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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

## **MINUTES OF THE 153<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)**

**DATES:** September 26 and 27, and October 10, 2017

**LOCATION:** Aquarium du Québec, Quebec City (September 26 and 27) and conference call (October 10)

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)**

Michael Barrett, Chairperson  
Mary Pilurtoot  
Laina Grey (October 10)

#### **Appointed by the Government of Canada**

Alexandre-Guy Côté  
Jean-Yves Savaria  
Catherine Lapeyrie

#### **Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec**

Paule Halley (September 26 and October 10)  
Sylvie Létourneau (September 26 and October 10)  
Julie Samson (September 27 and October 10)

#### **Executive Secretary**

Benjamin Patenaude

#### **Environmental Analyst**

Nancy Dea

#### **GUESTS (September 26 and 27):**

Yves Rochon, Director General, Environmental and Strategic Assessment Branch, MDDELCC  
Anne-Marie Gaudet, Director, Québec Regional Office, CEAA  
Heather Smith, Vice-President, Operations, CEAA  
Sandy Shecanapish, Deputy Chief, NNK  
Jimmy James Einish, Councillor, NNK  
Robert Prévost, Consultant, NNK  
Caroline Brillant, Legal Counsel, NNK

Véronique St-Onge, Residual Materials Branch, MDDELCC  
Francis Vermette, Team Leader, Compensation Plan and Selective Collection, RECYC-QUÉBEC  
Christiane Jacques, Director, Atmosphere Quality Policies Branch, MDDELCC  
Jean-Marc Lefebvre, Assistant Director, Residual Materials Branch, MDDELCC  
Carol Gagné, Atmosphere Quality Policies Branch, MDDELCC  
Michel Bourdet, Residual Materials Branch, MDDELCC  
Andréanne Demers, Senior Biologist, Indigenous Consultations, DFO

## 1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 153<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on September 26, 2017, at the Aquarium du Québec, in Quebec City. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 153<sup>rd</sup> meeting took place in accordance with the agenda below:

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting and the conference call on August 9, 2017
3. Business arising from the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting and correspondence
  - a) Consultations on *Bill 132, An Act respecting the Conservation of Wetlands and Bodies of Water*
  - b) Asbestos Hill mine site, update
  - c) Handling and temporary storage of hydrocarbons
4. Budget, secretariat and members
  - a) Budget
  - b) Secretariat
    - I. Human resources management
    - II. Archival management
  - c) Members
    - I. Proxies
  - d) KEAC priorities
  - e) Annual report, 2016–2017
  - f) Website
  - g) Five-year action plan, 2015–2020
5. *Environment Quality Act* \*
6. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
  - a) Environmental assessment procedures guide
  - b) Social impacts \*
  - c) Revision of the schedules in Section 23 of the JBNQA

7. Meeting with the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach \*

8. Meeting with the provincial and federal administrators \*

9. Mining activity

a) Hopes Advance iron mining project, Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation

10. Residual materials management \*

a) *Regulation respecting the Landfilling and Incineration of Residual Materials*

b) Techniques for the management of residual materials in the north, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

c) Funding for the implementation of the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*

d) Request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq

e) *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*

f) Aluminium can collection and recycling

g) Mid-Canada line radar stations

11. Climate change \*

a) Study on the status of knowledge of climate change adaptation in Nunavik, OURANOS

b) Development of renewable energy in Nunavik

12. *Fisheries Act*, presentation on the report by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans

13. Sustainable mobility plan for the Nord-du-Québec region \*

14. Miscellaneous \*

a) Green Corner Article, *Makivik Magazine* \*

15. Dates and locations of the next meetings \*

\* *Items discussed during the conference call on October 10, 2017.*

## **2. Adoption of the minutes of the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting and the conference call on August 9, 2017**

The members reviewed the minutes of the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting and the conference call on August 9, 2017. It was decided that their adoption would be postponed to a later date.

## **3. Business arising from the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting and correspondence**

a) Consultations on *Bill 132, An Act respecting the Conservation of Wetlands and Bodies of Water*

The members were provided an overview of the recently adopted *Bill 132, An Act respecting the Conservation of Wetlands and Bodies of Water*. It was indicated that the roles and responsibilities of the KRG are not well defined under the new act. It was decided to transmit a letter to the deputy minister of the

Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (sustainable development, the environment and the fight against climate change, MDDELCC) to obtain clarifications regarding this matter.

b) Asbestos Hill mine site, update

On July 31, 2017, a letter regarding the Asbestos Hill mine site was sent to the mayors of Salluit and Kangiqsujaq as well as to the KRG chairperson and the president of the Makivik Corporation. The purpose of the letter was to provide clear and up-to-date information concerning the current status of the site and how it is being dealt with by government bodies. It was decided the KEAC would follow up on this file in early 2018.

c) Handling and temporary storage of hydrocarbons

On August 21, 2017, a letter describing general procedures for the handling and temporary storage of hydrocarbons was sent to representatives of the KRG, Nunavik Rotors, the Québec Mineral Exploration Association and the Québec Outfitters Federation. A copy of the KEAC *Hazardous Materials Management Guide for Nunavik* was enclosed with each letter.

#### **4. Budget, secretariat and members**

a) Budget

The members discussed preparation of the KEAC's funding application for 2018–2019 and the budget increase to plan for future years. The expense report for the period May to August 2017 was also presented.

b) Secretariat

I. Human resources management

Following the last meeting, the administrative sub-committee developed a system for evaluating the performance of KEAC employees based on their specific job descriptions.

II. Archival management

Following the last meeting, Marie-Josée Allard, associate director of undergraduate programs in archival science at Université Laval was contacted to follow up on the possibility of identifying an archivist to re-organize the KEAC filing system at its secretariat in Kuujuaq. Ms. Allard explained that no responses to the KEAC offer had been received. She suggested using the Université Laval graduate placement program to identify a suitable candidate and explained the procedure. It was decided that this matter would be re-examined following the review of the KEAC budget for the next fiscal year.

c) Members

I. Proxies

A form for appointing member proxies was presented.

d) KEAC priorities

The members reviewed a table showing the status of KEAC files since the last meeting.

e) Annual report, 2016–2017

The review of the 2016–2017 annual report is now complete and the final version is being prepared.

f) Website

The members were informed that development of the website is now complete.

g) Five-year action plan, 2015–2020

The members requested that the 2015–2020 five-year action be reviewed in order to evaluate and orient KEAC work until 2020.

## **5. Environment Quality Act**

On July 20, 2017, an information session was held with MDDELCC representatives concerning a series of draft regulations to be adopted to implement the amendments made to the *Environment Quality Act* further to Bill 102. Following the conference call on August 9, 2017, a letter concerning KEAC observations was sent to the deputy minister of the MDDELCC. In the letter, the KEAC recommended to the MDDELCC to take into consideration the Nunavik context when revising the list of activities that pose “low” or “negligible” risk to the environment and for strategic environmental assessments. The KEAC also requested to be consulted upstream of future policy reviews. It was decided that the draft regulations should be re-examined before the next meeting.

## **6. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

a) Environmental assessment procedures guide

The final version of the environmental assessment procedures guide was presented to the members.

b) Social impacts

The members were informed that a first draft of the working document on how social impacts are dealt with under environmental assessment and authorization procedures should be available shortly.

c) Revision of the schedules in Section 23 of the JBNQA

On September 22, 2017, a letter was sent to the vice-president of the Makivik Corporation and to the provincial and federal administrators concerning the revision of the schedules in Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) and to encourage their continued efforts in this exercise. A copy of the 2009 *KEAC Position Paper on Strengthening the Environmental Impact Assessment and Review Procedure in Nunavik* was sent as an attachment. The members discussed the next steps in the revision process and requested that follow-up be conducted with the concerned parties.

## **7. Meeting with the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach**

The members met with Sandy Shecanapish, deputy chief of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach (NNK), and Jimmy James Einish, councillor, to discuss the possibility of increasing Naskapi involvement in KEAC activities. Robert Prévost, an NNK consultant, and Caroline Brillant, legal counsel for the NNK, were also in attendance. The meeting opened with a KEAC presentation on its mandate and sectors of activity. The role of the NNK in the environmental assessment procedure for projects in Nunavik and the involvement of the NNK in consultations for projects on NNK territory were then reviewed. It was stated that, should the NNK wish to have a representative appointed to the KEAC, the request should be made to the signatories of the JBNQA. In the meantime, the NNK was invited to communicate its environmental concerns to the KEAC secretariat and, if necessary, to attend the next KEAC meeting as an observer.

The members continued to consider the NNK proposal, and it was decided that a future meeting could be held in Kawawachikamach to continue the discussion with the community.

## **8. Meeting with the provincial and federal administrators**

The members met with Yves Rochon, director general of the MDDELCC Environmental and Strategic Assessment Branch, acting on behalf of the provincial administrator. The meeting opened with a description of the current situation regarding the KEAC operating budget. Justifications were then presented for the request for a budget increase for the coming years. Mr. Rochon explained that the KEAC request must be reviewed by the Conseil du trésor (treasury) and that, for the next fiscal year, all supporting documents should be submitted no later than December 2017. Next, the issue of the public registry and the implementation of the new regulations arising from the latest revision of the *Environment Quality Act* were discussed. Mr. Rochon recognized that the regulations and the public registry were developed for projects implemented in southern Québec. Notwithstanding, the MDDELCC is currently conducting an analysis of the regulations in terms of the legislative framework applicable in northern Québec. Other topics raised by the members included funding for residual materials management projects and the revision of the schedules of Section 23 of the JBNQA.

The members also met with Heather Smith, vice-president of Operations with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), and Anne-Marie Gaudet, director of the CEAA's Québec Regional Office, acting on behalf of the federal administrator. The meeting opened with a discussion regarding the environmental assessment procedure in Nunavik for projects under federal jurisdiction and the problems generated by multiple procedures. Ms. Smith explained that the CEAA is currently exploring methods for streamlining the procedures for projects under multiple jurisdictions. The revision and modernization of the schedules of Section 23 of the JBNQA were discussed, along with the involvement of the federal administrator in this exercise. The meeting concluded with discussion of the need to increase the KEAC's operating budget and the current review of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)*. Possible funding sources to assist the KRG to implement pilot projects under the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan* were also discussed.

## 9. Mining activity

### a) Hopes Advance iron mining project, Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation

The members discussed the current status of the Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation's mining project. It was stated that lack of clarity regarding the status of the project has generated a good deal of unease among the residents of Aupaluk. It was decided that a letter should be drafted to Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation to bring this issue to its attention.

## 10. Residual materials management

### a) *Regulation respecting the Landfilling and Incineration of Residual Materials*

In response to a letter sent on August 17, 2017, the members met with representatives from the MDDELCC Residual Materials Branch and Atmosphere Quality Policies Branch, and from RECYC-QUÉBEC to discuss issues related to the *Regulation respecting the Landfilling and Incineration of Residual Materials*. The MDDELCC representatives were presented with a summary of the current situation regarding the processing of residual materials at landfills in Nunavik. It was also explained to them that the Regulation, which obliges northern villages to conduct open-air burning of residual materials once a week, is not suitable for smaller communities. The MDDELCC representatives recognized the KEAC's concerns and stated that, although the Regulation contains this obligation, it does not prevent communities from exploring alternative residual materials disposal methods. In fact, the MDDELCC encourages alternative residual materials disposal methods and the development of recycling programs for municipalities. The KEAC underlined that the development of alternative programs in Nunavik requires human and financial resources and this need should be taken into consideration during the preparation of the next government policy regarding residual materials management.

Additionally, it was suggested that the former working group responsible for making recommendations to the responsible bodies concerning the amendment, if necessary, of existing policies and regulations to permit the application and funding of residual materials management programs in Nunavik should be reactivated.

The members decided to inform the KRG that, according to the Regulation, municipalities are obligated to burn their residual materials at least once a week although open-air burning is not mandatory insofar as a new suitable method can be identified that takes into account northern reality and receives government approval.

### b) Techniques for the management of residual materials in the north, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

The members were informed that the report by the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi on techniques for the management of residual materials in the north is now available and that the environmental analyst expects to present a document summary at the next meeting.

### c) Funding for the implementation of the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*

During discussions with MDDELCC and RECYC-QUÉBEC representatives, the members were informed that, even though the measures and pilot projects presented in the *Nunavik Residual Materials*

*Management Plan* are in line with government policy and regulations, the government is not obligated to fund the initiatives. It was suggested that funding might be available through the Green Fund.

d) Request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq

The members continued to discuss possible funding options to assist the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq with the remediation of a contaminated site in the community. It was stated that this type of remediation project is ineligible for financial assistance under most government programs.

e) *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*

On September 7, 2017, the KEAC sent a letter to Nicolas Juneau, director of the MDDELCC Residual Materials Branch, concerning the draft regulation to amend the *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*. More specifically, the KEAC supports the amendment to include a sixth category of products, i.e. household appliances and air conditioners, and emphasizes the importance of introducing recovery and reclamation measures for Nunavik. The addition of these products would permit the communities to reduce the volume of waste they must manage and to adopt sorting and deposit practices for materials that can be recovered and reclaimed.

f) Aluminium can collection and recycling

The members were presented with a summary of the current state of aluminium can recycling in Nunavik and the actions taken by the KEAC on this file.

g) Mid-Canada line radar stations

The members were informed that characterization studies of additional Mid-Canada line sites are currently underway.

## **11. Climate change**

a) Study on the status of knowledge of climate change adaptation in Nunavik, OURANOS

The members were informed that the study on the status of knowledge of climate change adaptation in Nunavik conducted by OURANOS has been finalized and is currently being reviewed by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

b) Development of renewable energy in Nunavik

The members were informed about recent renewable energy development initiatives in Nunavik.

## **12. Fisheries Act, presentation on the report by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans**

Andréanne Demers, a senior biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), delivered a presentation to the members on the current revision of the *Fisheries Act*. Ms. Demers reviewed the consultations that had been conducted and the activities of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans, as well as the proposed amendments to the Act. She explained that the feedback from Indigenous

groups focused on the development of a meaningful consultation process, the recognition of traditional knowledge and practices, treaty rights and co-governance. The federal government intends to include the 32 recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans and to develop partnership strategies for managing and implementing the revised Act and its provisions.

Following the presentation, the members provided feedback on DFO strategies for collaboration with northern communities and for preserving fish habitats in Nunavik within the framework of climate change adaptation measures. According to the members, these strategies should directly involve Nunavik residents.

### **13. Sustainable mobility plan for the Nord-du-Québec region**

The members discussed the current status of the sustainable mobility plan for the Nord-du-Québec region of the Ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de l'Électrification des transports (transport, sustainable mobility and transport electrification, MTMDET). Since the KEAC has not received any additional information on the plan, it was decided a follow-up letter would be sent to the deputy minister of the MTMDET.

### **14. Miscellaneous**

a) Green Corner Article, *Makivik Magazine*

It was decided that the next article for the Green Corner in *Makivik Magazine* would address the current state of aluminium can recycling in Nunavik. Another article topic could cover the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures in Nunavik and present the recently developed KEAC guide.

### **15. Dates and locations of the next meetings**

It was decided that the 154<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held on December 5 and 6, 2017, in Quebec City. The dates and location of the 155<sup>th</sup> meeting will be confirmed at a later date.



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
September 18, 2018