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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 173RD MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: October 4 and 5, 2022

LOCATION: Northern Village of Salluit, municipal office

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett (by conference call from Kuujujuaq on October 4 and 5, 2022)

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté, chairperson (by conference call from Puvirnituk on October 5, 2022)

Marie-Noëlle Fournier (by conference call from Puvirnituk on October 5, 2022)

Appointed by the Québec Government

Vanessa Chalifour, vice-chairperson (by conference call from Puvirnituk on October 5, 2022)

Paule Halley (by conference call from Quebec City on October 5, 2022)

André-Anne Gagnon (by conference call from Puvirnituk on October 5, 2022)

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Nancy Dea

Environmental Legislation Analyst

Christine Lambert

ABSENT:

Caroline Girard, Government of Canada appointee

Tunu Napartuk, KRG appointee

GUESTS:

Maggie Saviakjuk, Mayor, Northern Village of Salluit

Amaamak Saviakjuk, Municipal Councillor, Northern Village of Salluit

Stéphanie Guilherme, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ottawa

Amélie Rouleau, Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement, Raglan Mine

Charles Duval, Industrial Project Manager, Raglan Mine

Justin Bulota, Project Development Director, Tarquti Energy Inc.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 173rd meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on October 5, 2022, at the municipal office of the Northern Village of Salluit¹. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 173rd meeting took place in accordance with the agenda appearing in appendix.

2. Adoption of the minutes from the 172nd meeting

The members reviewed feedback on the minutes of the 172nd meeting. The minutes were adopted following modifications.

3. Administration

a) Budget

The members discussed and adopted the draft resolution and policy on the use and management of the KEAC bank account. The KEAC operating budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as well as the expense report for May to August 2022 were also discussed.

b) Secretariat

The members were informed that the inventory of the KEAC archives is now complete. Submissions from two different archiving firms were presented and a decision was rendered with regards to the firm to be hired to undertake this work.

Action item

- **Contact the firm selected by the members.**
- **Prepare the files at the office of the KEAC secretariat for shipment to the archiving firm.**

c) Members

The members were informed that the KRG had recently appointed Raymond Mickpegak to the KEAC to replace Lucy Kumarluk.

d) Meeting with the administrators

The members were informed that on June 6, 2022, letters were sent to the Federal and Provincial Administrators of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) inviting them to attend the KEAC's 174th meeting. Both administrators have confirmed their intention to attend. A series of possible discussion items were presented.

¹ The 173rd meeting was originally scheduled to begin on October 4, 2022; however, flight cancellations due to poor weather prevented the meeting from taking place on that day. Consequently, the meeting officially began on October 5, 2022, with the members participating remotely from various locations.

- e) Active files since the 172nd meeting, correspondence and housekeeping

The members reviewed the table showing the status of KEAC files since the last meeting and possible modifications to streamline content were proposed.

- f) Website

The executive secretary presented an update on the creation of a secured member access portal on the KEAC website as well as the work plan submitted by the website developer.

Action item

- **Contact the website developer to confirm that it may begin the work proposed in its plan.**

4. Meeting with the human resources consulting firm

The members met with Manon Sévigny and Manon Perreault from the human resources consulting firm Perreault et Associés to discuss the development of a policy for the remuneration and working conditions of KEAC staff.

5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

- a) Update on the social impacts study

The environmental legislation analyst presented an update on the social impacts study. The members were informed that a series of meetings with regional entities have been planned to obtain feedback on the report. A timeline was also given for the production and distribution of the final version.

- b) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The environmental analyst presented an overview of the most recent meeting between the working group analyzing the implementation of the *Impact Assessment Act* in Nunavik and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) held on July 7, 2022. The meeting involved review of the working group's final report and discussion of the future funding to implement the reports' recommendations in collaboration with different regional representatives. The IAAC also mentioned the creation of an Indigenous advisory committee with a mandate to assist with policy development under the Act. Under the advisory committee, a circle of experts will be mandated to draft a discussion paper with the IAAC to propose approaches for consulting Indigenous communities and organizations. The working group also intends to present its findings to the Federal and Provincial Administrators of Section 23 of the JBNQA at the 174th meeting.

6. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation

- a) Omnibus regulation, MELCC

The environmental legislation analyst presented an overview of the response received from the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (environment and the fight against climate change, MELCC) to KEAC feedback on the omnibus regulation submitted on June 10, 2022.

7. Water management

a) Meeting with the Nunavik Drinking Water Research Committee

Stéphanie Guilherme of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Ottawa gave a presentation on drinking water management research underway in Nunavik. The presentation opened with an overview of the context and the challenges faced by Nunavik communities regarding drinking water management. This was followed by a description of the objective, which is to develop and implement sustainable water treatment and monitoring strategies for northern communities and to contribute to sustainable drinking water supply. It is possible to meet this objective through a series of studies focused on the treatment and management of drinking water and wastewater sources, as well as supply systems and infrastructure. The studies should also examine alternative water sources used by community members. Ms. Guilherme continued the presentation with a description of the Nunavik Drinking Water Research Committee and its mandate including a literature review of the state of water management in Nunavik, enhancing collaboration with regional stakeholders, researchers and decision makers, facilitating research that supports open communication and is responsive to the needs of residents, providing feedback on management programs and assessing their relevance in the regional context, as well as contributing to the continued development of research on water management. She explained that the Nunavik Drinking Water Research Committee meets on a quarterly basis and is composed of representatives of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the northern villages and the KRG. Other regional organizations are welcome to participate at committee meetings as observers. Ms. Guilherme then gave a description of her team's outreach and engagement program at the Ikusik High School in Salluit and of preliminary sampling results in the community from the 2019 and 2020 field seasons.

The presentation continued with an overview of the research projects carried out during the 2021 field season. In Kangiqsualujjuaq, the project focused on drinking water sampling, the operation of drinking water infrastructure and delivery systems, as well as a questionnaire for households on water supply and consumption patterns. The questionnaire results indicate that the majority of community residents do not have faith in the quality or the delivery of drinking water in their community and that alternative sources are often used.

Ms. Guilherme then gave an overview of the work conducted during the 2022 field season in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Umiujaq and Tasiujaq. It focused on access to water in terms of quality and quantity, the assessment of health risks and the vulnerability of water sources. In Kangiqsualujjuaq and Umiujaq, conventional and alternative water sources were sampled, monitoring equipment was installed, and interviews with residents were conducted. In Tasiujaq, residential drinking water tanks, delivery truck cleanliness and maintenance practices were assessed. Ms. Guilherme explained that her team is also involved in a pilot project for detecting and monitoring pathogens in municipal wastewater. The presentation concluded with a description of the Research Committee's future projects, including the establishment of a remote sampling campaign, a pilot project for research coordination and knowledge transfer, the development of a water source protection program, as well as residential drinking water tank maintenance.

b) Discussion on drinking water quality in Nunavik

The environmental legislation analyst presented an overview of current drinking water management initiatives in Nunavik as well as KEAC involvement with these files. The importance of understanding governance structures, roles and collaboration between the responsible authorities was also mentioned.

Action item

- **Initiate a review of the literature on drinking water and water management issues in remote northern communities and develop a work plan for KEAC involvement.**

8. Climate change

- a) *Mobilization Strategy on Climate Change*, MELCC

The environmental legislation analyst presented an overview of a meeting held by the MELCC on August 31, 2022, regarding actions and objectives for implementing its climate change mobilization strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to document and disseminate information on climate action determinants, to apply mobilization best practices systematically, to foster public awareness, to develop support for and promote climate transition stakeholders, as well as to encourage public participation in climate action initiatives and forums. While the strategy is intended to apply throughout Québec, how it will be implemented in Nunavik has not yet been determined. The members will continue to monitor development of the strategy.

9. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*

It was decided that the next Green Corner article in *Taqralik* would cover the work of the Nunavik Drinking Water Research Committee.

- b) Meeting with the mayor of Salluit

KEAC staff and a KRG appointee met with Maggie Saviakjuk, mayor of the Northern Village of Salluit. She was accompanied by Amaamak Saviakjuk, a municipal councillor. The meeting opened with a presentation on the mandate, operation and activities of the KEAC. The presentation was followed by a discussion of certain environmental concerns facing the community. Ms. Saviakjuk explained that, although the population of Salluit is continuing to grow, its location, the lack of nearby natural sources of gravel and sand, as well as permafrost are impeding the development and expansion of the village. Ms. Saviakjuk then raised several other issues, such as community consultation on the village's master plan, permafrost research in the community, a landslide at the location where the community had intended to establish its new cemetery, and a project to transform a nearby section of beach to make the area more accessible. The issue of environmental assessment and authorization was also raised with regards to the last topic. Finally, management of the community's landfill site and its unregulated use by construction companies were discussed. Following the meeting, these concerns were transmitted to the KRG.

10. Mining activity

- a) Meeting with representatives from Glencore

Amélie Rouleau, Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement at the Raglan Mine, gave a presentation on the mine's air monitoring measures and wind turbine project. She was accompanied by Charles Duval, Industrial Project Manager at the Raglan Mine. The presentation opened with a video on the dust emission control measures in the area around the mine properties and port facilities at Deception Bay. Ms. Rouleau then gave a description of the air monitoring equipment and methods in place at key locations.

It was explained that a calcium chloride solution is used to control dust emissions from vehicle traffic on the mine's service roads and nearby water bodies are monitored for its presence. The presentation continued with nickel emission modelling and workplace standards in response to the new air quality criteria adopted by the MELCC. It was explained that an atmospheric dispersion and industrial hygiene monitoring program was developed to record airborne nickel particulate concentrations at different locations on the mine properties. This includes worker exposure at processing facilities. Currently, nickel emissions generated by mine operations lie below the new standard of 0.2 mg/m³. Federal- and Québec-government representatives conduct sampling and site inspections on an annual basis.

The presentation then covered the wind turbines constructed on the mine properties in 2014 and 2018. To date, the turbines have reduced diesel consumption by approximately 3.5 million tonnes. Ms. Rouleau explained that the mine is currently exploring other options to further reduce consumption in the future. The wind turbines are also subject to environmental monitoring to ensure they do not negatively affect wildlife in the area. The presentation concluded with a description of the Environmental Forum taking place from October 4 to 6, 2022, in Salluit and the recent activities of the Raglan Committee.

b) Asbestos Hill mine site

The environmental analyst presented an overview of the 2022–2025 action plan of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) relating to asbestos and asbestos mine tailings. The members were also informed that a committee will be created to monitor the progress of the proposed rehabilitation work at the Asbestos Hill mine site.

Action item

- **Invite representatives from the MERN to a future meeting to give a presentation on rehabilitation planning for the Asbestos Hill mine site.**

11. Presentation on renewable energy projects in Nunavik, Tarquti Energy Inc.

Justin Bulota, Project Development Director with Tarquti Energy Inc., gave a presentation on renewable energy projects in Nunavik. The presentation opened with an overview covering the creation of Tarquti, current energy consumption in Nunavik and the need to transition toward renewable energy sources. The transition will involve clean energy production, providing heat for buildings and water, the electrification of transportation, and enhancing energy efficiency. The transition must also be socially acceptable and provide guidance to residents. Mr. Bulota explained that Tarquti Energy Inc. recently entered into an agreement with Hydro-Québec in which the latter committed to assisting with the construction and development of renewable energy infrastructure. The presentation continued with a description of Tarquti Energy Inc.'s team and partners. The importance of individuals in their respective communities to promote the projects and communicate relevant information was emphasized. The company's on-going activities were then described, including community engagement, data collection, feasibility studies and environmental assessments. Mr. Bulota continued with a description of the potential for wind, solar and hydroelectric energy production in Nunavik as well as related strengths and shortcomings in each community. The presentation concluded with an overview of the feasibility studies currently in progress.

12. Dates and location of the 175th meeting

It was decided that the 175th meeting of the KEAC would be held on February 21, 22 and 23, 2023, in Inukjuak.

13. 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 regarding the MELCC pilot project to rehabilitate seven of Mid-Canada Line radar sites. The clean-up project at Nunavik sites was assessed by the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission and the MELCC. In its capacity as project proponent, the MELCC also received an attestation of exemption from the Provincial Administrator under Section 23 of the JBNQA. Notwithstanding, the members remain concerned about issues related to hazardous materials transportation, communication with regional stakeholders, transparency and social acceptability.

Action item

- **Invite representatives from the MELCC to a future meeting to give a presentation on planned rehabilitation work under the pilot project at the Mid-Canada Line radar sites.**

b) *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*, MELCC

The environmental analyst presented an overview of the MELCC's recently updated *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*. The members were informed that limited financial and human resources are the main obstacles to implementation of the Regulation in Nunavik. It was pointed out that the KEAC and the KRG recently expressed concerns with regards to the additions made by the MELCC to the list of products subject to the Regulation, such as single-use batteries, pressurized fuel containers and pharmaceutical products. The two organizations also pointed out other implementation issues in Nunavik, including complications related to the shipping of these products from remote areas, the low participation rate among residents and regional organizations, and the inadequacy of awareness campaigns.

Action item

- **Invite a representative from the MELCC to a future meeting to give a presentation on how the Regulation will be implemented in Nunavik.**

c) *Regulation respecting a System of Selective Collection of Certain Residual Materials and Regulation respecting the Development, Implementation and Financial Support of a Deposit-Refund System for Certain Containers*, MELCC

The environmental analyst presented an overview of the two regulations that came into force on July 7, 2022, i.e. the *Regulation respecting a System of Selective Collection of Certain Residual Materials* and the *Regulation respecting the Development, Implementation and Financial Support of a Deposit-Refund System for Certain Containers*. The first requires distributors of certain products packaged in cardboard, fibre, metal or plastic to contribute financially to a system of selective collection for these materials. The latter requires distributors of product containers made from a variety of materials to contribute to a deposit-refund system for their collection and reclamation.

Action item

- **Invite a representative from the MELCC to a future meeting to give a presentation on the two regulations and how they will be implemented in Nunavik.**

d) Draft regulation to ban single-use plastics, ECCC

The environmental analyst presented an overview of Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) draft regulation to ban single-use plastics. The harmonization of this regulation with existing applicable provincial residual materials legislation was also discussed.

Action item

- **Invite a representative from ECCC to a future meeting to give a presentation on the draft regulation.**

e) *Regulation respecting Hazardous Materials*, MELCC

The members reviewed feedback on a draft letter concerning proposed MELCC amendments to the *Regulation respecting Hazardous Materials*. It was also explained that the MELCC did not consult the KEAC directly on this file. The members expressed their dissatisfaction at not having been consulted directly and, then, adjourned their meeting.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
February 22, 2023

Agenda of the 173rd Meeting²

- 1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda**
 - 2. Adoption of minutes from the 172nd meeting**
 - 3. Administration**
 - a) Budget
 - b) Secretariat
 - c) Members
 - d) Meeting with the administrators
 - e) Active files since the 172nd meeting, correspondence and housekeeping
 - f) Website
 - 4. Meeting with the human resources consulting firm**
 - 5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**
 - a) Update on the social impacts study
 - b) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*
 - 6. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation**
 - a) Omnibus regulation, MELCC
 - 7. Water management**
 - a) Meeting with the Nunavik Drinking Water Research Committee*
 - b) Discussion on drinking water quality in Nunavik
 - 8. Climate Change**
 - a) *Mobilization Strategy on Climate Change*, MELCC
 - 9. Miscellaneous**
 - a) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*
 - b) Meeting with the mayor of Salluit*
 - 10. Mining activity**
 - a) Meeting with representatives from Glencore*
 - b) Asbestos Hill mine site
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² Items marked with an asterisk were attended in-person by Secretariat staff on October 4, 2022, in Salluit.

11. Presentation on renewable energy projects in Nunavik, Tarquti Energy Inc.

12. Dates and location of the 175th meeting

13. Residual and hazardous materials management

- a) Update on the Mid-Canada Line radar sites clean-up project
- b) *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*, MELCC
- c) *Regulation respecting a System of Selective Collection of Certain Residual Materials* and *Regulation respecting the Development, Implementation and Financial Support of a Deposit-Refund System for Certain Containers*, MELCC
- d) Draft regulation to ban single-use plastics, ECCC
- e) *Regulation respecting Hazardous Materials*, MELCC