



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 83rd MEETING  
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
(ADOPTED)**

**DATE:** September 9, 1994

**LOCATION:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
320 Saint-Joseph Est  
Room 210  
Québec, Québec

**PRESENT:** Diane Morneau, Canada, Chairwoman  
Robert Daigneault, Québec, Vice-Chairman  
Louis Archambault, Québec  
Gilles Frisque, Québec  
Alan Penn, CRA  
Paul Wilkinson, CRA  
Pierre Lauzon, Canada  
Pierre Paulhus, Canada  
Hervé Chatagnier, Technical Advisor  
Denis Bernatchez, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Mimi Breton, CCCPP  
Philip Awashish, CRA  
Willie Iserhoff, CRA

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Replacement of the Secretary
3. Appointment of new members to replace vacancies



4. Appointment of Diane Morneau as Chairwoman
5. Adoption of the minutes of the 82nd meeting
6. Business related to the 82nd meeting
7. Secretariat
8. Consultation on Hydro-Québec's Development Plan 1996-1998
9. Review of the general (PGAF) and five-year (PQAF) forest management plans
10. Code of ethics for northern research
11. Hydro-Québec's integrated enhancement policy
12. Great Whale hydroelectric project
13. Review of Section 22 of the JBNQA
14. COMEV, COMEX and COFEX-South activity report
15. Tabling of documents
16. 1993-1994 Annual Report
17. Varia
18. Date and location of next meeting

**2. REPLACEMENT OF THE SECRETARY**

With the departure of Mrs. Francine Marcotte as Secretary of the JBACE, Committee members asked Denis Bernatchez to present himself and cite his experience. The members then dismissed Mr. Bernatchez to discuss the appointment of the secretary in private. Secretary duties were taken over by Hervé Chatagnier during this time.

The Committee discussed its role in selecting personnel for its secretariat and examined Mr. Bernatchez's qualifications to become JBACE Secretary. Following discussion, it was agreed to accept Mr. Bernatchez as secretary.

The members agreed to send a letter to the Deputy Minister of Environment and Wildlife for approval, by the Committee, of Mr. Bernatchez's appointment as Secretary of the JBACE and COMEV. The letter will mention that the appointment is subject to a normal trial period of a year, during which time the members agreed that Mr. Bernatchez should be afforded the opportunity to become familiar with issues pertaining to Northern Québec. The letter will be written by Mr. Chatagnier.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO REPLACE VACANCIES**

With the departure of Mrs. Marie Lessard and Mr. René Boudreault, it was suggested that the JBACE write to the

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Minister of Environment Canada and the Québec Minister of Environment and Wildlife requesting that they appoint members to replace the two aforementioned. It should be recalled that Minister Pierre Paradis had already been approached to replace Mrs. Lessard.

It was also agreed that the JBACE write to Mr. René Boudreault to express satisfaction from the members at working with him and to indicate that the observations made in his letter of departure to the Committee were duly noted.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF DIANE MORNEAU AS CHAIRWOMAN**

On August 10, 1994, Mr. Jean-Pierre Gauthier, regional general director for Environment Canada, confirmed the appointment of Mrs. Diane Morneau as Chairwoman of the JBACE for 1994-1995, until March 31, 1995. The members briefly discussed Mrs. Morneau's appointment and wished her good luck with her new duties.

5. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 82nd MEETING**

The minutes of the 82nd meeting were adopted without amendments.

6. **BUSINESS RELATED TO THE 82nd MEETING**

Hervé Chatagnier informed the members of the various letters received at the Secretariat and sent to different persons since the last meeting.

7. **SECRETARIAT**

With regard to the financial difficulties of the JBACE preventing it from fulfilling its mandate, it should be recalled that the then Chairman, Mr. Philip Awashish, had signed a letter on June 13, 1994, that was sent to federal Environment Minister Sheila Copps, to the Québec Environment and Wildlife Minister Pierre Paradis and to Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come.

The only response received was a letter from Mrs. Copps acknowledging receipt of our own. The members hoped to settle the matter and ensure the JBACE can count on the financial and human resources required to fulfill its mandate satisfactorily. The members believe the Committee should have the possibility to use specialists already hired by the government as well as the possibility of obtaining grants. To that end, the secretary was asked to request the presence of the representatives of all three parties at the Committee's next meeting. If they cannot be there together, they will be met separately.

8. **CONSULTATION ON HYDRO-QUÉBEC'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1996-1998**

Mr. Alan Penn outlined the consultation on Hydro-Québec's development plan for 1996-1998. He argued that Hydro-Québec's public consultation should focus more closely on environmental issues and regional economies.

Workshops on regional development and production means will be held. Mr. Penn expressed the desire to take part in them as a JBACE designated Cree representative. The Committee requested that Mr. Paul Wilkinson and Mr. Alan Penn examine, with Mrs. Louise Roy, the possibility of participating in the workshops on "Regional Development" and "Production Means".

Mrs. Morneau informed the members that she attended a meeting dealing with "Regional Development" on June 2. The discussion bore on contract allocation to private producers. At a second meeting, Mr. Morneau participated in a first assessment of all the themes of the consultation.

9. **REVIEW OF THE GENERAL (PGAF) AND FIVE-YEAR (PQAF) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Mr. Alan Penn tabled a memo concerning the information needed a) to prepare a report on the evolution of forestry issues in the James Bay territory and b) to review the five-year plans and their amendments.

The Committee asked the secretary to draft a letter transferring the request to Mr. Pierre Lefebvre, head of the administrative unit to which belongs Mr. Raymond Houle.

Mr. Alan Penn tabled a letter from Mr. Gordon Blackned, Vice-Chief of the Wagkaganish Band, to which are joined a series of

documents from various sources dealing with forestry issues on the territory bound by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement with regard to the application of the environmental impact assessment and review procedure. The Committee decided that a letter be sent to the Deputy Minister of Environment and Wildlife stating that the Committee had neither the human nor the financial resources required to carry out the review of the five-year plans within the time frames allotted.

This letter will also emphasize the concerns arising from interpretations in the application of the assessment and review procedure to infrastructures intended for forestry operations under the PQAF and PGAF. The letter will include an invitation to MEF representatives to meet the Committee to discuss the issue.

Finally, it was agreed to answer Mr. Gordon Blackned's letter on the forestry activities and the environmental regime associated with the application of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

10. **CODE OF ETHICS FOR NORTHERN RESEARCH**

The Committee asked the Secretary to obtain further details from the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies on experiences with the use of the "Ethical Guidelines for Northern Research", particularly as concerns the work of consultants.

11. **HYDRO-QUÉBEC'S INTEGRATED ENHANCEMENT POLICY**

At the request of Mr. Philip Awashish, in his letter of June 21, 1994, Mr. Denis Roux and Mr. Michel Blais, from the office of the vice-president of native affairs at Hydro-Québec, met with the Committee to present Hydro-Québec's integrated enhancement policy.

Specifically, their presentation outlined the modalities for applying the policy. The members deplored the fact that the JBACE was not formally consulted by Hydro-Québec.

The JBACE was told that Québec's Ministries, the Aboriginal communities and the Regional County Municipalities (MRC) were the agencies consulted and learned that the policy was adopted by Hydro-Québec's Board of Directors in December 1993.

Hydro-Québec's representatives explained to the Committee that the modalities had not been entirely finalized and that they intended taking JBACE's observations to the authorities responsible for the policy.

To ensure Hydro-Québec gives consideration to the major issues and observations raised by the Committee, the members agreed to write to Hydro-Québec. The Committee must see to it that its observations are sent to Hydro-Québec by late September or early October to be admissible.

A copy of the acetates used by Hydro-Québec's representatives is appended.

12. GREAT WHALE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. Hervé Chatagnier summed up the situation regarding the review of the proposed Great Whale project. He informed the Committee that the comments on the impact statement had been received (the deadline was July 25, 1994). Some 90 papers, totalling over 2000 pages of text, were sent in.

The Committees and Commissions, in concert with the Great Whale Public Review Support Office, reviewed the report and public comments and decided to issue a report containing the recommendations of the five committees (Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC), Environmental and Social Impact Review Panel North of the 55<sup>th</sup> Parallel (COFEX-North), Environmental and Social Impact Review Panel South of the 55<sup>th</sup> Parallel (COFEX-South), Provincial Review Committee (COMEX), and the Federal Environmental Assessment Panel (FEAP). September 15, 1994 is the expected date of release. The chairs will write a letter explaining that the report will be delayed.

13. REVIEW OF SECTION 22 OF THE JBNQA

No progress has been made on this issue for some time. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Alan Penn mentioned that he could sum up the broad lines of previous discussions on the matter. Mr. Paul Wilkinson and Mr. Alan Penn will prepare a document for the next meeting. A suggestion was made to give priority to this item on the agenda of JBACE's next meeting.

14. COMEV, COMEX AND COFEX-SOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

Mr. Chatagnier rapidly reviewed the activities of the committees of which he is secretary/technical advisor (COMEV and COMEX) and presented their agendas.

15. TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Secretary tabled various documents for consultation by the members. The members asked that a list of available documents be regularly sent to them for their information.

16. 1993-1994 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Hervé Chatagnier informed the Committee he is still working on the 1993-1994 annual report but that he should be submitting it at the next meeting.

17. VARIA

No subjects were brought up under this item.

18. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for November 3, 1994, at Whapmagoostui or Nemiscau. Mr. Alan Penn will determine the location. Seeing that the Committee will be meeting up north, the departure is scheduled for November 2, 1994 with a return date set for November 4.



**DENIS BERNATCHEZ**  
Secretary

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