

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

ÉTAIENT PRÉSENTS: Mme SYLVIE GIRARD, présidente
 M. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissaire

**AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE
SUR LE PROJET D'AMÉNAGEMENT
HYDROÉLECTRIQUE À ANGLIERS**

**PREMIÈRE PARTIE
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MOT DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

THE PRESIDENT:

5 Welcome to this first part of the public hearings dealing with the Angliers hydroelectric development project.

My name is Sylvie Girard, who chairs this commission of inquiry who is in charge of carrying out the mandate given to the BAPE by the Minister of Environment. This Commission also includes Mr. Bertrand Bouchard on my left who will be acting as a commissioner.

I would like to state that the members of the Commission have been sworn in before a judge of the Superior Court and have all powers and immunity of commissioners under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. Moreover, we undertake to comply with the Code of Ethics of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement.

Firstly, I would like to give you an overview of this first session. First of all, I would like to take some ten minutes to explain the general rules as well as how we will proceed in order to have an enlightened, serene and respectful debate. Then there will be the introductions of the resource persons and the Commission's team, after which we will ask the applicants to give the reasons for their application. Finally, the developer will be asked to introduce his team and to make a short summary of his project.

Following this presentation, we will take a break of fifteen minutes and it is at that time that the registry will be opened for people who would like to ask questions. This registry is available at the back of the room. After the break, the people who have registered will be asked in the order in which they have registered to ask questions.

You will find, in the documents out of the table and also at the reference center, a copy of the letter addressed to Mr. André Harvey, President of BAPE, signed April 2nd, 2003 by the Minister of Environment of Quebec, Mr. André Boisclair, which sets forth the mandate given to the BAPE by the Minister.

The mandate of this Commission therefore begins on April 28th, 2003, i.e. yesterday, and lasts for four months. The report of the Bureau will have to be submitted to the Minister of Environment no later than August 28th, 2003. The Minister must publish the report within the next sixty days.

This project is subjected to the Environmental Impact Review and Assessment Procedure. Therefore under Section 31.1 and following of the Environmental Quality Act, we will be discussing and analyzing this project together.

This section provides that no one can undertake a construction, a work, an activity, an exploitation or carry out work following a plan or a program, in cases provided by the government's regulations, without following the Environmental Impact Review and Assessment Procedure

provided in this section and obtain a certificate of authorization from the government. This procedure comes under the responsibility of the Minister of Environment.

50 The commissions of the BAPE review the projects which are submitted to them in a perspective of sustainable development and by applying the notion of environment ruled on by superior courts which includes biophysical, social, economic and cultural aspects.

55 So, I would like to explain briefly the Impact Assessment and Review Procedure. Before the intervention of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement, there were a number of steps that were taken.

First of all, the developer expresses his intention to undertake a project by filing a notice of project to the Minister.

60 The Minister then issues a directive following which the project initiator undertakes an impact study. The promoter or the developer answers questions by the ministries concerning the project. And then Ministry of Environment issues a notice of receivability.

65 Then the BAPE becomes involved. The first step is carried out not by a commission, but the staff of the BAPE. And this is the information and consultation period to which a number of you participated. This period ran from January 28th to March 14th, 2003.

70 During this period, there was one application for a public hearing. So, therefore, under its mandate, the Commission has to hold a public hearing.

The public sessions of the hearing are divided into two parts. The first part begins this afternoon. We have scheduled another session this evening and we will determine if it would be appropriate to hold other sessions.

75 So, this portion of the hearing allows the people and the Commission to ask questions to obtain answers from the developer and complementary information or answers from resource people. This first portion focuses on the project's impacts and it allows us to get more knowledge on the project.

80 This is to say that this is not the phase during which we will hear opinions on the project. So, we will be asking for your opinion in a month's time which is the second portion of the hearing. We have to remember this, we are here to ask questions to get answers which would allow you to clarify what your position should be.

85 And in the second portion of the hearing, then you will be able to express your opinion about the project. So, this portion allows the citizens to take position on the project. The Commission will hear the opinion of all those who would like to do so on May 28th next as of 1:30 P.M. here in this Angliers Church.

90 We ask you to indicate to the coordinator of the secretariat of the Commission, Mrs. Marie-
Ève Rochette, your intention to file a brief. This makes it easier for the Commission to reserve
rooms. You have to deliver your briefs before May 23rd, so the Commission has a chance to read
it attentively before the second portion begins. During the presentation of your brief, the
Commission will dialogue with you to try to understand your position properly. So, you will be
95 submitting your brief and we will dialogue with you to clarify whatever has to be clarified.

You can also file your brief with the Commission without actually presenting it. Both
options are possible. So, we ask you to tell the coordinator of the secretariat of the Commission
what you intend to do.

100 The Commission's mandate also includes, on top of the public hearing, an investigation
mandate. The Commission therefore will ask its own questions during this hearing, sometimes as
follow-up questions that you will have asked. These questions can take place after the public
portion. In this case, the questions and answers will be filed officially.

105 We have reference centers where documents can be consulted throughout the mandate.
There are three regional centers located as follows: at the Angliers Municipality at 14 Baie-Miller
Street; the second is at Bibliothèque La Bouquine, 50 Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Street in Ville-
Marie; and the third reference center is in Timiskaming Economic Development on Algonkuin
110 Avenue in Notre-Dame-du-Nord.

There is also two permanent centers, the BAPE's office in Quebec on Saint-Amable
Street, as well as the central library of the University of Quebec in Montreal.

115 For any additional information concerning the reference centers, you can call the BAPE.
At the back of the room, you can get the phone number for this center. Moreover, the
Commission has an Internet site. You can also get the Internet site at the back at the secretariat.

120 I would like to take this opportunity immediately to tell you that the Commission as a duty of
neutrality, impartiality and reserve. We have to act fairly with everyone and this is what we will be
doing throughout this process.

125 So, I would like to tell you that everything that is being said in this hearing is being
recorded and the transcripts will be available on the BAPE's Internet site as well as at the reference
centers about a week after the first portion of the public hearing, that is as soon as they are ready.
It might be less than a week, but at most after a week, you will get the verbatim of this session.

130 After the second portion of the public hearing, the investigation continues or the inquiry
continues. So, after the two public hearings, our mandate continues. The Commission will then
prepare its report for the Minister of Environment, which report will speak to the findings and the
Commission's analysis concerning the project under study. The decision to authorize or reject the
project comes under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet following the recommendations of the Minister
of Environment.

135 I would like to tell you how we will proceed here this afternoon. When I talk about the
Commission, basically that is my colleague and myself. We are members or panel members of
the Commission. To assist us in our work, also we have here to the left the table of analysts, and
also the resource persons table here. And here you have the table for the person who does the
140 transcripts. And at the back, you have the table for the Commission's team. On my right, we
have the developer's table and there is the table in the center where you can ask your questions.

So, you have to register for your questions at the back with the Commission's team. So,
after the first break, I will declare that this registry is open. If you have any questions to ask, you
have to register there.

145 Each speaker can have two questions without any sub-questions. So that will allow as
many people as possible to ask questions. So, you can also register on the registry for additional
questions.

150 So, we will start with two questions each, but then you can, however, you can return to
the registry to ask more questions.

So, we ask you to avoid any preambles to your questions. The only accepted preambles
are those which are absolutely essential to understand the question. You have to understand
155 that... you know, if we take time to ask questions, we can clarify what you mean. So, avoid
preambles, ask your questions. You can return and ask other questions as long as we are here.
There is no problem. But we have to assure that everybody gets as much information as possible.

The Commission may intervene at any time to obtain additional information.

160 So, all the questions by the public have to be addressed to me. This also applies to all
answers to questions. No direct exchange should take place between the developer, the
spokespersons and the public. I will then direct the questions to the people concerned. So, you
always ask me the questions and I will direct them myself to whoever can answer. And the
165 answers are made to me. And then I can check with the questioner if the answer is appropriate.
This is to ensure that the question period is managed.

So, if you are asking a question of the developer and I feel that we should go to a resource
person first, I will do that and then ask the developer to answer.

170 There will be no tolerance for any type of approval or disapproval, of negative comments,
defamatory statements and disdainful attitudes. The best way of promoting a serene debate is to
follow the BAPE's procedure or rules. Questions are allowed, but not any accusations. I think that
if we follow these rules, we will avoid any possible damage suits.

175 So, the questions that cannot be answered immediately should be as soon as possible. If
it cannot be given immediately, the Commission will assure that it is obtained at other sessions or
in writing. And these answers will be part of the file and will be available at the reference centers.

180 We have to mention that anything that is said in the hearing is recorded and that the transcripts and documents filed in here are sent in the reference centers the following week as much as possible.

185 If some information or some documents being asked for are considered as confidential by the person who has to file them, it has to tell the Commission this at the time the application is made.

190 If the Commission decides so, this information has to be delivered to the Commission with the «confidential» mention. The Commission will set a meeting and will hear the representations of people concerned as far as potential allegations of prejudice which might be involved. The Commission then decides in writing whether the information will be made public or not. And the people concerned will have some time to react to this decision, following which the information will be made public in whole or in part or be returned to the person that supplied it without the Commission taking it into account in its work.

195 A participant who would like to file a document or transmit information during the public hearing, but who doubts as to the confidential nature of this information, can speak to the Commission's secretariat coordinator who will check with the Commission.

200 We would like to emphasize that the BAPE has a citizen service statement and has put this questionnaire at your disposal to evaluate the quality of our services. In order to help us better serve you, we ask you to fill out the questionnaire available for this.

205 So, I would like to introduce the BAPE's team. Then I will introduce to you the resource persons who will introduce their own teams, and following which we will follow the procedure explained earlier. When the developer will make his presentation, I will ask him to introduce his team.

210 Earlier, I was talking to you about Mr. Bertrand Bouchard who is my commissioner. For the analysts on my left here, you have Mr. Yvon Deshaies and Mr. Mathieu St-Onge who is the apprentice analyst with us this year. And the communication advisor is Marie-Ève Chamberland. The Coordinator of the Commission's secretariat is Marie-Ève Rochette who is at the back as well as Mrs. Chamberland. And the secretariat officer is Nathalie Rhéaume whom I don't see, but must be at the back. There she is. So, you can always address yourself to them if necessary.

215 We are supported by the staff of the Ministry of Relations with Citizens. With respect to logistic, we have Mr. Daniel Moisan who is at the table here. Sound, Mr. Jean Métivier. The reporter is Madam Lise Maisonneuve.

220 In this hearing, as you may have seen, we have simultaneous interpretation services. So, you can get receivers if you would like to avail yourselves of these services. There will also be cassettes available for the English version of the interpretation and you can also get an English version as well of the transcripts.

225 So, for the simultaneous interpretation services, we have three interpreters. We have Mr. Bernard Proulx, Donald Gilmore and Doris St-Pierre.

230 So, I would like to start by introducing you the resource people here on our left. I will be going from left to right, but when you introduce yourself, you can also tell me if you have any documents you would like to file today or any documents that you have already filed, so that people may know about this. In any case, there is always a complete list of documents that have been filed with the title of the document.

235 First of all, for the Ministry of Environment, there is Mr. Gilles Lefebvre. Please introduce yourself as well as your group.

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

240 Good afternoon, Madam Chair. As you mentioned, I am Mr. Gilles Lefebvre, I am the project manager at the Ministry of Environment of Quebec. I will be spokespersons for the Ministry throughout these audiences. I am with Miss Mireille Paul who is the coordinator for hydroelectric projects at the Environmental Impact branch, Mrs. Johanne Breton and Cynthia Claveau of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue branch of the Ministry of Environment.

245 I can now list the documents that have been filed. We filed the *Procedure for standards of drinking water systems standards*; the *Sound objectives for projects submitted to environmental impact assessment review procedure*; the *Regulation on dam safety*; the *Act respecting dam safety*; the *Act respecting water regimes* and the *Instructions concerning the processing complaints on noise*.

250

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Mr. Lefebvre.

255 Now, for the Angliers Municipality, Mr. Paul Coulombe.

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

260 Good afternoon, Madam Chair. I would like to welcome you to Angliers. I think it is one of the most beautiful towns in Quebec. There is no documents to be filed at present.

THE PRESIDENT:

Are you with anyone else representing the municipality?

265

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

No, I am not.

270 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Coulombe.
Now, for the Ministry of Natural Resources?

275 **MR. RONALD GIGNAC:**

I am Ronald Gignac. I am assisted by Mr. Robert Gagnon for the ministry who is an expert in hydraulic forces in the ministry, is with the hydroelectric branch as is the case for Mr. Gagnon.

280 And we filed three documents with the Commission. *The English and French versions of the new regime for the hydraulic forces of Quebec*. This document also assesses various scenarios for greenhouse gas effects. It was a 1996 version and the French version concerning the act concerning certain works on the Ottawa River.

285 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Gignac.
Now, for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat.

290 **MR. DENIS LAPOINTE:**

295 Yes, my name is Denis Lapointe. I am a negotiations advisor for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat of the government of Quebec. I am not with any other individual from our secretariat, but if necessary, I can get in touch with the staff of our Quebec office or other ministries concerned with Aboriginal Affairs.

300 We filed some documents, I have the list here, two documents. One called *Québécois et Inus sur un même territoire*, questions and answers, 21 pages, it deals with Inuit issues, but also can concern Algonquin. Another one was called *Secretariat of Aboriginal Affairs*, that was 40 pages in French and in English.

305 I would also like to file an additional document. This is a document published in the proceedings of the fifth conference of the state jurists 2002 which is called *Ancestral Rights and the Rights issued from Treaties of Aboriginal people*. This is Pierre-Christian Labeau who wrote this, who is with the Aboriginal Rights branch.

THE PRESIDENT:

310 We also have other people here in the room who will also assist us. These are resource people. These people will approach the front depending on the questions. For the ministry... for the Témiscamingue municipal county, regional county, we have Mr. Dufault who is there. And

there's others as well. I will check if they are there, Mr. Robert Roy of the Ministry of Transport. And we also have the Société faune et parcs, so Wildlife and Parks Corporation, Mr. Luc Belisle.

315 Perhaps you could approach the mike here. I would advise you not to go too far away, because if we have any questions, you will have to come to the microphone and identify yourself for transcription purposes. So, that's why we...

MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

320 Daniel Nadeau from the Wildlife and Parks Corporation. We have two documents, one on fish habitats and one for «faunique» resources.

THE PRESIDENT:

325 Does anybody else have any documents that you would like to file or that have been filed? Please come to the mike for transcription purposes. There is also a question of space here. We can always put everybody together, so we have to sort of take these in order.

THE PRESIDENT:

330 Yes, Mr. Dufault.

MR. DANIEL DUFAULT:

335 Hello! My name is Daniel Dufault. I will be here this afternoon and this evening if need be. We have filed a copy of the overall plan as well as twelve copies of the excerpts about this project.

THE PRESIDENT:

340 Thank you very much. Is there anybody else in the room whom I have not mentioned? Okay. We also have asked a certain number of people from other organizations to help us out. We would be sending them questions, Public Works and Government Services Canada for instance, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of the Environment Canada, also Hydro-
345 Québec. And if need be, we might add any other organization or person if we need more information.

350 But in terms of the people whom we need to be right here during these hearings, I think we have the right people here right now. And these people, along with the promoter, can probably answer most of the questions.

 So, that's it for our presentation. We have presented the teams. And I will now ask the applicants to come up and tell us about their application. We will be back in a minute.

355 Good afternoon. And I will of course ask you to give us your name, because we need it to do the transcript, and to read the request that you sent the Minister.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

360 Good afternoon. My name is Randy Polson. I am with the Band Council First Nation Timiskaming. I am here with my chief, Beverly Chevrier-Polson.

 Now, we have a problem, Madam. Her translation doesn't work.

365 **THE PRESIDENT:**

 Are you all right? So, I will ask you please to read your request.

MRS. BEVERLY CHEVRIER-POLSON:

370

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

375

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

380

We have a clear and long-standing interest in the affected area. Members of the Long Point and Timiskaming First Nation 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 a meaningful consultation and to accommodate our interests in this case and obviously to obtain our consent.

385

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

390

One of the reasons 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 Nation in the planning or management of this project.

395

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:

400

– 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.

405

– The study does not adequately consider the potential impacts of shore erosion and flooding.

410

– How will modification of the water levels and flows affect Algonquin use of fish and wildlife, gathering of plants, or other traditional uses of this area?

– What will be the impact on waterfowl nesting?

– The study does not consider our use of fish and wildlife resources in the area.

415

For all 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.

420

Finally, we request that the technical studies which have already been done, all future technical studies and pertinent related documents (ex. Hydro-Québec 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.

425

This is signed by Chief Mathias from Long Point First Nation and myself Vice-Chief of the Timiskaming First Nation.

430

I would also like to read out another letter from... it's more of a legal point of view. Is that okay?

THE PRESIDENT:

435

Are you talking about another letter for these hearings? At this point in time, we are simply listening to the requests. If this is way of making your request more complete, that's one thing. If it's a request that deals with something else, this could be done later on when we come back and deal with these issues. You could come back to the mike to deal with such a new issue.

440

I understand that this is not a question that you have? You want to add something here?

MR. RANDY POLSON:

445

Yes, Madam Chairman. This is a letter from our legal advisor and we want to file this letter as part of our brief if you will allow us.

THE PRESIDENT:

450

This is a letter addressed to whom?

MR. RANDY POLSON:

It is addressed to Mr. André Boisclair, Minister of the Environment.

455

THE PRESIDENT:

And dated...?

460 **MR. RANDY POLSON:**

It's regarding the BAPE hearings on the proposed hydro developing project for Angliers by La Régionale.

465 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Yes, go ahead.

470 **MRS. BEVERLY CHEVRIER-POLSON:**

The Timiskaming First Nation continues to hold unextinguished Aboriginal title to its traditional territories, which include the land and waters which will be impacted by the proposed hydroelectric project at Angliers. Aboriginal title is a real legal interest in the land which must be dealt with by other governments if their actions may impact on the legal interest.

475

By this correspondence, we hereby put you on notice of your government's failure to engage in meaningful consultation with the Timiskaming First Nation as it relates to the impacts of the hydroelectric project at Angliers. As such, the First Nation holds your government liable for breach of fiduciary duty, breach of Aboriginal title, and for damages arising out of these breaches.

480

As you are aware, both federal and provincial Crowns have a duty to engage in meaningful consultations with affected First Nations if a proposed development may infringe or impair their Aboriginal rights and title. The Crown also has a duty to accommodate their rights and interests in the planning and implementation of such projects, like Delgamuukw 1997.

485

With reference to the proposed hydroelectric project at Angliers, your government has failed to meet these requirements. Specifically, your government refuses to provide information in the English language which is the working language of the Timiskaming First Nation, also our staff and consultants.

490

For instance, the website of the BAPE contains information on the process and procedures related to BAPE hearings, but it is entirely in French. The studies which are prepared by the proponent related to the potential impacts are entirely in French. The only English-language document related to this project, which we have been able to locate, is a press release dated April 16, 2003.

495

I myself, along with the Chief Mathias of Long Point First Nation, wrote you by letter dated March 14, 2003 specifically outlining our concerns and requesting that relevant materials be provided in English. We have not yet received the courtesy of a reply, although subsequent communications with BAPE staff indicate that, as a matter of policy, your government refuses to provide the relevant materials in English supposedly because it is prevented from doing so by Bill 101.

500

505 Unfortunately, this is not an isolated instance. In 2000-2002, BAPE hearings were held with regard to a proposed retrofit of the structures at des Quinze which is adjacent to the proposed Angliers project. In this case, your government refused repeated requests by the Timiskaming First Nation for access to the relevant studies and documents in the English language, even though they were immediately downstream and stood to be the most directly impacted. As well, we have been advised that the same response has come when relevant materials on hydroelectric operations have been requested from Hydro-Québec.

510 By failing to communicate with the First Nation and provide documents in English, your government has excluded the First Nation from effective participation in the BAPE process and guarantees the exclusion of their interests. This amounts to a complete failure of the consultation requirement which is required at law.

520 In addition to the failure to consult, your government's actions demonstrate a pattern of conduct which has the effect of systematically discriminating against the rights and interests of the Timiskaming First Nation with prejudice to their constitutionally protected Aboriginal title and rights. This pattern of willful discrimination should be of concern to your government.

525 We will continue to assert our rights and will hold the government of Quebec accountable for all adverse effects and damages which we may suffer as a result of your government's actions. Please govern yourselves accordingly. Migwetc.

THE PRESIDENT:

530 Thank you very much. So, I receive both the request and the letter and these will be filed.

I might like to specify, I had a conversation in fact during the preparatory meetings with you, we do not have a mandate, indeed we do not have the power to solve all of these issues which are mentioned in your letter to Minister Boisclair nor can we request that all of these documents be translated, especially since the time frame is quite short. This is not something which we could request.

535 We have to use the rules that are our rules and we have to work in the language of the administration. But I can assure you, going back now... coming back to the mandate of the Commission, I think that what you've said at other levels, in terms of other aspects of what you said, of course it is your right, your privilege to mention these things. You're telling us about your needs.

540 But I must tell you that in the very context of the mandate that has been given to us, we do have to evaluate, as I said a while ago, everything, all the impacts of this project, in other words, the impacts on the different communities, biophysical aspects, economic aspects. And, of course, we will always refer back and this will be the way that we look at things, this will be our overall approach when we listen to whatever is told us here.

550 So, I think that this process provides a lot of leeway so that we may indeed come to understand what all of the impacts might be, the impacts of this project of course.

555 So, you, as everybody else, are invited to ask whatever questions you wish to ask on these issues. And if there are impacts of this project, we are here to listen to you in this regard. So, you can come later on during the second part of the hearing to give your opinion on these. So, I thank you.

560 What we've heard up until now is the presentation of the request. Now, once this has been filed, we don't have an official... nobody is officially asking for or filing this request. Once it is here, once the request is ours, we take everything into... And it is only individuals or organizations that come and ask questions about the project. So, the applicant is not an applicant anymore per se.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

565 May I add something following the conference call that we had one or two weeks ago? At the same point in time, we asked that there be a translation into our own language Anishnabe for the benefit of our elders, because they want to come and give a presentation in their native language. And according to what I see, there will not be such a possibility for us to be getting a translation into Algonquin.

570 **THE PRESIDENT:**

575 Well, I do remember that this was mentioned, but our suggestion then was that we could have simultaneous translation and that all of the documents that will be filed in English could be found on our website. If you click on «translation» when you go to our site, you can see documents or those documents that we've already translated. You will also get a transcript in English.

580 Unfortunately, there is a matter of organization and costs. And so in principle, we do not pay for translation. We do so... I decided to go ahead in this case so that, at least, most people here... and we talked about this, most of your members speak either English or French. In the context of this hearing, I imagine that you, as a representative of your organization, or your Nation, or specific organization, will also have to give feedback to your people as to what you heard here.

585 And then you will have the benefit of both English and French language documents, at least those documents that we do produce in both languages. Unfortunately, I can do no more than this at this point in time. I imagine that you yourself may be in a position to get certain documents translated.

590 **MR. RANDY POLSON:**

595 During your presentation a while ago, when you mentioned the team here, you mentioned that one of the translators is Mr. Doris St-Pierre. So, he's a translator. He works for the Algonquin Nation. He has been doing so for the past twenty years maybe and he's therefore informed of the fact that we work in the three languages, English, French and Algonquin during our meetings. And during the last conference call, you said, Madam, that... we told you, Madam, that we were in a position to tell you which company works into our language, because our elders will have a problem expressing themselves or understanding the proceedings if things are only in English and/or French, which is why we asked for Algonquin.

600 **THE PRESIDENT:**

605 Well, as I told you, we work with an organization which is the Department of International Relations. I know that you told me then that you do know people who could translate into Algonquin, but we have taken the decision to work in English and French. It's also an issue of cost. And it's our type of organization and, of course, we would need more space, more room, another booth. And this becomes more complex.

610 But what's important is that if most people, if the majority can work comfortably in one or the other of the two languages, well it's hard for us to try and find a solution that we would look at all of the other possibilities. Nevertheless, I will try and see what we might do, whatever, and maybe come back to you after the break to deal with this issue. But at this point in time, this is what we've decided. But we'll see after the break what can be done and what this would mean in terms of whatever costs are entailed. But maybe after the break, we can talk about this again. So, I thank you.

615 Now, I would like to ask the proponent to come and present his project and, first of all, to introduce his team. So, good afternoon, welcome Mr. Coolican, the president of La Régionale.

620 **MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair and Mr. Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen.

625 As has been said, I'm the president of La Régionale, the promoter for this development in Angliers. With me, we have from Genivar Mr. Gilles Bourgeois, Mr. Louis Belzile and, in the room, Mr. Francis Gauthier and Mr. Sylvio Morelli. So Groupe Genivar prepared the impact assessment study for La Régionale, for this project.

630 La Régionale or, to use the official name, Société d'Hydroélectricité Régionale Inc. is a subsidiary of Manuvie, an insurance company. Manuvie is one of the largest insurance companies in Canada with an office in Montreal, and many customers and a lot of investment in Quebec.

635 La Régionale has been working for the past seventeen years in development, buildings and operation of hydroelectric projects.

We have four power plants in Ontario and two in B.C. Each of these is certified by virtue of the Ecologo program run by government of Canada, and the electricity produced by these power plants is green energy.

640

At the back of the room, we have a brochure with a detailed description of our activities. I don't think that I have filed this yet, but I can do so. So, you have a detailed description of all of our power plants and as well as our development philosophy and our operations philosophy. If you don't have a copy, you're invited to get one at the back of the room or to get one from us here.

645

One of the most important parts of our philosophy is that we want to make sure that there is harmonious integration of our projects in terms of community living and the environment.

La Régionale started this development in 1994. The very same year, we signed an agreement with Angliers Municipality. This agreement has provisions as for the economic benefits for the municipality as well as the compensation flows and other parts of the project which will be dealing with later on here.

650

Since 1994, La Régionale has carried out environmental studies, engineering plans and studies, and had discussions with the representatives of local government, regional government, provincial and federal governments. And even in fact we have had talks with the Native people in Notre-Dame-du-Nord and in Winneway.

655

In the year 2000, a letter of agreement was signed with Public Works and Government Services Canada for the rights to access the northern dike of the Quinze dam which is owned by the federal government.

660

We received and still do receive a lot of support and encouragement from the Témiscamingue MRC, the regional municipality, since our first meeting. In 2001, a resolution supporting the project was sent by the MRC to the Government of Québec. And I think this has been filed; if not, we will be filing it.

665

At the end of the year 2001 and the beginning of 2002, the project went forward at a faster paces. In January of 2002, La Régionale organized in Angliers two information meetings and exchange of opinions meetings with the population. Overall seventy people participated in these meetings and they came from all over the region.

670

In March of 2002, the environmental impact assessment study was filed with the Department of the Environment. And in September of the same year, La Régionale signed with Hydro-Québec a contract by which it sells electricity to Hydro-Québec and a contract for the management of the operations. If this has not been filed, and I think it has been, we will be filing these contracts.

675

Finally in January of 2003, as the Chairwoman has said, the Ministry of the Environment sent out a receivability notice for the impact assessment study. And as a result of this, the BAPE

680

started its proceedings. There was an initial meeting a few months ago and now there is this public hearing.

685 There are many reasons to justify this project. Three of these reasons can be found on the screen behind me.

690 We want to fully develop the hydroelectric potential of the Ottawa River at the Quinze dam which would allow a good use of the resources. Secondly, we want to contribute to the economic development for the region and locally in partnership with the community all the while respecting the environment. Thirdly, we want to make sure that there is diversified access to energy by producing more hydroelectric energy, using a program for this purpose, a program that deals with the smaller power plants.

695 Our relationships with the local people are very important. La Régionale has met different representatives of the local people. We've met aldermen and the mayor of Angliers. We have met with the representatives of the MRC and the prefect, as well as the prefect of the SDT, Société de Développement du Témiscamingue, and the CRDAT. We have even met the MNA in Quebec City. We also had meetings, first a meeting at Notre-Dame-du-Nord with the Timiskaming First Nation. And I think we had three meetings in Winneway.

700 Now, I would like to give you a brief description of the project, starting with a map showing us where all this is to be found. You can see the map here.

705 Now, here you have the Angliers Municipality, Route 391 coming from Rouyn which goes over the dam and goes over the spillway. You have here the area in which the work would be carried out, for us to build the power plant right here. And here you have a dike on the right-hand side. And this is where we would have the dike.

710 Then you have the power stations upstream and downstream, Hydro-Québec upstream and three downstream. Then you have the municipality water intake right here. The municipal drinking water, then the Des Quinze fish aquaculture.

715 It's interesting to note that before selecting a site, La Régionale has studied three sites: one on the left shore here, one in the middle of the river and the third site on the right shore that we have selected and for many reasons, but the most important being the one coming from the municipality, they did not want a construction site for the power station located in the municipal area or in the river.

720 We also have another view. You can see the dike and the dam, the intake that will be in the middle of the dike, the bridge which is continuation of highway 391 and the power station here, the spillway canal with a new spawning area that we will build, just like we have done on two other sites that we have in Ontario. One in Ontario, one in B.C.

THE PRESIDENT:

725

I apologize, Mr. Coolican, just to add maybe the directions, north, south, east, west, so that when they do the translation...

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

730

North is up to Rouyn and south is down. You also have the power transformation and the line that will go to Hydro-Québec to the Rapides-des-Quinze central, or the Première Chute station, or the other one in the middle, the second one.

735

Now, a side view, practically the same elements, the intake this way, the bridge, water intake, inlet channel and the debris pit, turbines in the water, the spillway, canal and the power station itself that we call the Angliers Château, Angliers Castle.

740

Now, that's the castle, the municipality over there, existing spillway, auxiliary spillway that will contribute to the safety of the dam, the power station, the bridge, spillway. And the spawning area will be down here.

745

Now, commercial operation has been planned in twenty-four months from now following the obtention of the environmental licenses and permits.

750

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$55 M. With our experience with our other projects, we believe that 60 % could be spent in the region.

And now I will ask Mr. Gilles Bourgeois to present the other information.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr. Coolican.

Monsieur Bourgeois?

755

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

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Thank you, Colin. Basically I will talk more about the different construction activities. I will present a summary of the activities that we will see on the site.

765

We can see again here the work site area with the different facilities. Typically found on a work site of that magnitude: laboratories, crushing plant, concrete plant which occupies a good portion of lot 43. With the magnitude, it explains also why we have selected the right shore site. On the Angliers site, there was no physical space to install such working facilities.

We see also that, in this site, all the activities are fairly concentrated in one place. So basically, we will start the works with clearing the site, about 5 hectares, while keeping the green area, dark green area, with a treed area ten meters wide. Material will be transported for the dikes and embankments and to bring different equipments on the site. There's approximately

770 140,000 cubic meters of material that will be taken from the site, basically rock. We are on the bedrock and it's even outcropping bedrock and there's overburden.

Excavation material will serve among other things to build the upstream «atardeaux» and it will serve as a diversion channel during the construction and during the construction of the
775 bridge on highway 391.

So, this temporary diversion road is a two-way road, two fully circulating lanes that will be used during the construction of the bridge and the intake channel. And afterwards, there's going to be the management of everything, you know, residual waters and all the residues of the work
780 site. I'll come back on this when we talk about the follow-up of the construction phase.

We will proceed to the construction of the power station, installation of the equipment, construction of the bridge and auxiliary spillway channel construction.

Another work that will be done as part of the project is the extension of the municipal
785 «émissaire» waste water. And it will... and at the end of the construction, we will rehabilitate the site removing the cofferdams, landscape work and spawning area.

In this part of the presentation, I will summarize the impacts of the project, the impact assessment. The first phase when we do an assessment, it's to frame the zone of influence of the
790 project.

Basically, in the case of the Angliers hydro project, the study area is fairly limited. So, the construction site will be fairly concentrated. On the other hand, the different impacts on the physical environment and biological environment are very local.
795

In the first phase, there is no changes in the management of the Des Quinze reservoir. Whether the water flow levels or the smaller Des Quinze reservoir upstream... basically the only modifications in the water flow will be very local modifications. So, instead of the water coming out of the current spillway, it will partly, according to the seasons and water levels of course, it will be
800 turbinated by the power station. So, the only changes that we will see are changes that will take place locally.

As Mr. Coolican mentioned, at the meeting we had with the municipality and people from the region, many issues were raised — and they're not in an order of priority, just a listing — were
805 about the fish and fish habitat, more particularly because there were spawning areas that were known just downstream the dam. So, these issues have been raised, you know, spawning areas, fishing activities as well.

Another issue that was raised or a concern was the water quality. Once again in this
810 sector, one of the use that we find is the water intake of the municipality and waste water disposal. Downstream there's also the Des Quinze «pisciculture», the fish culture or fish farming. So, what would be the new management system, that's another concern that was raised.

815

Landscape quality, sound landscape in terms of one existing spillway and also the whole economic issue, so this is a concern that will be discussed.

820

Now, in terms of the impact assessment, it was done in two phases: first, the impacts during the construction phase, then we'll look at the impacts during the operating phase of the power station.

825

Basically what we see in this table, a summary table, there are different components on the left side, different components that are affected, then the nature of the impact, and then the type, if it's negative or positive, and then the importance or significance of that impact.

830

So, first, as we mentioned different concerns, the quality of water, fish habitat. Of course, by implementing a construction site, we can have some increase either of suspended solids in the water, encroachment on fish habitat by the works themselves. This is an impact that is deemed negative. The significance was established as minor. Further on, I will talk about the different mitigation measures that have been planned within the project.

835

Now, quality of life of the residents. Indeed with a construction site which will last for some time, there's different nuisances related to the works like noise, dust, traffic. That's a negative impact and it's been evaluated as minor after the mitigation measures that we will discuss further on.

840

Recreational and touristic activities. There might be some disturbances of the activities, fishing activities. Of course, when we have a working site, it's not necessarily a very peaceful and rural ambiance. So, it's a negative impact, but considered as minor.

845

During the construction phase, finally, in terms of the local and regional economy, a site of that scope will allow for the creation of about 100 direct jobs and 150 indirect jobs in the region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, which is a positive impact and considered as medium in terms of significance.

THE PRESIDENT:

850

Mr. Bourgeois, you have about five minutes for your presentation. Sorry to interrupt, but when we come back with the questions, maybe we could go more in depth into some of your points. Thank you. So, you have five minutes left.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

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Now, the operating phase in terms of fish habitat, since we will be turbinating the water that is going through the spillway, there's going to be modifications on the existing spawning area on both left and right side. As for mitigation, we will develop a new spawning area, 4,500 square meters, larger than the existing one. So, the residual impact was considered as null.

860 As for the fish, there can be mortality if they go through the turbines. But in Angliers, we don't have migrating species, more resident species. So, there's not necessarily any mitigation measures. There's the residual impact that is considered as minor.

Municipal waters. There would be a reduced dilution at the effluent level, but we will extend the outlet. So, the impact is considered null.

865 As for landscape, you have seen the architectural site which can create a visual attraction that we consider as positive to medium significance. The sound environment will be decreased, so noise from the existing spillway.

870 As for recreational and touristic activities, the project as such is a new component on the road. And among others, on the bridge, we have planned different measures to install a cycling path that's been planned in the regional development plan. So, it's positive.

875 As for water management, there will be no change in the management of the level of reservoir Des Quinze. So, the impact is null. It's an important point to be considered.

As for dam safety, turbines will be installed. They can turbinate water, but there's an auxiliary spillway that will allow to increase the spillway capacity and the safety of the facility, which is positive.

880 As for the local and regional economy, in the operating phase, there will be royalties that will be paid at different levels to the municipality, paid to different provincial governments, approximately \$750,000 per year, municipal works of \$100,000, creation of four permanent jobs and some temporary jobs, which is a major positive impact.

885 Follow-up and monitoring program in the construction phase. Basically, there's an environmental monitoring program that has been planned, which includes different measures during the construction phase to make sure that we will have minimal impacts of these works. I'm going faster now.

890 In the operating phase, basically three items: monitoring of the sound and visual aspects, use of the new spawning area. It's over a period of ten years that we will be monitoring the performance of this work. And quality water at the municipal water intake, we will have a monitoring to maintain an acceptable level for drinking water.

895 And for the conclusion, Mr. Coolican.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

900 So, to conclude, we are of the opinion that this project meets environmental criterias, both social and economic, as expected by the people with regard to hydroelectric development.

THE PRESIDENT:

905 Thank you, Mr. Coolican. Thank you, monsieur Bourgeois. Perhaps you should make sure that you file in your document for the purpose of the hearings. I forgot to ask. Do you have any documents that you have already submitted or that you would like to submit today and prepare a list of those?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

910 I believe we have filed in the summary of the contract with Hydro-Québec and the MRC resolution, but that's all. I have copies here.

THE PRESIDENT:

915 So, maybe for the next session. Thank you very much.

920 Now, the register is now open for registration. So, we'll take a ten-minute break for people to go and register. And then we'll come back with the questions for the audience. Thank you.

SUSPENSION OF THE HEARING

CONTINUATION OF THE HEARING

925

THE PRESIDENT:

We will invite the next speaker, Mr. Brian Wabie.

930 **MR. BRIAN WABIE:**

935 Hi! I am the emergency preparedness of the Timiskaming Band. And so far there, well, I've heard the MRC was talked about a lot and that he's informed them of this project. And is there an emergency plan in place in case anything does happen?

THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Coolican.

940 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

Yes. I can speak in French, then in English. There will be a preparedness program with all our power stations. And we have to have one here. It's going to be prepared and submitted before the power station goes into operation.

945

With your permission, I can do it in English?

THE PRESIDENT:

950

Yes.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

955

With every power plant that we develop, we are obligated to have an emergency plan and we will have an emergency plan for the Angliers project. It will be developed before the project begins operation. And to the extent that you... we would be happy to take input from your group and to include it in our consideration.

MR. BRIAN WABIE:

960

Because so far, well, it was always the MRC that was always talking about it, but I never heard anything about the Timiskaming Band and Long Point Band, you know. Like I was in this over a year now and I was not informed of anything like this.

965

THE PRESIDENT:

Excuse me, Mr. Coolican. We're just starting, we have to get used to the procedure. The questions should be addressed to me and your answers should be addressed to me.

970

Just perhaps to clarify, Mr. Wabie, basically what you want to know is concerning the preparedness measures for all the issues relating to water levels and emergency situations that could occur with regard to the operation of the dam and the power station?

MR. BRIAN WABIE:

975

Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

980

With your permission, I will maybe ask the Department of the Environment and then with the Department of Natural Resources. They will explain the context of the management of the whole issue of security, safety, emergency situations, high water levels and so on. And then maybe other questions will allow us to further clarify the issue.

985 **MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:**

Yes, Mrs. Chairman. Without going into the details of high water levels, I could perhaps... under the Dam Safety Act that was adopted in May 2000 and the regulation adopted in 2002, the owners of dams or construction facilities must develop, in collaboration with the MRCs, municipalities emergency preparedness plans.

990 So, in this case, before receiving the authorization, they need to have an emergency plan ready, prepared, as I said, in collaboration with the municipalities and MRC.

995 **THE PRESIDENT:**

We understand that this is a requirement covering the whole project before obtaining authorization?

1000 **MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:**

Yes. It's a requirement concerning any type of dam. Existing or new dams, the law applies to all these.

1005 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Maybe you could complement your answer with the Ottawa watershed where there is a specific regime that applies?

1010 **MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:**

If I remember well, I think there's 46 reservoirs or power stations and 26 reservoirs. So, we had to implement an organization, to put in place an organization to manage all these measures.

1015

The last of these conventions was signed in May 1983, I believe. If you allow me to go back to my notes...

THE PRESIDENT:

1020

Please do so. Anyway, I think that this is a document that we asked to be filed, you know, the operation of this organization that is there to regulate and, you know, to manage the high water levels, all those documents will be filed in. So, you will be able to see what is the framework for the management of the power station and the dam.

1025

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1030

It's a convention that was signed in March 1983 between the government of Canada, the Quebec government and the Ontario government with a view to developing, planning and management of the Ottawa basin.

1035

This commission, formed at that time, also created what we call a Ottawa River regulation committee which is made up of the operators present on the river. And they define the general rules of operations.

1040

In the case of Des Quinze, it was created mostly for purposes of controlling floods and high water levels. The rules are the following. The management of water flow is Hydro-Québec, Ontario Power Generation. And the management of high water levels aims at controlling floods along the Ottawa River downstream in the Montreal, Lac des Deux-Montagnes, Ottawa, Gatineau, Rivière des Mille-Îles, Rivière des Prairies and Lake Saint-Louis. And the management of low water, this is done in terms of the minimum levels to be respected.

1045

Practically speaking, the commission globally defines a management framework, but the owner of the facility is always responsible for the management. In other words, those operations are done in collaboration with the owners. But the owner is still the first one responsible for the operations conducted in his facilities.

1050

Generally speaking, outside of the high water level period, it is the request from Hydro-Québec that will define or that will give Public Works Canada in this case the volumes or water levels to be evacuated.

THE PRESIDENT:

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So, any eventual promoter of a project must comply with these rules in terms of the management of emergency situations, high water levels. You referred to the MRC earlier. So, then we talk about...

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1060

A preparedness plan that must developed with the MRC. That's under the Dam Safety Act.

THE PRESIDENT:

1065 For indication, you have documents filed in to this end. It's called DB-6 and DB-7. All the information concerning the management to this purpose and also all the documents relating to dam safety.

1070 Mr. Coolican, anything else to add?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

1075 Just to say that we know that we have to conduct all our operations in compliance with the regulations of this Commission. And we have to comply with the Dam Safety Act.

And even maybe I could add something else with what we're going to do with this dam, with the spillway channel besides the power station. The safety of the dam will be improved as compared to today.

1080 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Wabie, does this answer the first question?

MR. BRIAN WABIE:

1085 Not exactly.

THE PRESIDENT:

1090 Yes, go ahead.

MR. BRIAN WABIE:

1095 It's that I don't understand how could a project like this pass without having to have everything in place like the emergency plan, you know, the same thing like what happened out in Saguenay, and that's what I'm afraid of, that what happened over there will happen here. They cannot say that they could guaranty safety. That's impossible.

1100 It's just that I don't understand how could this thing pass when they don't even have an emergency plan in place, because I'm talking about lives here, Ma'am, because I live downstream and so does the other communities, Notre-Dame, Liskeard, Cobalt and Ville-Marie.

How could this thing pass when you don't have anything in place in case something does happen?

1105

THE PRESIDENT:

1110 From what I understand following the answers we got, at this stage of the process, the project is not accepted yet. Maybe I could give you these explanations.

1115 The hearings are being held, the Inquiry Commission, and then the BAPE will give an opinion on the project. At the same time, the other phases will be pursued with the Department of the Environment and they have to provide an opinion to the Minister, the whole issue of the environmental analysis.

1120 And at the same time, there is also the federal government's own process regarding this project. And from what I understand, and I'll ask them to confirm... what I understand is that as part of all these phases, a project cannot be accepted if it does not meet its obligations with regard, among others, to security aspects or safety aspects.

1125 Maybe Mr. Lefebvre could further clarify this or tell me if I'm right or wrong. And Mr. Wabie emphasized what happened in Saguenay. Maybe you could tell us about what happened afterwards in terms of agreement or decisions, in terms of how to prevent such cases in the future. And maybe we could relate this to the project on these aspects.

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1130 Well, the Dam Safety Act is a follow-up on the events which occurred in the Saguenay. Following this incident, there was a commission of inquiry that was held. And that commission made a number of recommendations and the objective was to make dams safer. And in response to that recommendation, there was the Dam Safety Act that was adopted.

1135 There was a number of obligations that were imposed on dam owners, including the obligation to get an authorization for any change in structure, the change in use. And it advises the owner to have specifications that must be prepared by an engineer, that requires that the owner comply with safety relating to accidents and flood waters and to take account of other dams on the water body.

1140 So, for the project to be accepted, the Dam Safety Act has to provide... under the Dam Safety Act, there has to be an authorization. But in addition to this, there is the Water Regime Act which, in some cases, makes the works safer by imposing that the specifications be approved before any changes be made.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Yes, Mr. Coolican, do you have anything to add?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

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Yes. Madam Chair, perhaps it would assist you if Mr. Bourgeois could speak to you because in our impact study, we had discussions with the Water Center, this Hydric Center who is responsible for dam safety.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1155

Well, essentially, Madam Chair, in the project, there are discussions going on with the Water Expertise Center. The Water Expertise Center recommended an approval cabinet and we have to file emergency measures plan and our water power plan. The emergency measures plan includes local stakeholders, municipalities, et caetera.

1160

So, there are some steps that have to be taken up, not necessarily related to your proceedings, but it comes under the Dam Safety Act which would require that the emergency plan be filed and accepted.

1165

THE PRESIDENT:

If I understand correctly, so in this phase, there is a consultation with local stakeholders while normally this plan is developed with local organizations and is then submitted to the Water Expertise Center.

1170

I thank you, Mr. Wabie. Do you have a second question?

MR. BRIAN WABIE:

1175

I'll come back later. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Now, I would like to call a second speaker, Mr. Randy Polson. Good afternoon, Mr. Polson.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

1185

Yes, good afternoon. My question will be in English. My question is for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Are they here today?

THE PRESIDENT:

1190 No. With respect to Fisheries and Oceans, they were contacted, they couldn't send anybody. We could ask questions of them however. However, there's some questions that can be answered by the Ministry of Environment and the Wildlife and Fisheries Department as well. If the answers are not complete, we can forward your questions to Fisheries and Oceans who will complete the answers.

1195 But normally for this type of project, there is someone available that will be following this file. But in this specific project, I believe that people here can answer that question. So, why don't you ask your question and we'll see if the Ministry of Environment or the Wildlife and Parks Society can answer the question.

1200 **MR. RANDY POLSON:**

My question was for the Fisheries and Oceans. To ensure that the fish habitat, especially the sturgeon, will not be damaged by this development, if it hasn't taken such measure, why not? And what is DFO prepared to do to protect the sturgeon?

1205 Every year on the site itself where the federal dam is, people, not only from the municipality here, but from elsewhere, are on top the dam in the months of May and June and trying to catch the sturgeon that spawn where the water comes out right now. And I'm just wondering if the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have developed something to ensure that sturgeon will be remaining. That would be for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

1210 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you. Perhaps I could also give the floor to the developers. Before doing so, we could ask the Société de faune et parcs to answer the question.

1215 **MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:**

Yes, I believe that the representative of the Société de faune et parcs, Wildlife and Parks Corporation is in a best position to answer that question.

1220 **THE PRESIDENT:**

1225 Mr. Nadeau?

MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

Yes.

1230 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, perhaps you could explain with respect to the protection of species in this particular file what is the position of the Société de faune et parcs and tell us what measures have been taken to protect sturgeon specifically.

1235

MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

Well, the measures taken, there are specific measures taken for spawning beds. So, there is a spawning bed which is developed by La Régionale. And those measures are sufficient for us with respect to pickerel.

1240

But if we're talking mainly about sturgeon, the yellow sturgeon is quite marginal and the population is marginal between Des Quinze dam and the Rapides-des-Îles dam. And so it's a stretch of water or a body of water which is about 2.5 square kilometers.

1245

And the area of the small reservoir is insufficient to allow for the total cycle of sturgeon. You have to understand that the sturgeon which are now spawning in the area of the dam are old fish. And when the eggs open, this young fish go to Témiscamingue Lake. So, the environment is not big enough to ensure survival.

1250

For example, in the St. Lawrence River, the sturgeon go to the Quévillon dam or the Lachine Rapids. And the larvae will go up to Quebec City and downstream of the Lac Saint-Pierre. So, the larvae move. And as the sturgeons grow, they approach the spawning grounds too when they're mature. So, it takes 28 years for them to mature. It takes quite a long time.

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THE PRESIDENT:

So, if I understand correctly, at present, there's a certain amount of spawning by sturgeon at the foot of the dam?

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MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

Yes, because there are some fish that would come from Des Quinze Lake. There's also fish that can... these are long-living fish, they could live for 100 years. So, there were fish that were taken between, caught between the two dams.

1265

THE PRESIDENT:

1270 So, for your corporation Wildlife and Parks, should I understand from your answer that the impact that the dam construction might have on the species or the habitat is there would be no impact?

MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

1275 No impact.

THE PRESIDENT:

1280 Mr. Coolican, in this respect, do you have anything to add?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Well, I could ask Mr. Belzile about this. He's the one who did our fish studies for us.

1285 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Belzile?

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

1290 Yes. I would add to what Mr. Nadeau said that the plant construction project will change nothing to the levels of water downstream or upstream. So, they won't affect the fish.

1295 I would also add that with respect... that as far as the stretch between the Rapides-des-Quinze and Quinze dam, we've done a lot of fish efforts trying to catch sturgeons. We put large mesh nets and we didn't manage to catch any sturgeons. Hydro-Québec had also made efforts to catch sturgeon in an impact study in the Des Quinze Rapid and they didn't catch any fish either.

1300 So, we feel therefore that the sturgeon population in that stretch of river are quite low.

THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Polson, does that answer your question or do you have a second question?

1305 **MR. RANDY POLSON:**

I have a second question, Madam Présidente, but I don't feel that was an answer to my question that I asked, because to me I believe that the sturgeon are there and, you know, I know they're at least between ten and twelve feet long these sturgeons. And they've been there for hundreds of years and they are something that, I think, we have to look at.

But my second question is for Environment-Canada officials. Are they here today?

1315 **THE PRESIDENT:**

The same will apply to Environment-Canada. As I said at the beginning of the hearing, they have assessed the file, they have designated somebody who could answer questions if necessary. They've already given their opinion which is in the documents which have been filed. That is with respect to certain species. But they have their own process which will follow this one or run at the same time with respect to the specific aspects for which there is an obligation with respect to the file.

Then there are certain... the Minister can answer with respect to those aspects, because Environment-Canada, it's their own process. Normally, theirs follows ours and will continue after ours if needed.

Perhaps you could ask your question and we'll see if it can be answered here or if we have to forward some request to Ottawa.

1330 **MR. RANDY POLSON:**

Thank you, Madam Présidente. My question is for Environment-Canada officials. If the BAPE hearing do not address our rights and interests properly, is Environment-Canada prepared to support a federal environmental assessment of this proposal? Merci.

1335 **THE PRESIDENT:**

I would say, Mr. Polson, that there's already a process which has been anticipated at the federal level. Each process is independent and each process up to now takes into account the opinion and assessments of the other party. We have every authority to conduct our own study. And, you know, quite often the measures taken by the federal government are... our own steps are associated with the federal government steps and, you know, it avoids some duplication which has already been done. So, basically they're both independent steps, but as far as the developer is concerned, they're complementary.

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MR. RANDY POLSON:

Thank you.

1350 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you, Mr. Polson. I now call upon...

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1355

Could I add some information with respect to Fisheries and Oceans?

THE PRESIDENT:

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Yes.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

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In this file, we also have contacts with the federal government in our assessment process. With respect to Fisheries and Oceans, they analyze the project. And with respect to fish habitats, including pickerel, sturgeon and many others with which I'm less familiar, they looked at the existing spawning grounds and they saw that there was two present spawning grounds, one on the left bank near the municipal park and one on the right bank.

1370

So, during reproduction periods of spring species, they require that there be a certain flow level. And so we have to understand that the site, the configuration is interesting because we're between reservoirs. So, even if we drain through the plant or the present drain, there's still a reservoir which is maintained. So, there's no area which is completely dewatered, but we have to assure a certain flow.

1375

So, the federal government considered that this was adequate. Moreover, they said that a new spawning ground should be created, which is the one which would be near the spillway. So, they required these three elements and then plus that the spawning ground be followed for a ten-year period to make sure that it's still in operation and working well.

1380

THE PRESIDENT:

So, thank you. My colleague has a question.

1385 **MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :**

Will Environment-Canada set a particular flow rate which has to be reserved during those periods or is that still under study?

1390 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

It's Fisheries and Oceans that have looked into this and did identify a certain flow rate, 10 cubic meters per second during the spring season.

1395 **MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :**

10 cubic meters per second?

1400 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

Yes, that's correct.

THE PRESIDENT:

1405 This is the minimum flow rate?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Yes, that's correct.

1410

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Mr. Bourgeois. Thank you, Mr. Polson.

1415 Now, I will call upon Ada Chevrier please. Good afternoon, Mrs. Chevrier.

MRS. ADA CHEVRIER:

1420 Bonjour. This is a question for the BAPE. At the Timiskaming, some people speak French, but the working language of our Council and our staff is English. We are anxious to review the studies that have been done on this project, but they're all in French.

1425 Back in November 2001 when BAPE was having hearings on the retrofit of the Des Quinze Dam, Chief Daniel Chief wrote to Quebec requesting that the studies be given to us in English. Quebec refused to do this.

This time around with Angliers, both Long Point and Timiskaming wrote to the Minister of Environment in March requesting that the studies be made available in English. They never got a

1430 reply. But last Friday, April 25th, Timiskaming's lawyer wrote to the Minister once again requesting that materials be provided in English.

1435 Even on the BAPE website, the terms of reference for BAPE hearings weren't even posted in English. How does the Government of Quebec expect us to participate in a meaningful way if they don't give us the materials in a language that we can understand?

THE PRESIDENT:

1440 I will repeat what I said at the beginning of the hearing and which was also discussed at the preparatory meetings with the applicants as well as with the resource persons and the developer.

1445 With respect to the applications that you've made, the requests that you made to the Minister or with respect to other projects, you have to understand that our role or our mandate within the BAPE, it precludes us from solving these particular issues.

1450 I think that your representations to the Minister or other organizations will require their own response. With respect to the hearing, we evaluate possibilities. The hearings are held in French which is the Quebec administrative language. And as an organization, we have tried to accommodate the aspects that we control.

1455 We control our own documents. Well, you have whole series of documents on the act, on the procedures, on the documents that we prepare ourselves to prepare our hearings. All this was translated in English so that you could consult them.

1460 Now, with respect to the hearing itself and the information that you get within the hearing, everything will be translated, will have an English and French version. We also have simultaneous interpreter services so the people can feel comfortable with the proceedings.

1465 Beyond that, we have no mandate to force anybody to translate documents into English. There's another element which comes into play, you know, the schedule for application is somewhat tight. As I explained earlier, the fact that you have to do it fifteen days before the hearing is very difficult. But even if I wanted to, we cannot force people to do this.

1470 We asked the developer if there was an English copy of the document. We were told that there was no such translation. So, we cannot translate documents for anyone else because, of course, there could be interpretation problems, risk related to rights, et caetera. So, we cannot force people to translate.

1475 With respect to the hearing itself, we'll ensure that we will assess the problem as a whole, anything that might have an impact on the project, on the populations and on other environmental aspects. But I don't believe that... we cannot go any further.

1475 But I think that everything has been done to ensure that people can understand what's
being said in the hearings. But as far as your request made to the Minister, I cannot intervene and
you will get a response from the Minister, I'm sure. But I think the hearing is such that you can
understand what's happening and what we're doing in response to our mandate. I think I gave that
answer earlier and I cannot go any further than that.

1480 Do you have any other questions to submit? Do you have another question?

MRS. ADA CHEVRIER:

1485 Yes. The press release on the BAPE hearing says that this project will cost around \$55 M.
We also understand that the generator will generate millions of dollars a year in revenue but, yet,
we are told there's no money to translate the documents in English and no money to assist the
Timiskaming First Nation so we can participate effectively in this process.

1490 We have no resources of our own to pay for the consultants and technicians that we will
need to assess the information about this project. The reason why we have no money is because
the province has taken the hydro resources and kept the money for itself, not sharing any with us.

If so many millions of dollars are going into this project, why won't the government of
Quebec set aside any for us to participate in a meaningful way?

1495 **THE PRESIDENT:**

1500 Mrs. Chevrier, I would ask you to ask your question. The second portion of the hearing
will allow to express your opinion and to file it with the Commission, but I'd like to focus on a
question which would allow us to understand certain aspects which are not clear. Please ask your
question. So, Mrs. Chevrier I would ask you to come and debate your opinion in the second
portion of the hearings.

1505 I will call upon the next participant, Mr. Yvan Croteau. Good afternoon, Mr. Croteau.
Your question please.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1510 Yes. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Mr. Commissioner. My question relates to
document PR-5 which was produced in June 2002. In this document, you have a number of
questions which were asked of the developer in order to clarify some aspects of the
environmental... or the impact study.

1515 And this document includes concerns on practically all issues. I would like to know if the
Ministry of the Environment has received all the answers and were the answers satisfactory? At
the time of the public consultation between January 15 and 16, so were the answers satisfactory
so that the population could have an entire picture of the situation?

THE PRESIDENT:

1520 Yes, Mr. Lefebvre?

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1525 Yes. I don't know if a reference is being made to the notices made by the ministry consulted or reference is made to the result of the public consultation that was done in January.

THE PRESIDENT:

1530 It's PR-5, right?

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

Yes, that's correct.

1535 **THE PRESIDENT:**

1540 Are you talking about PR-5.1? There's a second series of questions, because there was a first series of questions and a second one. And so the questions were directed to the developer. The developer answered. Following that, there was a notice issued by the Ministry of Environment which was the notice of admissibility or receivability.

1545 What does this mean exactly? It means that the file is receivable, not as to its contents, but on... but the idea of triggering the study process. So, in PR-5.1, was there answers given to the second series of questions? Were the documents filed in this respect?

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1550 Yes. There was a second series of questions which the developer answered and that the ministry and the applicant found satisfactory at this state, at least satisfactory enough to issue a notice of receivability.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1555 Were the questions properly answered before the consultation held on January 15 and 16 or were the answered provided after the consultation?

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1560 The answers came before the consultation of January 16th, because the questions were posed before the notice of receivability and this notice was issued end of December, the 18th of December.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1565 End of December 2001?

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1570 2002.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1575 If it's end of December 2001, it's after the public meeting. My question, when they met with the local stakeholders, did everyone have the documents and knowledge of the concerns raised in these questions.

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1580 The meetings that you mention are those that the developer held to inform the local population in 2001. The answers provided by the ministries in the documents that you cited earlier are answers that came afterwards, the answers that came after the impact study was filed. The ministry assessed this impact study and looked to see if there was sufficient information to accept the impact study. So, the ministry decided that the information was sufficient to go on to the next stage and that this document could then be published, and then that the impact study could be
1585 analyzed.

1590 You have to understand that once the notice of receivability is issued, the information is made public and then there may or may not be public hearings. Then there's another phase where we ask people that were consulted in the first stage to see if the project is receivable according to their field of expertise.

THE PRESIDENT:

1595 When you speak of the first series of questions, this was in 2001, PR-5.1. There's a
second series of questions which were asked in September 2002, which is PR-5.3. We
understand that when... you could correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Lefebvre, but when the ministry
issues a notice of receivability, that doesn't mean that... the ministry was satisfied with the answers
to the questions. That doesn't mean that the substance of the questions will not be discussed
1600 anymore, that there won't be any additional requirements or that there won't be any constraints
passed on to the developer before the project is accepted.

In other words, I understand that if you read the documents, there's all kinds of questions
that are being asked and you don't necessary have the answers to those questions. You know,
there's sufficient information to pursue the file, but it doesn't mean that the questions are being
1605 dropped. Is that what you wanted to know?

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

Well, if I understand correctly, at the time the developer met the public to present the
1610 project, there hadn't been answers to every questions raised by the Ministry of Environment.

THE PRESIDENT:

Yes.
1615

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

But the questions that you mention, that is the comments that were made following the
impact study. There was a first follow-up in July 2002 and another in September 2002. What
1620 you're referring to in 2001 is consultation by the developer of the population.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

My second question then, a question to the developer. In his pamphlet, he says that they
1625 have seventeen years worth of experience in this area, in this kind of project. So, I'd like them or
him to tell me why they didn't have all of the information required over their project when they met
with the population, to tell the population about the project?

THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Coolican?
1630

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

1635 We have quite a number of projects and we hold or held two series of public meetings. There is the first series that we organize. Everybody is invited to this meeting. They can come up with questions that are asked orally — these are not written questions — and we answer whatever we can. If we don't happen to have the answer at that point in time, we can answer later on or else we could be answering during the official government's process.

1640 At that point in time, of course, the government can also be asking questions to us or the public at large, in the context of these BAPE hearings can ask questions to us. Is there anything else? Does this answer the question?

1645 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Well, I do understand in other words your answer to Mr. Croteau, I don't know what stage you're talking about, but I mean there are different types of meetings. There's initially information meetings with the BAPE and then the BAPE hearings. Is that it?

1650 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

Well, no. This was not a hearing initially. This was an information meeting, something totally unofficial. Informally we met with the public, people in Angliers and in this region. So, as I said, this is not something official. It's just an opportunity for us to answer whatever questions they happen to have at that point in time.

1660 I'm not trying to say that we had completely done our impact assessment study. I mean we started on this in 1994. And, in fact, we had a lot of meetings with the aldermen, with the mayor, with other people, with the MRC and so on, but the public at large had not had an opportunity to come and ask the questions. And this is why we held that meeting in January of 2001.

1665 After that was done and after our impact assessment study had been carried out, I guess one or two months later on, we filed our study. And because there are formal obligations that the government comes up with via the BAPE, with the hearings, and so on and so forth, and in this more formal official context we're here to answer whatever questions remain.

1670 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you, sir.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1675 I need more information. There is a document which I would like you please to request, a document that deals with the agreement, the Quebec-Canada Agreement over the management of the water levels, and the flow, and the...

THE PRESIDENT:

1680 I think this document was asked for. It has been filed.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1685 Is it available?

THE PRESIDENT:

1690 Yes. At the back of the room, it is available. Thank you.

Mr. Willie Groulx please. Good afternoon, Mr. Groulx.

MR. WILLIE GROULX:

1695 Willie Groulx, Timiskaming First Nation. I was just wandering there... my question is to the promoter here. He said that the impact was going to be local. How does he come about that? Did he do the study on everything like the big fish and everything, the food chain of all species that are going to be affected due to the project?

THE PRESIDENT:

1700 Yes. Mr. Coolican, or Mr. Bourgeois, or Mr. Belzile, if I get the question right, you come to the conclusion, according to this gentleman, that there will be no impact on the fish species and I'd like to know you can come to this conclusion. What studies have you undertaken to deal with these issues?

1705 Is that basically it, Mr. Groulx?

MR. WILLIE GROULX:

1710 Like the big fish and everything too, you did the studies on? Because you say it's going to be only a local impact on the fish.

THE PRESIDENT:

1715

So, maybe you can tell us about this study.

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

1720

Well, as I said, this project will not change the way the water levels and flow are managed. Water level in Des Quinze reservoir will remain exactly as it is right now. And therefore the present situation in Des Quinze reservoir will be the same after the power plant has been built.

1725

The same would apply for what is downstream because of the management rules that we have to keep too. So, the Ottawa River will not change, everything will remain exactly as is. And this is why the fish habitat will not overall be impacted by the project.

1730

There would be small local changes. The spawning grounds at the foot of the dam, of course, there will be less water flowing onto it. And to compensate this impact and to mitigate this situation, we will be having a spawning ground closer to the overspill. So, this is the part of the river that is right downstream from the dam. This will be changed slightly.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Here is a follow-up question if you will allow us, Mr. Groulx. My colleague has a question.

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

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Yes, a question that I wish to ask to the developer. If this power plant is built, when it is in operation, most of the water will go through the power plant and it would not then be going through the spillway. So, this is probably what the intervener is talking about. So, the water, instead of going through the present spillway, will be going through the dam or the auxiliary spillway.

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

1745

Well, this would not change the habitat or there would be no significant change to the habitat upstream or downstream. The fact that, well, of course at this point in time, the water goes through the spillway, later on after it is built... the station is built, that will go through the station or the plant and this will not change the habitat neither upstream or downstream.

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1755

The only impact would be that certain fish might go through the power station and a certain number of them might be injured or even die. And therefore, to take this into account, we have come up with evaluations of the death rate. These are phenomena that are well-known, that have been studied. And our evaluation is that the death rate would be very low indeed, less than 5 % for fish that are less than 25 centimeters long and 5 % to 10 % for fish that are 25 to 50 centimeters in length. This is the only consequence, the only impact.

THE PRESIDENT:

1760 So then, Mr. Groulx, your second question please.

MR. WILLIE GROULX:

1765 He says he's going to move the spawning bed. How is this possible? And like he says he's done it before, once in Ontario, once in Manitoba, I think.

THE PRESIDENT:

1770 Could you please get closer to the mike? It's hard for them to type what you're saying.

MR. WILLIE GROULX:

1775 He says that he moved the spawning bed successfully in Ontario and in Manitoba, I think it was. Like was this the first attempt, second attempt, third attempt? Like how many attempts was taken to move a spawning bed? And what is the success rate of it?

THE PRESIDENT:

1780 Maybe people at the Environment Ministry can talk about this issue dealing with the replacement of the spawning grounds.

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

1785 Well, there is a commitment on the part of the promoter to develop a new spawning ground and to do what's required over the next five years to make sure that the results are those that we expected. And if, after five years, maybe we might come to see that this situation is different than what was expected, the developer would come up with eggs to launch this new spawning ground adequately.

1790 We, at the Department, don't really have any specialists in this area, but we do work very closely over these issues with people from the FAPAQ and they have expertise. They are government experts in terms of analyzing this kind of issue.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Maybe we can ask the same question to the developer in terms of the success rate for moving these spawning grounds, and the kind of context you work in, and whatever you have done to make sure that this is successful.

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1805

Well, first of all, to come up with an initial explanation, I would like to say that what needs to be understood is that the present spawning grounds will not be impacted. They will stay where they are. They will remain under water. And this is part of the analysis carried out by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. They asked that the present spawning grounds be kept as is and that there be enough flow, that there be regulated flow. So, the spawning grounds are not moved.

1810

And in addition to this, we are also asked or actually the developer suggested that we also come up with a new spawning ground and that we study it over time, that we do follow-up. I can ask Mr. Coolican to talk about whatever experience they have gone through elsewhere, but it has to be said that the present spawning grounds will stay where they are, under the water. And there will be enough water, they ought to be all right.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Well, what you're suggesting would be to compensate the situation in terms of the habitat, but...

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

No. The present level would not be changed. We're talking here about a downstream reservoir and things remain the same. The speed of flow would go down and with the compensation water, we could have the same water speed however on the left bank.

1825

And the present work that has to be carried out on the spillway... I mean sometimes things go to the left bank, sometimes the right bank, sometimes in the middle of the dam. And depending on the situation, they manage things differently. The water will flow toward the right bank or left bank. And anyway, this would not impact the spawning grounds. We would have to concentrate our efforts on the left side where the largest spawning ground is to be found.

1830

THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Coolican, did you want to add anything?

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MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

I would just like to say a few words about the other spawning grounds.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Go ahead.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

1845

We have two spawning grounds. There's one that we did with our Wawatay project on the north bank of Lake Superior close to Marathon, and another one for salmon in our Schecelt project or development north of Vancouver, about 70 kilometers north of Vancouver. And we were successful in both instances.

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In the case of Wawatay, we had a biologist who studied the situation after five years and he saw that there were a lot of fish species, lot of fish there. And Schecelt, the First Nation, the Schecelt First Nation as well as Fisheries and Oceans carried out a study and they're very happy with the results.

1855

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you.

I'll now give the floor, Mr. Groulx, to my colleague who also wants to ask a question that deals with this issue.

1860

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

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Yes. Mr. Bourgeois just mentioned that as to the way that you carry out your operations, and we're talking about the present spillway during the spawning season, there would be no protocol to make sure that conditions are adequate for spawning downstream in these two spawning grounds. To the best of your knowledge, Public Works does not have this kind of protocol in terms of the sequencing for the opening of these gate bays.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

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Well, this is our understanding, but anyway, for those periods when we were on the ground, we carried out fish inventories and we saw that the management was not always done in such a way that the spawning grounds might be in the best of situations. We're doing this basically to make sure that there's regulation of the floods. And there wasn't really a secondary goal in terms of the spawning ground.

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MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

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Another question. In the context of your environmental follow-up, did you look into the possibility of studying or developing this kind of protocol in order to create the best of situations on the present spawning ground, especially the one near the left bank.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1885 Well, in the impact assessment study, this actually is what we suggested in terms of operations. Since the main spawning ground is on the left bank close to the municipal park, in our impact study, this is what we recommended. During the spawning season, we'd concentrate the water on the left bank.

1890 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you. And thank you, Mr. Groulx.

I'd now like to ask Mr. Éric Thivierge to come to the mike. Good afternoon, Mr. Thivierge.

1895

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

I'll be asking my questions in English, if I may. This is a question for both levels of government. Is there a possibility of issuing an injunction pending land claim that the TFN may put forth?

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THE PRESIDENT:

Well, it's not up to me to look into this possibility of there being an injunction. This depends on whoever wants to ask for such an injunction.

1905

At any rate, this assessment can be carried out. You're talking here about the land claims or discussions in terms of territorial rights. My understanding is that, at any rate, when these things are evaluated by other bodies than ourselves, these other bodies also take into account the present and future impacts. So, I won't be dealing with this kind of issue.

1910

But, of course, it's up to you if you wish to ask for or to request an injunction. But we have a mandate that was given to us by the Minister and I think that in this context, we are in a position to assess the situation and this is what we'll be doing. We'll be assessing or evaluating the overall impacts of this project on the species, on the habitats and on the overall environmental impacts. And I think that we are in a position to see all of the impacts.

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MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

Like I said, this question was directed to the federal and provincial governments.

1920

My second question is to the promoter and to the mayor. We're thinking here of a short-term gain, I guess we'll say. What about the long-term? I'd like to ask the mayor what he sees this project benefitting, say, in 20 years, 50 years, a 100 years. How will this project benefit the

1925 town of Angliers a hundred years from now, two, three generations ahead or you are just thinking short-term? Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

1930 Well, the question first goes to Mr. Coulombe. Maybe he can tell us what the municipality's perception of the project is. And possibility he can talk about the agreements that were signed or that might be signed with the developer. And maybe he can deal things taking a broader look on the situation and talking about a more distant future for these projects and the impact for the municipality.

1935

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

1940 Madam Chair, to answer this question, if I understand the question correctly, for the municipality, the municipality will be getting some gains. As long as there is electricity or power being produced here, we'll be getting fees or royalties. We'll benefit from this.

And this is known publicly that amounts that are being paid to the municipality is \$100,000 a year. This amount is indexed according to the amounts of power that they sell on top of a certain amount, and this for an indefinite period of time. It's unlimited.

1945

THE PRESIDENT:

1950 Before I go on with you, Mr. Coulombe, I think I understand here that there's the issue of a certain number of years during which operations will be conducted. Isn't there talk of a 25-year lease in this instance?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

1955 Well, the contract with Hydro-Québec initially is over 25 years. So, there will be a power plant there. And as long as it is operated, we of course would be paying the municipality. And once the contract is over, we think we can go for more, it can be renewed.

THE PRESIDENT:

1960 Now, I'll ask the municipality to tell us how you perceive this project. I'm not necessarily talking here about specific amounts financially, but an agreement had been signed with the municipality. Has that been filed? We would like to get that at any rate.

1965 So, I'd like to hear you, Mr. Coulombe. Please tell us how this can benefit the Angliers Municipality. And please tell us about the activities that are now held, that now occur in Angliers, and tell us how this project can be of benefit or beneficial to these activities in Angliers.

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

1970 Well, the amount that will be paid to us yearly is more than we are getting right now, of course, through our municipal taxes. So, this is very positive.

1975 We, of course, are a tourist municipality and, in this, thanks to this development, we'll be getting more. People would be coming to visit the dam. We have an organization known as Les Promoteurs. They're very much involved in our municipality. They organize visits for tourists and for recreational purposes, visits to the dam and so on.

1980 So, I think that we, at Angliers, will become a very prosperous municipality. So, the whole municipality and the whole region will benefit. Thanks to this, there will be more jobs. There'll be more tourism and not just in Angliers, the whole region will benefit.

1985 Since 1994, we have been working on this kind of project and I think that everybody will benefit from it, the municipality of course first and foremost, but other people as well, the other municipalities and communities.

THE PRESIDENT:

1990 Have you identified whatever kind of projects... I don't know if you have other projects that you're looking at in terms of recreational and tourist activities that might stem from this new situation, because you'd be getting more money in. And what are the projects that Angliers has in terms of its future, in terms of tourism, recreational activities, fishing and so on and so forth?

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

1995 Well, our drinking water at this point in time has to be boiled and our whole system is outdated. We'd have to be spending approximately \$3 M over this. And this would mean approximately \$1,200 more in taxation for citizens in Angliers. So, a part of the money we would be getting in would be used to pay back our debt.

2000 If we don't do this, I don't know what will happen to our municipality. I mean the citizens can't pay an extra \$1,200 worth of taxes per year to get drinking water. And I will admit that this

money, that we'd be getting, will be put to good use. Of course, we'd keep part of it to do work in our village, to make sure that it is more pleasant. But a good part of this money would go for the sewer and drinking water.

2005

THE PRESIDENT:

I'll give the floor to the developer to answer the same question asked by Mr. Thivierge. In the impact assessment that you've done for this kind of municipality or community... I think I understand Mr. Thivierge's question as have things been assessed over the long haul and not just the short term?

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MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Well, this is just my own opinion, but when we come up with a hydroelectric project, this is not just for the short term. You have a plant that will be around for a long time and all the benefits that you would see will still be there maybe 25 or 50 years later on.

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There's also the issue of the greenhouse gases. So, this would be a contribution on our part, on the part of Angliers, to reducing the greenhouse gases. And I think this is good.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Thivierge, do you have another question to ask?

2025

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

Yes, I did, but I've forgotten. Yes, what would happen if in the future, say 10 or 20 years from now, we were to find a different source of energy, an alternate energy source, will the promoter still keep his dam or just sell it off or abandon it?

2030

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

Well, I haven't addressed this question, because I don't think there will be another source of energy. But if that should occur, I think this source here would be just as good as whatever else comes up. If not, I think we would have to take the plant out and leave things the way they were before we came in.

2035

But somebody else spoke about the safety issues at the dam and what would happen, what we do in case there is a problem. This dam would be much safer after our project is carried out than beforehand, because you'd have an extra spillway. And if there were no power plant, even if there were no power plant to be built, it would be good for this region to have this extra spillway.

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2045

THE PRESIDENT:

2050 I might like to ask people at the Natural Resources Department or maybe the Environment to tell us about this whole issue of the obligations that promoters have in terms of the future if they were awarded the opportunity to do this. If things didn't go as expected, if they close down, what would they have to do before they shut down the plant? And what does the Act say?

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

2055 Well, the new awarding regime for water power created by the government in the year 2001 spells out a certain number of obligations for the developer. At the end of this contract, the 25-year contract, the developer doesn't have the right to operate the plant anymore and if he wants to go ahead and do so, he would have to obtain a new authorization.

2060 And the only way for him to do this, and this is part of the new regime, of the new framework, he would have to come up with an amount equivalent to whatever the government could be getting from another source, at least as good or maybe better. If he comes up with an offer that is the equivalent to whatever the government might get from somebody else, he could go on operating the plant.

2065 As for the other obligations, I think this is spelled out in a detailed fashion in the new framework. There is a whole list of them.

THE PRESIDENT:

2070 Now, for your information, Mr. Thivierge, the document that deals with this framework is part of the documents that were filed. And you have a list of the obligations and constraints for the developer in case of whatever situation occurs in the future. Thank you, Mr. Thivierge.

2075 So, then I'll ask Ms. Halda Mezinaghikhik.

MS. HALDA MEZINAGHIKHNIK:

It's okay, Madam. Oh! It's okay, my questions have been asked already.

2080 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you.

2085 Just to make sure, the agreement between the municipality and the promoter, who will be submitting it? The promoter or the municipality? Thank you.

Now, Mr. Henri Jacob please. Good afternoon, Mr. Jacob.

MR. HENRI JACOB:

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Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Mr. Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Coolican explained during this presentation that there were three proposed sites or three variables, 1, 2 and 3. And Mr. Coolican said that variables 1 and 2 were refused by the municipality to the benefit of variable 3. I would like to know why 1 and 2 were refused by the municipality.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Coolican, maybe you can report on all the reasons that justify the selection of option 3, including the municipality's position.

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MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

Well, first, I believe that the reasons are listed in the impact study. But it was not a matter that the municipality has refused, but they encouraged us to go with the third option.

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In the first case, it was the matter of the municipal park being located right there at the same place and it would have impacted on the park, on the municipality, more impacts on the municipality during the construction phase. And even during the operation phase, the noise of the power station would be closer to the municipality.

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We can invoke the same reasons for the river option, the second one. Maybe the mayor could talk about that, but there are other reasons why he did not want to have it in the middle of the river.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Perhaps before giving the floor to Mr. Mayor, maybe you could explain. Besides the request of the municipality with regard to the different variables, could you briefly explain what are the factors that led you to eliminate variables 1 and 2 to select the third one? Mr. Bourgeois?

2120

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Basically, the different alternatives that were presented, for number 1, Mr. Coolican presented part of the answer. Indeed, physically there's no physical site to develop it with a construction site very close to the municipality. We would have to expropriate and ask for rezoning regulation.

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And for option number 2, the big problem we have... well, of course, examining the different alternatives of the project, we have to try and minimize all the different impacts. The problem we have with option number 2 is regarding the habitats. We have to develop the project within the water habitat which is against Fisheries and Oceans's policy. So, the second was not selected for that reason, basically because of the fish habitats.

2135 And also technically speaking, in terms of the construction, it's a lot more difficult to do it
in a water environment than in the land environment. There's less risks on the ground. So, that's
why option number 2 is not interesting on top of this reason.

2140 And finally, option 3 is the one that offered the largest number of advantages and less
disturbances. It's a confined site, remote from the community in terms of the work site, that does
not destroy the existing habitats, the spawning areas, because 1 and 2 would destroy the existing
spawnings. But with number 3, we save them and we can build another one. So, all these
reasons were the factors that were decisive for selecting option 3.

THE PRESIDENT:

2145 Mr. Coolican?

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

2150 Just an additional comment. As a developer, most of the times if you have a development
and if it's possible to work outside of the water, it's always more beneficial for the environment and
for many other things.

THE PRESIDENT:

2155 Mr. Coulombe, anything else to add with regard to your requests regarding...

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

2160 Yes. What I could add is option number 1 near the village, it was too close for us. And on
top of that, we have a small park, amusement park or it's a playground. It's not very large. And
with the building that will be fairly large, it was option number 3 that we decided. And also the
noise, people had some concerns with the noise, potential noise. So, everybody was in
agreement with number 3.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Jacob, your second question.

2170 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

Yes, Madam. Option 3 was selected which is on lot 43-1 and 43P. And we say that this land belongs to La Régionale. I would like to know from whom was it bought and when? And if it's possible to produce the transaction documents.

2175

THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Coolican?

2180 **MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:**

The documents are registered. And it was purchased, I think, in 1995. I'm not sure about the date, but I believe it was around 1995.

2185 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Jacob also asked from whom.

2190 **MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:**

I don't know if... is it from the municipality or the province? Either one. Ah! Municipality. It was bought from the municipality.

2195 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, Mr. Coolican says that those documents are already public.

2200 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

Could they be filed?

THE PRESIDENT:

Is it possible for you to submit them to the Commission?

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MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

Yes. I think we can find them.

2210 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

Municipality, he said. I thought it was a private lot. I thought it was a private owner that sold it.

2215 **MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:**

It was private at that time.

2220 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

Was it private before?

THE PRESIDENT:

2225 Now, it's a private land, but was it bought from a private owner or the municipality?

MR. HENRI JACOB:

Because Mr. Coolican said «the municipality».

2230

THE PRESIDENT:

So, the document will be filed. Mr. Jacob, thank you.

2235 Now, I would like to invite one last speaker for this afternoon, Mr. Randy Polson please.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

2240 Good afternoon again. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Mr. Commissioner. My question is to the Secretariat for Native Affairs, SAA.

I will ask my question in English. When the Secrétariat des Affaires Autochtones were responding to regional impact study, did you consider the impact on the First Nations? And if you did, what was the results?

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THE PRESIDENT:

Go ahead, Mr. Lapointe.

2250 **MR. DENIS LAPOINTE:**

I'm not sure if I got the question clearly.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Mr. Polson's question is, did you assess the project's impacts on the Aboriginal communities? And what's the SAA's position with regard to this project being studied?

MR. DENIS LAPOINTE:

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No. The SAA did not assess the impacts of the project on Aboriginal communities.

THE PRESIDENT:

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But on the community... I mean the Secretariat did give an opinion on the project?

MR. DENIS LAPOINTE:

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Yes. The SAA did give an opinion on the project, has encouraged the Department of the Environment to proceed with the environmental assessments and analysis, and so on. And we stated the importance or we suggested to the promoter to proceed with information sessions and consultations with Aboriginal communities, those of Winneway and Timiskaming.

THE PRESIDENT:

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That was the SAA's recommendation on this dossier?

MR. DENIS LAPOINTE:

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Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Just before coming back to you, Mr. Polson, I'd like to go back to the promoter. Mr. Lefebvre, there's also an Aboriginal Affairs branch within the department of the Environment. They also gave an opinion on the project. What's your evaluation or assessment of the project?

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

2290 Indeed, there is a service that reports to the FAPAQ, that deals with Aboriginal Affairs. If I had it here, I could give you exactly the wording of their answer. But in a nutshell what they said is that they did not see it advisable to further consult on this issue.

2295 As for the request made to the SAA, they were asking maybe to have a consultation, to make sure there would be a consultation with Aboriginal people. Us, we had seen that the promoter had held their own consultation or information sessions in 2001 and Aboriginal people attended those. And the BAPE also held an information session where people attended as well. And we saw that people had been consulted in the same capacity as the rest of the public. So, we did not deem it necessary to have a specific or particular consultation with Aboriginal people, and also considering that the physical site of the project had very little impact on the overall territory used by Aboriginal nations.

THE PRESIDENT:

2305 Before going to another person, I'd like to ask the FAPAQ representative how do you assess this impact on the Aboriginal nations as part of a dossier like this one?

MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

2310 I would like the Aboriginal people to tell us what impacts they see because, personally, I don't see any impacts whether the water goes over the turbine or through the dam. I'd like to have their people's vision.

THE PRESIDENT:

2315 I understand, but in your work, when you assess such project, from what I understand, you assess the impact that a project can have on the environment. If you come to the conclusion that the project doesn't have much impact on the human or biophysical environment, then you consider that there's no need to go further and that there will be very little impact on the local communities or environment. You did not see any major impact on either the hunting, fishing activities or the recognized rights? What's the process that you use?

MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

2325 Well, we will go and consult with Aboriginal people. We have an Aboriginal Service Department and it's going to be the regional branch who will conduct the consultation.

THE PRESIDENT:

2330 So, therefore I understand that, in this case, the Department did not see any negative impact and they did not go any further?

MR. DANIEL NADEAU:

2335 Not being the promoter, so we did not feel the need to have consultations.

THE PRESIDENT:

2340 Now, I'll give the floor to Mr. Coolican. Could you please talk about your consultations or how the whole dossier evolved, you know, in your relations with Aboriginal people in terms of the consultations with regard to this project?

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

2345 Yes. We did conduct consultations as Mr. Lefebvre said. At our January 2002 meeting, there were members from your community and also the Timiskaming community who were present. And afterwards, I'm not sure about the date, but it was after January 2001, myself and David Carter went to Notre-Dame-du-Nord, we talked to the people and the Chief of Winneway was there and we talked about the project. We even thought about the possibility in the region to
2350 try to obtain more cards for the people of Notre-Dame-du-Nord.

And after that we had visits. My partner David Carter visited Winneway on three or four occasions. I'm not sure exactly how many, maybe three or four times, to discuss about the project, to discuss potential jobs. I think you have a company that was set up to conduct studies
2355 on water and we thought that there were things that you could do for us.

And secondly we also thought that there was a... well, there's a possibility for a second project. And we said that, «If you're interested, well, us as developers, we would be interested to discuss with you to see if there would be an opportunity to come to an arrangement, like the one
2360 we have in Angliers.»

THE PRESIDENT:

2365 From what I understand, Mr. Coolican, there are ongoing discussions with the Winneway representatives. But are there any ongoing discussions as well with the Timiskaming representatives?

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

2370 Well, the first meeting was in Notre-Dame-du-Nord. And instead of Steeve Mathias, who is the Chief of Winneway, all the other ones were from the Timiskaming First Nation. And the other meetings were in Winneway with Mr. Mathias, with the Winneway representatives.

THE PRESIDENT:

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With your permission, Mr. Polson, in the aftermath of your question, I would like to ask a second question on this aspect. Before we address the whole process of consultations, and potential agreements, and spinoffs, I would like to ask a question. What's the evaluation you made of the potential impacts on the sustenance and traditional activities of Aboriginal communities?

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MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

Well, for us, we thought that there would be no impact. And this is exactly why we visited the communities, we wanted to know if there would be any impacts. And we talked about water flow and we indicated that there would be no change in the water flow. We said that we thought there would be no problems for the fish, except for those that were already mentioned here. I don't want to answer for yourself, but I think that your concerns were of an economic nature and we understand that.

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2390

THE PRESIDENT:

So, in your assessment report, you expressed your intention with regard to the economic spinoffs of the project which could be around 60% here in Angliers. You talk also about the possibility to support local businesses, local people in terms of jobs and spinoffs whenever there is a contract awarded.

2395

Could you explain how do you think you will be able... how will you optimize the spinoffs to make sure that it's going to be the local people who will get both the jobs and the other potential benefits with regard to the awarded contracts? Is there a process that was put in place, a committee to optimize, maximize those benefits or spinoffs?

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MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

Well, the way to start is to talk with the MRC, in the case of the First Nations, with the First Nations, to indicate those who could work, have a list of people who could work. And I think that in the case of the MRC, they will give us... they have an organization called Comaxtem and they have lists of people that they will give us.

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And we indicated that our preference was that if there are people or companies who have the competence and with competitive prices, we would prefer to work with the municipal people,

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people in the municipality and also in the region. We did that not only for this project, we did that with all our other projects. And with the lists, I think that there's many people in the region who are aware of the project and they can either contact us directly or contact the MRC, or the municipality, or other.

THE PRESIDENT:

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You talked about the Comaxtem Committee. I think it was created as part of the Des Quinze project. And from what I understand, there's one Aboriginal representative on this committee?

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

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I can't tell. I can't say.

THE PRESIDENT:

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So, what I gather is that a list could be submitted both for people who could work or companies who could get contracts. And this list would be given upon consultations with the MRC and the First Nations?

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

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Yes. It's possible to do it, but we have to be clear. When we talked about jobs in Winneway, Angliers is farther from Winneway than Notre-Dame-du-Nord, and they said that it's more difficult for them to find jobs. So, that's why we talked about work on the water. SDT gave a contract to a company who can do such work and we said, «Maybe we can do something.» We also talked about another project at that time.

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THE PRESIDENT:

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As for the Timiskaming First Nation, this process would more or less be planned or in the making. From what I understand with the discussions you had with Winneway, they consider, since they're farther away from Angliers, they could benefit maybe more from another project, but...

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

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It seems to me that they were more interested in other things, in other projects.

THE PRESIDENT:

2455 I also understand that you said that there's not necessarily a specific committee that was set up like Comaxtem had been set up for Rapides-des-Quinze, but specifically for the purpose of maximizing the benefits.

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

2460 I think that what will happen is that most of the work during the construction will come from the contractors. Once the subcontractors are selected, this is from that point on that we will do consultations here and in the region to look for what they need and the list of people who could provide those services.

2465 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Does the type of work that will be available for the regional people, according to your evaluation, does it require a particular training that should be done prior to the project or can you find this type of trade in the region?

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MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

2475 A lot of jobs are in the construction trade and many people can do that in the region. In Notre-Dame-du-Nord, they told us that they had done that on a couple of occasions and maybe that's a suggestion anyway. But we did not investigate at length. We have not reached that point yet.

THE PRESIDENT:

2480 Sorry, Mr. Polson. You opened the door to other questions. Now, I invite you to ask your second question.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

2485 Thank you, Madam Chair. Just for clarification, we are the Timiskaming First Nation. Notre-Dame-du-Nord is the neighboring municipality.

THE PRESIDENT:

2490 Okay. I apologize.

MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

For me, it's always a matter of Timiskaming over there and it's...

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THE PRESIDENT:

You know, we have to distinguish the two, you know, the name of the municipality...

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MR. COLLIN C. COOLICAN:

You were there first.

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MR. RANDY POLSON:

My next question would be to the promoter. It's for my personal interest. It's been three years that I've been a resident up here in Angliers. I reside at 4.5 kilometers from the site that is going to be developed. I live on Lac Pigeon. I would like to know the effects of the water fluctuation and the impact it would have on Lac Pigeon which is just 4 kilometers from the site where we live with no electricity. We're four families that live over there right now. And I'm wondering what the impact would be on Lac Pigeon.

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THE PRESIDENT:

So, for the promoter, can you explain? Well, I understand that there will not be any change in the water flow, but eventually there could be fluctuations in the water levels depending on the volumes that you will pass through the dam. But did you assess those types of impacts on, among others, this lake?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

If it would be possible to... is it upstream or downstream Lac Pigeon? Upstream or downstream from Angliers?

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THE PRESIDENT:

Where is it located?

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MR. RANDY POLSON:

It's north-east of the site. Where the power station will be. North-north-east from here.

THE PRESIDENT:

2535 So, then it's upstream?

MR. RANDY POLSON:

2540 If you go at the restaurant, there's a picture of the village and you see Lac Pigeon, maybe 2 kilometers from the lake, but 4.5 kilometers by the road. But at the foot of the dam, the water is going down. Maybe this will suck the river from Lac Pigeon and to dry Lac Pigeon.

THE PRESIDENT:

2545 Did you find it on the map?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2550 Yes, we found it on the map.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, I'm waiting for your answer.

2555 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

2560 So, basically, Lac Pigeon flows into reservoir Des Quinze, small reservoir Des Quinze. And this is totally managed by Hydro-Québec at the Rapides-Des- Quinze station. So, the Angliers station has no impact on this lake and no impact on the water level that you will find in Lac Pigeon.

2565 The only effects that you will see are very local, just here around the dam. And when we go to the station about 400 meters from the dam, there's no impact downstream and... downstream either, there's no impact. So, Lac Pigeon will not be affected at all.

THE PRESIDENT:

2570 We understand from your answer that the dams downstream of Angliers, they will stay at the same level as now. And also the management that you will do at this power station here will not change the management at the «barrage» Des Quinze station downstream?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2575 No, not at all.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

2580 Is there just one outflow from Lac Pigeon or does it flow into Bear Lake which is another little lake that's just through... to be the east of Lac Pigeon, there's also Bear Lake. Is there only one outflows from those two lakes or is there one above and one below, or just one?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2585 There's only one outlet. I don't see the name of the lake. I think it's the Lac de l'Ours, Bear Lake. And the affluent flows about 1 kilometer downstream of the station.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

2590 In your opinion, Lac de l'Ours flows into Lac Pigeon?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2595 No. Lac Pigeon flows into Lac de l'Ours, but I don't see Lac de l'Ours here. I don't see Bear Lake here.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

2600 Because Bear Lake is on the other side of the mountain and Lac Pigeon is this side.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2605 So, I don't have the full map of the area. We have Lake Pigeon. I don't have unfortunately Bear Lake on the map.

THE PRESIDENT:

2610 Is it possible for you to check and come back tonight with the information for Mr. Polson?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2615 Yes, Madam.

MR. RANDY POLSON:

2615 Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr. Polson.

2620 So, I'd like to thank you. We will take a break for supper so that everybody can have the
time to freshen up. Thank you for your patience. It's warm in here. So, we'll see you tonight at
7:30. The register will be open as you arrive, those who want to register to ask a question.

2625 Oh! Sorry, I'm just told that there was a request from Mr. Groulx, but it's going to be for
tonight. Thank you.

2630 Je, soussignée, **LISE MAISONNEUVE**, sténographe judiciaire, certifie sous mon serment d'office
que les pages ci-dessus sont et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des notes sténogra-
phiques prises par moi au moyen du sténomasque, le tout conformément à la Loi.

2635 ET J'AI SIGNÉ:

LISE MAISONNEUVE, s.o.