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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

**MINUTES OF THE 146TH MEETING OF THE KEAC  
(ADOPTED)**

**DATES:** December 3 and 4, 2015

**LOCATION:** Le Monastère des Augustines, Quebec City

**PRESENT:**

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

Michael Barrett, Chairperson  
Betsy Palliser, Vice-Chairperson

**Appointed by the Government of Canada**

Claude Abel  
Thessa Girard-Bourgoin  
Jean-Yves Savaria

**Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec**

Paule Halley  
Sylvie Létourneau  
Julie Samson

**Executive Secretary**

Benjamin Patenaude

**Environmental Analyst**

Nancy Dea

**ABSENT:**

Joseph Annahatak, Appointed by the KRG

**GUESTS:**

Carl Ouellet, Social Impacts Assessment Specialist, MDDELCC

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

The 146th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on December 3, 2015, at the Monastère des Augustines in Quebec City. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 146th meeting of the KEAC took place in accordance with the agenda below:

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 144th and 145th meetings
3. Business arising from the 145th meeting and correspondence
  - a) Abandoned outfitting camps
  - b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project
  - c) Mining activities on lands adjacent to Category I lands
  - d) Feedback concerning the authorization by the Federal Administrator of the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project
  - e) Work by the BAPE and the KEAC on the uranium industry
4. Budget, secretariat and members
  - a) Budget
  - b) Secretariat
  - c) Members
  - d) Status of active KEAC files
  - e) KEAC Annual Report, 2014–2015
  - f) KEAC Website
5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
  - a) Environmental assessment procedures guide
  - b) Working group on public participation – MDDELCC
  - c) Revision of the environmental assessment regime in Nunavik
6. Social impacts and social acceptability
7. Mining activity
  - a) Environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance iron mining project
  - b) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site
8. Québec government sustainable development strategy 2015–2020

9. Spill response and contaminated site remediation

10. Climate change

11. Residual materials management

- a) Community inspection tour – MDDELCC
- b) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects
- c) Residual materials management policy 2011–2015

12. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner article – *Makivik Magazine*

13. Date and location of the next meeting

## **2. Adoption of the minutes of the 144th and 145th meetings**

The members reviewed the minutes of the 144th and 145th meetings. The minutes of the 144th meeting were adopted with modifications. The adoption of the minutes of the 145th meeting was postponed to a later date.

## **3. Business arising from the 145th meeting and correspondence**

### **a) Abandoned outfitting camps**

At the 145th meeting of the KEAC, it was decided that a letter be drafted to request a presentation by a representative of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) regarding the status of abandoned outfitting camps in Nunavik and to have a representative from the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) present as an observer. On November 23, 2015, a letter to this effect was transmitted to Richard Savard, deputy minister of the MFFP. Copies were also transmitted to the chairperson of the HFTCC as well as 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). The members were informed that the MFFP is in the process of revising its existing database on abandoned outfitting camps. Nonetheless, due to budget restrictions, it is unable to advance the file any more quickly. The KEAC intends to reiterate to the MFFP its request for a meeting.

### **b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project**

The members were informed that the characterization study of the Pointe Louis XIV site is complete and the MDDELCC is currently reviewing the consultant's report. Once the report is finalized, a representative of the MDDELCC regional office should be available to give a presentation at a KEAC meeting. Furthermore, the MDDELCC still intends to transmit a letter to the Department of National Defence (DND) regarding its potential contribution to work under the third phase of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. Since the KEAC has not received a response to

its follow-up with the DND on April 27, 2015, another follow-up letter will be transmitted with a copy of the 2012 brief concerning the work needed to complete the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project.

**c) Mining activities on lands adjacent to Category I lands**

At the 145th meeting of the KEAC, it was decided that follow-up would be conducted with the MDDELCC regarding the KEAC letter dated January 17, 2014, concerning mining activities on lands adjacent to Category I lands. Following a legal review of the question, the MDDELCC transmitted a response to the KEAC on December 2, 2015. The members conducted a preliminary discussion and it was decided that an in-depth analysis of the MDDELCC letter should be conducted. The members recognized that the current revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) could contribute to clarifying the procedure applicable to mineral exploration activities and advancing the file.

**d) Feedback concerning the authorization by the Federal Administrator of the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project**

At the 145th meeting of the KEAC, it was decided to inform the Federal Administrator, Ron Hallman, of the KEAC's intention to create a sub-committee to review the administrative documents used by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) to authorize development projects, specifically the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure at Deception Bay, and to meet with CEAA representatives to discuss the matter. A question was raised regarding the guidelines followed by the CEAA under its project authorization procedure and how they are applied to its administrative documents. It was decided to enquire with the CEAA regarding this matter. The members were also informed that a workshop was organized for COFEX-North and COFEX-South representatives to improve their awareness of the bodies created under Section 23 of the JBNQA. The members requested a copy of the minutes of this workshop.

**e) Work by the BAPE and the KEAC on the uranium industry**

At the 145th meeting of the KEAC, it was brought to the attention of the members that the Inuktitut version of Chapter 13 of the report on the investigation and public hearings by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'Environnement (BAPE) into the uranium industry in Québec is illegible. On September 29, 2015, Diane Paquin, the BAPE's director of communications, was contacted in this regard. The Inuktitut text was revised with the assistance of a translator and, on October 22, 2015, a trilingual email was transmitted to the recipients of the BAPE report to explain the steps being taken to rectify the situation and to apologize for the error.

As well, on November 2, 2015, copies of the KEAC review of the public consultations on the uranium industry in Québec were transmitted to Christyne Tremblay, deputy minister of the MDDELCC, and Pierre Baril, president of the BAPE. A copy was also transmitted to John Paul Murdoch, chairperson of the special commission of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment.

Finally, it was mentioned that the MDDELCC had created an inter-departmental committee to review the findings of the BAPE report in detail and to develop a government position on the matter. The KEAC would like this file to be monitored.

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

##### **a) Budget**

The members were informed that the KEAC's annual funding for 2015–2016 was received on October 23, 2015. The members requested that the application for the organization's 2016–2017 annual funding be transmitted before April 1, 2016.

The KEAC's expense report for the period from September 1 to October 31, 2015, was presented and the KEAC credit card policy was revised and adopted.

##### **b) Secretariat**

The office of the KEAC secretariat was moved to the KRG building in Kuujjuaq. It was mentioned that the new office space will not produce any additional leasing fee. As well, the members temporarily adjusted the duties of the environmental analyst to include assisting the executive secretary with the office relocation.

##### **c) Members**

The members welcomed Jean-Yves Savaria, appointed by the federal government to replace Line Choinière.

##### **d) Status of active KEAC files**

Following up on the 145th meeting of the KEAC, an updated table describing the status of active KEAC files was presented.

##### **e) KEAC annual report, 2014–2015**

The members were informed that the 2014–2015 KEAC annual report is ready for distribution.

##### **f) KEAC website**

The environmental analyst presented the latest version of the new KEAC website. The members continued their discussion on the draft version and it was decided a conference call would be organized to finalize the revision. The members are concerned by the fact that a significant amount of content remains to be revised before the website will be ready to go online.

#### **5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

##### **a) Environmental assessment procedures guide**

An updated version of the environmental assessment procedures guide was presented. The members discussed the role of the focus group, composed of Nunavik community representatives that will be asked to review the final version of the guide.

## **b) Working group on public participation – MDDELCC**

The members were informed that the MDDELCC's working group on public participation is continuing its activities. However, changes in the working group's composition may affect the scheduling of future meetings.

## **c) Revision of the environmental assessment regime in Nunavik**

On November 7, 2015, a letter was sent to David Heurtel, Minister of the MDDELCC, to express the KEAC's desire to establish a dialogue to strengthen the provincial environmental assessment regime applicable in Nunavik. The members discussed the possible results of the revision of the *Environment Quality Act* proposed by the government and its potential impacts on Nunavik. Over the medium term, a bill will be tabled by the Minister and a parliamentary committee will be created. The KEAC intends to monitor this file closely.

## **6. Social impacts and social acceptability**

Carl Ouellet, a social impacts assessment specialist with the MDDELCC, gave a presentation on social impacts and social acceptability regarding development projects in Québec. Along with definitions of these two terms, Mr. Ouellet summarized the evolution of social impact assessment by the MDDELCC, the incorporation of social impacts into environmental impact assessment and review procedures, as well as specific considerations related to the social acceptability of development projects.

Mr. Ouellet in particular explained that the MDDELCC distinguishes between social impacts and social acceptability under review procedures. Social impacts may be considered as biophysical impacts since they imply a neutral and factual judgment of the acceptability of a given project, whereas social acceptability is subjective and reflects the dynamics between stakeholders and social groups. Mr. Ouellet concluded by explaining his role in social impacts analysis and issues related to the social acceptability of development projects mainly under the assessment procedure applicable in southern Québec.

The members discussed the relevancy of having all development projects subject to Section 23 of the JBNQA reviewed by MDDELCC sociologists, which does not currently seem to be the case. On the other hand, the procedure under Section 23 of the JBNQA has for quite some time included analysis of environmental and social impacts, unlike the procedure applicable in southern Québec.

## **7. Mining activity**

### **a) Environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance iron mining project**

At the 145th meeting of the KEAC, the members reviewed the draft letter addressed to the Provincial Administrator concerning the environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance iron mining project. A discussion followed on the validity period for the federal and provincial directives applicable to the project's environmental impact assessment. On November 18, 2015, the KEAC contacted an MDDELCC representative to obtain information on the expiry date of the provincial directive produced in 2012 and on the proponent's intentions concerning the implementation of the project. According to the representative, the MDDELCC had transmitted a letter to the project proponent to inquire about its intentions. The KEAC also contacted a CEAA representative to obtain

information on the expiry date of the federal directive. According to the CEAA representative, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, the federal directive remains valid and has no expiry date. Also according to the CEAA representative, the project proponent has indicated its intention to submit its impact study by December 2016.

The members discussed the difficulties created by the existence of two directives issued by separate administrative authorities and with different validity periods. It was decided to prepare a draft letter for the two levels of government on the members' concerns regarding the validity periods of provincial and federal directives.

#### **b) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site**

At the 145th meeting of the KEAC, it was decided that a request for access to information would be transmitted to the MDDELCC to obtain copies of documents relevant to rehabilitation work conducted at the Asbestos Hill mine site. These documents include correspondence between the MDDELCC and the Asbestos Corporation Ltd., as well as the activity report prepared by Falconbridge (now Glencore). A written request was transmitted to the regional office of the MDDELCC on November 23, 2015. On December 2, 2015, a MDDELCC representative informed the environmental analyst that the KEAC request was being processed. The members noted that, even if the MDDELCC responds to the KEAC request, it will not have complied with the prescribed timeframe for responding to requests for access to information.

### **8. Québec government sustainable development strategy 2015–2020**

In October 2015, the Québec government adopted a sustainable development strategy for the period 2015–2020. In the past, the KEAC had indicated its support for the 2008–2015 strategy. The members noted that the new strategy does not include specific details regarding Northern Québec and that its objectives are rather general. The members expressed an interest in tracking the possible effects of the new objectives on development in the north and the modernization of the authorization regime.

### **9. Spill response and contaminated site remediation**

Due to recent large spills of hazardous materials in the communities of Akulivik, Inukjuak and Salluit as well as the growing concerns of Inuit in the region, training was delivered by the KRG and the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec to fire fighters in Nunavik. The training covered proper responses for the treatment and remediation of hazardous material spills in the communities.

A few years ago, the KEAC prepared hazardous material management guides for regional organizations, the northern villages and the general public. The members discussed the possibility of updating the information contained in these guides (specifically regarding how to contain hazardous material spills and treat contaminated sites) and distributing them in all the communities in Nunavik. It was decided that, before revising and redistributing the guides, a cost assessment would be prepared.

As well, the members were informed that the mandate of Transport Canada regional advisory councils (RAC) concerning preparedness and responses to hydrocarbon spills in marine environments had been defined and that a representative from the Québec RAC had approached the KEAC regarding the composition of the RAC. It was

decided that a letter would be transmitted to the chair of the Québec RAC to request a presentation at a future meeting of the KEAC.

## **10. Climate change**

The members were informed that the Québec government had released its action plan for climate change adaptation 2013–2020. In the action plan, the Québec government plans to impose measures in the transportation, industrial and green technology sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%. In April 2012, the KEAC submitted its feedback on the action plan to the deputy minister of the MDDELCC.

## **11. Residual materials management**

### **a) Community inspection tour – MDDELCC**

The inspection tour of Nunavik communities conducted by the MDDELCC took place between October 14 and 21, 2015, and focused mainly on borrow pit and quarry sites in the communities of Kuujjuaq, Kangirsuk, Kangiqsujuaq and Salluit. The tour was conducted by two representatives of the regional office of the MDDELCC in the company of the KEAC executive secretary and the KRG environmental technician. Onsite inspections and assessments of the states of the borrow pit and quarry sites were conducted by the MDDELCC. Meetings were also held with municipal officials to obtain their environmental observations and concerns regarding the state and management of these sites. Waste disposal sites as well as municipal and other infrastructure projects were also inspected. The executive secretary presented the results of the community inspection tour and outlined the issues faced by municipal and regional governments.

### **b) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects**

The members were informed of residual material collection activities that took place in September and October 2015 in the communities Kuujuarapik, Salluit and Kuujjuaq under pilot projects related to extended producer responsibility. A technician provided by the organizations governed by the *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises* was present to oversee the collection and preparation of residual materials including electronics, paint, batteries, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lamps, as well as used oil, antifreeze, solvents and used oil filters. The technician and a KRG environmental specialist provided both support and training for community representatives. In general, the pilot project results were positive. However, some communities require more preparation to ensure adequate collection of the targeted materials. A report prepared by the KRG and including the quantities of residual materials collected will be available for the next KEAC meeting.

### **c) Residual materials management policy 2011–2015**

It was recalled that the Québec government had produced a residual materials management policy 2011–2015 and that the KEAC had transmitted recommendations in 2010 to the deputy minister of the MDDELCC, including a request that the government provide a precise definition of “northern regions” and that it develop technical assistance programs for Nunavik municipalities. In its policy, the government allocated funding for local and regional governments in Northern Québec to manage residual materials.



Recently, it was announced that the Chaire en éco-conseil at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi had received funding to develop residual materials management techniques adapted to the north. Under this initiative, three courses of action have been identified: meetings with regional organizations to discuss their concerns, the development of programs for the preparation and treatment of residual materials, and the setting up of a communication and technical support network. The members decided that a letter would be transmitted to the Chaire en éco-conseil inviting a representative to make a presentation on its work at a future meeting of the KEAC.

## **12. Miscellaneous**

### **a) Green Corner article – *Makivik Magazine***

It was decided that the next article for the Green Corner in *Makivik Magazine* would include information on proper responses in the case of hazardous material spills.

## **13. Date and location of the next meeting**

It was decided that the dates for the 147th meeting would be confirmed at a later date.



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
October 12, 2016