

Public Consultation on Uranium Industry Issues in Québec

COMMISSION MANDATE AND AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTATION

Québec City, April 16, 2014 – On March 3 last, Québec’s Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks entrusted the Bureau d’audiences publiques sur l’environnement (BAPE) with the mandate to conduct an inquiry and public hearing on uranium industry issues in Québec.

The inquiry commission’s mandate will begin on May 20, 2014, and is for a term of no more than one year. The BAPE’s report must be delivered to the Minister by May 20, 2015, and the Minister will then have 60 days to make it public.

In his letter entrusting the mandate to the BAPE, the Minister also asked that the report entitled *Étude sur l’état des connaissances, les impacts et les mesures d’atténuation de l’exploration et de l’exploitation des gisements d’uranium, sur le territoire québécois* (*Current State of Knowledge, Impacts and Mitigation Measures for Uranium Exploration and Extraction in Québec*), prepared in French by Diversification de l’exploration minérale au Québec (DIVEX) for the Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs and the Ministère des Ressources naturelles, be made available to the public. At the same time, the inquiry commission is also making available a list of documents and websites of interest, so that members of the public are able to find information on the subject. Publication of such a list should not be interpreted to mean that the commission approves the content of the various documents and sites.

Where can the documentation be consulted?

The study prepared by Diversification de l’exploration minérale au Québec (DIVEX) and the documents made available today by the Commission can be accessed by members of the general public at the following regional consultation centres:

- Bibliothèque de Mont-Laurier, 385, rue du Pont, Mont-Laurier ;
- Bibliothèque municipale de Havre-Saint-Pierre, 1045, rue Dulcinée, Havre-Saint-Pierre ;
- Bibliothèque Louis-Ange-Santerre, 500, avenue Jolliet, Sept-Îles ;
- Bibliothèque La Bouquine, 50, rue Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Ville-Marie ;
- Bibliothèque municipale de Chibougamau, 601, 3^e rue, Chibougamau ;
- Bibliothèque de Chelsea, 100, chemin Old Chelsea, Chelsea ;
- Bibliothèque municipale et scolaire de La Petite-Rochelle, 44A, rue Lasalle, Pointe-à-la-Croix ;
- Offices of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC), Kuujjuak
- Offices of the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Nation Government, 32 Amisk Street, Mistissini

Printed versions of these documents, plus all documents filed with the commission during the process, will also be available at the BAPE offices in Québec City, at 575, Saint-Amable, Suite 2.10, and in Montreal, at the Legal Science Library, Université du Québec à Montréal, Pavillon Hubert-Aquin, 400, Sainte-Catherine Est. They will also be placed on the BAPE website (www.bape.gouv.qc.ca), under the heading “Mandats en cours”.

If you would like further information, please contact Rita Leblanc, the Commission Secretariat Coordinator, or Louise Bourdages, the Communications Advisor, at 418 643-7447 or toll-free at 1 800 463-4732. You may also contact the commission by e-mail at the following address: uranium@bape.gouv.qc.ca.

What is the BAPE?

The Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement is a neutral public agency that reports to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks. Its mission is to enlighten government decision-making from a sustainable development perspective that encompasses the biophysical, social and economic aspects.

To carry out this mission, the BAPE provides information, carries out inquiries and consults the public on projects or questions involving environmental quality issues that are submitted to it by the Minister. The BAPE then prepares inquiry reports, which are subsequently made public. The BAPE is therefore a government advisory agency with no decision-making power.

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