

FAX COVER SHEET

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PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE (S) TO:

Name: *M. André Boicclair* Ministre de l'Environnement  
 Organization: *Gouvernement du Québec*  
 City: *Québec (Qué)*  
 Fax Number: *418-643-4143*

From: *Chief Steven Mathias*  
 Date: *March 14, 2003*

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- Urgent     For your Comments     As Requested     For Reply  
 For your Information     Confidential     Please Post

NOTES/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

*Good afternoon!*

*See enclosed letter for BAPÉ  
on Angliers Hydro project.*

**CONFIDENTIALITY WARNING:** If you have received this communication in error, please notify the receptionist immediately by using our toll free number 1-877-722-2441 and return the original at the address below. *Meegwetch!*



M. Andre Boicclair,  
Ministre de l'Environnement  
Cabinet du Ministre  
Edifice Marie-Guyart, 30e etage  
675, boulevard Rene-Levesque Est  
Quebec (Quebec)  
G1R-5V7

March 14, 2003

Re: **Request for a public hearing on the hydroelectric project in Angliers by La Regionale, Inc.**

Dear Minister:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Algonquin communities of Long Point and Timiskaming.

Subject to our Algonquin Aboriginal Rights and Title and the fiduciary obligation of the Crown and in conformity with Article 31.4 of the Environmental Quality legislation, we are demanding a public hearing concerning the hydroelectric project proposed in Angliers by la Regionale Inc.

Interest in the affected area.

We have a clear and long-standing interest in the affected area. Members of the Long Point and Timiskaming First Nations have been using and occupying this territory since time immemorial and our members continue to do so. There are outstanding interests relating to Algonquin Aboriginal Rights and Title, which have not yet been dealt with, and the proposed activity at Angliers represents an infringement of that Aboriginal Rights and Title, which has not been justified. The Crown has a duty to engage us in meaningful consultation and to accommodate our interests in this case and obviously obtain our consent.

Our members continue to use the area in question for a variety of activities, including trapping, fishing, hunting, the collection of medicinal plants, and the collection of materials for handicrafts.

Reason for our request.

One reason for this request is that, to date, our interests and rights, and our use and occupancy of the area in question, have not been considered. We are not satisfied that the proponent has made any significant effort to assess or consider the nature and scope of our interests, or the potential impact of the project on our interests. We are not satisfied that your government has fulfilled its duty to engage us in meaningful consultation on this project. There does not appear to have been any benefits or consideration of the involvement of the Algonquin First Nations in the planning or management of this project.

Another reason for this request is that there are significant gaps in the proponent's environmental impact study which raise doubts about its reliability and its usefulness. Some (but not all) of our concerns include:

- The study does not consider impacts on sturgeon habitat and spawning areas, and it does not even consider our use of this species, which is important to our traditional way of life.
- The study does not adequately consider the potential impacts of shore erosion and flooding.
- How will modification of the water levels and flows affect Algonquin use of fish and wildlife, gathering of plants, or other traditional uses of the area?
- What will be the impact on waterfowl nesting?
- The study does not consider our use of fish & wildlife resources in the area.

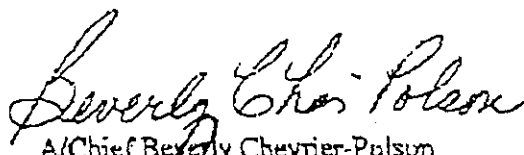
For all of these reasons, we are demanding that a public hearing be held to enable our communities to have their views heard. We are also demanding that additional work be undertaken to address the issues which we have raised, with our direct and meaningful involvement.

Finally, we request that the technical studies which have already been done, all future technical studies and pertinent related documents (ex. Hydro-Quebec contract) be provided to us in English. This is the working language of most of our members and our leadership. The technical studies are useless to us unless they are provided to us in a language that we can understand. As well, the hearings which we are requesting will also require simultaneous translation.

Yours truly,



Chief Steve Mathias,  
Long Point First Nation



A/Chief Beverly Chevrier-Polson  
Timiskaming First Nation

cc Chief Daniel Chief, Timiskaming  
Grand Chief Jimmy Hunter, AANTC  
Grand Chief Carol McBride, AINS  
The Honourable Remy Trudel, SAA  
The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment  
The Honourable Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs  
Guy St-Julien, MP