Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Review of the 2016-17 Annual Report and 2017-2021 Corporate Plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation Iqaluit, Nunavut September 28, 2018

Members Present:

Tony Akoak
Joelie Kaernerk
Mila Kamingoak
Adam Lightstone
John Main, Chair
Simeon Mikkungwak
Margaret Nakashuk
Patterk Netser
Emiliano Qirngnuq
Paul Quassa
Allan Rumbolt
Cathy Towtongie, Co-Chair

Staff Members:

Alex Baldwin Stephen Innuksuk

Interpreters:

Andrew Dialla Mary Nashook Philip Paneak Blandina Tulugarjuk

Witnesses:

Bruno Pereira, President of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

>>Committee commenced at 9:05

Chairman (Mr. Main): Good morning, everyone. (interpretation) Good morning. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order, the Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

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Mr. Mikkungwak, do you mind leading us in a prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. We will begin where we left off yesterday. However, before we ask further questions, Mr. Pereira, you were going to provide more information on questions that were asked yesterday. I now give you the opportunity to do so. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity. I do have some answers and I'll list the ones that we are going to come back to the Committee at a later time with some additional information.

Before I do the follow-ups, I need to correct something that I said yesterday and I want to apologize to Mr. Quassa. When he asked about the audit committee, I had indicated that it was part of our proposal that eventually turned into Bill 12. Originally it was part of the proposal. Unfortunately it was removed from the next step of the process and it is not part of what will come to the legislature as Bill 12. It is part of our bylaws that the board has enacted. Our committee is entrenched in that way. Additionally, the audit committee is the central committee that deals on all budget issues and interacts with the OAG on all matters associated from audits to follow-ups. I wanted to apologize for that piece of misinformation and I can expand on that when it... You're right, Mr. Chairman.

Going back to the list, there were a number of items, so I would like to go through them. The first one I will address is the staff housing costs. We have been increasing our rates by 6 percent per year to match the GN staffing costs. If the GN housing costs were

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not going to change, we would have been caught up by approximately 2020. However, it's my understanding that the GN is reviewing their costs, so that may throw off the timing somewhat, but our intent is to reach the same level.

The board information regarding mandates, we will supply that information to the Committee on the follow-up.

The number of casuals in Baker Lake and Iqaluit are the 5 casuals in Baker Lake and 14 in Iqaluit.

I did touch on the apprenticeships yesterday, so the two apprenticeship positions we have, they have graduated.

In terms of the retention rate, I did mention it was around 12 percent. It is 12.09 percent. The length of service, as I mentioned yesterday, for employees at the QEC is seven years, eight months.

There was a question about how many employees are currently in staff housing. We have 110 employees in staff housing.

The other item was on what rate public agencies pay in terms of commercial or government rates. If it's an individual renting through the NHC as an example, they pay the residential rates. If it's the institution, it reverts to the government rates regardless of which government institution it is that is holding the account.

In terms of the HR policies, there are quite a few of them. What we are doing is we are going to go through and summarize which ones we are adhering to and which ones we might be doing something a bit different. If we don't have an HR policy on an issue, by default we adhere to the GN policy. Some of the changes, for example, may be as a result

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of contractual agreements with the union that may result in slightly different provisions.

I mentioned yesterday the medical travel. We have specific language in our collective agreement which makes that policy a little different than what the GN has in their program or policy. As I said, we will submit that list for the Committee's review. There are over 100 policies, so it will take a while for us to get through the entire list and give you some meaningful feedback.

Mr. Chairman, I would be more than happy to expand on this or answer any questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira, for clarifying what was discussed yesterday and for providing some information. Thank you. If my colleagues have additional questions to the follow-up statements, I will leave it up to them to ask. That's for your information. Following the names on my list from yesterday, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning and good morning, Mr. Pereira.

I would like to continue on my lines of questioning last night regarding residual heat. Yesterday you had identified that the corporation charges rates on a case-by-case basis and that you basically charge whatever the facility was using in heating fuel, less a 10 to 15 percent discount.

I was curious: what are the common practices of the other territories and specifically isolated communities that use diesel powered generators that have connected to district heating systems? How much do they charge customers for their residual heat? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. I'm going to start off by addressing the first parts about the individual customers. I think I may have phrased that badly yesterday, so I would like to correct what I meant by that.

Everybody that buys heating costs during the heating season will pay the same amount for the heating fuel. We use that as a basis for setting the district heating costs so that everybody will pay the same on a per-unit basis, much like you would pay so many dollars per litre. We convert that into so much per unit of heat, so everybody pays the same amount based on the cost of the fuel. We are looking at exactly what the percentage is to make it worthwhile for everybody. I mentioned it's 10 to 15 percent and that's the typical range that it has been historically.

Just to clarify, the district heating system, when we generate electricity, most of the energy and the diesel that is used to generate electricity are actually lost through heat. We get only a fraction of the energy. We try to capture and use the heat in some of the institutional buildings because we don't have to burn additional fuel to generate that heat, so it's a positive move.

In terms of the other territories, the Northwest Territories at one time had some district heating, but it did not work for them. They do not have that system in place, is my understanding. It's based on anecdotal conversations. By that I mean that it wasn't an official discussion about that but just a brief discussion about district heating. For whatever reason, it became a system that couldn't be sustained there. We found it to work quite well, again, when we look at the conditions and how we install it, which is

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utilizing some federal funding to support the installation.

In terms of other areas that have district heating, the ones that I am aware of tend to be in the larger metropolitan areas, large urban centres, and they have a rate structure which is not tied directly to heating oil but maybe is tied to the cost of the prime source of the heat. In Europe, as an example, you have heard of different countries that have natural sources of heat. In that case it's a matter of being able to tap into the heat and what's the cost of generating that heat.

Some North American cities, I'm thinking of Toronto as an example, have district heating. I think they supplement their heat with gas, so that would play a factor into how much the per-unit cost of the heat would be. It varies by a few factors, including what provides the initial energy source. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira. To remind you, perhaps you should try to keep your responses brief. I believe that it would be better because we have a lot to cover today and there are many questions that will be posed. You should try to keep your responses brief, not too brief but just briefer because we have limited time. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to continue on the topic of the residual heat. I am aware that the Northwest Territories has some communities that take advantage of residual heat and as well as independent power producers, such as the Snowshoe Inn in the Northwest Territories. I was curious if, by chance, you might know how much they charge their customers for the residual heat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr.

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Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of the rates they charge, but I am aware that they rely heavily on biomass to generate that heat. I'm aware of one remote community, and I apologize for not touching on that in my original answer, that is doing that, again, relying on biomass. In terms of the rate, I am not aware of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will change the topic. I'll leave the residual heat for now.

My next question is going to be on the financial statements in the 2016-17 annual report and specifically page 33 of the Management Statement where it states that "Management is responsible for the integrity, consistency and reliability of all such information presented" and that these "Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards," and then later it states that "In discharging its responsibility for financial reporting, management maintains and relies on financial and management control systems and practices which are designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized. assets are safeguarded and controlled and proper records are maintained."

For several years the Auditor General of Canada has provided a qualified opinion, which is not good. It states that "I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion." The basis for this opinion is that "Canadian public sector accounting standards require inventories for

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use to be reported as a non-financial asset when acquired and recognized as an expense when used. Management has not implemented reliable count procedures and appropriate procedures to account for the usage of its spare parts and lubricants inventories, and I was not able to satisfy myself concerning these inventory quantities."

The Auditor General has been stating this for a number of years. It has provided a qualified opinion to the QEC's audited financial statements. My question is: what specific actions has the QEC taken to address concerns of the Auditor General of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. (interpretation ends) Just to make it more in layman's terms, I believe the problems were with inventory of your spare parts and how you track lubricant inventories, if I recall correctly. As much as you can in layman's terms, Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to keep it short.

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The issue is exactly as you have identified, but to phrase it a little bit differently, we have inventories of spare parts in all of the communities. As part of our requirements under the reporting guidelines, we have an accurate count of the spare parts in every community. That involves tracking of what comes into the communities on annual sealifts and what has been used during the course of the year. The qualification indicates that that wasn't done as effectively as it should be. It wasn't providing the comfort level that the Auditor General required to say, "Yes, we are comfortable with the processes you are following."

We have been working very hard on this.

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Starting with last summer and concluding this summer, we have gone to every community and in many of those trips, the Auditor General has sent representatives and we have sent our own internal auditor to go through the process of counting, reviewing the processes, and ensuring that the numbers and our process are moving in the right direction. As of today, we have done that in all of the communities. The next step in that process, the two next steps are to ensure that it's maintained on a go-forward basis. It's not good enough that counted once; you have to be able to show that you're able to maintain that process in a number of years going forward. The other part is effectively tracking what's coming in so that you have a starting balance at the beginning of the fiscal year.

We think we're in a good place, but because the Auditor General requires a couple of years to assure themselves that the processes are entrenched, we're probably looking at 2020 or thereabouts at the discretion of the Auditor General before they remove that qualification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that it's only the inventory of the spare parts that have been of concern of the Auditor General.

Looking at note 10 in the financial statements on page 46, Inventories for use, there's a total of \$12.7 million worth of inventory of spare parts. I'm curious how accurate that figure is. What were the results of the community visits? Was there an adjustment to this figure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: In terms of the counts, we have gone to the communities and we have done the counts. Because we are now looking at the inventory in detail, we believe there will be an adjustment coming down in the medium term in this context: there are parts that are no longer standard and would no longer be used in our plants. They're old parts that we have maintained through the years. We are going through and doing an evaluation so that we know what's there. The next step is an evaluation of whether everything that is there is going to be used for our system or needs to be recognized as obsolete and written off. That's part of the next step that we're undertaking. There will be a write-off to some degree; we're not sure how much at this stage since we haven't completed that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question on the spare parts inventory is: can you give us an example of what type of items would be included in a typical community's inventory of spare parts and why it has been so difficult to maintain or track that inventory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the communities you would have items such as transformers. We all see them in the gray boxes up on the poles. We have those in the communities. We will have poles, wires, connectors, miscellaneous pieces of equipment to deal with the gensets in the communities, those kinds of items that support our technical operations within the community.

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The next part of the question, why has it been so hard to maintain? I believe the answer to that is that we had a process and although it was in place, it wasn't rigorously followed and adhered to. Unfortunately the nature of balances is that if you start sliding and you don't have the information, it compounds itself over the years and it becomes progressively worse.

What we are doing is we are going back and reinforcing and introducing new processes with new checks both at the plants and in our finance department to make sure that we are capturing information on a timely basis and, if there are any discrepancies, we follow up and reconcile them. Really it's making sure we have effective processes in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Mr. Lightstone, you're done? Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I say "good morning" to the people of Nunavut and Mr. Pereira, good morning.

One of my colleagues asked this question previously regarding the letter from the Auditor General. I have another question about that. Now, the Qulliq Energy Corporation will eventually correct these issues by 2020. Do you have capacity issues or lack of staff that can take care of that? Are any positions vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. The counts that happen in inventories happen in all the communities. They all have inventories and we look to the

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plant superintendents and operators to keep track of the counts. What happens in that process is that as lines and other trades staff come in, they take pieces and often there's an urgent need to repair something, etcetera, so the driving need is to get the work done. The paperwork in the past seems to just get in the way of getting the work done. It's reinforcing the need to do that paperwork, that administrative part of the processes. I think we are fine with the staff. As I said earlier, now that we have processes back to speed, it's just making sure we track everything on a go-forward basis until the Auditor General is willing to remove the qualification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you very much for the response. We're dealing with their work now. I'll ask some questions about the letter from the Qulliq Energy Corporation. All the communities in Nunavut have power poles near the roads. Last year or the year before I think there were three communities that had their street lights replaced. My first question is: looking at this, are they using the HPS 100 lights in most of the communities, and how many communities are now using the LED 90 street lights? That is my first question on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the street lighting on the poles, we have been trying to convert from traditional street lights to the LED street lights. For example, we have just completed this year work in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Kugluktuk, and Iqaluit. Those communities

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have had the street lights replaced from the traditional to the LED, which saves some energy. One of the big savings with those installations is really to do with the maintenance so that we don't have to replace them over and over. Their lifespan is much longer.

The way we have done that is that we received funding from INAC. We continue to try to get the funding from the federal government to fund the changing out of as many lights as we can in Nunavut. That has been the way we have approached this and that is how we have done it in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. That is easy enough to understand. You submit a proposal to the federal government and get their assistance with funding.

My next question is regarding the four communities that you mentioned that have been completed. For example, Baker Lake is one of the most affected communities when it comes to forced growth due to mining, and Pond Inlet will also obviously be affected by that as well. We're getting concerned about oil and its effects on the environment. Have you submitted any proposals to update the power lines? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you. I'll break it into two parts. We are always looking for new funds to change out the lights and, as I said, try to do every community. It's dependent on what we receive from the federal government in part.

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When a community is growing, we also look to what we're installing initially. We reach out to the community and we propose to install the LED lights as a part of the expansion. The reason we do that is that it is actually the developer that pays for the extension of the power lines. We reach out to them and the community to make sure we're on the same page about where we're going to be installing as a part of that growth. We're trying to do that very consistently as part of our communication.

I acknowledge we may have not been as successful in some of the projects, but our intent is to have those dialogues as we move forward and try to move towards the LED light with developers and communities' support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Looking at these numbers, the LED 90 lights in all the communities in Nunavut cost the least. Are you going to be dealing with all the communities? Have you made proposals to the federal government for all the communities? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: We make proposals when we have opportunities to make to the government. Realistically we get greater support for these projects as we reach towards the end of the fiscal year and the federal government is in a better position to allocate the funds that have not been used under other programs. That seems to be how we've had success in the year. For example, we have been approached on a few occasions as we get into the last quarter of the fiscal

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year about potential funds for some of the projects historically. It's not always true, but that has happened and supported one or two of these projects.

In terms of applying proactively, we are looking to apply proactively as part of existing programs to enable us to do this in all the communities. Again, we've had varying successes in terms of funding those kinds of projects. We don't have any funding in place right now for any of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will explain my questions because what I saw, for example, is that Baker Lake got new street lights. The newer ones don't produce as much emissions and in my mind, they are using less fuel. If the power pole street lights are renewed, you will be using less money. I know my community is really growing because of the mining. It seems like they would be using less money on fuel. My question now is, as my colleague questioned about (interpretation ends) residual heat, (interpretation) it's a new program. If you're going to utilize it, what are your plans for the future? Do you write to other government departments to install new pipes? Have you planned for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Let me remind you that we will be discussing capital items later today. At this time I give you the opportunity, Mr. Pereira, if you would like to respond to that.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in terms of the district heating system, we reach out to the federal government and we submit proposals for expanding the

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district heating system. Our intent is to continue to do that and we plan to submit additional applications to expand the systems into different parts of Nunavut. Obviously the announcement for the two communities came out a couple of weeks ago that there was federal funding there. We haven't stopped. We're pursuing additional possibilities in terms of funding for the district heating system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Mikkungwak, I'll allow you one more question, then we're going to move on to the next person. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll clarify my earlier question. It affects expenses when electricity rates increase. All Nunavummiut are affected and that's why I'm asking the question.

I'll ask my last question in English. (interpretation ends) In its recent report to the government on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's general rate application, the Utility Rates Review Council made a number of recommendations concerning various financial management matters. What specific actions is the Qulliq Energy Corporation taking to address these recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The most significant recommendations that were made in terms of financial accounting were that the URRC had made a recommendation for us to introduce regulatory accounting practices. Now, we have said that we are not in a position to do that and the reason is we

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have been quite clearly directed by the Government of Nunavut to follow public sector accounting practices. We did have a discussion and we did follow up about that directive. After discussion with the URRC, we recognized that that directive was the one that the QEC needed to adhere to. That was addressed and we're on the same page, meaning the URRC and the QEC and also the Government of Nunavut.

There were some other items such as what costs were included in the rate base and we accepted those recommendations from the URRC. I believe that there are no outstanding issues in terms of adopting or not adopting. There may be some reporting items that we need to follow up on, but in terms of the financial matters, those have all been reconciled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Are you done? You are done. (interpretation ends) Just to follow up on my colleague's questioning on the street lights, if you look at your average sodium light and the energy usage and then the new LED light of the same wattage, how many years would it take for an LED light to pay for itself in terms of the energy savings? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can expect a 20 to 30 percent savings on an LED light. If you do the math, 20 to 30 percent and depending on the cost of the LED light.... I don't recall the actual cost of the unit; I would have to look it up. However, as I mentioned earlier, the savings is not just on the energy component; it's on the fact that they have a much longer lifespan. Instead of our crews having to go back and replace the lights every four years, etcetera, we can go ten years or longer. There is a cycle of savings in terms of having to go back and replace them and procure new ones.

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I know the analysis has been done in the past. Unfortunately I just don't have it in front me. If you would like, Mr. Chairman, I would be more than happy to follow up and to provide you that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yes, that would be an interesting discussion to follow up on. (interpretation) Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I would like to ask about is on section 16.3 of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Terms and Conditions of Service with respect to arrears. "Where accounts are not paid by a Customer within 7 days after the accounts become payable the Corporation may issue a 48-hour notice of disconnection of service..." My question is: as of today, what is the total amount of arrears owing to the QEC by residential and other customers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just for clarification, I believe you are referring to the terms and conditions of service, which the QEC just updated effective May 1 of this year. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As was just stated, if a customer becomes in arrears, so if they're seven days past, we provide a 48-hour notice before we would disconnect. In terms of that process, when we get to the position where somebody is in arrears, ideally we would like to collect the entire outstanding amount, but we recognize that there may be some difficulties in doing that. We will enter into agreements in terms of payment plans so that the customer is able to manage the bill and we do that on many occasions.

Beyond that, as you may know, we have

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some options, but one of the things we do not do is we do not disconnect customers in the winter. We install a device called a load limiter which limits how much power they can take. They can use, perhaps, their fridge, but not the fridge, the TV, and the stove, as an example. During the summer we will disconnect based on the account if there are no partial payments or if we can't resolve the issue in some other manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira. (interpretation ends) I believe my colleague was asking: is there a threshold beyond which you would start cutting people off or applying a limiter? Is there an amount like if your account goes past \$10,000, is that when people get cut off or what is the number? Is there a number? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: My apologies. I obviously misunderstood. We don't use the amount. We use the time of the bill, how far back are you in arrears, and that is simply because different customers have different usages. There is not a fixed amount. It's depending on the timing of the bill and how long it has been outstanding that we enter into that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, what is the total amount of arrears owing to the QEC by residual and customers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: There was a reference to "residual," so if we're talking about residual heat or the district heating, there are no outstanding amounts there. Oh, I'm sorry.

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In terms of residential, our current outstanding is approximately \$8 million, but what happens is there is a billing cycle there. The first 30 days, the majority of that money is captured there and then it's paid off, and then as you go into future months, we cover that and it goes down to substantially less.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, the current outstanding, as I said, for 30 days, the amount is about \$3.7 million. There is a decrease in that amount. Now, there is a cycle. I recognize those numbers sound some large, but there is a cycle in terms of sending out the invoices and collecting the rates. We do have a process of collection that, for example, if the rates become uncollectable, we use a third party to try to facilitate that collection. The \$8 million I referred to was for 120 days plus, so the outstanding amount has been outstanding for greater than 120 days. There are different amounts depending on which time period you are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm sure there will be more questions in this area. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow up on Ms. Towtongie's questions with a few of my own.

You said that you had \$3.7 million that were over 30 days. How much of this money is actually considered bad debt and you don't think you will ever collect it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer that, I would like to please correct the numbers or give a bit more information about the numbers so that I'm not inadvertently providing inaccurate

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The current outstanding is approximately \$7.6 million. That means the current bills that are being sent out. Over 30 days it's about \$3.7 million. Over 60 days it's approximately \$1.4 million. Over 90 days it's approximately \$960,000. Over 120 days it's approximately \$8.8 million. I just want to put those numbers out there because I'm saying different numbers in different time frames and those are all separate amounts.

In terms of how many of them are uncollectable, we are collecting on all of those and some of them we are in active negotiation with the various groups. For example, some of the communities, some of the hamlets and individual account holders, we are actively pursuing those customers and trying to reconcile and collect on those accounts. As I mentioned, we are also engaging in a third party collections group that is also working on these.

If we at some point deem those numbers as uncollectable, they become expensed as part of our annual reconciliation of outstanding accounts. These are not expensed. They have not been expensed, so they're all active accounts that we're trying to pursue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any arrears for commercial and industrial customers? I believe the figures you mentioned were for residential. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Those are all the arrears; they're not just residential. There are some of those and in fact we have entered into some agreements with those customers for a payment schedule as an example. Yes, those are included in those numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for these numbers. It's interesting information.

I wonder if he can take us through a typical billing cycle from the time you read the meters to the time you issue the invoice to the point where you expect to have payment to the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. Typically we would bill for the current month next month. You consume the energy. Our meter readers go to the different accounts and read the meter, so they read what you have already consumed. The bills are prepared and sent out. They would be sent out typically towards the beginning of the calendar month. Let's say, by October 10 we like to send out all the bills, and then the customer has a period to pay. I'll confirm the actual date. Around, let's say, 15 days. I'll confirm that number in which the payment is due. If we don't receive the payment within seven days, we will start reaching out to the customer trying to arrange for a payment. As we talked earlier, we provide a 48-hour notice if the customer does not pay, and then we proceed to the next step as described earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The key part of my question was the amount of time it took from the time you issued the invoice to the time where you expected to get payment. I don't think you gave me that information or you don't have it. The reason

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Chairman: Thank you. Thank you for mentioning other communities, not just Sanikiluaq, in your question because I believe that's an issue in Arviat as well and perhaps all across Nunavut. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you. I can't comment on that. I will give you the specific gap between when we issue the bill and when we expect it, and I will provide information today, not this morning but this afternoon. In terms of the mailing and the time constraints, we have recognized that has been an issue. One of the things we are trying to do is we're trying to get as many people as we can on preapproved billing, but we are looking at the mailing time frames that are required to get to the communities and individual customers. We have had that discussion with customers in the past. That is something we're working on and I acknowledge that that has been something that we have not resolved as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a question; more of a comment. The reason I talk about the bills getting to our community at the due date or past the due date is once the due date comes, the power corporation has a different amount

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Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Pereira.

I would like to come back to a question that I asked yesterday if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. It's in regard to the finance and audit committee. You did respond to it, but could you give us a date as to when the audit committee will be established? Can we expect that it will be established (interpretation ends) in the life of this legislature? (interpretation) Perhaps I'll say it that way.

In 2014 the Standing Committee indicated that they would like to see an audit committee established. It's now 2018. Can we expect to have this committee established during the life of this legislature or if there's going to be a (interpretation ends) legislative proposal (interpretation) coming in? You made reference to it, but I would like more details on it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. My apologies. I probably inadvertently didn't convey the right information. The audit committee has been up and running for a number of years now in terms of what's

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happening at the board level. I apologize for not making that clear. That committee has been in place well before my arrival at the QEC. It's a core committee. It addresses all of the budgets and interactions with the Auditor General as an example. As an interesting note, they have also established an internal auditing function to help them with their function. The committee is up and running. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It indicates here that it should be established by way of an Act, but that doesn't seem like it has happened. We will be expecting a legislative proposal to be submitted with respect to that committee.

Again, I will move on to another subject and I will be speaking in English. (interpretation ends) In its recent report to the government on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's general rate application, the Utility Rates Review Council made a number of recommendations concerning various financial management matters. What specific actions is the Qulliq Energy Corporation taking to address these recommendations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The most significant from our perspective for financial accounting actions was the recommendation to adopt regulatory accounting practices. We have been directed by the Government of Nunavut to use public sector accounting. After receiving that recommendation, we did have a bit of a discussion with the URRC and we have agreed that that is the way that we need to

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proceed. They recognize that the Government of Nunavut has a right to direct us in which way we follow our accounting practices, so that is no longer an issue. We're on the same page.

Some other items we have accepted, such as what went into our rate base, they have asked us to provide some follow-up reporting and we have agreed to do that. I believe that unless there is a specific concern, which I would be happy to address, I believe we are on the same page now with the URRC and we have agreement on how we are proceeding forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your proper response. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2016-17 Annual Report includes a copy of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's report on the corporation's financial statements. The report also indicates that the office provided a qualified audit opinion because of concerns related to the corporation's accounting for the usage of spare parts and lubricants inventories. What specific actions has the Qulliq Energy Corporation taken to address the concerns of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. This was brought up earlier, but Mr. Pereira, perhaps you would like to add to it. You indicated that your staff went to all the communities regarding this issue. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff has gone to all the communities. I will add a bit more information.

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Our own internal auditor has been working on the process as well and keeping check on the progress. Management is working on it. We've had the Auditor General involved in the revised processes and we have our own internal auditor reporting to the board on how much progress we're making as well.

We are in a good position. We just have to demonstrate that the annual counts are working well, as we had indicated we are working towards, and then once the Auditor General has that confidence level, they will remove the qualification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. Moving on to a different topic, I'll make a short preamble. As Nunavummiut, we probably are the most wired in Canada. We have the most wires in Canada, I believe. If you go anywhere, you see wires all over the place. I believe there is no other choice, but when you go to the other communities outside of Nunavut, you don't see any wires hanging around even though the lights are still on. We envy them. When I go to Greenland, they don't have poles with wires even though the lights are on. That's what we noticed.

In the distant future, have you ever considered or is it on the radar of the QEC whether they can put the wires underground? For those of us who have visited Greenland, ላ^LL ው ው ር ^C ^b dd 4 U ^C 1

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we have seen that. Did the QEC ever consider installing wires that are not hanging from the poles? Perhaps the president can answer that, but I'm looking at this as a long-term solution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. It's a very good question. We have talked about this in the past and what's stopping us from doing that is that it's significantly more expensive to bury the wires than to put up poles. What I mean by that is that we would have to dig up the roads and bury the wires. It wouldn't be wires at that stage; it would be cables, which are also more expensive. The reason we haven't pursued that is that because we do have the highest electricity rates in Canada, we want to try to avoid anything that pushes the rates higher. That's one of the primary reasons for us not having gone in that direction. Really, the whole reason why that option has not been pursued is because of the costs to customers. It certainly is aesthetically, I know a number of people would prefer the better view. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you finished? Yes. Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning.

If you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, I would like to send my condolences to my family in Kugluktuk. We just lost another great lady to cancer and I am sending my condolences to my family in Kugluktuk.

My line of questioning will be along the lines of customer accounts also. I am asking: do you work with another corporation? I think the housing corporation is your biggest

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customer anyways. Do you work with them? I had to work with an elder a year ago and the house was under his name, but the bills were going to a younger fellow in that same building. The elder had to end up getting a disconnection notice and he didn't know why. My first question is: do you work with the other corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. We recently had a discussion with the housing corporation to confirm our agreement with them. The reason we had the discussion was to avoid situations such as you indicated. Our agreement is that in those situations where Nunavut Housing tenants are in a position where they may be cut off, we go to Nunavut Housing and they have the option of assuming the accounts. Depending on the circumstance, they will take over the accounts and work with the tenants as a way of resolving the issue. Yes, we try to work with them on those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also when we talk about arrears, we have people who do not go and pay for their bill, but they do get the money from Family Services to pay the bill. They do not end up bringing it to the QEC office. Is there any way that you can work with Family Services also to say that you could bill the housing association and get the money that way instead of getting it through the tenant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. I

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believe that happens in other jurisdictions and I think it's an excellent suggestion. We haven't done it, but I think it's an excellent suggestion to follow up on and I will ask my staff to have that discussion to see if it's something that's possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. If I recall correctly, there were similar issues with the housing corporation. I believe they have taken or they're on their way to making changes in terms of it used to be required that income support recipients physically delivered a cheque over to the local housing association. I think that they have moved to change that. A similar solution for the QEC might be in everybody's best interest. (interpretation) Member Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good morning. (interpretation) First of all, I would like to extend my appreciation for the QEC. In 2016 my fellow Coral Harbour resident was taking the Nursing Program here and I would like to thank the QEC for the scholarship they provided to Mavis Ell. We're very proud of her and she's our nurse in Coral Harbour. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, when it was the NCPC and it was managed by the federal government, I worked there for 13 years. I'm proud of the staff for visiting the communities out of honest sincerity. I taught myself how to fix the broken wires. I would fix the wires without telling my bosses. That's what I used to do in the past, but now it's totally different according to my knowledge.

I would like to follow up on my colleague's question in regard to the (interpretation ends) LED lights. (interpretation) They say that these LED lights cost less than the old street lights and there are cost savings for the

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municipalities. Did it lower the price or did it cost less for the hamlet councils? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: The answer is yes. What we do is when we put in street lights, we look at what kind of street lights go in and then we bill based on the types of street lights. As we go through and we change out the lights, we revisit the accounts to reflect what street lights are there. That's a fairly typical process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last winter I passed through Rankin Inlet during the cold winter months. The street lights were flickering and that's what I noticed. Maybe it was due to the cold weather causing them not to light up properly compared to the old street lights. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that. I wasn't aware of the new flickering street lights. I will follow up and ask that question. One of the things is if we put out new equipment, we like to get that kind of feedback to see if there are any issues we have to resolve. Unfortunately I can't comment on that because I don't have the information, but I will follow up and talk to our technical staff to see if there have been issues with the street lights and I will reply to the Committee on that matter.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The QEC is always looking for

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cost-effective ways to produce power, such as wind turbines. Is it okay to ask a question regarding that? Thank you. The QEC has stated that they're always looking for cost-saving measures, such as installing LED lights. We usually talk about wind turbines, and I read an article from the Northwest Territories which stated that they would like to do testing in Rankin Inlet with wind turbines. I believe I have a bit of an understanding, but when they use wind turbines, are there less greenhouse gas emissions? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. In terms of the emissions, if we have wind turbines or for that matter, if we have solar, in terms of when we're generating electricity, there are no CO2 emissions simply because we're not burning the diesel fuel. The real issue is the cost, the economics of installing those pieces of equipment. To keep it brief, and I'm willing to answer questions on that, the answer about the emissions, there are no emissions if we introduce or install wind or solar, but there is the cost consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. I do anticipate we will get into quite a good discussion on alternative energy later today. Mr. Netser, do you want to follow up? Go ahead.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we get into alternative energy, then I will follow up with more questions. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) That's all for now.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you. Just before we break, Mr. Lightstone.

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I just wanted to follow up on Mr. Rumbolt's questions regarding accounts receivable and the billing cycle. In the 2016-17 financial statements on page 36, the Statement of Financial Position identifies accounts receivable to be at \$33 million. When I look at note 3, which it references on page 44, it has a breakdown of those accounts receivables and for trade receivables, there's a total of \$39 million, and when I remove the related party, the Government of Nunavut and territorial corporations, and other related parties of \$16 million, that leaves \$23 million worth of trade receivables from either residential or commercial customers. That is considerably different than the \$7.6 million that you had previously indicated.

My first question is: with regard to these trade receivables and the breakdown of the age receivable, would the OEC commit to providing more information in this note to show the breakdown of the age receivable so we don't have to wait every four years to get this information so that we can access to it on an annual basis? As you had indicated, you would provide us a breakdown of the residential and commercial age receivable by dates and the total allowance for doubtful accounts that were associated with it, but it would be beneficial if that information was included in the financial statements and was made public annually. That's my first question, if that information would be provided going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Thank you for the question. The financial statements serve a particular purpose and they try to capture the story of the corporation. We prepare the annual financial statements in cooperation with the OAG. They actually review and approve our annual report before we release it.

In terms of the content of all of the details associated with the underlying numbers, we typically don't get to very granular levels or very detailed levels on some items. I probably can't commit to doing that at this stage. I would have to go back and talk about if it's appropriate for an annual report or not. That's not to say we're not willing to share information. That's a separate thing altogether. At this time I can't commit to putting it in the annual report. I can commit to sharing it in some other format that the Committee may want to see. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll take that language, "I can commit" to mean "I will commit." Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Pereira. It would be great if you could look into that and let us know if that is possible. With regard to information included in the financial statements, it's up to the management how much information is disclosed and some entities provide more information than others that choose not to. Considering that the corporation is trying to be as transparent as possible, I think it would be great if that was included.

Another thing I wanted to point with regard to note 3, accounts receivable, was last year the gross trade receivable owing was \$41 million and the allowance for doubtful accounts was \$5 million. As of March 31, 2017 the gross was \$39 million, which is a reduction, but the allowance for doubtful

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accounts was \$6.5 million, which increased. It's great that the receivables have reduced, but I'm kind of curious why the allowance for doubtful accounts had increased at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. We have put a renewed focus on the collections. If we look at what we're trying to do as we're dedicating staff to managing the collections, we have brought in the third party collection agency to help us out and our goal is to bring down the receivables and minimize those amounts that we expense. We're still working through that process and we see that fluctuation. In our annual report we're just going through that process.

What we're hoping to see going forward is that there is an improvement in both of those areas, both the outstanding receivables and the amounts we expense. Unfortunately the situation is different for different customers and in many instances we have to deal with specifics and so that influences if the amount is \$5 million one year or \$6.5 million, but we are trying to put in a process to manage that and that's the direction we're heading in. We're not fully there yet, but this is becoming...not becoming, it is actually a very important issue for us.

You as a Committee Member brought it up today and we've had similar discussions with other parties, including our board members. In fact as I go to CAC, the Central Accountability Committee, this is one of the items we are talking about. I am saying that because it's becoming an increasingly more important issue for us and we're trying to put a process in place to effectively deal with this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone, I'll

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Δ⁶/«ΡC⁶ (Ͻ^ίλΡηͿ⁶): ⁶σ⁶ Γ⁶. Γ⁶C - Δ⁶/² - Δ⁶/⁶, allow you one more question before we break. Go ahead, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, if we had the breakdown of the age receivable and the associated allowance for doubtful accounts with it, I wouldn't have to ask these questions.

My next question is going to be with the issue that Mr. Main and Mr. Rumbolt brought up and that's the length of time it takes for the bills to be mailed out to communities. Earlier yesterday I had mentioned that the QEC is leading the way with electronic billing and of course you had mentioned pre-approved billing, but I was curious considering that the QEC has staff in every single community. Why are these bills being mailed out from Baker Lake and why are they not being printed out in each community and delivered to the post office there by hand? That's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. One of the things we do is we do print some of the bills here in Iqaluit as well, so they're not all printed in Baker Lake. In terms of some of the smaller communities, we don't have administrative staff in some of those communities. I know I'm stating the obvious. We have our plant operators and superintendents. We don't have the staff in place to print those out at each community.

To your point, we agree that we have to look at the timing of those bills and the whole cycle. Hopefully that addresses your concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira, just to clarify something you mentioned earlier, you mentioned a third party collection agency.

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Mr. Pereira: All of our customer service, we would like to deliver in...not like to deliver. My apologies. We deliver it in Inuktitut in English. In terms of the collection agency, I will confirm, I will follow up and get back to the Committee today with the information about the languages they use to collect.

I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. Was there another component to the question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just what company is it? Where are they based? Just a bit more information in terms of the collection agency would be appreciated. Thank you for committing to provide that to us today.

At this point in the morning we will be taking a 10-minute break and when we come back, we will be moving on to environmental liabilities. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 10:28 and resumed at 10:49

Chairman (interpretation): We're now back. The witness would like to add to some questions that were asked. I now give you the floor, Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like first to expand on the collection cycle very briefly. Our cycle is that we mail out our bills typically on the tenth of the month, for example, on the tenth of September and that would be for the previous month's consumption, so we have completed the meter reading, and then the bills are typically due at the end of the calendar

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month. If it wasn't a Sunday, it would be September 30 and then the late charges will apply after that time frame.

The second part is I would like to go back to the collection agency. It's the Metropolitan Credit Adjusters Ltd. They're based in Edmonton and they only provide service in English, so that is something that I will be following up and looking at in hopes of getting us to provide that service in English and Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. If I understand correctly, it gives you about a 20-day window for those bills to arrive on the customer's doorstep and then for them to go and make a payment. In the case of Nunavut's far-flung communities and the sporadic nature of mail service, I think that's a problematic area. I can speak from personal experience receiving power bills and they're usually past the payable date by the time I open my mail. That's just an anecdotal comment. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to go back to human resources. In your report, you said that you would be using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* like *Pilimmaksainiq*, skills development, and you stated that Inuit will be a priority in hiring. That's great to hear. I would like to first ask if it's okay with the Chairman. I want to stay with the themes, but I would like to go back to this.

With the QEC, you do training. How much do you use *Pilimmaksainiq*? I'll be using examples. When you send out bills to the communities, it takes a long time for them to arrive and then they finally arrive after the due date. Once they open the letter, they get a call from the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Meanwhile they just got the bill.

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I'm still on training and doing things properly. Once you send a bill, it's in Inuktitut, English, and French. In Hall Beach the community runs in Inuktitut. The person would get a call from the Qulliq Energy Corporation stating that the bill has to be paid and if the bill isn't paid, the power will be cut off. Is this part of your training programs where they're taught to care of their clients properly? Do you use Inuit traditions at all at the QEC?

Sometimes the bills are confusing. I'll use this as an example and you can see it. How do you include *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in Qulliq Energy Corporation training programs? The people of Nunavut are not really well aware of what the QEC is doing. You stated that you would be looking more at the Inuit way and hiring more Inuit. How do you promote this in your workplace? I'll stop here for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for the question. We're still growing as an organization, but I'll give one example of how we are progressing in that direction.

Our vice-president, Jamie Flaherty, is the head of a committee that was just being launched recently, an IQ committee for the QEC. They are currently developing terms of references and are looking at ways to incorporate Inuit societal values, IQ, into the business practices that we are adhering to. Similarly our human resources committee at the board level has recently become the human resources and IQ committee. Granted, we still need to do more work in that area. We are putting those groups in place so that we can focus on those issues and make sure that we are being responsive to the values and to our customers, to all Nunavummiut.

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In terms of the training for the customers, that's a difficult one, meaning that we do try to follow up and collect as quickly as we can on the bills while trying to incorporate the Inuit societal values and being effectively communicating with our customers. I don't think we have that down perfectly yet, but we are hoping to get better at that part of it. Part of it is those two committees that I just discussed, one management, one board, both led by Inuit leaders in the organization, and we're hoping to make progress in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, another good example is I think I can train you to say "good morning," to say "ullaakkut." I'm training you already. You train electricians and provide training on lighting systems. This touches on our culture, especially in the wintertime. They're probably concerned that they're going to be disconnected and *Qanuqtuurniq* (being innovative and resourceful) is something that you consider. Even though it's part of our culture, please put that out more. I'm done in this area.

When it comes to environmental issues, now that we're here, I don't know about any other community other than mine when it comes to environmental stewardship. It's contained within your report. How can it be beneficial to the communities? If there was an oil spill, who is responsible for the costs? Do you use environmental stewardship too? I hope I'm clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a point of clarification, would you like me to

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Kaernerk, a clarification, please.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. I suddenly moved to the environment area. We were in arrears or payables. Looking at this, you know Hall Beach is a small community and it's one of the more expensive places. The Utility Rates Review Council.... There are not very many homeowners in my community and their payables are more than housing tenants. Can you put out there how homeowners can be provided more assistance?

When the invoice comes in, correct me if I'm wrong, the housing association tenants who are unemployed are provided income support assistance by the government. How can homeowners be provided assistance, especially in the dead of winter in January? If they're going to be disconnected, what do they do? How can you provide assistance if they are going to be disconnected? How can they do partial payments? What are your procedures for the homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start with the last part first, which is the partial payments. If we do enter into agreements with customers in terms of partial payments, we will not disconnect. We will also not disconnect during the winter season, which is October to the end of March. We do use load limiters which limit the amount of power that is able to be drawn by the customer.

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In terms of financial subsidies, I discussed the Government of Nunavut's subsidy that is applied to all residential bills so that it brings it down to about 28 cents, the same rate that is paid in Iqaluit. We also have followed up in terms of if there are additional subsidies, and there are subsidies that are available from the GN for customers that are having issues with the utility bills. Family Services has some programs in place. Beyond that, I'm not sure if there are any other services that are offered by the GN.

One of the struggles we have is to balance the need to collect and the need to be responsive to our customers. It's a continuous struggle, but I believe your questions were about the subsidies and those are the ones that I'm aware of. You have to apply for the family services to get that support, is my understanding, while the GN is automatically included in the bill. I think I'm just stating the obvious there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to confuse the issue; I'm just using examples. I'm trying to ask about the increase in the rates. I don't know how I am this morning.

I'll backtrack to this issue on environmental stewardship. Page 48 of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2016-17 Annual Report states that "The Corporation has identified 25 sites where the concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons and other pollutants in the soil exceeds environmental standards." You're probably taking care of environmental stewardship. You're trying to use hydrocarbons properly. How has the Qulliq Energy Corporation dealt with this? Do you go to the site right away to investigate how

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big the spill is and how long it's going to take to remediate the site? These are the types of issues.

If we look at approximately \$38 million that is being considered, how is it recognized through financial means before you are taken to court when it comes to a legal matter? If we're going to move forward in environmental stewardship and when you're going to be spending quite a large sum of money, as of today, how many active remediation projects are underway? When you say that you're going to spend this amount of money in your 2016-17 report, you identified 25 sites. What's the status of that today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to talk about any environment issues in the context of what we inherited from the Canadian Power Corporation through the Northwest Territories. Those are legacy issues. This is what the \$38 million is referring to, so whatever we have inherited as part of the progression from Canada to the Northwest Territories to Nunavut. We've had extensive discussions with the GN on this issue and they have taken the lead on this file in addressing it with Canada.

Both the GN's and our position is that when there's a legal requirement to remediate or when there's a human health risk identified, we will remediate. In terms of the other existing areas which are covered by the \$38 million, that file is pending with the GN and Canada. The last place that we have actually actively done some remediation was in Baker Lake. We just finished off expanding the land farm over the last couple of weeks in September. I'll leave that there.

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I know I have covered a number of things there and I will be more than happy to expand on all of those based on your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I wanted to comment on that. For those of us in the smaller communities, our power plants, not the lights but our power plants are aging. When it comes to environmental issues for aging power plants, it might become problematic. When it comes to environmental stewardship and aging power plants, my last question will be: what are your plans for the short term when you're going to be spending capital funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll end there for now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. Regarding the power plants, we are currently rebuilding two of them, Grise Fiord and Cape Dorset. After we finish rebuilding those power plants, we have 11 left that are at or nearing the end of their useful lifecycle. We actually have developed a plan for replacing those plants.

We are taking advantage of the Arctic Energy Fund to replace as many plants as we

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can with that fund between now and 2027. The actual completion of the Arctic Energy Fund time frame is 2028, but we are looking at completing the work in advance. We have seven plants scheduled to be done under that plan plus some gensets within plants.

Depending on the price that we get from our contractors, we're hoping to be able to do more than seven plants, towards the 11. That's our short term. Well, it's 2027, so it's not a short-term plan; it's a longer term plan and I can expand on that if you would like. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was a little startled, representing Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, with the lifespan of the power plants. The power plant in Rankin Inlet was built in 1973 and the lifespan is at zero now. That's for the diesel generator. The plant in Chesterfield Inlet was built in 1995 and it had a lifespan of one year. I'm reading a Senate report, *Powering Canada's Territories*.

I'm also reading the 2016-17 plans for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. There are 25 contaminated sites that have been identified. If there are 25 contaminated sites, being as there are 28 communities in Nunavut, just about every community has concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons and other pollutants in the soil. The power plants were established when we were still part of the Northwest Territories.

My question is: in the environmental law, does it say how that can be enforced? The law states there should be cleanup of the site. The QEC's own rules don't cover that. However, page 48 of the corporation's

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annual report states that "In the fall of 2016, the Corporation received a draft Environmental Protection Compliance Order from Environment Canada related to contraventions of regulations for Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products that the Corporation's facilities in Cambridge Bay. The Corporation has been given until December 2017 to complete the requested corrective measures." My first question is: as 2017 was last year, what specific actions did the Qulliq Energy Corporation take to address this issue?

My next question is regarding the 24 contaminated sites in the communities. My next question is whether you also received an environmental protection compliance order from Environment Canada for those communities. How many communities have the most contamination and how many communities have the least contamination? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. (interpretation ends) Mr. Pereira, if you could just respond to the second part of her question. The first part of her question was regarding capital and the age of the gensets in different.... We do want to talk about that, but it will be after this section. If you could focus on the environmental portion of her question, please. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the remediation, something else that we received dollars on, we haven't received orders on the remediation. What happens in some of our communities, the pipes to transport the diesel fuel were single-walled pipes, only one wall with the pipes. When installed, they were fine in terms of the compliance, but the new requirement is that we have double-walled pipes. Literally that means that it's a pipe within a pipe so that if there is an issue with the inner wall, it will

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not cause an environmental issue in the community.

We received a number of orders. We have completed the work in all of the communities except for Kugluktuk and the reason the work has not been completed there is that Kugluktuk is the next plant that is going to be rebuilt. When we rebuild that plant, we're actually going to move that plant by the tank farm from the current location. We're waiting to do that so we don't have to spend.... I believe the estimate for that underground pipe replacement will be about \$3.5 million to \$3.6 million. We're going to do the corrective action as part of constructing the new plant.

The work for Kugluktuk is scheduled to begin in this coming fiscal year, 2019. We don't have any outstanding remediation orders that we have not started on or completed and this will be the last one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Perhaps I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that answer. The long-standing position of the Oullig Energy Corporation and the Government of Canada has been that it is the responsibility of the federal government, Canada, to fund environmental cleanups because all these environmental catastrophes, I can say that, contamination occurred at a time when the federal government was responsible for power generation infrastructure. I'm wondering: as of today, what is the status between the Qulliq Energy Corporation, as to discussions, the Government of Nunavut and the federal government on this issue?

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My concern is, coming from Rankin Inlet, I talked about the remaining life of our diesel. There used to be a mine and right behind the storage tank, there are tailings ponds. Every spring, big white foam starts to show up in the pond. Right across that tailings pond is the health centre. I'm curious as to this environmental contamination. I realize it was before the time of Nunavut, but how much liability is the Government of Canada willing to take? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of years ago it was decided that the Government of Nunavut would take the lead on this file, in part because their issue is larger than the issue that the QEC faces on this very same issue. It was decided that they would pursue any further action with the Government of Canada. I can't comment on more that stands. Unfortunately I have not been briefed on where that file stands currently with the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to touch up on a subject that was brought up earlier by my colleague. Backtracking a bit before I get to my question, my colleague said that the people we represent should be informed and some are unilingual Inuktitut speakers and only read Inuktitut. When it comes to billing, some Inuit don't read English and it is important to make sure that are our constituents in Nunavut are informed about their bills.

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Looking at the letter that I'm referring to, I only read Inuktitut material. I can read in English, but I prefer to read in Inuktitut. Reading the correspondence that I'm referring to, some of it doesn't make any sense. This is just one long sentence without breaks to take a breath and I can't understand it. It doesn't make any sense and it is one very long sentence that goes right to the end. I do not want to see that kind of Inuktitut correspondence being sent out to your customers.

If you're going to be producing reports or sending any correspondence to any community, make sure that the Inuktitut is proofread and checked for accuracy. There are no spaces, commas, or periods. We have to make sure that we consider the elders and properly represent our constituents. That is the first comment I want to make. I do not want to see gibberish being sent out in Inuktitut. The English is fine; it's the Inuktitut that doesn't make sense. They are run-on sentences with no stops. That is my first comment, Mr. Chairman.

I'll let him decide whether or not he would like to respond to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the comment and the opportunity to respond, Mr. Chairman. I would like to offer my apologies for the state of the correspondence. Obviously we recognize our responsibility to communicate effectively in Inuktitut. I will go back to the QEC and I will put a renewed focus on this. Again, my apologies. It is our intent to communicate as effectively as we can with all of our communities and customers, and I certainly understand your concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make reference to another subject that was brought up earlier regarding environmental remediation issues.

We're very pleased that my other constituency community has received a new power plant. We call them "the giant engines" which are used to produce electricity. I think the one in Qikiqtarjuaq is one of the oldest plants in Nunavut and it is right in the middle of the community. It was built in 1936 and we now have a new one, which I'm very pleased about, but the site is one of the most contaminated. A study was done and it is quite a large contaminated site right in the middle of the community.

These power plants were first established by the Northwest Territories and the old power plant sites are severely contaminated. My constituency community is well known and they indicated that the contaminants have gone quite deep into the ground. When we're looking at remediation, would we be informed as to the prioritized communities to be cleaned up and when? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll break it down into two; what's in the annual report, the total amount. What is covered by that \$38 million in the annual report, as I mentioned earlier, the Government of Nunavut has the file and is responsible for any further action with the Government of Canada.

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Qikiqtarjuaq, we have had extensive discussions with the hamlet about how we're proceeding with the decommissioning of that plant. We have a regulatory obligation to go through that process within two years of decommissioning. That file is almost closed, as are follow-up discussions with the community SAO and mayor. We have done that to ensure that we close the loop with the community.

When we decommission a plant, we look at cleaning up the plant itself, keeping in mind that the remediation we talked about in the annual report can stretch outside of where the plant is actually located. For example, for our budget to decommission these plants, it's around approximately \$250,000 for each plant. We go in and we do as much as we can when we decommission those plants and we do that at every site. The only exception is if the hamlet comes to us, and it has happened on a number of occasions, and asks for that land with the building on it, in which case we would fully disclose what's happening on that land so they're aware before anything happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you finished? (interpretation ends) I'll take the opportunity to ask for a bit of a clarification. My colleague was asking about a particular community, but generally, based on what is in your financial statements, page 48 of the 2016-17 annual report, right at the bottom it says, "Going forward, an environmental liability provision for the remediation of any of these sites will be recognized if it is determined that public health is at risk." What does the monitoring program that is used look like in terms of making sure that public health is not at risk at any given time? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. For example, we have done testing at every

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community, looking at the levels of hydrocarbons and looking at whether any of the levels cross the threshold into a health concern. There was a hot spot in Baker Lake, which we discussed fully with the community. We engaged the hamlet council. We had taken a number of steps to address the issue, with the latest one being this land farm that was just completed, as I said, within the last couple of weeks.

To be clear, the rest of the communities in terms of the rest of the plants, there are no locations where we are planning to do additional work simply because those levels have not crossed over into the human health risk category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for clarifying that. I'll try not to be hypothetical here. When a community comes to you, it could be a community member, it could be the hamlet council, or a concerned community member, and says, "There may be a risk to public health here because of this contaminated site," does that automatically mean that a human health risk assessment will be conducted? What actions would be taken to follow up on a community concern in terms of public health in contaminated sites? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have agreed internally that the process we will follow is that if there are any of these kinds of issues raised by communities, we will address them. If the tests in the past, if we think they're still timely and that we will bring them to.... In the case of Baker Lake, we reached out to the hamlet council and we came in, we brought our consultant, and we sent our director of health and safety and our vice-president to have a discussion about this issue.

We think this is a significant topic. If a

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community or an individual had a concern, we would treat it in the same manner. If it was a council, we would put in as much resources as required to addressing the issue, discussing the testing we have done, establishing whether we needed to do new testing. Because all the testing has been fairly recent, we believe we are fairly current, but we would go that extra step to reconfirm that just to make sure that the communities have a level... As I said, I think this is a significant issue and we want to make sure the communities see us to be doing what we need to do to provide information that will inform the discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. In particular I'm concerned about the amount of contamination in the community of Whale Cove. Based on your document here, which is the QEC Inventory of Contaminated Sites Inherited from the NCPC, it says here that "The contamination in this area extends off site in all directions." It also says that the total in the core area of Whale Cove that is contaminated is 21,000 cubic metres. Looking at the other communities, as far as I can see, that's one of the largest sites in the entire territory that has been identified. It's unfortunate, particularly in such a small community.

The reason I'm concerned about is it's in the core area of Whale Cove. There are homes in that area and there's a hotel. There's a community freezer. It's very concerning. The last thing I'll add about it is that the area that they're referring to also floods regularly. In terms of flooding, this flooding extends onto residential properties. I'm not an environmental expert, but if you have a contaminated area and then there's water coming off of there and it's going all over the place right onto people's lots, right up to their front steps in some cases, it's

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concerning. They were doing some work in that area with the road and you could smell the diesel. That's very concerning.

In terms of determining if public health is at risk in this case, what is needed to trigger a human health risk assessment for that site in particular? I would just like to understand that more. Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have some records of the last assessment. As I had mentioned before, if yourself or one of the other community members came to this council, we would review the records we have; we would enter into discussions then in terms of what are the next steps. If the community was not comfortable with the information that we were presenting, we would engage in a discussion with them about do we need to bring in environmental assessment experts to revisit the site and do testing to make sure that that comfort level is there or the information is there and then based on those results, we would go to the next step. We are open to having those discussions and as I said, spoken with, I have used Baker Lake as an example, and we were willing to have that same discussion and provide the same information with any other community, including Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you for clarifying that because I think it's important that community members be provided with a way to express their concerns and to have a dialogue with the QEC about these contaminated sites. I can anticipate several Members inquiring further about this outside of this Committee. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. I'm just concerned. On page 48 of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2016-17 Annual Report, "the

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Corporation received a draft Environmental Protection Compliance Order from Environment Canada," and it's talking about contraventions for storage tank systems. From what I understand, it's not legally compliant; it can't be legally complied to. This was happening in Cambridge Bay and "The Corporation has been given until December 2017 to complete the requested corrective measures."

One, what specific actions did the QEC take to address this issue and what happens to other communities that have not received a compliance for an environmental protection compliance order? What happens to those communities? Are they just left stranded? Does the QEC go in? What happens in that case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. (interpretation) This was already discussed with respect to Kugluktuk. Mr. Pereira already talked about it. Maybe you would like to add to your comments, Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll add a bit of information. When we receive compliance orders, if we don't meet the timelines, we are subject to fines from the regulator. We work very closely with the regulator to make sure we meet and comply with the orders. In terms of the specific work that was taken in Cambridge Bay, I will follow up with the Committee and give you a breakdown of the work that we completed.

In terms of the other communities, if there are any issues that don't meet regulations, it's when we have the compliance orders. Quite honestly, if something is happening that we know, we address them ourselves. In the other communities there aren't outstanding compliance orders right now other than what we talked about earlier. If there are no compliance orders, there's

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nothing for us to have to resolve in that context, in that regulatory framework. I'm willing to expand on that if that didn't make sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you. I'm not sure if this was asked earlier, but when it was the NCPC at the time the federal government had the responsibility for power or energy and when Nunavut became a territory, the Nunavut government took on the responsibility for the power or energy. When it was the NCPC, they were not taking care of the environment when it was the federal government's responsibility.

There were some spills on the ground and the Qulliq Energy Corporation took on that responsibility. I know that it's very hard and difficult to clean the environment or to remediate the environment. Did the federal government provide some kind of assistance to remediate the environment? I'm not sure if this was asked earlier because I didn't hear the response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. In terms of the QEC's plants, I am not aware of any federal assistance being given for any of the locations. I believe that's in part why the GN is taking this file because, as I may have suggested earlier as well, we're actually the smaller issue compared to the greater environmental issue that the GN is dealing with. They have much more potential liabilities on the books. My understanding is that no, the federal government has not contributed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr.

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Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I say it in my other language. Back in the federal days when the NCPC was the distributor for power distribution, there was a lot of fuel spillage and there was no real environmental monitoring back then. When we turned Nunavut, the OEC was born and adopted all the NCPC issues. I know it's going to cost us millions of dollars to clean up the environment caused by the NCPC then. I know that they're talking with the federal government in terms of assessing dollars to clean up the environment. Have they come on page in terms of helping with the cleanup? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. (interpretation ends) Just to add to my colleague's question, there was a standing committee of the Senate that came out last year and it did recommend that the federal government take responsibility for these legacy costs. It's a bit of a head-scratcher in terms of why they wouldn't own up to pay for cleaning up the mess. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I am aware, I don't believe there's a lot of activity on the file in the context of the ongoing dialogue between Nunavut and the federal government, meaning that it's actively being met and discussed. That's my knowledge and I stand to be corrected on that, but I'm not aware of any of those activities happening right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't know how we could make some activity happen in that. If you look at the amount listed, \$38 million or \$40 million, in terms of the federal government, I think that's probably a

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rounding error in terms of the amounts of money that slosh around within our federal government. It's frustrating for Nunavummiut. I think not only have we inherited a huge infrastructure deficit; we have also inherited these contaminated sites, and so it would be interesting to see how we could make things happen there.

Moving on, I have no further names under environmental liabilities, so the next thematic area for discussion this morning is the Affordable Energy Fund and the Qulliq Fuel Corporation. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm holding before me the response from the QEC on the.... One second. My apologies. I'm holding in my hand the QEC Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts' Report on the Review of the 2012-13 Annual Report and the 2014-18 Corporate Plan for the QEC. It says the response to the previous time the QEC has appeared before the Standing Committee. I understand that Mr. Pereira wasn't the witness at the time, but I'm hoping he will be able to answer my questions.

On November 1, 2007 the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an affordable energy fund came into force. Under this legislation, the purpose of the Affordable Energy Fund is to "hold money appropriated to it in order, directly or indirectly, to subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable."

Before I go into your response, my first question is: as of today, how much money is currently in the government's Affordable Energy Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr.

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Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I think it's an important question, so you will pardon me if I do actually stretch this answer out a little bit.

Although the Affordable Energy Fund is listed under the QEC Act, it's not intended for the QEC to be managing that fund. I apologize if I can't answer too many questions in this area simply because this is a GN Department of Finance issue where they would be able to provide some more details.

Specifically to your answer regarding the Affordable Energy Fund, my understanding is that there are currently no amounts in that fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Well, it certainly sounds like a worthwhile fund. It would make power cheaper. It's interesting looking at it historically. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. Going back to the response to the 2014 televised hearing, one of the Committee's recommendations, as I mentioned, was that the government should clarify the responsibility for the administration of the Affordable Energy Fund.

Its formal response to the Standing Committee of the QEC indicated that the government has "questioned whether such a Fund is allowed under the *Financial Administration Act...*" and that "Finance plans to work with QEC...to remove this reference" from the QEC's Energy Act. My first question is: why has this amendment not been introduced to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, as you are aware, the QEC Act is currently being revised and will be before the legislature certainly by the winter sitting. Part of the discussion was surrounding removing that provision from the Act. After discussion with the GN, it was decided to leave the reference to the fund in the Act in case it became applicable at some point in the future. The discussion in terms of whose position it was, it was really the GN's position that going forward there may be some application to that fund. The OEC's position is that we thought that because there was no activity in that fund, it may be reasonable to have it removed from the Act, but it is not going through as part of this revision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. My understanding of this fund and its purpose to make affordable energy more accessible and assist the territory in moving in that direction is a meaningful purpose. Although there's some sort of confusion over who owns the fund, who should be contributing to the fund, and how the funds in the fund should be used, I personally disagree with the idea of removing the fund. I was kind of curious why "the Comptroller General has questioned whether such a Fund is allowed under the Financial Administration Act..." and why they would want to remove it from the QEC's Act.

Currently the Government of Nunavut has a number of funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Legislative Assembly fund to IUT, the Liquor Commission, PPD. Δ ە**ሃ୧ኦር**ና**ኑ**: L'a. Γ ኒር >ሊ \triangleright ና.

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There are several different funds, so each has their own specific purpose. An alternative energy fund definitely would be necessary to assist us in moving forward. My question is: why is the Department of Finance and the Government of Nunavut disagreeing with the purpose of the fund and saying that it sort of conflicts with the FAA? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. It may be difficult for Mr. Pereira to respond to that. It sounds like a question that would be best directed to the Department of Finance, but Mr. Pereira, if you would like to respond.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to echo what you have just indicated and I would prefer not to speak on behalf of the Department of Finance, so I respectfully ask that perhaps they be asked that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Lightstone, any further questions?

Mr. Lightstone: Yes, I will definitely bring that question up to the appropriate Minister. In the meantime, if the Alternative Energy Fund were to remain and eventually were to receive funds, what would the QEC's plans be to use or distribute those funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That's jumping ahead a little bit, but Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: The Affordable Energy Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As with the other subsidies that we have with the residential rates, what we do, we being the QEC, is we provide information about the rates, who is paying them, and how the different communities are impacted by subsidies. We would provide that same kind of information.

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In terms of deciding how it would be applied, all of the subsidies currently are decided upon by the Government of Nunavut. I believe that's probably the way this would go. I don't believe we would be in a position to make that decision. However, we haven't gone through that process and this is only speculation at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me again. In Rankin Inlet an event made the news about a pilot project to provide wind power generation and how to reduce power rates through the private sector. It was reported that the company was identified as Northern Energy Capital and I am very concerned about that.

In other arctic lands like Greenland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Alaska, there are solutions that actually work in the Arctic and reduce power rates with poles and street lights. My question is: have you looked at equipment that is used in other arctic nations these days?

Further, I would like to say that there was a wind study in Rankin Inlet and there was a big, white propeller that blew away and fell apart. Canada seems to be just trying these things out and Canada has \$1.4 billion available to the provinces and territories, which is a lot of money. I'm very concerned that businesses from outside of Nunavut are going to be using that money for their own benefit and not really benefiting the communities. They're just using us to learn how to use wind energy.

Do you know of any other businesses or organizations that are looking into other far-

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Again we're jumping ahead, but I can sense that the Committee really does want to discuss alternative energy. Mr. Pereira, we're just about to break for lunch, but please go ahead and respond to that.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing that the Committee is just about to break at lunch, I'll keep my answer at this time short, but I'm willing to expand on any of this when we do return.

We are aware of the failure in Rankin Inlet with the windmill, I believe, if you're referring to the one that happened many years ago. I think it was a case that the technology wasn't right for the Arctic at that time and it wasn't the only one. There was another community that experienced the same thing. I have read that report and it was clearly one of those projects where there wasn't a lot of support even from the Northwest power corporation. It was, "Let's put this up there." As soon as there was a maintenance issue, it all started to fall apart. The approach would be significantly different today.

To keep my comments brief and again I'm willing to expand, we are looking at options for the north and we believe that there are options for the north. You just have to be diligent about the technology, particularly with the one that you're selecting, that it's appropriate for the north whereas something like a solar installation is more forgiving because there are no moving parts, that there are no blades that are turning. Whenever things are turning, as you can imagine, it causes greater grief, particularly in the arctic environment.

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Mr. Chairman, I know that was very brief. As I said, I'm more than willing to expand on that in more detail and hopefully that suffices for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. This is a very interesting area for discussion.

At this point I will recognize the clock and we will break for lunch, but when we do come back from lunch, we will jump right into alternative energy and deal with that thematic area, and then from there, the remaining thematic areas are debt, capital, contracting, and perhaps some further discussions regarding the Qulliq Fuel Corporation. Thank you and I'll see you after lunch. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 12:00 and resumed at 13:31

Chairman (interpretation): Good day. (interpretation ends) Welcome back, Committee Members and Mr. Pereira, as the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts continues its televised hearing on the annual report and corporate plan of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As you recall, Members, (interpretation) before lunch break I said that we were going to start the thematic area of alternative energy. Before questions are asked, Mr. Pereira wants to elaborate further on what was discussed this morning. The floor is now open. (interpretation ends) Mr. Pereira, please proceed.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I do have a response to a couple of the outstanding items, so I thought I would present them to the Committee.

First, the flicker in Rankin Inlet, I did follow

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up with my technical staff and they are aware of the issue. It's isolated to some of the lights that have come into the community, so it's not an environmental issue; it's to do with the production. Our staff is speaking with the manufacturer in hopes of resolving the issue shortly. We are aware and we are following up.

In terms of the payback periods for when we moved to LEDs, we estimate it's approximately five years for the payback period.

I have been able to get some additional information on those two items and hopefully that addresses the questions that were asked about them. I can expand, though, if needed. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Committee Members, we had ended off on the contaminated sites portion and we proceeded this morning into the section regarding the Affordable Energy Fund and the Qulliq Fuel Corporation, but now I'll open the floor for questions on alternative energy. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon. (interpretation) What you're going to be presenting to the federal government on the cost of living increase for fuel, cups, coffee, tea, and sugar, the carbon tax that will be introduced by the federal government will be a rather large amount and Nunavummiut will be paying for it. It's slated for alternative energy. Does the Qulliq Energy Corporation have any plans for the increase in costs? Have you planned for that happening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. As it pertains to alternative energy and the cost of electricity, we are exploring all of the possible options. In fact we're in the middle of finalizing a report. I have a draft version here, the alternative energy report that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is preparing. We have presented a draft to our board this week. Our plan is to publish that once we are able to present it to our Minister and we would like to present it as an information item to cabinet as well. It details a lot of what I will talk about here today.

We are open to all sources of alternative energy. I want to actually just reaffirm what we have been saying. We're not fixed on diesel. Our focus is on affordable, reliable energy for the communities. What we have found, and not just with ourselves but also as we engage potential organizations that want to take advantage of our pending IPP, Independent Power Producers Program, is that in fact the wind, the solar, and all of those projects will drive up our costs if they're not subsidized by federal investment. We continue to look at all possibilities. The IPP is the one I just mentioned.

I'll leave my answer there and I'll expand on any points as you have questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question was the carbon tax that the federal government is going to impose upon us. It's supposed to be for alternative energy. My question was: is the power corporation leveraging funds from this carbon tax that will be imposed upon Nunavummiut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. I'll answer in two parts. First, directly. In terms of us leveraging the carbon tax, we don't have any plans right now in terms of accessing that tax. We would have to have that discussion with the Government of Nunavut. We have already committed, as part of our climate change audit, to have that discussion about what are the goals that the Government of Nunavut wants us to achieve beyond what we want to do ourselves.

The second part is, in terms of the tax directly applicable to power generation, there is a little bit of uncertainty about whether it's going to be applied to power generation directly or if there is going to be an exemption. That hasn't clearly been explained to me yet, so I'm waiting to get a final word on where that is going.

Hopefully that answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank Mr. Pereira for the answer. Now, in this *Climate* Change in Nunavut report, this one-pager that I have on solar power, I'll read it, Mr. Chairman. "In 2016, the Oullig Energy Corporation installed a small demonstration project on solar energy at its Iqaluit power plant." (interpretation) Okay, they installed there (interpretation ends) a small solar energy attachment to the power plant. "According to the Corporation, the project improved its knowledge on how solar panels perform in the Arctic." How much money did the corporation spend on this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. We installed some solar panels at our plant here in Igaluit. It was a very small installation, about 2.6 to 2.8 kilowatts, which is very small. It cost approximately, if I recall correctly, \$76,000 to \$80,000, in that ballpark. I might be off, but that is generally where the cost was. I believe that was your question, but what we have learned is that in fact we actually have a very good ability to produce electricity using those technologies in part because we have a lot of reflected light from the snow, as an example, and also because of the colder environment, actually, is good for the production of solar energy. I can expand on that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What's the average cost of installing a 500-kilowatt diesel packing generator in any of our communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. To actually install a generator, we often do projects where it's just replacing the genset versus the entire plant. A rule of thumb, and it varies from community to community, is that you can expect to pay around a \$2 million mark to buy, transport.... All-in costs, it's going to be around the \$2 million mark for those kinds of projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. As you outlined in your energy framework document, there's a fixed cost, the cost of your generator or your

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Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll say what the report states in English. (interpretation ends) "...the Corporation assessed the costs and benefits of installing a 500-kilowatt solar energy project in Iqaluit." The estimated cost is \$7.5 million. Is it feasible to install these solar panels when it costs us \$7 million, almost \$8 million compared to a \$2 million diesel packing generator? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll talk about it in terms of the reliability and also the costs, if you will bear with me. Keeping in mind that wind and solar are intermittent, meaning that if the sun is not shining, if it's night, there's no power being generated. If we have those intermittent sources, we always need the backup of the diesel. It means that we have to invest in both infrastructures, we have to maintain both and that's problematic because it can raise the costs our customers experience.

In terms of the actual business case for solar, we look at how much reduction we can get on an annual basis on the diesel. The penetration level is how we refer to it. What we found is that in order to make that business case viable, you have to have an extremely long payback period or you need to be subsidized by the federal government. If it's a utility, such as ourselves, an extremely long payback period may be acceptable. When it's a private firm, they may expect something that's a bit quicker in terms of payback periods. When I say extremely long payback periods, we're

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talking 20 years plus and I'm willing to go deeper into that if you so want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it has been about three weeks that we haven't seen sunshine the time we have been here. If we tried to use solar power, we would be in the dark today if we didn't have the diesel generators. If that was the case, would it be \$2 million for a 500-kilowatt generator? Using alternate sources like solar power, it would be (interpretation ends) almost \$8 million. (interpretation) Wouldn't we just be wasting money if we tried to use an alternative form of energy, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. I believe that you have hit the issue on the head. It's the investment that you have to make into those investments to make them viable for our customers. We don't want to push up the rates. Their rates are the highest in the nation.

First we're doubling up and then we have to look at the initial cost of deploying the infrastructure. That's why we focus quite a bit, when you look at our energy framework, on the avoided cost of diesel as the threshold for making the investment. We have been preaching that to anybody who comes to us looking to invest in these projects or when we look at potential projects ourselves. It doesn't make financial sense for our customers because it pushes up their rates and they don't get anything more than they have now.

We're trying to do the right thing, going

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all know that whenever the government wants to establish something, the customers usually end up paying for the project. It sounds like it's going to be very expensive if we were to install alternative energy options. The president and CEO indicated that it would up the price that customers are paying and I'm very pleased that he gave us a good response.

There was an article in *Nunatsiaq News* about wind turbines. There is one pilot project that's being proposed for Rankin Inlet and there have been prior studies done on alternative energy. Did you have a discussion with the company that is conducting this pilot project using wind turbines? I hear that they're very loud and the animals disappear around them. Inuit are conservationists. If they proposed to install wind turbines in Coral Harbour, I would turn it down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Pereira, maybe if you could just.... I'll just add to my colleague's question. In terms of the Rankin Inlet project, if you could just maybe list off the parties or private parties that you know of that are working in Nunavut on these types of projects, just to give us a picture across the territory, if you have that type of information. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. In Rankin Inlet there are two projects that I'm aware of. There is the one project that was just recently in the news by Northern Energy

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There is another organization in the community that we have signed a non-disclosure agreement with, so I'm not going to mention it, but there's that party that's working with that community. Of course here we have heard about the feasibility study that QC is undertaking in Iqaluit, again, with a windmill project. I am directly aware of those projects. I have heard some anecdotal information about some potential discussions that I can't confirm, so I won't mention them here, but there is a bit of activity going on with some different projects that we are aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to quote my colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. She quoted that these companies are just there to make money and not necessarily care about the community that they're purportedly trying to help.

In this recent study by the Qulliq Energy Corporation identified back in 2016.... We're not even over 2018 yet, so it is under two years. They have identified five communities with the highest potential for harnessing wind resources, which include Arviat, Baker Lake, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Sanikiluaq. The study estimated that the

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wind turbines could displace diesel use by 18 to 56 percent. That's a very low percentage in these communities and the cost would be about \$4.2 million to \$68.8 million.

My question to the hon. guest, our witness, is: with these wind turbines, let's say they were running in these five communities that the corporation has identified, if they were installed, would the diesel generators be shut down to protect our environment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. I'll add a little bit of additional information. We did our study in 2016 and coincidentally enough, the World Wildlife Fund did a similar study in 2016, and we both came up with the same five communities in terms of wind. I mentioned theirs because they have also acknowledged that in all of those instances, shutting down the diesel would not be possible. You would reduce the potential consumption of diesel during the course of the year, the numbers you mentioned, sir. In terms of shutting down the diesel, I'm going to say, permanently, that is definitely not a possibility, but we would be able to reduce the number of litres we need to consume. Again, it becomes a cost issue. Can you afford to do that in those communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser, I'll give you one more question for this round. I'll allow you to come back with more questions after, but I have a long list of names here. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm really interested in this stuff, having worked for the power corporation before.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. In terms of eliminating greenhouse gases, any of the proposals will not eliminate them. The best we can hope for is to reduce the amounts based on the possible reduction in consumption of diesel in any community. We will not be able to park the diesel. If we were to make the investments, and again I want to highlight the costs associated with that, we would have reductions of less than 50 percent in most cases and in some cases substantially less than 50 percent, but some around the 50 percent mark in greenhouse gases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Before we proceed to the next name on the list here, maybe just to frame this, it mentions right in your annual report that this is something that the QEC is actively pursuing, the whole idea of getting off of diesel. I wonder if you could explain why, from a higher level, is the QEC management and the board interested in this area of alternative energy at this point in time. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. Although the environment component is important, it goes beyond that. What I mean by that is if we look at the cycle of diesel, we have to procure it on the open market and all of the diesel or fossil fuels that Nunavut procures as a territory, although large, it's not enough to sway the market, so we really don't have control over the cost of the fuel.

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We really are market takers versus driving the price in the market.

While we are buying our energies outside of the territory, we are subject to the whims of the market. What's the price? One of the things is that as we are able to shift towards more energy that is made in Nunavut, we start to hopefully get a bit of control over the price of our energy. That is a significant one.

The other component is of course the environmental one where you're shipping the diesel fuel to the various communities and it's really a low-risk but significant impact; a high impact concern if something does go wrong, and then we have the managing and handling of the fuel within the communities.

The other component, as I say, well, we want to have control over our energy future and not just the price but hopefully be in a position where the resources we spend on generating that fuel happen in Nunavut. Jobs and direction can be set here. It's very high level, but those are the general reasons why we look to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Forgive me, Committee Members. There are just several things that you mentioned in response to Mr. Netser. You mentioned a non-disclosure agreement that the QEC had signed. If you could explain why you would sign a non-disclosure agreement, particularly if public funds are involved in the work. You also mentioned that the QEC had supported the study in Rankin Inlet. If you could clarify: was that financial support or just support in terms of research? Go ahead, Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The non-disclosure agreement, so before funds were made available by the federal government, so this third party is in discussion with one of the hamlets, and they

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approached us about having some discussions and asking if we would keep those discussions initially confidential. If it came to a point where we are actually committing to anything, if we are in any way proceeding, then we have to be a transparent organization and share that information so that it's available. It's the preliminary discussions that we're having and I don't think that is completely unreasonable from our perspective. As soon as it becomes material to the corporation, to the communities, then I think we have to be completely transparent.

In terms of the letters of support, there have been a number of these letters and as they go to the federal government, these various parties, the federal government likes to see that the territorial power corporation is in support of the feasibility study. We offer that support. We are very careful about how we frame those letters. We support wholeheartedly the feasibility study and we differentiate that from the full project because the feasibility study will tell us if there is a viable next step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, my apologies, Mr. Chairman. We don't make any financial contributions as far as those feasibility studies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you for clarifying those matters. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Earlier this year the Standing Committee held a televised hearing on climate change in Nunavut. Extensive discussions took place on QEC initiatives in the area of alternative energy.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2016-17 Annual Report indicates that the board has established an "Alternative Energy Committee." What specific initiatives is the $\rho_{\sigma} \rho_{\sigma} \rho_{\sigma$

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committee currently leading or looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. One of the things that we are trying to do is to generate this alternative energy report which covers the various sources of energy or potential sources of energy available in Nunavut and it talks about our position relative to energy, for example, the tidal potential here in Iqaluit. We say that well, in the case of the tidal potential energy here in Iqaluit, the technology is not mature, so all we can do is wait for it to develop. We have talked about other considerations such as financial, etcetera.

What we want to do with that is to be able to publish that as a first discussion piece because we're looking for feedback. We want to hear from the customers and the communities about whether our views are the appropriate views in the context of Nunavummiut. We want to make sure that we reflect what the views of our communities are. We think this is very important. We started that off last year by publishing a very short piece that talked about the energy framework, so we're going to continue the discussion and publish this.

The other thing that is happening is we're looking at these different potential projects and keeping tabs on them so that if there is a business case to be had, we want to be able to proceed. Of course, as I mentioned earlier, we ourselves have applied for federal funding to make some of these projects viable, so we're keeping tabs on those kinds of issues as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

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Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In listening to Mr. Pereira's response, the alternative energy committee is only focused on solar, wind, and hydro, or are there any other types of alternative energy initiatives that the QEC may be considering? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. I didn't want to limit the choices to those. For example, we have just completed a desktop deep geothermal study of Nunavut. That is an alternative energy that we're considering. We will consider run-of-river projects or any projects that are alternative energy.

As you may be aware, we are also participating in a federal task force that is looking at small modular nuclear reactors. When I say that, I always say that we're just looking at the business case. We're not committing to doing anything in that area until we have full consultation with communities and the government. It's just to determine if the numbers work. I do want to emphasize that. It's just to figure out if the business case is there.

We will look at any of the viable options. We list them all actually in our annual report, all the ones that I have talked about. If we have missed one, we're more than happy to explore it as well. We are open to the various possibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. When you indicate geothermal to me, it tells me that you also have nuclear energy. Does the Qulliq Energy Corporation consider nuclear energy as a viable option? Thank

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. He mentioned that they're participating on a task force, but maybe if I can rephrase your question, do you have a position or does the board have a position on nuclear energy in Nunavut? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. Our position is that at this time we are just doing the feasibility study, the dollars-andcents analysis. There are other things that are happening that are developing a path for Canada as a whole, but for Nunavut specifically, our position is that we're just looking at the dollars and cents. Our position is also that we will not proceed with anything beyond that until we have thorough and complete consultation with Nunavummiut in terms of what the next steps may be. We are not planning to do anything at this stage other than the dollars and cents, and then engage in discussion if appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the newly elected Members and the veteran Members will know this, in Baker Lake they are constructing a Nunavut Housing Corporation office complex building, which will no doubt be an experiment, I guess you could say, with solar panel roofing, with a large-scale solar panel. At the same time, when my colleague was asking, Baker Lake also is identified for wind. I and some other of my colleagues that have flown to Baker Lake, you will note and see that the Thelon River is right by the community and it flows into our community lake.

When we look at alternative energy, solar, wind, and hydro, Baker Lake has those

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. I just recently had a discussion with CGS about the use of solar and the impact in terms of how it would be connected up in terms of our Independent Power Producers Program, etcetera. We haven't completed that discussion, but we're very interested in looking at how any of those facilities would function. Yes, we would certainly look at what the impacts are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm aware that my colleagues also have questions. My final question on alternative energy is: as indicated, alternative energy committee, have they attended any conferences outside of Nunavut regarding alternative energy and, if so, where? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. The chair of that committee was at the Inuvik conference just in I believe it was June. He has attended that conference and he's looking at other ways of sharing the experience that other areas have also experienced. Myself, I have participated in a number of the conferences. There is a conference being held out west in Alberta, ICE, that I have been invited to in two weeks' time. We have engaged a number of other communities in

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the north that have shared similar experiences, so yes, we do participate both at management and board level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm sure it will be interesting considering the existing alternative energy initiatives across the north. We have wind turbines in Yukon and wind turbines at the diamond mine over in the NWT, I believe, and also down in Nunavik. Maybe someday here in Nunavut we will see that type of energy. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, colleagues, and witness. I'm just going to go to your opening comments. On the second page you talk about launching a net metering program. Can you explain to me and the viewing public what that is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. Net metering allows residential customers and one hamlet account per community to generate electricity using renewable sources. Typically we think about wind and solar. It could be hydro, but typically it is wind and solar. If they generate that energy, they can use it within their homes or if they generate more than they need, they can send that energy into our grid and we will give them an energy credit that they can tap into in future months if they use more than they generate. That option is available primarily to residential customers and it's a way of trying to take that first step towards other possibilities.

This program has been in effect since this spring and it's available to all communities in Nunavut. I would be more than happy to expand on that if you have specific questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going to ask if it has been advertised in every community and has anybody applied for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you. Currently we have two applications and we are having some discussions with a couple of other individuals who are looking to consider if they are going to apply, so two applications currently that are being worked through between ourselves and the customer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before we move on to the next name, if you could just clarify. You mentioned ICE, if you could just clarify what that stands for. Thank you.

Mr. Pereira: I will have to get back to you on that. The focus of that group is of course on clean energy and I believe it is Indigenous Clean Energy, but I will have to confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that "Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are legal entities, companies that own or operate facilities that generate electricity for the purpose of selling that electricity to a utility." As of today, what is the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's development of an IPP, (interpretation ends) "Independent Power Producers"? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. We are doing two things in parallel. One is that we are changing our Act to explicitly allow us to buy power from third parties. The Act, as it stands, doesn't explicitly say that you can buy power. It's a little bit gray. I want to clarify that. That will be coming to the legislature, I believe, by this winter session at the latest. At the same time, recognizing that we have received mostly positive feedback on that direction, we are developing the actual program details in parallel to have those approved as well by a board and by cabinet. Doing those in parallel, we believe that we will be able to launch the program by April of this coming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On September 10 the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change announced approximately \$12 million in funding from its Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund for the installation of new district heating systems in Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak. We envy those communities. To what extent was the Qulliq Energy Corporation involved in selecting these projects for support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for the question. The Low Carbon Economy Fund, we were successful with those two projects of district heating. We had actually applied for approximately nine projects to be done under that fund. We were not successful with the other seven. In terms of our involvement, we put together the project description, the project list, and the details for all nine of the projects and submitted it for funding. As you

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can see, we were successful or have been successful to date with two projects in those two communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my final question on the matter. Looking at the future and the communities that were not approved, will there be another proposal made on their behalf by the Qulliq Energy Corporation? I'm concerned. The power plant in Rankin Inlet is just too old. The diesel generator is just too old and also in Chesterfield Inlet. They think it's good enough to last another year. Can the communities of Nunavut request again from those federal funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. I would like to reassure the Hon. Member that we are still making sure that Rankin Inlet and the other communities have reliable power. In fact in our 2018-19 budget we do have a replacement of a genset in Rankin Inlet as an example. The building itself, the entire plant, is one of the many plants that have to be rebuilt, but we're making sure that the equipment within the plants gets renewed in a timely fashion so that we can provide reliable energy to the communities.

Having said that, we will continue to apply, as the Hon. Member said, to federal programs in support of different initiatives and they are different depending on the program for the various communities in Nunavut. We're not slowing down; we're actually focused on making sure we can leverage those programs as best as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Before we move on, just for clarification, you mentioned that there were seven applications that were not approved. Did you receive any explanation as to why those applications were not selected or approved? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. Just for clarification, there were two funds. There was the Low Carbon Economy Fund and then there was the Low Carbon Economy Challenge program. We applied for six projects under the second program and the nine projects under the first program, so a total of 15 projects. In terms of why they are not applied, the way the process works is that you're told that the projects are evaluated at the federal level and then that the successful ones will be awarded the program.

I think I mentioned that I found out about the two successful programs through a news release. It was a nice surprise, but that's how I found out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. As much as possible to clear up the thinking that I have, you mentioned other federal applications. You made reference to them. Just for clarity, currently how many federal funding applications does the QEC have in, like active applications, at this point in time? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: We had, as I mentioned, submitted 15 applications and we have been advised that all but the two were not approved. In terms of next steps, we're actually preparing some additional applications. Right now, in terms of submitted, it's the two that have been approved and we're looking at submitting.... We're working on one actively right now and there will be others to follow after that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Thanks for clearing that up. (interpretation) Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Pereira for appearing before us today.

My question will be on something that would look really good to put money into. On November 1, 2007 (interpretation ends) the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Under this legislation, the purpose of the Affordable Energy Fund is to "hold money appropriated to it in order, directly or indirectly, to subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable." As of today, how much money is in the government's Affordable Energy Fund? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. That was asked already. It was indicated that there is no more money in the (interpretation ends) Affordable Energy Fund. Mr. Pereira, do you have anything to add at this point? I'll turn it over to you, Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you. Thank you for the question. I am not aware of any money being in that fund presently, so I believe there is no money in that fund, but I do stand to be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you. I should have heard that, but I don't remember hearing it. This was also mentioned earlier about wind turbines that my colleague from Aivilik was asking about. If they're situated close to a community, obviously they're going to be too loud. I'll supplement the

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question that was asked. Have the communities that are being planned for that been visited? I'm sure the wind turbines will be big and loud, but I'm not really sure what they would look like or what they would be. That's my first question.

This is just a general comment, but in Kugaaruk there are solar panels that help produce power. They help with the lights. In Kugaaruk the RCMP have solar panels that help with their electricity and they have reported that they don't pay as much for diesel power anymore. Do you know, Mr. Pereira, how many buildings are using solar panels in Nunavut? That is the last question I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. In terms of the number of buildings, if you include our operations centre here in Iqaluit and the building you just referred to right now, sir, I'm only aware directly of four. I'm sure that is not the comprehensive list, but it's the buildings that I can name off fast and I'm not sure if one of them is still actually active. That is the number that I am aware of. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just maybe if you could answer the first part of his question which was regarding wind turbines and kind of the noise that is generated with those turbines. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There have been windmills deployed in other jurisdictions and there have been concerns about the noises that resulted from the installation of the turbines. That was a concern in terms of the communities that those turbines are installed in.

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On a side note, when turbines are deployed in communities, they have to maintain a minimum distance from the airports. Depending on the specifics of the turbine and the discussion that is held with the appropriate authorities, you may be forced to be a certain distance out of the community, again, depending on where the airport and the installation are. There are a number of factors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a request for clarification. Wind turbines are big in size, obviously. Perhaps Mr. Pereira knows this. If there is one wind turbine, how much power can be generated? I would like to know if he is aware of that. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. They come in different sizes, so they can come in something very small that you can put on top of your house, as an example, or they can get something that is extremely large that you can put in a field. I think the concerns that you raise, it would be one of the things you would have to explore in those large wind turbines. It depends on what size you're

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looking to install.

One of the peculiar things about wind turbines is that typically they're only about 20 to 30 percent utilization rate. What that means is that if you have a wind turbine that's rated to deliver a maximum of 100 kilowatts, as an example, because the wind is not always there, you only get 20 to 30 percent on average during the course of the year. What you have to do is you have to build bigger wind turbines to maximize how much energy you can actually get out of them.

This is a bit of a side note, but again, they do come in different sizes, and my apologies for the extended answer. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Mr. Pereira for being able to respond properly to that.

My last question is on carbon tax. We're considered based on being residents of Nunavut. With that in mind, there are international nations that produce greenhouse gas emissions in order to run their power and the various things that require power. We all know that greenhouse gas emissions are being emitted into our atmosphere. Any emission comes back down to our Earth and then spreads everywhere. I believe that we can come up with a cost-saving measure in order to address that, at least in my opinion.

Can Mr. Pereira provide a response or can he expand on what he thinks about that? I'm asking that as my last question so that I can get clarification, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr.

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Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut is in a unique situation. We are dependent on fossil fuels for electricity, for heat, for transportation. If you look at Yukon and the Northwest Territories as an example, they have hydro resources and many of their communities are interconnected. They are in a different position than us in the context of being able to respond to the motivation, which is what the tax is supposed to be, to start deploying "green" energy.

We think it's a much harder sell to be able to do that effectively being Nunavut just because we are reliant exclusively on diesel at this time. To move away from diesel, we have no problems with the move away from diesel; it's just the impact on our customers. It's right now. Hopefully as time progresses, the technology changes and becomes easier to deploy, but right now we're moving in that direction. As I said before, we will require a subsidy from the federal government or increased rates for our customers.

I do believe that forcing that on Nunavummiut is something that we should look at very seriously. It's not my decision, so I'm careful what I'm trying to say here, but it's important to consider the impacts versus what we're trying to do. Can we deliver on the reason for that tax? That's for somebody else other than me to be able to comment on. I probably said too much in that area, so I'll say, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman: Thank you. The GN is on the record in terms of opposing the federal carbon tax, so I think you're safe there. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought that was going to be

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my last question, but sometimes other questions arise from the responses that you get.

It has been mentioned that diesel is one of the cost drivers. It's very costly and it's getting more expensive in order to generate power, obviously because everything comes with a price. Once we start to produce oil within Nunavut for power generation, can it lower the cost of energy? I would just like clarification on that and that's my final question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: I'm sorry Mr. Chairman, was the Hon. Member asking if we start generating energy in Nunavut ourselves, would that decrease the cost? Is that the question? My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'll let him clarify it. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): We are paying for fuel. If oil was discovered within Nunavut, we wouldn't have to purchase fuel from outside of the territory. I would like to know if that would decrease the cost of energy or not change anything. We're talking about emissions and I just want further information on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. (interpretation ends) He's referring to self-sourced petroleum. (interpretation) They discovered oil a long time ago in parts of the High Arctic. I don't know the Inuktitut place name, but the English name is Bent Horn and they used to pump oil out of there. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My

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understanding, and I'm not an expert in this area, is that oil prices tend to be set on a world stage and as such, even if oil were being produced in Nunavut, we may be forced to pay the world price. Again I want to caution you that I'm not an expert in that area. That's my limited understanding of how that market works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): I'll just make a comment, Mr. Chairman. We're looking for cost-effective means and that's why we're talking about this. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me that opportunity. I thank Mr. Pereira for his good responses. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I begin my questioning, I just want to make a statement first. As I'm sure everyone here is aware, this is a very important issue to me. I would just like to remind the Members and all those listening to us here today that our planet is at a tipping point and our consumer lifestyle and continuous growing demand on our resources since the inception of the industrial era has caused considerable and in some instances irreversible damage to our environment and our ecosystem. As we are stewards and protectors of our land, we are obliged to do what must be done to preserve it.

Environment Canada has released statistics that indicate in the last 50 years the average temperatures in Nunavut have increased by 2.7 degrees Celsius while it has increased by 1.7 degrees in the rest of Canada. This trend is likely to continue. This might sound like minor amounts, but this is having serious

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implications on our ecosystem. Every year you will notice pictures posted on social media of how permafrost is thawing and is having serious effects on the tundra and the land, and how the thawing permafrost creates hazards to travel and infrastructure.

It's not just the thawing permafrost; it's the ice itself. The ice season has shortened and become less reliable, and this affects the safety of our hunters and their ability to provide food to their families. It's also the change in precipitation and other weather patterns; annual snowfalls increasing, severe rainfalls causing floods and washouts. The thaw of the snow in the springtime is happening at an ever-rapid rate and is also causing considerable damage; the Pangnirtung bridge in 2008; the Coral Harbour road and bridge that actually cut the community off from the airport for a week.

It's not just the land; it's the animals that are going to be affected as well. The change in the annual temperatures is having effects on animal migration patterns and increasing evasive animals to enter and take over our natural wildlife's ecosystem. It's not just here in Nunavut but it's across the entire globe.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to speed up, but weather patterns across the entire planet are changing. There's an increase in the amount of forest fires, tundra fires, duration and severity of hurricanes and tornedos. A leading cause of climate change is the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide that we're continuously pumping by burning these fossil fuels.

Responding to the impacts of climate change is a shared responsibility. This requires collaboration between all levels of government, whether it's federal, provincial,
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territorial, or municipal, but the responsibility also falls on Inuit organizations and other non-government organizations, such as the World Wildlife Fund, and other non-profit industries, such as the QEC, and the general public when it comes to purchasing energy-efficient appliances, LED lighting. The responsibility falls on everybody.

We can't wait for others to make the decisions for us; we must make the decisions ourselves. We must lead the mitigation and adaption of climate change in Nunavut. I'm just stating this because I feel like we need to have a daily reminder of this and this legislature must take it seriously; for one, to preserve our environment and culture for future generations. We must act now and make commitments to ensure that our children and grandchildren will not suffer the consequences of our actions or inactions. I'm worried for my son, I'm worried your children, Mr. Chairman. I'm worried for all future generations in this territory, which is why I take this so seriously.

With that being said, I'll continue on with my questions. My first question is: does the QEC have the capability to live-monitor the power production of the solar panels that are installed in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. We do monitor the production from the solar panels. We have shared that information with various parties that are interested to know how that production has gone. We're going to share with anybody who has an interest in what's happening with that production. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response and I'm glad that the QEC has decided to share that information with those who requested it, but does the QEC believe that sharing that information and making it public and available to everybody would encourage other individuals or organizations to invest in similar projects and, if so, would the QEC make that live information available on their website? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. In terms of sharing with everybody and encouraging, I think it gives people more information. In terms of how people respond to that information, I think there are a few other factors. The cost associated with that production is the first one that comes to mind.

Certainly what you have said is very important, the potential impact on our environment going forward, and I think it's different for any individual. I can see the Member is quite passionate about this; I'm not sure if everyone would be as passionate about it as you have demonstrated. Certainly we can make that information available.

In terms of our website, I can certainly commit to putting in a summary of what is happening today. I'm not sure if we would be able to do the live feed on an ongoing basis, so I will commit to putting all of the results that we've had today with our solar installation on our website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

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think that everyone would definitely benefit if that was posted on the website, even if the live information was at a delay of 24 hours to enable the QEC to upload the information all at once as opposed to live. That would be beneficial.

My next question is going to be regarding the geothermal study to identify potential in Nunavut. My question is: how many communities are on or near geothermal locations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. There wasn't very much information about geothermal potential here in Nunavut. There was the thought that it might be difficult to actually harness some of that energy.

The first study was a desktop study and there was a recommendation to come back and pursue funding for additional onsite studies and potentially drilling into the earth to better assess the feasibility. We had recommendations to try to get additional funding to explore the possibilities in the communities of Resolute Bay, Iqaluit, and Baker Lake. We are pursuing trying to obtain funding to do some of that onsite testing. It's still very early on in the process of doing that submission, but those are the communities that were identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question. During the OAG televised review on the OAG Report on Climate Change in Nunavut, I raised the question of if the QEC would work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to identify or conduct an energy audit on the public

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housing tenants to identify which units use more than average amounts of energy. Has the QEC and the NHC conducted such collaboration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. We have not conducted that investigation yet. We are still open to doing that. It's one of those items that we are looking forward to exploring getting some additional information, but as of yet we have not started that study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to reference page 20 of the 2016-17 annual report. It mentions the Iqaluit Smart Grid Project which was completed in 2016-17. "...the smart grid is a modern electrical communication network that allows real time measurement of consumer energy consumption, monitors energy flows and adjusts changes in energy supply and demand."

Has the QEC used or leveraged this smart grid to identify trends in residential energy consumption, and is the QEC going to share this or give the Nunavut Housing Corporation access to the public housing tenant smart grid data? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. This infrastructure that we're referring to, as you suggested, Mr. Lightstone, is directly tied to the measurement of the energy. It's smart meters or AMI infrastructure, automated meter reading infrastructure, that allows us to read the consumption at the customer's level without having to go out to

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the house and read the meter. We can do that remotely. We have been doing that now for quite a while. We have the information, but we have not analyzed it yet. A next step is to potentially analyze that information and see what the results lead us to.

In terms of the housing corporation, we would look at the accounts that are applicable to them and then do that analysis as well. Again, I don't want to mislead you; we haven't started that analysis and it's something for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question with the smart grid is: since you have identified that you have not had an opportunity to analyze this information, would you commit to conducting a thorough analysis of this information and presenting the Legislative Assembly with a report on your findings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. I believe that we would have to look at the scope of that analysis. What is it that we're analyzing and what information are we looking to extract? I would feel more comfortable having that defined before committing to delivering some product as a result of that investigation. At this stage I'm not at the point where I can or will commit to delivering something without defining what that is.

What I will do is I will ask the question about what are possible studies that we could undertake with that data and how would it be beneficial to our customers, as an example.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I'll move on to my next line of questioning and it's going to be regarding independent power producers. As of today, what is the status of the QEC's development of an independent power producer policy, and are you able to tell us an approximation of what the QEC is willing to pay for power? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. First the status, so the change to the Act is proceeding and I believe it will be done by the winter session at the latest, I believe. It's obviously not under my direct control. In parallel, we are developing the framework, the commercial conditions, all the paperwork associated with the program to be approved by our board and ultimately cabinet. We are aiming to have that completed sometime around the beginning of the new year because we do still have the goal of launching this program in April of 2019.

In terms of the price that we are willing to pay, we have probably said this a few times publicly. We're looking at the avoided cost of diesel and so if we buy the power at exactly the avoided cost of diesel, there is no change in the rates our customers pay. If we pay more than the avoided cost of diesel, our customers pay more. If we pay less than the avoided cost of diesel, our customers pay less. That is the mark that we're targeting right now and we will be finalizing what the exact amount is as we get closer to releasing

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the details of the program, but it's approximately 30 cents per kilowatt hour. I'm not committing to that; I'm just saying that's the ballpark. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone, I'll allow you one more question and then I'll move on to the next name. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall reading the report on the cost of producing energy in Nunavut and where the QEC identified that it would not be willing to pay more than the cost of diesel, which was 30-something cents, which I personally felt that the formula to drive that amount might be a bit flawed and didn't agree with all of the input that was used, but that's not my question.

My final question is going to be.... Sorry I've got to choose which one is most important to me at the moment. As of today, what is the status of the QEC's net metering initiative and how many individuals have approached the QEC expressing interest and began the application process, and what can the QEC do to assist them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. That topic was touched on and Mr. Pereira had mentioned that there are two applications in currently, but in terms of the rest of your question, Mr. Pereira, if you would like to respond.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. We have two active applications and we are discussing with a couple of other individuals about the possibility. We do like that the people contact us because it allows us the opportunity to go over how the program works and what we look for as the equipment is being purchased. We encourage people to

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At this stage we provide that information and process information in how they will ultimately get connected up. I believe that's the gist of your question, Mr. Lightstone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was probably asked earlier regarding solar energy or producing power using solar panels. They're using that at the Iqaluit power plant. I believe it was touched on earlier that they're using solar panels as a pilot project. Are you looking at setting up pilot projects in the other communities? For example, there are 25 communities with Iqaluit being the largest community and it probably has the largest plant in the territory. Are you considering setting up pilot projects in the other communities so that there is a decrease in the cost of purchasing power? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This installation here in Iqaluit is actually very small relative to the community size.

We are looking at doing a larger size deployment in one of the communities outside of Iqaluit and it is actually the subject of one of our submissions to the federal government. I apologize. I neglected to mention this one earlier. That would be a 500-kilowatt installation and we're looking

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at deploying that as a part of one of our plants that we're looking to rebuild. The funding has not been finalized and we're looking at doing that as a part of the plant rebuild in Kugluktuk. We've had discussions with the community, but as I said, we're still waiting to finalize the funding side of the equation with the federal government.

That is the one pilot project on a large scale that we're looking to deploy and we're hoping that that would provide information and maybe incentive for other projects to be taken, not just by us but potentially the other parties that are interested in taking advantage of the Independent Power Producers Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is very interesting to hear when we are considering alternative energy. There are different types of government assets like the hospital, the schools, and so on. I think it would be a very good program to look at alternative sources and doing pilot projects to reduce the cost of large infrastructure, for example, using solar energy. I look forward to seeing something productive coming out of it and reducing our carbon emissions.

On another subject, this will be my last question, Mr. Chairman, and I will ask it in English. (interpretation ends) In what other Nunavut communities is the Qulliq Energy Corporation considering installing new district heating systems? I don't know if that was previously answered, but that is my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. In

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addition to the two projects that were recently announced, one of our goals is to grow the system as much as we can for a couple of reasons. One is that if we are consuming or burning the diesel to generate electricity, the heat is there automatically, so it prevents somebody else from having to burn heating fuel and they get the heat from us at a discount, a savings. The other thing of course in terms of importing fuel into the region is that it reduces the amount we have to import and it reduces the carbon footprint as a result in terms of the consumption of the diesel fuel.

I will throw out a note of caution. As I believe I may have indicated earlier, these are heavily capital intensive in terms of the money required to build these infrastructures, so we are heavily dependent on federal funds to be able to grow these district heating systems in the communities. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. I guess I'll throw in a few questions of my own. You mentioned the cost of diesel, and I'm looking at the third page of your QEC Energy Framework. You mentioned comparing alternative energy power production with the cost of diesel.

When we're looking into the future, let's say five or ten years in the future, what type of a forecast is the QEC using to look at "Okay, here's the status quo price of diesel, here's the worst case scenario where the price of oil would spike in the world," and then we have increased costs for producing electricity in Nunavut or maybe the cost of oil drops and then we can imagine that, lower the cost of electricity in Nunavut with existing technology. I would just like to understand what type of forecasting you're using going five to ten years into the future. Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. We believe the price of diesel fuel compared to what has happened over the last couple of years will start to sneak up, to get higher. We're actually going to be looking at where we think that is going to be.

Now, I want to be careful because we are not experts on the energy market. I have already had discussions with a couple of parties and I have heard that the price is going to increase for us to \$1.20 or \$1.30 per litre, that type of range over the next few years, but all I'm doing is quoting what I have heard. As we look at those costs, we can start looking at the impact on electricity and it does something else for us. It says, "Where's that price point for alternative energy that makes sense for Nunavut?"

Generally speaking, as the price of diesel goes up, if you look at the price per kilowatt in terms of energy, we can offer more, assuming we follow for alternative energy. We're very conscious. In some ways cheap diesel prices actually discourages the development of alternative energy projects just because it makes the business case all that more difficult. Again stating that we're not experts in projecting energy futures, we do believe that the diesel cost has bottomed out for now. Our projections are that the cost will be higher for next year versus what we experienced, for example, last year.

I'm not sure if I answered your question, Mr. Chairman, but thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Yes, that answers my question. When it comes to alternative energy technology, one of my colleagues mentioned one of those wind turbines that was installed in Rankin Inlet. I'm pretty sure that it would be considered an antique. They could probably put it in some sort of museum. It's probably 20 plus years ago and

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these technologies are advancing.

I'm interested to hear your thoughts in terms of the promise of different technologies, whether it's wind, whether it's solar or nuclear, in terms of offering a cheaper alternative that would hopefully make the cost of living lower for Nunavummiut. In terms of what is happening in the area of alternative energy, your thoughts or your impressions of the trend, Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question and it's a fascinating subject. Generally speaking, over the last X number of years, the cost of the alternative energy has dropped significantly.

You see in southern communities where they don't have to worry about the transportation costs, where the cost of the panel has dropped dramatically and that's reflected in the kind of prices that jurisdictions such as Ontario have offered to incite people to put in solar panels. Originally they were paying 82 cents per kilowatt hour. The last amount was in, I believe, the 30 cents range and that's a reflection of the reduced cost because they were aiming for a ten-year payback period in their jurisdictions.

I believe that the price point for the technology is still decreasing and some of the important technology that we're talking about is the storage of electric energy. That's the Holy Grail of electrical distribution. Right now you basically have to use it when it's generated. If you could store energy for the longer term, beyond an hour or so, at a reasonable price, that would be a significant game-changer, also, if we can develop some of the technology such as the tidal power here in the Bay of Fundy or deep geothermal.

I think the technology is advancing. I think, as we go ten years into the future as an

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Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. At this point I'm going to call a 10-minute break and when we return, some of my colleagues will be back for a second round of questions on alternative energy. (interpretation) We will see you soon.

>>Committee recessed at 15:09 and resumed at 15:36

Chairman (interpretation): We're now back. We're still following the agenda. There are a number of Members with questions. (interpretation ends) We're still on the topic of alternative energy. I have a few more names and once we get to the end of those names, we will proceed on to maybe opening it up for additional topics. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Before I ask our witness a question, I would just like to make a comment here about my young colleague Lightstone's mention about Coral Harbour being stranded for weeks when that was not the case.

The GN has since then made corrective actions in giving us a bigger bridge, and how we address climate change is make corrective actions when we need to. I don't deny that climate change is upon us, but listening to Mr. Pereira's response about the high cost of installing current devices like the solar energy and windmills, it's not feasible at the moment. Like I said, it wasn't weeks that we were stranded.

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The problem now is that these environmentalists will fabricate stories to push their agenda through. I ask that we all do it with dignity and truthfully so that we can move forward collectively and respect everybody's comments on their thoughts on climate change. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) I think, on page 17 of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Corporate Plan for 2017-2021, it says that "A demonstration project will be conducted that will include solar panel installation with integration into the Iqaluit electrical grid." Could Mr. Pereira give us an update on this? (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) That's my final question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. In terms of the demonstration project... . It refers to the demonstration project. I'm sorry for the delay. I was just confirming that was being accurate. If you look at the status, it mentions in the report that the demonstration project was completed, so that's the one it's referring to, the one at the power plant. It's the installation that we refer to in terms of getting some of that information on our website. The project was completed at the power plant and it's up and running currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me a second time. I just have one more question on alternative energy.

As my colleague indicated, each and every community is unique, 25 communities, but when we look at alternative energy, the other comment that I wanted to make is your

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With that, my question here is, in Nunavut each and every community purchases vehicles, which would give you a predominant idea of how long electric energy can sustain if vehicle fleets of smart cars.... I know the executive office is here in Iqaluit and then you also have the headquarters in Baker Lake OEC, but if you work with the other government departments within our territory, maybe one smart car per community as a pilot project from October until March to see how long it can keep on running without plugging in and that would give you a true idea. Would that be considered by the QEC in working with other government departments so that you have a real study case to substantiate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. That's a good question. I'll provide two answers to that question.

One is we're supporting a study for possible electric vehicle charging stations in Cambridge Bay as part of one of the federal funds. We provided support in the context of what I mentioned before. We provided a letter of support. We are very much interested in seeing what happens with that.

The second part is that we have actually reached out to manufacturers about potentially trying out an electric vehicle. In the south there were a couple of concerns

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that are a little bit different when we come to Nunavut. One is the range anxiety. They're afraid they're not going to be able to go 300 or 400 kilometres, but that is typically not an issue in our communities. The second part is the battery. How will the battery perform in our environment, the cold nature of the environment? It typically decreases the range of the vehicle. Given that our commutes tend to be significantly shorter than the south, it may be viable.

So far we haven't had very much success with the manufacturers, so we're going to try a couple of other ones to see if there is an interest in doing that. There are a couple of benefits. Electric vehicles only have ten moving parts versus hundreds for the traditional vehicle. There are maintenance benefits, etcetera. It is premature, but it is something that is of interest and we want to see if there is a possible next step with that.

Hopefully that's enough information there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Pereira. That is certainly interesting. My understanding is that there is also some work going on elsewhere regarding electric snowmobiles. Depending on how far you go for your hunting trips, there might also be some range anxiety there. Given that I'm not a very good hunter, I probably wouldn't have that problem. I don't go very far.

In your QEC Energy Framework, on the fourth page there, the cost-benefit analysis, you list off some points; looking at, let's say for example, a solar panel array or wind turbine or whatever it may be, QEC ownership versus independent power producer ownership. I wonder if you could talk about the two different scenarios where, let's say, there is a wind turbine owned by the QEC or there is a wind turbine owned by

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a private company in the context of limited capital dollars that I think we all know is a reality across the government and it's also something you're facing. In terms of the capital expenditure, what is the context for those two alternatives? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question, Mr. Chairman. Let's look at the independent power producers route first. In that scenario the simple version is that somebody else, an independent power producer, builds and maintains the facilities that generate the alternative energy and they sell that energy to the QEC at the predetermined rates, let's say 30 cents per kilowatt hour for argument's sake.

They are responsible for the initial upfront capital investment and they take the risk in terms of making sure that the facilities are built to be able to operate effectively in an arctic climate. If the facilities were to break down, as an example, there would be no liability on the QEC. It would be with the independent power producer. In terms of risk, it's in many ways a better option for the QEC. There are some accounting issues in terms of how you account for the value of that asset if you're buying all the power, but we will put that aside for now and just say that in terms of the actual nature, it offloads risk to somebody else.

In terms of the QEC building the facilities, if we were able to do it in such a way that the payback period was reasonable or if we're able to get a grant and build those facilities, we would incur those risks, but all of the financial economic benefits would accrue directly to our customers versus us paying somebody else to produce that power for us. Exactly where that break-even point is, we would have to look at the business case, but generally speaking, it's the risks of building and operating, and where does the benefit of

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The worst case scenario is an organization from the south that has no real interest in pushing that back in the community bills, operates and takes the money out of the community. That is not what we're envisioning. I'm just portraying one extreme. The other extreme is, of course, we build it and we keep everything in the community. I think it's probably going to be somewhere in the middle, to be quite honest, if we do an IPP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's interesting to try to understand that. I'm going to ask you a question about the Kivalliq region in particular because there is the potential to connect to the Manitoba hydroelectric grid. In terms of alternative energy ideas within the Kivalliq region.... I should back it up. What is the QEC's involvement with the work that has happened to date or the work going forward in terms of trying to connect to Manitoba's hydroelectric grid? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that. There is some preliminary work that is starting in terms of business cases, technical considerations, issues that would be important to the Kivalliq region as well as the QEC, as well as ultimately the Government of Nunavut. We're really at the beginning of that process.

We have provided a letter of support for the feasibility study to provide some additional details to what the QEC could expect in terms of a business case and also what is going to be the structure of the arrangement of this transmission line that would come from Churchill all the way up to potentially Chesterfield Inlet and across over to Baker Lake. We are going to be participating in exploring those options.

We are in the process of formalizing an agreement in terms of how we're going to proceed along those lines. Again, as I mentioned earlier, and not actually specific to this, we will probably be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement for the preliminary work. We're fine with doing the preliminary work in those conditions with the understanding that ultimately that information has to be opened up for everybody to understand what work was done. We're about to start going on that process. It's probably the best that I can describe it.

There is no firm information other than the feasibility study that was published quite a few years ago that talked about potential costs and energy costs. I can expand on that if you would like, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm not so much interested in the work that has been done in the past; I'm interested in the work that is upcoming. It is my understanding that it's the Kivalliq Inuit Association which is leading the latest push in terms of a connection to Manitoba. I'm just interested to hear: is the QEC talking with the Kivalliq Inuit Association about this project or is it something that you're aware of and has it been brought to the QEC for support by them? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. I have spoken personally with the president of the KivIA about this project in terms of how we may proceed in terms of establishing the business case or the details associated with the business case. I have spoken with them, as have my staff spoken with some of them. We're really waiting now to go to the next step, which is a more detailed analysis and we want to be a part of that discussion. We want to be able to

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contribute in terms of the technical issues we're concerned about, but also the rate impacts on our customers. We hope to be very much involved in that process as it gets underway. I believe that is the thrust of your question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that response. It's quite exciting because our neighbours to the south in Manitoba have abundant electricity; I believe they have excess. My rudimentary understanding is that they have overbuilt their hydro, at least for the present time being, so it's an interesting opportunity.

At this point I'll open it up for additional questions. We have covered most of our thematic areas. There are still things that we haven't really touched on in terms of debt, capital, and contracting. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. Welcome, Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me, I would like to send my sincere condolences to the families in Kugluktuk who have lost a loved one. I'm thinking of my community at this current time.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up on the responses from Mr. Pereira regarding the replacement of the Kugluktuk power plant. We're very pleased to see this. Mr. Chairman, my question is: can we get full details on this specific project? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much. I'll give an overview and then I'll be more than happy to provide additional information.

Our current plan is to start the rebuilding

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process of the Kugluktuk power plant in 2019, so this fiscal year coming up. That will involve moving the plant from its current location closer to the tank farm. As part of that, we will have to go through a tendering process and finalize the design, etcetera. It's not all scheduled to be done, obviously, in 2019. That will be the starting year and then the majority of the work will carry over into the subsequent year in terms of the cost, etcetera.

I will confirm when there's a break in the questions that in fact is the case. We are starting on that process. We anticipate that we will take approximately two years to finish the project, so two fiscal years to finish the rebuilding of the power plant in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Member Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page 8 of the 2017-2021 corporate plan indicates that fuel is very expensive, and it's most expensive in Nunavut. Some communities get fuel from fuel tankers, they get it from Uqsuq Corporation and also from contractors. The communities that get fuel from contractors have to pay more than other communities. The pumps are obviously getting old and they will need to be replaced. For those communities that get fuel delivery from contractors, what plans have you made for the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the way we distribute the fuel at the different communities, we don't have any active plans to change that relationship. Currently we buy fuel in two forms: the bulk,

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as you are aware, and then the nominated. There is variation in those prices. We've had that mix for a number of years and depending on the community, we need to do that, for example, if we don't have enough storage for the entire season. We don't have the capacity to buy all of our bulk fuel in that regard.

There are different situations in different communities in terms of how the fuel actually gets to the power plant. Sometimes it's piped and sometimes it's trucked depending on the situation. In terms of the activities right now to change how that is set up, we don't have anything in the immediate future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That brings up a question. Those communities that are being delivered by fuel contractors, are the prices different in terms of fuel rate riders in each of the communities? Is the price different from, let's say, those of the communities where you have a large fuel tank supply? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. All of our expenses go into, if I could say, one bucket. There is no additional cost for a specific community if they have a slightly different system of delivering fuel. I may have alluded to this. What we do is we look at all the costs throughout Nunavut as one bucket of costs and then we collect our revenue based on that total bucket, equally distributing the costs based on the existing rates.

If you recall, I had mentioned that because of the history of the rates whenever we have a 4ρ%Γ° Δ*λΓ΄<<∪Π°. ΔʹʹϚ·Ϳσ° ʹϐʹϒσ°ΡΔ°
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percentage increase, it's different real numbers, but it's the same percentage increase to the different communities. There is no direct correlation between that process in a community and the direct costs to that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the response, Mr. Pereira. My next question is on page 11 of the same plan on power plant replacement. It says, "Typically, a power plant is designed to function for 40 to 50 years." It goes on further to say that 13 of these plants are "operating beyond their intended life span." Does Mr. Pereira have a list of these 13 communities, and when does the QEC plan to replace these units? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. There is a list. I believe it's in the Standing Senate Committee on Energy report. Mr. Pereira, if you would like to provide further detail to his question, please go ahead.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. Of those 13, there are currently two being rebuilt as we speak, Cape Dorset and Grise Fiord, and they will be done before the end of this fiscal year.

I had mentioned earlier that in 2019-2020 we're going to start on Kugluktuk and then the plan, which has yet to be formally approved through the budget process and the board and the FMB, would involve Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Chesterfield Inlet, and Gjoa Haven, taking us up to about the year 2025-26. Part of the reason we can do them at an increased rate is in part because of the funding we're anticipating from the Arctic Energy Fund. We're trying to utilize that fund to rebuild a

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number of our plants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I couldn't help but notice you didn't mention my home community on that list. According to the plant life expectancy, Arviat is one of the oldest plants, 1971, according to this table anyways. I guess the broader question is: how do you choose which plants are the first to be replaced across Nunavut? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually stopped one short. The next one after that list was Arviat, so my apologies.

Now, how do we choose them? We look at the life expectancy of a power plant, so that's our first indication, and then we do asset assessments of the plants. How old are you, then we do a medical checkup of how healthy you are, and then we decide who gets attention first. That's the basic process. I know I have simplified it, but that's basically it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I can't help but add onto my colleague's question. You mentioned Grise Fiord. I'm going to refer to the URRC report regarding the general rate application. I'm looking at page 8 of that report where "The URRC found there is little evidence of practicing due diligence on the part of QEC management in relation to planning the project..." They're referring to Grise Fiord here. "...and evaluating cost effective design and construction alternatives..."

I guess the question is: when it comes to your capital planning processes, are you comfortable at this point in time with how they exist now or do you have any plans to change the way you plan for capital projects? Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have an excellent capital planning process as it stands currently. To expand on that, we have spent the last two years working very hard on our capital planning process. We have a robust process that includes an upfront evaluation of projects. We have follow-up and deliverables. How robust is this process? We have just finished our 2019 capital planning process. Based on all the work we have done, we could probably do the 2020-21 capital plan in very short order.

We have spent significant time improving the process, documenting, and putting in reporting. I feel very comfortable with where we are right now and I actually want to continue the push because we want to document and share a long-term plan for the entire corporation. We have one now, but we're reviewing it and revisiting the assumptions made within that long-term plan. I feel comfortable about where we are with the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just out of curiosity, and I guess this whole process is out of curiosity, but the URRC mentions specifically Grise Fiord and the size of the plant that was installed there. Given the existing capacity, according to the report, still on page 8, the existing capacity was 570 kilowatts and the replacement plant would be at a capacity of 1,000 kilowatts. It says that "This translates to an almost doubling of the installed capacity per customer." If you could explain what the process was to decide on the size of the plant there in Grise Fiord, please. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we design a plant, we typically have four-engine plants. That means we have four gensets per plant. What that does is it gives

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you an opportunity to take a unit or two out of service and still be able to supply the community. Now, the URRC argument was that in this particular instance, we built in too much capacity for the size of the community. In terms of just looking at the size of the community and the capacity, they are probably correct.

What we looked at was our ability to get to Grise Fiord, our ability to service those units in the arctic environment during the worst case. We had that discussion, but what they did was if they disagree with our discussions, they will remove some of the cost associated with that plant from the rate base. What that means is the URRC comes to us and says, "Now, you have done something that we think you needed to do, so your customers are not going to pay for it. You will have to pay it out of your return." That has happened in the past. In this situation we are expecting something along those lines because it doesn't go into the rate base until we go back to the URRC and get approval to collect rates on that installation.

Having done this, we are reassessing how we design for all the plants. We still think there is value because of the location, but we are conscious of what the URRC said to us as a part of this general rate application. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I was sensing that there would be another side to the story, as opposed to.... It's never quite as simple as it seems and it's interesting to hear the reasoning behind that. I would like to comment that I'm not suggesting for a second that Grise Fiord didn't deserve a new plant; I'm just trying to understand the capital process better, of course. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you,

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Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Looking at the corporate plan 2017-2021, I am responsible for Chesterfield Inlet and I haven't seen a lot of priorities for the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet. In the priorities on pages 24 and 25, along with the capital budget listing, I see all of the other communities: Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Arviat, Coral Harbour, Whale Cove, and Naujaat. Is this telling me that the QEC is completely above ground when they are dealing with Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. What you will see in our next plan is that we are planning to rebuild the power plant in Chesterfield Inlet in 2024-25. That is on our list and it is one of our priority communities to rebuild a power plant. I want you assured that we do try to make sure that we focus on all the communities and meet their needs. Hopefully that comes across as the plan gets released and you see we're planning over the next couple of years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my final question. We heard a lot in the news about satellite communication optimization. On page 29, "Satellite communications optimizations are delayed due to system upgrades. This priority is scheduled to be completed" this year, 2018-19. I would like to know what the situation is with satellite communication optimization. That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. We are actually in the process of finishing that upgrade. We have been having discussions with Telesat about our communication infrastructure. We are actually negotiating faster uploading and download speeds as part of the process. As we get towards the end of the year, we should be able to say that it's complete. It may overlap a little bit into 2019, but we're very close to being on track. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to be referring to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2017-2021 Corporate Plan. On page 23 it indicates that one of its priorities has been to "Deliver procedures and training on Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti (NNI Policy) to QEC employees with emphasis on regulatory compliance." The NNI Policy began applying to the QEC's procurement activities on April 1, 2017. What has been the impact on the Qulliq Energy Corporation of this change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. We became fully compliant on that date and actually one of the things I have asked our finance department to do is to do an analysis of what has happened with the procurement since that point. That analysis has not been complete. I'm looking to first get a completion date and then hopefully to see what is the impact of implementing this. In terms of internally, there was an impact on getting everybody up to speed, but once everybody was up to speed in following the processes, it all became very smooth and part of the normal procedures.

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What I'm looking to hope to get is the impact of awarding contracts, etcetera, and potential impacts in terms of costs of products. As I said, I don't have that information yet, but that is one of the things I have asked our finance department to look into and eventually report back to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: When we look at the NNI Policy and corporate headquarters is based in Baker Lake and the executive regional office is based in Iqaluit, is that procurement...? I understand from his response that the procurement is not quite completed yet. When do you anticipate completing that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, I didn't say that well. We are following the NNI Policy and procurement practices. We have been doing that since it became effective for us. What I was suggesting is that I wanted our staff to go back and analyze the impact of the change processes internally and also potentially the impact on the cost of acquiring goods. The procurement processes have been completely changed and we are fully NNI-compliant, if I understood the question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess now that I believe we're across the board now on.... One other question I have is currently I do know the remediation is occurring in Baker Lake of the old power plant site. When do you anticipate having the old power plant building completely decommissioned? Thank you,

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one I will have to follow up on and provide an answer. I will follow up on that and come back to the Committee with an answer on that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: One final question is, when we look at the \$38 million, which is to remediate a number of contaminated sites at the old power plants in respective communities where you are undergoing remediation, when we look at one particular site or is it unique for each remediation plan as to how long the remediation will take place for each particular project? A number of years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. In terms of the remediation, what we have done is we have assessed by cubic metres how much potential liabilities are there. We have done that for all the communities and we have a record of what those numbers are for the various communities. I will go back to what I said earlier, though, that we're not doing anything until such a time as there is a legal obligation or a human health concern to go into the communities and remediate some of those spots. Of course that ties to the negotiation between the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada. It's by cubic metres that we have tried to evaluate it and putting a dollar amount to those cubic metres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak, your second final question.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the question is about the ownership of the land. We follow the surplus policy that other GN agencies follow. We will reach out to the hamlet, as an example, and see if there is any need for that land by the hamlet. In some instances we have heard some feedback from the hamlets that are interested in the properties. Other times as we go through the process and the land is declared surplus and we will treat it accordingly.

Most of our power plants on occasion we have a need to use the old buildings for a period of time for transitional issues, storage. We have fully decommissioned a large number of them and no longer need the land. That will be the case, for example, in Grise Fiord. Once that new power plant is up and running, the old one we will do a full decommission of that site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is from your Appendix A – 2018-19 Capital Budget/Plan. At the very bottom you've got Item 15, Plant No. 400, Community Corporate, and you have under Description, "Unidentified Capital Projects." It amounts to \$500,000. Can you explain to me what is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. As I mentioned earlier on, we had just finished the budget plan for 2019-2020 and we have tried to project as best as can what our capital needs will be in that calendar year. We included that line item as a contingency line item in case we incur other capital costs during that fiscal year that we are able to draw on those funds. There is a process in place for documenting when those funds are drawn upon and that information goes both to our board and to the FMB so they're aware of it. It acts as a bit of a contingency for that capital year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go to your corporate plan 2017-2021 on page 17. On top it explains that you're going to be replacing some generator sets for Gjoa Haven and Hall Beach by 2018. Has that happened yet? We have been having a lot of power outages throughout the winter, in the past two winters. Has that generator set been sent to Gjoa Haven yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

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Mr. Pereira: The generator in Gjoa Haven, the emergency genset, we are working on it as we speak, so it's being installed currently. It should be done in the next little while. We're trying to get that connection done in advance of the severe winter weather. That is underway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just to add to my colleague's question, here in your annual report on page 17 it says, "QEC's Power Line Technicians (PLTs) spend most of the winter months flying into the outlying communities to repair damage to power lines and poles and to deal with issues with customer connections caused by adverse weather..." I wonder if you could just explain why these issues tend to arise during the winter months and what, if anything, the OEC is doing to try to reduce the amount of these occurrences basically so that the distribution of power is as reliable as possible in the winter months. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for the question. There are a couple of meanings attached to that. An outage in the middle of the summer is potentially not as impactful as an outage during the one in the middle of winter. We are very aware of the impact of a power outage in the winter and we try to respond immediately. It's not unusual for us to charter flights to go to the communities to respond to those outages.

In terms of what we are doing, we are actually going to be doing a review of the construction standards that we use to build power lines. One of the things that happen is the lines come together and they slap, and that causes outages if that happens. It can happen in one occurrence, but definitely if there are multiple occurrences there can be interruptions. I have asked both our engineering and operations group to form a

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team to review the standards that are applied to the communities. It's going to be a long-term effort as we build lines and to move away to standards that can better serve the community. We're very conscious of the need to do that. We have a long-term plan in place.

There is a short-term plan. If you go to some of the communities, you will see that they look like spacers between the lines and that is, again, to prevent that line slap. The other thing is that we are reviewing the equipment. Again, I have mandated engineer operations to look at the equipment that we're using in the communities to ensure that we have good standards of how we construct the lines. That's not to suggest it hasn't happened in the past, but it's just we have a stronger focus on it now and a more coordinated focus within engineer operations working quite collaboratively to get us there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I know that we frequently see these linesmen in the winter months and we sure do appreciate all the hard work they do to keep our furnaces on. Like you mentioned, in the winter months you don't want to lose power even for a couple of hours in some cases. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq.

(interpretation ends) I'll just go back to the feasibility study. When it comes to those studies, how are they determined? Every time there is a study going on, all the bigger communities get all of these benefits. Can the Qulliq Energy Corporation share the wealth to other smaller communities when it comes to studies? Can that be put into some kind of a plan in your 2017-2021...? Every time there is a study going on, Iqaluit, Iqaluit,

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that's all the studies are. I don't know if I'm on topic, but that's all I wanted to say on that part. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. We're very conscious of the fact that we need to be responsive to all of our communities. Many times many of these studies are initiated by communities or regional organizations that are looking at potential projects in the communities. That is a good way to start the projects at the community level and engage the QEC.

Now, if we look at the QEC specifically, we are conscious of what you have just said and we're trying to better distribute the projects that we want to pursue. I mentioned Kugluktuk earlier on as an example and that was a conscious effort to not focus exclusively on the bigger communities necessarily. We are trying to be better and hopefully, as we move forward, we will better manage where we deploy our resources and our capital for these feasibility studies and projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): It's good to hear that. I would like to talk about studies. Just to go back, there was a study done by the Government of Nunavut and the Energy Strategy, *Ikummatiit*, was tabled on October 30, 2007. It indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Department of Community and Government Services were "reviewing the business and working relationship between QEC and the Petroleum Products Division." What specific improvements to the working relationship

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between the QEC and the PPD have been made in recent years? That was indicated in October 2007. How is it now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for that question. We are looking at establishing a new MOU with CGS and the PPD in terms of what we can do to explore options such as tank farms. We have tanks in communities, the PPD has tanks in the communities, and we're just in that process now. We actually had a document prior to the departure of the DM of CGS. As they get back to normality with their new DM, we're hoping to continue that discussion.

In terms of coordinating overall with CGS, we actually spent time trying to understand what their projects are in the communities because it will have an impact, for example, on electrical generation that's required in the communities. We're actively involved when they are planning their projects to try to fit into that process.

Although we have been largely focused on improving how the QEC works, we are also trying to integrate ourselves into some of the other processes so that we can better serve Nunavummiut. It's a work in progress, but as I have said, we are part of the planning process for CGS in a sense that they give us the information, we are invited to their meetings, and we are looking at establishing a renewed MOU with the PPD on a goforward basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should have included that the federal government is also involved with

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the Committee. They have identified four entities in regard to what we just stated. You said there are four projects that you wanted to do.

I noticed one project referred to in (interpretation ends) *Powering Canada's Territories* (interpretation) regarding improvements that can be made at headquarters. As you may recall, I talked about working together. I keep going back to the issue of having a good working relationship. On the third it states here that we need to improve the working relationship at the senior level. I should have included that.

I'm not sure if it's a question but just a suggestion. I stated before that in our offices we need to use the Inuit language. Are you starting to use the Inuit language in your business or in your office? Have you looked into all four of these? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll comment on a couple; you may need to repeat the ones I missed to me. My apologies.

In terms of language, we're developing a training program for Inuktitut in the workplace. At the same time our customer service people are able to provide service in both English in Inuktitut. Let me back up in terms of developing the language program. I think I want to make sure I'm clear on that. That is part of our requirements for this year, to develop that program and then launch it. That is something that is deliverable of me as the president of the QEC.

In terms of cooperating with other senior

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officials in the GN, I regularly meet with them as a part of the DM meetings. In terms of specific issues, we're looking to make sure that we are dealing with common issues effectively, largely through those meetings. As required, we do meet individually to address any specifics that may be, again, relevant to the different departments. It's a collaboration that is being developed and maturing as we move forward.

My apologies for the other areas. I didn't quite pick up what you were hoping for me to comment on, but I am willing to expand on this answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you. You don't need to apologize at all. It's okay.

With that, I am sure you have seen homes that were up for disconnection and in particular I am referring to elders. A Member also complained about the Inuktitut and I would like to make a suggestion for improvement. It will be my last question for the day. I would like to see a good working relationship. I am very pleased to hear the good news with your responses, and I would like to see that occurring also in the smaller communities that are frequented by visiting them.

I know this is not a question; it's more of a suggestion. If you want to have a good working relationship with the smaller communities, then you have to treat all of the communities equally. You also stated in one of your responses that whether it's in the High Arctic or elsewhere, they would have the same rate. I'm not sure if I'm right on that, but that was my understanding of what you said.

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If you promote working together in your workplace, perhaps your staff and Nunavummiut will be happier. I just wanted to state that and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for providing me another opportunity to speak. I'm tired of saying "qujannamiik," so that's all.

Chairman (interpretation): When you get tired of saying "qujannamiik," just say "ma'na."

I would just like to supplement my colleague's question. (interpretation ends) Very briefly, what is the QEC's current position on the idea of replacing the PPD, the Petroleum Products Division, with the Qulliq Fuel Corporation? Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: If the government approached us to do that, I would certainly be willing to explore that option and see if it was the best option for the PPD, us, and Nunavummiut. I'm not opposed to it. As you can imagine, I'm trying to measure what I say in terms of a response to that question. We're open to it. We're not opposed to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I wasn't trying to paint you into a corner there; just curious as to a position. I have five more names. At this point in the day I'm going to say two questions each. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that being said, I do still have more alternative energy questions, but I'll refrain from asking them for now for fear of offending others. I'll move on to another topic that I was raising questions on before and that's staff housing.

Mr. Chairman, if I may continue. Thank you. Pages 38 and 39 of the QEC's 2016-17 Annual Report on Contracting, Procurement

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and Leasing Activity indicates that the corporation leases a number of units from various companies and residents for the provision of staff housing for the corporation's employees. My first question is: how does the QEC select and award leases of residential units to be used for staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We have a housing committee that looks at the housing on a position basis. They evaluate the positions and look if they're appropriate to be included under the staff housing umbrella. Based on that, that determines whether or not the applicant is going to be offered staff housing. Invariably there's an opportunity for appeals, there's an opportunity to take it to the next level.

The one thing we do know is that we don't provide as much staff housing as our staff would like to see, but we tread a fine line, so to speak, in terms of making our corporation accessible to potential employees while trying to manage our costs. If there's a position, it gets assessed through the housing committee, and then staff housing is made available or not depending on the results of the housing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually my question was: how does the QEC award the contracts for these leases? My second question is, under the last column, the name of the landlord, I see a lot of individuals, including GN employees. I was wondering if there might be any QEC employees that are leasing their units to the

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QEC. I also see the name of a realtor based in Yukon, so I was wondering if the QEC actually goes through a process of confirming who is the actual owner of these residences. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you. In terms leasing from the QEC employees, it would be something that is flagged and would be raised to my attention. None of those situations have been flagged and raised to my attention. In terms of how we go about it, quite honestly we look at what's available on the market and sometimes it's a matter of are there units that we can rent to fulfill our housing needs. As you can imagine, there isn't a robust housing market in our communities, so we are pretty well forced to take what is available on the market in many instances.

In terms of organizations from different territories, that probably refers to some of the apartment buildings where we rent some of the units where the apartment building is maybe owned from outside of Nunavut. It could be individual houses as well. I would have to spend some time looking at the specifics to be able to answer that question more accurately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will probably only have one question and I will ask it in English.

(interpretation ends) We have been talking a lot about new power plants in both Grise Fiord and Cape Dorset, which is terrific. Those contracts are worth about \$38 million

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in total. You do RFPs, sole source, etcetera, and all these various means of getting those buildings built. That's a lot of money. What are the Inuit labour requirements under these two contracts? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. I'll answer a different question first and then I'll get back to that one from Mr. Quassa, Mr. Chairman.

Any new contracts that we have now abide by NNI and all of the requirements that were in place directly as a part of NNI. In terms of contracts that would have started prior to NNI, we had a requirement.... I believe we had a requirement. I'll have to double-check what that requirement was prior to NNI. I will come back to the Committee with that requirement that was in place for both of these tenders. Unfortunately I don't have that information with me currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In the Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources report that was done states that "The GN pays roughly 80% of all energy costs in the territory, much of this through direct and indirect energy subsidies." In the federal funding for the communities, it states, "Over a nine year period, a total of \$18.2 million has been spent on the ecoENERGY for Aboriginal and Northern Communities program and only 18% or \$3.2 million has been invested in territorial communities." The remaining was distributed outside of the territory.

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I'm wondering if this ecoENERGY program is offered regularly, or was that something that was provided to the territories one time from the federal government? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the ecoENERGY program, I'm not sure what the parameters were in terms of the time frame. I can make a more general statement in that there are usually programs that the federal government will offer in support of energy initiatives.

To further add to that, the QEC, the Climate Change Secretariat, and Nunavut Housing have started an Energy Wise program campaign. Initially it is information, but we're hoping to grow the program. Very soon you will see a public service announcement that was a prepared commercial in support of that Energy Wise program. We're starting to go down that path.

In terms of the eco program, unfortunately I don't have any information about the parameters of that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: I was asking that because, with 11 power plants that are way past their lifecycle, if that was something that would be considered into that. I'll just comment on that one. To be a bit more community-based, I was wondering what kind of programs or services that the QEC offers for homeowners for energy efficient programs that might be available locally. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr.

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Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you very much for that question. Because we are driven by the revenue we collect through rates, we have been focusing more on the operational issues of the organization.

To ask the question about energy programs, the Climate Change Secretariat and, I believe, Nunavut Housing, and please don't quote me on that, may have some programs that can help homeowners. I know the programs exist. My apologies; I can't remember exactly who is deploying those programs.

In terms of the QEC, in response to the specific question, at this point in time we don't have specific programs that support, for example, retrofits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira. I only have two more names on my list and we're running out of time. It would be good if you could please keep your questions and responses brief. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep it short. There is a new power plant in Taloyoak. It was opened in the 2016-17 fiscal year. It can also produce residual heat. Has that new power plant decreased emissions? Also, looking at the other 13 communities that need new power plants, will they be getting the same kind of power plant that we got in our community? That's my only question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the new power

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What you may notice if you go visit that community and if you had seen the previous plant versus this plant, you would see that it is quieter, the emissions are substantially less, and of course there is the aesthetic value of having a new plant versus an old plant. As we move forward, we are planning to do the same kind of things in the other communities in terms of the newer plants.

I have been brief, but I can expand on that if required, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira. Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question. Has the QEC ever considered looking at the feasibility of developing hydroelectric power for Kugluktuk from the Kugluk Territorial Park area previously known as Bloody Falls? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you for the question. I know that we have looked at various possible locations, but I don't know if that is one of the locations that we looked at. I would have to review our records to see if that was a location. I can't actually answer that question right now. I will come back and provide a response to the Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pereira. (interpretation ends) Thank you for agreeing to follow up. At this point I believe we have pretty much wrapped up our hearing and I'll give you a minute or so for any closing comments you may have. (interpretation) If you have any closing comments, I now give you the opportunity to make them.

Mr. Pereira: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Committee for the thoughtful questions and the opportunity to present in front of the Committee.

I will just very briefly reiterate what I said as part of my opening comments that as a corporation, we have a responsibility and a desire to be transparent and engage our various communities and our customers. We see that as the only option for moving forward. We want to share the information of what's happening with the organization and also how we are approaching our work going forward. That's why we plan to put on our website our alternative energy plan and continue to incorporate our plans into our corporate reporting.

I want to thank you again and I look forward to the next session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): We also thank you for being able to respond to our questions properly. Some of our questions were hard to answer, so I thank you for your responses and for committing to provide information at a later time. (interpretation ends) I look forward to the additional follow-up information that you have committed to providing on various, different subjects.

Just before we adjourn, just a reminder to

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>>Committee adjourned at 16:58

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