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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

## MINUTES OF THE 172<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

**DATES:** May 26 and 27, 2022

**LOCATION:** Hôtel Manoir Victoria, Quebec City

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)**

Michael Barrett (by videoconference)

Tunu Napartuk (by videoconference)

#### **Appointed by the Government of Canada**

Alexandre-Guy Côté, Chairperson

Marie-Noëlle Fournier

Caroline Girard (by videoconference)

#### **Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec**

Vanessa Chalifour, Vice-chairperson

Paule Halley

André-Anne Gagnon

#### **Executive Secretary**

Benjamin Patenaude

#### **Environmental Analyst**

Nancy Dea (by videoconference)

#### **Environmental Legislation Analyst**

Christine Lambert

### **GUESTS:**

Dan Pellerin, Project Manager, KRG

Robert Hellstrom, President, RJHPPM Services Inc.

Aleashia Siasie, Director, Nunavik Regional Research Authority

Camille Frechette, Policy Analyst, Makivik Corporation

Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman, Polynya Consulting Group

Agata Durkalec, Polynya Consulting Group

Émilie Dalpé-Turcotte, Land Use Planner, KRG

François Bédard, Consultant, KRG

Véronique Gilbert, Assistant Director of Lands and Environment, KRG  
Roch Gaudreau, Director, Mining Activity Development and Control, Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN)  
Céline Létourneau, Aboriginal Affairs Advisor, MERN

**OBSERVER:**

Marc-Antoine Giroux, Manager, Analysis, Regional Relations and Indigenous Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada

**1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The 172<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on May 26, 2022. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 172<sup>nd</sup> meeting took place in accordance with the agenda appearing in appendix.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the 171<sup>st</sup> meeting**

The members reviewed their feedback on the minutes of the 171<sup>st</sup> meeting. The minutes were adopted following modifications.

**3. Administration**

a) Budget

The members were informed that the administrative subcommittee is currently developing a protocol for streamlining KEAC internal financial management. The expense report for March to April 2022 was reviewed. Lastly, the members were informed that the operating budget for 2022–2023 was received on May 14, 2022. The members expressed their appreciation for the prompt processing of the KEAC's funding request by the governments of Québec and Canada.

b) Secretariat

The status of work on the KEAC archives was discussed.

c) Members

The members were informed that the KRG appointee Lucy Kumarluk resigned on March 24, 2022.

d) Active files since the 171<sup>st</sup> meeting and correspondence

The members reviewed the table showing the status of KEAC files since the last meeting. A section describing KEAC correspondence during this period was added to the table for review by the members.

e) Website

The members were informed that the Inuktitut version of the KEAC's website has been finalized and options for development of a secure online archiving system are being prepared.

f) Annual report, 2021–2022

The members adopted the bilingual version of the 2021–2022 annual report which will be submitted to the National Assembly at a later date.

#### **4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

a) Presentation of the Tamaani Internet project

Dan Pellerin, Project Manager at the KRG, gave a presentation on phases 5 through 7 of the Tamaani Internet project. He was accompanied by Robert Hellstrom, President of RJHPPM Services Inc., a firm contracted to assist with the management of the project. Mr. Pellerin began the presentation with a description of the project and by explaining its purpose, which is to improve broadband capacity and internet service in Nunavik. The objective will be achieved through the installation of the eastern Arctic undersea fibre optic network and a fibre optic connection between Kawawachikamach and Kuujjuaq. This work will permit community service to transition from a satellite-relayed connection to a fibre optic one. Next, Mr. Pellerin presented the 2019 marine survey carried out between Chisasibi and Deception Bay to identify a suitable route for the marine fibre optic cable. He also described the various environmental authorizations and permits required for the undersea portion of the project. So far, the communities of Kuujjuaraapik, Umiujaq, Inukjuak and Puvirnituq have been connected to the network.

The undersea portion of the project will extend from Puvirnituq to Salluit and an overland connection will run from Deception Bay to Kangiqsujuaq. This phase is awaiting authorization and should begin in 2023. The marine survey for the Ungava Bay portion of the project, involving an extension of the undersea fibre optic cable from Kangiqsujuaq to Kangiqsualujuaq, is planned for the summer of 2022.

The project also involves construction of an overland fibre optic connection between Kawawachikamach and Kuujjuaq. A route has been surveyed, however certain elements of this portion of the project are currently under review. Once both portions of this phase of the project are complete, commercial and residential connections will be established. The presentation concluded with a description of the community consultation timeline and the project's next steps.

b) Update on the report concerning the study on the consideration given to social impacts

The environmental legislation analyst presented an overview of the revision work on the report concerning the study on the consideration given to social impacts.

c) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The environmental analyst presented an overview of the report prepared by the working group analyzing the implementation of the *Impact Assessment Act* in Nunavik.

## 5. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation

- a) Draft omnibus regulation to amend various regulatory provisions regarding environmental protection, MELCC

The environmental legislation analyst presented an overview of recent developments concerning the draft omnibus regulation to amend various regulatory provisions regarding environmental protection by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (the environment and the fight against climate change, MELCC). The members were informed that the KEAC is collaborating with the KRG on this file and intends to submit feedback on the proposed amendments.

### Action item

- **Once KRG feedback is received, finalize the consultation document and submit it to the MELCC.**

## 6. Residual and hazardous materials management

- a) Update on the Mid-Canada Line radar sites clean-up project

The environmental analyst presented an overview of recent developments concerning the Mid-Canada Line radar sites clean-up project. The members were informed that the MELCC intends to conduct a pilot project at seven of the Mid-Canada Line radar sites in preparation for future clean-up work. The pilot project proposal is under review by the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission and the Environmental and Social Impact Evaluating Committee. The funding agreement between the MELCC and the federal government is also under review by an intergovernmental committee and an action plan is being developed with regional stakeholders.

- b) Draft action plan (2022–2027) on contaminated soil and draft regulation respecting charges to promote the treatment and reclamation of excavated contaminated soils, MELCC

The environmental analyst presented an overview of the MELCC's draft 2022–2027 action plan on contaminated soil and the regulation respecting charges to promote the treatment and reclamation of excavated contaminated soils. The members were also informed that the MELCC has scheduled an information session on the action plan and the draft regulation on May 26, 2022. The members expressed their disappointment that the KEAC had not been informed about the session directly.

- c) Draft regulation respecting a system of selective collection of certain residual materials and draft regulation respecting the development, implementation and financial support of a deposit-refund system for certain containers, MELCC

The environmental analyst presented an overview of a meeting between representatives of the KRG and Éco Entreprises Québec on April 7, 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate discussion regarding a framework agreement for a selective collection program adapted for Nunavik.

## 7. Climate change

- a) Reference climate and future climate regional climate portrait project to support analysis of climate change impacts and adaptation in Eeyou Istchee James Bay, northern Abitibi–Témiscamingue and Nunavik

The environmental legislation analyst presented an overview of a meeting with representatives of the Ministère des Transports du Québec (transportation, MTQ) on April 5 and 7, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the reference climate and future climate regional climate project to support analysis of climate change impacts and adaptation in Eeyou Istchee James Bay, northern Abitibi–Témiscamingue and Nunavik. The MTQ regional climate portrait is intended to enhance overall knowledge of the effects of climate change on transportation infrastructure planning, construction and maintenance and to ensure the sustainable development of Eeyou Istchee James Bay, northern Abitibi–Témiscamingue and Nunavik. The members were informed that the MTQ is preparing a report on the results of this project and that the KEAC will receive a copy when it is available.

## 8. Miscellaneous

- a) Presentation by the Nunavik Regional Research Authority

Aleashia Siasie, Director of the Nunavik Regional Research Authority, gave a presentation on the Authority's integrated plan for research management in Nunavik. She was accompanied by Camille Frechette of the Makivik Corporation as well as Kaitlin Breton-Honeyman and Agata Durkalec of the Polynya Consulting Group. Ms. Siasie began with a description of the current research situation in Nunavik and how this research is managed. She explained that there is little oversight of the increasing research activities in the region and this is why the Nunavik Regional Research Authority was created. The Authority is led by a steering committee composed of representatives from various regional organizations. Its secretariat is operated by the Makivik Corporation. Next, Ms. Siasie described the research management situation in Nunavik and the development of an integrated implementation plan for the creation and operation of a regional research management body with an underlying principle to advance Nunavik Inuit self-determination. Ms. Siasie then presented the Authority's objectives, organizational structure and oversight process. She explained that the Authority aims to provide support to the communities for their research, management and communication needs, and in order to identify research priorities. The presentation concluded with a description of the next steps to be taken to create the Nunavik Regional Research Authority.

- b) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*

It was decided that the next Green Corner article in *Taqralik* would highlight the metal recycling pilot project in Kangirsuk.

- c) Drinking water quality in Nunavik

The members discussed the situation regarding the management of drinking water delivery system and infrastructure in Nunavik communities. It was decided that the KEAC would request information in order to obtain a better understanding of the present situation and of the KEAC's role in this file.

## 9. Dates and locations of the 173<sup>rd</sup>, 174<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> meetings

It was decided that the 173<sup>rd</sup> meeting would be held on October 4 and 5, 2022, in Salluit and that the 174<sup>th</sup> meeting would be held on December 14 and 15, 2022, in Kuujuaq. The dates and location of the 175<sup>th</sup> meeting will be decided at a later date.

## 10. Land use planning and occupancy

### a) Meeting with the KRG

Émilie Dalpé-Turcotte, Land Use Planner at the KRG, gave a presentation on the draft regulation on sustainable land use for the Kativik Region. She was accompanied by Francois Bedard, a consultant, and Véronique Gilbert of the KRG. Ms. Dalpé-Turcotte first provided an overview of the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government* and the methodological approach employed to develop the draft regulation. She then provided a general description of the draft regulation. Ms. Dalpé-Turcotte explained that the draft regulation would not apply in the northern villages or to Category IA and IB Cree lands or IB-N Naskapi lands. The draft regulation will also not infringe on hunting, fishing and trapping rights under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. Its administrative provisions will ensure sustainable land use planning and establish a compliance system for developers through better monitoring practices and enforcement measures. Ms. Dalpé-Turcotte continued the presentation with a description of provisions relating to planning and sustainable development in the Kativik Region. She explained that the draft regulation establishes a system that distinguishes between areas with high and low stress indices and the kinds of uses permitted in these areas. Implementation sheets are divided into four sections and include descriptions of project objectives, authorized uses, assessment criteria and required supporting documents. For projects in areas with low stress indices, implementation sheets will require only a description of authorized uses and required supporting documents. It was also explained that, under the draft regulation, permit applications will need to include supporting documentation based on the sustainable development area, its natural constraints and the types of planned activities. Fees will also be charged for applications. Ms. Dalpé-Turcotte then described the permit application and review process as well as provisions relating to natural heritage protection, the construction of fuel tanks, and derogation constructions and uses. She also explained that enforcement provisions include regulation-specific definitions and fines. The presentation concluded with a description of expected effects of the regulation after its adoption and how the regulation will provide the KRG with greater control over land use in the region.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on the process for adopting the regulation and expected effects.

### b) Public land use plan 2022–2026, Québec government

The members were informed that the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) has recently adopted a new public land use plan. The new approach involves incremental implementation of the Plan through a series of consultations over five years. However, due to provisions under the JBNQA, it is unclear if the Plan will apply in Nunavik. The members discussed the possibility of studying this matter with regional stakeholders in order to identify possible courses of action.

## 11. Mining activity

- a) *Bill 102, An Act Mainly to Reinforce the Enforcement of Environmental and Dam Safety Legislation, to Ensure the Responsible Management of Pesticides and to Implement Certain Measures of the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy concerning Zero Emission Vehicles*, MERN

Roch Gaudreau, Director of Mining Activity Development and Control at the MERN, gave a presentation on *Bill 102, An Act Mainly to Reinforce the Enforcement of Environmental and Dam Safety Legislation, to Ensure the Responsible Management of Pesticides and to Implement Certain Measures of the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy concerning Zero Emission Vehicles*. He was accompanied by Céline Létourneau, Aboriginal Affairs Advisor at the MERN. Mr. Gaudreau began by presenting background information on the proposed amendment to the *Mining Act* for ministerial authorizations and mineral exploration activities in the context of Aboriginal communities. The purpose of the proposed authorization system is to establish a series of controls for certain mineral exploration activities, to ensure better monitoring practices and transparency, to promote better consideration of the environment, and to create a favourable climate for dialogue with Aboriginal communities. Mr. Gaudreau next described the proposed amendments under Bill 102 and the impacts of these amendments on the current *Mining Act*. He explained that, in addition to a ministerial authorization system, the amendments would prescribe financial guarantees for site restoration, a list of mineral exploration activities requiring authorization and renewal conditions, government powers, and a system of regulatory measures for violations. Mr. Gaudreau then described the most common types of mineral exploration activities, their average frequency on active claims, as well as a comparison with other provincial jurisdictions. The presentation concluded with a description of expected effects and how Bill 102 would improve current mining legislation.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on the consideration given to mineral exploration infrastructure, monitoring measures, penalties, permits and implementation timelines.

- b) Draft regulation to amend the ambient air standard for nickel, MERN

The members were informed that the MERN's draft regulation to amend the ambient air standard for nickel was published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on April 13, 2022. It is unclear if the KEAC's recommendations on the draft regulation were taken into account.

### **Action item**

- **Invite representatives from Glencore and Canadian Royalties to a future meeting to give a presentation on the effects of the new regulation.**



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
October 5, 2022

## **Appendix – Agenda of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

### **1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

### **2. Adoption of minutes of the 171<sup>st</sup> meeting**

### **3. Administration**

- a) Budget
- b) Secretariat
- c) Members
- d) Active files since the 171<sup>st</sup> meeting and correspondence
- e) Website
- f) Annual report, 2021–2022

### **4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

- a) Presentation on the Tamaani Internet project
- b) Update on the report concerning the study on the consideration given to social impacts
- c) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

### **5. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation**

- a) Draft omnibus regulation to amend various regulatory provisions regarding environmental protection, MELCC

### **6. Residual and hazardous materials management**

- a) Update on the Mid-Canada line radar sites clean-up project
- b) Draft action plan (2022–2027) on contaminated soil and draft regulation respecting charges to promote the treatment and reclamation of excavated contaminated soils, MELCC
- c) draft regulation respecting a system of selective collection of certain residual materials and draft regulation respecting the development, implementation and financial support of a deposit-refund system for certain containers, MELCC

### **7. Climate change**

- a) Reference climate and future climate regional climate portrait project to support analysis of climate change impacts and adaptation in Eeyou Istchee James Bay, northern Abitibi–Témiscamingue and Nunavik

### **8. Miscellaneous**

- a) Presentation by the Nunavik Regional Research Authority
- b) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*

- c) Drinking water quality in Nunavik

## **9. Dates and locations of the 173<sup>rd</sup>, 174<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> meetings**

### **10. Land use planning and occupancy**

- a) Meeting with the KRG
- b) Public land use plan 2022–2026, Québec government

### **11. Mining activity**

- a) *Bill 102, An Act Mainly to Reinforce the Enforcement of Environmental and Dam Safety Legislation, to Ensure the Responsible Management of Pesticides and to Implement Certain Measures of the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy concerning Zero Emission Vehicles, MERN*
- b) Draft regulation to amend the ambient air standard for nickel, MERN