

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS BY EACH OF

(a) CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE LIMITED FOR A
RIGHT-OF-WAY THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS
CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE YUKON TERRITORY AND
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, and

(b) FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD. FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY
THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS CROWN LANDS
WITHIN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

and

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

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Berger, Commissioner)

**Rae/Edzo, N.W.T.
August 9, 1976**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 70

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JOE DRYBONES:		Sworn

1 Rae/Edzo, N.W.T.

2 August 9, 1976

3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: We'll

5 call our hearing to order this evening. I am Judge
6 Berger, and this is a hearing of the Mackenzie Valley
7 Pipeline Inquiry. The Inquiry is being held because two
8 companies, Arctic Gas and Foothills Pipelines are
9 competing for the right to build a pipeline to bring
10 natural gas from the Arctic Ocean to southern Canada
11 and the United States.

12 This Inquiry has been
13 established to consider what the social, economic and
14 environmental impact will be if a pipeline is built and
15 to recommend to the Government of Canada the terms and
16 conditions that ought to be imposed if a pipeline is
17 built, So I am holding hearings in every community in
18 the Mackenzie Valley, the Mackenzie Delta, and the
19 Beaufort Basin likely to be affected by the pipeline if
20 it is built.

21 So far I have been to 30
22 cities and towns, villages, settlements and outposts,
23 and by the end of this month, we shall have been to all
24 of the communities along the route of the pipeline in
25 the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

26 Now Canada and the United
27 States have a great appetite for oil and gas, that is
28 why the Government of Canada is considering this gas
29 pipeline. But before they decide what to do, they want
30 to know what you think about it, and that is why they

1 | the Government of Canada, because it isn't up to m to
2 | decide whether a gas pipeline should be built, that is
3 | up to the Government of Canada. They will have to
4 | decide whether a pipeline is to be built, and if it is
5 | to be built, then when it should be built and who
6 | should build it.

7 | I have invited
8 | representatives of the two companies, Arctic Gas and
9 | Foothills to this hearing so that they will hear what
10 | you have to say and so that they can answer any
11 | questions you may wish to ask them. I should add that
12 | the Arctic Gas proposal is simply to build a pipeline
13 | that will transport gas along the Mackenzie Valley to
14 | Southern Canada and the United States. Foothills, the
15 | other company, proposes to build lateral pipelines from
16 | the main pipeline. One of these pipelines would come
17 | around the north side of Great Slave Lake, and would be
18 | a pipeline that would come to Rae and to Edzo to
19 | deliver gas to homes and businesses here. So I want
20 | you, the people that live here, who make the North your
21 | home to tell me what you would say to the Government of
22 | Canada if you could tell them what was in your minds.

23 | Mr. Rabesca, maybe you'd
24 | translate that for me.

25 | (THE INTERPRETER TRANSLATES THE ABOVE)

26 | THE COMMISSIONER: I think I
27 | should say that we have with us the CBC's Northern
28 | Broadcasting Unit, that broadcasts each evening on the
29 | radio from the Inquiry. They are with us, Joe Tobie,
30 | Abe Okpik, Louis Blondin, Jim Sittichinli, Whit Fraser,

1 Inquiry itself is very important for the people of not
2 only Northwest Territories but right across Canada he
3 says, and furthermore he said, that the Inquiry is
4 important for the future for the people generations as
5 they go along. So the Inquiry is important for the
6 young and old, and so the people have to share amongst
7 ourselves that and we will have to come into some kind
8 of a conclusion whether we were in favour of the
9 pipeline or not. But however, it's up to the people to
10 express their concern it's not up to the Band Council
11 or to the Berger Inquiry itself to make decision for
12 us, it's up to the people of Canada to make their own
13 decisions.

14 He says as far as the Inquiry
15 goes, is that the land where it's entitled to the people
16 in the Territories, all the native people and he says
17 however, as far as the pipeline itself, suppose if it
18 did broke it, might have to leak or something like that
19 and it might destroy quite a bit of fair sizeable land.
20 This is some concern that has been expressed within some
21 other native people's hearings, that we understand
22 through the radio that this is what we understand.. On
23 top of that is that we don't want the local people to
24 make a decision right now, but however we would like to
25 see the old people get some share, that we want the old
26 people to speak for on their behalf, and then we do
27 understand that whenever the pipeline goes, that we're
28 not too sure whether the pipeline is going to go just
29 right around the Mackenzie River or we understand
30 there's another area that is quite possible a

1 | that lived with the people, the people used to live off
2 | the land with and now we can't see any more animals
3 | around, then that's our great concern he says.

4 | I think that has something to
5 | do with the exploration he says. I think what they did
6 | is nothing but exploit our lands, he says.

7 | Now, he says, talk about
8 | exploiting our land he says, that's our main concern,
9 | he says, however, when the first white people came to
10 | the Territories, I think they brought nothing but a
11 | few poisons to kill off all the animals that the
12 | people used to live off the land with and now that, I
13 | used to be young like all the young people nowadays
14 | he says, and I used to trap like them too in my young
15 | days, he says, and I did a lot of travelling in the
16 | bush and I spent a lot of time in the bush too. And
17 | then I hadn't even seen a forest fire period in any
18 | part of the Territories, he says. Now, he says, since
19 | they came around, he says, the forest fires seems to
20 | be appearing in every native community he says.

21 |
22 | Since like that's what I
23 | considered as far as it goes back with my remarks of
24 | the history, he says, this is where -- that's when
25 | since the white people came he says, you know, but
26 | they seems to be making all kinds of promises and
27 | then they don't seems to keep it or whatever they do
28 | with the promises that they promise to the people in
29 | the Territories, not only the Inquiry itself. They
30 | make all kinds of promises but the Government of

1 | says, we like you to make a good report to the
2 | Government of Canada on behalf of the native people as
3 | much as possible, if you could help yourself, he says.

4 | Thank you.

5 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

6 |

7 | SAM FOOTBALL Sworn

8 | THE INTERPRETER: Sam

9 | Football, he's one of the old, longtime or former Band
10 | Council one of the previous, maybe five, six councils
11 | ago, he was one of the former Band Councillors. He
12 | says, on behalf of the people here, he says, he likes
13 | to welcome the Inquiry people and all of the people
14 | that travel along with them. Since he's going to do our
15 | reporting to the Government of Canada, he says, he'd
16 | like to see that a good report comes out on behalf of
17 | the people over here, because this is what all the
18 | people of this community feelings are, he says.

19 | We as native people, he
20 | says, we know for damn sure that we not going to end
21 | up like white people in the future, However, he says,
22 | and then the people, are very important too because
23 | the live off the land and I'm not referring only to
24 | this community, I'm referring to the Territory as a
25 | whole, and people down the river that do have some
26 | effect with them in regards to the pipeline. And he
27 | says, when we tell them about Northwest Territories,
28 | he says, it's not only the Northwest Territories that
29 | we're talking about, we're talking about the North
30 | Pole itself too, he says. During the wintertime, now

1 over here he says, it gets so damn cold that you
2 can't even work outside with your bare hands. How
3 cold it is, us people living down North and we
4 understand that since the white people came that they
5 sort of exploited everything that they even got the
6 games and everything away from our settlement over
7 here and the white people, so far as the government
8 people, that sort of clean up all the land that
9 they're supposed to be protecting for us.

10 He says when I used to be
11 old enough to kill an animal to live off the land
12 with, that's the days that the treaties was signed,
13 I was old enough to understand what was happening.
14 But however, he says, when a treaty was signed, the
15 original chief that the Government of Canada signed
16 the treaty with, his name is Murphy. Me told the
17 government that you know, if you people agree with
18 me, then I'll sign the treaty, and something like
19 that they made an agreement with and so that the
20 agreement is to be kept forever, that's what the
21 agreement was signed for, and even the priests, not
22 the priest, but a bishop was involved and then some
23 other traders. And there was a translator that was
24 with us that the treaty was signed.

25 He says when the original
26 agreement was signed, he says, like what we just told
27 you about the original signing of the treaty, that.

28 Murphy, the old chief told
29 him that to have the government agree with him, what
30 decision he wants to make with him during that time,

1 through the Northwest Territories, They'd like to see
2 it go somewhere else but they don't want to see it,
3 certainly don't want to see it happen because it's not
4 going to do them any good and like he said, he's not
5 going to live off the pipeline so maybe it's better
6 not have it go through.

7 Like the, you probably are
8 the judge, of some sort, he says, we don't like to
9 see that you're in favour of the pipeline or you're
10 in favour with what the Government of Canada had to
11 tell you or we sort of like to see that now we have
12 some of our share and while we're making at the
13 decision making level. We sure don't like to see you
14 weigh one side or another for some supporters.
15 Something like that we don't want to see happen
16 and your report too, whenever you do your
17 reporting.

18

19

PIERRE WEDEWIN Sworn

20

THE INTERPRETER: This is

21 Pierre Wedewin talking. He says, the first thing I will
22 say is talk about my own native people, how they've
23 been suffered the last many years back in the old days.

24

25 He said we are Dogribs, we
26 live in the Northwest Territories. We live here, we
27 don't speak English, in the old days there's no school
28 for us, in the Northwest Territories. So we never been
29 to school. There's only white people, they are
30 educated, and they know what to say to the people, and
us guys we're not like that. But still we have to talk

1 | about our own selves.

2 | The white people, they keep
3 | they keep their own cops', and the white kids, they
4 | send their kids to the school and the kids Dad, the old
5 | Dad, they keep a copy, so they teach their own kids and
6 | so the kids, they know what's going on from the old
7 | days behind.

8 | But us guys, our own parents,
9 | they don't speak English, they don't keep a copy. But
10 | still, they tell us, the old story, many days behind,
11 | so we know what our old people, what they got in c
12 | their mind., and what they tell us a story about our
13 | own land, we know.

14 | He said, we used to, the old
15 | Dad, they used to tell the story, and we'll go an hour
16 | ahead, and what we see, what we hear, we'll learn that
17 | way. So our own parents, they tell us a story about the
18 | old days, and we still got it in our mind. So anyone
19 | speak, we still can speak to the people.

20 | He said, for myself right
21 | now, he said that I used to, my own people, my young
22 | days, I see with my two eyes, they suffer lots. They're
23 | working hard and travel in cold weather, they suffer
24 | lots in the cold weather. I know how they used to make
25 | their own living. And myself, right now, I'm not young
26 | no more, I used to get old pension cheque right now, he
27 | says. So I know what the old people used to suffer in
28 | the old days.

29 | But my dad I seen with my two
30 | eyes make a birch canoe, I see my two eyes in one of my

1 | said that I talk about my own animal on my own land he
2 | said. If the pipeline goes through, maybe those animal,
3 | the furs, moose, anything surface maybe won't be the
4 | same he said. So all the people in community hall, that
5 | is how we got our own mind the way I said right now.
6 | That's all I got to say for now, he said. A lot of
7 | people in community hall, maybe tomorrow, maybe
8 | everybody want to do the talking, so I can't talk too
9 | long he said. If I start I'll tell a story that will be
10 | no more less than ten days, so I'll stop for now.

11 | (ABOVE INTERPRETED BY PETER SANGRIS)

12 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

13 | ANNA ZOE Sworn

14 | THE INTERPRETER: This is

15 | Anna Zoe speaking. She says she never saw a crowd like
16 | this, she never been spoke like this before, so she's
17 | going to say a few words to you guys. Her dad taught
18 | her to make a living, she listened to her dad, now
19 | she's going to say a few words about it.

20 | She says a long time ago her
21 | dad, he used to go away over the mountain, trapping,
22 | hunting, he used snowshoes in cold weather, they packed
23 | everything, even 50, 40 below, But she says, it wasn't
24 | a hard way for her, but today, everything is going to
25 | be hard up.

26 | She says, when you're
27 | travelling by dog team like this, overloaded, you have
28 | to walk with snowshoes, but she says, she don't care
29 | anything, you can't eat, even you still can't, even if
30 | it's cold, you've got nothing to eat. But when you get

1 up early in the morning, you travel again, kill
2 something, moose, or caribou and then you make open
3 fire, and you cook something on the fire and you eat.

4 She says a long time ago, she
5 says, it doesn't look hard up she says, anything you
6 could kill, you want to eat, but right now, even if you
7 visit the net or you go hunting, you don't kill
8 nothing. You try hard, everything's going down, really
9 slow down but she says it's really hard up those days.
10 Not like the olden days.

11 And I hear on the radio, she
12 says, I heard about pipeline, all that, everybody still
13 kind of worry about it, she says. She says, it's going
14 to give us a hard time, if we ever get the pipeline
15 through, it's going to be really hard up for us she
16 says.

17 She says, a long time ago,
18 she says, there was no plane, no cars, nothing, no
19 white people around. It was a lot better. Everything is
20 easy going, we not worry about nothing. But right now
21 she says, it looks like the end of the world, she says,
22 the way everything is coming up really fast against us.
23 She says we don't like that.

24
25 She says, the way it looks to
26 me, she says, not only for us, but for our children,
27 for our own children, she says, we want to live the
28 right way, we don't want our children to be spoiled by
29 white people. Since white people came, she says, they
30 spoil everything for us, even our own land, even our

1 own children, she says. So she says, we like the white
2 people to be our friend. They should try something for
3 our best, to help us and then we'll help them.

4 The way I think, she says, I
5 think the right thing what I'm thinking in my head, she
6 says, if you guys think that way, the way I'm thinking,
7 it should be okay with us, she says. I won't say very
8 much right now but she says, now you will know how we
9 made our living in the North, she says, it's pretty
10 tough country around here. I won't say very much, I
11 might say some more later on she says, you'll be around
12 for three days (WITNESS ASIDE)

13 LIZA WELLIN Sworn

14 INTERPRETER: She says while
15 we're here we're thinking hard, we're worried. That is
16 why we're here and says our parents and all our old
17 timers don't taught us this way, and we never been in a
18 crowd like this, but right now, there is team running
19 down the way the white people treat us running up and
20 down she says.

21 She said we can't say we are
22 having fun, she says, but she says we're thinking hard,
23 we worry a lot, and then now I'm getting old, she says,
24 I'm getting old pension too, she says, and then she
25 says I think it's going to be as hard up for us, but
26 she says, we tried to tell you exactly what we feel in
27 our mind. Now she says, the Territorial Government is
28 going to listen to all the womans what they think in
29 their mind, about the pipeline that is going to go
30 through in our country. She says, we got raised with

1 | the world, she says, anything happen like that. She
2 | says, we say hello to you, all our people says hello to
3 | you. Whatever we say. I hope that the government will
4 | send you over here to take our speech back home and
5 | you're suppose to explain everything to their and I
6 | hope the Territorial Government, I hope whatever I
7 | said, if he hears anything, I hope he listens to me she
8 | says. (WITNESS ASIDE)

9 | (CAROLINE DOUGLAS INTERPRETS ABOVE)

10 | (JIM RABESCA RESUMED AS INTERPRETER)

11 | JOE MACKENZIE Sworn

12 | THE INTERPRETER: He says the
13 | present Band Council right now, he said I really
14 | appreciate all the travelling guests with Mr. Berger,
15 | and welcome all the Inquiry people.

16 | All the speakers that
17 | mentioned what they thought about the history, and all
18 | of the way that the Territory is formed and the way it
19 | is at the moment, is this I believe what all the people
20 | have to say to you, he says.

21 | He says, it's only in the
22 | winter days, we don't have the weather, the weather
23 | seems to rise and it's cold, it's 40 or 60 below.
24 | He's sure that what has been said in the past, by all
25 | the speakers that did mention about living off the
26 | land that all the people that, before the white people
27 | came, that there was no such thing as a tent, but all
28 | the old folks, my dad and my ancestors, all the native
29 | people that did live off the land, but I think it's
30 | hard for me right now, is that they're the people that

1 Territories, it didn't seem to do any good for the
2 people that do live in Canada or the native people,
3 especially in the Territories. And yet he says, now he
4 says, he's changing the attitude saying that we should
5 have the pipeline built for you people.

6 He says I used to remember
7 when I would recall what happened in the past, just
8 like everybody knows or is quite aware of what
9 originally happened. They said a treaty was signed,
10 and like the same token, he said the government never
11 lived up to what he promises to the people in the past.

12 The day, he said, I was only
13 about 18 years old when the treaty was first signed and
14 there wasn't any native people in the community that
15 spoke a word of English, and there were some other
16 traders, amongst the people that do live here, they're
17 the people that did spoke English so that they must
18 have spoke amongst themselves. By whenever the Treaty
19 was going to be signed, and then there were some mixed
20 feeling amongst the older elders of the native people,
21 feeling that the, the reason why they refused to take
22 the treaty the first day is because of they don't trust
23 what's going to happen in the future for the native
24 people. And that's the reason why the bishop had to
25 come around, and speak to the native people and to
26 influence one another how to make a deal with the
27 Government of Canada for the future. And that's how
28 most of the traders were involved and even the bishop
29 and the native people from over here that were
30 involved.

1 he says, and it's not very nice to make an agreement over
2 night like, I'd like to see that the pipeline business,
3 inquiry business, that we like to see it rotating. We
4 like to see that the, we will come and meet and discuss
5 it amongst ourselves before we make a final decision and
6 we hate to see that the decision goes through at one
7 meeting, because over one meeting like that, I don't
8 think anybody is going to come up with any conclusion,
9 proper conclusion of what the native people might want to
10 see within the report.

11 It's getting kind of late at
12 night he says. An old man like me has to come home to
13 see his old lady he says. He hate to spend all night
14 long over here talking the same thing that has already
15 been mentioned over-and-over. Thank you.

16 (WITNESS ASIDE)

17

18

19

20

ELIZE MURPHY: Sworn

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THE INTERPRETER: Her name is

22

23

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You must be quite aware of
the -- she says I used to listen to my dad quite often
and then he was one of the famous chiefs and he did his
best for the people that he worked for and yet all the

1 chiefs that they went through,, there is another chief
2 that succeeded her dad, he was a very good man too and
3 he did his work very well and there's another chief
4 that took over, he did his job properly too, she says,
5 and since then, she says,. it seems to me like there
6 is any chiefs of Band Council because I don't see any
7 Band Councils coming and visiting the place where I'm
8 staying, she says.

9
10 As far as everything was
11 concerned, she says, I've been listening to a lot of
12 things happening nowadays, she says, not only this
13 particular community but in the other communities
14 within, we talk about all kinds of things that have
15 been popping out from every direction that have been
16 public within the Territories. We've been listening
17 from every angle of the government, there's always
18 something going on within the government system.
19 There's always a lot of talk, and a lot of action being
20 going and something like some of those. things like
21 that, it isn't necessarily agreeable to the people
22 within, especially for native people she says. Until
23 now, she says, everything seems to be, in quite fair
24 shape, and now it seems like everything is not going to
25 be like it used to be at one time. And as far as the
26 main reason that might affect the whole future of the
27 system that I'm quite aware of, is native peoples life
28 and yet she says, I don't like to see. The main things
29 that might affect our livelihood in the Territory, is
30 that it's the pipeline. I sort of agree with the rest
of the people that they don't want the pipeline to come

1 Well, I might look the way
2 that I'm not capable of doing nothing for myself, you
3 probably just might take it just the way you look at
4 me, she says, but she says, I covered a lot of good
5 ground with my dad that my dad had to sign within the,
6 for the Treaty Indians of this Dogrib nation, and I
7 still recall the days when I've been travelling with my
8 dad and we did cover a fair amount of land. That's
9 something that is very important to the native people
10 of the Territories.

11 She says the days that my dad
12 used to live within amongst the people that right now
13 we're talking about, they're the same people, and they
14 made an agreement with Canada for the rest of the
15 people, not only -- he wasn't even speaking just for
16 himself but as for the future generations of the people
17 of them days. In them days she says, it was pretty
18 hard to live, she says, because life wasn't too easy,
19 but he made an agreements so that the people don't go
20 and mislead themselves in the future. In them days
21 there was no such thing as Welfare; in them days there
22 was no such thing as Family Allowance either, and
23 things like that, she says, but it's so it was just so
24 that the people had to live off the land, and he liked
25 it, just the way he wanted the people to live, that's
26 just an agreement he made with the Government of Canada
27 and yet there is no such thing as game laws or things
28 like that that might affect the people to live off the
29 land in the future. It wasn't within the agreement she
30 says, somehow things like that now, everything has been

1 | make any promises to you except for one, I can promise
2 | you a fair hearing, an opportunity for each one of you
3 | to tell me and to tell your neighbours and through this
4 | Inquiry to tell the government and to tell our country
5 | what your concerns are, what your thoughts are, and you
6 | have done that tonight. Each one of you has told me
7 | what's on your mind and that's why I came. I wanted
8 | you to tell me what was on your mind and tomorrow, at
9 | 2:00, there'll be others, I'm sure Chief, that will be
10 | ready to speak and if it's all right with the Chief,
11 | and the Band Council, and the rest of you, we'll start
12 | at two tomorrow and then stop about five for supper,
13 | and then come back about eight in the evening and carry
14 | on tomorrow evening too. So maybe you'd translate
15 | that, Mr. Rabesca.

16 | (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

17 | THE COMMISSIONER: Mr.
18 | Rabesca and the interpreters, thank you and good night.

19 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10, 1976)

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