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Presentation Outline

- Background on BQCMB
- Project features of primary concern
- Issues resolved through technical review
- Summary of unresolved issues
- AREVA responses
- Remaining concerns

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An outline of our presentation is shown here.

I will present information on:

- The BQCMB, including its mandate and purpose
- Characteristics of the Kiggavik project that are of primary concern to the BQCMB
- A synopsis of significant issues that have been resolved through technical review
- A summary of the issues that were not resolved as described in our written submission
- AREVA responses to BQCMB recommendations
- The BQCMB’s remaining concerns

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Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)

- Co-management advisory board for the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds
- Collaboration between communities and governments
- Provides information and advice on caribou issues

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- The BQCMB was the first caribou **co-management board** established - more than 30 years ago.
- The BQCMB is an **advisory board** - it was **not** established through a land claim.
- The Board has **13 members**:
 - 8 from communities in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Manitoba
 - 5 from governments of Canada, NU, NWT, SK, MB
- Our staff is a **part-time Executive Director**.
Contractors assist when funding is available.

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BQCMB Mandate and Purpose

Caribou for the future!

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- The BQCMB's **mandate** is provided by its management agreement for 2012-2022, signed by 5 governments (Canada, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Saskatchewan).

Our responsibilities are outlined in the agreement and include making recommendations on “plans, processes and permit conditions for land use and human activities on the ranges”.

- The Board's primary **purpose** is to help safeguard healthy caribou herds so they will be available to people who depend on caribou economically, culturally and spiritually.
- We provide information and make **recommendations** to assist communities, governments, regional organizations, and review boards like the NIRB.
- The Board is **not** responsible for caribou management – that is the job of governments.

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Project Features of Primary Concern

- large size
- new roads
- unknown start date
- induced development
- first uranium project on tundra in Nunavut



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Features of the Kiggavik project of concern to the BQCMB include:

- its large size and complexity, with 5 mines, 3 roads and a large airstrip
- providing new access into a previously roadless area with a winter road and possibly an all-season road
- unknown mine construction start date to be determined by market conditions
- other exploration and development that will be attracted to the area and made more feasible, especially if an all-season road is developed
- first uranium project in Nunavut and in a tundra environment
- uranium and radio-activity

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Issues Resolved or Partially Addressed

New content was added in the Final EIS to:

- improve the cumulative effects assessment by using additional information
- clarify uncertainty about information available for assessment
- describe meetings with caribou range communities outside Nunavut.

The BQCMB considers that **a few issues** raised in its technical comments **were resolved** through technical review.

- The main issue addressed by AREVA was the **cumulative effects assessment**, which they improved by reviewing and learning from assessments for other mines and by conducting an **energetics model** for assessing effects on caribou.
- They described the **uncertainty** that results from a lack of information and knowledge about the caribou herds and how their project will affect caribou.
- They met with caribou range **communities outside Nunavut** and added information in the Final EIS about these meetings.

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Unresolved Issues

5) High uncertainty remains for effects on caribou mortality, movements and habitat loss.

6) Plans should include closer links between monitoring and mitigation for identifying adaptive management to protect caribou and habitat.



Photo courtesy of Gov. NWT

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Issue 5: There is a **high degree of uncertainty** in assessment of incremental effects for caribou mortality, habitat loss and caribou movements as a result of:

- reliance on information from collared caribou and
- natural variability in caribou mortality and movements.

Issue 6: A more strongly **precautionary** approach is needed for **adaptive management** that includes:

- adjustments to mitigation made over time to protect caribou and habitat
- closer links between monitoring and mitigation

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Unresolved Issues

9) An access management plan is needed for roads.

10) A new assessment using updated information will be required if the project is substantially delayed.



Photo courtesy of Gov. NWT

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Issue 9: An **access management plan** for Project roads has not been developed and the assumption that winter access roads will not increase caribou harvest has not been assessed.

Issue 10: An **extended delay in project start-up** that may result from waiting for favourable market conditions will require a **new assessment** to incorporate updated information about caribou, harvest rates and ongoing and planned exploration and development projects.

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AREVA's Responses

AREVA's responses to BQCMB recommendations do **not** reduce concerns.

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- **BQCMB remains concerned** that AREVA's responses to our recommendations do not reduce fears about:
 - cumulative and transboundary effects,
 - sustainability of caribou harvesting, and
 - an all-season road.
- AREVA's responses were generally that their commitments made either in the Final EIS or in response to GN recommendations address all BQCMB recommendations.

AREVA suggested only one term and condition in response to BQCMB's 43 recommendations.

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BQCMC Conclusions

BQCMC continues to have concerns about:

- uncertainty and significance of cumulative effects
- induced development
- government capacity
- implications of project delays

and how this will affect cumulative and transboundary effects on caribou.

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BQCMC continues to have concerns about:

- Uncertainty in conclusions
- Assessment of significance
- Cumulative effects on caribou
- Transboundary effects for caribou and caribou harvesters
- Capacity of governments to deal with demands for monitoring and mitigation resulting from induced development
- Uncertain project start date and waiting for favorable market conditions



Thank-you to the NIRB for the opportunity to present these concerns on behalf of the BQCMB.