consultation or meaningful consultation on regional impacts, there needs to be some reference to it or some requirement or recommendation in the Panel's decision in order for Canada particularly to pay attention to it, but Alberta is also following that general practice.

And a second reason is, frankly, Fort McKay has not been able to get either government to pay attention to the increasing regional impacts and need for accommodation with respect to Treaty and

1 Aboriginal Rights of the community, although we 2 have asked numerous times. So what evidence does the Panel have to 3 4 support the request for recommendations? First of 5 all, we have the Fort McKay Specific Assessment, 6 which wasn't able to be filed because it's very 7 large, but it was part of Shell's Application 8 pursuant to an agreement made between the parties 9 in 2008. It itself is a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment of impacts directly as they 10 11 relate to the community. It includes a 12 pre-development baseline, cultural baseline study, 13 cultural impact assessment, as well as the traditional categories of Environmental Impact 14 15 Assessment like air, water and so on. 16 Secondly, there's the Environmental Setting 17 Report, which is in the 2007 Environmental Impact 18 Assessment Section 3.3.1, which documents 19 traditional land use by Fort McKay. 20 Thirdly, there is a Fort McKay First Nation 21 Traditional Knowledge Report from 2008 prepared on 22 behalf of Shell filed as part of the Application. 23 So these latter two reports, both extensively 24 document Fort McKay's traditional land use and 2.5 practices and the use of natural resources in the

1 Regional Study Area. And then in Volume 5 of the 2 EIA, Section 8.3 is an assessment of the impacts or 3 some assessment of the impact on those rights and activities. 4 Shell's Cumulative Effects Assessment and 5 6 Assessment of Impacts on Aboriginal Communities 7 filed in May of this year also provides helpful 8 information to the Panel. And these documents rely 9 in part on the Fort McKay Specific Assessment as their source of information. 10 11 And then, finally, you also have information 12 about the increasing environmental impacts and 13 changes to the land which is contained throughout Shell's Assessment. 14 15 Next I'm going to highlight just a few 16 aspects of the impacts identified in evidence 17 before the Panel. I expect that much more detail will be highlighted by other parties, so I don't 18 19 want to repeat that. 20 But I do note some things for you to pay

But I do note some things for you to pay attention to. One originally comes from Shell's Cumulative Effects Assessment in May 2011 in answer to an SIR from the Panel. That contains in Table 2.5-1 a calculation of the direct land and disturbance in the Regional Study Area with respect

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1 to Fort McKay. And it shows that from the 2 Pre-Industrial Case, of which there was 3 approximately 1700 hectares of direct disturbance, that's changed in the 2012 Base Case to 674,968 4 hectares; that constitutes an increase of 5 6 31 percent in the intensively-used cultural areas 7 of Fort McKay, and 29 percent of the moderate-use 8 areas. 9 Table 3.5-1 of the same document shows 10 disturbances to traplines in the Local Study Area, 11 which form a component of the overall Fort McKay 12 traditional land use and trapping area. Of the four traplines specifically mentioned, three 13 14 currently belong to Fort McKay members, that's 15 1716, 2137, 2172. 16 And then the area of the traplines affected 17 in the JPME Application and the Planned Development Case is the same: 57 percent, 53 percent and 18 19 63 percent respectively. 20 Now, if you look at the evidence, you will 21 see that trapline 1714 is included as a Fort McKay 22 trapline in the Fort McKay Specific Assessment and 23 in two Traditional Land Use Studies filed by Shell 24 that I referenced. These documents indicate that at the time 2.5

1 that these assessments and reports were prepared, 2 trapline 1714 was registered to Annie L'Hommecourt, 3 who was a Fort McKay First Nation member, but she's now deceased. So that explains that discrepancy 4 5 for the Panel. 6 Now carrying on in that same document, the 7 next section deals with changes from the Base Case 8 to Planned Development Case. And you'll see in 9 there that the changes to Fort McKay's traditional area due to land directly disturbed for all types 10 11 of traditional land use is a total increase from 12 31 percent to 36 percent for the PDC, and for 13 moderately-used areas, the increase is 29 percent to 37 percent in the PDC. 14 15 Table 3.5-5 shows disturbance to traditional 16 plant-harvesting areas will increase from 17 47 percent to 55 percent for the intensively-used areas, and 31 to 42 percent for the moderate-use 18 19 areas. 20 That's going to be all the figures that I'll 21 cite to you. 22 But I would ask is that you also consider 23 that these disturbance numbers need to be put in 24 perspective because they are direct disturbance. As Shell noted in its November 2011 2.5

1 Traditional Land Use Update Report, its assessment 2 of the significance of impacts did not include the 3 value placed on resources by Aboriginal persons, but, and I quote (as read): 4 5 6 "Agencies responsible for 7 making public-interest decisions 8 should be aware of the value placed 9 on these resources by local users 10 as part of their decision-making 11 process." 12 13 Fort McKay agrees with that statement, and 14 that is why it provided, or partly why, it provided 15 the Fort McKay Specific Assessment because it helps 16 everyone, including the Panel, understand how land 17 and resource-use patterns are affected by regional 18 development and how that ties into the cultural 19 identity and values of the community. 20 Now, the Fort McKay Specific Assessment 21 looked at what they're calling the 40 Township 22 area, which is Townships 93 to 100 and Ranges 8 to 23 12. And that's located within Shell's RSA. 24 And that area was chosen in part because it 2.5 represented all of the traditional land use area

1 that was reasonably accessible from the community.

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Now, of that area, at the time that the data for the Fort McKay Specific Assessment was collected in 2007, so even though the report is dated 2010, so these numbers are underestimating current impacts. But in any event, it showed that 133,000 hectares was estimated to be disturbed in the Planned Development Case, as it was known in 2007. Of course it would be greater now. But what was important was that 91 percent of these disturbances occurred within the moderate or intensively used areas of Fort McKay's traditional land use, or TLU area. And all of it occurred on Fort McKay's, or the same 91 percent applied to it occurring on Fort McKay traplines.

Now, the other important perspective is that the direct disturbance numbers in the cumulative impact assessment prepared by Shell relates to direct impacts only. It does not include loss of access and indirect disturbance. For example, you know, the zone of influence we heard about for wildlife, which, you know, is somewhere around 500 metres around for example a mine site, it does not include the loss of trails. In the 2007 Planned Development Case, the Fort McKay identified or the

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Fort McKay Assessment identified 107 kilometres of trails would be lost, which is 38 percent. And that doesn't capture the whole effect because if you take out a significant chunk of a trail, obviously it's like a road, you take out the middle and the two end bits aren't very useful to you.

And I also would direct your attention to the 2008 TEK study as well as the Fort McKay Specific Assessment filed by Shell, because that provides you a description of the actual difficulties experienced by Fort McKay members.

You can see from any map that because the community is surrounded by development that it's going to require circumvention of large mine sites in order to access certain areas. Fort McKay members also spoke about difficulties, even getting lost on the land, because the landscape has changed so much and not being able to find their way with the traditional trails gone and land disturbed.

The other important piece of information for the Panel to be cognizant of when considering Fort McKay's request is the loss or declining wildlife. The Traditional Environmental Knowledge report filed by Shell documents that Fort McKay members have observed declining population levels,

1 particularly in lynx and moose. 2 Now, wildlife populations are not monitored 3 regularly in the region, and we submit that this is quite a significant gap. 4 5 However, there has been some recent studies 6 by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and these are described, some of these are described in 7 8 Shell's Updated Moose Population Viability 9 Assessment. Now, Shell's own assessment admits that 10 11 there's evidence of declining moose populations. 12 For example, the survey of Wildlife Management Unit 13 531, which is about 50 percent of that or so is within the Regional Study Area, indicated a decline 14 15 of 60 percent in the population between 1994 and 2009. 16 17 Exhibit 017-030 is another moose survey done 18 for Wildlife Management Unit 530, which again is 19 around half of which is in the RSA, and it also 20 showed declining population levels as compared to 21 past surveys. 22 And interestingly, that document notes that 23 SRD planned surveys to be done every five years but 24 they continue to be underfunded, which I guess 2.5 accounts for their scarcity.

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Now, the lack of wildlife population counts for the region underscores the important point that simply pointing to an absence of evidence does not equate with absence of effects. It just means that the monitoring is inadequate.

Now, the other exhibit that was filed was an excerpt from Dover, the Dover Project, an Environmental Impact Assessment, which also predicted a significant -- sorry, this wasn't a study, this was a prediction -- decrease in habitat for moose, black bear, and snowshoe hare. But the Dover Project is on the west side of the river, and we just point that out because one cannot assume that wildlife populations are going to be available in the far reaches of Fort McKay's traditional territory.

Now, we also point out that this evidence of declining wildlife in the region is not surprising. It's entirely consistent with the predictions from the research and modelling that was done by CEMA for the Terrestrial Effects Management Framework in 2007.

Now, I turn back again to the issue of significance assessment. Fort McKay's Assessment of Significance to the Impact to its Culture and

1 Way of Life is included as an Appendix to Exhibit 001-088. It's called the "Cultural 2 3 Heritage Baseline." Interestingly, Shell prepared its own 4 Cultural Heritage Assessment, which referred in a 5 6 number of instances to Fort McKay's Specific 7 Assessment but did not refer to the conclusions or the actual assessment of impacts. And it makes no 8 9 reference to the methodology, either. But in a nutshell, I can explain that the 10 11 Cultural Heritage Baseline looked at cultural 12 values that were expressed and maintained through 13 cultural activities and through what might be called "project mitigation," such as participation 14 15 in industry jobs and more educational 16 opportunities. 17 Nevertheless, it concluded, based on erosion 18 in community values, that regional development was 19 having a significant and adverse effect. 20 Now, on the other hand, Shell's assessment 21 found no significant effect for the regional impact 22 on culture or Aboriginal people and it only found 23 one moderate effect, which was to visual impacts 24 and noise. Now, the reason for the difference is the 2.5

methodology used by Shell's consultant was simple: It concluded because the Project site only made up 1.0 percent of the total of this very large Regional Study Area used in this Impact Assessment, therefore any changes could only be contributed to by 1.0 percent. So no matter what changes were going on around, the impact was insignificant from the Project. So that's how they went about it. Now, why I point out this methodology, which

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Now, why I point out this methodology, which this Panel or Members of the Panel have seen many times, is that this takes us back to Fort McKay's reason for asking for the recommendations from the Panel. Every project EIA says its contribution to regional effects are not material because each project's contribution is 1 or 2 or 5 percent of the total because the total area is big. And getting bigger. As projects get bigger, the reference area is bigger.

Now, what that means is that no single operator is responsible for the large-scale landscape change and resources change that are going on, but it doesn't negate the fact that they are going on.

Now, if you listen carefully to, which I'm sure you did, Alberta and Canada's submissions on

1 consultation, it was important to note what they 2 didn't say. The only post-hearing consultation 3 that they referred to was in relation to the Project's effects and the Project's approvals. 4 5 Neither government mentioned a process for 6 consulting specifically on the cumulative effects 7 of regional development and their significance to a 8 specific community. 9 So nobody is consulting or addressing the accumulation of all of the 1.0 percents and 10 11 5 percents. 12 Now, the regional effects that Fort McKay 13 identified require measures -- what I should say is that are also identified in part in Shell's 14 15 assessment -- these regional effects require 16 measures that only government can provide and only 17 government is responsible for implementing the terms of Treaty 8 and protecting Treaty and 18 19 Aboriginal Rights. That's why at some point the 20 government needs to come to terms. And, frankly, 21 that would help establish peace in the valley 22 because there's no doubt that these impacts are 23 going to continue. 24 Now, I know government will say and operators 2.5 will say that LARP is an answer, the Lower

1	Athahaga Dagianal Dlan is and was of dealing with
	Athabasca Regional Plan, is one way of dealing with
2	these regional impacts. However, if you look at
3	the conservation areas that are included in the
4	plan filed in these proceedings, you will see that
5	very little of the conserved or protected areas are
6	in Fort McKay's traditional territory. Just from
7	looking at it, you can calculate that it's roughly
8	10 percent, maybe, of the total protected areas.
9	Now, this isn't surprising considering that
10	85 percent of Fort McKay's traditional land is
11	leased for development. But that does not mean
12	that other measures are not required, there are
13	still things that could be done. The new
14	monitoring plan, for example, will hopefully
15	address the inadequacies of the present system, and
16	Fort McKay agrees it's very important to monitor,
17	but also that monitoring itself is not mitigation.
18	What it does is documents the need for mitigation.
19	Things that many of the Fort McKay members are
20	observing themselves every day and are monitoring
21	through their daily experience.
22	Now, finally, I just want to make a couple of
23	points about air quality.
24	Fort McKay is the community that's most
25	affected by emissions from the oil sands

1 development. Chapter 2 of the Fort McKay Specific 2 Assessment provides a detailed examination of 3 emission predictions as well as ambient air quality trends. Admittedly it's outdated now and there are 4 some newer numbers in the more recent amendments to 5 6 Shell's EIA, which are entirely consistent with the 7 trends identified in the Specific Assessment, that 8 is, shows that emissions are steadily increasing 9 and air quality is deteriorating. Now, there's one exception possibly which is 10 11 SO₂, and that's moderate, the increase in SO₂ 12 emissions has moderated somewhat as a result of 13 Syncrude's desulphurization unit. 14 Now, Fort McKay is doing its best to monitor 15 the situation itself but it still relies heavily on 16 regulators and the regulators to diligently watch, 17 manage and monitor this situation so that this 18 trend doesn't continue to rise at the rate that it 19 is rising. 20 It will eventually become, well, not very 21 long in the near future, will become a significant 22 problem if it's not managed. 23 We also point out that there's a major gap in 24 the regulations and that is that there's no 2.5 standards for odours or a regional system to manage

1	them. And that's one of Fort McKay's requests.
2	And we ask that the Panel highly recommend that
3	this be done forthwith. We think that this will
4	bring the request up a bit in the priority for the
5	new monitoring systems.
6	So thank you very much for your attention.
7	And I think I might have made my time estimate
8	which might redeem me from being the worst time
9	estimator at this hearing. Thank you, Panel.
10	THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Buss, I think you beat
11	your time estimate, so congratulations.
12	MS. BUSS: Thank you.
13	THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Bishop, if you were going
14	to be three quarters of an hour or so, maybe we
15	could just take 10 minutes for the reporter.
16	Thanks.
17	
18	(Brief Break)
19	
20	THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Bishop, would you like to
21	go ahead with your argument.
22	
23	FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGION 1
24	AND THE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS NAMED TOGETHER WITH
25	REGION 1, BY MS. BISHOP:

1	MS. B	ISHOP: I'd like to thank the Panel
2		for this opportunity to present final argument on
3		behalf of my clients. I say I'm very proud to
4		stand here today on behalf of my clients. It's
5		been a challenging and very rewarding process;
6		challenging, primarily because of the lack of
7		funding, capacity, witnesses and witness schedules.
8		Volunteers, for the most part, make up the
9		Government of the Métis Nation of Alberta.
10		But through the efforts of Region 1 and the
11		Locals, my clients have brought to you their
12		concerns, they've brought them in a cohesive way,
13		and they ask you not to ignore their hard work.
14		Capacity has been an issue. My friends at
15		Shell mention \$80,000 in CEAA funding. We advise,
16		we understand that's for two processes, and so that
17		brings us down to about \$40,000.
18		We also point out that the ERCB in history
19		has never advanced funds under Directive 031 to a
20		Métis group.
21		The Métis as a people have a rich history of
22		independence and perseverance and I think their
23		intervention in these proceedings proves this
24		point.
25		They've worked hard. They've travelled many

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miles. And you will see in the audience the president and vice-president of the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 1 who travelled in from Lac La Biche today, and also Jumbo Fraser from Local 125 who travelled from Fort Chip.

> They are here to remind you that the lands in the Local Study Area and the Regional Study Area are their homelands and they are still used by many Métis, members of the Métis Nation of Alberta in a traditional way.

I refer you to Exhibit 010-023 and that is Barb Hermansen's story. You heard from Ms. Hermansen, her poignant story of the Métis community where she grew up. The community that spanned from Fort McMurray to Fort Chip, but primarily where she grew up, on trapline 2331, which is in the LSA.

Maps within that exhibit, Figure 4, show the extensive Métis use of the area. She mentions the other Métis families that she grew up with that continue to trap and hold traplines in the area, MacDonalds, the Grants, LaCailles. Shell's argument today seeks to erase that mark of the Métis, their historic and current use in the area.

2.5 And if not erase, seeks to ignore it.

1 Shell talks about an assessment of current 2 traditional use. My clients submit that completely 3 misses the point of their evidence. It might 4 explain why Shell's Traditional Land Use reports do 5 not mention any of the Métis historic use that my 6 clients presented to you. Nor does it take into 7 account any of the publicly-available historic 8 literature, presented to some degree by Peter 9 Fortna. None of it was included in Shell's EIA. It seems as though this morning Shell 10 11 suggested that with the \$40,000 in CEAA funding, my 12 clients should have done a thorough review of the 13 EIA and presented that to you. And I suggest to 14 you that this misses the point. It also is not in 15 accordance with the case law from the Supreme Court 16 of Canada. And I refer you to a passage that's in 17 our submissions but it's a passage from Haida and I 18 just wanted to read that to you. It's reproduced 19 on page 21 of our submissions (as read): 20 21 "The Supreme Court has been 22 clear that in order for the duty to 23 consult to be engaged, the 24 Aboriginal Right does not have to 2.5 be proven but merely credibly

1	asserted."
2	
3	And this is from Haida :
4	
5	"The government's arguments
6	do not withstand scrutiny. Neither
7	the authorities nor practical
8	considerations support the view
9	that a duty to consult and, if
10	appropriate, accommodate arises
11	only upon final determination of
12	the scope and content of the right.
13	The jurisprudence of this
14	Court supports the view that the
15	duty to consult and accommodate is
16	part of a process of fair dealing
17	and reconciliation that begins with
18	the assertion of sovereignty and
19	continues beyond formal claims
20	resolution. Reconciliation is not
21	a final legal remedy in the usual
22	sense. Rather, it is a process
23	flowing from rights guaranteed by
24	Section 35(1) of the Constitution
25	Act, 1982. This process of

1	reconciliation flows from the
2	Crown's duty of honourable dealing
3	towards Aboriginal peoples which
4	arises in turn from the Crown's
5	assertion of sovereignty over an
6	Aboriginal people and de facto
7	control of land and resources that
8	were formerly in control of that
9	people."
10	
11	And I just wanted to refer you to that
12	passage because I think for Shell to stand here as
13	a delegate of Alberta and suggest that the onus
14	should be on my clients to prove to you what the
15	use is and what the impacts are, I say that's an
16	impoverished view, and so do the Courts.
17	My clients came to this hearing and they
18	wanted to be heard. They are asking in part for a
19	Consultation Policy from the Government of Alberta.
20	They have rights protected by the Constitution,
21	Section 35 states:
22	
23	"The existing Aboriginal and
24	Treaty Rights of the Aboriginal
25	peoples of Canada are hereby

1	recognized and affirmed. In this
2	Act, Aboriginal peoples of Canada
3	includes the Indian, Inuit and
4	Métis peoples of Canada."
5	
6	And case laws define what this means,
7	specifically in Powley. And I just want to go
8	through <i>Powley</i> really quickly. I know my friend
9	talked about it. And I think that if you look into
10	this case, it explains why my clients are here.
11	So I just refer to page 14 of Powley , which
12	is Tab 1 of our Book of Authorities. Page 14,
13	paragraph 7 states:
14	
15	"The inclusion of Métis, the
16	Métis Section 35 represents
17	Canada's commitment to recognize
18	and value the distinctive Métis
19	cultures, which grew up in areas
20	not yet open to colonization, and
21	which the framers of the
22	Constitution Act, 1982 recognized
23	can only survive if the Métis are
24	protected along with other
25	aboriginal communities."

1	
2	And further at paragraph 18:
3	
4	"Section 35 requires that we
5	recognize and protect those customs
6	and traditions that were
7	historically important features of
8	Métis communities prior to the time
9	of effective [European] control,
10	and that persist in the present
11	day."
12	
13	So in the Powley test, there's the discussion
14	of a number of different characteristics that
15	should be looked at. And I'll just present our
16	evidence along with the test as we go through.
17	Métis rights are contextual and
18	site-specific. And that is the first test under
19	Powley is characterizing the right. In this case,
20	the use of both the Regional Study Area and the
21	Local Study Area clearly show Métis occupation and
22	use in the LSA and the RSA. And I refer you to the
23	maps in Barb Hermansen's book and also her
24	description of the families in the area.
25	Traplines in the area at that time before

Bill C-31 were primarily Métis and families lived on the traplines. And for Métis people, this was where they lived and where they grew up, they had no reserve lands.

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The second test under **Powley** is identification of the historic rights-bearing community. And this is important in terms of my friend's criticism of our group. There's no question that there's a strong connection, based on the evidence that we've provided within our submissions that there's a strong connection between Lac La Biche, Fort McMurray, Fort McKay, Conklin, and Fort Chipewyan. The evidence that we provided in historic reports establishes that there is a continuous historic Métis community in the area from Lac La Biche extending north of Fort Chipewyan. And I refer to the historical report of Frank Tuff and John Aniuk that was filed in our submissions and Shell agreed could go in unquestioned. This is Exhibit 010-004K. also refer you to the work of Tereasa Maillie, Exhibit 010-004C, entitled "The Métis Experience in Northeastern Alberta."

My clients do not agree that only Fort McKay and Fort Chip are historic communities. It is

1 clear that there are also historic settlements in 2 Fort McMurray, MacDonald Island and Waterways, that 3 stretched along the river past McKay and to Fort Chip. This area was settled by chain migration 4 5 from Lac La Biche northward and this was discussed 6 in the expert reports that we provided. 7 Powley talks about the importance of 8 identifying the contemporary rights-bearing 9 community. And at page 17, paragraph 24, it talks 10 about how Aboriginal Rights are communal rights, 11 and this is why I felt as though it was important 12 to talk a little bit about **Powley** because it brings 13 into perspective the consultation requirements. 14 **Powley** states (as read): 15 "The contemporary 16 17 rights-bearing community must be 18 grounded in the existence of a 19 historic and present community and 20 they may be exercised by virtue of 21 an individual's ancestry-based 22 membership in the present 23 community." 24 2.5 So there's no question that my clients gave

1 evidence, or their witnesses gave evidence, that 2 they self-identify as Métis, they belong to 3 different contemporary Métis communities or Locals. For example the evidence of Mike Guertin and Johnny 4 5 Grant, Barb Hermansen and her sons, all currently 6 use the area, and they all have traplines or had 7 traplines, and current leases, and I think they all 8 have current leases. Barb Hermansen, her estranged 9 husband has a lease within the Regional Study Area. So these are all different users within the 10 11 area and they all identify to a different Local, 12 which is also evidence of a broader Métis community 13 stretching from Lac La Biche on. Mike Guertin 14 currently lives in Lac La Biche, Johnny Grant 15 associates with Fort McMurray and Barb Hermansen 16 with Fort Chip. 17 The fourth arm of the Powley test is: "Verification of the claimant's membership in the 18 19 relevant contemporary community." And what Powley 20 says at page 19, paragraph 29 (as read): 21 22 "While determining membership 23 in the Métis community may not be 24 as simple as verifying membership 2.5 in for example an Indian Band, this

does not detract from the status of 1 2 Métis people as full-fledged rights bearers." 3 4 5 And I think that's important. You know, my 6 friend raised the issue of which groups should they 7 consult. And we suggest it's not that difficult. 8 There is a Métis government. There are Métis 9 Locals. There is a government structure that should be used. 10 11 The fifth arm of the **Powley** test is 12 identification of the relevant timeframe. 13 Powley changes the test to a test of effective 14 control. 15 And we suggest in that area it was later than 16 Lac La Biche, around the 1900s, and this is 17 important as well. 18 Whether the practice is integral to the 19 claimant's distinctive culture, this is the sixth 20 arm, and I think it's clear from the evidence you 21 heard from my witnesses or my client's witnesses 22 that trapping, hunting and harvesting in the area 23 of the proposed Jackpine Mine Expansion was 24 integral to the Métis way of life. They lived 2.5 there. They lived off the land.

1 And contrary to what my friend said this 2 morning, there is evidence of Métis gathering, 3 fishing and hunting, specifically in the maps that were entered from the Mark of the Métis. And those 4 were entered separately as Exhibit 010-024. And I 5 hope you'll take a look at those maps because, 6 7 contrary to what my friend said this morning, there is documentation of berry gathering, plant 8 9 harvesting, fishing and hunting in the area of McLennan Lake and also around the mouth of the 10 11 Firebag River. 12 Continuity is important in the **Powley** test, 13 and you heard from my clients that they currently use the area, currently exercising those rights. 14 15 Now, this the eighth arm of the test, determination of whether or not the right was 16 17 extinguished, clearly there's no extinguishment of the Métis rights in the area. There's no Treaty. 18 19 Arguably, my clients still hold commercial hunting 20 and fishing rights in the area. 21 Section 9 of the **Powley** test states if 22 there's a right, determination of whether there is 23 an infringement. And the **Kelly** case, which is an 24 Alberta case, states that the lack of recognition 2.5 of Métis rights is in itself an infringement. And

1 that **Kelly** case is also within our Book of 2 Authorities, Tab 9, and I refer you to 3 paragraph 64. And the last arm of the **Powley** test, which is 4 5 important here as well, is determination of whether 6 the infringement is justified. And my friend 7 suggested that that's what we're here to discuss 8 today. 9 On the record there's no evidence of any 10 investigation of Métis use in the area, there's no 11 TLU or TK in the area with respect to the evidence 12 that you heard from my clients. And I just want to 13 point you to some of the transcript references, and the evidence of Mr. Goodjohn. 14 15 In Volume 4, page 651, I asked Mr. Goodjohn 16 about the importance of looking at historical use 17 of traplines. And he responded at line 21: 18 19 "In response to your 20 question, before you do move on, I 21 just want to make clear that what 22 we're trying to understand is the 23 effects to the trapline and 24 traditional activity as it's 2.5 occurring today..."

And I think that this misses the point in terms of what rights we're looking for in terms of

Powley and what traditional use actually is.

I asked him on page 652, line 4, if he knew that trapline 2331 was formerly owned by Edmond Ducharme, and he said he wasn't aware of that, he had spoken only to the current owner.

And at the time, I also asked about trapline 1716, which, before his death, was held by a Fort McKay Métis member who Mr. Goodjohn had called a Fort McKay First Nation member.

Mr. Goodjohn went on to agree that he did not look at any of the historic Métis literature, any of the publicly-available documentation. He mentioned that he did look briefly at the Northern Rivers Basin Study, but he said at page 714, line 22, it was the Northern Rivers Basin Study, and that includes areas, it includes the Métis people in Fort Chip and it includes all residents in Fort Chip in the aggregate admittedly. And he went on to say that it was quite general.

However, you heard from Peter Fortna upon review of the transcripts of that study, the evidence of my clients would have come clear to

1 Shell. The use of Castor's cabin, Edmond Ducharme, 2 Barb Hermansen. 3 You might all remember the deadpan silence when I asked about my client Johnny Grant. 4 wasn't one member on Shell's panel that knew who 5 6 Johnny Grant was. 7 I submit to you that justification in your 8 job, if you're finding that an impact is justified, 9 it cannot occur in the complete absence of an assessment of the right and impacts. Métis 10 11 harvesting, hunting, fishing rights exist in the 12 area of the proposed Jackpine Mine, they are 13 represented by the MNA Region 1 as agents for Métis 14 and MNA members, and we submit that they are the 15 appropriate body to do so. And if you look at the case, and I hope 16 17 you'll have a chance to read it, the Newfoundland and Labrador v. Labrador Métis Nation 2007 NLCA 75 18 19 in Tab 11 of our authorities. And this was a case 20 that was also discussed by Mr. Clem Chartier. 21 Shell is under the impression, so it would 22 seem, that the Terms of Reference only applied to 23 First Nations. This is documented in 24 Exhibit 010-030. And these were the meeting 2.5 minutes of a recent meeting between Shell and Local

1	1935. Meeting minutes that were produced by Shell
2	where they said (as read):
3	
4	"Métis Local 1935 queried the
5	possibility of sustainability
6	funding. Shell advised that they
7	don't provide such funding as they
8	aren't legislated to do so for
9	Métis communities. Any additional
10	supplements wouldn't be addressed
11	with this community relations
12	team."
13	
14	This impression of Shell's that they are not
15	legislated to deal with Métis communities, this may
16	be as a result of Alberta's rejection of my
17	client's Statement of Concerns and Alberta is
18	informing Shell of this rejection, even when
19	Statements of Concern were filed by other groups, I
20	would suggest aren't rights-bearing. A Statement
21	of Concern is not a heavy burden to meet. My
22	clients did everything they should have done. They
23	filed their Statements of Concern, they provided
24	submissions. They even got some historical expert
25	report. They came and they spoke eloquently about

1	their use of the area and their experts spoke about
2	their use in the area and the failure of Shell to
3	provide any documentary evidence from the
4	publicly-available sources or the Métis people
5	themselves.
6	I suggest to you the evidence of my clients
7	is the elephant in the room.
8	Shell tried in rebuttal to somehow equate
9	sponsorship of golf tournaments, dinner meetings,
10	and two technical presentations that my client
11	stated were too technical and they didn't find
12	helpful. And they tried to turn this into
13	consultation on Métis traditional land use.
14	Ms. Jefferson explained their approach to TLU
15	as documenting current use. This is in Volume 15,
16	page 3773 continuing on to 3774. She said:
17	
18	"And so we're looking at who
19	is there currently. Who is using
20	the land currently. Who is
21	actually in the area. That is not
22	to say that a lot of this
23	information isn't really important
24	and from an historical perspective,
25	but the assessment actually deals

1	with who's there, here, and may be
2	affected."
3	
4	And this is the question:
5	
6	"Q. So you're saying now, you're saying
7	who is there now, that's what Shell looked
8	at?"
9	
10	"A. That's the primary basis for an
11	impact assessment, who may be impacted now by
12	the project."
13	
14	And I suggest to you that the reason that the
15	historical use is so important, if you go back to
16	Powley, you'll see that this is the approach, there
17	is no legislated approach on how to deal with Métis
18	rights, it comes from Powley . Métis rights are
19	defined by the common law. Of course the common
20	law interpreting the Constitution of Canada.
21	In the case of Mikisew Cree First Nation and
22	Fort McKay First Nation, providing the capacity
23	funding to document impacts, Shell provided the
24	capacity funding, and then entered into Impact
25	Benefit Agreements. We've heard from Fort McKay

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First Nation, and we'll hear from Mikisew Cree, but they didn't participate in this hearing presumably because the impacts to Aboriginal Rights were documented and accommodated in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

There can be no question that my clients have credibly asserted rights. They will be impacted by an approval. They are seeing the degradation in the area. They are seeing their ability to live off the land taken from them. They explained the changes in water level, the changes in wildlife. And no one can argue with the evidence, with their evidence, that what was once there is no longer. Who would have evidence of the changes but those who experience them directly? Many, many technical reports stating incrementally that these changes are small with each new project did not change the truth of my clients' direct observations that they provided to you. They've heard decision-makers say that there's no significant adverse effects, but they've told you that they see significant changes.

Even the language of the Terms of Reference suggests that Shell should have provided more information about my clients.

And I just want to refer you quickly to the

1	Terms of Reference. And I think Mr. Denstedt
2	referred to these as well. The language of the
3	Terms of Reference speaks to accommodation and a
4	duty to consult. Page 4 of our submissions, I'm
5	restating the JRP agreement, Part III, Scope of
6	Factors.
7	And the last one I just wanted to point your
8	attention to:
9	
10	"The methods and measures
11	proposed to manage, mitigate and
12	compensate to an acceptable level
13	any identified effects on the
14	asserted or established Aboriginal
15	Rights and interests."
16	
17	And I would suggest to you this is impossible
18	for my clients. They have been excluded. I would
19	suggest to you even marginalized by this process.
20	The Constitution of Canada and <i>Powley</i> says my
21	clients possess rights that should be protected.
22	And I would suggest to you that's your role here.
23	And it's important. It must be done.
24	I suggest to what's happened here,
25	ironically, is that my clients who are supposed to

1	have extra protection for their rights, as they are
2	specially protected by the Constitution, they've
3	actually been afforded less consultation rights
4	than would have been afforded other stakeholders.
5	And I refer you to Decision 2007-058 from this
6	Board. And that's the North West Upgrading
7	decision which quotes the Suncor Decision 2006-112.
8	And it states, this is page 8:
9	
10	"A number of parties
11	questioned whether North West's
12	public involvement process met the
13	requirements of Directive 056. The
14	Board notes that Directive 056
15	applies directly to oil and gas
16	energy projects and not oil sands
17	upgraders. As previously noted in
18	Decision 2006-112, the Board
19	considers the basic elements for
20	public consultation and Directive
21	056 to be the minimum public
22	participation standards that
23	mineable oil sand applications must
24	meet. The Board also considers
25	Directive 056 to be the minimum

1	requirement for an oil sands
2	upgrader; therefore it expects an
3	applicant for an oil sands upgrader
4	to meet the consultation
5	notification requirements for
6	category E facilities in
7	Directive 056, Table 5.1. The
8	Board is satisfied that North West
9	has met these requirements. If
10	other information, such as the EIA,
11	indicates that parties outside the
12	minimum distances required for
13	category E facilities could be
14	impacted, the Board expects that
15	they would be part of the
16	applicant's public consultation
17	program as well."
18	
19	And I would suggest to you that Mr. John
20	Grant, who came and gave evidence, is a person with
21	legally-recognized rights, legal interest in land,
22	even outside of his Métis heritage; he's a trapline
23	holder and he's also a leaseholder. The fact that
24	his trapline and access to his trapline will be
25	affected, has already been affected by some

projects, will be further affected by this Project,

Directive 056 hasn't even been met. Nobody met

him. Nobody documented any conversations with him.

Nobody wrote it down. Directive 056 has a lot of

documentation requirements.

2.5

So I would say ironically that the Métis, or my Métis clients, have actually received less consultation than even required for other stakeholders.

Similarly, Mike Guertin and Frank LaCaille, also named as interveners in their own right, and also MNA members, have similar interests to John Grant within the LSA and nowhere does the Application mention them or their concerns; Barb Hermansen as well.

I suggest to you that what we're seeing here is a very odd result. Shell has no information about Métis use specifically. Mr. Goodjohn stated that there's no information about Métis Local 125, their use. However, he did state, he assumed the impacts would be the same as MCFN because they live in the same community. I suggest to you that my clients have shown that there was more Métis use in the area. However, Mikisew Cree First Nation's concerns have been mitigated and accommodated in an

Impact Benefits Agreement. My clients, however,

Shell says there's no Impact Benefit Agreement to

be had.

2.5

I suggest to you this is a direct result of Alberta having no Consultation Policy for Métis rights.

There are no further processes for my clients after this decision is made. There's no right of appeal for *Water Act*, or an approval under *EPEA* where there's been a hearing by CEAA or the ERCB. That's Section 95 of *EPEA*.

My clients are disappointed by this Panel's decision before even hearing their evidence that they did not want to decide or hear from my clients about their constitutional rights and their duty to consult. They've been left with no forum. They believed, based on past experience, and, of course, reading of the Notice of Hearing and reading of the Administrative Procedures and Jurisdiction Act that this is the forum where their concerns could be heard.

Alberta, in making a motion that this Panel should not take jurisdiction to consider the duty to consult, has succeeded in avoiding the issue in this forum.

1	I suggest to you that Shell's response, when
2	I put to them on cross, that they could have
3	provided capacity funding in order to make this
4	process easier, in order to document the impacts.
5	And their response to me, I heard a few different
6	responses. For the most part, it was that, we
7	would have provided information had the Métis
8	groups provided it to us. So then when asked about
9	capacity, Shell seemed to say, well, they didn't
LO	ask for capacity. So when I showed them evidence
11	of where my clients had asked for capacity, they
12	said, well, we don't do that, that we provide Good
13	Neighbour Agreements. When asked about Good
L 4	Neighbour Agreements, Shell said, well, the Good
15	Neighbour Agreements are only for community-based
L 6	projects. They are not for oil they are not
L7	project-specific. They are for Christmas parties,
L8	they are for golf tournaments. They are for in
L 9	some cases they are used, and I would suggest this
20	could actually be considered double-dipping by
21	Shell, because they are used by the Locals to
22	implement community awareness programs which Shell
23	also takes credit for. So not only is the money
24	attributed to the Locals but Shell also takes
25	credit for these good works. And in all fairness,

1 the Locals are happy to work with Shell in that 2 manner, but they feel as though that funding has 3 been mischaracterized. It's not funding that's provided to the Locals to use to fund their 4 5 organizations or to hire experts or to participate 6 in these forums. And I think the \$700,000 that was 7 quoted by my friend over six years reflects 8 \$100,000 for the Mark of the Métis project over 9 five years, and \$20,000 in funding for any TLU from Fort Chip. So just to put those numbers in 10 11 perspective. 12 So I just want to finish on this note. 13 think Mr. Chartier summed it up quite well, and also Mr. Fortna under questioning about who should 14 15 be consulted. It's not that hard. It's not as 16 hard as Shell makes out. It's the MNA, the 17 Regions, and the Locals are there. There's a 18 government structure. To suggest that there isn't 19 overlap between other governments, I think is 20 absurd. Obviously there's always 21 cross-jurisdictional issues between municipal, 22 provincial and regional governments. While this 23 could be the same. 24 In any event, I would suggest this morning my 2.5 friend misquoted Jumbo Fraser as well by saying

1	1 that consultation can only go thro	ough the Local.
2	2 And I think that's not at all what	Mr. Fraser said.
3	3 He said that impacts need to be ad	ldressed with
4	4 communities, consultation needs to	work through the
5	5 regional governments.	
6	6 In any event, if Alberta had	l a Consultation
7	7 Policy, which was negotiated with	the MNA and the
8	8 Region and the Locals, this would	be addressed. It
9	9 seems unfair to put this on my cli	ents and say, you
10	need to work all this out. It's c	lear that any
11	l1 accommodation that should occur he	ere needs to be a
12	negotiation between Alberta and my	clients, and
13	ultimately with the project propon	ents like Shell,
14	who are, as Alberta states, and as	Shell states,
15	15 Alberta's delegate in these proces	sses.
16	Those are all my comments.	Thank you very
17	much. If you have any questions.	
18	18 THE CHAIRMAN: We don't have	ve any questions,
19	Ms. Bishop, thank you.	
20	Mr. Jeerakathil, did you pla	n on being about
21	an hour?	
22	22 MR. JEERAKATHIL: I don't thir	nk I'll be more
23	than an hour. I might be under an	hour, but I'm
24	happy to take a break now if Madam	Court Reporter
25	would like one.	

1	THE CHAIRMAN: We	e'll take 10 minutes.		
2				
3	(Brief	(Brief break)		
4				
5	THE CHAIRMAN: Pl	ease proceed, sir.		
6				
7	FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE FORT MCMURRAY #468 FIRST NATION, BY			
8	MR. JEERAKATHIL:			
9	MR. JEERAKATHIL: Th	ank you. Good afternoon,		
10	Mr. Chairman, Panel Memb	ers.		
11				
12	I. INTRODUCTION			
13	To begin, I have a	bit of housekeeping. I		
14	have a request from my client due to concerns			
15	expressed in their community to redact the maps			
16	contained in Exhibit 011-002, and Exhibit 011-009,			
17	Figures 1 to 9, from the	public portion of the		
18	Registry. They would st	ill be full exhibits on the		
19	record, but just in term	s of them being accessible		
20	from the public that the	y be redacted in that		
21	respect.			
22	I've spoken to my	friend from Shell,		
23	Mr. Denstedt, and I unde	rstand that Shell has no		
24	objection to that taking	place.		
25	THE CHAIRMAN: An	y other comments with		

1	respect to the motion? Mr. Perkins?
2	MR. PERKINS: We, and when I say "we," I
3	mean the Secretariat, we've seen the request from
4	Mr. Jeerakathil's client. The one concern we have,
5	sir, and I apologize that we don't have an answer
6	for you, there is an obligation under the statute
7	for an internet-based Registry to be provided in
8	relation to the hearing, sir, and we're just trying
9	to develop an understanding of whether redacting
10	evidence in the hearing, that is, not making it
11	available on that internet Registry, is something
12	that would be a problem with the statute. And I
13	wonder if we might beg your indulgence on that and
14	we'll work on it a little bit more and maybe come
15	back to you if you would be inclined to take
16	Mr. Jeerakathil's request under advisement.
17	THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, let's do that.
18	MR. JEERAKATHIL: Certainly. Thank you.
19	
20	B. Fort McMurray First Nation
21	To begin, Mr. Chairman, the Fort McMurray
22	First Nation is a Cree and Chipewyan First Nation
23	whose traditional territory includes the area of
24	the proposed Jackpine Expansion.
25	Fort McMurray First Nation is a signatory to

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Treaty 8, which was signed in 1899, which gives it certain rights under that Treaty, and Canada has made certain covenants with respect to that First Nation.

Please be advised that the reason why the Fort McMurray First Nation did not seat a panel in this proceeding, even though it did file evidence, was solely because of financial reasons. It wasn't a reason not to participate in the process or not wanting to participate in the process, but, as you can gather, it's a very expensive process, particularly if you want to do it correctly. certainly they could have come down unrepresented and done something, but that wasn't viewed as an appropriate way to participate. This is a very technical and legal proceeding. And so that is the reason why they didn't participate with respect to a panel.

The Band did receive some CEAA funding but it was limited, and it did not get capacity funding for the studies that it did do, from the Proponent.

But please rest assured that we have been reviewing the transcript remotely on a daily basis and been participating that way in the proceeding in a lower cost way.

1 With respect to the evidence on the record, 2 my friend made some comments about it. We agree it is untested but we submit it should still be 3 afforded some weight by the commission. And these 4 5 are the reasons why. With respect to 6 Exhibit 011-002, the maps contained in that 7 Exhibit, and Exhibit 011-009, which is the report 8 that was prepared, the maps contained in that 9 exhibit, those are part of, and Shell's admitted this, are part of a study that was commissioned by 10 11 Shell in 2006. They are the same dataset. 12 are just points that weren't included in the 2006 13 report because it was for a more southern project. 14 So we submit that even though that evidence is 15 untested it is reliable from a hearsay perspective, 16 and is part of a document which Shell has funded in 17 the past and has been published. 18

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I'm not suggesting that, you know, the greater weight couldn't have been given if there was cross-examination involved, but I'm saying with respect to the reliability of the evidence, it is reliable. And the exception, this Panel can listen to hearsay, it's not bound by the Rules of Evidence, particularly the Energy Resources

Conservation Board, Section 27 of that Act, but it

can rely on that evidence as reliable even though it's not adopted.

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With respect to the disturbance analysis contained in Exhibit 011-009 by MSES, again we would submit that even though that isn't tested, there are elements of it that are reliable enough for the commission or the Panel to rely on, in particular the methods used to create that analysis are the same as were used to create the ACFN Exhibit 006-013-0. And that was subject to cross-examination. So although the exhibits are on the record, and not tested, I submit they are reliable in that respect and the Panel could rely on them if it choses to do, and, in my respectful submission, should give them some weight.

Similarly, the affidavits of Alden Cree,
Exhibit 011-003, and Phillip Cheecham, 011-002, are
sworn statements in Affidavit form, which are
routinely admitted in regulatory proceedings
without being formally adopted because they are
sworn statements. Granted they haven't been tested
by cross-examination. I grant that.

And according to the Rules of Practice of the ERCB, Section 16, you can receive Affidavit evidence.

And so in my submission, they aren't untested
to the extent that I've described those documents,
they are reliable to that extent, and, in my
submission, have some weight for the Panel to
consider.

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In our submission, Mr. Chairman, and you heard some of this from my friend earlier,

Ms. Bishop, with respect to the Métis, I think Fort McMurray is in a similar situation, although they've received no capacity funding. And I'm not going to talk about that a lot, but I did want to say that, in our submission, this sets a low watermark for Aboriginal consultation for such a project of this magnitude.

This is a project that is \$9 billion, was I think the capital cost estimate, nine to ten, nine to twelve. That's a significant amount of capital, no question about it. And despite that, there are only, quite frankly, a handful of Aboriginal groups involved here. This isn't Enbridge Northern Gateway where there's 150 Aboriginal bands involved. There are five First Nations and it seems like one or two Métis groups. That is completely achievable from an Aboriginal consultation perspective. And in my submission,

respectful submission, Shell should have engaged
all of them in the appropriate way, and did not.

And, in my submission, this sets a low watermark.

The amount to spend to do a proper study in this case for Fort McMurray and the Métis as well, based on that kind of capital cost is rounding error, it's not even rounding error, it's zero percent of the cost almost. It's four decimal places of a zero and then a one.

And it's necessary for the process. It isn't up to the Bands to create the studies and then bring them and then ask for further study. They don't have the capacity to do that. There's a lot of development going on. It's up to the Proponent to study that. And the point is that Fort McMurray was very willing to study that but wasn't given the opportunity to.

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C. Project

With respect to the issues list, I'll move on to that now, I intend to discuss Section A1, which is the adequacy of Shell's assessment methodology;
A2, the significance of Project effects; B5, C and I, terrestrial resources and cumulative effects, although cumulative effects much less; and B7,

1 impacts on Aboriginal groups and consultation. I notice the issues list didn't contain a 2 3 section dealing with alternatives to the Project and I'll be making some minor submissions on that 4 5 as well. I may touch on other issues because there 6 is overlap. I hope to be relatively focused. 7 the extent I don't deal with all the issues, that doesn't mean we don't care about them or don't 8 9 support the other interveners on them, it simply 10 means we are leaving those to them to argue and 11 trying to be as focused as we can in our argument 12 with respect to how we participated in the 13 proceeding. 14 15 II Adequacy of Shell's Assessment Methodology So let's talk about Shell's Assessment 16 17 methodology first. The Terms of Reference of the 18 Joint Review Panel on page 12 talk about how you're 19 supposed to consider that, Part II - Scope of the 20 Environmental Assessment: In Part II on 21 page number 11, it says: 22 23 "The Joint Review Panel shall 24 conduct an assessment of the 2.5 environmental effects of the

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                   project based on the Scope of
 2
                   Project."
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               In 2, it says:
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                         "The assessment shall include
 7
                   a consideration of the..."
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 9
               Following factors:
10
                   "a. the environmental effects of
11
12
                   the Project..."
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14
               And it goes on:
15
16
                   "... and any cumulative
17
                   environmental effects that are
18
                   likely to result from the project
19
                   in combination with other projects
20
                   or activities that have been or
                   will be carried out;"
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23
               And then 2.b:
24
25
                   "b. the significance of the
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1 effects referred to in 2 paragraph a." 3 So this issue is clearly very relevant to 4 5 your mandate. 6 And on methodology we submit two concerns 7 that we have with the methodology that Shell has 8 used. 9 Regional Study Area 10 11 First, we say that the size of the RSA is 12 inappropriate and too large, and the LSA is 13 inappropriate given the size of the footprint. And two, we submit that Shell failed to 14 15 appropriately consider the ecological context for 16 both terrestrial resources and Aboriginal and 17 Treaty impacts, rights, and use of land. 18 So dealing with the first one, the Regional 19 Study Area. We submit that this Regional Study 20 Area was initially set out for two projects, Pierre 21 River and Shell Jackpine Expansion, and it's too 22 large with respect to the one project. 23 example, you might take judicial notice of the fact 24 that the Kearl Oil Sands Project had an RSA for terrestrial resources of 1,195,956 hectares, and 2.5

1		that's at Volume 3, page 7-12 of that EA, whereas
2		this RSA is a million hectares greater for a
3		project that is actually smaller in bitumen
4		production.
5		I think that's a problem, in our submission,
6		with respect to the RSA.
7		In effect, an RSA is supposed to delineate
8		the furthest measurable effect of the project in
9		the area, in our submission, so you define the RSA
10		based on the furthest measurable effect. And this
11		defines the RSA on the furthest measurable effect
12		potentially of two mines, not the Jackpine alone.
13		And so we submit what the issue with that is
14		is simple: If the RSA is too big, it's easy to say
15		there are no impacts or all the negative impacts in
16		the RSA are negligible because it's such a large
17		area. It's a pretty simple exercise, the larger
18		the RSA gets, the lower the environmental
19		consequences become. And so it's vital that the
20		RSA be set out in an appropriate manner, and we
21		submit it has not been.
22		
23	C. 1	Local Study Area
24		The Local Study Area. Shell's LSA is
25		slightly larger than the disturbance footprint. I

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think there's a 500-metre buffer around the disturbance. We submit that Shell should have chosen a larger LSA. And that's because basically the entire LSA is disturbed, given their analysis. And then they argue that because the entire LSA is disturbed and there are significant environmental effects on terrestrial resources within the LSA, you shouldn't pay any attention to that, what's important is the RSA. I submit that that's a type of sleight of hand, it's a neat trick, but it should be rejected. Because the Total panel, for example, and OSEC pointed this out in cross-examination, that significance effects are supposed to take place in the LSA, and cumulative effects assessments within the RSA.

And what they've done is sort of turned that around a little bit and said, well, the LSA should be, you know, there are significant effects but don't really pay attention to that because, I think the analogy was, if you build a shed, of course the imprint of the shed is going to be impacted. But that isn't the way it should be. I think the LSA should have been larger. If the LSA had been larger, the problem they have in that circumstance is that there still would have been significant

adverse environmental effects but they couldn't

have said "don't pay attention to them" because

they would have been significant because of the

other developments.

And so we submit that, and in particular, the panel in Total indicated what I just said at page 44 of their Decision with respect to considering significant effects in the LSA and cumulative effects in the RSA.

So we submit that that is a fundamental problem with the way the determinations are made, and should be rejected.

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D. Failure to Properly Incorporate Ecological Context

The second concern that we have with the methodology is the failure to properly incorporate ecological context. And here is our concern there. We submit that in the context of the area in the area of the disturbance, as is reflected in the documents, and I'd like to refer to a few, Figure 2.4-1 in Exhibit 001-051H, Exhibit 011-009, and Exhibit 006-0130, which are the disturbance analysis I've spoken about earlier done by MSES. And Figure 7.2-2, which is Exhibit 001-001-E, and Exhibit 001-014, which are the Alberta Government

project maps which I had entered during

cross-examination. I'm just going to refer to

those generally as "the disturbance exhibits," so

I'm not going to go through them again.

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But I think if one looks at those documents in a realistic way, it will show that the entire LSA will be disturbed. And there was an admission on cross-examination by Canada that 1.42 townships of land are currently going to be disturbed. That's at Volume 7, page 1219, undertaking 18 -- sorry, actually that was an undertaking response.

And given that impact that you will see if you look at those exhibits, there's three or four simple exhibits, just look at them in a clear way, I think it's clear that the admission by Shell that the area has been adversely affected by human activities is correct. They've admitted that. And that's obvious from the disturbance exhibits I've just mentioned.

And that admission, which took place at Volume 3, page 372, line 6, with respect to the area being adversely affected by human activities, is an important one, because Shell also accepted the methodology contained in Exhibit 011-015 which is a reference guide determining whether a project

1	is likely to cause significant environmental
2	effects. And they accepted that at Volume 3,
3	page 375, line 17.
4	Although we now have agreement by Shell that
5	this methodology is correct, and that the area is
6	affected by human activity, which is obvious from
7	the exhibits, they failed to factor that in
8	appropriately into their rating system for the
9	assessment of environmental consequences, in our
10	submission.
11	And they discussed that in cross-examination,
12	but it appears in the September 2012 Responses,
13	Exhibit 001-063, where they indicated, they said
14	this. They said:
15	
16	"All of these criteria"
17	
18	And they listed:
19	
20	" direction, magnitude,
21	geographic extent, duration,
22	reversibility, frequency"
23	
24	Were included in the rating. But they said:
25	

1 "All of these criteria were included in the assessment 2 3 environmental consequences rating system, except ecological context." 4 5 6 We submit that's a significant error in light 7 of the fact of the disturbance in this area, 8 particularly in the Existing Developed Case, the 9 Application Case and the Planned Development Case, all of which show significant disturbance in that 10 11 area. That is one of the key concerns with 12 development in this area is the imprint of the 13 development, and the impact of human activities. 14 Without a doubt, that is one of the most important criteria and we think it should have had a greater 15 16 role. They said they considered it through 17 professional judgment. But something like that, in 18 our submission, should have had more of a 19 quantitative impact on that criteria. 20 You cannot exercise professional judgment by 21 assuming away the problem within the analysis, in 22 our submission. So we submit that the failure to 23 consider ecological context in that respect casts a 24 shadow on the results of the effects analysis in 2.5 the RSA. And I'll be talking about that a bit

1 later.

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E. Impacts on Terrestrial Resources

With respect to impacts on terrestrial resources and effects determinations, which is the next step of this argument that we're making, we submit that the Panel in its consideration should consider effects determination prior to reclamation taking place with respect to effects determinations. And that's because there's very little reclamation actually taking place now and we don't know what the results of that reclamation is going to look like in a real concrete way.

There isn't enough evidence to say that reclamation will be successful or not. And my friend this morning talked about risk. And the question is one of what is a reasonable risk? Some things are reasonable and others are not. And, in our submission, to say that reclamation will be successful, I think is a risky proposition.

In Exhibit 001-051-E in Table 4.4-1, I had a discussion with Shell about that table and its meaning. It's called "Wildlife Abundance," but if I understood their answer correctly, it was really more about wildlife mortality due to interaction

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with infrastructure. If that's correct, then that's fine. If the argument is that a 500-metre buffer, on the other hand, around a surface mining area is appropriate to maintain wildlife abundance, then we submit that that notion should be rejected.

With respect to the impacts contained, the effects impacts contained in Table 4.4-2 in Exhibit 001-051-E, many of the effects on species of concern to my clients, the large mammals in particular, and animals that can be trapped, are significant in the LSA. And we submit that that means that there are going to be significant adverse environmental effects from the Project.

With respect to the RSA determinations, they are typically listed as negligible. We submit that that's incorrect. And the reason why we say that's wrong is for the reasons we cited earlier in our criticism of the methodology.

The first being that the RSA is too large, so it's easy to say that the effects are going to be negligible to the terrestrial resources in such a large RSA. We say that should be rejected.

And the second is the ecological context issue. We don't think that was appropriately considered in the methodology resulting in those

1 effects determinations within the RSA.

So we submit that the impacts in the RSA, if one considers those emissions, are significant.

And if one looks at the disturbance exhibits, which make up a fairly large, if you look at the disturbance in those exhibits that I've referred to earlier, there's a significant part, even of the very large RSA, that's already disturbed, and in the Planned Development Case, it's going to be more disturbed.

There's been discussion about planned development versus pre-industrial cases and those are very useful concepts, particularly for my clients who were here before there was industrial development and have lived through industrial development. But even if one doesn't look at those and just looks at those disturbance exhibits, which I ask you to look at again and again, I think you can say that there's significant disturbance in the area already, and here's more coming, and as a result of that ecological context, we're going to have significant environmental impacts in the RSA.

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F. Impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and the current use of lands for traditional purposes

1 Last point on this argument, this line of 2 argument, the footprint of the Expansion of the 3 Jackpine Mine was set out in Figure 1-1 in Exhibit 001-001-A, which is Volume 1, as being 4 5 15,900 metres cubed per day, that's the capacity. 6 The original Jackpine Mine was 31,900 metres cubed 7 per day. The area of the Jackpine Expansion it looks like it's almost double the area of the 8 9 original Jackpine Mine. And I asked some questions 10 about this to Shell to explain why that was the 11 case, and I don't think they, at least from my 12 perspective, answered those questions in a way that 13 I could intelligently understand. And that was in 14 Volume 3, page 363 to 365. And I think what we've, 15 what I conclude from that is simply that with 16 respect to the Jackpine Expansion, we've got twice 17 the disturbance, twice the environmental impact for half the bitumen product. That's what I gather 18 19 from that line of cross-examination and those maps. 20 With respect to impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in current use of lands for 21 22 Aboriginal purposes, the Terms of Reference 23 contains a lot of language, as does the new 24 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2010) in 2.5 Section 5 about impacts to Aboriginal peoples.

1	this is clearly a very important part of your
2	mandate.
3	In particular, on pages 5 and 6 of the Terms
4	of Reference under "Aboriginal Rights and
5	Interests", it says the Joint Review Panel may
6	receive information about Aboriginal groups and
7	rights. And then it goes on to say on page 12,
8	Part III that the assessment by the Joint Review
9	Panel shall also include a consideration of the
10	following additional matters. And it includes
11	effects of the project on asserted or established
12	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and community
13	knowledge and Aboriginal traditional knowledge
14	received during the Joint Review.
15	And then it says (as read):
16	
17	"The Joint Review Panel shall
18	consider:
19	
20	•••
21	
22	- Any potential effects on
23	uses of lands and resources
24	by Aboriginal groups for
25	traditional purposes;

1	- Any effects (including
2	the effects related to
3	increased access and
4	fragmentation of habitat) on
5	hunting, fishing, trapping,
6	cultural and other
7	traditional uses of land
8	as well as related effects on
9	lifestyle, culture, health
10	and quality of life of
11	Aboriginal persons."
12	
13	It goes on:
14	
14 15	"- Any effects of
	"- Any effects of alterations to access into
15	
15 16	alterations to access into
15 16 17	alterations to access into areas used by Aboriginal
15 16 17 18	alterations to access into areas used by Aboriginal persons for traditional uses;
15 16 17 18 19	alterations to access into areas used by Aboriginal persons for traditional uses; - Any adverse effects of
15 16 17 18 19 20	alterations to access into areas used by Aboriginal persons for traditional uses; - Any adverse effects of the project on the ability of
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	alterations to access into areas used by Aboriginal persons for traditional uses; - Any adverse effects of the project on the ability of future generations to pursue
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	alterations to access into areas used by Aboriginal persons for traditional uses; - Any adverse effects of the project on the ability of future generations to pursue traditional activities or
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	alterations to access into areas used by Aboriginal persons for traditional uses; - Any adverse effects of the project on the ability of future generations to pursue traditional activities or lifestyle;

1	archaeological resources in
2	the project area that are of
3	importance or concern to
4	Aboriginal groups;
5	
6	- The methods and measures
7	proposed to manage, mitigate and
8	compensate to an acceptable level,
9	any identified effects on asserted
10	or established Aboriginal rights
11	and interests."
12	
13	Yet the Terms of Reference are full of this
14	type of language, and, in my submission, the
15	Application doesn't go to meet those Terms of
16	Reference. And we submit that impacts to Treaty
17	Rights and current uses of land for traditional
18	purposes by Aboriginal persons are significant and
19	adverse, as we've submitted earlier that the
20	impacts to terrestrial resources are significant
21	and adverse.
22	I think we still have to consider the
23	ecological context when we're talking about
24	assessing an impact to an Aboriginal Right or the
25	current use of lands by Aboriginal persons, because

it is, in effect, an environmental effect that

we're talking about. And the ecological context

wasn't discussed by Shell at the hearing. I didn't

see it contained in a significant way in the

Application.

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The ecological context is one of heavy disturbance. The First Nations peoples culture and use of the land is fragile. It is, you know, an area that's been impacted heavily by human activity. And we are not talking about the socio-economic benefits of the Project and the jobs. And I'm not saying that that is bad, no, I'm not. And I agree with Shell, with people that say that that's a benefit. I can't deny it. And it's a big one, I think, in the area. But the question is, that isn't what we're talking about when we're talking about impacts to culture, though. talking about use of the land. We're talking about the ceremonies and those types of things. are the types of things that have been eroded and that are of concern in an EA, and that the Terms of Reference talk about.

Certainly Shell might argue we're spending nine to twelve billion dollars here, this is of economic benefit. We think there's got to be a

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limit at some point in time, but that isn't for the Panel to consider, in our submission, perhaps it's part of the ERCB's public interest jurisdiction.

But under CEAA, in any event, that decision is to be made by the Minister or the Governor in Council, taking into account those effects and those economic matters. And when we're looking at culture, I don't think we can say that it's compensated by these jobs, that's not the point of the analysis. If that's in fact going to be the decision of the Governor in Council, fine, let him make that decision, but that's not part of the EA.

There is no study with respect to culture. The areas over which the rights are exercised in Fort McMurray's traditional territory are severely restricted, not just because of a loss of animals and plants but because of a lack of access to these areas due to mining. Although public access is provided, we understand, in areas where no active mine exists, as clarified by Shell, there are many active mines in the Project area, and with respect to the Planned Development Case, limiting access. And the affidavits of Alden Cree and Philip Cheecham set out some information about concerns about access.

And although Shell said that there was readily available access, that hasn't been clearly set out in the Application. I don't see anywhere where it's clear how someone might access these areas, what areas are going to be available, what areas are not going to be available, that could have been set out, that wasn't set out. There isn't enough information about that, and the conclusion is simply, in my submission, that access will be further restricted. Despite efforts potentially to allow some access, it's a surface mine, so there's going to be impacts to access, and not just the impacts to the species but to access as well, which is an impact to the exercise of the right.

So we submit that it follows that significant adverse impacts from the Project will exist on Aboriginal Treaty Rights and current use of land in both the LSA and the RSA. We say that with respect to the LSA because it's being completely disturbed just about, so there has to be significant adverse impacts. If there are to terrestrial resources that are harvested then there are to the First Nation Rights in that circumstance. They are in the RSA. If one simply looks at the disturbance

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exhibits that I've referenced earlier, and looks at the disturbance in that area, which we submit of course is too large for the purposes of the EA, the impacts are great. And we submit that we might as well call a spade a spade here and say that the impacts are significant so we can then at least deal with them, if we need to. But I think that point is an important one that should be accepted.

We are talking about significant adverse effects here. And maybe there's a way to deal with them. But we might as well not say they're not significant, as Shell is urging you to do.

I'd like to speak a little bit about some previous decisions of CEAA panels and their consideration of Aboriginal concerns in their decisions. In particular, and I can provide these if they are not available, I've spoken to

Mr. Perkins about that. In the Kemess North Copper Gold Mine Project Joint Review Panel Report, which is September 17th, 2007, that project, which was a copper mine, was denied and one of the main contributing reasons was risks to culture.

The analysis is stated at page 245 of that report, Risks to Aboriginal Culture. The JRP noted that there would be a long-term negative

1 environmental legacy for the Aboriginal peoples 2 living in the area, and given, in our submission, 3 the pace of development in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region, that case is relevant. 4 It's relevant because that is the legacy that will be left once 5 6 the mining is done, is what's left for the 7 Aboriginal people. It's a consideration that that 8 panel used in denying that project. We submit it 9 applies equally here today. The Panel in Kemess Ness (sic), also at 10 11 page 246, had a concern about the proponent failing 12 to engage Aboriginal people in the region. 13 don't know why, but for this Project, in my submission, as I mentioned earlier, I think it's a 14 15 low watermark for Aboriginal participation. 16 have a lot of opposition. There have been 17 agreements I think with Mikisew and Fort McKay, but ACFN is opposing, Fort McMurray is opposing, the 18 19 Métis are opposing. That's not a lot of 20 stakeholders. That's only a handful of 21 stakeholders and half are opposing. 22 I submit that's significant Aboriginal 23 opposition. It's not that much different than 24 Kemess Ness (sic), in my submission. It's a

different project, and my friend may argue that,

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1	and that's fair, but the principles are the same,
2	in my submission.
3	The panel in that case specifically stated at
4	246 (as read):
5	
6	"The Panel simply observes
7	that having such agreements in
8	place at the outset of a Panel
9	review is strongly recommended, and
10	that failure to conclude such
11	agreements in advance puts a Panel
12	in a difficult position in any
13	situation where the Project under
14	review could substantially affect
15	Aboriginal interests."
16	
17	And we're not speaking about a project with
18	marginal economic viability that may have
19	difficulty to engage Aboriginal groups, which was
20	the case I think in Kemess Ness (sic), we're
21	talking about a large multi-national blue chip
22	company.
23	Similarly, in the Whites Point Quarry and
24	Marine Terminal Joint Review Panel Report of
25	October 7th, 2007, which took place in Nova Scotia,

1	one of the main factors for rejecting the project
2	was respect for traditional and community
3	environmental knowledge. In particular, the Joint
4	Review Panel noted at page 101:
5	
6	"The Panel believes that the
7	assessment would have benefited
8	from more effective integration of
9	traditional community knowledge
10	into the EIS. The public
11	consultation employed by the
12	Proponent was not effective in
13	creating a transparent process
14	where community members felt that
15	they could openly and freely
16	express their opinions and concerns
17	about the Project. Consequently,
18	for example, information on"
19	
20	Sorry, I'll skip that.
21	
22	"The Proponent failed to
23	incorporate vital information into
24	its consideration of alternatives
25	or into its project design."

1	
2	And at page 103:
3	
4	"A primary consideration
5	influencing the Panel's decision to
6	recommend rejection of this Project
7	is the adverse impact on a Valued
8	Environmental Component: the
9	people, communities, and economy of
10	Digby Neck and Islands. This
11	region of Nova Scotia is unique in
12	its history and in its community
13	development activities and
14	trajectory. Its core values,
15	defined by the people and their
16	governments, support the principles
17	of sustainable development based on
18	the quality of the local
19	environment. Local residents are
20	deeply embedded within and
21	dependent on the terrestrial and
22	marine ecosystems of this region:
23	human health and well-being is
24	intrinsically linked with the
25	viability of the ecosystem."

1	
2	And that can be equally said for the
3	Aboriginal peoples, including my client, in this
4	area of Alberta.
5	And, finally, the last authority is, or
6	decision is the Prosperity Gold Copper Mine Review
7	Panel of 2010 where the panel, in denying that
8	project for a number of reasons, but including
9	First Nations issues, said at page 2 of the
10	Executive Summary:
11	
12	"The Panel concludes that the
13	Project would result in significant
14	adverse environmental effects on
15	fish and fish habitat, on
16	navigation, on the current use of
17	the lands and resources for
18	traditional purposes by First
19	Nations and on cultural heritage,
20	and on certain potential or
21	established Aboriginal rights or
22	title."
23	
24	It goes on at page 3 to talk about a
25	reduction in use areas being a significant impact.

And on page 4 of the Executive Summary as well,
which I won't read into the record, you can refer
to those.

But what I'm saying is this isn't just noise any more. In the previous panel decisions, I submit, that they weren't given, these types of interests weren't given the proper consideration that they should have. But that's changing. We're growing as a society. We're seeing that these are actually valued, and the Terms of Reference of the Panel set that out clearly, in my submission.

These are reasons to deny projects if these are impacted, these types of rights are impacted significantly or not studied properly. And in my submission, you have both here, particularly with respect to my clients, Fort McMurray First Nation. And I think the Métis made some comments about that as well.

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G. Consultation and Impacts to FMFN

And I would like to talk a little bit now about, this is my last area, about that consultation dialogue between my client and Shell.

In our submission, Shell has admitted on the record in numerous places that Fort McMurray has an

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interest in the Project area. The evidence on the record indicates that Fort McMurray has use in the RSA and very close if not within the LSA itself. These are subject to significant developments in the Application Case. The LSA is drawn around the mine footprint. We submitted earlier that that should have been a larger footprint. And had it been, it would have included my clients probably within some of their traditional use points, but it wasn't, it was smaller. But they are contained within the RSA but for some reason that isn't relevant now. It was Shell's RSA that they chose. And my clients have use in that RSA and very close to the Project area, if not in the Project area, yet they weren't provided the ability to study impacts to their rights, which are of great concern to them.

The exhibits of Fort McMurray, the maps that I've referred to earlier, which we submit you can pay attention to, in Exhibit 011-009 and 011-002, show that the Project is located in the northern part of what's -- that isn't the territory of the Nation, that is those areas identified as the northern end of that area is simply based on the 2006 study and the limits defined therein. But

that study was with respect to a southern project, so they didn't go further, in my submission.

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McClelland Lake, for example, is an important site to the First Nation, which is very close to the LSA, and that's contained in that information that I've referred to in the Fort McMurray exhibits.

Effectively the data points in those exhibits are based on mapping layers that were currently available for the 2006 study, and all we did was include some of those in those maps, whereas they weren't included in the 2006 study because the maps just didn't go far north enough. So we just used that same data in the 2006 study and plotted it later on. But that doesn't mean that that's the extent of the traditional use of Fort McMurray. We provided that information to say, because Shell was saying to us, you don't have use there and we need you to show us how you do. We said, okay, we can, we don't have a lot of resources, so here you go, here's the 2006 data that you commissioned and it shows all these data points in the north around the area, so can we get some capacity assistance to study this properly so that you for your EA for your Project can determine the

impacts, which is your obligation, which is Shell's obligation, in your EA, in Shell's EA. But that was refused.

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And if you look at the maps attached to Exhibits, which are the affidavits, 011-004 and 011-003, Philip Cheecham and Alden Cree, you will see where they have noted their use is beyond the data points further north along the Athabasca in around McClelland Lake. So even just those two affidavits show further data which Shell should have said, okay, there's different data here, maybe we need to study this. But just those two affidavits show the use in greater areas.

It is ironic, Mr. Chairman, that although
Shell came to this area with its first Muskeg River
project, if I have that correct, in the mid-1990s,
it's ironic that it has assumed the role of
deciding the validity of Fort McMurray's claims to
impacts in the area despite Fort McMurray being
there for thousands of years. I submit that's very
ironic. But that's what we have.

Another reason why it isn't appropriate necessarily to rely on older data with respect to traditional use is because traditional use isn't a constant thing in one particular area. It moves

1 around. And because of certain rights under the 2 NRTA, and I guess this is all the Treaty 8 area, 3 people can hunt and trap in different areas, and often is the case that particularly in an area like 4 5 this, which has significant human disturbance, you will see people using areas that they perhaps 6 7 hadn't used before because they are available and 8 the ones that they had used previously are no 9 longer available. But the point is that that traditional use is an evolving concept, which is 10 11 why you can't just do a study and rely on it for 12 10 years, why you have to continue to update it because sometimes, as Shell has argued, we will 13 14 have areas that are currently being mined that are 15 going to be reclaimed. Well, if they are 16 successfully reclaimed, and animals go there, then 17 traditional users may go there, and that may shift their pattern, which is why it's important to study 18 19 the impacts on an ongoing basis and for 20 consultation to be ongoing, and assessment to be 21 ongoing. But that wasn't done here. 22 What the Application has done is assumed the 23 impacts to Fort McMurray are the same as for other 24 First Nations that were studied, but that isn't the 2.5 case. And that assumption isn't proper in the

1 context of an EA, in my submission.

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And this doesn't result from a lack of cooperation by Fort McMurray First Nation with They were happy to meet with Shell respect to EA. to do an EA, but the point was, and Shell in fairness confirmed this on the record, that they weren't prepared to provide capacity assistance because they didn't view there to be any impacts. I'm not sure how they came to that conclusion. I'm not sure why they wouldn't have just said, well, this group is claiming rights, they've been here a long time, we should study them, we have a large project, this isn't going to be a significant cost, and it's needed for the EA. That to me would have been the best decision. I can't for the life of me understand why that decision wasn't taken. But it was not. And so the Panel doesn't have that information.

And I think that's a problem with the record that Shell has.

The record is clear that Fort McMurray has on numerous occasions attempted to provide information to Shell to have this matter studied. And I've referred to some of the exhibits, Exhibit 011-005, which is a letter by us, which contained the

affidavits and the maps, which are Exhibits

011-003, 011-004 and 011-002, and our letter

setting out the concerns of the Nation in those exhibits.

In addition to failing to engage with respect to capacity for the study of effects, there has been no socio-economic benefits provided to Fort McMurray as there have been to perhaps other stakeholders. They had one time contributed to the Consultation Initiative, the IRC, but stopped that in I believe 2010. I'm not sure why, but they did.

So to conclude that line of argument, we submit that it isn't for Fort McMurray to establish rights for the purposes of the EA. The Band, which is not a wealthy Band, has done what it can in this process to try to assert its rights for the Panel's consideration. But in effect, it's Shell's onus as part of its EA and the Panel's onus as part of its Terms of Reference to consider impacts to those rights and, in my submission, Shell has failed to do that and provide that information to the Panel.

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H. Delay and Other Conditions

So our client's position is that the

Application should be denied at this time due to

1 the concerns that we've outlined.

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If the Panel disagrees with that and agrees to approve the Project, we submit that in order to prevent significant adverse environmental effects from occurring to terrestrial resources and the use of land by Aboriginal peoples for traditional purposes and Treaty Rights, the Joint Review Panel should recommend a condition that the Project be delayed for a period of 10 years.

And I submit that's a reasonable condition given the pace of development in the oil sands.

And I'll tell you why. There was a question asked by the Panel in SIR-7 about an alternative and delay and I had some discussion with Shell about this in cross-examination. And I submit that the following points support such a condition, and we submit it's necessary to avoid significant adverse environmental effects and so is within the Terms of Reference of the Panel:

Shell did not perform an analysis of the economic impacts of delaying the Project for a period of time, such as 10 years, as confirmed in cross-examination. We submit that positive environmental benefits would result from delaying the Project. That discussion took place at

transcript Volume 3, page 335. 1 2 Shell admitted that oil prices will likely 3 continue to remain strong over the longer-term, as confirmed by Shell at transcript Volume 3, 4 5 page 336. 6 We submit that pipeline capacity in the 7 medium term remains questionable at the present time. 8 9 We submit the Jackpine Mine will continue for its useful life until 2030, which will coincide 10 11 with the Muskeg River Mine, and the resources 12 between those mines can continue to be shared over 13 the lives of those mines, as confirmed by Shell at transcript Volume 3, page 331. 14 15 The resource contained in Lease 13 will 16 eventually be utilized by Shell, just at a later 17 date. The lease costs associated with that lease 18 were confirmed in an undertaking, and aren't that 19 significant: \$185,000 in 2012. \$1.170 million in 20 2020. And \$3,750,000 in 2025. 21 We submit that we would ask for a condition 22 to delay the Project if it's approved. 23 We would also ask that a condition be put on 24 any approval that Shell consult with Fort McMurray 2.5 First Nation and complete a traditional use study

1	with respect to impacts from the Project on Fort		
2	McMurray's rights and file the same within six		
3	months prior to construction commencing.		
4	Mr. Chairman, those are my submissions,		
5	subject to any questions you and the other Panel		
6	Members may have.		
7	THE CHAIRMAN: No questions, sir. Thank		
8	you.		
9	MR. JEERAKATHIL: Thank you.		
10	THE CHAIRMAN: We'll take 10 minutes before		
11	we turn to ACFN's argument.		
12	Mr. Murphy, are you and Ms. Biem prepared to		
13	deliver all of ACFN's argument today?		
14	MR. MURPHY: We can do our best. I should		
15	say with one caveat, we had hoped to provide to our		
16	transcriber a written copy of our argument, and		
17	frankly to all the parties. We've had some		
18	formatting issues so that's not quite done. I can		
19	certainly do my portion of the argument and we'll		
20	see where we get. And then perhaps Ms. Biem can		
21	carry on or perhaps she can carry on in the		
22	morning.		
23	THE CHAIRMAN: In terms of the material that		
24	you're having trouble formatting, is that something		
25	that could be provided a little later?		

1	MR. M	URPHY:	Yes, I think it could.
2		Certainly by this e	vening, we could provide that to
3	Madam Court Reporter.		
4	THE C	HAIRMAN:	Thanks. I have 4:37. We'll
5		take 10 minutes.	
6			
7		(1	Brief break)
8			
9	THE C	HAIRMAN:	Mr. Murphy, thanks for your
10		patience. I unders	tand what we're going to try to
11		do is have you deli	ver your portion of ACFN's
12		argument, and then	we'll turn to Ms. Gorrie and
13		she'll do a portion	of hers. I hope that's all
14		satisfactory. I th	ink it will help us out.
15	MR. M	URPHY:	Perhaps. I think we're going
16		to see where I get	to, and I'm certainly going to
17		finish my end of th	e submissions, and then it may
18		be that Ms. Biem do	es carry on from there.
19	THE C	HAIRMAN:	Are you going to go for about
20		an hour. We should	have a short break. Go ahead.
21			
22	FINAL	ARGUMENT OF THE ATH	ABASCAN CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION,
23		BY MR. MURPHY:	
24	MR. M	URPHY:	ACFN's position in this
25		hearing is that the	v oppose the approval of the

1 Project. 2 They say that there's direct and adverse 3 impacts on their Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and traditional land use. 4 5 They say that consultation has been 6 inadequate. 7 They say that the mitigations proposed 8 haven't responded to the impacts that they've 9 raised and their concerns about the Project. And they also say that the EIA has 10 11 significant gaps. 12 And so we'll be speaking to each of those 13 areas. On October 30th, Shell presented its 14 15 directive evidence and Mr. Kovach said there will 16 be no likely significant adverse effects to 17 ecological resources. And Ms. Jefferson said there 18 will be no significant adverse effects to 19 traditional activities within the RSA or within 20 larger traditional use areas. And my learned 21 friend for Shell has reiterated those positions 22 through his submissions. 23 In my submission, we will show why those 24 statements are irreconcilable with the facts before 2.5 you. And as my friend said earlier, your decisions

here must be based on fact and analysis, and so I'm going to take you to that.

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I was going to walk through some of the Terms of Reference. I'm not going to do that. My friend Mr. Jeerakathil already has taken you to those provisions. It takes me to about paragraph 9 of the argument that I said we'd be circulating. I do want to, however, highlight a couple of portions of the Terms of Reference and it's only by way of introduction to some of the evidence that ACFN has provided.

ACFN has taken the Terms of Reference quite seriously in developing the evidence that they've prepared for this hearing. And the reason I say that is, you know, you'll find in the Terms of Reference, under Part 3, things like this Panel considering any effects on, and it goes through hunting, fishing, trapping, but it also talks about related effects on lifestyle, culture, health, quality of life. It talks about any adverse effects of the Project on the ability of future generations to pursue traditional activities or lifestyle. And it also talks about any effects of the Project on heritage.

And I point those out specifically because of

1		course we submitted a number of studies to this
2		Panel by, you know, authors such as Dr. McCormack,
3		Patt Larcombe, Alistair MacDonald. And I just want
4		to make the point that they are not just for
5		interest's sake, they are actually prepared to
6		inform those specific areas that the Terms of
7		Reference say will be considered by this Panel.
8		So they are fairly core reports. They speak
9		to a lot of evidence about those matters that I
10		just referred to in the Terms of Reference.
11		And I should add that those reports weren't
12		challenged in any way by any party. They stand as
13		uncontroverted evidence. I just wanted to make
14		that point at the outset.
15		
16	A.	DESCRIPTION OF ACFN and ACFN's RIGHTS and INTERESTS
17		Now, you heard from Elder Rene Bruno who
18		said:
19		
20		"Anything on your land,
21		you'll never be restricted from
22		carrying on with your traditional
23		vocations. And that's what we were
24		told." Elder Rene Bruno, Nov 7 Transcript,
25		page 1996, lines 13 to 15

1	
2	And he was referring to what ACFN was told by
3	the Commissioners.
4	The Supreme Court of Canada, by way of
5	context, has looked at Treaty 8. And this is in
6	the R. v. Badger case, 1996 case of the Supreme
7	Court of Canada. And in looking at the importance
8	to the Indians of the right to hunt, fish and trap,
9	the Commissioners wrote:
10	
11	"We pointed out that the
12	same means of earning a livelihood
13	would continue after the treaty as
14	existed before it, and that the
15	Indians would be expected to make
16	use of them Our chief
17	difficulty was the apprehension
18	that the hunting and fishing
19	privileges were to be curtailed."
20	
21	" we had to solemnly assure them
22	that only such laws as to hunting
23	and fishing as were in the interest
24	of the Indians and were found
25	necessary in order to protect the

1	fish and fur-bearing animals would
2	be made, and that they would be as
3	free to hunt and fish after the
4	treaty as they would be if they
5	never entered into it." Supreme Court
6	of Canada, R. v. Badger, [1996] 1 S.C.R. 771,
7	para. 39
8	
9	And, finally, by way of context, the Indian
10	Claims Commission also looked at Treaty 8 and what
11	it promised. And they said, and this is at page 77
12	of that report, which is in evidence:
13	
14	"In our view, no reasonable
15	interpretation of Treaty 8 could
16	allow either the Government of
17	Canada or a provincial government
18	to destroy the ability of a First
19	Nation to exercise its treaty
20	harvesting rights or to alter
21	fundamentally the environment upon
22	which those activities were based."
23	Indian Claims Commission, March 1998, Athabasca
24	Chipewyan First Nation Inquiry: WAC Bennett Dam and
25	Damage to Indian Reserve 201 at p. 77

i. ACFN and Treaty 8

So the Treaty itself, you heard Rene Bruno talking about his grandfather signing the Treaty, ACFN are clearly the successor to the Aboriginal group that signed on to the Treaty.

Elder Rene Bruno, Nov 7 Transcript, page 1996, lines 13 to 15**

ACFN and its members continue to hold and exercise those rights guaranteed by the Treaty. They include the rights to hunt, to trap, to fish, to gather. Those rights have been affirmed by several Supreme Court of Canada cases. See R. v. Sundown, [1999] 1 S.C.R. 393 at paras. 1, 8; and R. v. Horseman, [1990] 1 S.C.R. 901, at paras. 60-62

And just as the right to hunt must be understood as the Treaty-makers would have understood it, so, too, must the terms "taking up" and "mining" as those appeared in the Treaty. And again, the <code>Badger</code> case looked at those terms and the Supreme Court of Canada said:

22 "Although it was expected
23 that some white prospectors might
24 stake claims in the north, this was
25 not expected to have an impact on

1	the Indians' hunting rights." Supreme
2	Court of Canada, R. v. Badger, [1996] 1 S.C.R. 771,
3	para. 55
4	
5	The B.C. Court of Appeal in the West Moberly
6	decision, it's a recent case, it's actually from
7	last year, it's in the B.C. area of Treaty 8, and
8	it looked at claims being made and how those relate
9	to the Treaty. And the Court at paragraph 135
10	said:
11	
12	"I interject to point out
13	that 'some white prospectors [who]
14	might stake claims', to the
15	understanding of those making the
16	Treaty, would have been prospectors
17	using pack animals and working with
18	hand tools. That understanding of
19	mining bears no resemblance
20	whatever to the Exploration and
21	Bulk Sampling Projects at issue
22	here, involving as they do road
23	building, excavations, tunnelling,
24	and the use of large vehicles,
25	equipment and structures." West Moberly

1	First Nations v. British Columbia (Chief Inspector
2	of Mines), 2011 BCCA 247 (CanLII)
3	
4	And it's just to put this in context, Panel,
5	we say that those findings are applicable here in
6	that the Commissioners never anticipated that the
7	Indians could be displaced from significant areas
8	of northern lands by the expansion of competing
9	land-use activities. And there's certainly some
10	expectation they'd be displaced from smaller areas,
11	but certainly not large areas and particularly as
12	we've been seeing in the last 10 years or so with
13	the expansion of the oil sands. Dr. Pat McCormack, Research
14	Report, Treaty 8 and the Fort McKay First Nation, Exhibit 009-008B at text
15	page 14, pdf page 17. Dr. Pat McCormack, Ethnohistory Slide Deck at 47
16	(Exhibit 006-022)
17	Now, with those Treaty Rights, ACFN says that
18	they also have incidental rights. These are
19	claimed incidental rights essential to the exercise
20	of those Treaty Rights I mentioned a moment ago.
21	Those are routes of access and transportation,
22	which I'll be getting into a bit more, sufficient
23	water quality and quantity, sufficient quality and
24	quantity of resources in preferred harvesting
25	areas, cultural and spiritual relationships with

1 the land, abundant berry crops and preferred harvesting areas, traditional medicines in 2 3 preferred harvesting areas, the experience of remoteness and solitude on the land. You heard 4 5 some of the ACFN witnesses talking about things 6 like that, like Beatrice Deranger, the right to 7 instruct the younger generations on the land, lands 8 and resources that are accessible within constraints of cost and time, and of course 9 spiritual sites. Exhibit 006-031I. Dr. Candler: Athabasca Chipewyan 10 First Nation Integrated Knowledge and Use Report and Assessment for 11 Shell Canada's Proposed Jackpine Mine Expansion and Pierre River Mine, 12 pages 27 -28; Doreen Somers, Transcript November 8 at 2148 line 6 to 2149 13 line 13 14 15 Now, you've heard from ACFN that Treaty 8 was 16 an agreement to share the land. And they have 17 always understood that they'd be able to manage their lands and pursue their traditional vocations 18 without an interference. Rene Bruno, Transcript November 7, 19 page 1995 line to page 1995 line 24 - page 1996 line 15, ACFN Elders' 20 Declaration on Rights to Land Use, dated July 8, 2010 at text page 122 of 21 Exhibit 006-013I, Victorine Mercredi (now deceased), Indian Claims 22 Commission transcript November 27, 1996 at page 137, lines 22-29, 23 Exhibit 006-013H at pdf page 141 24 2.5 And as Elder Rene Bruno put it, ACFN members

would never be restricted from carrying on their
traditional vocations. And so the Treaty, from

ACFN's perspective, the Treaty protects the core
entitlement to their meaningful exercise of their

Treaty Rights on their traditional lands. Chief Allan
Adam, Transcript Nov. 7, page 1958, line 24, to page 1959, line 12, Elder
Rene Bruno, Transcript Nov. 7, page 1995, line 24, to page 1996, line 15

2.5

ii. A Discussion of the Notion of "Territory"

And I just want to take a moment to just talk about the notion of territory, the notion of traditional lands. You've heard some argument on this.

Now, you've heard that the traditional lands radiate north, east, west and south from the Peace-Athabasca Delta. They include the Lower Athabasca River. They extend to lands around Fort McMurray and Fort McKay. Now, ACFN Traditional Lands are not, unfortunately, defined in the manner that sort of fits neatly within European patterns of land use and land holding.

Pat McCormack does a really great analysis and I'm going to point out some of the highlights of the analysis she does of the view of traditional lands and how they don't conform to the traditional

1 boundaries. But that's in her ethnohistory and it's pages 108 to 139. Of course I won't be going 2 through all of that. Chief Allan Adam: Transcript Nov. 7, 3 page 1956, lines 4-16, page 1958, lines 6-16, and page 1967, lines 2-4. 4 Chief Adam notes that he is the seventh ACFN Chief since the signing of 5 Treaty 8. Elder Rene Bruno: Transcript Nov. 7, page 1996, lines 6-16 to 6 page 1997, line 1. Exhibit 006-013K; Dr. McCormack: An Ethnohistory of the 7 Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, pages 39-63, 108-139, 167-171; 8 Dr. McCormack, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2290, lines 2-9, page 2291, line 22 9 to page 2292, line 4. Exhibit 006-013L: Patt Larcombe: A narrative of 10 Encroachment Experienced by Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, pages 2-3 to 11 pages 2-7 12 13 Now, ACFN has been asked to identify 14 boundaries where their legitimate interests in the 15 land stop and start. And so it's important to note 16 that these are constructions that are not part of traditional Dene land management practices. $^{\text{McCormack}}$ 17 at 108, 110, 115, Exhibit 006-013K. Marvin L'Hommecourt, Transcript 18 November 8 at p 2031, line 4 to p 2032 line 519 20 Now, ACFN has used tools such as maps and 21 planning units or zones in an attempt to explain 22 use and occupation of traditional lands. And this 23 is just to help, you know, those that are making 24 decisions, those that, in the government, that are 2.5 making decisions about those lands. But they've

1 been clear, and, for example, one of the documents 2 that they've written called "Footprints on the 3 Land," they clearly said in that document, look, in 4 the context of the large nomadic territory, likely occupied by the Chipewyan people in the context of 5 6 the continually evolving culture and adaptations of 7 these Aboriginal people, it is inappropriate to speak of boundaries. Exhibit 006-013J: Footprints on the Land. 8 Exhibit 006-013K: Dr. Pat McCormack, at page 123 9 And so what ACFN has tried to do in some of 10 11 these planning processes is it's presented its 12 lands in the form of, like, planning units, for example. And it's done that in submissions on the 13 Lower Athabasca Regional Plan. Exhibit 006-013FF at PDF 14 page 259, Section 4 - ACFN Cultural Protection Areas, text pages 9-10 15 16 You've also seen that in the Caribou Strategy, the 17 Níh boghodi document that's been entered in evidence. 18 19 But ACFN's been clear that those planning 20 units and zones are just that, they are units and 21 zones based on traditional use and other factors. They are subsets of traditional lands. $^{\text{Exhibit 006-024}}$, 22 page 10 23 24 Lisa King, the Director of the IRC, talked 25 about, you know, how her office works with ACFN

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members and is constantly trying to update their knowledge and their database about their territory.

Lisa King, Transcript November 8 at page 2089, line 12, to page 2090, line 6

And so just to be clear, ACFN's use of maps for communication purposes with government represents, you know, good-faith attempts on their part to reconcile their view of territory with that which is sort of expected of them. And it's not meant to provide this, you know, I think has been argued this notion that there's this massive area which is at all times open and used by them.

Exhibit 006-013K: Dr. McCormack, page 125 Rather, I mean, that reduces their relationship to lines on a map. It's overly simplistic. It ignores the cultural reality that different parts of traditional lands are relied upon for different resources at different times and by different ACFN families.

And what's relevant for this Panel's decisions, inclusions, recommendations, is the fact that the Project proposed here falls well within all of the mapped and narrative expressions of ACFN's traditional lands. And each of the mine Expansion itself and the proposed compensation lake are located adjacent to and on key travel routes and areas that are central to Chipewyan use and

1 occupation. Exhibt 006-013K: Dr. McCormack, pages 112-115, 122, and 2

And if the Panel does require a static area in order to understand ACFN traditional lands, our submission is that the appropriate context area is that which is set out as the Regional Study Area in Dr. Candler's evidence, and that's found at Exhibit 006-013-I. It's page 38.

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iii. ACFN - Distinctive Identity and Culture

I'm going to talk now about ACFN's distinctive identity and culture and what the evidence has shown in this hearing.

ACFN members have maintained their distinctive identity and culture as an Aboriginal people by maintaining their cultural, their social, their spiritual connections to their lands. This has been done throughout generations. And despite the challenges that they've faced, ACFN members are deliberate in their pursuit of maintaining their distinctive culture and identity. And living off the land remains very important to ACFN culture. You heard Chief Adam say so. You've heard Marvin L'Hommecourt say so. And Pat McCormack, again, there she is, in her ethnohistory, goes through

1 that distinctive culture and identity and how it's tied to the land. Exhibit 006-013K, Dr. Pat McCormack: An 2 Ethnohistory of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, pages 168-171. 3 Chief Allan Adam, Transcript November 7, page 1955, lines 7-25. 4 Marvin L'Hommecourt, Transcript November 8, page 2029, lines 9-16, and 5 page 2033, line 25, to page 2034, line 10 6 You've also heard that ACFN members reside 8 primarily in Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay and Fort McMurray. Those are the three centres in which 9 they primarily reside. Alistair MacDonald, Transcript Nov. 9, 10 page 2481, lines 5-8 11 You've heard from a number of ACFN members 12 who talked about the active exercise of their 13 14 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights within Shell's Project 15 area, the Regional Study Area that Shell's put 16 forward, the one that ACFN has put forward, as well as the Local Study Areas for the Project. 17 You've heard that the traditional harvesting 18 19 conducted in these areas includes, and it's not 20 limited to, moose, deer, beaver, muskrat, marten, fisher, mink, wolf, grouse, rabbit, geese, ducks, 21 22 there's fish, there's jackfish, goldeye, suckers, 23 berries including blueberries and huckleberries, and medicinal plants. Marvin L'Hommecourt, Transcript Nov. 8, 24 page 2248, lines 12-25; Raymond Cardinal, Transcript Nov. 8, page, 2024, 2.5

lines 13-23; Leslie Laviolette, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2055, lines 5-13; 1 Beatrice Deranger, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2060, line 23, to page 2061, 2 line 5; Lisa King, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2088, lines 20-22; 3 Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, Integrated Knowledge and Use Report, pages 48 4 to 661; ACFN Undertaking No. 32, Transcript Nov. 9, page 2587, lines 10-19 5 6 I want to pause here for a moment and address 7 a fundamental flaw in the reasoning that was raised 8 by my learned friend earlier this morning. about the notion that ACFN is not affected, there 9 may be some individuals affected but not ACFN. 10 11 There's extensive law on this, but what you 12 need to keep in mind is that the collective holds 13 those rights, the individual's exercise them. 14 so you can't understand how those rights are 15 exercised unless you go to the individual users. And so it's the collective holds the rights, the 16 17 individuals exercise them. And so that's what the law says and that's 18 19 what's going on here. You've got ACFN rights, 20 which I've talked about them, the Treaty Rights and 21 the incidental rights, you have individual members 22 exercising those rights. And, you know, of course 23 if ACFN was not, members weren't exercising those 24 rights, of course the argument would be, well, you 2.5 have no use of the area, so they are between a rock

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and a hard place. As soon as they step up and say, well, in fact, we do have individuals out there, they face the argument that you heard this morning, which is, well, that's not affecting ACFN as a whole.

You will never, you will never see every single member of any First Nation or Aboriginal group in this country going out on the same area of land either together or one after the other. You just won't see that. It just doesn't happen. And that's not the way rights are exercised.

As you've heard in the hearing, the Athabasca River, it's the lifeblood of ACFN traditional lands. The river provides a vital transportation corridor, it provides access to reserve lands, it provides access to traditional hunting areas, trapping, fishing, gathering areas. It also supports traditional resources required for the meaningful exercise of ACFN rights and the continuity of their distinctive culture. Elder Rene Bruno, Transcript Nov. 7, page 1998, lines 5 to 10; Marvin L'Hommecourt, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2027, line 18, to page 2028, line 9; Jonathan Bruno, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2069, lines 5 to 15; Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, As Long As The Rivers Flow: Athabasca River Knowledge, Use and Change, PDF pages 196-197; Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, Integrated Knowledge and Use

1 Report, pages 56-58

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You heard a number of ACFN members speak to this and how core the river is to getting around, to getting to their sites.

There's also some, in my submission, very helpful studies of ACFN use of the Athabasca River and the tributaries and that's Dr. Candler's report "As Long as the Rivers Flow." And he also did another report for this hearing called the "Integrated Knowledge and End Use Report." And those have been filed in evidence.

of course ACFN members have observed a rapid expansion in oil sands development in the last 10 years. And as Lisa King put it in her testimony, they are frustrated. They don't see that there's actually any real protection for the Athabasca River or for the Peace/Athabasca Delta, frankly. And they are frustrated because, you know, they've been watching prior recommendations of prior panels in these hearings, you know, recommendations to establish inflow needs of the Athabasca River, protection of the Muskeg River basin, and they just don't see that happening. And all they see is the water levels continue to get lower and they have a more and more difficult time accessing and using

their lands and exercising their rights. Lisa King,

Transcript Nov. 8, page 2091, line 16, to page 2092, line 8

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The Muskeg River itself, and Kearl Lake, and Kearl Lake you've heard is also known as "Muskeg Lake" to ACFN, the surrounding lands, the lands and waters between Kearl Lake and McClelland Lake, those are also important hunting, trapping, gathering and fishing areas.

And the Muskeg River particularly holds spiritual significance to ACFN. It's not just about, you know, have we pulled any fish from the river lately. You know, as Marvin L'Hommecourt said, being there is medicinal. He talked to you about, you know, waking up, hearing the river. It's part of the connection to the land that I think gets missed. And I want to emphasize that. Elder Charlie Voyageur, Transcript Nov. 7, page 2002, lines 10-17. Marvin L'Hommecourt, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2035, lines 2-12. Raymond Cardinal, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2040, lines 6 to 14. Leslie Laviolette, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2050, lines 11-21. Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, Integrated Knowledge and Use Report, pages 56-58

The area to the south of McClelland Lake, the muskeg area that Mr. Laviolette spoke of, supports woodland caribou. Their observations are that it supports woodland caribou. And of course that's a

listed species at risk under the *Species at Risk*Act. What you've heard about is the muskeg

providing safe areas for the caribou to raise their

young.

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And woodland caribou are a culturally important species for the ACFN. And their survival is of great concern to the ACFN. And you heard Chief Adam talking about the translation of their name meaning "caribou eater." But what he said now is, caribou are calling out for us and they are asking for our help. And you see that in Níh boghodi their Caribou Stewardship Plan. really take that seriously, they really feel that they have a role in protecting the caribou, it's important to them, spiritually and culturally. Chief Allan Adam, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2207, line 16 to page 2208, line 17. Leslie Laviolette, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2058, line 12 to page 2059, line 20. Elder Pat Marcel, Transcript Nov. 7, page 1981, lines 9 to 16. Exhibit 006-024, Nih Boghodi, We are the Stewards of the Land. Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, Integrated Knowledge and Use Report, pages 60-62

The bison. You've heard about the bison.

Bison are also important as a food source, they are important culturally. You've heard about bison being hunted by the Dene as long as the Dene people

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have been around. It's been thousands of years,

Elder Pat Marcel said. Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, Integrated

Knowledge and Use Report, pages 60-61. Elder Pat Marcel, Transcript Nov. 7,

page 1974, line 21 to page 1975, line 5

The Project of course also is in the direct path of migratory birds and migratory bird habitat upon which ACFN rely. The spring bird hunt, it's a core component of ACFN's past and present seasonal round. Ray Cardinal, Transcript November 8, page 2039, lines 21-24. Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, Integrated Knowledge and Use Report, page 62. Exhibit 006,-013I: Dr. Candler: Migratory Bird Traditional Use, starting at PDF 170

The Project and surrounding area of course are also a source of fish and fish habitat for ACFN members. And Lisa King also talked about how the area will of course, some of the streams and tributaries that go off of the Athabasca River and that go through this area are also fish habitat that members rely upon in terms of the fish that enter the Athabasca River. So in looking at fish and fish habitat, you need to look beyond just the Project footprint, it's not just about whether members fish in that segment of a river that's covered by the Project.

Les Laviolette, Transcript November 8, page 2057, lines 2-12. Exhibit 006-0131: Dr. Candler, Integrated Knowledge

and Use Report, pages 57-58 1 2 And of course you've heard about the 3 medicinal use, the spiritual connection to the lands that the members talked about. Those are all 4 5 very important factors that they, ACFN have made connections to in terms of this Project area. 6 7 Direct and Adverse Effects 8 В. 9 So let me talk a bit about the direct and adverse effects that ACFN says that they have. And 10 11 they say they stand to be directly and adversely 12 affected by the Project in several ways. 13 14 i. Land & Resources 15 And the first area I would like to cover is 16 with respect to land and resources. 17 The Project of course would remove two 18 further tracts of land, that being the mine, and 19 then the compensation lake. And you've heard the 20 members talk about the diminishing intact land base 21 that they have available to exercise their rights. 22 And in practice, the members end up avoiding an

even more expansive area of land, it goes beyond

the immediate and substantial footprint of the

Project. You've heard Chief Adam talked about

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1 contamination concerns. And it also characterizes 2 a lack of confidence in the natural resources, it's 3 a lack of confidence in the health of the fish, a lack of confidence in the health of the water. 4 5 Elder Charlie Voyageur talked about the 6 impact that gates have and how they just end up 7 seeming like areas that they can no longer go. 8 Heard about Marvin L'Hommecourt talking about 9 the loss of the land base and the loss of 10 resources. 11 Raymond Cardinal talked about the effect of 12 gates. He talked about the effect of the noise, of 13 the larger land disturbance of typically an 14 avoidance of a larger area. He talked about the 15 impact of the loss of the land itself. He also talked about going to an area, finding berry bushes 16 17 covered with dust and what he thought were contaminants and his avoidance of those areas that 18 19 were once used. 20 You also heard Mr. Laviolette and 21 Ms. Deranger talk about gates and the effect they 22 have on their psyche and their desire to go into 23 areas. 24 You also heard Ms. Deranger talk about the 25 need for quiet space, how important it is to have a quiet area and how important it is to try and maintain that spiritual connection to the land.

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And so all of those factors have to be considered, in my submission, by this Panel. not just about the immediate footprint. There is a broader set of impacts. Chief Allan Adam, Transcript November 7 at page 1968, lines 7-12 (contamination concerns); Elder Charlie Voyageur, November 7 transcript at page 2009, line 19 to 2010, line 1 (gates); Marvin L'Hommecourt, Transcript November 8 at page 2036, lines 2-8 (loss of land base and resources); Raymond Cardinal, Transcript November 8 at page 2038, lines 7-13 and page 2039, lines 2-12 (gates); page 2040, line 15, to page 2041, line 11, and page 2043, line 22, to page 2044, line (noise, larger land disturbance, avoidance of larger area); page 2046, line 6 to page 2047, line 3 (loss of land); page 2048, lines 1-7 (dust, contaminants); Les Laviolette, Transcript November 8, page 2054, line 20 to page 2055, line 1 (gates); Beatrice Deranger, Transcript November 8, page 2062, line 7 - 22 (need for quiet space); page 2063, line 1-17 (effect of noise, gates); Dr. Candler, Exhibit 006-013I at text page 69, 71; Dr. Candler, Transcript November 8 at page 2400, line 7 to 2401, line 10; Patt Larcombe, Encroachment Narrative, Exhibit 006-013L at text pages 5-7, 5-8 and 5-10

And Marvin L'Hommecourt aptly summarized the effect that the oil sands operations have on the land from ACFN's view and, in particular, what the Project would do to the Muskeg River watershed, and the impacts, the associated impacts on reliance on

1	the lands and wild resources. And he said:
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3	"Now talking a little bit
4	about the muskeg"
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6	And this was on November 8th, starting at
7	page 2031:
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9	" now talking a little bit
10	about the muskeg. Everyone says
11	it's a mosquito infested bog, but I
12	think it's a living breathing
13	entity that houses numerous species
14	of animals and there's a whole
15	ecosystem that and the life
16	blood of that is the Muskeg River.
17	You know, I can give you an
18	analogy of if one were to poke
19	one's arm with a knife or
20	something, you'd say you'd have
21	adverse effect in the surrounding
22	tissues and ultimately the whole
23	body. So if you're to punch holes
24	in this living, breathing entity
25	here, certainly and ultimately

1	it will kill the Muskeg. And if
2	you were to move, manipulate the
3	Muskeg River, which is a big thing,
4	you're going to do to grab it and
5	move it somewhere else, and that
6	will certainly kill the surrounding
7	body of muskeg that sustains, you
8	know, moose and caribou, which of
9	course sustains us. And then, you
10	know, the smaller animals, which
11	depend on the muskeg, or the moose
12	to eat, willows, caribou have the
13	lichen or moss. And the lynx have
14	the rabbit and the rabbit eats the
15	willows, and, of course, you know,
16	and the birds feed on those pesky
17	mosquitoes in that muskeg, and of
18	course if we were to do all that
19	and manipulate all the surrounding
20	area, certainly have adverse effect
21	on that whole area and body."
22	Transcript November 8 page 2031, line 4, to
23	page 2032, line 5
24	So it's to say that it's not just about
25	redirecting a part of the river, it's much more

1 than that to the users of the land.

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And in terms of the specific use, there's been a lot documented, you heard from some of the witnesses, but within the Local Study Area that was set by ACFN, and that was an area of the disturbance plus a five-kilometre radius, and they chose that five-kilometre radius because it's the distance a land user is likely to walk in a day where they're out on the lands. And this is in Dr. Candler's report at Exhibit 006-003I (sic), [006-013I], there's 65 site-specific subsistence values and that includes things like harvesting, food plants, it includes high-value moose habitat. There are 25 site-specific habitation values like camps. Three cultural and spiritual value areas like a burial area or a medicine collection area. And then there's six transportation values like the Muskeg River. Exhibit 006-031: Dr. Candler, Integrated Knowledge and Use Report at text pages 67-69

You've heard about the members who say, when we've got a specific connection to the land and it's gone, we're unable to pass place-specific traditional knowledge on to future generations.

And so when we're talking about the impacts on future generations, we're talking about the ability

of members to pass on that knowledge. And once a landscape is changed like this, dug up, that place-specific traditional knowledge gets lost.

You heard Elder Charlie Voyageur talk about that.

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There's no evidence that Shell's Reclamation
Plan can reasonably be expected to recreate the
cultural or ecological landscapes that are
consistent with Aboriginal traditions of knowledge
and use. So it's not just about putting some trees
back there and hoping the animals come back. It's
a much broader effect.

Elder Charlie Voyageur, Transcript Nov. 7,
page 2004, lines 14-19, page 2006, lines 12-17, page 2009, lines 5-15;
Raymond Cardinal, Transcript Nov. 8, page 2046, line 6 to page 2047, line 3;
Exhibit 006-013I: Dr. Candler, at text pages 75-78

The compensation lake proposed on the west side of the river would also have a direct and adverse impact on ACFN. You've heard how they are concerned how it's going to affect the important bison habitat, impact hunting areas and impact berry and medicinal gathering areas. Pat Marcel said, look, it's going to destroy their summer habitat. Ray Cardinal said, look, I think it's going to push the bison out of that area. Elder Pat Marcel, November 7 at page 1978 line 23 to page 1980, line 6; Marvin L'Hommecourt November 8 at page 2042 lines 14-25; Ray Cardinal, November 8

1	at page 2041 line 24 to page 2042 line 10; Dr. Candler, Transcript,
2	November 8 at 2380, line 2 to 21; 2381 at 20 - 2382 at line 2; 2391 at
3	lines 9-16; 2394 at lines 4-22; Exhibit 006-03I: Dr. Candler, Integrated
4	Knowledge and Use Report at page 72
5	Getting back to the area around the Muskeg
6	River. The one other factor that wasn't mentioned
7	is how valuable the muskeg is to the high water
8	quality. And this is of course an increasing
9	concern of ACFN is the water quality in the region.
10	Marvin L'Hommecourt, November 8 page 2031, line 4 to page 2032, line 5;
11	Shell October 15 Response, Exhibit 001-0070 at text page 9
12	The Project is also going to remove a known
13	and regionally valuable wildlife movement corridor
14	along the Muskeg River. And the corridor is going
15	to be ineffectual, in our submission, because it's
16	going to be truncated at the northeast end by the
17	mine expansion pit. And the concern of ACFN is
18	that Shell hasn't provided evidence that the
19	genetic connectivity will be ensured. And
20	Mr. L'Hommecourt put it well when he said, look,
21	migratory animals such as moose and caribou just
22	don't have the luxury of a mine escort to get to
23	their habitat. I mean, in a way, it's humorous,
24	but frankly, it describes what's going to happen
25	with the habitat corridor here. MSES, Review of Muskeg River

Diversion Alternative, Exhibit 006-013AA, starting at pdf page 27, text 1 pages 4 and 5; Marvin L'Hommecourt, Transcript November 8 at page 2031, 2 line 2 3 You've heard about migratory waterfowl, how 4 5 they are a key cultural resource and how it's 6 becoming increasingly difficult to find adequate numbers of birds for harvesting. $^{\text{Chief Adam, Transcript,}}$ 7 November 7 at page 1957, lines 9-12; November 8 at page 2255, line 25, to 8 2258, line 8; Jonathan Bruno, Transcript November 8 at 2066, line 24, to 9 2069, line 4; Dr. Candler: Migratory Birds and Aquatic Fur, 10 Exhibit 006-013I, starting at pdf page 166, at text pages 4-5; McCormack, 11 Ethnohistory, Exhibit 006-013K at text page 32 12 13 You have also heard about, in addition to the Project removing wetlands, it's also increasing the 14 15 area occupied by tailings ponds and by industrial waterbodies. It increases the hazard for waterfowl 16 17 and other migratory birds. Environment Canada said, look, you know, in 18 19 seriously adverse weather conditions, we don't 20 think that the bird deterrents work. 21 And ACFN is concerned that in respect of 22 birds landing on these tailings ponds that 23 operators have just not effectively managed 24 bird-oiling events and the concern that there is 2.5 still an inadequate capability to manage the risks

here. Shell at EIA Update 2008, Appendix 2, Table 14. Exhibit 001-002A;

MSES, Avian Hazard Map, Exhibit 006-013AA at ii, pdf 3. - see report in its

entirety

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ii. Water & Aquatic Resources

Other impacts, you've heard about the area's hydrology and groundwater flows. The flows in the Athabasca River, how they are too low to support the exercise of ACFN's Treaty and Aboriginal Rights and the access, access, this is key, you can't practice your rights if you don't have access. If you can't get into an area, you can't practice the rights.

And ACFN have done their own community-based monitoring program and they found that at six of the eight sample sites in 2011, water quality levels were recorded as below the established Aboriginal Base Flow of four feet. And that Base Flow number comes from — it's an average depth which is a boat loaded with a moose, and that's the depth you need in order to get in and out of an area. You heard Jonathan Bruno talking about not being able to get into Richardson Lake anymore. It's nearly impossible. And it's an excellent moose-hunting area. They can't get their boats in.

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They can't get the moose loaded in. So that's where the Aboriginal Base Flow comes from. $^{\rm Elder\ Rene}$ Bruno, November 7, page 1998, line 4, to page 2000, line 8 (on inability to access the land and waters to practice Treaty rights); Elder Pat Marcel, November 7, page 1987, line 7, to page 1988, line 15 (on the effects on fisheries); Jonathan Bruno, November 8, page 2070, line 13, to page 2072, line 13 (on the impact on exercising rights); Marvin L'Hommecourt, November 8, page 2033, lines 9-24; Dr. Martin Carver, Water Quantity Considerations, Exhibit 006-013QQ starting at page 435, see section 2.2 and 2.4; Dr.Martin Carver, MDRA Review, Exhibit 006-013BB at sections 2.2 and 2.3 (re: will affect hydrology and groundwater flows); Dr. Martin Carver, NNLP review, Exhibit 006-013BB starting at pdf page 24, see section 2 (re will affect hydrology); Dr. Martin Carver, Transcript November 8, at page 2338 at lines 4 to 14; and, more generally, Dr. Martin Carver, Transcript November 8 at pages 2334-2342 re: withdrawals permitted at very low flow already, lowest flows are in fall - an important traditional harvesting time, and allowable withdrawals based on historic rather than $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$ current hydrograph; Bruce MacClean, Community Based Monitoring Program Final Report 2011 Water Quantity Monitoring, Exhibit 006-013BB, beginning at pdf page 199; see text page 3, 4; and responses to Secretariat questions dated November 19, 2012, Exhibit 006-031 Dr. Carver's work has demonstrated that we've had 20 or 30 percent less flow during the fall over the last seven years than we've had in the historic hydrograph, upon which the Phase I rules are based.

1 Fish have been a subsistence mainstay of 2 ACFN, both before and after the Treaty. 3 Residential locations and therefore reserves, the 4 Indian Reserves for local bands were typically in 5 areas where fish could be caught. And so when we talk about getting access to the reserves, those 6 7 reserves are set up and historical records shows 8 this, the reserves are set in areas where there are 9 good fishing locations. And Reserve IR 201D, it was intended specifically for fishing for ACFN 10 11 members. 12 And fish continue to be important today. 13 Chief Adam noted, members can constantly fish for 14 pickerel, pike, and in the summer months they fish for whitefish. McCormack, Ethnohistory, Exhibit 006-013K at text 15 pages 29-30; Chief Adam and Lisa King, Transcript November 8, page 2257, 16 line 10, to 2258, line 20 17 18 If approved, the Jackpine Mine Expansion 19 would destroy a large amount of fish habitat in the 20 Muskeg River watershed. Shell estimates the 21 physical habitat loss at closure in the Jackpine 22 Mine Expansion area alone to be 795,000 23 approximately metres squared, if one doesn't 24 include the loss of Kahago Lake. But with the 2.5 Kahago Lake, it's 1.65 million square metres.

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And you've heard from DFO that Shell hasn't applied, and certainly doesn't seem to consider, habitat loss due to chemical deposition in its compensation habitat that's planned for habitat loss. Exhibit 001-001C, EIA Vol 4A at table 6.7-11, text page 6-600; Brian Makowecki, Transcript November 15, at 3398 lines 6-13

So Shell proposes to replace the loss of fish and fish habitat with a compensation lake. In our submission, the efficacy of compensation lakes in terms of productive fish habitat, they are unproven. It's not disputed that the proposed Redclay south compensation lake would not produce harvestable fish for a number of years. In large part, due to methyl— mercury contamination, pardon me.

So even if fish were eventually safe to harvest, the farming of the fish resource shouldn't be confused with sufficient resources to support the Treaty right to fish. There's no evidence before this Panel that Dene people would find fishing in such a compensation lake a suitable alternative or substitute. It simply wouldn't have any cultural meaning. It would be an imposed feature on the geography, on ACFN's geography. Shell NNLP Exhibit 001-064B at section 2.1.2 and Figure 5; Bill Kovach, Transcript

November 2, page 1155, at lines 7, to page 1161, line 22; Brian Makowecki, 1 Transcript November 15, at 3646, lines 17-19 (too early to claim success re: 2 NNLP); Lisa King, Transcript November 8 at 2266, lines 4-17 3 Many ACFN members already avoid harvesting 4 5 fish from the Athabasca River. The research by 6 Dr. Jones, what it demonstrates, and let's be clear 7 about this, the hypothesis is that contaminants are 8 higher in the fish near oil sands operations. That's the hypothesis. That's what's been 9 demonstrated by the study. And so the study that 10 11 Dr. Jones presented is that the fish in the 12 vicinity have higher concentrations of larger five-ring PAH in their bile than anywhere else in 13 Dr. Craig Candler, As Long as the Rivers Flow, the river system. 14 Exhibit 006-013I starting at pdf 185, see in particular text pages 19 15 (Map 4), 25-27; Dr. Candler, Exhibit 006-013I at text page 69, 71; 16 Dr. Candler, Transcript November 8 at page 2400, line 7, to 2401, line 10; 17 Chief Adam (re fear of tailings pond seepage) Transcript November 7 at 18 page 1957, line 23, to page 1958, line 5; Patt Larcombe, Encroachment 19 Narrative, Exhibit 006-013L at text pages 5-16 to 5-21; Dr. Paul Jones, 20 Preliminary Analysis of Health and Contaminant Status of Fish Collected from 21 the Slave and Athabasca Rivers, 2011-2012, Exhibit 006-013BB beginning at 22 pdf page 130 23 24 And so it's expected that if the Project is 25 approved as proposed, ACFN members will just

1 increasingly avoid fish downstream of the Project.

2.5

iii. Socio-Economic and Cultural Effects

There are also direct and adverse cultural and psychological impacts that arise and would arise if the Project were approved. Chief Adam talked a bit about ACFN culture being grounded in respect for Mother Earth. He said: "When land is taken up, we feel the hardships, we feel the pain that comes with it." Chief Adam, Transcript, November 7 at 1954, lines 7-24; 1956, line 24, to page 1957, line 3; page 1958, lines 13-23; page 1961, lines 12-20, page 1962 at lines 16-21, page 1966, lines 18-25

He talked about being the seventh generation since the Treaty was signed. He talked about feeling this great responsibility to ensure that planning is effective for the next seven generations. To make sure that development that happens happens at a sustainable and controlled pace. He talked about the effect of land being taken up, the effect it has on ACFN members' morale, on their spirit. People don't just think about the land. They visit it. They do things on it. They relate to the reciprocity between themselves and what they see is the spirits that inhabit the land and promote meaningful orientation

1	to the landscape. And so these aren't just beliefs
2	of the past. They are ongoing parts of Dene
3	awareness, of spirituality.
4	As Beatrice Deranger said: The land is "like
5	a church to some people." Dr. McCormack, Ethnohistory at 115;
6	Exhibit 006-013K, at text pages 114-115; Beatrice Deranger, Transcript
7	November 8, page 2061, line 17, to page 2062, line 6; pg 2062, line 6, and
8	page 2064, lines 17-20
9	That's the kind of effect it has when Dene
10	people go out there. You heard Lisa King testify
11	that:
12	
13	"The people feel the spirit
14	of the land. When the land is
15	disturbed they feel it. I took my
16	granny north"
17	
18	" she closed her eyes and
19	she just blocked her head"
20	
21	"I just want to say it
22	affects, when you see the impacts
23	on land, it affects people in
24	different ways."
25	

1	And:
2	
3	"Depending on your spirit and
4	your strength, you can deal with
5	the impacts of development
6	differently."
7	
8	"I just want to say it's our
9	duty as indigenous people on this
10	land to care for our Earth Mother."
11	Transcript November 8 at page 2103, line 10 to 2104,
12	line 8
13	
14	And so ACFN has submitted studies to this
15	Panel.
16	Alistair MacDonald in his study, he talks
17	about the loss of ability of ACFN members to
18	meaningfully exercise their Treaty Rights and the
19	results this has causing adverse sociocultural
20	impacts including decreased ability to transmit
21	knowledge, the adverse impacts to community
22	well-being. Alistair McDonald, Supplemental Social, Economic and
23	Cultural Effects Submission, Exhibit 006-013M at Chapters 6 and 7
24	Patt Larcombe talks about in her encroachment
25	narrative, she talks about, you know, a decrease in

the population in a traditional resource species,

the need to travel further afield to harvest

species, or the increased competition can lead to

decreased harvesting opportunities.

2.5

And in the context of social-economic effects, traditional food has been referred to as the "anchor for cultural and personal wellbeing."

And consuming wild foods is fundamentally important for personal and cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal individuals and communities.

Patt Larcombe, A Narrative of Encroachment Experienced by ACFN, Exhibit 006-013L, generally at chapters 5 and 6, specifically at text pages 6-12, 6-13, 6-20 to 6-23. See also Figures on pages 2-14 and 2-15; Les Laviolette, Transcript November 8 at page 2277, lines 1-21

And when access to country foods is impacted or lost, a subsequent effect is loss in personal identity and deterioration in overall sense of self.

You heard Jonathan Bruno, he's a young guy, he talks about he has four children, he really wants them to learn to live off the land. It's extremely important to him. He really worries that they are not going to be able to do, they are just not going to have the ability to do so, the way the lands and waters are being affected. Jonathan Bruno,

1 November 8, page 2073 lines 12 to 21

2.5

You heard Marvin L'Hommecourt talk about how being able to survive off the land, it's key, it's a key part of the culture.

Marvin L'Hommecourt November 8, page 2033, line 25, to page 2034, line 7

And so ACFN is subject to an increasing level of adverse socio-economic effects and the effects on their culture associated with rapid oil sands development. And so this Project, this Project itself, we're not talking about some other project, we're talking about this Project, it is anticipated and it's anticipated because of what's happened in the last 10 years, it's going to have effects on members passing on their culture, accessing spiritual sites, a loss of tranquillity in relationship with the land. Alistair McDonald, Supplemental Social, Economic and Cultural Effects, Submissions, Exhibit 006-013M at chapters 6 and 7; Beatrice Deranger, November 7, page 2061, line 8, to page 2062, line 6; Jonathan Bruno, November 7, page 2073, lines 5-19

And some of the other social issues that you've heard about, members that try to get involved and work in the oil sands industry, you know, as my friend Mr. Jeerakathil said, look, there's no doubt that it brings economic benefits, but you also have to consider some of the other

effects. And so you've got ACFN members going to
try and work in oil sands, like they report
disruptions in family and community dynamics
because of long shift rotations, income inequity,
isolation from their social support networks.

You heard Kim Marcel, the employee for ACFN talk about some of the social issues she sees.

Kim Marcel, November 7, page 2082, lines 2-8; page 2085, line 11, to page 2086, lines 1-15

2.5

C. Cumulative Impacts in the Region.

12 I'm going to talk a bit about now cumulative
13 impacts.

One of the challenges that ACFN sees with the way these projects are approved is that cumulative impacts are clearly occurring but they don't seem to be adequately addressed in the context of the Projects. And I believe one of you Panel Members, I think it was you, Mr. Bolton, talked about how everybody sees the cumulative impacts happening but nobody says their project has any connection to those cumulative impacts. And ACFN of course would disagree with that, Shell's assessment in that respect. What they would say is this Project would substantially contribute to the cumulative impacts

1 of development in the region and it would do so in 2 a way that threatens the sustainability of ACFN's 3 culture, their way of life, exercise of their 4 rights. 5 Going back to what I mentioned at the 6 beginning, Treaty 8 promised the continued patterns 7 of use and occupation forever. The words are in 8 perpetuity. And they've already experienced 9 significant degradation of their ability to exercise their rights and their traditional ways of 10 11 life. 12 And you're looking at the, in the Terms of 13 Reference, going back to a pre-industrial baseline in terms of considering over the last 40 years in 14 15 terms of considering the cumulative impacts. 16 And so, again, the studies that we've put 17 forward in our submission assist you in 18 understanding that. 19 So it puts in context what members say when 20 they say, look, we can't just go somewhere else, 21 there are problems with just going somewhere else. 22 You know, the cultural importance of the 23 lands between the Peace-Athabasca Delta and Fort 24 McKay, which include the Regional Study Area here, 2.5 the importance of those lands has increased

1 dramatically in recent years and it's as a result 2 of a number of cumulative factors, and those 3 include: Loss of significant portions of lands for traditional activities, you know, starting with the 5 6 construction of the Bennett Dam. There's been loss of other portions of 8 territory due to industrial development. There's been the creation of Wood Buffalo 9 National Park, which of course goes back much 10 11 further, but until very recently ACFN was simply 12 not allowed to go in there and they don't feel the connection to the land any longer, they've lost 13 14 that through generations. 15 Government regulations including the 16 prohibition of hunting migratory birds and bison 17 for periods of time. 18 The imposition of the registered fur management regime. Elder Charlie Voyageur, Transcript November 7 at 19 2006, line 22, to page 2007, line 13 (impediments posed by RFMA system); 20 Dr. McCormack, Ethnohistory, Exhibit 006-013K, generally, and specifically 21 at text pages 18-20, 25-27, and at section 7 (text page 139); Dr. McCormack, 22 Fort Chipewyan and the Shaping of Canadian History; Exhibit 006-013K, 23 starting at pdf page 209 at Chapters 5 - 9; Patt Larcombe, Encroachment 24 Narrative, Exhibit 006-013L, specifically at 3-6 to 3-8 and 3-12, generally 2.5

at Chapters 3 and 4; Doreen Somers, Transcript November 8 at page 2132, 1 lines 12-16, page 2135, lines 11-22 2 3 You heard about Elder Charlie Voyageur 4 talking about how the trapline regime has, you know, ended up being imposed on all of northern 5 6 Alberta. There's been a significant relocation of 7 populations of ACFN members. 8 And so the suggestion that ACFN members who 9 use and are connected to the area that the Project is going to affect, that they can just go 10 11 elsewhere, is a complete and utter misunderstanding 12 of the impacts to the land that ACFN has already faced. Elder Charlie Voyageur, Transcript November 7 at 2007, line 14, to 13 page 2008, line 15 14 15 You know, and we've heard a number of times 16 in this proceeding that Shell's been consulting 17 with ACFN for 15 years or so. Surely Shell would understand by now that it's not an answer to say, 18 19 well, sure, we're using up this area, but you can 20 just go somewhere else. Surely through that 21 consultation process they will have understood that 22 that's just simply not a reasonable suggestion. 23 And so when Shell says, look, we listened to your 24 concerns, we take them into account, my suggestion 2.5 is, on that issue, they just don't, they do not, if

that's the answer, "you can go somewhere else." 1 So in short, place matters. 2 3 locations and the resources and traditional 4 knowledge associated with specific locations is 5 really important. It's important to those who know the land, who use those areas. $^{\text{Dr. Pat McCormack}}$, 6 Ethnohistory, Exhibit 006-013K at text pages 167-171; Dr. Candler, ACFN 7 Integrated Knowledge and Use Report for JPME and PRM, Exhibit 006-013I at 8 65, ACFN Advice to the Government of Alberta on LARP, Appendix F, Tab 51(g); 9 Exhibit 006-013FF, starting at page 259, text page 27 re cultural protection 10 zones; Patt Larcombe, Encroachment Narrative, Exhibit 006-013L at 11 section 6.3.2, starting text page 6-17 12 13 You know, prior to the construction of the 14 Bennett Dam, the Peace-Athabasca Delta was 15 resource-rich. It was a heavily relied-upon area 16 of ACFN traditional lands. There's reports of the multitudes of fish, and the channels swarming with 17 muskrat, and large bison herd, and the waterfowl 18 densities were massive. Historical review of Biological 19 Resources of the Peace Athabasca Delta, Exhibit 006-006-013H starting at 20 pdf page 179; see text page 155, 156, 158, 160 21 22 And the Elders talk about this as well. And 23 this is in the study of Footprints on the Land. 24 accords with the traditional knowledge of the delta. Elder Charlie Voyageur, Transcript November 7, page 2004, 2.5

1	lines 3-9; Footprints on the Land, Exhibit 006-013J at Chapters 7 and 8;
2	Dr. Candler, Migratory Birds and Aquatic Fur Technical Memo;
3	Exhibit 006-013I, starting at page 166, see text pages 8-9
4	But the severe impacts on ACFN's way of life
5	after the dam was constructed was that many
6	families had to leave the bush for life in town.
7	Exhibit 006-013H pdf pages 114-146 and pdf page 323
8	And so the delta began to dry up and habitat
9	was reduced for key species, like muskrat, like
10	moose, waterfowl, and this has had long-lasting
11	negative impacts on ACFN members and other local
12	people who use the land. Dr. McCormack, Ethnohistory at text
13	pages 15-16 and 161-63; Indian Claims Commission decision,
14	Exhibit 006-013Hat text page 78; Letter INAC to ACFN, Exhibit 006-013H at
15	page 147
16	And you've heard about the ongoing issues
17	with the ability to travel by water. And that's
18	been for a number of years and it's just getting
19	worse.
20	And so that's the area around Fort Chipewyan.
21	But you've also heard about the southern portion of
22	ACFN's traditional lands and how those lands are
23	being overwhelmed by industrial development and
24	it's most significantly from oil sands exploration
25	and extraction.

1	And virtually all of the lands that ACFN
2	includes within its Traditional Lands in Alberta
3	south of Wood Buffalo National Park and west of the
4	Saskatchewan border have been sold off by way of
5	oil sands leases. And so we're not talking about,
6	you know, this is a real prospect, a very real
7	prospect of exploration activity and development on
8	those tenures. We're not talking about some
9	hypothetical. Shell's witness panel talked about
LO	how they are obligated to develop their tenures. I
11	think the wording by Mr. Roberts was, we're
12	obligated to our stakeholders, which include the
13	public and everybody else out there. And so this
L 4	isn't a hypothetical. These are leases that have
15	been given out over the lands that ACFN uses.
L 6	John Broadhurst, Transcript, October 30, page 215, lines 3-6; page 230,
L7	lines 2-9; Mr. Roberts, Transcript October 30, page 447, lines 5-9
L8	And so we'd ask that you keep that in mind.
L 9	I mean, this is also about cumulative impact.
20	And other pressures that have also been
21	experienced include, you know, increased
22	non-Aboriginal hunting, other recreational uses,
23	forestry, mineral development, uranium exploration,
24	conventional oil and gas development, and
25	increasing settlement and infrastructure

1	construction. Patt Larcombe, Encroachment Narrative,
2	Exhibit 006-013L, Chapter 4
3	So that paints a, you know, in our
4	submission, a picture of the cumulative impacts
5	that have been occurring for years and will
6	continue to impact if this Project is approved.
7	The only herd of bison outside of Wood
8	Buffalo Park is the Ronald Lake herd. You've heard
9	about that. ACFN members worry that it's already
10	at dangerously low levels. MSES, Effects on Traditional
11	Resources - ACFN Exhibit 006-0130 at text pages iii, 16-18; Mr. Virc,
12	Transcript November 15, page 3348, line 10, to page 3349, line 10;
13	Mr. Wiacek, Transcript November 15, page 3360, lines 4-8
14	I believe my friend talked about the numbers
15	within Wood Buffalo Park. ACFN does not refer to
16	those bison as bison they use. They refer to the
17	ones at Ronald Lake as the ones that they would
18	have access to.
19	Of course you've heard about the woodland
20	caribou, they are at dangerously low levels and
21	they are not available for traditional resource
22	use. MSES, Effects on Traditional Resources - Exhibit 006-0130 at text
23	pages 13-15
24	ACFN has led evidence to show that in this
25	proceeding that between 1992 and 2008 an average of

1 42 square kilometres, it's about 10 moose home 2 ranges, moose habitat has been removed each year 3 from ACFN's Regional Study Area and moose density has declined substantially. 4 They've shown beaver habitat, experienced a 5 6 loss of about 6.3 square kilometres per year. Waterfowl habitat, the loss of about 3.6 7 8 square kilometres a year. And while at the same 9 time the area of waterfowl hazard has more than 10 tripled. 11 And now the extirpation of woodland caribou 12 from the ACFN Regional Study Area is a near certainty. MSES, Effects on Traditional Resources - Exhibit 006-0130 13 14 This comes out of the EMESIS report, effects 15 on traditional resources, and it's 16 Exhibit 006-0130. And those trajectories were confirmed in a recent analysis. $^{\mbox{\scriptsize MSES},\mbox{\scriptsize Continued Effects on}}$ 17 Traditional Resources - 2011, Exhibit 006-013P 18 19 And so all of those things, those are the 20 effects on the animals, the effects on use of the 21 lands, those are all effects that ACFN has suffered 22 and should be considered in terms of the cumulative 23 impacts that this Project will contribute to. 24 And that wraps up my segment of the argument. And I wonder if we could just take a couple of 2.5

```
1
            minutes just to assess where we're at?
 2
      THE CHAIRMAN:
                                   Yes, please go ahead, sir.
 3
      MR. MURPHY:
                                   Thank you. I wonder if we
             could just take five minutes and I'll speak with my
 4
 5
             friend, Ms. Gorrie.
 6
      THE CHAIRMAN:
                                   Fine. Sir, we need to take 5
 7
             or 10 minutes in any event, so this may be a good
 8
             time.
 9
                               (Brief Break)
10
11
      THE CHAIRMAN:
                                   Mr. Murphy, did you have
12
             something?
13
      MR. MURPHY:
                                   I thought I would just say
14
             for the record that Ms. Gorrie has graciously
15
             agreed to go next and my colleague, Ms. Biem, will
16
            wrap up her submissions in the morning.
17
            going to deal with three main subject areas:
18
             that's Shell's EIA, consultation with Shell, and
19
             the mitigation, and then conclude.
20
      THE CHAIRMAN:
                                   Thank you. Ms. Gorrie?
21
      MS. GORRIE:
                                   Good evening, Panel. Before
22
             I start, I was under the understanding that I
23
             should probably go about through half my
24
             submissions. Is there a timeframe in which I
2.5
             should be closing by?
```

1	THE CHAIRMAN: An hour would be good. If
2	that's a convenient break point.
3	MS. GORRIE: I might be a little under an
4	hour where it actually breaks.
5	THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine.
6	
7	FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE OIL SANDS ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION,
8	BY MS. GORRIE:
9	MS. GORRIE: So I'm aware that Madam Court
10	Reporter has been going hard all day, so I'm going
11	to do my best to talk slowly for her poor fingers.
12	So I'm not going to be addressing all the
13	issues in OSEC's pre-filed submissions; rather, I'm
14	going to focus on the key issues. And obviously I
15	won't be reviewing all the evidence due to time
16	constraints.
17	And as some of my colleagues have done, I've
18	provided a copy of our submissions to the court
19	reporter, and the citations will also be in there,
20	so I will make statements that are incorporated
21	into the transcripts by virtue of the fact that
22	I've already provided the citations. And I also
23	ask that my verbal comments take precedence where I
24	deviate from my speaking notes.
25	So OSEC submits that the evidence shows that

1 there are significant adverse effects from this 2 Project and there's an absence of adequate 3 assessment and demonstrated technically and economically feasible measures to mitigate those 4 5 effects. 6 We also believe that this Project is not in 7 the public interest. 8 9 LEGAL FRAMEWORK Now, to begin with, I'm going provide an 10 11 overview of the legal framework within which this 12 Panel must make its determination. 13 To start off with, the biggie, CEAA (2012). 14 15 **CEAA 2012** 16 1. It includes a requirement to promote 17 sustainable development in order to achieve or 18 maintain a healthy environment and a healthy 19 economy. This includes a requirement to meet the 20 needs of the present without compromising or 21 impairing resources for use by future generations. 22 2. It also includes a requirement to ensure 23 that designated projects are considered in a 24 careful and precautionary manner to avoid significant adverse effects. 2.5

1 Lower Athabasca Regional Plan $^{1 \text{ Exhibit 017-016T}}$ 2 Now, we're all very familiar with the Lower 3 Athabasca Regional Plan, or LARP, by now. It was 4 5 released this fall. And as set out in Section 15 6 of the Alberta Land Stewardship Act, regional plans 7 are binding on the Crown and on statutory decision-makers. 8 9 Pursuant to the Energy Resource Conservation 10 Act, the Board must act in accordance with any 11 applicable regional plans. In other words, its 12 decisions must be consistent with LARP. 13 Now, an overriding goal of LARP is a healthy 14 environment and it requires that (as read): 15 "The environmental and social 16 17 impacts associated with long-term 18 opportunities for oil sands 19 development are carefully managed." 20 21 And one of the outcomes specified in LARP is 22 that landscapes are managed to maintain ecosystem 23 function and biodiversity. This includes an 24 objective to avoid or mitigate land disturbance 2.5 impacts to biodiversity.

1 It's also important to note that LARP does 2 not designate any areas within the region for 3 intensive use. 4 5 Sub-regional Integrated Regional Plan for the Fort 6 McMurray - Athabasca Oil Sands region 7 Now, this one's a mouthful, but the 8 Subregional Integrated Regional Plan for the Fort 9 McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Region, and I'll just 10 refer to it as the Fort McMurray IRP. And as 11 stated in LARP, Integrated Resource Plans represent 12 the Government of Alberta's Resource Management 13 Policy for Public Lands and Resources and are intended to be a guide for decision-makers. $^{\rm 2\ Exhibit}$ 14 017-016T, p. 4 15 16 The Fort McMurray IRP is the guiding plan for 17 the region and includes population targets for some 18 species. It also includes the following wildlife 19 objectives: 20 To minimize damage to 21 wildlife habitat and where possible 22 to enhance the quality, diversity, 23 distribution, and extent of 24 productive habitat. 2.5 It also includes to maintain

1		and if possible to enhance the
2		diversity, abundance and
3		distribution of wildlife resources
4		for native sustenance, recreational
5		and commercial benefits.
6		- Finally, it states that one
7		of the objectives is to protect
8		wildlife species considered
9		sensitive to disturbance or
10		environmental change and to promote
11		increased populations and
12		distribution of species considered
13		rare or endangered. 3 Exhibit 017-016W
14		
15	EPEA	
16		Another statutory instrument is the
17		Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. Now,
18		the Alberta Land Stewardship Act does not repeal
19		the EPEA and therefore environmental protection is
20		still a legislative requirement. It's also
21		important to note that the EPEA adopts a principle
22		of sustainable development and recognizes the
23		importance of preventing and mitigating the
24		environmental impact of development.
25		

_	_
7	SARA
1	SARA

Finally, there's the Species at Risk Act or SARA. And this Act was enacted in part to fulfill Canada's international obligations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to protect and conserve biodiversity. It's depended to provide for the recovery of species at risk through various means, including the protection of its habitat. In fact the Act states that the habitat of a species at risk is key to their conservation.

Now, there's a government document entitled "Addressing Species at Risk: Considerations Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act." And this document was referenced by Environment Canada in their submissions and was discussed during cross-examination. And it states that SARA requires that if a project subject to an environmental assessment is carried out, measures must be taken to avoid or lessen all adverse effects of the project and monitor them consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action plans.

It also states that, thus:

25 "... in developing mitigation

1	measures the approach should be
2	systematic and rigorous." 4 Exhibit
3	017-041, p. 41
4	
5	Now that document also states that:
6	
7	"Where there is uncertainty
8	regarding the likelihood or
9	possible significance of adverse
10	effects on wildlife species at
11	risk, it is best practice to adopt
12	a precautionary approach in the
13	analysis, given their
14	vulnerability." ^{5 Exhibit 017-041, p. 35}
15	
16	Finally, it states that:
17	
18	"From a practical
19	perspective, the obligations
20	under SARA reinforce the need
21	for federal environmental
22	assessments to pay particular
23	attention to listed wildlife
24	species and their critical
25	habitat." ^{6 Exhibit 017-041} , p. 35

1	
2	Public interest test
3	Now, in accordance with its provincial
4	legislative mandate, this Panel must determine
5	whether this Project is in the public interest of
6	Albertans having regard to the social and economic
7	effects and the effects on the environment.
8	Now, as held in Solex Gas Processing Corp.,
9	which is an Alberta Court of Appeal decision (as
10	read):
11	
12	"The scope of the public
13	interest is meant to be broad and
14	should not be interpreted
15	restrictively." ^{7 paras 33-38}
16	
17	The Board in Cheviot Mine also held that (as
18	read):
19	
20	" the establishment of
21	need does not automatically imply
22	that the project is in the public
23	interest The degree of
24	environmental, social, and economic
25	impact must also be assessed."

8 page 21 1 2 3 In that case, the Board refused to permit coal-mining activity in one portion of the project 4 5 area because it determined that the loss of the value of the coal reserves would be outweighed by 6 7 the loss of the valued environmental components. 8 To assess whether a project is in the public 9 interest, the Panel must look at government policy documents and legislation as they are the 10 11 expression of the public interest. 12 Now, before delving into the meat of my 13 submissions, it is important to note that throughout the EIA and during the hearing, Shell 14 15 dealt with predictions of exceedances of thresholds 16 and guidelines by referring to monitoring data and 17 studies regarding impacts or pollution levels from 18 the last decade. Evidence of impacts or lack of 19 impacts during this past time period do not justify 20 another project or lack of effective mitigation. 21 The main purpose of the Environmental 22 Assessment is to enable development to be 23 sustainable and avoid environmental degradation. 24 This means the focus must be on the likely 2.5 impact of the project and other projects in the

1	area that will be operating at the same time.
2	And this will be in the future.
3	Such an approach is required in order to
4	adequately assess the project's effects and
5	determine whether it is in the public's interest.
6	So with that in mind, I will now turn to
7	addressing the key issues of concern for OSEC.
8	
9	TERRESTRIAL IMPACTS
10	The first issue, and I think the only one
11	that I will be going through this evening, is
12	terrestrial impacts.
13	
14	Thresholds
15	So when it comes to terrestrial resources,
16	Shell is hanging its hat on LARP. However, no
17	biodiversity or land disturbance standards have yet
18	been developed under LARP.
19	In the absence of those frameworks, LARP
20	currently provides no protection for terrestrial
21	resources in the RSA. It also fails to provide
22	guidance regarding the thresholds for important
23	considerations such as habitat loss, wildlife
24	abundance and land disturbance.
25	While LARP does contain some conservation

1 areas, virtually all of those areas fall outside the RSA. 9 Transcript Volume 8, p. 1722, l. 6-10 2 3 Now, Shell suggests that in the absence of frameworks under LARP, there are no applicable 4 5 thresholds for assessing the impacts of the 10 October 15th Submission However, that is 6 Project. 7 simply not the case. It was held in the Total Decision Report that 8 9 the threshold for significance should be 20 percent habitat loss for wildlife; but when dealing with 10 11 species at risk, any impacts are significant. $^{\rm 11~Exhibit~017-016DD}$ Now, such a precautionary approach 12 13 is necessary as species at risk are already 14 threatened by habitat loss and population declines. 15 As confirmed by Environment Canada, there risk 16 tolerance is very, very low. And one has to be 17 very conservative and precautionary when assessing risk or determining impacts to them. $^{\rm 12\ Transcript}$ 18 Volume 13, p. 3118, 1 1-10; p. 3119, 1. 6-10 19 20 Shell is aware of the Total decision when it 21 undertook its assessment, yet it decided to 22 disregard it. But if they had applied those 23 thresholds, they would have determined that there 24 would be significant adverse effects for 16 of the 13 Exhibit 017-032 2.5 assessed species.

2.5

Direction regarding thresholds is also provided by CEMA's Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Framework, or TEMF, which we've also heard a lot about during the hearing.

Now, while Shell does not take issue of the Application of some aspects of the TEMF, it argues that the Natural Range of Variability, or the NRV aspect, should not (sic) be applied on a regional scale and not to specific projects -- or, sorry, should only be applied on a regional scale and not to specific projects.

14 Transcript Volume 5, p. 317, 1. 24; p. 318, 1. 12

In short, Shell only wants to apply the TEMF when it is convenient for them to do so.

The argument that TEMF should only be applied on a regional scale was dismissed by the Panel in Total Joslyn. ^{15 Transcript Volume 5, p. 917, 1. 24; p. 918, 1. 12}
We also heard from Dr. Song with Environment Canada that the TEMF is a valuable tool but that the TEMF approach of setting management triggers at 10 percent below the NRV is not precautionary enough. ^{16 Transcript Volume 13, p. 3117, l. 1-8} If Shell had undertaken an assessment of the NRV, it likely would have concluded that the RSA level, 13 of 19 species assessed, would be more than 10 percent

1 below the Natural Range of Variability. 17 Exhibit 017-032 2 3 The Fort McMurray IRP also provides some 4 quidance regarding thresholds. It contains a 5 population target for moose which Shell failed to 6 consider in its assessment but which it later 7 admitted during cross-exam that it would not be 18 Transcript Volume 8, p. 1617, 1. 6-15 met. 8 9 While Shell takes the position that we need to wait for LARP to determine thresholds, it also 10 11 makes several references to the concept of critical 12 thresholds in support of the notion that habitat 13 loss up to the range of 70 to 90 percent is 14 acceptable and that it should be used as a guide 19 Exhibit 001-051E, p. 3-23 15 when assessing effects. 16 put it simply, relying on the concept of critical 17 thresholds is the opposite of precautionary. Mr. Wiacek with Environment Canada stated 18 19 that 70 to 90 percent thresholds is not 20 precautionary, and that thresholds can vary 21 depending on various factors, including the species 22 at issue and the study area. 23 He also stated that there is a lot of 24 uncertainty around thresholds and that habitat loss 2.5 in the range of 20 to 40 percent can cause a change

1	in a population trajectory. He also cautioned the
2	Panel in terms of how they apply such thresholds.
3	20 Transcript Volume 13, p. 3112, 1. 1-17
4	In sum, the critical threshold approach,
5	which could take a species to the brink of
6	extinction, is clearly inconsistent with CEAA and
7	SARA, both of which require precaution be taken.
8	Alternatively, if Shell's argument that no
9	threshold exists is accepted, we submit that in
10	such circumstances, the Panel should act
11	particularly cautiously in assessing the effects of
12	the Project.
13	And there's an EUB Decision 2001-33 that we
14	reference in our submission. And there, the Board
15	states:
16	
17	"The existence of regulatory
18	standards is an important element
19	in deciding whether potential
20	adverse impacts are acceptable and
21	whether a proponent has
22	satisfactorily accounted for these
23	externalities Where no
24	sanctioned thresholds exist, it is
25	especially critical that the Board

weigh the impact of potential 1 2 adverse effects on the public and 3 the efficacy of the mitigative measures designed by a proponent to 4 5 minimize these impacts to 21 Exhibit 017-016, acceptable levels." 6 p. 23 7 8 9 Determining Significance 10 Shell has also erred by disregarding the 11 impacts of the Project at the LSA level in favour 12 of an RSA level approach. And my friend discussed 13 this earlier in his submissions, but I'm going to discuss this as well because I think it's a very 14 15 important aspect of the assessments. 16 As confirmed by Shell, there is no policy or 17 legislative basis on which to take such an 18 approach. In fact, again, the Total Panel said 19 that it's unusual to use the RSA for determining 20 significance of effects and that the LSA is 21 normally used to assess effects of a Project. 22 Transcript Volume 5, p. 900, 1. 3-17 22 23 Shell attempts to pull support for an RSA 24 approach by using inappropriate analogies and by 2.5 citing documents that do not support that

1	proposition. 23 Transcript Volume 2, p. 265, 1. 16; p. 266, 1. 3;
2	Transcript Volume 5, p. 905, l. 19 to p. 906, l. 15
3	The EPEA and CEAA both indicate that there's
4	a requirement to provide a project-specific
5	assessment along with a cumulative effects
6	assessment. While the RSA is the appropriate scale
7	for a cumulative effects assessment, it is not the
8	appropriate scale for a project-specific one.
9	And Mr. Wiacek with Environment Canada summed
10	it up best when he said:
11	
12	"The issue I have is in
13	determining project effects. Shell
14	has only assessed the significance
15	of Project effects at the scale of
16	the Regional Study Area. And part
17	of the justification they give is
18	they reference the Cumulative
19	Effects Assessment Guide, which
20	deals with cumulative effects and
21	not project effects. And actually,
22	when you review that document, it
23	actually talks about the potential
24	for significance of local effects
25	and their contribution to regional

1	effects.
2	So it's our opinion that the
3	significance of project effects
4	could be evaluated at both the
5	local and regional scales to
6	provide a complete understanding of
7	what the Project effects are and
8	the appropriate mitigation measures
9	for the Project." 24 Transcript Volume 14,
10	p. 3608, 1. 2-19
11	
12	So what we have here is really an approach by
13	Shell that seems to expand the scale as far as is
14	necessary in order to make very real impacts seem
15	minor. In order to determine significance, not
16	only did Shell look at the RSA level, it expanded
17	its scope of assessment to include available trend
18	information not only within Alberta but in Canada
19	as well. ^{25 Transcript Volume 7, p. 1380-1381}
20	Such an approach is contrary to the
21	legislative requirements for conducting EAs. And
22	again, I promise I won't do much more quoting from
23	Mr. Wiacek, but he did make an interesting
24	statement:
25	

1	"And I think that
2	misrepresents how significance is
3	typically conducted or determined
4	in Environmental Assessment. The
5	scope of the Environmental
6	Assessment is the Local Study Area
7	and the Regional Study Area, but
8	this has been expanded to include
9	the provincial and the national
10	scale, which I think can be very
11	misleading in determining
12	significance." 26 Transcript Volume 14,
	p. 3605, 1. 12-20
13	
14	
15	And on that basis, Mr. Wiacek then goes on to
16	state that he is not satisfied with Shell's
17	determination of significance. 27 Transcript Volume 14,
18	p. 3606, l. 8-11
19	Shell has tried to dance around the
20	information that has been provided not only by
21	scoping out to the RSA or even the provincial or
22	national level, but also by applying completely
23	subjective tests to assess significance of effects.
24	As mentioned earlier, they apply the
25	ecological context to determining significance and

1 in the case of cumulative effects they look at 2 whether they compromise resilience of a population 3 such as that they are no longer likely to be 28 Exhibit 001-036, p. 56 self-sustaining. 4 5 Now, Shell provides no analysis in the 6 assessment to show how they assessed the ecological 7 context or determine that species are still 8 self-sustaining or resilient. Shell stated numerous times during the cross-examination that 9 they applied their professional judgment in order 10 11 to determine whether the effects were significant. 29 Transcript Volume 5, p. 896, l. 21 to p. 897, l. 23; p. 901, l. 8; 12 Transcript Volume 3, p. 380, 1. 12-14 13 14 But Mr. Wiacek stated that it is very 15 difficult to determine whether a species is 30 Transcript Volume 14, p. 3604, l. 16-23 16 self-sustaining. 17 Despite that fact, Shell was somehow able to make that determination simply by applying its 18 19 professional judgment with no documentation to 20 support it in the assessment. So in reality, Shell 21 undertook a subjective analysis that is not 22 delineated in the Application. Subjective 23 professional judgement of the Proponent that is 24 unsupported by evidence should not guide decision 2.5 making and should be disregarded by the Panel.

1 The true ecological context is an LSA and RSA 31 Transcript Volume 3, 2 that has been adversely affected. p. 371, 1. 21 to p. 373, 1. 3 Shell has admitted that the 3 4 LSA will be completely disturbed during the life of 32 Transcript 5 the Project but for a 500-metre buffer. Volume 3, p. 356, 1. 5-7 6 In fact, from Base Case to 7 Project Case, 91 percent of wetlands in the LSA 8 will be lost or altered with the majority of these 33 Exhibit 001-051F, Table 4.3-1 9 being peatlands. 10 There's also evidence that the RSA generally 11 is highly impacted and will be increasingly so as 12 approved development proceeds. For example, 13 of 19 assessed species will lose more than 20 percent 13 14 of their high value habitat within the RSA in the 15 Planned Development Case Cumulative Effects 34 Exhibit 001-063, Table 1.3-1 Assessment. And that's to 16 17 say nothing of moderate and low quality habitat which we've seen has been considered in previous 18 19 assessments. Now, these impacts are also 20 conservative as they do not include reasonably 21 foreseeable disturbances such as mandatory 22 exploration disturbances on oil sands leases. 35 Exhibit 017-016, p. 16-17 23 24 Evidence referenced during this hearing, 2.5 including the Government of Alberta Athabasca Oil

Sands Projects and Upgrader Map $^{36~\text{Exhibit 011-014}}$, the 1 ALCES III Scenario Modelling $^{37 \text{ Exhibit } 017-0160}$, the 2 Dover EIA $^{38 \text{ Exhibit } 017-024}$, the TECK EIA $^{39 \text{ Transcript Volume}}$ 3 13, p. 3124, 1. 22 to p. 3142, 1. $^{1-14}$, and TEMF 40 Exhibit 001-016BB 4 5 all provide evidence of a region that is highly 6 impacted and will be increasingly impacted as more 7 projects appear on the landscape. 8 To put it in perspective, back in 2007, the 9 TEMF concluded that we have already or will soon have species going below minus 10 percent the 10 11 Natural Range of Variability. That was five years 12 ago, before we had many of the existing and 13 approved projects that are considered in this 14 assessment. At that time, the TEMF also called for 15 immediate management action to reverse the 16 declines, which hasn't happened, so presumably the 17 declines are continuing. More recent EIAs within the RSA confirm that to be the case. For example, 18 19 the TEK analysis determined that a number of 20 species were being driven well below the lower 21 boundary of their NRV, some down as low as 40 to 41 Transcript Volume 13, p. 3142, 1. 25 to 22 50 percent below. p. 3143, 1. 14 23 24 Now, Shell has not provided information to 25 support its assertion that the RSA has the carrying

1 capacity to handle more development. Rather, 2 Environment Canada has stated that it is concerned about the level of habitat loss that Shell has 3 identified in the Cumulative Effects Assessment 4 both at their Base Case and their Planned 5 6 Development Case, and that those numbers appear to 42 Transcript Volume 14, p. 3609, 1. 13-20 7 be very high. 8 Environment Canada also stated that there have 9 already been substantial effects on habitat and that there is no evidence that there would be 10 11 surplus habitat available within the RSA. 43 Transcript Volume 14, p. 3632, l. 18 to p. 3633, l. 4 12 13 Now, this morning, Mr. Denstedt has stated that looking at effects from the Pre-Industrial 14 15 Case to the Planned Development Case should not be 16 considered by the Panel and that that assessment is 17 only useful for regional planning purposes. With all due respect, that assumption is 18 19 It ignores the fact that the Panel's ludicrous. 20 Terms of Reference specifically require a 21 cumulative effects assessment that includes a 22 Pre-Industrial Case and future foreseeable projects 23 and activities. It also ignores the duty of the 24 Panel to assess the significance of those cumulative effects. 2.5

1	The Planned Development Case Cumulative
2	Effects Assessment prepared for this Project cannot
3	simply be dismissed by the Panel, it's something
4	that should be considered on another day by another
5	decision maker.
6	It was prepared for this Project Assessment
7	in order to enable this Panel to discharge its duty
8	to assess whether the cumulative effects outlined
9	in the Planned Development Case is significant.
10	As set out in the CEAA Practitioners Guide,
11	cumulative effects assessment are done to ensure
12	the incremental effects resulting from the combined
13	influence of various actions are assessed.
14	The incremental effects may be significant
15	even though the effects of each action, when
16	independently assessed are considered
17	insignificant.
18	
19	Impacts Not Considered 44 Transcript Volume 14, p. 6313, 1. 3-19 and
20	45 Exhibit 017-016
21	Lack of Mitigation
22	Now, clearly the scenario presented in the
23	cumulative effects assessment is one where
24	incremental effects are significant, of which this
25	Project is a contributor.

1	So despite the significant impacts to
2	terrestrial resources, Shell has not proffered
3	measures that will adequately mitigate the impacts
4	of the Project on terrestrial resources. Shell is
5	relying substantially on reclamation efforts to
6	mitigate the effects of the Project. However, no
7	evidence has been presented that reclamation
8	efforts will likely be successful.
9	As stated by Mr. Wiacek during the hearing:
10	
11	"And there's also a great
12	deal of uncertainty regarding
13	reclamation in terms of whether or
14	not certain species, including
15	species at risk, will recolonize
16	some of those habitats in the
17	long-term; right now, we don't have
18	any evidence to suggest that that
19	will occur." 46 Transcript Volume 13,
20	p. 3124, 1. 18-23
21	
22	Such uncertainty exists for various
23	terrestrial resources, including old-growth
24	forests. 47 Transcript Volume 14, p. 3640, 1. 6-9 Now even
25	assuming that the species that rely on old-growth

1 forests are able to recolonize those areas after 2 reclamation, there will be a considerable time lag 3 before recolonization, basically in excess of 48 Transcript Volume 14, p. 3640, 1. 2-6 100 years. 4 5 has not provided mitigation for the species that 6 rely on that habitat in the interim, other than to 7 suggest that they can find suitable habitat 49 Transcript Volume 14, p. 3633, somewhere else in the RSA. 8 That proposal is not borne out by the 9 evidence as the RSA does not have surplus habitat 10 50 Transcript Volume 11 available to support those species. 14, p. 3632, 1. 18 to p. 3633, 1. 4 12 13 In its Opening Statements back in Fort 14 McMurray, Shell claimed that the Project will have: 15 "No unacceptable long-term environmental effects upon closure and reclamation." 51 Transcript Volume 3, 16 p. 232, 1. 9-12 17 Such a conclusion cannot possibly be drawn. For example, Shell admits that it 18 19 anticipates large decreases in wetlands given their 52 Transcript 20 current inability to be reclaimed. Volume 3, p. 265, 1. 8-11 21 22 Shell also stated that with losses of 23 wetlands come losses in high biodiversity potential 24 area, reductions in rare plants in these wetlands, and reductions in habitats for species like rusty 2.5

blackbird, horned grebe and yellow rail. 53 Transcript
Volume 3, p. 265, l. 11-15
In general, Shell admits that the reclaimed
landscape will support a lower level of
biodiversity comparative to the predevelopment
landscape. 54 Transcript Volume 13, p. 3129, 1. 5-12
Despite such losses, Shell refuses to
implement sufficient mitigation. As pointed out by
Environment Canada:
"There's insufficient
mitigation to avoid and lessen
effects on species at risk and
therefore our recommendation is for
additional mitigation." 55 Transcript
Volume 13, p. 3133, 1. 5-17
Shell has refused to include additional
mitigation in the form of compensation offsets.
Shell has refused despite the fact that there
will be losses that are irreversible, particularly
for peatlands.
Shell has refused despite the fact that
numerous species rely on such habitat including
species at risks.

1	Shell has refused despite the Federal
2	Government's request for additional mitigation and
3	its suggestion that offsets should be considered in
4	the event that effects are not avoided or
5	minimized. 56 Transcript Volume 13, p. 3150, l. 612; p. 3234, l. 1-14
6	Which we know will not be happening as planned in
7	this assessment.
8	Finally, Shell has refused despite the fact
9	that Environment Canada stated that Shell has not
10	provided enough in the way of mitigation that it
11	does not have to consider offsets. 57 Transcript
12	Volume 14, p. 3639, l. 11 to p. 3640, l. 14
13	Shell's rationale for failing to include
14	offsets as part of its mitigation is that the
15	effects won't be significant, except for woodland
16	caribou and the black-throated green warbler.
17	58 Exhibit 001-070, p. 9 So it does not get to determine
18	whether effects are significant, thereby
19	necessitating mitigation.
20	Further, such an approach would be contrary
21	to the Total decision which found that any impacts
22	on species at risk are significant.
23	Also, as required under SARA, all adverse
24	effects of species at risk should be mitigated.
25	Shell provides a similar rationale for

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refusing to avoid drawdown effects to the unique lenticular patterned fen in the northeastern corner of the LSA during construction and operation, of which 16 percent will be directly affected by mine clearing and the remaining 84 percent being affected by drawdown.

Although the fen may provide suitable habitat for several federally-listed species, including the yellow rail, Shell is refusing to avoid drawdown effects to the fen as recommended by Environment Canada because, in its opinion, it is very unlikely that resilience of yellow rail populations in the RSA has been affected.

As just outlined, such an approach is unacceptable and not supported in law. In any event, Shell has not provided sufficient evidence to support that assertion.

59 Exhibit 001-070, p. 7-8

Finally, Shell employs a circular argument to get around having to provide mitigation measures.

So it states that effects of the Project must be assessed at the RSA level. But then RSA impacts are best addressed by LARP. But there are no LARP protected areas in the LSA, maybe 2 per cent, and there are also no management frameworks in place.

The end result is that there's no mitigation of

60 Transcript Volume 8, p. 1595, l. 24 to p. 1596, l. 13 1 effects. 2 In sum, we submit that given the evidence, it 3 cannot be concluded that adequate mitigation has 4 been proffered by Shell with respect to terrestrial 5 impacts. 6 7 Conditions 8 If the Panel conclude that the Project is in 9 the public interest, we submit that approvals for the Project should not be granted until the 10 11 biodiversity and landscape management frameworks 12 are implemented. 13 Shell should also be required to develop and 14 submit a verifiable mitigation strategy for 15 compensatory offsite offsets in order to achieve a 16 Net Positive impact on habitat for species at risk 17 and other valued wildlife species. A similar mitigation plan should also be 18 19 included for wetlands and old-growth forests as a 20 condition to any approvals. And we provide details 21 of what should be included in such a plan in our 22 October 1st submissions. 23 We also ask that the Panel and participants 24 should be provided with an opportunity to review

and test the adequacy of those mitigation

2.5

1	strategies prior to granting of any approvals.
2	So, Mr. Chairman, it's only been half an
3	hour, but I'm almost halfway through. I look to
4	you for direction as to what you prefer to do.
5	THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine. Ms. Gorrie,
6	thanks for thanks everyone, in fact, for helping
7	us along with the schedule, and I was going to ask
8	if there would be any objection to starting at 8:00
9	tomorrow? I don't see anyone Oh-oh.
10	MR. PERKINS: I don't rise to object, sir.
11	I just thought I might mention this. We've juggled
12	the schedule as counsel had discussed it, and it
13	has impacts on tomorrow. Specifically, OSEC was to
14	follow Mikisew Cree and also Ms. Johnston, and I
15	wonder if it's worthwhile for counsel to discuss
16	Ms. Gorrie, in particular, jumping the queue to
17	wrap up I shouldn't say it that way to
18	complete her argument before those other parties
19	can proceed.
20	THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I was going to give
21	Ms. Gorrie the option because if she carries on,
22	then she gets a double-whammy; she has to go late
23	and then she has to start early. So, yes, if
24	counsel can work that out, that would be great.
25	So we'll start at 8 o'clock tomorrow. Have a

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good evening.
 1
 2
                    (The Hearing Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.)
 3
                   (The Hearing to Reconvene at 8:00 a.m.
 4
                    on Wednesday, November 21st, 2012)
 5
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2	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION
3	
4	I, Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A), Official
5	Realtime Reporter in the Provinces of British Columbia
6	and Alberta, Canada, do hereby certify:
7	
8	That the proceedings were taken down by me in
9	shorthand at the time and place herein set forth and
10	thereafter transcribed, and the same is a true and
11	correct and complete transcript of said proceedings to
12	the best of my skill and ability.
13	
14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
15	my name this 7th day of December, 2012.
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A)
21	Official Realtime Reporter
22	
23	
24	
25	

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#175 [1] - 3817:17 **#2331** [3] - 4029:22; 4030:4, 15 **#468** [4] - 3817:13; 3821:10; 3844:21; 4130:7

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\$1.170 [1] - 4170:19 \$10 [1] - 4051:25 **\$100,000** [1] - 4128:8 \$103 [1] - 4051:12 \$136 [1] - 4051:13 \$15_[1] - 4051:19 \$17_[1] - 3878:13 **\$177** [1] - 4047:20 \$185,000 [1] - 4170:19 **\$20,000** [1] - 4128:9 \$200 [1] - 4001:1 \$24 [1] - 4052:12 **\$241** [1] - 4045:17 \$3,750,000 [1] - 4170:20 **\$30** [1] - 4051:17 **\$40,000** [2] - 4103:17; 4105:11 **\$50** [2] - 4045:11; 4052:19 \$500 [1] - 4055:20 **\$52** [1] - 4052:2 \$54 [1] - 4051:23 **\$700,000** [2] - 4012:8; 4128:6 **\$75** [1] - 4055:22 **\$80,000** [2] - 4012:11; 4103:15

'habitat [1] - 3957:25 'some [1] - 4179:13

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0.004 [1] - 3896:12 0.04 [1] - 3902:19 0.1 [4] - 3888:25; 3896:18; 3902:18; 3972:19 0.2 [3] - 3888:25; 3896:9; 3902:10 0.3 [2] - 3902:20; 3970:14 0.4 [1] - 3979:14 **0.5** [1] - 3896:8 0.7 [1] - 3903:16 000-061 [2] - 3840:5; 4035:16 **001-001-A** [1] - 4149:4 001-001-E [1] - 4142:24 001-001A [18] - 3825:18, 22; 3827:15; 3828:4; 3830:18; 3833:17; 3836:23; 3842:13; 3882:9; 3884:25; 3902:8; 3907:10, 17; 3936:12; 3965:13; 4000:11; 4059:24 **001-001B** [16] - 3826:6, 8, 11-12, 17, 25; 3835:3, 16; 3889:20; 3891:4, 19; 3892:15; 3894:6; 3897:13; 3979:3; 3988:6 001-001C [20] - 3827:5, 23; 3828:5, 7, 14; 3829:16, 20, 22, 24; 3850:18; 3899:9; 3904:16; 3908:6, 11; 3912:20; 3924:1; 3925:14; 3926:1, 16; 4206:5 001-001E [58] - 3831:7, 9-11, 13; 3833:19; 3834:5, 7; 3836:21; 3838:12, 17-18; 3839:1, 5; 3840:10, 23; 3841:1, 6-9, 11, 13, 18; 3943:24; 3944:12, 15; 3945:22; 3946:7; 3965:23; 3970:14; 3971:11; 3999:9; 4015:11; 4016:1, 5; 4018:22; 4019:2; 4021:8, 17; 4038:13; 4043:9; 4044:17; 4045:2, 7; 4046:9, 16, 24; 4047:8; 4048:23; 4049:14, 22; 4052:21 **001-001F** [10] - 3826:6, 13; 3827:3, 5; 3889:17; 3890:3; 3892:15; 3898:19; 3899:9 001-001H [2] - 3834:2; 3969:14 **001-001J** [2] - 3838:18; 4016:5 **001-002A** [2] - 3850:1;

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