MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS BY EACH OF

- (a) CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE LIMITED FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE YUKON TERRITORY AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, and
- (b) FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD. FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

and

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

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Berger, Commissioner)

North Star Harbour, N.W.T. March 7, 1976.

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 43

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WITNESSES: Bob CHICKSI 4138 Fred WOLKIE 4141 Jonah CARPENTER 4145 Mrs. Dolly CARPENTER 4147 Gordon ANAVIAK 4149 Andy KIMAKSANA 4149 Sandy WOLKIE 4151

North Star Harbour, N.W.T. 1 2 March 7, 1976 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT) 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and 4 gentlemen, I am Judge Berger and I am here because I 5 wanted to visit North Star Harbour to find out what you 6 7 people had to say about the proposal to build a pipeline to carry natural gas from the Arctic to 8 Southern Canada and the United States. 9 There are two companies, 10 Arctic Gas and Foothills, that want to build a pipeline, 11 and the Federal Government, the Government of Canada has 12 sent me to the north to find out what the people think 13 about the pipeline, and then to report to the government 14 and to tell them what is going to happen here if the 15 pipeline is built, and to make recommendations. Now, we 16 have been told that the pipeline would be the biggest 17 project that has ever been undertaken by private 18 enterprise anywhere in the world. There would be 6,000 19 men needed to build the pipeline, that would take three 20 years; and 1,200 more men would be needed to build the 21 22 gas plants in the Mackenzie Delta. We have been told that if the gas pipeline is built then an oil pipeline 23 will be built after that. 24 The Federal Government has asked 25 me to see what the consequences will be then if they 26 allow the gas pipeline to be built and then the oil 27 pipeline. We've been told that if you build the pipeline 28 then you will get more and more wells being drilled in 29 the delta and in the Beaufort Sea because of course when

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spell it?

you've got a pipeline, then you have to fill it with gas, and if you have an oil pipeline you have to fill it with oil. So if we go ahead and build the pipeline there will be more and m e exploration drilling in the delta and in the Beaufort Sea and if oil and gas are found in the Beaufort Sea, then we will have pipelines from the middle of the Beaufort Sea into the shore, into the delta to join up with the main trunk pipeline. So for you people that live here, this is going to be a very important thing if it occurs, and I am here to find out what you think about it and to hear what you have to say. Abe Ookpik is here to translate anything you say, so that you can speak in English or in Eskimo, whatever you want to do. just sit around here for as long as it takes for you to say whatever is on your mind. We have people here from the pipeline companies and from the oil and gas industry. They are just here to listen to what you've got to say. If you want them to say anything, or you want them to answer any questions, just tell me and we'll get them to speak up. But I am here to listen to you and they're here to listen to you too. So I think that's enough for now. (ABE OOKPIK RESUMED AS INTERPRETER) BOB CHICKSI, sworn: THE INTERPRETER: This is Bob Chicksi. THE COMMISSIONER: How do you

THE INTERPRETER: C-H-I-C-K-S-I, 1 2 Bob Chicksi asked if, you know, at the peak of construction it will be three years of heavy working in 3 this country and there will be a lot of damage and the 4 animals will somehow be chased away, and if something 5 should happen what are we going to do after that, because 6 7 we're the ones that live on this land? THE COMMISSIONER: That's one 8 of the things that I'm here to find out about, and I 9 know that you're concerned about that. We're looking 10 into it and that's why we're here. 11 This young lady here is 12 taking down what is said on tape so that we can have it 13 printed later and we'll remember what you've said. 14 didn't hear what you said, but I think that the essence 15 of what Bob Chicksi said was if you build a pipeline 16 there may be heavy work for three years but after that 17 there will be no work and people will have a hard time 18 supporting their families on the land. But you just 19 carry on, Bob. 20 By the way I should just ask 21 you if you solemnly declare that everything you say is 22 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. 23 THE WITNESS: 24 Yes. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: You can record it that he's been duly sworn. By the way, we'll 26 just do this right now. Because this is a public 27 Inquiry I have to swear you in, but just looking around 28 the room I want it understood that you all solemnly 29 declare that anything you say will be the truth, the

whole truth and nothing but the truth. Do you want to 1 2 interpret that? 3 (INTERPRETER TRANSLATES) THE COMMISSIONER: Everyone 4 has agreed to that so we won't have to go through the 5 ritual of swearing you in one at a time. 6 Do you want to add anything? 7 THE INTERPRETER: He realizes 8 that the impact will have a lot of influence on the 9 people, although they may work for a while, but the 10 reason why he's really concerned is for the future 11 generation, what will they benefit out of it and what 12 will they have in the end, because if they disturb the 13 balance of the species, whatever species, they will have 14 an unknown future to them as it is. 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: should say that one of the things that the Inquiry is 17 doing is studying what would happen to the caribou, the 18 whales, the seals, the other animals, birds and fish if 19 the pipeline -- gas pipeline were built and then an oil 20 pipeline, and if there were more and more wells drilled 21 22 in the delta and the Beaufort Sea, That's one of the 23 jobs we have to do. 24 (WITNESS ASIDE) 25 THE COMMISSIONER: We'll begin again, ladies and gentlemen, and hear from Mr. Carpenter 26 and Mr. Wolkie. I'm interested in hearing about your 27 life at North Star Harbour, because if I know something 28 about the way you're living then I will have a better 29 idea of what might happen if a pipeline were built, and 30

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the oil and gas development accelerated in the delta and the Beaufort Sea.

FRED WOLKIE, sworn:

THE INTERPRETER: Fred

Wolkie is saying that he was -- from the time he was very small he lived with his parents in this area, meaning Jim Wolkie, who is already at Tuk. reason why they stayed around here, they were about the last ones to move out to the Tuktoyaktuk area because that's where he grew up to be a trapper-hunter in this area. It was difficult for him to communicate at that time and when his parents moved over, he kept coming back, him and his brother, and they: been around here for some time now. When his parents moved into Tuktoyaktuk area he moved there with them but he always come back when it was time for trapping, because it's the only trade he knows, and he knows how to go out hunting in this area so he comes back and trap here and stay around here all winter, and in the springtime he goes back to Tuktoyaktuk, but he said that's not a good healthy idea too, because it seems like going back and forth is one of the big problems, you know, travelling back and forth this time of the year.

Sometimes, you know, we bring our provisions and we try and get as much as we can for the year, but then sometimes we run out and we try and stretch it out as much as we can, although we run short of provisions there's a lot of animals so we don't suffer from that result because there's a lot of seals in this

area especially if we go here in the fall time and we try and stretch our provisions till after trapping season.

We used to come back here because there's a lot of animals and we have no problem getting them, and we always had enough to get along with and we always had lots whenever we need it, but just recently now since they have been doing the seismic work, meaning blasting around, he notice there have been some changes and one of the things that he really recognizes is the fact that the seal doesn't normally sink in the wintertime or in September because of all the fat, but now he finds out that when he shoot a seal it sink and that's an indication that the seal hasn't had enough to eat or is not healthy enough or something. It have to have lots of fat to float.

That time when the seismic crew came in the summertime around here blasting in the waters here even then the very first summer after, they left, they found out that the seal seemed to decrease, and there were quite a few dead seals along the shore here that like drifted on the shore as a result of the blasting The result was that him and some other people from Tuk start trapping back here, all the way from Tuktoyaktuk to here, and sometimes they come here and they decided that they should form some kind of an organization where a group could come here so at least they could have a place to buy things or buy enough provisions so they would not have to go back and forth to Tuktoyaktuk, as he was telling you earlier.

It took him quite a long time 1 2 to think this thing out. He's also concerned about that offshore drilling in the Beaufort Sea because he knows 3 that water real good and the ice travels and the water 4 moves even in the summertime, and if there's anything 5 611 that shouldn't go there, he said drilling rig, 6 because he doesn't think the drilling rig don't have a 7 chance to be in that area because if the weather changed 8 or something, there will surely be some disaster. 9 He's concerned about it 10 because he's been up there in the middle of the winter, 11 meaning to say around February or January, that's when 12 the ice is its very thickest, and sometimes when the 13 water start changing or the weather, and it starts to 14 what you call, pressure up or crush against each other, 15 sometimes the ice is very thick, but when the pressure 16 17 comes and starts to rumble together, it makes a high peak of land, high mountains, like, it goes in that way 18 because he says he's seen it very many times. 19 THE COMMISSIONER: Pressure 20 ridges? 21 22 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, that's 23 what it is. I don't know what you call it, some lead 24 one ice to another, eh. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: I know what 26 you mean. 27 THE WITNESS: Some ices are 10 or 12 feet thick out there, you know, and if 28 the ice moves in that ice condition I don't think 29 any man-made steel would stand up to that pressure. 30

1	So much current, probably about ten times stronger than
2	the current in the river. It would be risky to put up a
3	rig out there because it might blowout or something.
4	and once it blow out all the sea animals would be killed
5	I don't think we should take any more chances until we
6	find out, because all the seals and animals in the sea
7	are declining, like; never used to be like that before.
8	THE COMMISSIONER: Do you take
9	any polar bears here?
10	A We got about four or
11	five lately.
12	Q Right here in North Star?
13	A Yes.
14	Q The people here.
15	A The moving ice is just
16	about ten miles from here, out in the ocean. That's
17	where we hunt the bears. MR. HORNSEY: The people here
18	have a quota of one per family.
19	THE COMMISSIONER: Maybe we
20	could have your name for the record.
21	MR. HORNSEY: Rob Hornsey.
22	THE COMMISSIONER: I should
23	say, Mr. Wolkie, that for the last two months at Inuvik
24	we've been listening to scientists who are working for
25	the Department of the Environment and the Department of
26	Fisheries, who studied what the chances of a blowout
27	would be and what would happen to the life of the
28	Beaufort Sea if a blowout did occur. So we're very
29	concerned about that, too. We've had these people who
30	have studied it come forward and tell us what they

concluded, and I'm interested in what you people think 1 because you live here and you know the sea too, maybe 2 better than some of the experts. 3 Anything you want to add at 4 this time? 5 Α About the seismic work 6 too, I don't really like it when they start dynamiting 7 in those lakes there. We get fish in them, you know, 8 and they probably have killed quite a bit because every 9 few feet they make lines on lakes and dynamite crossways 10 this way, and every square acre they must have dynamite, 11 kill quite a few fish. We really rely on these fish in 12 the lakes because that's the only source of food we get, 13 you know. That's what happened to this area one time, I 14 guess quite a while ago, but we never said nothing. 15 16 (WITNESS ASIDE) 17 18 19 JONAH CARPENTER sworn: THE INTERPRETER: Jonah 20 21 Carpenter says that the reason they are coming back here is that nobody has known this area for a long time and 22 it always has lots to offer in terms of animals, hunting 23 and so on, and the reason why there is a lot of-24 ancestors or whoever was here before at the time who 25 used to live off this land, it was very good to them. 26 Now, he said they trying to get back-here-from 27 Tuktoyaktuk with some provisions so they could have a 28 place to buy and sell, and he said it took him quite a 29

long time to plan this, but now that they're here

they're beginning to like it because it's where they know best where there's lots of animals and he knows that from the time he could remember.

He's also concerned about this place because it's got a lot of potential, it's got a lot of food in this area, a lot of animals that they require to get, because of Tuktoyaktuk, it seems like it's different here from Tuk because even the animals and fishes are completely different because he said that in Tuktoyaktuk there's been a lot of people, the Inuit have lived there for quite a long time; there's more and more white people coming in from down south, and coming in without, you know, without real concern. Then he said their plan here, the oil companies are looking for this right now so they could do exactly the same thing as they did to Tuktoyaktuk area, the animals won't be around and will be further and further away, and he's quite concerned about that.

Just because if some kind of an incident were, it would outbalance some sort of species and then he said we will suffer. He also concern that he never been to any kind of school or any kind of education or anything, what chances will they get to go in to work in industry rather than being just, you know, to make enough money so they can provide their home, they cannot be in any kind of work field because they have to have money just as much as the others. If they didn't get any kind of right jobs they just sort of don't exist, as well as they do now.

He's really, concerned about

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this because they seem. to come in here and they bring their own men in, do their own work, and they're not concerned about us. Although we don't have no education 3 that's one thing we don't have, like schooling, and that 4 would be one stroke against us and the chances of 5 getting any kind of jobs, we won't be able because we're 6 7 illiterate. We cannot make it their way, but they're sure to come here and bring their own people and we'll 8 have no opportunity to participate because there's many 9 of us who don't have any schooling whatsoever. 10 There is some people here who 11 have different ideas, different thoughts, maybe they 12 should come into this. 13 (WITNESS ASIDE) 14 THE COMMISSIONER: 15 Sure. Well, anyone else who wants to talk, please feel free to 16 17 do so. 18 19 MRS DOLLY CARPENTER sworn: THE INTERPRETER: This is 20 Dolly Carpenter. Jonah's wife. She is concerned she says 21 22 she has been raised in this area too, and she knows this place. Nobody has ever suffered before from lack of 23 animals or fur or anything when they're around, and she 24 said that seeing an impact or the people coming in from 25 down south change a great deal, she can see more of that 26 in this area than you did when she was young. At that 27 time there was many around here too. 28 29 But she said there's no way we

could stop them to come. If they want to come, they

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bring a big pack , so to speak, then we can't do nothing about it. But we are concerned about the because we want our generation who are not here to have the opportunity of what we have seen and what we know, that it was their land, and it was our land, and she think that maybe they should slow down coming up this way because it's really too fast. She think that if the people themselves, the Inuit themselves got together to really work hard that all this development should slow down, 10 it's the best thing for them because they're not in a 11 rush like the people coming in here and rushing things, 12 because this is their country, there's no need to try 13 and change it, it's their livelihood. 14 (WITNESS ASIDE) 15 16 THE COMMISSIONER: While 17 you're considering whether you want to say anything and you want to come over here, we'll throw these two guys 18 19 out of that bench. 20 (LAUGHTER) 21 22 GORDON ANAVIAK, sworn: 23 THE INTERPRETER: Gordon Anaviak is referring to Fred's statement saying that Fred 24 explained to you that ice is very thick at this time of 25 the year and when it starts to break up or starts to 26 pressure, you can't it seems you can't see anything that's 27 not rough, as far as the eye can see because the pressure 28 is coming in and the ice is very thick. He's concerned 29

about if the drilling rigs had been set up there and

had some kind of a blowout, it won't be that hard to 1 clean the top at the ice surface level, I quess, as far 2 as you could see; but he's concerned about the bottom of 3 the ice where he knows that the pressure ice works both 4 The bottom of it is very rough and if the blowout 5 comes there it will be oil caught in between those 6 pressure ice. It will be difficult to understand how can 7 they clean it out because he cannot vision that they 8 could clean it all out. 9 He's concerned about if once 10 that water is unpredictable, and the current could go any 11 direction, not only one way or back, but all go 1 in every 12 direction at certain times of the year, and if some 13 blowout should happen in the Beaufort Sea area although 14 they may have the modern type of cleaning thing it may --15 the current travels very fast in some places and it may 16 17 not be proper because by the time they catch onto it it will be quite a long ways from where the blowout is. 18 19 That's all he has to say at this time. 20 21 22 23 (WITNESS ASIDE) ANDY KIMAKSANA, sworn: 24 THE WITNESS: I'd like to talk 25 just a little speech, not too long. I think about that 26 pipeline that they're going to build up, if it happened 27 to have a blowout they're going to be harming the 28 29 animals in the sea like fish and seals and things like

that, and if the fishes and seals are harmed by the gas or oil or things like that, then they're going to come down to polar bears and there's a shortage of food and things like that, not only animals will have a shortage of food but also the people that live up here, like the natives that been living up here for many years and they don't have education and school. I think there is something that we got to really think about because we're not only talking about the pipeline, we're also talking about the people's lives.

I think the people's lives is more important than pipe line or the money and things like that. I'd rather see native peoples get all their rights they speak of or something like that. I'm very concerned about these things because there's a lot of people that are not educated and if the pipeline should come up you've got to be well-educated, like you get to know how to do some welding or things like that, driving big trucks, cats or cranes or things like that.

On the other hand it's good to see the pipeline come up but what about the people that live off the land up here? There's a lot of young people today they are willing to work, if jobs come up, like myself. I won't have too much problem of getting a job and yet in the back of my mind still yet the people that live up here, the older people are the ones that should maybe speak up and talk about their life, like at the meetings perhaps.

That's about all I've got to

1	say.
2	(WITNESS ASIDE)
3	THE COMMISSIONER: Does anyone
4	else wish to say anything?
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6	SANDY WOLKIE, sworn:
7	THE INTERPRETER: This is
8	Sandy Wolkie.
9	I don't know what really to
10	say but I will tell you something about Baillie Island
11	area because I know that land from the time I was
12	fairly young yet.
13	He is concerned bout the
14	drilling offshore maybe in the ocean, but it may be
15	disaster for sure, he thinks.
16	At one time I found out myself
17	by my own experience I was chasing a polar bear along
18	the ridges and I had to jump from one ridge to another
19	because they were like huge mountains in comparison to
20	that area, and I found out that although I got among
21	those pressure ridges, it's way out and he said he knows
22	it's very deep, but in the gouges from that pressure it
23	was bringing some mud up and he saw some earth on top of
24	the pressure ridge that he said was almost unbelievable
25	because it was in the deep water.
26	He said that if they have like
27	if they build a pipeline from the Beaufort Sea to the
28	mainland, if that type of pressurized start to build up
29	he thinks that no matter how much protection of no
30	matter how well you put it in, it will have some

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effect on the pipeline because of the ice and the gouges that it worked with, of taking mud from the bottom he said is something that we haven't studied yet.

He said that not very many, that even the scientists or whoever is studying that area he think that they haven't done enough studies or don't know enough about it because h& said when he was out there he still could -- the pressure ice was so heavy that it was just like mountains, as it were. said that's just the surface part. What about the bottom part? He said the ice, he knows that the large percentage of ice is in the bottom and he says that when he see this mud coming up from the deep water h& s really concerned I because nobody really has studied it or made any true look at it. But he saw it himself in his own experience He said that he's seen it with his own eyes and he think that if they can do that gouging way out down deep, he said there must be some pressure must be somewhere heavy or strong pressure must be somewhere in order to develop this type of mud, because of the rolling, I guess it start to build up pressure, the ice starts to build up pressure.

He saw some thickness of the ice maybe as thick as here come out of there, including when the pressure comes in, it's not just thin ice, he said it's all heavy ice.

He's concerned about it because he knows that. nobody really knows anything about that pressure ridge. It's real strange to see it, and he said he thinks if they build a pipeline anywhere in the

Beaufort Sea and this type of thing should happen to occur there's bound to be some damage or disaster within that time.

He said one time he also seen a seismic crew working out of Baillie Island and they were going out towards the ice out towards the ocean and he happened to be travelling beside them, and he was driving dogs and his dogs were alarmed by something they smelled. So he just let them go and the next thing he know they stopped and dug a place out, and a seal has a kind of a place to get up in the -- when it comes to sit on the ice, and it was dead, and he thinks that it was from the blasting or something that they chemically put in there, he doesn't really know but he thinks this probably happens quite often when they do this type of work.

If he can find some incident like that where a seal is dead on his own sitting area., there must be many incidents where they also had effect on the seals because when they blast they blast not too far apart. He's sure that the must be some others that we have not known or have not seen.

He said I remember also I followed their tracks after they've gone through, seismic crew or seismic line and they go through the lakes and they go in the lake and blast with dynamite, and he said sure enough, there's got to be some damage to the wildlife, or the fish in the lakes. He says no way you can't say they're not killing fish. Just like they do it purposely, just like as if they were doing it purposely, it seemed like they hit the best, fish lakes

that the people know from years and they do this, you know, without asking nothing they just go in there and blast away the best fish lakes.

He also has seen some strange — something strange about the caribou too, they don't follow or go near the seismic line because they go on the side of the seismic line, it seem like they were somehow they don't associate with the seismic line, the caribou, and he think maybe the caribou got frightened from the people who work in that area. He said the blasting, you could hear it a long distance, you can hear that blasting, and he said surely enough when you hear that kind of noise the caribou would never go near because he knows the caribou are not like anything else, you know, they can't go near anything like that. It's not their style. surely But he himself heard the blasting a long ways and it drives caribou away, he said.

He said that quite a while I back, he can't remember what year it was, but he knows that while they were after they'd moved to Tuktoyaktuk when he came back this is when real activity was going on in here, and he says he doesn't think the Tuk people doesn't think then, and he think that many people knew about this exploration going on here because they weren't in this area at that time, and he found out when he came back in this area. If they continue to explore this area with exploration he said that I'm concerned about the animals, the ones that are really suffering would be the ones that are out in the ocean, because

the seals are very sensitive to noise and they will probably 1 continue to kill some more. If they allow them to do that 2 he says he doesn't know what's the future for them. 3 Probably you people don't know 4 but I know a seal are very curious animal, even you go 5 out in a boat they go around the boat, you know, being 6 something strange to them and they go and take a look at 7 it to see what it's there for. He knows not just one 8 seal, but many seals, sometimes they're attracted to a 9 boat, come around and see what it's all about. 10 they're blasting and this type of thing, surely, he 11 said, there must be some killed right there. 12 It was just a couple of years 13 ago where they had some incidents where Frank Broderick 14 has a supply ship that supplies all the communities in 15 the Western Arctic District, and he was travelling and 16 he saw seven dead seals in one place while the seismic 17 was going. He said not only that, he said it's not just 18 a coincidence, but he said there must be some others are 19 not recorded or that haven't been seen when the blasting 20 goes on like that, they kill the seals. (WITNESS ASIDE) 21 22 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. 23 Does anyone else wish to say anything? Perhaps you can just tell me how many 24 25 families are here, how many people are here altogether? 26 27 MR. CHICKSI: How many 28 families are here? About 18 people here. 29 THE COMMISSIONER: Let me say that it's been helpful to me to be here to listen to

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what you had to say. You're the people that live here and it's your future that we ought to be most concerned The job I have is to talk to the people who live here in the north and then to tell the government what I think will happen if they build a pipeline and if oil and gas exploration development expands all over the delta and into the Beaufort Sea, and after I've been to see the rest of the people who live here in the north, I'll make my report to the government. That will be later in the year. When I do that you will, I'm sure, hear all about it. All these people with me, because the broadcast is from the C.B.C., you know, broadcasts to all the people of the north each night in English and the native languages about what has been said at the Inquiry, and some of these people came from Southern Canada to tell people who live in the big cities in Southern Canada what is going on up here and what you think about the pipeline, and what it will bring, I So I want to thank Bob Chicksi and his wife for letting us use their house for this meeting, and thank them for the coffee and the bannock. I think I should wish you people here in North tar Harbour the best of luck with your progress here. We'll adjourn the meeting then and thank you all very much for coming. (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO MARCH 8, 1976)

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