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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 148TH MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: June 16 and July 11, 2016

LOCATION: La Domaine de Maizerets, Quebec City (June 16) and conference call (July 11)

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett, Chairperson
Laina Grey (July 11)

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté (June 16) (interim replacement for Claude Abel)
Jean-Yves Savaria

Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec

Paule Halley (July 11)
Sylvie Létourneau
Julie Samson

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Stephanie Benoit (July 11)

ABSENT:

Anthony Ittoshat, appointed by the KRG

GUESTS (June 16):

Daniel Gendron, Engineer, Analysis and Regional Expertise Branch for Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec, MDDELCC (by conference call)
Hélène Côté, Research Coordinator, Chaire en éco-conseil, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
Pierre-Luc Dessureault, Researcher, Chaire en éco-conseil, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
Véronique St-Onge, Residual Materials Branch, MDDELCC
Andrée-Anne Labreque, Water Policy Branch, MDDELCC
Nancy Blanchette, Water Policy Branch, MDDELCC

1. Call to order and adoption of the Agenda

The 148th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on June 16, 2016, at the Domaine de Maizerets in Quebec City. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 148th meeting took place in accordance with the agenda¹ below:

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of minutes of the 146th and the conference call held on April 19, 2016 *
3. Business arising from the 147th meeting and correspondence
 - a) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project
 - b) Hopes Advance iron mining project
 - c) Abandoned outfitting camps
 - d) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site
 - e) Strengthening the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure
 - f) Discussion with COFEX-North
 - g) KEQC secretariat
4. Budget, secretariat and members
 - a) Budget 2016–2017 *
 - b) Secretariat
 - c) Members
 - d) KEAC priorities
 - e) KEAC annual report, 2015–2016
 - g) KEAC website
5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
 - a) Environmental assessment procedures guide
 - b) Social impacts and social acceptability *
 - c) Quest Rare Minerals mine project *
6. Mining activity
 - a) Draft Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector – MERN *
 - b) 2016 Raglan environmental forum *
 - c) 2016 Kuujuaq mining workshop *

¹ The agenda items marked with an asterisk (*) were postponed to or continued during the July 11 conference call.

7. Residual materials management

- a) Information campaign on spill response and contaminated site remediation *
- b) Contaminated site – request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq *
- c) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects *
- d) Northern residual materials management techniques – Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (presentation)

8. Consultations on the future Québec water strategy

9. Modernization of the *Environment Quality Act* *

10. Protected areas

- a) Working group for the protection of an additional 30% of the Plan Nord area *
- b) Overview of protected areas in Nunavik *

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*

12. Dates and location of the next meetings *

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 146th meeting and the conference call held on April 19, 2016

The members discussed their feedback on the minutes from the 146th meeting and the conference call held on April 19, 2016. The minutes of the April 19 conference call were adopted with some minor modifications. The adoption of the minutes of the 146th meeting was postponed to a later date.

3. Business arising from the 147th meeting and correspondence

- a) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project

On April 13, 2016, the KEAC received a letter from Jaime Pittfield, assistant deputy minister of Infrastructure and Environment with the Department of National Defence (DND), confirming receipt of its letter dated February 11, 2016, regarding the status of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. Mr. Pittfield explained in his letter that the DND and various partner organizations are examining different options for a third phase of the clean-up project and that the members should receive a complete response within 90 days. On April 19, 2016, the KEAC transmitted another letter to David Heurtel, 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 emphasize the importance of resuming clean-up work on the Mid-Canada line sites in Nunavik in cooperation with the DND and the KRG. A copy of this letter was also transmitted to the KRG chairperson.

The members continued their discussion on this topic by conference call with Daniel Gendron of the MDDELCC. Mr. Gendron provided an overview of the recent characterization study of the Point Louis XIV

site. He explained that the MDDELCC intends to present the results of the characterization study to DND representatives at a meeting scheduled for the fall of 2016. The results should serve to develop a work plan that the MDDELCC can submit to the DND along with an official request to contribute to the project. Subsequently, a protocol agreement should be signed by all the concerned parties. The members decided to monitor the progress of this file.

b) Hopes Advance iron mining project

The members were informed by an MDDELCC representative that the KEAC should receive shortly a response to its letter dated February 25, 2016, concerning the Hopes Advance iron mining project.

c) Abandoned outfitting camps

On April 25, 2016, the KEAC transmitted a letter to Laurent Lessard, Minister of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) about the members' concerns regarding the state of abandoned outfitting camps in Nunavik and to reiterate a request for a presentation at a future meeting. The members asked that follow-up be conducted since the KEAC has not received any response.

d) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site

On May 13, 2016, the KEAC transmitted a letter to Anick Lavoie, director of the regional branch of the MDDELCC, regarding the status of the file concerning the Asbestos Hill mine site. In the letter, the members expressed their concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts caused by the recent exposure of ore tailings and residual materials buried at the site, and requested a presentation on this topic at a future meeting. The members asked that follow-up be conducted since the KEAC has not received any response.

e) Strengthening the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure

On March 18, 2016, the KEAC received a response from Christyne Tremblay, deputy minister of the MDDELCC, to its letter dated November 17, 2015, concerning the members' interest in opening a dialogue with the MDDELCC with a view to modernizing the environmental and social impact assessment and review regime applicable in Nunavik. Ms. Tremblay specified that the current revision of the *Environment Quality Act* does not apply to the territory defined in the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA). Ms. Tremblay pointed out that the revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA should be the first step in this modernization process. Ms. Tremblay invited the members to provide feedback on how this revision should be conducted and concluded by encouraging the continued improvement of the administrative procedures applicable to the environmental protection regime for Nunavik.

f) Discussion with COFEX-North

On March 22, 2016, a representative of the Environmental and Social Impact Review Panel (COFEX-North) was contacted to schedule a meeting with the KEAC subcommittee to discuss improvements to the administrative documents used by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency for project authorizations, like the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project at Deception Bay. The members were

informed that COFEX-North was aware of the KEAC recommendations contained in its letter dated April 21, 2015. It was concluded that a meeting would no longer be necessary.

g) KEQC secretariat

On May 18, 2016, Yves Rochon, interim director general of the Environmental and Strategic Assessment Branch of the MDDELCC, was contacted to follow up on the KEAC letter dated July 31, 2015, regarding the relocation of the secretariat of the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) to the Quebec City office of the MDDELCC. Mr. Rochon explained that the KEQC currently has no other options and invited the members to make recommendations. It was decided that the topic would be included on the agenda for the 149th meeting.

4. Budget, secretariat and members

a) Budget 2016–2017

On March 14, 2016, the KEAC's application for 2016–2017 annual funding was transmitted to the Provincial Administrator. To date, the KEAC has still not received any payment of its annual funding, which according to the agreement between the parties should be made on April 1. This is a recurrent problem that considerably restricts KEAC activities. If the subsidy is not received quickly, the KEAC will find itself in a financial dilemma and be unable to pay its staff. It was decided a letter would be transmitted to the Provincial Administrator to stress the importance of processing the KEAC's annual funding application in accordance with the timetable prescribed by the administrative agreement.

As well, the KEAC received a letter on May 27, 2016, from Alan McDonald, director general of Implementation, Treaties and Aboriginal Government with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), informing the members that, as of April 1, 2017, INAC will be administering directly the federal portion of the KEAC's annual funding. The members discussed possible impacts of this change on KEAC activities and asked to receive a funding agreement model for review.

The KEAC's expense report for the period from February to April 2016 was presented and it was decided that accounting software should be purchased to facilitate the financial management of the KEAC.

b) Secretariat

The members were informed of the new housing arrangement for the executive secretary in Kuujjuaq.

c) Members

The members were informed that Laina Grey and Anthony Ittoshat have been appointed by the KRG, replacing Betsy Palliser and Joseph Annahatak.

d) KEAC priorities

The members discussed active KEAC files and their prioritization according to the KEAC's mandate and five-year action plan. It was decided that a draft document would be developed by the members to focus discussion and facilitate decisions in line with the KEAC's mandate.

e) KEAC annual report, 2015–2016

A first draft of the KEAC annual report for 2015–2016 was presented and the members undertook to provide feedback to the environmental analyst.

f) KEAC website

The members were informed that the KEAC might ask a different service provider to host its new website.

5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Environmental assessment procedures guide

The members were informed that additional modifications had been made to the environmental assessment procedures guide. It was then decided that a final revision of the guide be undertaken before it is presented to the focus group for feedback.

b) Social impacts and social acceptability

A comparison of legal provisions governing the social impact assessment of development projects under northern and southern procedures in Québec was presented. The members decided to set up a subcommittee and develop a work proposal for the next meeting.

c) Quest Rare Minerals mine project

The directives for the Quest Rare Minerals mine project were presented to the members. It was noted that there is no English version of the document for consultation by Nunavik residents. It was decided that the topic would be included on the agenda for the 149th meeting.

6. Mining activity

a) Draft Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector – MERN

On March 24, 2016, the environmental analyst attended a consultation organized by the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) on the draft Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector. The members were informed that a draft letter detailing KEAC feedback on the new policy is being prepared.

b) 2016 Raglan environmental forum

The executive secretary presented a summary of the 2016 Raglan environmental forum held from March 14 to 16, 2016, in Kangiqsujuaq. The forum was co-chaired by representatives of Glencore and the Makivik Corporation. Its purpose was to open a dialogue between Glencore and community residents and to provide an opportunity for the general public as well as community organizations to express their environmental concerns related to activities at the Raglan mine.

c) 2016 Kuujjuaq mining workshop

The executive secretary presented a summary of the 2016 mining development workshop organized by the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund from April 26 to 28, 2016, in Kuujjuaq. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together representatives of the Québec government, the mining sector and regional organizations to encourage open dialogue on mining development in Nunavik, to provide Nunavik residents with an opportunity to participate in and learn about mining development, and to generate business opportunities for local businesses. The mining workshop also served as an opportunity for Nunavik residents to reaffirm their role as key stakeholders in the region.

7. Residual materials management

a) Information campaign on spill response and contaminated site remediation

The members were informed that the guide and posters for spill response and contaminated site remediation had been received at the office of the KEAC secretariat in Kuujjuaq. The guide is intended as part of a training program organized by the KRG in each community and will be distributed to regional and municipal organizations.

b) Contaminated Site – request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq

On May 17, 2016, René Damecour of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECC) was contacted to inquire about possible funding sources to assist the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq in the remediation of a contaminated site. Mr. Damecour explained that, since the municipality had previously received a notice of non-compliance from the MDDELCC for this site, it was not eligible for ECC financial assistance programs. It was suggested that additional funding programs may be available through INAC and an INAC representative should be contacted about this matter.

c) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects

The members were informed that extended producer responsibility pilot projects are scheduled to resume in the summer of 2016 in the communities of Kangirsuk, Kangiqsujuaq, Salluit, Inukjuak and Kuujjuarapik. The KRG environmental specialist will be onsite to provide technical assistance to the communities. Furthermore, the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec recently expressed interest in constructing and managing residual materials collection sites in each Nunavik community.

d) Northern residual materials management techniques – Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (presentation)

Hélène Côté, research coordinator with the Chaire en éco-conseil at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, gave a presentation on the northern residual materials management program. Ms. Côté was accompanied by Pierre-Luc Dessureault, a researcher with the Chaire en éco-conseil, and Véronique St-Onge, a residual materials management advisor with the MDDELCC.

Prior to the presentation, Ms. St-Onge provided a brief description of the MDDELCC policy concerning the processing of residual materials, how it is applied in the north, and the management plan currently under development. Ms. Côté opened the presentation with a description of the project's knowledge acquisition phase, which involved meetings with community and industry representatives, fieldwork, as well as experiments on different types of residual materials. The project's next phase involves information sharing among concerned parties and the identification of possible funding sources. Ms. Côté explained that the Chaire en éco-conseil is developing four deliverables through the project, i.e. a work plan for the processing and management of residual materials in northern communities, a literature review, a website with social forum, and an online seminar.

Following the presentation, the members provided observations concerning additional references on residual materials management in Nunavik and the need to consult representatives from other Nunavik communities during the scheduled visit to Kuujuaq in the fall of 2016.

8. Consultations on the future Québec water strategy

Andrée-Anne Labreque and Nancy Blanchette of the Water Policy Branch of the MDDELCC presented an overview of the Québec water strategy 2016–2030. Ms. Labreque provided background information on the previous water management strategies of the Québec government and described how the future strategy will take into account the impacts of climate change and current land use plans, while promoting transparency and information sharing for the preservation of aquatic systems. Ms. Labreque explained that the objectives of the future strategy will be met through eight orientations, i.e. improving techniques for knowledge acquisition and sharing, water treatment, creating protected areas, promoting sustainable water use, public access to quality drinking water, the inclusion of water-based resources in Québec's economic development, improved risk management, and general strengthening of the integrated management of water resources. Ms. Labreque concluded by explaining that the MDDELCC and other government departments are developing the first five-year action plan. Once the action plan is complete, additional consultations may be scheduled. The members were invited to make recommendations concerning the 2016–2030 strategy and to join the MDDELCC's partner organizations.

Following Ms. Labreque's presentation, the members recommended that Northern Québec and, specifically, drinking water quality monitoring systems in northern communities be included in the strategy. It was decided that the KEAC would prepare a brief on this topic.

9. Modernization of the *Environment Quality Act*

The members were informed that Bill 102, *Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to modernize the environmental authorization scheme and to amend Other Legislative Provisions, in particular to Reform the*

Governance of the Green Fund was tabled in the National Assembly on June 7, 2016, and that special consultations are scheduled for the fall of 2016. The members noted that Bill 102 excludes the territories defined under the JBNQA. It was nonetheless decided that a brief should be prepared on the topic because the proposed amendments are likely to affect the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure applicable in Nunavik pursuant to Section 23 of the JBNQA.

10. Protected areas

- a) Working group for the protection of an additional 30% of the Plan Nord area

The members were informed of the recent creation by the Québec government of two subcommittees to focus on the protection of an additional 30% of the Plan Nord area. The first subcommittee will identify the next protected areas in the boreal forest biome and the second in the taiga-tundra biome. The subcommittees are to consist of representatives of the Québec government, the research community and Aboriginal groups. An initial meeting of the subcommittees is scheduled for December 2016.

- b) Overview of protected areas in Nunavik

The members were presented background information regarding the creation of protected areas in Nunavik.

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*

It was decided that the next article for the Green Corner in *Makivik Magazine* would cover the continuation of extended producer responsibility pilot projects.

12. Dates and location of the next meeting

It was decided that the 149th meeting of the KEAC would take place from October 11 to 14, 2016, in Quaqtaq.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
December 13, 2016