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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 151ST MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATE: March 16, 2017

LOCATION: Main office of the Kativik Regional Government, Kuujjuaq

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté

Jean-Yves Savaria, Vice-Chairperson (by conference call)

Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec

Paule Halley (by conference call)

Sylvie Létourneau

Julie Samson, Chairperson

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Vacant

ABSENT:

Anthony Ittoshat, appointed by the KRG

Laina Grey, appointed by the KRG

Caroline Girard, appointed by the Government of Canada

GUESTS:

Lorie Cummings, Unit Head, Base Metals Smelting, Iron Ore Pelletizing, and Potash Section, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

Harmit Kormal, Program Engineer, ECCC

Marie-Josée Allard, Associate Director of Undergraduate Programs in Archival Science, Université Laval

Véronique Gilbert, Environmental Specialist, KRG

Chantal Lalonde, Project Manager, KRG

Nancy Dea, Project Manager, KRG

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 151st meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on March 16, 2017, at the main office of the KRG in Kuujuaq. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 151st 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 149th and 150th meetings
3. Business arising from the 150th meeting and correspondence
 - a) Review of the federal environmental assessment and authorization procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)* and the *Fisheries Act*
 - b) Working group on public participation – MDDELCC
 - c) Monier region – Naskapi
4. Budget, secretariat and members
 - a) Budget
 - b) Secretariat
 - i) Human resources management
 - ii) Archival management
 - c) Members
 - d) Active and priority files
 - e) Annual reports, 2015–2016 and 2016–2017
 - f) Website
5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
 - a) Environmental assessment procedures guide
 - b) Request from the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach
 - c) KEQC secretariat
 - d) Social impacts
 - e) Revision of the schedules in Section 23 of the JBNQA
 - f) Québec-government consultations on public participation
 - g) Revision of the *Environment Quality Act*
6. Mining activities
 - a) Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector – MERN
 - b) Raglan mine (phases II and III) – Glencore
 - c) Rehabilitation of abandoned mineral exploration sites in Nunavik, update
 - d) Hopes Advance iron mining project – Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation
7. Residual materials management
 - a) Québec-government regulations concerning residual materials management
 - b) Pilot project to recycle unserviceable vehicles and appliances

8. Hydrocarbons
9. Québec Water Strategy
10. Climate change study – Ouranos
11. *Metal Mining and Effluent Regulations* under the *Fisheries Act*
12. Miscellaneous
 - a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*
13. Dates and location of the next meetings

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 149th and 150th meetings

The members were updated on the status of the revision of the minutes of the 149th and 150th meetings.

3. Business arising from the 150th meeting and correspondence

- a) Review of the federal environmental assessment and authorization procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012) and the *Fisheries Act*

On December 19, 2016, the KEAC transmitted its 2011 brief on the revision of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012) to the Minister of the ECCC, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, along with its 2002 brief mainly on the overlapping environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik. Copies of these documents were also transmitted to the chair of the expert panel and the president of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. A response from Ms. McKenna was received on January 16, 2017, in which she indicated that the KEAC feedback should be taken into account in the expert panel's report. The report will be available for feedback following its submission to the Minister. Ms. McKenna finally mentioned that, once the expert panel's report has been finalized, it will be used to identify the next steps towards improving the environmental assessment and authorization procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012).

On February 8, 2017, a letter containing KEAC feedback on the *Fisheries Act* was transmitted to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc. The director generals of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for ecosystems management and for the Québec region were copied on the letter. Mr. LeBlanc confirmed receipt of the letter on March 10, 2017. He indicated that the DFO intends to study the KEAC feedback and the report produced by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. Following this analysis, the DFO will develop a series of proposals to restore the lost protections and incorporate modern safeguards into current legislation.

- b) Working group on public participation – MDDELCC

On February 24, 2017, a representative 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) was contacted to follow up on the status of the working group on public participation. The representative explained that the working group had not held a meeting since June 2015 due to changes in its composition. Once the MDDELCC designates a new member, the working group should resume its activities. The members decided to wait for the working group to be restarted.

c) Moinier region – Naskapi

The members concluded the discussion on the particular status of the Moinier region (an area situated south of the 55th parallel, near Schefferville). Further to a verification of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA), the members agreed that the KEAC has no involvement in this territory.

4. Budget, secretariat and members

a) Budget

The members were informed that the funding application for 2017–2018 was transmitted to the MDDELCC on February 21, 2017. The expense report for November 2016 to January 2017 was also presented.

b) Secretariat

i) Human resources management

With staff absent, the members discussed the staff performance assessment process. As well, they discussed staffing of the position of environmental analyst.

ii) Archival management

The members met with Marie-Josée Allard, associate director of undergraduate programs in Archival Science at Université Laval, to discuss the possibility of identifying an archivist to re-organize the KEAC filing system at its secretariat in Kuujuaq. Following a description of the members' expectations, Ms. Allard proposed a few options for approaching this project. It was decided that, in order to identify a suitable candidate, Ms. Allard should be provided with a general inventory of the KEAC's files as well as a target schedule. For her part, Ms. Allard undertook to prepare proposals for a Master's project. A KEAC sub-committee was created to continue discussions on this topic.

c) Members

The federal government recently decided to appoint Caroline Girard to the KEAC as one of its representatives. It was also announced that Michael Barrett will be the chairperson for 2017–2018. The members thanked Julie Samson for her term as chairperson in 2016–2017.

d) Active and priority files

An updated version of the summary table was presented to the members, following a revision based on the members' feedback at the last meeting. It was mentioned that the updated table makes it easier to track files.

e) Annual reports, 2015–2016 and 2016–2017

The members were informed that the annual report for 2015–2016 is being printed and it was decided that a first draft of the annual report for 2016–2017 should be ready by the next meeting.

f) Website

The members were informed that the new KEAC website has been finalized and is ready to be officially launched.

5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Environmental assessment procedures guide

On March 7, 2017, the KEAC sub-committee met to discuss the next steps in the review of the environmental assessment procedures guide. It was decided that the guide should first be presented to regional participants at the annual Kuujjuaq mining workshop for their feedback.

b) Request from the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach

On February 21, 2017, the KEAC was contacted by a representative of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach to enquire about the possibility of a meeting with the KEAC to explore Naskapi participation in KEAC activities. The members discussed the request and decided to accept to meet with the representative to address the matter further.

c) KEQC secretariat

The members were informed that the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) has decided to re-locate its secretariat in Kuujjuaraapik and to hire the necessary staff.

d) Social impacts

The members continued to discuss the preparation of a work proposal for a study on social impacts. It was indicated that the study should focus on how social impacts are dealt with under the assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik and by the bodies responsible for implementing the procedures. As well, some members plan to attend the International Association for Impact Assessment conference scheduled from April 4 to 7, 2017, in Montreal. Their participation should stimulate KEAC reflections on social impacts.

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

The members reviewed the file regarding the revision of the schedules in Section 23 of the JBNQA and noted that the revision process is still on hold. As decided at the previous meeting, the members reiterated their intention to transmit a letter to the Makivik Corporation in order to enquire about the current status of the revision and to emphasize the importance of continuing the work started by the MDDELCC in 2015.

f) Québec-government consultations on public participation

Consultations on the Québec government's framework regarding public participation started on November 7, 2016. The framework proposes seven guidelines to improve public participation as well as to increase and make more effective use of public participation by the government when developing public policy. Although the KEAC had intended to produce feedback on the document submitted for consultation, the members were informed that the consultation deadline had passed.

g) Revision of the *Environment Quality Act*

The members were informed that the National Assembly had completed its study by parliamentary committee of Bill 102, *An 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*, and is in the process of adopting the revised bill. Given the importance of this file for the KEAC, the members intend to closely monitor progress.

6. Mining activities

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

The members were informed that the mining sector of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) expects to release in the spring of 2017 a new version of the draft Aboriginal community consultation policy. The members expressed interest in taking advantage of this new opportunity to prepare feedback on the draft policy. It was decided that the executive secretary would follow up with a MERN representative to this effect.

b) Raglan mine (phases II and III) – Glencore

On March 6, 2017, the KEAC received an invitation from the KEQC to participate in public consultations concerning phases II and III of the development project at the Raglan mine. The consultations are scheduled to be held on April 3 and 4, 2017, in Salluit and on April 5 and 6 in Kangiqsujuaq. It was decided that, given the relatively short timeline, the members will not be able to participate in the consultations. They however thanked the KEQC for the invitation.

c) Rehabilitation of abandoned mineral exploration sites in Nunavik, update

Nancy Dea, the KRG project manager, updated the members on this project to rehabilitate abandoned mineral exploration sites in Nunavik and described the project's objectives for the coming years.

d) Hopes Advance iron mining project – Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation

The members were informed that a meeting took place in Aupaluk on March 4, 2017, between community residents and KRG representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation's Hopes Advance iron mining project and address the concerns of community residents. It was reiterated that the project is having negative effects on the community. The members discussed different ways to present this problem to the responsible authorities. It was decided that a letter would be transmitted to the president of Oceanic Iron Ore Corporation following a review of previous KEAC correspondence on this topic. As well, the members requested that a meeting be scheduled with a representative of the Makivik Corporation to study the matter further.

7. Residual materials management

a) Québec-government regulations concerning residual materials management

The members were briefed on the situation regarding Québec-government regulations covering the management of residual materials in Nunavik. It was explained that certain regulations limit the ability to improve residual materials management methods, specifically regarding open-air burning of waste and optimal use of landfills. It was decided that a review of Québec-government regulations concerning residual materials management should be undertaken before raising this matter with the Québec government.

b) Pilot project to recycle unserviceable vehicles and appliances

Véronique Gilbert, a KRG environmental specialist, delivered a presentation on a pilot project to recycle unserviceable vehicles and appliances that was carried out in Kangirsuk from September 12 to 25, 2016. Ms. Gilbert was accompanied by Chantal Lalonde, a KRG project manager. The presentation provided descriptions of the situation concerning unserviceable vehicles and appliances in Nunavik landfills and the recent KRG initiative to fund the pilot project. Technical support was received from Scout Environmental, Automotive Recyclers of Canada and the

Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec. The presentation ended with a summary of results and a description of the quantities of residual materials collected and recycled. Ms. Gilbert also described the purpose and future objectives of the program.

8. Hydrocarbons

The members compared the handling and storage of hydrocarbons in Nunavik with the provisions contained in applicable regulations. It was decided that a review be undertaken of related legislation and that the results be presented at the next meeting.

9. Québec Water Strategy

The members discussed the Québec government's water strategy and were informed that it is scheduled for adoption in March 2017. Subsequently, a series of action plans will be developed by the MDDELCC. The members indicated interest in being consulted on the action plans.

10. Climate change study – Ouranos

The members were informed that the service contract between the KEAC and Ouranos concerning the performance of analysis to update the gaps in current knowledge on climate change problems in Nunavik had been finalized. The KEAC was also updated on the analysis.

11. Metal Mining and Effluent Regulations under the Fisheries Act

Lorie Cummings, unit head of the Base Metals Smelting, Iron Ore Pelletizing, and Potash Section of ECCC, delivered a presentation on the proposed amendments to the *Metal Mining and Effluent Regulations* under the *Fisheries Act*. She was accompanied by Harmit Kormal, an ECCC program engineer. Ms. Cummings provided an overview of the Regulations and described its key elements, including concentration controls for mining effluent discharged into waterways, environmental impacts monitoring, and a stringent approval process for mining effluent discharge. The proposed amendments will expand the scope of the Regulations to cover coal and diamond mines. Ms. Cummings concluded with a description of the timeline for the revision and how interested parties may participate.

12. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*

It was decided that the next article for the Green Corner in *Makivik Magazine* would cover the unserviceable vehicles and appliances recycling pilot project.

13. Dates and location of the next meetings

It was decided that the 152nd meeting would take place during the week of June 12, 2017, in Kangiqsujuaq. The dates and location of the 153rd meeting will be confirmed at a later date.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive secretary
June 13, 2017