



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 78th MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(ADOPTED)**

DATE: October 4, 5 and 6, 1993

LOCATION: Auberge Radisson
Radisson, James Bay

PRESENT: Philip Awashish, Chairman, CRA
Alan Penn, Vice-Chairman, CRA
Paul Wilkinson, CRA
Gilles Frisque, Québec
Marie Lessard, Québec
Louis Archambault, Québec
Diane Morneau, Canada
René Boudreault, Canada
Pierre Paulhus, Canada
Hervé Chatagnier, Secretary, JBACE

ABSENT: Jean-Guy Charest, Canada
Robert Daigneault, Québec
Willie Iserhoff, CRA

OBSERVERS: Marie-France Dalcourt, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ian Juniper, Secretary, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping
Coordinating Committee

October 4 and 5

On October 4 and 5, the Committee was given a guided tour of the LG-2A and LG-1 power stations and facilities. At the end of the day on October 5, members briefly toured the village of Chisasibi, including the drinking water plant and the banks of the La Grande River.



October 6

1. NEW CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 1993-1994;
NEW MEMBERS LOUIS ARCHAMBAULT AND PIERRE PAULHUS

The Committee read the CRA resolution appointing Philip Awashish (Chairman) and Alan Penn (Vice-Chairman) for 1993-1994.

It also welcomed Louis Archambault and Pierre Paulhus, the new members appointed to replace Alain Soucy and Yvan Vigneault respectively.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted.

1. New Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1993-1994; New members Louis Archambault and Pierre Paulhus
2. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the minutes of the 77th meeting
4. Business related to the 77th meeting
5. Language policy within the context of the environmental protection regime
6. Draft regulations establishing the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)
7. Forestry operations:
 - 7.1 Changes to five-year forest management plans (FFMP)
 - 7.2 Report on the June 21 meeting between Committee members Alan Penn, Diane Morneau and Hervé Chatagnier and the Waswanipi Band
 - 7.3 Environmental assessment of forest road N-836
8. Ocean dumping
9. Assessment of consultation on Hydro-Québec's 1993-1995 Development Plan
10. Tabling of documents
11. Varia
12. Date and location of next meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 77th MEETING

The minutes of the 77th meeting were adopted after certain changes were made.

4. **BUSINESS RELATED TO THE 77th MEETING**

The Committee read a letter dated September 14 from Québec's Minister of the Environment, Pierre Paradis, in response to three letters from the Committee regarding: 1) a request for funding to study general forest management plans; 2) a request for funding to review procedures established under Section 22 of the JBNQA; and 3) restructuring of the JBACE secretariat.

4.1 Request for funding to study general forest management plans (GFMP)

In his letter of September 14, the Minister informed the Committee that he is unable to grant the requested \$18 500 to help the JBACE conduct a cursory study of GFMPs. One of the reasons cited was that the Treasury Board of Canada has ordered budgetary cuts to grant and contribution funds, a decision which directly affects JBACE budgets. Instead, the Minister proposed to loan a forest engineer to the Committee for the purpose of studying the plans.

Alan Penn tabled a memorandum dated September 27, in which he suggested a new approach to studying GFMPs. The Committee decided to discuss Mr. Penn's proposal at the next meeting.

The Committee finished discussing the Minister's letter and then decided to reply to inform Mr. Paradis that, while the Committee deeply regrets MENVIQ's decision to refuse its request for funding, it has no choice but to accept the Minister's offer to loan the services of a forest engineer, who will answer to the Committee. The Committee asked to see candidates' résumés to determine their qualifications and suggested that MENVIQ try to find candidates with experience in forest and wildlife management from within the Ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche.

4.2 Request for funding to review procedures established under Section 22 of the JBNQA

Citing the same reason, the Minister of the Environment also refused the request for funding to review procedures established under Section 22 of the JBNQA. In his letter, the Minister informed the Committee that he was considering loaning someone to the JBACE for a period of three months to carry out the review as defined in the Committee's request of June 3.

While the Committee once again deplores the fact that it has been refused funding, it decided to accept the Minister's offer and asked to see candidates' résumés to determine their qualifications, stressing that the person on loan will answer to the Committee.

The Secretary was asked to find out more about the Treasury Board's budget cuts to grant funds.

4.3 Restructuring of JBACE secretariat

In the same letter of September 14, the Minister informed the Committee that he did not feel the position of technical advisor, which was recently vacated by Éric Chaîné, should be filled just yet since the job description, work environment and even, location, may soon change. On June 3, the Committee sent the Minister a letter informing him that it agreed to amalgamate the JBACE/COMEV, COMEX and COFEX secretariats and that it hoped the position of technical advisor would be filled immediately given the JBACE's work load.

After discussing the matter, the Committee decided to write another letter to the Minister insisting that the position be filled immediately, and on a temporary basis until the matter of restructuring the secretariat has been resolved.

4.4 Contamination of groundwater in Chisasibi

The Committee read a letter dated September 24 from Guy McKenzie, Attorney at DIAND. This letter was in response to the Committee's letter of August 27 requesting an expert opinion from DIAND on health risks related to groundwater contamination in Chisasibi.

Following a discussion, the Committee decided to write another letter to Mr. McKenzie reiterating its request for expertise on this matter. The letter will point out that, during its assessment of the planned sewer and sewage treatment system for Chisasibi, COFEX requested that the project proponent (Chisasibi Band Council) address the question of groundwater decontamination.

5. LANGUAGE POLICY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGIME

At the 77th meeting, the Committee studied a letter dated January 29, 1993, from the former Vice-Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority, Diom Roméo Saganash, regarding this issue, among others. The Committee noted that Mr. Saganash's position regarding a language policy for the environmental protection regime generally concurs with the JBACE's proposal. The Committee decided to write Mr. Saganash informing him of this observation and suggesting that the Committee could expand on its proposal by stipulating that the Crees must automatically be consulted by proponents to ensure that impact study summaries are relevant.

The Secretary tabled a draft letter at the 78th meeting. After discussing the contents, the Secretary was asked to draft a new version incorporating all aspects of the Committee's proposal. In addition, the Secretary was asked to provide the new members with all information pertaining to this file.

6. DRAFT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (CEAA)

The Committee obtained an pre-publication copy of the four regulations establishing the CEAA. The regulations were published in *The Canada Gazette* for a 60-day period of public consultation beginning September 18.

Given the Committee's previous involvement in this issue (brief on the proposed Act, comments on the working versions of the regulations, etc.), it decided to mandate Robert Daigneault, Alan Penn, Paul Wilkinson, Hervé Chatagnier and Diane Morneau to hold a conference call on October 14 to determine whether the Committee should prepare a brief and, if so, to define its contents. The brief would be tabled at the next meeting for comments and adoption.

7. FORESTRY OPERATIONS

7.1 Changes to five-year forest management plans (FFMP)

The Committee read a letter from André W. Paul, Regional Administrator for the Ministère des Forêts (MFO), reiterating his request to meet with the Committee to discuss the FFMP consultation process to make it more efficient.

After discussing the issue, the Committee decided to invite Mr. Paul to the next Committee meeting.

7.2 Report on the June 21 meeting between Committee members Alan Penn, Diane Morneau and Hervé Chatagnier and the Waswanipi Band

The above-mentioned members briefly summarized their meeting with the Waswanipi Band on June 21. During this meeting, Native trappers expressed their frustration at the lack of consideration for their concerns about logging on trapping grounds. The Committee representatives explained the nature of the JBACE's mandate with respect to logging in the James Bay territory (five-year and general forest management plans, etc.) to the Band.

7.3 Environmental assessment of forest road N-836

Due to a lack of time, this item was carried over to the next meeting.

8. OCEAN DUMPING

Due to a lack of time, this item was carried over to the next meeting.

9. ASSESSMENT OF CONSULTATION ON HYDRO-QUÉBEC'S 1993-1995 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Due to a lack of time, this item was carried over to the next meeting.

10. TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Due to a lack of time, this item was carried over to the next meeting.

11. VARIA

Due to a lack of time, this item was placed carried over to the next meeting.

12. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee decided to hold its next meeting at the Montréal office of the Cree Regional Authority on November 2. André Paul will be invited to attend.



HERVÉ CHATAGNIER
Secretary

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