



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité consultatif
pour l'environnement
de la Baie-James

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**MINUTES OF THE 66TH MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

ADOPTED

DATE : August 28, 1991

LOCATION : Université de Montréal
Faculté de l'aménagement
Institut d'Urbanisme
5620 Darlington St.
Room 160, 1st Floor
Montréal, Québec

PRESENT : Paul Wilkinson, Chairman, CRA
Alan Penn, CRA
Marie Lessard, Québec
Alain Soucy, Québec
Robert Daigneault, Québec
Hubert Marcotte, Canada
Jean-Guy Charest, Canada
Pierre Marchand, Canada
Louis-Edmond Hamelin, Canada
Éric Chaîné, Technical Advisor, JBACE

ABSENT : Gilles Frisque, Québec
James Bobbish, CRA
Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Roméo Saganash, CCCPP



1. PRELIMINARIES AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted:

1. Preliminaries and adoption of the agenda;
2. Environmental assessment of Hydro-Québec's 12th power transmission line;
3. Composition of the Great Whale federal environmental assessment panel;
4. 1991-1992 budget proposal;
5. Date and location of the next meeting.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF HYDRO-QUÉBEC'S 12TH POWER TRANSMISSION LINE

In a letter addressed to the Chairman on August 2, 1991, Me Chantal Desrochers, representing the Grand Council of the Crees and the Cree Regional Authority, expressed the opinion that Hydro-Québec's proposed 12th power transmission line is not consistent with the reference made thereto in Schedule 1, Section 8 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) and should therefore be subject to environmental assessment under Section 22 of the JBNQA. Me Desrochers therefore asked that we respect our mandate and ensure that federal and provincial environmental assessment of the project is carried out.

During the August 19, 1991 conference call, the JBACE decided to study Me Desrochers' arguments but not to address the issue of provincial and federal jurisdiction before learning of Judge Rouleau's ruling on this matter. The Committee also decided to invite the parties involved to the August 28, 1991 meeting. The Grand Council of the Crees, Hydro-Québec and the Ministère de l'Environnement were extended invitations on August 19, 1991.

The Grand Council of the Crees accepted our invitation, Hydro-Québec declined and the MENVIQ did not respond.

At the meeting, Alan Penn distributed a memorandum to members outlining plans for the establishment of a power transmission network in the James Bay territory. Me Desrochers was invited to present the position of her clients on this issue, which consists of an interpretation of Schedule 1, Section 8 of the Agreement. Me Desrochers and her clients feel that substantial changes were made to the 12th line, as it was defined in 1975, and that the project should be subjected to the environmental assessment procedure provided for in Section 22 of the JBNQA. Me Desrochers answered members' questions and was thanked for her presentation.

Alan Penn tabled the following documents for the Committee's consideration:

- An administrative agreement dated December 4, 1990 (with an unofficial English translation) between the MENVIQ and Hydro-Québec concerning the application of Section 22 of the Environment Quality Act to Eastmain 1, Hydro-Québec's 12th power transmission line, the Eastmain 1-Nemaska 315- KV line, and the expansion of substations located in the territory governed by the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The latter is part of Hydro-Québec's program to enhance its transmission system (series compensation network).
- A letter dated April 11, 1991 from Gaston Moisan to André Trudeau, containing the COMEX's comments on the 12th line. The COMEX was consulted in its capacity as experts.
- A certificate of authorization issued in accordance with article 22 of the Environment Quality Act for the 735-KV 12th line extending from the Chisasibi substation to the southern limit of the territory governed by the Agreement. The certificate was issued by Harvey Mead to Daniel Dubeau on July 15, 1991.

The Committee decided to extend another invitation to Hydro-Québec and MENVIQ and to postpone discussion on this matter until the next meeting, at which time it will assess the relevance of making recommendations for this project.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE GREAT WHALE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PANEL

In accordance with the decision made at the July 30, 1991 meeting to consider the names of candidates proposed by the Grand Council of the Crees, members decided to submit these names on the Committee's behalf to the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Office. The candidates are:

Philip Awashish
Alain Bissonnette
Harvey Feit
Adrian Tanner
George Wapachee

4. 1991-92 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Members were reminded of the urgency of submitting an annual budget proposal. The secretariat is responsible for preparing a draft proposal.

5. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING

As requested by the members appointed by the Cree Regional Authority, the next Committee meeting will be held in Montréal on September 10, beginning at 10:30 a.m.



Éric Chaîné
Technical Advisor