

**BUREAU D'AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

PRESENT: Ms. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT, Chair
Mr. DONALD LABRIE, Commissioner

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A
TECHNICAL LANDFILL SITE AT DANFORD LAKE
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEYN-et-CAWOOD**

SECOND PHASE

VOLUME 6

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Salle récréative d'Otter Lake
394 Tessier
Otter Lake

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MS. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT,
THE CHAIRWOMAN:

5 (Translation) Good evening, and we are now at the sixth hearing of the public hearings of the second part of dealing with the project to establish a technical landfill site at Danford Lake in the municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood.

10 And this evening, there will be - there are seven (7) interveners, who have registered. And so, if you have not done so, you can register, if you have not already intervened. And at the end of the hearing, of the sitting, there will be a right of correction. So, in order to use the right of correction, you must register in the back as well.

15 So, now, we are going to hear from Mr. Robert Wills.

MR. ROBERT WILLS:

20 I live in Thorne Township, and I have friends who live very near the site, the proposed site.

(Presentation of brief)

Thank you.

25 THE COMMISSIONER:

30 (Translation) Do you - what would you propose to dispose of waste in Pontiac? You're a resident of Pontiac. Would you have a proposal for the treatment and disposal of residual matter, of waste, coming from Pontiac?

MR. ROBERT WILLS:

35 Yes, the first of organic waste is a different stream of waste. It should be separated at source. All these things should be separated at source, not heaped together on the back end. So, the organic waste should be composted. In the Shawville area, there are plans developing to do such a thing as that. In Ottawa, they are beginning in that, and, in Gatineau, as I understand, they're looking in that direction as well.

40 So, that takes care of a lot of it and minimizes problems of transportation and problems of mixing later on, because that's transformed into something useful, very close to where - at source.

45 And then, as much of the metals and reusable items should be set aside to be reused. With the small dumps that we have now, that's possible that things go there, somebody else comes along and says I can use that, and they take it and use it. When everything is centralized, it makes that difficult, if not impossible for that sort of casual redistribution to happen.

50 There are many things that should never go into the dump in the first place. They should never be thrown away, you know, should be recycled, given away, yard-sale, things like that. Again, the more it's centralized and impersonalized, the less of the casual redistribution can happen.

55 Then, you still end up with some things that can't be easily dealt with in those ways. Plasma gasification sounds very promising, and the people who are promoting this in Ottawa have expressed their interest in setting up a similar situation on this side of the river.

60 And from all I've read about it, there's little or no chance of waste material polluting the area. And instead of taking up five hundred (500) acres of ground out in the back, you have it in an industrial zone on ten (10) acres. And the waste material, the metals, flow out of that to be reused, and the gas is burned to turn turbines to generate electricity, so...

60 THE COMMISSIONER:

65 (Translation) What do you do with demolition waste and construction waste? You can have stones, brick, pieces of cement, big pieces of wood. You can't really recycle or reuse these. You have to dispose of these somewhere. It's part of the volume of the waste that we have dispose of. Until now, landfill sites, sanitary landfill sites, have been the best.

70 It's the dry landfill sites that can no longer be used from 2009, and we'll have to find some solution such as the technical landfill site for those materials, will we not? Have you thought about this type of waste that we will have to dispose of? Do you still think it's possible that these construction materials and so on can be reused or recycled?

75 MR. ROBERT WILLIS:

80 In some cases, yes, the wood can be ground and become part of the organic system. In fact, the composting of kitchen waste and "septage" commonly uses sawdust, so that the wooden portion can be ground and become part of the organic recycling. Drywall can be recycled also. It's two (2) simple components: paper and gypsum. The gypsum can be ground and turned into new drywall. If you end up with bricks and stones, you can use those for road bed. And if that's all that you want to put into a landfill, you've minimized the problem quite a bit.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Thank you, sir.

85

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you, sir; so, we invite the Association of Lac Georges Cawood, Mr. Glen Bailey.

90

MR. GLEN BAILEY:

Good evening, thank you for this chance to speak to you, and I will speak English, because that is the language in which I prepared my documents.

95

The purpose of my presentation is to present the views of the Lake George Cawood Cottagers Association and residents. We are about fifty (50) to sixty (60) people, who have properties on the margins, on the board - the shore of the lake or the immediate area. We are residents then in the community of Alleyn-and-Cawood.

100

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) When I give you the signal, please, what you should do is give little pauses between the sentences, sir. That will...

105

MR. GLEN BAILEY:

The members of the association are of two (2) minds. Some members of the association are strongly opposed, and some members are strongly for. After consulting with my executive, we concluded that the best thing to do was to present to you our concerns and to give you some criteria or some conditions which we think ought to be met in any decision-making process that the Government of Quebec goes through.

110

The first point we want to make is that our current treatment of waste and garbage in the region is unsustainable, both environmentally and for many other reasons. The law of Quebec changed in order to change that. We know that we all have to change, not only people living outside the region, but those of us inside. We have a dump, for example, in Alleyn-and-Cawood which would not meet any standards for any environmental protection. And most other communities in the region have similar problems.

115

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So, even with the provisions that are put into the new law, which emphasize the reduction or the reusing or the recycling of waste, there will still be waste to deal with, and the

question is: How do you deal with it? Where do you deal with it? And is the site that's chosen appropriate?

125

So, our comments relate to three (3) things: One is the engineered landfill site itself; second, some of the external implications, and, thirdly, what alternatives might exist to engineered landfill that would be environmentally a better choice.

130

So, the first one is that obvious statement that a landfill exists for a lifetime and more, not just for the time that the landfill is actually being actively used. Therefore, if the government decides to approve the landfill, we believe it's absolutely imperative that the landfill proposal meet the very highest standards, not the minimum standards, and that this is all the more incumbent given the nature of the region in which this is taking place.

135

There should be no shortcuts. There should be no derogations, and there should be no special exceptions from the highest standards that would be required of any engineered landfill site anywhere in Quebec.

140

The second is that the landfill is designed primarily to serve the communities of the Outaouais and perhaps other parts of Quebec. There is considerable concern about whether or not it might be expanded to allow waste to be brought in from outside, whether from the United States or from the Province of Ontario and particularly from Ottawa.

145

So, any approval of the project must make it absolutely clear that the import of waste from regions outside of the region which it was intended to serve must not be excluded - or must be excluded, must not be permitted. And, in fact, this is a commitment which the proponent has already made, and my understanding is, although I've had varying interpretations of this, that Quebec law specifically excludes this.

150

However, I'm also told that there are opportunities under ministerial permits, and we know that when you get into that kind of a possibility, pressures that may arise in order to allow that kind of opportunity to take place.

155

Finally, there is a tendency, when projects like this get into place, that there is tendency to either expand the life beyond the initial design or to expand in terms of the catchment basin, if you want, and we want to make sure that, again, in the event there is an approval, that there be no expansion of the capacity or the life beyond what was initially envisaged. We think this is an absolute certainty.

160

A number of people have already spoken to you, I know, quite extensively about the second portion, which is external impacts. So, I will deal with them fairly quickly, but that is not to make light of them. They are very important.

165 So, my first point is is that the external impacts around the area, in an area which is noted
for tourism, for its wildlife, for the quality of its environment, that it's absolutely critical that these
be kept to the absolute minimum. In other words, if there are things that need to be done in order
to ensure it or if there are things that cannot be done, and those impacts are going to take away
from the quality of life that residents have, then it should not be approved.

170 The second one is obviously the question of roads, road traffic, safety, and issues related
to that. Again, these are important things, and I don't pretend to be an expert in terms of what
road factors are, what road safety is, what level of truck traffic is allowable, is not allowable, what
engineering might need to be done, but I do think it's absolutely important that the Government of
175 Quebec understand that if they do approve it, that there will be costs to the Government of
Quebec in order to ensure that the roads can safely take what additional traffic is being proposed,
and that those have additional costs. And the government has to be willing to accept those costs,
whether it be bridges, widening, more frequent resurfacing, a variety of improvements of
intersections in order to minimize the risk.

180 And, finally, and I think this is the most important. I know that your responsibility is to
make a report on the specific proposal, but you're also authorized to take forward views that may
relate to other elements, but not specifically the proposal itself.

185 And it really comes back to the question of: How do you deal with that waste that is
inevitably to come? And my concern here is is that - and we've consulted with a number of
environmental organizations, the Sierra Defence Legal Fund, the Pambini Institute, etc. And
when you look at the alternatives between incineration, plasma gasification, and engineered
landfill, which seem to be the three (3) that are discussed, interestingly enough those
190 organizations prefer right now engineered landfill. They say incineration is not environmentally
sound, and they say that plasma gasification is not proven.

And it's that last statement which causes a problem for us. There is, as you know, a pilot
taking place in Ottawa. That pilot seems to be proving itself in terms of the technology and in
195 terms of avoiding many of the problems that incineration currently has. It seems to be one which
can be adapted to scale. So, in other words, it could be appropriate for urban environments, and
the test that's being done right now is just on the margins within the city boundaries of Ottawa
proper.

200 So, there seems to be a lot of opportunity here for a new technology, which would
eliminate the need for something such as an engineered landfill and provide a sound - an
environmentally sound alternative.

205 So, then, we come back to the question that there is a date in the Quebec law,
December, 2008, which is driving us towards making decisions. And our view is that it would be
terribly unfortunate if we made a decision now because of that date, and didn't take into

consideration that if we waited two (2) years, that there would be a different alternative which would change completely the way in which we looked at things.

210 And it's unfortunate for two (2) reasons. One is it might be more environmentally sound. It would be much less risky to the community of Alleyn-and-Cawood. It would be much less risky to the proponents, because what I fear is a new technology coming in place that undermines the economic model of the proponents.

215 What happens if, all of a sudden, Gatineau or other regions of Quebec adopt plasma gasification, and, all of a sudden, there is no product, if you want, coming to the facility. Well, pressure is going to build then presumably for - to look more farther afield for product in order to maintain the economic viability, or you run the risk of a bankruptcy, in which case you run into the question of: Who is going to now maintain this half-filled facility?

220 I'm not saying that those are real options, but what I'm saying is it would be unfortunate to make decisions around an economic and environmental model, when something might transform all of those factors.

225 So, we would really be - we really implore, request, that the Government of Quebec, in its decision, and I know it's not your remit, but in their decision as the Department of Environment, that they take a look at alternatives before they make a decision on the engineered landfill, because we want to make sure that we're actually choosing the best possible environmental handling of waste regardless of where it is situated before we actually make any further

230 commitments.

Those are the views of the association. I hope this is helpful to you. Thank you.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

235 (Translation) In one of the proposals that you make, sir, in one of the conditions that you set out, you speak about the life of the operation, and you say it must be determined, never more than thirty (30) years. And, to my knowledge, when the government, by decree, establishes the life span of a project, it cannot tell an operator and don't come back to see me. Don't ever come

240 back to see me. The operator can ask for an extension, can ask for an enlargement, and then he has to do a new approach, a new notice of project, a new impact study. He has to re-present his project.

245 But, the government, unless it says I will not authorize something, because it happens to be on - I will not authorize something on Crown lands, for example, but I've never seen a situation or heard of a situation of a project where a promoter could not come back and make a request of the Department of Sustainable Development, Environment, and Parks. Please tell me if I'm wrong here, but - yes, that's right. Okay, I'm right in what I said says the gentleman.

250 MR. GLEN BAILEY:

I understand what you're saying, and I work for the federal government. So, I understand very well much the context within what you're saying. My concern is, and I'll just give an Ottawa example, there is the Carp Road facility. I forget, sorry, the proper name of it, and it has been
255 going for quite some time. And now there's a proposal before the people in the City of Ottawa both to expand it and to extend its life, the same with the dump in Nevan, which is just to the south of Ottawa.

So, my concern is is that once a facility like this exists, it's much easier to expand it or to
260 prolong than to look at another location. And so, I sincerely hope - I sincerely believe that probably twenty-five (25) years from now, there will not be the need for engineered landfill sites. I hope to God we will have found, and I think our previous speaker was talking quite a bit about alternatives to putting material into the landfill site. And all of those need to be exploited and developed.

265 But, at the same time, it would be really unfortunate if *faute de mieux* there was always an extension or expansion of this site and not a consideration of other alternatives. (Translation) It's too easy to keep going with what you know rather than to change sites and to change the way in which you treat waste.

270 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) You live in Ottawa. You're in Gatineau. How are wastes treated in the Ottawa area?

275 MR. GLEN BAILEY:

(Translation) Well, do you mean for recycling?

280 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Well, for recycling and for the elimination of waste and so on.

285 MR. GLEN BAILEY:

First of fall, you have - in the recycling program, you have alternative weeks for blue and black boxes: the black box being anything with paper; blue box being anything with plastic or glass or metal, okay. They have just announced that they are going to move to an organic waste mechanism also. So, in 2008, we will be asked, in effect, to put our garbage into four (4)
290 different types: kind of garbage going to the landfill, organic waste which can be recycled, and

then the paper, and the glass.

295 I personally, in terms of how it has been - the landfill is - engineered landfills, there are two (2) of them. Although with the new plasma gasification plant, there's a lot of hope in Ottawa that the need for these will be greatly reduced. I personally don't like the system we have in Ottawa.

300 My parents lived in Guelph, and I don't know if you know the system they have in Guelph, but, effectively, you put two (2) types of garbage out: what's called wet garbage and dry garbage. And anything that might be recyclable that's dry goes in, and it goes to a sorting plant, and they sort it, okay.

305 I think, personally, this is much better, because if you rely on everybody to do it at the curb side, okay, there's always going to be a proportion of your households that don't do it, twenty percent (20%), fifteen percent (15%), whatever. The more complicated you make it, the lower level that you get in participation.

310 So, I like the system in the Guelph, and I think there are a few other communities in Ontario who have done that also. The other - and I think it's important. Then, you do get the things actually separated into the right components and going into the right recycling.

315 And then, you get a lot of funny things. And I don't know if this is just unique to Ottawa, where you can put in some types of plastic, but not others. You know, you can put in this plastic, but you can't put in styrofoam. Well, you know, who remembers those? Who keeps the sheet by their garbage can all the time, so they can remember which goes into which box?

THE COMMISSIONER:

320 (Translation) Do you have an idea of the percentage of recycling of useful materials?

MR. GLEN BAILEY:

325 (Translation) I'm not sure, but I think it's about - I've got the figure of sixty percent (60%) in my head and thirty percent(30%). And I believe that these numbers change, depending on the type of recycling. I think, in terms of paper, it's much better.

330 What they have done is that they have started to ask for deposits for all alcohol purchases, whether beer or wine. And so, it's easier in Ontario, because the sale of these products are controlled more or less by the beer store and by the LCBO, and the beer store is acting as a recycle part. (End of translation)

In western Canada, there's a good number of examples where they have put deposits on

335 plastic containers, on all - so, if you go and buy a bottle of Pepsi in the two (2) litre, you've got a
twenty-five cent (\$0.25) deposit on that. And lo and behold, your recycling percentage shoots up
significantly when you do that.

340 And I think that's the proper way to do it, because you're putting and cost in the
responsibility for having the mechanism of ensuring the recycling on the person who is buying, but
also on the company that's selling the product.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) No more questions, thank you.

345 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Mr. Ronald Brennen.

MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

350 Good evening, my presentation will be in English. It is an add-on to the written
presentation that I sent in a week ago, and it adds a bit more data, but provides more information
about the alternative. (Presentation of brief)

355 I will not repeat the written presentation, but would rather add a few more recent data events and
expand the comments on the viable alternative to the proposed technical landfill.

360 Most experts and most local, provincial or state governments agree that even the most
modern of municipal solid waste landfills will leak and/or otherwise malfunction in the landfill's
lifetime. Legislation has been enacted at those levels of government to provide limits, boundaries,
penalties, and corrective actions for most of the anticipated infractions or failures.

365 As a recent example, data from Leak Location Services, which is in Texas, and the
author of a data that I used in my written presentation, Laine, Darren Laine, is the president of
that firm, has recently surveyed seventy (70) million square feet of liner and geo synthetic liner and
found thirty-eight hundred and twenty (3, 820) leaks, failures That is one leak per eighteen
thousand three hundred and twenty-four (18, 324) square feet, approximately every half acre, just
under a half acre.

370 Based upon those survey results from Leak Services, we could expect on average a
hundred and ninety-four (194) leaks at the proposed Danford Lake site. Based upon the
promoter's own figures of ninety-nine point nine percent (99.9%) reliability and considering the
base of five thousand (5, 000) square feet, we could expect five hundred (500) and some odd
leaks in the Danford Lake site.

375

If you consider the legislation from Alberta, which I had provided a web site for the BAPE, it is expecting no more than two (2) leaks per hectare. So, whichever way you look at it, the data from previous - the last three (3) years' data from Leak Services, all show the expectation is much higher than Alberta has been experiencing or had legislated.

380

Last night, you asked the Mayor of Otter Lake if he was aware of any other alternatives to the Plasco Energy Group. There are, but each has its own problems. Example: The high-heat incineration method produces greenhouse gases and produces fly ash, which is a secondary source of toxic pollutants. It should be noted that, in Europe, where there are several high-heat incinerators being used, they have taken the fly ash to a plasma gasification process to render it inert.

385

Tonight, I wish to add additional comments and background on the alternatives. Specifically, the alternative is the plasma gasification process. Gasification technology is well proven. There are over one hundred (100) plasma gasification facilities in the world and more being built everyday, some other process than Plasco's.

390

There are several large two (2, 000) to three thousand (3, 000) ton per day systems being utilized in Japan. They started out in Japan in 1999 with a hundred and seventy (170) ton unit. They have subsequently upgraded that in 2003 to a three hundred (300) ton unit, which is still operating.

395

At the present time in St. Lucy, Florida, there is a three thousand (3, 000) ton per day plant being installed. Two thousand (2, 000) tons are designated for new municipal solid waste, and one thousand (1, 000) tons are designated to be taken from a co-located old landfill. It will take eighteen (18) years at one thousand (1, 000) tons per day to eliminate that present landfill. If you do the math, you would find that that proposed landfill is exactly the same size as the one that is proposed for Danford Lake.

400

Last night, you also asked if there was a coordinated plan for the disposal of waste in the Outaouais. I believe that the Plasco Energy Group's proposal offers the basis for that coordination.

405

The Plasco Energy Group has offered to build at no cost to the taxpayer, provided they get a long-term commitment to the supply of municipal solid waste.

410

The Plasco offer is to locate three (3) facilities within the region: a two hundred (200) ton per day plant and two (2) one hundred (100) ton per day plant. The placement would be at the discretion of the municipalities, the MRC's, and that begins that coordinating effort.

415

The facilities would require a footprint of five (5) acres each, and would employ twenty-

four (24) personnel at each facility.

420 The plasma gasification facilities offers the following advantages when compared to the proposed technical landfill. And I will not touch on all of them, because I believe that you have the full document that I presented, and it is in there.

425 The proposed landfill says they will have four (4) to six (6) permanent jobs, plus up to six (6) temporary. The gasification process says they will have twenty-four (24) permanent jobs for each of the facilities.

430 The proposed landfill would increase truck traffic, heavy truck traffic through the village of Danford by eighty percent (80%). With the gasification process, regardless of where it is situated, a one hundred (100) ton plant, it would provide less than five percent (5%) increase in the heavy truck traffic.

435 The landfill requires that garbage be hauled long distances. We heard last night about a hundred and eighty (180) kilometres being what's going to be needed in some cases, and I expect it is farther than that, but that is the number I have at the present time to provide to the source for the landfill. In the gasification process, it would be taken to one of the three (3) plants, and so, therefore, if they were strategically placed, would much reduce the truck traffic.

The landfill will produce methane of which only sixty percent (60%) would be captured. The gasification process produces no methane.

440 The footprint for the landfill is five hundred (500) acres. The footprint for each of the gasification processes plants is five (5) acres for a total of fifteen (15) acres.

445 The landfill will produce leachate, potentially contaminating the Picanoc River. The gasification process has no liners. It's an enclosed system.

Garbage, a valuable energy source, is buried in the landfill, and garbage, as an energy source, produces electricity for the region.

450 There are no threats to the wetlands, no threats to flora or fauna with the gasification process, no threats to fish spawning in the Picanoc River. You'll note in my written presentation talked about a 2005 study in Sweden concerned with the contamination and cancers in fish.

455 As was stated by the MRC representative last night, that - it was stated - sorry, it was stated by the MRC representative last night that legislation, both locally and provincially, could not be changed in time to support a plasma operation. I think the major reason for that statement is the NIH factor, not invented here. Have you seen how fast legislatures at the local, provincial, and federal levels can act when it involves a pay raise for themselves?

460 As you can see, the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood is best served by adopting the alternative approach from an environmental and potential employment viewpoint.

465 Finally, I would ask: Is it acceptable to leave our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren, and generations beyond that a mountain of garbage and long-term pollution and health problems, particularly when a totally acceptable alternative is at our doorstep at the present time? I think not. Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER:

470 (Translation) In the document that you have presented earlier, when you are talking about the different experiences with the geo synthetic membrane in the States and that you talk about the percentage of the geo membrane that perforated or that leaked, and then when you do the transposition on the site, you just transpose it to this site here that we will find this much on all the surface. Are you sure you're comparing apples with apples, or are there - are they systems that are really similar to what we have here or with a different level of geo composite membranes of the first level?

480 Compared this way doesn't really mean too much to me. If we're talking about the same thing, it's fine, but, otherwise, I can't really understand. Do you have complementary information that could help us see and really compare?

MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

485 The answer is yes. The reason that I added the data that I did for tonight's presentation is that the previous data was dated from 1997. So, this last data was for the previous - for the last three (3) years up until it was published. I think, a month ago, it was updated. The last time I looked at the web site, it was dated a month ago.

490 The geo synthetic liners, I believe, are comparable whether they're manufactured in the United States or Canada. One of the things that I believe is that, with the experience of more landfills being generated and put in the United States, that they have far more experience than anybody in Canada.

THE COMMISSIONER:

495 (Translation) But you're telling us that what's proposed here, it's the last generation of the membranes that were installed. And that's why I'm wondering if we're really comparing. Even though they have more experience, maybe they are systems that have been installed for a few years. I can't really give you more specifications on that.

500 MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

That is why I added the data for the last - from the last three (3) years, because I had felt myself that the data I presented earlier in the written presentation had some dating to it. So, I have gone up to date with that data, so it is not all three (3) years ago. That brings them right up to date. The seventy (70) million square feet brings them right up to today. So, it is the latest kind of technology liners that are there.

THE COMMISSIONER:

510 (Translation) Did you give us this web site address where we can have the information?

MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

515 No, the web site I gave you was the one for the Alberta government legislation on leak rates and things like that, but I can give you the web site for the other.

THE COMMISSIONER:

520 (Translation) We would appreciate it.

MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

Okay, and I will provide that by tomorrow, because I don't have it here at my fingertip.

525 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Like the Chair mentioned in the first part of the hearing, that our role is not to assess the technology to treat the residual matters. It's really a specific project which is a dump site, but we are not going to ignore the new technology, but to come back to this plasma, to this plasma gasification.

530 But if the promoters want to make a presentation, it's up to the RCM or the warden or the Reeves' table that should take this proposal and consider that the question has been asked, but, in the proposal that has been made, because you seem to be very aware, are we talking about recuperating or energetic maximization or steam or electricity in the project? Did they talk about those in the project that you were presented?

MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

540 It's electricity that is converted to the output of the plasma gasification process, is a sin gas which then is cooled and turns the turbines to provide electricity.

THE COMMISSIONER:

545 (Translation) But now to produce that electricity and to make it interesting for the promoter, are they - did they contact Hydro Quebec, and what conditions do they require from Hydro Quebec to use that electricity to make their project viable?

MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

550 I have no idea. That is - I am not associated with Plasco Energy Group at all. I have been concerned with the landfill, and I took on as part of my responsibility to look at other alternatives. And also I made a commitment to others to do the research on the leak rate and the leachate and the liner life and things like that, but I am not more knowledgeable. There are others in the room
555 that have more knowledge on the Plasco process than I do.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) But if I insist, it's that a lot of speakers talked about that technology, but it
560 would be interesting to know that in respect with what they have in Ontario or elsewhere, and how the operator of the electric system like Hydro Quebec here, are they ready to buy this electricity, and how much do they get elsewhere. It might be interesting in another province, maybe not here. Maybe we will have a speaker who can explain this to us, and explain to us the factor that makes
565 a difference.

MR. RONALD BRENNEN:

Well, I do understand, in Ontario, wind generation or other methods of generating
570 electricity in a green environment are encouraged and are bought by Hydro Ontario and put on the grid. As to the cost or the recompense that the organizations or individuals get, I have no idea.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Mme. Stephanie Milford, please.
575

MS. STEPHANIE MILFORD:

(Translation) Good day, Mme. Journault and Monsieur. I'd like to introduce my little
580 brother Carl and my sister Robin.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) So, could you bring the microphone a bit closer to you, please? Could you

please start over?

585

MS. STEPHANIE MILFORD:

(Translation) And so, I'd like to introduce my brother Carl and my sister Robin. We will continue in English, if you don't mind.

590

My name is Stephanie Milford, and I live one point eight (1.8) kilometres away from the proposed mega dump site. I have lived there for some thirty (30) years with my family, and this is where we call home. I grew up loving the outdoors and all it has to offer such as fishing, hunting, trees, and, of course, the animals.

595

My grandfather and father instilled these loves in me, and both were and are lumberjacks. My grandfather worked with an axe or crosscut saw and a horse. My dad uses a chain saw and a skidder. The really big difference between them though is that when a skidder drives through two (2) inches of water while pulling logs out, the environment steps in and says that a bridge must be built, because the skidder may have diesel gas or oil on its tires.

600

So, can you tell me what the difference would be when a bulldozer drives over the garbage to compact it would be? There is no difference, because the bulldozer uses diesel, gas, or oil as well. When it rains, all these substances mentioned would wash off the garbage and fall to the liner below. When the liner busts, and it will, these substances will find their way to the water table.

605

My dad works hard and faces all these things from environmentalists. There was never any dispute when my grandfather used a horse. We all know, however, that a horse or any animal does not know where it can let its bodily fluids or matter go. This, I'm sure, has happened in creeks, streams, lakes, and rivers before. Using a horse would be better for the environment, but if you work near a body of water, the horse will want to drink from it. There is so much man-made pollution already in our waters that the horse would most likely get sick.

610

I don't see the point of another hole in the ground, when there are so many other ways to dispose of our garbage. Mr. Rouleau has brought this idea to other places and failed. They had the good sense to say no. Why should we be subject to the first proposal of waste management that comes along? This should have been put up for tenders long ago.

615

Is this not the greatest country in the world where we have the right to say what we want and what we don't want? Do we not have the right to keep our family and friends safe? We won't be able to if these yes people get their way. In a way, their ignorance is pitiful, and their love of garbage, on the other hand, is sickening.

620

Mrs. Kublek-Latimer said last night that all the young people are leaving Danford, and

625

630 that is true. The majority of the people in Danford, except for a few children, are between the ages of forty (40) and eighty-five (85). Some people commute to the city to work every day, because Danford really has nothing to offer in the way of work or incentive to stay. Working at a landfill site surely is no incentive. Danford is small and quiet, a wonderful place to raise a child because of the serenity.

635 So, my question would have to be this: Can you give me a one hundred percent (100%) guarantee that the water and fish will not become contaminated? Can you guarantee that the trees and shrubs will still be growing, or that the fruit that they bear will still be edible in twenty (20) years, or that someone I love will not get sick and die? This dump will only bring disease and pollution. You cannot give me these guarantees.

MS. ROBIN MILFORD:

640 We have wild turkeys that have been reintroduced to our area. They are an endangered species and should be protected from all types of harm.

645 The Mayor of Bryson got up last night and read his brief to you. I do not agree with what he said and especially his actions. You probably did not see the handshake between him and Mr. Rouleau, as he made his way back to his seat. This was not an appropriate place or time for such a gesture.

650 If Danford Lake councillors, Michel Chartrand, Allan Peck, Gerald Stevenson, Carl Mayer, truly believe this mega dump is best, then you can summon them for tomorrow's session or, better yet, here this evening to tell us why they believe this is best for Alleyn-and-Cawood. Each time we asked, we were always laughed at and including the mayor, Joseph Squitti.

655 Just to inform everyone here tonight, our mayor, Joseph Squitti, suffered another heart attack last Friday. So, we can all understand why he's not here.

660 Myself, many other people, and the coalition, as well all who believe that this dump is a bad idea, we apologize for the snickers, laughing, and outbursts that have occurred during these proceedings. Our frustrations are at an all-time high. We have been mistreated at every turn. We have finally someone who will listen to us.

I have a well and a spring that I can drink from at any time that I want.

665 There are better ways to dispose of our garbage. The solution is not another hole in the ground. No one will benefit from this dump idea, but for Mr. Rouleau and the yes people. I can assure you, however, that these people will not be happy with their decision in the future. Think about it. Think about your family, friends, and the generations to come. Do you really want to

be the ones who left behind a legacy of garbage behind? You should be very proud of yourselves.

MR. CARL MILFORD:

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Bonsoir, Mme. Journault, Mr. Labrie, my name is Carl Milford. I live in the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood at 10 Robin's Nest Road. It has been my permanent residence for my entire life, and was also the birthplace and home of four (4) other generations of Milford's before myself, making me and my siblings the fifth generation of Milford's to live in Danford Lake. My great great
675 great grandfather, Samuel Milford Senior, emigrated from Ireland in 1884 and started a new life and raised his family in this beautiful land.

680

My objective in writing this letter is that, hopefully, this land will remain the same for my children and for all future residents alike, to have clean air and drinking water and a good country lifestyle to be raised on. I have great concerns about the wildlife and our waterways such as the turtles, fish, frogs, beaver, muskrats, and the blue herons.

685

Today, I would like to talk about Johnson Lake. It is situated approximately one kilometre from the proposed mega dump site. Could I have it expanded some more? Okay, it's on the card on the wall there, on that map. I can't visually spot it. It has to be... I can point it out on that map.

MS. STEPHANIE MILFORD:

690

(Translation) He says he can show it to us on another map.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Please tell me what is the name of the lake?

695

MR. CARL MILFORD:

Johnson Lake.

700

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) So, for the purposes of the transcription, it is within the two (2) kilometre radius in the east, towards the east, and within the two (2) kilometre radius of the technical landfill site, okay.

705

MR. CARL MILFORD:

Okay, so, the lake, Johnson Lake, it is situated approximately one kilometre from the

710 proposed site, the proposed mega dump site. It is home to many species of wildlife. And I fear that this lake and the large creek from which it flows east through farmland, and through a large lot held by American owners for hunting, and then onto Milford property, from which the house is situated about two hundred (200) feet from water's edge, and then crosses Highway 301 about four point five (4.5) kilometres south of the village and empties into the Kazabazua creek.

715 I can only imagine what well water will be like when the expected life span of this proposed dump is depleted. This creek means a lot to me, because I was nearly raised on it. I can remember, as a child, spending late afternoons with my dad catching speckled trout and listening to the blue herons give their familiar call.

720 In conclusion, I hope that the BAPE studies this and gives consideration to this and other surrounding areas. As they say, it's our land. Keep it clean. Thanks.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

725 (Translation) Thank you, sir; you participated in the hearings all through, and we have heard during the week that the table of Reeves, the Reeves' table, of the MRC's, the mayors and reeves of the MRC's of the region, wanted to study options. What message would you like to send to your reeve or mayor concerning the approach to the management of waste? If you had only one message you could give them, what would be your message? There's three (3) of you, but perhaps you could each give us your own message. Go ahead, sir. What message would you
730 give?

MR. CARL MILFORD:

735 To Mayor Squitti, I would just like to say study your options before deciding on one. That's about all I can say. I know that this proposed mega dump is not a good idea for the area, and should look further into plasma gasification. That's all.

MS. STEPHANIE MILFORD:

740 My personal feelings on this is that people are more interested in money than doing something that is safe for everybody. I believe some people are money hungry. That is just my personal opinion. And plasma gasification is the better way to go. We don't need another hole in the ground.

745 The liners that everybody keeps talking about are only made of plastic. And when a bulldozer drives over a can, a nail, whatever, it can puncture the liner, and it will. And then, everything is going to go right into the water table. We hit water so quickly at home that it's not even funny, when we dig.

750 And so, I urge you, when you make your decision on this, we know you will use your
minds. You are smart people, but we urge you to use your heart as well.

MS. ROBIN MILFORD:

755 I think you pretty much nailed it. My opinion is pretty much the same as my brother and
sister. I believe plasma gasification would be a better idea, because the whole community,
everybody around, can benefit from it, because the energy that is made off of the garbage can be
used as hydro. Duh! I think it's a pretty good - garbage for electricity. It's a no-brainer. That's my
opinion.

760

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Well, thank you very much; we're going to take a fifteen (15) minute break.

765

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Mr. André Carrière.

770

MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

(Translation) I'm here representing the Coalition Against the Danford Mega Dump, and I
live in Aylmer, me and my family.

775

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) I will tell you to slow down and take a pause between each phrase, please.

780

MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

(Translation) I am André Carrière, and I'm introducing myself. I'm here as the President
for the Coalition Against the Danford Mega Dump. I am a permanent resident of the Aylmer sector
of Gatineau. My family and myself also spend a lot of time in our second residence in the Lake
785 Shea in Kazabazua, which is two (2) kilometres from the entrance to the village of Danford Lake.

The coalition exists since the fall of 2005. That is a little time after the third meeting of
public hearing, the one of the 29th of October, 2005, a meeting during which the population finally
realized the magnitude of the site. We did talk about it a lot in the last few days.

790

The coalition was created for two (2) main reasons. The first one was that a great number of residents of the municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood, feeling powerless because of the language factor and because of the lack of experience in front of such a situation or as serious as this, have solicited the support of people able to help them.

795

And I just mention something on the side. When we began our work, I would say that there was an enormous fear on the part of the community to express themselves in public, not everyone, but I would say for the great majority. And since then, for about two (2) years, you've had the opportunity, just like me, to see to what point these people have evolved in public presentation, to the point that the great majority who have spoken to you have been able to do it on their own with a text that they themselves have drafted. So, I raise my hat to all the people from the village.

800

The second reason is that, in front of the lack of response to their questions, some citizens, first of all, concerned - from being concerned, they became opposed. The citizens are not limited to the municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood, because as you have noticed, there will be major impact for all of the residents on the highway, on the Road 105 and 301, I would say, for the majority of the roads throughout Ottawa, the Outaouais as well, because they have to really make a very important decision concerning that project. We call it a regional project, because it has impact, regional impacts.

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810

In my presentation, I will talk about three (3) things: one (1), the petition of the coalition; second will be the brief that I have submitted in view of the meeting of today; and, three (3), the recommendation that we would like to submit to you respectfully.

815

I will not repeat what others have said so well before me. I would rather spend my time on recommendations that I would like to make to the BAPE. I would rather spend my time making these suggestions or recommendations to you in the name of the coalition.

820

Number 1, the petition: Our petition has four thousand one hundred and fifty-eight (4, 158) signatures. Four hundred and ninety (490) are taxpayers from Allevyn-and-Cawood. And if you want to have an overview and more details, in these four hundred and ninety (490) signatures, there are four hundred and twenty-three (423) who live here on a seasonal basis, and the rest is here on a regular - like permanently. What we have noticed is that these signatures are those of taxpayers and their partners. We didn't include the children and those under eighteen (18) years of age.

825

I want to mention that what is at stake is not just a conflict between the people who come here to their cottage and permanent residents. The figures or the numbers show that it's not such a conflict. The people have put their signatures knowing fully what they were doing and knowing the background of the issue. And we have seen it throughout the week in all the hearing. It is a file that can be charged with a lot of emotion.

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835 Since the beginning, the members of the executive of the coalition have done everything possible, so that the process that they've undertaken would be a professional one. And if you heard by certain people who have come forward that, during the municipal meetings, we were screaming and howling, if it happened in the beginning, but for a very short time, it was quickly stopped with the goal in mind that this file and that the decision taken regarding this file would be one of a well-informed population and not just emotional. And I must say that this situation was not
840 an easy one.

The people expressed their frustration, their experienced frustration, in front of the fact that they were not receiving answers to their questions and in front of the promoter and also the municipal council. And to maintain a cap on top of these emotions, it necessitated to have a lot of
845 control, and it was maintained, I would say, on a professional approach.

So, the vast majority signed the petition following some public hearings and after the reading of our web site and in reading many articles in the media of the region, whether newspapers, radio, television. And I would even present or submit to you a bunch of clippings in
850 a chronological order since the beginning of our work. And you will notice all the growth of the process, and that was made public through the medias, and that can show what we went through, as it was presented by some of the people who came to make presentations.

And following - the signatures actually were obtained following participation at several
855 tables, whether it was on a municipal level or at the RCM or in the Outaouais region and after many personal conversations with the members of the coalition. What I want to underline here is that we didn't stand on a corner of a street to exercise pressure, undue pressure, on people, so that they would sign a document without knowing why they were signing that document.

860 And you probably noticed also that a lot of people who signed have done their own research, and it led to many conversations with the members of the coalition.

Two (2), the brief of the coalition: What the brief translates is essentially a request that we've been putting forward since the beginning of our existence, that there would be a decision-making on a regional level from Outaouais. And I add the word "enlightened and informed"
865 decision. And like we've gone through in the last two (2) years, we wanted information that would attract a reaction.

The question that you asked, Mr. Labrie, shows what I'm trying to say. The reflex of
870 people is to question the information and to draw conclusions hastily, and it's too hasty sometimes. I'm not saying you did, but our experience has demonstrated that when we are dealing with people at the different tables, these speakers, in our knowledge, didn't have enough information to be able to exercise an informed decision.

875 Such a decision must show a very serious awareness and research in the search of
solutions. Two (2) years ago, that will did not exist in Outaouais. And so, we also discovered, to
our great astonishment, that the Department of the Environment and Parks and Sustainable
Development is not assuming the role of research, which is essential or imperative. Our actual
experience of the file demonstrates that this void creates a duplication of the work and, therefore,
880 a waste of work in a very difficult financial period for the municipalities.

 The coalition attempted to exercise an influence on these two (2) levels of the consultation
and in their research, more specifically. It encouraged the consultation on all the different level
politically. And for eighteen (18) months, many citizens worked on a daily basis to increase their
885 knowledge where, on the contrary, what was at the beginning was the ignorance of the choices.
Our research shows us all the work that the coalition came up with in order to find alternative
solutions to find a way to dispose of residual matters.

 I will explain in my own words now. Certain members of the executive have dedicated an
890 enormous part of their personal time to present themselves to political levels on all levels, whether
municipal, regional, and regional in the greater Outaouais regions like municipalities, RCM's, and
also all the Outaouais region.

 And every occasion when a citizen goes to these levels, they are always confronted with
895 enormous constraints, and the worst one being the possibility of speaking five (5) minutes. Five
(5) minutes is what is granted to people who come normally in front of a council. Ask your
question. Listen to the answer. And once it's over, the chance of sharing or exchanging is not
there. And when it's there, it's very limited in time.

 So, it makes it so that the effort that our people made to increase their knowledge and
900 learn about it more and all the efforts they did in improving, all the data that they were compiling, it
just looked like they felt like they were disturbing people and more of a nuisance than being
welcome or being seen as trying to find a better solution.

 And our brief talks about all the research we did to find some solutions. It talks about the
905 technical committee that was mandated by the table of the Reeves of Outaouais. It was mentioned
by the Reeve of the RCM, Pierre Rondeau, in the Valley of Gatineau, and also in the conclusion
of the Eastern Township on the BAPE site. All their conclusions are resting on the valuation
criteria that allows us to classify it in order of priority. It's interesting to look at l'Estrie and
910 Outaouais come to some conclusions that are very similar. I'll come back to this a bit later. The
notion of these evaluation criteria is one that has become very important to us.

 We tried to approach the question in many, many ways, and that's why we asked
ourselves the following question: Would it be possible to open a dump site in Danford Lake just to
915 answer the needs of the RCM of Pontiac? The answer was given to us many times here this
week, and it summarizes this way. It's probably not economically viable.

920 So, we have joined to our document another one that's called "Landfill Economic Site" by Mr. Duffy, who is a university researcher. And the author concludes - in fact, I'm going to leave that aside. The document was attached, and offers anybody that wants to look at a methodology a formula to determine to which point a project becomes viable or not.

925 And so, we don't want to pretend that we know better than the entrepreneur itself if a project is viable or not, but when the question is asked by people in Outaouais is it viable, and then the people don't have the answer, at least they have a document that can feed the reflection that they're making.

930 So, we consider that the question is important enough, because the type of residual waste that we anticipate for the landfill site remains uncertain for us, even after all these hearings. Mr. Rouleau said, in the first phase of the hearing, that he would not refuse the waste that the law would allow him to receive, and that they would be ready to receive the waste like the waste of Cantley and so on.

935 The questions we are asking: What quantity would come then from outside of the Outaouais region? Included, what quantity would come from Ontario? Because according to us, unfortunately, we have heard discussions on the quantity that could be included in the transportation of the trucks that would come from Ontario for as long as there was a percentage that was recyclable. It's still not very clear in our minds as to what they are talking about.

940 And is there any surveillance? And if there is a quantity that has been transferred to this dump site, what magnitude will it be? And what would be the increase of the number of trucks, and where would they come from? That question to us has not been completely answered. It's still not very clear.

945 And since the promoter saw the opposition, he just preferred to do it in the background and meeting in private with the RCM of Pontiac. And I personally ask in the minutes in a meeting that I objected to these meetings, because I found it unfair that myself and the coalition should have to go to the RCM in public to present our claims, while the promoter was dealing with them in private. All that it did was increase the distrust of the people in the community even more.

950 So, we noticed that, after this private meeting, there was decisions that were made that seemed to be leading us in another direction other than what we had heard previously. The promoters did not deserve the trust of the people. He was not able to gain it, because his assertions do not meet the reality.

955 And the list is very long. You've heard some, and I will mention a few. This project is not going to go forward without the support of the population, to start with. And his site would not receive any waste from Ontario, because it's unlawful to receive waste from Ontario.

960 And he acted, and just to quote him, "I acted with all transparency. It's a matter of interpretation", but I can lead you to believe that if it was transparency, it would have been in the order of what the Mayor of La Pêche managed to do within his own community.

965 The Mayor of La Pêche, if you don't know it, is favourable to plasma gasification. And in a very public manner, because it's in the media on a regular basis, he toured his groups, his associations, and he went to restaurants to speak to the population that's much bigger than Danford Lake. And he even wrote articles in the papers on the issue.

970 And what contrasts with this approach and the one that we had to live with in Danford Lake. Here, when we talk about transparency, this is how we see it, not in the way of a private meetings and working in behind the scene.

975 In the end, the analysis, the project seems incomplete in some ways. When we mention that there's no boats on the Picanoc, and that the river is not really used, and that the impact of the trucks would be very minimal, there are some extreme differences according to this issue.

980 And we've never had the opportunity, and even if the offer had been made to the municipal council on many occasions that there would be shared public meeting where the two (2) parties be present, where there would be a professional atmosphere and where the people would have had a chance to discuss the pros and cons of the project.

985 The Mayor of Alleyn-and-Cawood mentioned that he had met the coalition, the members of the coalition, on two (2) occasions. And I would say that if he has met them, it's because of enormous pressure on our part, because these meetings were not productive, because the attitudes were very - with an attitude of very close-mindedness.

990 And the recommendations of the coalition, here they are. One (1), the choice of one (1) or two (2) management methods of disposal of waste should be done in the Outaouais region. This choice must respect the conditions by the provincial government and be done according to criteria that protects the social, environmental, and economic interests of the population.

995 In the brief that I have sent you on page 3, I mention three (3) conditions or five (5) conditions, I'm sorry, five (5) criteria on page 3. And these are the criteria that I read in the first part of the first phase of the hearings, where we had to explain why we wanted hearings. And you will find there statements that were mentioned by many people here today. Like, example, I will read them in English, because they are written in English. I'm tired, and I can't really translate them properly. (End of translation)

1000 One (1), cause the lowest possible health risks to society and the lowest negative impacts on the environment.

The selected waste management option must consider waste as a valuable and useful resource rather than a problem to be hidden in a somewhat remote location.

1005 It must result in the treatment of waste closest to where it is produced in order to minimize unsafe greenhouse gases resulting from excessive transportation distances, to maximize roadway security, and to minimize roadway nuisances and maintenance cost.

Four (4), it must be socially acceptable.

1010

And, five (5), it must be economically viable.

(Translation) It is true that the RCM of Outaouais and Gatineau took time before consulting one another, and that's why the representative of the CREDDO and what she mentioned when she came and talked to us, but it's clear now that they are aware that they have to work together to settle - find a settlement to this issue.

1015

And I must say that they're not starting from nothing, because the work of the technical committee mandated by the table of the Reeves has already done a lot of basic work that could be useful to the consultation between the Gatineau City and also the RCM of Outaouais. And because of this delay taken in the consultation process, they have to look at a temporary measure. So, the approval of a new TLS should not be appearing in a short solution.

1020

We heard earlier this week that even if the distances to travel are a bit further, that the Lachute site is still ready and consents to give the RCM of Outaouais - to give them the access and at a reasonable price for all the waste from Outaouais. And rather than opening a new site, it would be more justified. While expecting a new alternative on a shorter basis, it would be better to make use of a site that is existing already.

1025

The coalition supports the regional consultation and encourages the provincial government to grant a last delay that will allow the - allow to assess the alternatives to dump sites. It should be a last one, since we don't expect any more delay, and it would be sort of a protocol of agreement or of understanding.

1030

And another one would be to include the population to legitimize the process. And it is essential on a political level and on an administrative level that they be very transparent.

1035

And in the event that this delay was not granted by the Minister, the coalition would recommend the approval of a pilot project allowing the implementation of a solution answering the best - the criterias that we have retained. What the Ontario government has just done with the Plasco project in Ottawa is a good example of this.

1040

The coalition still does not understand why the promoter of the project has not, from the

1045 beginning, consulted other areas of the other authorities in the region concerning this. If he had done this, he could have exercised a better choice, and he could have avoided this profound division within the community.

1050 And the divergence of opinion makes any decision difficult. However, there are all sorts of good ways to face up to this. The BAPE is one example of a good process, and the process of the BAPE, however, is coming two (2) years after the fact. And I don't say that there should be public hearings exactly when - exactly as they were orchestrated for this situation, but you have within your - you have techniques and technical aspects that the municipalities don't understand and don't control. And they are badly equipped to understand that these are better technologies.

1055 I don't accuse them, because as far as I'm concerned, these people are doing the best they can with the knowledge that they have, but the province has a role to play in this, in situations where you can, right from the beginning, see that there's going to be conflicts and to come in and help out with - by giving access to means such as what the BAPE is doing now.

1060 So, all of - everybody feels that their opinion is - has felt this week that their opinion is being respected, because they have had a chance to express themselves and to hear other points of view. And I will tell you that the people who felt intimidated about making a presentation now felt that they were capable of doing so, because the emotion had been taken out of it. The emotion was in their presentation, yes, of course, but the fear of reprisal, the fear of emotional reactions from people on the other side of the issue had been removed, and this allowed for a better dialogue.

1070 And in the present file, at the first sign of questioning, the promoter invited people to send their questions in writing in a municipality in a way that was very intimidating for people, and he held meetings at the least appropriate times for - to allow a good participation by the stakeholders.

1075 And there's a difference of opinion here that I think was - came out a lot during the week, and it is the idea of who are the real stakeholders at the municipal level regarding this project. I can tell you that the seasonal community, that the cottager community, clearly felt as if they had been set apart from the process. And, however, they represent the majority of the population, and they did not ask to have more say than the local residents.

1080 The local residents were able to express their point of view as well, but it was definitely a process that needed consultation of all of the stakeholders, whether they be cottagers or permanent residents. And I consider that this attitude was unforgivable, but an approach such as that which was undertaken created deep divisions in the community.

The promoter did not gain the confidence, the trust, of the majority of the population

1085 either in Alleyn-and-Cawood and in the communities on 105 and 301. There's something
perverted about this project in which it is situated. The site is at the eastern limit of the Pontiac,
and, yet, you fix it up, so that the transport to this site goes through the neighbouring MRC over
105 and 301. And we don't even have the decency to implicate us at the level of consultation,
even though the transport is going to be taking place through our MRC.

1090 So, I think that it is - there has to be a professional intervention with the Alleyn-and-
Cawood community that will help people to reconcile, and we, in the coalition, believe that the
divisions are far too deep to be able to heal themselves. Perhaps if we have - if we intend to let
things ride, the situation will perhaps not heal itself for a very long time, as far as I'm concerned.

1095 And as a sign of that, you perhaps have noticed during the week, and here I am speaking
with respect towards those who are in favour of the project, but when we would invite them to
discuss the project, we were separated by people who said, no, no, you don't understand.
You're exaggerating.

1100 We didn't hear the testimony of most of the people who were in favour of the project, after
they made their declaration. After they say they're in favour of it, they no longer get involved. And
when we try to bring the parties back together, we didn't succeed.

1105 It's going to take, as far as I'm concerned, a professional intervention. And who would
pay for this? Well, I don't know how much it might cost, but the social harmony has - you can't put
a price on social harmony. And at some time or other, there's going to have to be some sort of
professional officer or agent come in to do an intervention, because, right now, there is a growing
public opposition to the stocking of waste.

1110 And this isn't only from the people that you saw before you this week. There isn't a week
that goes by in our region that we don't read articles about the waste management. And it's
obvious when we hear people speaking about polls that were taken outside our regions, and when
you see what kind of reaction the Mayor of La Pêche had when he got up in front of his citizens,
and when we got up at a public meeting to explain the information that we had been able to get.
1115 You see that the reflex is almost automatic.

The criteria that I mentioned earlier were not plucked out of thin air. They are the result of
numerous meetings that we have held with many people, who adhere to these criteria and support
these criteria that we mentioned.

1120 And, therefore, we recommend the rejection of the present application for a TLS in
Danford Lake, and we believe that garbage - that waste has an energy value, and it was - it would
be tragic not to take advantage of this, both from an environmental and an energy point of

1125 view. We invite the Quebec environment to abandon, to do a U-turn, to abandon landfill sites and to make use of the energy that is in waste.

1130 And there is a person who came up earlier, and they had figures about the federal and provincial - about the money that is available for innovative - for pilot projects, federally and provincially. And at the federal level, there were some pretty big amounts of money available to deal with environmental questions. And I think that there are elements in that that must be examined more closely and dissected by this cooperative table in the Outaouais region.

1135 It's easier, yes, as many mayors of the MRC Pontiac have done, to simply throw up your hands and say, well, it just costs too much, but as far as I'm concerned, a declaration such as that is the result - I feel, does not show that these people have done sufficiently in-depth research.

1140 And we have an opportunity, an incredible opportunity, to realize this turnaround, this U-turn, towards new technology. And if these new technologies are not immediately a hundred percent (100%) ready, that is not, as far as I'm concerned, a reason to eliminate them. Rather, as far as I'm concerned, this is an opportunity to mobilize.

1145 The question that was asked earlier regarding plasma gasification, you asked, Mr. Labrie, earlier what were the amounts allowed by Hydro Quebec for green energy. You didn't exactly say it that way, but, roughly, I believe that was roughly what you were asking, and because that is an important determining factor in terms of the viability of a project like that one.

1150 So, that is an element that requires particular attention and can bring about mobilization. Just because it's not there today doesn't mean we can't negotiate that. Just because that's not available today doesn't mean that it will always be impossible. And so, I think it would be irresponsible to simply summarize everything by saying, well, it's not available now. So, it will never be possible. You have to put more effort than that into it.

1155 So, I would like to say on behalf of the thousands of members of the coalition to tell you how much we appreciate, first of all, the chance of presenting publicly the results of our research and reflections and to the great professionalism and intellectual vitality of the whole BAPE team.

1160 And I also want to thank the many volunteers for their devotion and for the immense work they have done over the last couple of years. They have shown their professionalism. They have shown their sincere interest in proposing a modern solution for waste management.

One of the persons who made a presentation referred to the phenomenon the NIMBY, not in my backyard. And one - with great pride, I can tell you that after we had discovered that the question of the referendum was not going to happen, we turned around, as we were

1165 supposed to, and concentrated on research efforts for alternative technologies.

And you have received in your documents an argument - a series of arguments that we presented at the table, prefects' table, sorry, at the regional conference of the elected representatives of the Outaouais, which includes reeves, mayors, and people from Gatineau.
1170 And in our arguments, we brought out the results of our analysis not only on gasification, but also regarding modern incineration and other methods of managing waste.

And I think that we have succeeded in helping the cooperative movement, and I think that we have increased knowledge in the Outaouais region about alternatives. And we have been obliged through BAPE, yes, but we - this allowed us to showcase what we have learned, so that
1175 everybody can take this into account and become aware of it.

And I can tell you that the coalition will not end with the presentation of this brief, but we intend to continue to participate at the political levels and whatever level we judge appropriate, so that we can help to find a solution.
1180

And if you hear a lot of talk about plasma gasification instead of other technologies, it's because, all in all, after our analysis, and it is our analysis, we have considered that this was the best alternative basing ourselves on the criteria that have been established.
1185

I think that I will end my presentation there, and I am now available to answer your questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1190 (Translation) I wish to tell you, sir, that we are happy to work with you all of this week, all of the people who are for, against, but especially people who are doing research for a solution and who are taking the time to listen to other people.

And I would like to tell you that the government has offered the MRC in the case of the setting up windmills recently, has given the support of the BAPE, because they recognize that, in the area of the management of the territory, it is the MRC's that have the responsibility for doing this, and we were offering them the support of the BAPE to help them, too, in their approach of consultation. And there were four (4) MRC's in Quebec who asked for BAPE's support to help them to consult.
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These are the - in other words, it is the RCM that has the responsibility, but it is done with the respect towards the opinions of everyone. It's not just a question of being aggressive, and it's in this sense that the government gave to the MRC's the support they need to carry on consultations. So, I only wanted to tell you that detail.
1205

MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

(Translation) Well, that's important information for us.

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THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) That's - I'm talking now about wind generation, wind generators, but...

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MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

(Translation) Well, could we have access to the site where that appears? It would be much appreciated.

1220

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Well, it's on the BAPE site, where we talk about wind generators, windmill electric generators. We understand that you're open to studying different options and to adopt a given technology, but that you are hoping for a regional approach.

1225

MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

(Translation) Yes.

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THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Okay, and this could be a mixed approach. It could take different forms. It could...

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MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

(Translation) Yes, yes, it could be a mixed approach, but not necessarily - we're not necessarily closed to that idea, as long as the criteria that we would have to - the criteria would have to be accepted by the cooperative table.

1240

But if there's a mix of alternatives in the region, this mix would have to meet the criteria that we have established, because these criteria really should not lead to any great conflict. In fact, this should give people a basis for common cooperation. And these criteria, as far as we're concerned, will allow us to adopt alternatives and to embrace alternatives that go towards this new direction and don't keep us stuck in the past.

1245

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) How can you be sure that the regional efforts will give us a long-term

1250 solution, and that we won't find ourselves within two (2) or five (5) years - because, you know, the prefects' table, they're asking for more time. And how do you know that, by extending the limit, time limit, we won't once again get back into the problems of foot dragging of the past?

MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

1255

(Translation) Well, as an ex-manager in a public office, sometimes we have employees who need to be guided and supervised a little less than others, to whom we can give responsibilities knowing what their capacities are. You just let go of them, and you can expect that you will get good work. And some employees need a bit more support and a bit more surveillance or supervision.

1260

And if the Minister would give an extension, an additional extension, to this deadline to the Outaouais MRC's, I think that the region would, according to my experience, put into place a rapid follow-up that will allow it to see what might be possible, and that the Ministry could tighten the screws whenever - or keep our feet to the fire whenever they - she needs to.

1265

And the other method would be to ensure that we don't end up with situations like the present one, where two (2) years after the - a project is proposed, that's when you get the BAPE hearings. And I think the best way to avoid that is to involve people at the decision-making table, certain representatives of society, that will be in a position to contribute.

1270

And I can tell you that coming before a group of persons, such a group of politicians, who possess a lot of power, but who only give you five (5) minutes once a month, sometimes once every two (2) months, that is simply not sufficient.

1275

And the - I think that if you have fears in terms of the reactions of persons who aren't here regarding the adoption of other alternatives, I will tell you, and this is according to my experience, that when you go before the population with these criteria and you have an open debate, it doesn't end in a situation of conflict.

1280

There's a term that was used earlier by one of the presenters as saying it's a no-brainer. Well, you know, if you look at the possibilities and you apply them according to these criteria, it really defuses the possibility of conflict in the decision-making process.

1285

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Well, if a regional solution is found in the short term, will the - would the limit date for the closing of the trench dumps no longer be - need to be moved?

1290 MR. ANDRE CARRIERE:

(Translation) Well, I would rather say that it be - as I said earlier, there is already an existing entrepreneur who is operating, who has offered the overall Outaouais region, which is reasonable, and that could be a short-term solution.

1295

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) No further questions, thank you, Mr. Carrière.

1300 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Jason Knight.

MR. JASON KNIGHT:

1305

(Translation) My name is Jason Knight, and I am a resident of Danford Lake. Where do you start? For two (2) years, my partner and I have been very bothered by what's happening in Danford Lake. Let me explain.

1310

We came here in 2004, so that we could go back to nature, but, all of a sudden, all our plans and everything all seems to be falling apart, when it seems that our little paradise is going to become a garbage dump. So, we never thought that in leaving the pollution and the stress of the large city, that we would end up...

1315

For two (2) years now, my partner and I have been very bothered by all these things that are happening in Danford Lake. Let me explain.

1320

We have been here since 2004, because we wanted to leave the city and to return to our roots where my family grew up and with a project in mind, and that was to found a family and to enjoy nature that is around us, but, all of a sudden, all our plans and all our investments seem to be a lost cause, because now we learn that our little corner of paradise will serve as everyone's garbage dump.

1325

What a slap in the face; never would I have thought that leaving the pollution and the stress of the big city, it would one day come and join us right in the middle of the forest.

1330

How can you put up with such a project? I already have a lot of difficulty in believing that, in 2007, such a large project can be formed and proposed without having properly informed the population and with everything being done behind our backs, without ever telling us the truth, and never answering the questions we asked.

1335 This is our first experience directly with municipal politics. And believe it or not, we have totally lost trust in democracy, all these hours that we have spent fighting and being answered: You have decided - you have elected us and we make the decisions. And I thought that the elected people were there to represent the people and not themselves.

1340 In addition, last year, my partner, my spouse, was victim of an accident on the 105, an accident with a truck when she was going to work, and she had to learn to walk again, to eat, and to do everything anew. Today, she lives with the permanent results of brain damage, and I'm very happy to have - lucky to have her still at my side. Other trucks on this road would increase the chances of such a horrible thing happening again. And I don't wish on anyone the weeks that I spent next to her, when she was in intensive care.

1345 This road is already considered very dangerous. So, why would you want to increase the risk by increasing the traffic of dangerous trucks in the daytime? Do you really want to increase the number of accidents on this road? And here we have the listing for 2007 that said the 148 and 105 are the two (2) most dangerous roads in the area; okay, so much for that part.

1350 These days, we hear people talking more and more about global warming due to pollution and the dangers of environmental catastrophes. If we do not change our habits today, if we do not change as of today our habits, these risks are real and a lot closer than people believe. It is now that we have to act and not in a hundred (100) years for ourselves, especially for the future of our children, because they're the ones who will face the consequences of our decisions.

1355 The landfill site of Danford Lake would be an easy solution on a short-term basis. We have to think on long term, if we want the sustainable solution and in harmony with the environment. You have the *pouvoir* to refuse this project. You have the power to refuse this project. You have in your hands our future.

1360 What will happen when the problems will begin? Because let's be realistic. There will be problems, and, at that moment, it will be too late. The lakes and the rivers will be contaminated, and this beautiful nature will be ruined forever. Is this really what you want for our children, for Quebec? I do not believe that. So, it is now that we have to act in refusing this project of a mega dump.

1365 Other solutions are there for us, and it's time to take the right decisions. Each municipality or RCM or large city should find, on their own, find an ecological manner to dispose of its waste. It would be, at the same time, a good way to make people aware and make them conscientious why a small village of about a hundred and ten (110) inhabitants should receive the residual matters of three hundred thousand (300,000) people and more.

1370 Wouldn't that be the best way to desensitize people, the population, to the fact that they produce much too much waste? And in putting this in a small village hidden somewhere, and

1375 this is the way to hide our heads in the sand and not see what we do and what damage we cause.
The big city pollute, and it's a small village that suffers the consequences of their action, because,
on top of the contamination of the waters and the environment with the mega dump, you have to
add all the odours, the seagulls, and the beautiful mountains of waste.

1380 We are established here for the nature, and it's the riches of this little corner of the world.
And in letting this project come to reality, you are letting this quality of life deteriorate for all its
population.

1385 We have all here some underground wells that provide a good quality water, so that we
can consume, but what will happen in a few years of the leachate once it will have gone through
the membrane and will have gone into the water table? What will be left of the beautiful drinking
water that we know now?

1390 In resumé, an increase, a considerable increase, of trucks on the Route 105 and 301 and
a rate of accidents a lot higher on these same roads, a wonderful piece of the country devastated
by a mountain of garbage at the site for everyone to see, because it's going to be some
impressive, and waters eventually contaminated, and the nature that will have been devastated
by this pollution, seagulls to profusion, and nauseous odours, and drinking water that is unusable,
and, for that many reasons, that will unavoidably reduce our quality of life and make it null. It is
therefore impossible to support such an insensitive project and useless that is the one of a mega
1395 dump in a place as rich in nature as Danford Lake is.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you so much; Mr. Robert Wilson.

1400 MR. ROBERT WILSON:

1405 Good evening, Mme. Chair, Mr. Commissioner; my name is Bob Wilson. I was born in
Danford Lake. My family's roots in this area go back to the mid-1800's. I have a cabin on the
Picanoc eight (8) kilometres down river from the proposed site.

1410 I would like to talk to you on behalf of the Picanoc River. The river is unique in so many
ways. It is a short river, just some fifty (50) kilometres long or so. It is unique in that it has never
been polluted. It is unique in that there has never been a town along its shores. In fact, there has
never been any source of manmade pollution along its shores.

It is still as pristine and unspoiled as it was sixty-three (63) years ago when I first went
there with my father to fish. As a child, I marvelled at the wonders beneath the surface of the
water. I still do today, as I share those same wonders with my eight (8) year old grandson Carter.

1415

This river is also unique in that it is just one hundred (100) kilometres from our nation's capital. Can you imagine that, today, there would exist a totally unspoiled river where the water tests good enough to drink, and it is just an hour's drive north of our nation's capital?

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The river is teeming with fish: pike and pickerel and bass and perch, to name just a few. All these fish still successfully reproduce on the natural spawning grounds of the river.

1425

Along its shores are deer and moose and bears and wolves and beaver and otter. It is the home of the vulnerable wood turtle, which is fully protected by several environmental laws in Quebec. It is home to the black snake, which is also protected.

1430

It is home to a wondrous variety of frogs, including big bullfrogs that make their deep-throated song on a summer evening. It is home to bald eagles and loons and blue herons and hummingbirds and kingfishers.

1435

There are water bugs and dragonflies and polliwogs and frogs' eggs on the stem of lily pads. There are one hundred (100) year old snapping turtles. There are majestic stands of two hundred (200) year old white pine on the bluff along its shores.

1440

There is rushing water and calm. Pierre and Margaret Trudeau chose to paddle the Picanoc because of its uniqueness. I was sitting on the deck of my cabin when they paddled by.

And this jewel is right here in the Pontiac. You don't have to travel a thousand (1, 000) kilometres north to find this. It is right here, and it is totally unspoiled, but now a mega dump, an eight (8) million ton mountain of garbage, has been proposed to be built on the shores of this river right on the edge of the wetlands that border Grove Creek, which runs into the Picanoc.

1445

I would like to tell you about an environmental experience that I had while vacationing in the 1960's. I stopped in the town of Val d'Or. Val d'Or is up in the near north of Quebec. There was a tourist information booth on what appeared to be a beautiful lake on the edge of town.

1450

I went in and asked how was the fishing in the lake. She answered: Oh, no, no, not here, there are no fish in this lake. You can't even swim in the lake. It is so polluted from the mines that even the float planes cannot land here anymore. The water is so acidic that it eats holes right through the floats of the planes. The lake is completely dead. What a shock to hear that such a beautiful-looking lake was completely dead. It was an environmental disaster.

1455

If the proposed landfill was to be approved and an eight (8) million ton mountain of garbage was to be built, in just a few generations, the Picanoc would be the same: dead. The chemicals in the leachate that cause birth defects and genetic damage would have found its way

into the Picanoc, and the Picanoc would be lifeless: no fish, no kingfishers, no blue herons, no bald eagles, no loons, they all eat fish; no water snakes, no wood turtles or any other turtles, no beavers, no otters, no mink.

1460 Ladies and gentlemen of the commission, the decision you'll make on this project will forever affect the future of this unique unspoiled eco system.

1465 When you are preparing your recommendations, think about the impact a dead river would have on the future of the outfitter, who has worked so hard to build up his family business, a business that depends on the Picanoc watershed remaining unspoiled.

1470 Think about how important the Picanoc River valley will be in future, as we try to get our young people away from their computer screens and video games. Think how important this unspoiled place will be to future biology students.

1475 Think about the citizens of Danford Lake, who would have to endure the impact and noise of a hundred and twenty-two (122) additional trucks rolling through their village every day not over a twenty-four (24) hour period, but an additional heavy truck every five (5) to six (6) minutes for the next thirty (30) years. For many, that will be the rest of their lives.

1480 Think about the senior citizen in Danford that has a fifteen (15) minute walk down to Miljour store to get food. This senior citizen would have to endure at least two (2) tractor trailers going by blasting him or her with wind and dust and water spray and slush and noise, a senior who, on this narrow road, has no option but to endure it. You see, they don't drive anymore.

1485 Think about Bill and Heather Rogan, who live on the edge of Danford, who would have to put up with the noise of all these additional trucks accelerating as they race to make it up Ferguson's Hill.

1485 Think about Howard Hayes' son, who is paralysed because of a vehicle accident on the 105.

1490 Think about this possible scenario. Justin Trudeau has just won the election. He and Sophie are about to move to Ottawa. Justin says to Sophie, "There is this beautiful little river in the Gatineau Hills called the Picanoc. It's just an hour north of the city. My mom and dad paddled it. I remember my dad talking about how unique it is. When we move to Ottawa, we can go up and paddle it".

1495 So, now, the day has come. Justin and Sophie are paddling down the river. And in the distance, they keep hearing the roar of big diesel engines. Then, when they get to the mouth of Grove Creek, they see a mountain of garbage right in the middle of pristine wilderness. I assure you I have paddled the Picanoc, and, contrary to what LDC says, it will be visible from the river.

1500 All they can see is this mountain of garbage with its massive swirl of seagulls and bulldozers roaring and beeping, as they make the mountain even higher. He thrusts his arms in the air and exclaims to Sophie, "How could this have happened? What were the decision-makers thinking when they approved this?"

1505 So, think about the decision you are about to make, a decision that goes way beyond whether or not the proposed landfill meets the specifications; a decision that could ensure that this proposed manmade source of pollution does not get built on the shores of the river; a decision that would give the vulnerable wood turtle a fighting chance of survival; a decision that reflects the wishes of the majority of the permanent and seasonal residents of the area, the majority who were denied the opportunity to have a referendum on the project; a decision that reflects the concerns of
1510 the more than four thousand (4, 000) people who signed the petition against the landfill; a decision whereby Gilles Pelletier's descendants will still be able to drink Picanoc River water for years to come; a decision whereby my grandson Carter and his children will still be able to marvel at the wonders of the Picanoc as I have done for the past sixty-three (63) years; a decision whereby Pierre Trudeau's children and grandchildren will still be able to experience the river unspoiled.

1515 You are our link to the final decision-makers. You are our voice. The future of this pristine unspoiled place is in your hands. This very important decision rests squarely on your shoulders. Decide wisely for present and future generations. This project should not be approved. Thank you.

1520 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you for your testimony; we do not have any questions. So, it was very clear, thank you very much. So, I would ask the secretariat if there are any registrations. No
1525 other registrations? So, we are at the rectification or correction; Mrs. Borchers.

MS. MICHELE BORCHERS:

(Translation) Am I limited to one correction or two (2)?
1530

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) You can have more than one, if you want.

1535 MS. MICHELE BORCHERS:

(Translation) They're very short and factual. The first one is regarding the O'Brien, Mount O'Brien Association. I may not rectify, but just modify or bring an additional element. If

1540 we didn't obtain - if the association did not obtain unfortunately the status of a protected area or protected zone, we are going to do it in the years to come, but it managed to obtain the status of a - floristic status for a floristic site for the Mount O'Brien because of the rare plants that they have discovered by the Flora Québécoise during the year. I think it's an important information to have.

1545 So, the region of Mount O'Brien doesn't have the protected zone status actually, but the mount itself will become - probably at the end of the summer, we were told, at the beginning of the fall that it will get the status of a floristic site.

1550 And the second correction is concerning the information that I've given. I didn't give you the exact number. It was regarding this question of the proportion of recyclable matters and the proportion of residual matters regularly that could be in a truck coming from the outside of Quebec.

1555 We discussed it at length, and I told you that it was lawful in Quebec to import residual matters, as long as the truck would have at least fifty percent (50%) of recycling matter, but after verification, I'm sorry, it should have more than fifty percent (50%). So, it's not just fifty percent (50%), but maybe fifty point one percent (50.1%), but I wanted to make a correction.

1560 And Mr. Nbaraga talked afterwards, after me, and he didn't know where I got this information. I got it from the Department of Environment, Mrs. Dubrueil, and it was confirmed to us by someone from Quebec, the Quebec government. And I gave the information to Mr. Nbaraga.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1565 (Translation) So, thank you, and there are no other corrections. Thank you. So, have a good evening. So, we'll see you tomorrow at nine (9:00).

1570 I, Annagret Rinaldi, the undersigned, Official Court Reporter, do hereby certify, under my oath of office, that the foregoing is a true transcription of the above-named speakers at the public hearings conducted by the BAPE.

AND I HAVE SIGNED:

1575 _____
ANNAGRET RINALDI,
Official Court Reporter.