



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 72nd MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

ADOPTED

DATE: July 10, 1992

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique
(INRS)
Suite 640, 6th Floor
Place de la Cité
2635 boul. Hochélag
SAINTE-FOY, Québec

PRESENT: Robert Daigneault, Chairman, Québec
Alain Soucy, Québec
Gilles Frisque, Québec
Philip Awashish, CRA
Paul F. Wilkinson, CRA
Alan Penn, CRA
René Boudreault, Canada
Éric Chaîné, Technical Advisor, JBACE

ABSENT: Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Hubert Marcotte, Canada
Jean-Guy Charest, Canada
Pierre Marchand, Canada
Marie Lessard, Québec
Hervé Chatagnier, Secretary, JBACE

OBSERVERS: Yvan Vigneault



1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed new member Philip Awashish, who was appointed by the Cree Regional Authority (CRA) to replace James Bobbish. Mr. Awashish was a member of the JBACE from 1978 to 1985.

The following agenda was then adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Issues brought forward from the previous meeting
3. Review of 1991-1992 annual report
4. Five-year forest management plans
5. Review of the environmental and social protection regime established under Section 22 of the JBNQA
6. Environmental impact assessment of the Great Whale project
7. Consultation on Hydro-Québec's development plan
8. Urgent environmental issues
9. Planning for September 2-4, 1992 meeting

2. ISSUES BROUGHT FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Discussions which took place at the previous meeting with regard to environmental assessment of the Great Whale project were summarized for the benefit of Mr. Awashish.

The secretariat tabled a letter addressed to André Harvey, Assistant Deputy Minister at the Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec (MENVIQ), with regard to the renewal of the federal-provincial agreement for financing the JBACE. The decision to send this letter was made at the 71st meeting of the JBACE.

3. REVIEW OF THE 1991-1992 ANNUAL REPORT

The secretariat tabled the English draft of the 1991-1992 JBACE Annual Report. The French version had been sent to members prior to the meeting.

The relevance of including all JBACE recommendations in the Annual Report was discussed, but a final decision was postponed until the next meeting so that Anglophone members could review the Annual Report. Members were asked to submit their comments on the Report to the secretariat by August 15.

The secretariat was also asked to draft a newsletter to be discussed at the next meeting.

4. FIVE-YEAR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

The secretariat tabled a new preliminary version, prepared by the Cree Regional Authority on July 10, 1992, of the proposal for analyzing the five-year forest management plans. The Chairman mentioned a discussion he had had with Ginette Lajoie of the CRA about the proposal. According to her, Phase III will not be outlined in detail until phases I and II are implemented and the system is fully operational.

After reading the proposal, the Committee decided to endorse the efforts of the CRA to obtain the funds needed to implement Phase I at the condition that this data base be accessible to the Committee. The Committee also suggests that a steering committee be created, made of representatives from the CRA, the JBACE and other stakeholders if necessary, in order to guide the utilization of the data. The support letter will also mention the JBACE's concerns about the dynamic nature of Cree trapping areas, the difficulty of defining a weighting scheme for ecological and cultural values and, finally, the importance of being able to adjust the basic assumptions of the model.

In addition, the Committee assigned Messrs. Daigneault, Frisque and Penn to meet with Rémy Girard, Assistant Deputy Minister for Forests, to discuss the JBACE's recommendations with regard to the five-year plans. The secretariat will be responsible for organizing this meeting.

5. REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROTECTION REGIME ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE JBNOA

The Committee adopted an amended version of the draft letter prepared by the secretariat, as agreed at the 71st meeting. This letter invites various agencies involved in or affected by Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement to comment on the environmental protection regime and, if appropriate, to propose amendments to it.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE GREAT WHALE PROJECT

The secretariat tabled a document entitled Directive for the assessment of the Great Whale project--A recommendation from the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment, prepared by Mr. Penn for discussion at the meeting. Mr. Penn outlined the contents of the document for the Committee.

After discussion, the JBACE decided to inform the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) of its concerns with regard to the preliminary guidelines it issued on April 30, 1991. These concerns are: 1) compliance with the guidelines found in Section 22; 2) the lack of preliminary assessment of development options; 3) the maintenance of a close link between sections 22 and 24; 4) the role and purpose of the assessment of the project's social impacts; 5) the relevance of certain information required in the preliminary guidelines.

The draft letter was adopted, but it was agreed that it would be submitted to members for their comments before being sent.

7. CONSULTATION ON HYDRO-QUÉBEC'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The secretariat presented a draft of the brief, to be sent to Hydro-Québec, with regard to the formulation of the 1993-1995 development plan, along with two texts prepared by Mr. Penn which will be incorporated into the brief. It was decided that the final brief would be sent to Hydro-Québec after the Executive Committee and members who participated in the consultations had a chance to review it.

8. URGENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

9. PLANNING OF SEPTEMBER 2-4 MEETING

Mr. Penn pointed out that at the time of year in question, the Cree are busily preparing for the goose-hunting season and that it is not a convenient time to meet with them. He suggested the meeting be delayed until after the goose hunt

and that it be held in Chisasibi where community and development problems have cropped up. The Executive Sub-Committee was given the task of re-scheduling and planning this meeting, to be held in a northern community.



ÉRIC CHAÎNÉ
Technical Advisor, JBACE