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Sunsetting Oil and Gas
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MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Yeah, I was glad to hear the deputy minister say that the NWT petroleum resources strategy was being sunsetted. I just don't think there's any interest, really, in big oil and gas anymore. But when are we going to do some sort of rationalization of staffing and resources devoted to oil and gas as was done for OROGO? So when is that exercise going to be done by ITI? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of ITI.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, there's not a formal staffing review right now in the books. I'd turn it to the deputy minister who can speak a bit to the work of the staff in this sector and to what extent they may need to have some review done. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Deputy minister Strand.

MS. STRAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, yes, so our Inuvik office has six employees budgeted within it. The work under the petroleum resources strategy is important. You know, we're looking at the export LNG opportunity. We're also supporting IRC with the MA team. So that is important work that, you know, obviously given what's going on globally right now, local sources of fuel is super important. So I view the work of that office as very critical at this point in time. We also do know that the offshore moratorium and negotiations are underway and that would also have to be administered out of our Inuvik office. So, you know, waiting for the outcome of that obviously is important. But, you know, we do assess workload. It's performance reviews every year, what is on the books. Those staff do help us on the mineral side as well. They help implement the regional mineral development strategies that we have in the IRC and the Gwich'in. So they do keep busy on not just petroleum activities, but certainly we will be looking at that in the future. And I have reached out to inquire about how and why the OROGO example happened. So I will be diving deeper into that, but not at this point. But we will -- we'll be assessing it as we go forward. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, thanks, Madam Chair. Yeah, I'm just -- lest anybody get any ideas, I'm happy to have those folks stay in Inuvik and maybe they can transition into tourism development and promotion. But I guess I want to go over to the -- sorry, on 217, Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act implementation, the Minister spoke of all of the work that's going on with development of regulations. Why are we actually seeing that small decrease in that line item between last year and then the mains this year? Thanks, Madam Chair.