

**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
VERSION ANGLAISE**

VOLUME 2

Séance tenue le 29 avril 2003, à 19 h 30
Église d'Angliers
14, rue de la Baie-Miller
Angliers

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MOT DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

THE PRESIDENT:

5 Good evening everyone. We'll begin the second session of this first part of our hearings. So this evening, there won't be much preamble, but directly at the questions. So, I will ask the people to register for question.

10 But I would also like to take the opportunity, as we explained at the first part of the session, that the second part of its mandate is not only to do public consultation, but also to conduct a commission of inquiry. So, we've done some of that this afternoon and, you know, besides the questions that were asked, we will ask some questions ourselves. But I will give the opportunity to the people who register for questions.

15 So, Mr. Groulx is not here yet, Mr. Bouchard has a few questions for the promoter.

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

20 My question is for the developer concerning the agreement which is to be reached with Public Works, the actual owner of the dam, concerning the flow rate, because in the future you'll be owning a portion of the dam each, so in the future there will have to be an agreement on the way of controlling the flow rate which comes through Des Quinze reservoir. So, I would like to know if you've had any discussions with Public Works Canada and what are the directions they're taking.

25

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

30 Well, I can begin. And Gilles, if you have any additions, please do so. In the agreement with Public Works, we are not the owner of a portion of the dam. We only have rights of passage or right of way on the dam. So the Public Works continues to be the owner of the dam.

35 So we could take water and send it through the generating station instead of the present evacuation channel, but always in cooperation with them and by retaining obligations on the control committee. And we still have an agreement with Hydro-Québec. And Hydro-Québec has three generating stations downstream from us and it's up to them to give us directions for the flow rate.

40 And with respect to the federal government, we are obliged to compensate. After that, we just have to follow the committee's instructions as well as the Hydro-Québec's instructions.

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

45 There's another question concerning the minimum guaranteed flow rate. In the letter of agreement with Public Works Canada, it says that they do not guaranty any minimum flow rate.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

That's correct.

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

Does this non-guaranty affect the minimum flow rate of 10 cubic meters per second?

55 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

It's possible, because it's not realistic. The committee told us that we cannot do more and, at one point, we may not have the minimum flow rate. But I believe it's up to us to provide 10 cubic meters, but if the committee tells us we can't put anything through, well, that's different, but I don't think that will be the case. But it's up to us to give it to them.

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

65 But the 10 cubic meters in question is reserved and which is to be sent through the present evacuator. In the letter of agreement, it says there's no guaranty of a minimum flow rate. I'm just wondering if that's the flow rate it's talking about.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

70 No. So, the thing is that Public Works were afraid that we'd tell them that we need sufficient flow rate to make profits. And we told them that's not what we're asking them. We're incurring the risks and that's why it's in the agreement. I told them that, «If you're afraid, you can put a clause in the agreement covering this.» And by giving us rights of passage, it doesn't mean that there'd be water available or not. That's why this was part of the agreement.

75 **THE PRESIDENT:**

I was waiting for Mr. Polson to be back. Do you have any question concerning Pigeon Lake?

80 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

Yes. If possible, we have a figure here if we could show it.

THE PRESIDENT:

85

You're thinking of the transcript?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

90

Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

Speak loudly and slowly.

95

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

100 I'm sorry about what I was saying earlier, because I didn't have the right Bear Lake, Lac à l'Ours. We see Pigeon Lake which is north of Angliers municipality. Pigeon Lake empties through a small tributary into the small Quinze reservoir about 1 kilometer downstream of the station.

105 So, if you look at the changes that will be brought by the generating station, so the water will go through here. So, locally here, there's a change. But outside of this, the direct project area, there's no other changes. So, there's no change that would be incurred for Pigeon Lake.

105

110 So, the Bear Lake is east of Pigeon Lake. So, basically the project has a very local influence. It has no influence in that sector and no influence in this sector as well. I don't know if that answered your question that you asked this morning.

110

MR. RANDY POLSON:

Yes. It's even described that way in the impact study?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

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Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Is Mr. Groulx back? So, we'll wait for him and continue with our questions.

Perhaps Mr. Mayor, because I believe we didn't ask you the questions about -- the project itself is in accordance with the municipality's desires? Are there any resolutions that have been adopted with respect to the project?

125

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

130 Yes. There were resolutions that had been adopted. So, the area is considered as an industrial and water resource area. These resolutions were adopted some years ago, I don't remember exactly when.

THE PRESIDENT:

135 Could you file the resolutions which concern the project?

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

Yes.

140 **THE PRESIDENT:**

I also have a question for the representative of the regional municipal county. The principle was the same. We'll ask him to file the development schema with any copies of excerpts concerning the project.

145 Now, I have the question for the developer. If the project is accepted, there will be work that will be done for the station. There's also work that has to be done on the dam so that it will comply with new standards governing dam safety. Naturally, there's work that will take place at the Rapides-Des-Quinze dam with Hydro-Québec. I know that you will file a work schedule, a modified work schedule.

150 I would like you to explain to us how you harmonize the management of work. What is the impact of one on the other? And then in terms of a schedule, do you have any dates or times when you cannot be in operation because the work hasn't been completed in one area or another? What is the effect of this deployment of work which would take place in the area, on the project that you're submitting?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

160 Well, we don't have any dates at this point. The reason is quite simple, we have to get all our permits and, afterward, we will establish our schedule. Mr. Bourgeois began with a tentative schedule, but when we will receive the permits, we will finalize our schedule. And it's always a matter of coordinating things, but I believe that Gilles will be able to speak to that better than I.

165 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, when I'm talking about coordination or harmonization with work on the present dam -- you mentioned this afternoon that the project would have a positive impact on safety, I would like you to explain this in further depth.

170 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

175 Well, once again, I will begin giving you an answer and Mr. Bourgeois could perhaps complement it. I'm not an expert on dams and dams safety, but when you have a dam such as the Angliers dam, if you could add to the present evacuator another evacuator, it gives you additional capacity. You can run water through more quickly than before. So, therefore you have options which give you a greater measure of safety.

180 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

Yes, the question is twofold if I understand correctly. Firstly, it is related to construction activities. So, we hope to be able to initiate construction at the end of 2003 and this will last about a year and a half.

185 During the construction phase per se, given that most work is confined to the site itself, there's not really any impact on work done elsewhere, whether it's at Rapide-des-Quinze downstream or even if Public Works Canada wanted to work at this evacuator, we're somewhat separate from that, they'd be able to do so.

190 I don't believe that they have any major work schedule for the Angliers dam, but with respect to coordinating work, we don't see any major problems.

195 Now, as Mr. Coolican was saying, in the operation phase, by adding a generating station and an automated evacuator — at the present time that's manually operated — obviously we would be greatly improving the works themselves.

200 I think we have to specify that the present owner of the works, i.e. Public Works Canada, will continue to have ownership of the work. As Mr. Coolican says, the agreement provides for a right of passage for us. So, the works will still belong to the same person or the same entity.

THE PRESIDENT:

But as far as activity schedule with respect to the dewatering of a certain sector, the construction of a cofferdam, do you have any other constraints?

205

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

No. Basically with respect to the construction schedule, the constraints have to do more with local use. For example, you know, we couldn't do some construction work during the spawning period. But it doesn't have any direct connection with other works that can be carried out such as at Rapide-des-Quinze.

210

THE PRESIDENT:

You filed a summary of the agreement and the contract that you reached with Hydro-Québec concerning management and an undertaking schedule of conditions. I would like to know what is the guaranty that Hydro-Québec will buy the energy produced by the station.

215

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

All of the electricity that we produce has to be sold to Hydro-Québec, no one else, but there's no guaranty in terms of amount.

220

THE PRESIDENT:

So, in a context where the demand -- let's say if the demand projections would drop, what impact would this have on the agreement with Hydro-Québec? Would you stop producing electricity? Wait? Or is there already a guaranty that the energy that you produce will be used?

225

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

If we produce the electricity, they have to buy it. But if they have a problem with their system, there are days on which they don't have to buy. But for the most part, they have to buy what we produce.

230

235

THE PRESIDENT:

And is the rate based on the kilowatt/hour that you sell and is that based on the market or do you have a firm contract?

240

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

It's an energy rate, so they pay for energy by kilowatt/hour.

245 **THE PRESIDENT:**

It depends on certain circumstances what the rate might be?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

250

Well, I don't know if I understand well.

THE PRESIDENT:

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The agreement you have with Hydro-Québec provides for a firm price or does it vary according to the market?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

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No, it's a set price with indexation or indexing.

THE PRESIDENT:

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So, I believe that Mr. Groulx has arrived. So, I take this opportunity to ask him to come forward and ask his questions. Mr. Groulx.

MR. WILLIE GROULX:

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My question is, is there any connection between all the work being done on the dams below here and the dikes to the promoter's project here in Angliers? Because I know there's a lot of work being done on the big wooden dam over here there. So, is there any connection between this project and that one?

THE PRESIDENT:

275

Mr. Coolican?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

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Well, as far as I'm concerned, there's no connection. But I believe that, I believe there's no connection between the two projects.

THE PRESIDENT:

285 Which project are you talking about?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

290 The project at the Rapides-des-Quinze dam. Are you talking about the work on Rapides-des-Quinze or another dam?

MR. WILLIE GROULX:

295 Where they build that new road going down to...

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

That's just out here. It has no connection with us. It has nothing to do with us.

300 **MR. WILLIE GROULX:**

Okay. It's all I wanted to know.

THE PRESIDENT:

305 No other questions?

I would ask now Mr. Yvan Croteau to come to the table here. Good evening, Mr. Croteau. Could you ask your first question?

310 **MR. YVAN CROTEAU:**

315 Good evening. My first question is as follows. With respect to the Water Control Committee, I'm referring to Exhibit DB-16, the Quebec/Ontario/Canada agreement, Section 3.2, the people on this control committee are said to have to deal with issues such as flow rate control, flood control and equipment control.

I would like to know how this committee will set management and control priorities given other environmental concerns relating to fish, beaver whose life will depend on the level of water, and also for marshes for waterfowl. How will they be able to determine control measures?

320 So, each operator will appoint their own members as well as their own substitute. This means there's a lot of people around the table. I would like to know how they will set water control priorities.

325 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Lefebvre, could you explain to us what the committee's mandate is and how will it set the priorities. How will it meet its obligations.

330 **MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:**

I believe that the committee was set up, amongst other things, to control flood waters and regulate the reservoir in accordance with low water levels and flow rates.

335 We could check with our members, I don't think that the environmental concerns are part of the committee's mandate, although there is a representative of the Ministry of the Environment on that committee. But I would check this, Madam Chair.

THE PRESIDENT:

340

I think that we filed a document which explains the role of the control committee. Basically this committee has to deal with potential impacts of a spill, an overflow or an emergency.

345 And from memory, there is three main objectives. In order of importance, there is the objective of ensuring the safety of property and people. They have to also ensure that there's no major impact on Montreal as far as watershed is concerned. So, there's two or three objectives.

350 With respect to your questions relating to the potential environmental impacts that an overflow would cause, the answer is that this committee deals with emergency. It makes sure that there is no risk. But with respect to environmental concerns or environmental impacts, if there's a disaster, I think that we have to take another approach to this.

355 The potential impacts of rivers or pounds flow rate or reservoir are dealt with in the studies of some of the files. Do I understand this correctly, Mr. Lefebvre?

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

360 Yes, that's correct. The environmental aspects which might be considered at this point is to maintain the water level and, of course, it has to take into account any waste to being released into or discharged into the water. But there is no requirement concerning wildlife or any flow rate.

THE PRESIDENT:

365 Because what I want to make clear, and you want to know if there's anybody in this project which is concerned with this particular aspect? It may not be the committee. And we can ask questions about the various phases of the proceeding. So, is there somebody who would be concerned with these issues.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

370 Yes, in part, that's true, but human beings are part of the living environment. I was just wondering how things will be coordinated. Is there somebody that could come to explain the dynamics when a decision has to be made on one of the objectives either with respect to flow rate, flood control and low water levels? And so that we may consider the management of this
375 committee, see if it could be improved.

THE PRESIDENT:

380 Well, these aspects are assessed in our hearings and in our investigation or inquiry, but there's a whole environmental assessment process involved here. And I would ask Mr. Lefebvre to explain what the process is and how a project is processed, how all aspects of the project are considered.

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

385 Well, Madam Chair, the process is relatively simple. There are six steps or six phases. First of all, we get a notice of project from the developer. Once we've received this notice, we send a directive to the developer who gives an overview of the study which he has to conduct.

390 Then we receive a report of the environmental assessment made by the developer which is conveyed to the ministries affected by the project. It could be the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, et caetera. We ask them to review the environmental assessment report and to see if the information contained in the report seem satisfactory and will allow to make a judgment on the environmental impacts of the project.
395

And once the document is deemed satisfactory, then we issue a notice of receivability where all documents that have been produced are made public and so they can be read by the public. And the BAPE then organizes an information and consultation hearing on the document.

400 During this session, there's a four- five-day period that the population has to become aware of the information to see if a public hearing should be held such as the one being held tonight.

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

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When I listen to the way things unfold, that's one thing. But what I want to get is a very concrete answer, what happens around that table. I mean the management committee for instance for these basins and the regulation.

410 **MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:**

Well, this committee, I was never part of the committee. So, I couldn't really answer very specifically. I could look and get more information.

415 **THE PRESIDENT:**

In the documents that are filed, you can get some information on these issues, but we will ask the person responsible for these issues to come up with a specific answer as to the role of this committee or commission.

420

And possibly I might ask the developer if has anything to add.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

425 I'm not sure this will help you, but we have three power plants in north-west Ontario that are on the Lake of Woods system. This is a different system and it works with Manitoba and Ontario. And they had a committee similar to the Ottawa River regulating committee.

430 And for the meetings, they have representatives from the two provincial governments as well as the federal government. At times, they also get representatives there from Hydro-Ontario as well as Hydro-Manitoba. And I think that, in this case, they have Hydro-Québec reps as well as... well, it's not Hydro-Ontario, but the equivalent over in Ontario and the OPG. And we, on the Lake of the Woods system, are invited as observers. I'm not sure if this will be the same situation in this case but, anyway, in that case, we're there only to provide information on what is going on
435 as concerns our dams.

THE PRESIDENT:

440 Well, sir, in terms of the Ministry of Natural Resources, could you add anything in terms of the functioning of this committee? You're not part of it?

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

No.

445

THE PRESIDENT:

You're not. Only the Department of the Environment?

450 **MR. RONALD GIGNAC:**

Yes.

455 **MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:**

I would just like to add a few words about this committee. You have the Department of Environment, Hydro-Ontario, Public Works Canada and the former Ontario Hydro that's changed names. So, these are operators who are part of this committee and they define the rules, so to speak, based on the criteria that the Chairwoman spoke about earlier on, including management of flooding risks, and low water levels, and everything that has to do with power production.

460 **THE PRESIDENT:**

We will be coming up with an answer to your question. Do you have a second question?

465 **MR. YVAN CROTEAU:**

Yes, I do. The developer said a while ago that this project would bring about the building of a second spillway which would make the present dam safer. I'd like him to explain in what way this dam will be safer and why is it less safe at this point in time. Are we at risk right now because we don't have a second spillway?

470 **THE PRESIDENT:**

475 Yes, Mr. Coolican.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

480 Well, first of all, when you have a dam, I'm not an expert, but when you get this type of dam as in Angliers, if you have too much water, you have to get it out as quickly as possible. So, you have a spillway or an outlet. And now we'll be building a second one and this will provide us with greater capacity to get the water out of the system. And this provides more flexibility in terms of assuring the dam's safety.

485 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you.

Any further explanations? Is this all right, Mr. Croteau?

490 **MR. YVAN CROTEAU:**

Well, there must be some kind of standard in terms of the spillways and the number of spillways depending on the size of the reservoir. I imagine that there must be some technical rules on this score?

495

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Well, the present works at Rapides-des-Quinze managed by Public Works Canada has an ability to evacuate a certain amount of water. There are 19 gate bays or sluices. So, these are manually operated and this requires more time than if everything were mechanized. So, that's one point.

500

On the other hand, upstream from the dam, it's a huge waterway. It's been around for more than 100 years. So, you can see major trends, it's pretty easy. Upstream from the reservoir, there are many more reservoirs managed by Hydro-Québec, operated by. It's a pretty well-known system.

505

Of course, if we add a new spillway, and this would be automated this new spillway, this will make it easier.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Croteau, thank you.

515

Mr. Henri Jacob please come to the mike. Good evening, Mr. Jacob. Your first question?

MR. HENRI JACOB:

I'm sorry, I'm losing my voice. This is a real embarrassment.

520

THE PRESIDENT:

Not the right time.

525 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

No, it isn't the right time but, anyway, I'll try and do my best. So, another question that deals with water. I've noticed that Régionale had bought plot number 58. I'm dealing with the plots here. This was bought from a citizen. I'd like to know if it's possible to get some explanation about the whole process.

530 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Plot 58, where is plot 58?

535

MR. HENRI JACOB:

It is just north of there, on the eastern bank of the dam, upstream.

540 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, this is the plot that's way on top close to the reservoir. So, the issue is, well, did La Régionale buy this plot? If so, who did it buy it from? That's the first part of the question.

545 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

It's quite simple. We, as a developer, thought that we may need this piece of land. Now, this plot was owned by somebody who wasn't sure he wanted to sell it, Mr. Coulombe, the mayor. And we asked the Council if it might be possible to expropriate this plot. This was looked into and the conclusion was, without Mr. Coulombe's participation by the way, that he could be expropriated. And they sold this plot to us at the same price as the expropriation price, plus 10% that went to the municipality. Is that an answer?

555 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

It is an answer, but I mean the plot was bought at \$3,900 more or less from the Department of Natural Resources some years previously.

560 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

I don't know. I don't know what happened. All that I know is that we thought we might need this piece of land. I think he was thinking of doing something different with that plot. It wasn't for us. Anyway, we didn't buy it at the outset, but we did make a decision, after looking into the project, that it was possible that we might be needing this plot.

565

And then we had two evaluators who came around and our lawyers told us that we had to go down this road. And the municipality's lawyer said the same thing. And this is what we did.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Do you have another question, Mr. Jacob?

MR. HENRI JACOB:

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Yes, I do. A while ago, I looked at the posters and the documents and there's mention of the fact that the municipality will be making \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year, the government more than \$500,000, plus provincial taxes. There's no mention of federal taxes; I imagine there must be some of those, but they were forgotten here. There's no mention of the profits that the developer might make. Could you tell us about this?

580

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Well, profits or losses? I mean one or the other. At this point in time, we simply don't know. Of course, we're here because our goal is to make a profit.

585

MR. HENRI JACOB:

Could we get a figure and could you tell us how much Hydro-Québec is going to be paying per kilowatt/hour?

590

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

This is a confidential contract. We are not at liberty to provide this information. This is an issue that deals with competition.

595

THE PRESIDENT:

My understanding, Mr. Jacob, is that the developer has tabled a document or a summary in fact of the agreement that they've signed with Hydro-Québec, as well as the contract which they have signed with them in terms of their mutual obligations.

600

Our understanding from your question is that what you would like to know is how much will the kilowatt/hour will be paid for. And based on the developer's answer, our understanding is that this is something that was negotiated privately. And in order for them to disclose this, they would need the agreement of Hydro-Québec.

605

So, maybe trying to clarify your question, I'd like to ask you why you think that this is important in terms of the overall project? Why is it important for an answer to be brought to this question?

610

MR. HENRI JACOB:

615 Well, if Hydro-Québec sells it less than what they would pay to... if it sells the electricity to consumers less than what it pays to buy electricity from one of these small power plants, I mean we're paying for... I mean if Hydro-Québec were selling less than what they're paying, that's a problem. Might we see first of all if Hydro-Québec is not in a position to produce its own power?

THE PRESIDENT:

620 Well, I'm trying to understand the importance of your question in terms of the profitable of the project.

625 I might ask a question to the developer. In what way do you assess or do you come to the conclusion that this could be profitable? How might this be profitable for a private entrepreneur as opposed to what Hydro-Québec might do? Why would this be an interesting project and a possibly profitable project?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

630 Well, I don't know if I understand the question correctly.

THE PRESIDENT:

635 Well, following up on Mr. Jacob's question, how is this type of project interesting for a private developer or for a private producer? Why would you invest in this kind of project?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

640 Well, of course, we need to make a dollar for our shareholders and we need to get sufficient profitability to obtain adequate financing for the project.

645 And initially it was clear that Hydro-Québec, when they spoke of 2¢ or 3¢ as a rate, this would not have worked. But at this point in time, we think that we have something that would be profitable. You can never be sure, of course, before everything has been done. You have to make sure that all of your assumptions are well-founded, but we think it's all right.

THE PRESIDENT:

650 Are you in a position to tell us, in terms of building this power plant and the investment on your part, what might be the potential threshold for profit for your company? You mentioned Hydro-Québec and you said, «Well, over a few years, we try and get to a situation where we get a production cost of 2¢ to 3¢ per kilowatt/hour. It might be a bit more, maybe it's less. We have a bit of elbow room depending on the situation on the market.»

655 But can you come to a certain assessment of approximately at what cost you would reach the profitability threshold for your company in terms of production of course?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

660 Well, I can't think of a project that might be profitable at 3¢. Maybe there are some, but I've never seen any.

665 When you're talking about what Hydro-Québec gets in terms of prices from the U.S. market, I'm not sure exactly how much that would be. I think it's more like 6¢, 7¢ or 8¢ per kilowatt/hour. That would be very profitable for us, but this is not the rate that we would be getting.

THE PRESIDENT:

670 All right. Was this your second question, Mr. Jacob? Is this all right?

MR. HENRI JACOB:

Well, I would like to come back later on.

675 **THE PRESIDENT:**

All right. I call upon Mr. Éric Thivierge please. Oh! Just a moment please.

680 Beforehand, Mr. Jacob, I would like to ask the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide some information to answer your question.

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

685 Yes. To give you some example of the purchasing price that Hydro-Québec pays to private producers, you might remember that, of late, there's been a call for tender for small power plants on the part of Hydro-Québec. And some projects, Hydro-Québec decided to go for and made public the average cost or purchasing price, it was basically 4.5¢ per kilowatt/hour. This was the average price.

690 **THE PRESIDENT:**

We might send the question out to Hydro-Québec in order to get this data on the purchasing price on average over a certain period of time for private power plants. Is that all right?

695 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

Yes, thank you.

700 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Thivierge, your first question?

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

705 My question is to the developer in English.

THE PRESIDENT:

Yes, go ahead.

710

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

Okay. You said there are 19 flood areas or whatever. Right now, this dam, it has 19...

715 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

Gates, yes.

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

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... 19 gates. Now, you're proposing to put in automated at the new dam. But doesn't this take away from local jobs? Isn't this project supposed to create jobs instead of taking it away?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

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We won't be changing anything to the way things are done at the dam.

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

730

But you said the automated system is better.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

735 It's better. It gives better flexibility, but they're still going to need all the people to operate their dam. They're not going to be our people. They're going to continue to be employed by the federal government and they're going to need all those people in the event of maintaining the dam and being ready if there's an emergency.

740 **MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:**

Have you seen the water level here?

745 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

Sorry?

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

750 Have you seen the water level?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Yes, I looked at it...

755 **MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:**

It's very low. So, this dam can technically handle the flooding. So, why do we need a new one?

760 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

You only need a new one when the water level changes. And we all know that the water level can change very quickly. Just ask them in the Saguenay.

765 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Please, sir, ask your questions to me. I'm right here. Mr. Thivierge, do you have another question?

770 **MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:**

Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

775 Go ahead.

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

780 Okay. It's for the promoter or for the mayor. How many jobs will be created in the long-term and in what capacity? Is it just security guards? Because, as Mr. Bourgeois says, it will be automated. So, what long-term jobs will be created? Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

785 Well, in fact your question -- I'll be sending out your question in two parts, first to the developer. Can you tell us about the jobs that will be created during the construction work and what jobs, what permanent jobs will be created later on for maintaining and operating the dam?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

790 Well, in terms of construction work, our estimate is 100 direct jobs and 150 indirect jobs. In terms of operations now, there would be four operators, and possibly this might be of use to you to know that, in two of our other plants, we have native people, people from the First Nations who are operators.

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 Now, also you have to do maintenance work on the equipment and there is always needs locally. If the equipment runs adequately, runs well, we have to do the upkeep. If there are problems, of course you need to hire local people to do a lot of work. You need tradesmen.

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THE PRESIDENT:

 Therefore, my understanding is that you expect to have four to six permanent jobs once the plant is up and running. And during the construction phase, 100 to 150 jobs?

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MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

 No. 100 direct jobs and 150 indirect jobs.

810 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Right, 100 and 150. Is it possible for you to provide us or to file with the BAPE, unless you have an answer here, information about the type of jobs. When would you need these people? Will everybody be coming in all at once on the very first day that you start building? How will things be spread out over time?

815 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

What we will be doing... well, we've already had employees in this region working on this project and they will go on working for us. Most of the employees will be doing construction work.

Now, when we get our permits, we would start sending out calls for tender for the equipment and the civil construction. So, we'll get these people in and we will tell this contractor that he has to come in to Angliers and to the region to speak to people, to speak to people from the MRC, and so on and so forth, to see whatever lists of people right here are available, people who could work on the construction site. And they would choose their staff or their people here in this way.

825 **THE PRESIDENT:**

In other words, when you sign a contract with a company, you require that they set a priority in terms of local employment?

830 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

A priority if the competent people are here and if the price is right, yes.

835 **THE PRESIDENT:**

And this is part of the contracts that you signed with your contractors?

840 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

Yes.

845 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you.

850 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

It's not always part of the contract, but it's a policy that we have. And we've done this in all of our other projects and it's better for us. That's always how we do things.

855 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Thivierge, do you have another question?

860 **MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:**

May I listen to the mayor's comment on this?

THE PRESIDENT:

865 Yes. Mr. Coulombe, what might you add? Can you tell us anything about the cooperation in terms of employment and the list over at the MRC?

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

870 Yes. As Mr. Coolican said, there would be four jobs created. These, of course, would have to be competent people to run the dam and also, of course, a few indirect jobs doing maintenance, upkeep. You always get these kinds of jobs, maybe four or five, maybe more, but definitely you have four direct jobs, four jobs that are created directly.

875 But when maintenance has to be done, this means more people who are hired, more people coming in to work. And, of course, there will be more specialized workers on this. So, it's basically the same answer as what Mr. Coolican gave you.

THE PRESIDENT:

880 Mr. Thivierge?

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

885 May I ask another question?

THE PRESIDENT:

890 Yes, go ahead.

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

895 Who will control the dam and from where? It will be controlled by satellite from Toronto, or Rouyn, Montreal or what? If it's going to be automated, it's going to be computerized, right? Are you going to be there yourself to...

THE PRESIDENT:

900 So, Mr. Coolican, how are things to be controlled?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

905 Well, I have mentioned that we are under an obligation to stick to the flow rates requested or required by Hydro-Québec. When there is no problem in terms of flooding or the other concerns on the part of the regulating committee, Hydro-Québec will tell us what kind of flow rate they need. This will not be done out of Toronto. This will be done right here. They'll tell us how much water they need.

910 If they happen to need a lot of water at a certain point in time and we do have the capacity to provide this through the spillway, it'll be done. And by the way, everything will be done here, using our own equipment right here.

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

915 That area that you want to develop, it's on the upper side, it's all rock. Are you going to have to blast that or what?

THE PRESIDENT:

920 Mr. Coolican?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

925 Well, we will have to do some dynamiting, yes, on the rock there, but this is the kind of thing that happens in this kind of project all the time. Like any construction project almost anywhere in Quebec is going to require some dynamiting of rock and we will have to do that. And we'll do it in accordance with the rules that are established by the province and by the federal government.

930 **MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:**

Won't that be destroying the underwater environment?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

935

I think it can be managed so there's minimum impact. Mr. Bourgeois.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

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Well, yes. In the dynamiting, one thing has to be understood, all of this kind of work will be done either on land or else inside of the cofferdam. So, there is no dynamite in the water at large.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Can you explain what kind of context do you work in when you use dynamite? What kind of rules do you have to abide by?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

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Well, as Mr. Coolican mentioned, any dynamiting has to be done according to different rules and regulations in terms of safety, transportation, handling and so forth. This kind of work itself, when it is done close to an aquatic environment, there are additional regulations in terms of the power of the charge and the periods of year, the seasons when we can use dynamite, and so on and so forth. And all of this, and specifically in terms of dynamiting close to an aquatic environment, is included in the environmental assessment study, environmental impact study.

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THE PRESIDENT:

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Mr. Peluso now please. Good evening, Mr. Peluso.

MR. ANTHONY PELUSO:

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My question deals with the drinking water. What do you expect to do...

THE PRESIDENT:

With the drinking water intake that belongs to the municipality?

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MR. ANTHONY PELUSO:

Yes. As was mentioned previously, there will be more turbulence in the water. And will we be paying for this if the quality of water goes down?

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THE PRESIDENT:

Well, this is a question that I too wanted to ask. So, please tell us. In the environmental assessment study, you deal with this issue. So, in terms of drinking water, might it be that things

980 will turn out differently from the present situation? I'd like to hear you anyway. What will you be
doing? In what case will you be acting differently from what you spelled out and who will be paying
the cost of this kind of operation?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

985 So, I'll start answering. I mean there are different aspects to this question, but in terms of
the water inlet that belongs to the municipality — Mr. Coulombe can tell us more later on — at the
present time in terms of the drinking water, the intake, there's a problem with the quality of this
water. And people here are seeking other sources of drinking water, either upstream or finding
other sources.

990 Now, as concerns this project, we have looked into the quality of the water during the
summer of 2002 for instance to try and see what the quality of this water was like around the
present water intake area upstream. And the water that comes through the dam has certain
physical and chemical properties, temperature, oxygen and so on, basically good quality. And it's
995 this same water that goes to the area where the water intake is located.

So, one has to understand that there's a certain amount of water that is set aside on the
left bank precisely for this purpose.

1000 **MR. ANTONY PELUSO:**

Does this include the 10 %?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1005 Yes.

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

1010 This is part of it?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1015 Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

The 10 cubic meters of water, so you're sure that there's drinking water for the municipality then?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Yes, that's correct. Well, the basic problem in terms of the quality of this water is that, first of all, we want to make sure that the outlet for the waste water can't go back up into the area where the drinking water is taken. And this was the first issue of course.

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And in the case of this project, we want to make sure that the outlet will be lengthened to make sure that no matter what the conditions happen to be, that these waste waters will never come back to the area where we take the drinking water.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Even in the case where it's a minimum level?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Yes, even in that case. We've done simulations using different scenarios with the plant, without the plant, minimum flow rate and so on. And in all these cases -- I mean if we do this kind of work, we'll see that the waste water won't go back up to the place where the drinking water is taken.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Could there still be a problem with that?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Well, the second problem, if you will, for the municipality is linked to the new standard in terms of drinking water in the new rules that Mr. Coulombe or the Environment could explain better than I can. So, there is a problem whereby the water source could have to be modified, even without the project. This is a problem that's already existing.

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THE PRESIDENT:

I'll come back, Mr. Peluso. Maybe simply ask Mr. Mayor, what's the problem that you have right now with your drinking water intake? Have you got something in process in terms of conformity to the existing standards? What's the situation for the municipality of Angliers right now?

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1060 **MR. PAUL COULOMBE:**

Well, for many years now, the Department of the Environment has been asking us to change the water intake to another place if the water is not filtered. So, for us, it's a requirement that they asked from us.

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Considering the cost for the municipality, we can't do it. As I said, the cost was evaluated at over \$1,000 per taxpayer on top of the current taxes we pay right now. So, it's unthinkable to do such a project. So, we have to change the water intake.

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Of course, we have a notice of boiling water throughout the summer. It's because there's too many bacteria, specially in the summer. In wintertime, it's not that bad, but the water color and the new requirements of the Department, you know, it has to be filtered to be in compliance with the standards.

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So, what we would like to do is to put it further upstream. We are currently conducting a study on that, but the costs are prohibitive. Because the water system is obsolete, during the wintertime, 50 % to 60 % of the households keep their water running to keep it from freezing because it's close to the bedrock. So, this is our big problem.

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But we are currently working with an engineer to see what we could do. Could the Department give us a little bit more, could offer more than what they're offering right now? Right now, it's about 50/50 but, for us, it's unthinkable to do that project right now.

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When the project by the Régionale is done, with the additional money that we will make, maybe we will be able to consider that solution. But now we need a permanent notice to boil water.

MR BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner:

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Is the water quality better than the quality downstream? Could this eliminate the need to boil the water during summertime?

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

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Just to add to this, it's because upstream, at least we would be sure that there will always be water. And the water quality is not better upstream or downstream. But with a filtration plant, the water quality would be excellent. You know, the filtration cost, the treatment plant, it's \$1 M.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Right now do you have any problems with the water delivery capacity that would be caused by the water flow of the dam?

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

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No, we have no problem. We have water at will. Pumps are running 24 hours a day, because we have no reservoir. So, it's flowing 24 hours a day. We have no problem with that, with the flow. But it's the quality.

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Maybe to complement Mr. Mayor's answer, basically, if eventually the intake is moved upstream, then it involves less cost to pump water to the municipality. It would be like mostly by gravity and it would incur less cost.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Maybe to the Department of Environment. Water quality problems, are you aware in the case of Angliers more specifically?

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MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

Madam Chair, to answer that question, Miss Breton would be in a better position than me to answer that question.

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THE PRESIDENT:

In fact, what I'm trying to determine here, I would like to have an idea about what's going on in terms of the current situation about the water quality, water intake in Angliers. Why wouldn't it be in compliance?

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MRS. JOHANNE BRETON:

Good evening, Madam Chair. Johanne Breton from the regional branch at Rouyn-Noranda. For Angliers, we have a new regulation that says: when we take water, surface water, right now, we have to filter it and disinfect it. In Angliers, we have chlorination -- how could I say it? A chlorination system that's obsolete, outdated. So, the water quality is not regular. Sometimes we have coliforms, too many coliforms, fecal coliforms sometimes, it's too high, and it's recurrent. That's the problem, we cannot have a regular control. This is why the Department required superior analyses than what is done normally. Normally, we ask two per month. In Angliers, we require two analyses, water tests per week.

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THE PRESIDENT:

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Did you determine the origin of the coliform in total and fecal coliform bacteria?

MRS. JOHANNE BRETON:

Regularly, we have coliforms, total coliforms, but occasionally we have fecal coliforms.

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THE PRESIDENT:

The waste water outlet was not too far from the water intake. Can this impact on the water quality?

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MRS. JOHANNE BRETON:

Right now, we don't believe so, because the water regime would not allow a backlash of the water or water coming back upstream. There could be in case of a modification, but we don't know. What we advocate is really a relocation of the intake more upstream for the various reasons that have been mentioned already.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Maybe I would like to ask the promoter, if the intake would be installed upstream of the dam, what would be the impact in terms of the waste water outlet? The extension of the outlet, would it be necessary to extend that as far as planned?

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MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

I'm not sure I have your question right. For us, it doesn't matter whether it's upstream or downstream.

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THE PRESIDENT:

So, it means that the municipal water intake, whether it be moved upstream, for you, you're still going to extend the waste water outfall?

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MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Yes.

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THE PRESIDENT:

This is to prevent, you know, the water from coming back? The rate of the water flow in the spillway canal, will that be enough to avoid a spread towards the spawning area?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Indeed, Madam Chair. What we need to understand, it's the ratio between the flow of the waste water of the municipality which is fairly limited, maybe a few hundred liters per second, in

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ratio with the flow coming out of the station which is probably many hundred times higher. So, there's almost an instant dilution. So, it will not reach the spawning area. It's very local.

1195 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Did you assess the impact that it could have further downstream on the spawning area, the little island or the fish farming area?

1200 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

1205 Well, for having done many, many studies in water environments, what we have initially is the ratio between the contaminated water flow versus what the reception milieu can take. Even if the rates are not very high, the exit of the spillway canal, the volume of water transiting there in relation to the minimal volume of waste water ensures a dilution which is very local, within, I would say, 20 meters.

THE PRESIDENT:

1210 In the monitoring program, monitoring program for the water quality for a fish farming, anything provided in there?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1215 Normally, indeed, water quality sampling will be made. Of course, the protocol has not been finalized yet. But obviously when we did the sampling or the test in the summer of 2002, there were some of them in practically all sectors. So, we could add a few more samplings in some strategic spots.

1220 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Coming back to the Department of the Environment, in the solution that you have considered with regard to the current problem of the Angliers water intake, has the solution that consists in moving the water intake upstream been considered and would it resolve the problem?

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MRS. JOHANNE BRETON:

It will not resolve the problem because the municipality will have to filter its water still. Any surface water has to be disinfected and filtered. But maybe it will ensure a better quantity and less risk of a low water flow. And as for the pumps, for pumping cost, it would be less expensive upstream.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Coming back to Mr. Coulombe, just to remind us, you made any cost assessment for the municipality if you comply with the Environment's requirements, you know, in terms of water filtration, water treatment?

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MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

We made a first analysis but, as I said earlier, there's a water problem. You know, the pipes right now, it's leaking everywhere. Even if you filter the water, how much it's going to cost just to maintain the pipe system? First, we have to repair the pipes, the existing pipes. This will cost maybe \$1.5 M. And after that, we have to, you know, ensure the quality of the water. Even if people say, «We want to have drinking water», but at what cost? We cannot absorb such a cost.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Lefebvre, Environment, currently, how do the municipality go about for obtaining funding to comply with the new standards that have been implemented for drinking water system for the municipalities?

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MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

I cannot give you a clear answer. I know that there are programs normally managed by the Department of Municipal Affairs, also programs with the Quebec government and also infrastructure program with the federal government. But I could not give you more details, you know, in terms of how it functions.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Indeed you have filed a document, DB-4, compliance with the standards, you know, for water distribution systems. So, we'll have information in that.

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Before coming back to you, Mr. Peluso, my colleague would have a few questions. I think you have shown us a good trail for questions.

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

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I have a question concerning the waste water outlet. Have you determined the point of reject? Is it going to be in the center of the canal, on the right shore, left shore? Has it been determined or located?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

I would say, Mr. Commissioner, that at the present time the final position has not been determined. Probably that the place where it's going to be will not be at the center of the canal, but rather on the left side, closer to Angliers, which is also the side that is the most remote from the future spawning area.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you.

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MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

Concerning the study that you want to do, is it a simulation or things like that? What kind of study?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Well, normally, for the final positioning, there are simulations of dilution calculations, the size of the pipe, with different parameters of the pipe that will allow us to establish the... But for having done many like that in the past, concerning the flow rate of the outlet, the dilution is almost instant.

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MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner:

You know, the rate lines so that the mixture won't stay on the spot. It has to be diluted and moved away.

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1305 Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

1310 Mr. Peluso, do you have a second question?

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

1315 Yes, I do. We talked about four jobs earlier. Now, this gentleman says that it's going to be... I mean the spillway will be automated. If the power station is automated, I mean to regularize the water flow, why would they need employees on the federal side? Now, there's three people working for the federal. If it's regularized or regulated by an automatic door or gate, why would they need people on the federal side?

THE PRESIDENT:

1320 Maybe Mr. Coolican, you could explain first what Mr. Peluso is raising. The jobs that would be created at your station, what will these people do? And those currently working for the federal side, what will become of those jobs? These are two different types of management. Will both managements be harmonized? Any jobs will be lost?

1325 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

1330 Well, these are two independent managements. There's us and the federal government. The reason why I said four jobs, there's four stations below us, Hydro-Québec, and we have the obligation to send them water when they ask. And it is necessary to have someone at our station, not on the dam, but our station.

1335 The issue of federal jobs, if there's an emergency, it is necessary for them to be there and ready to do what has to be done with the dam and the existing spillway. And for me, if I would be the owner, the three would stay there.

THE PRESIDENT:

1340 So, we understand from your answer that the three jobs currently...

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

I don't know if it's three or two.

1345 **THE PRESIDENT:**

1350 Anyway, the current jobs will not be jeopardize or compromised by the construction of your station and the management of the waters by your station. Will they have less work? Will they lose their job because of that? That was the question? That was the intent of your question?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1355 Maybe an additional information. We need to understand also that the existing spillway will continue to be used to spill the flow rates. So, in the fall and spring flood, the existing facility will continue to operate. They will continue to manage it in terms of the different reserved water flow rates.

1360 And in the case of a multi-gate system to ensure the functioning of the facility, they cannot keep the gates closed for five or ten years and never use them. Even if minimum flow rate is prescribed, you know, they will need to continue and regularly operate these doors or gates. And the owner of the dam will continue to have to open and close the outlets or the gates.

1365 So, they will always need people assigned to this job. And, as Mr. Coolican said, in case of emergency, they need to be there also. Normally, as working for the owner, they will have to be there and working independently. It will not be the same regime of operation. It will be different. But they will still have some work to do on the dam.

THE PRESIDENT:

1370 Coming back to the question, people who will work at the new station, what will be their duties?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

1375 The people working at our station? They are there to maintain the operations. And if there is a problem, they will be there to resolve it because, us, we have to have someone there to make sure that water will always flow downstream to the Hydro-Québec dams, 7/24, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

1380 **THE PRESIDENT:**

1385 So, when we talk about four to six jobs, these are four to six new jobs that will be created in the area? And these jobs are full-time? We're talking about four to six people at the same time or is it going to be shared work 7/24?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Yes.

1390 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Peluso, would you like to have more information?

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

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I mean should these workers leave, is there something they're going to do?

THE PRESIDENT:

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In other words, following the operation of the station, if Public Works Canada decided that they don't need to operate their dam anymore, is that a possible scenario?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

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No. Nobody from Public Works ever mentioned that.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Mr. Peluso, we will wait for the answer.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

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Public Works never said anything about that. And our expertise is not in dam development, but in power plant development.

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

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We're talking about the village and creating jobs. And if we create four and eliminate three jobs, what's the use?

THE PRESIDENT:

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What we understand from the promoter's answer, from what he knows, it has nothing to do. These are four to six additional jobs to be created. But we will send the question to Public Works Canada to this effect. We'll ask them if, for them, the operation and management of their station -- if the new project could have an impact on their operation of their side of the dam. And the answer to that question will be at the documentation centers.

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

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I have another one.

THE PRESIDENT:

1435 You had two. Okay, one short question. It's getting late for the people, I can understand.

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

1440 For municipal tax, is it like a plant or is it like an Hydro-Québec dam that cannot be taxed?

THE PRESIDENT:

Can you give us more information?

1445 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

For the municipality, there is \$100 000 for the project determined by the municipality, we have nothing to say in regards to that. Each year, depending on the production, it could be up to \$160,000 a year, indexed with Hydro-Quebec's contract.

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And for the provincial fees or royalties, it's a matter of cost, you know, for hydraulic fees based on the water that we use — and the Department of Natural Resources could elaborate on that if you wish — and also for payment of municipal taxes. And we believe that both will go around \$600,000 to \$700,000 per year.

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THE PRESIDENT:

For the two of them, what's paid for the water rights and for taxes?

1460 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

For both of them, \$600 000 to \$700 000 per year.

THE PRESIDENT:

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Is that okay, Mr. Peluso? For the municipality, we know that there's a minimum revenue of \$100,000 per year indexed each year based on the sales of the production.

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

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My question was, is it like a plant? And is it taxed in the same way as a plant or a manufacture?

THE PRESIDENT:

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Are there any differences... for the municipality, you mean?

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

1480 Yes. Since it's on municipal land...

THE PRESIDENT:

How are they taxed?

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MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

Yes.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Are they taxed on top of that like any other plant would operate and pay taxes?

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

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I don't think so, but I cannot answer the question. I know that the fact that it is a hydro dam, no tax can be charged directly to the municipality. Royalties are paid to the government. You know, when we're talking about a tax. But it comes back to the people through an equalization system what is paid to Quebec.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Maybe Mr. Gignac from Natural Resources could shed some light too.

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MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

Yes, Madam Chair. Under the Municipal Taxation Act, energy plants are excluded from municipal taxes, except that the government takes charge what they call in lieu of tax. And they take that money and, through an equalization system, give some back to the municipality. So, the municipality will not obtain the revenues directly.

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THE PRESIDENT:

Then the government pays back to the municipality?

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MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

In the past, yes, but now it's a new system, a new regime. It goes to the consolidated fund.

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And the other aspect of revenues that we draw, there's the Natural Resources Department in terms of royalties, these are fees or rights, water rights of the domain of the State. And another

statutory fee that any hydro producer, except for Crown corporations and municipality, have to pay for producing energy or electricity.

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THE PRESIDENT:

This is what you have estimated at around \$230,000, \$240,000? That's not the...

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MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

Water rights around \$500,000 per year of revenues are shared between what we call a contractual royalty, because they use a State resource, water energy. And also there's a statutory fee, because any hydro producer pay it, except for Hydro-Québec. And the most part of their revenues comes from the statutory fee, that's part of the law on water regimes, that's paid based on the annual production.

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THE PRESIDENT:

So, coming back to what... we talk about \$500,000 paid to the government and \$239,000 paid in taxes. So, that's not the same thing that he's talking about? It's the same thing that he's talking about, but he doesn't call it the same name, okay.

1540

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

The government charges what we call in lieu of municipal taxes that he keeps. And then the government also charges royalties on water power, but then it's the Department of Natural Resources that does it in that case and he charges those fees. And both are annual payments.

1545

In the case of statutory and contractual fees, they are indexed according to inflation, based on inflation, and they vary according to production, production of the power station.

1550

THE PRESIDENT:

So, coming back to the municipality, in fact what is foreseeable, what would be provided in terms of royalties of \$100,000 for Angliers and potentially \$160,000 to \$170,000...

1555

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

This is the promoter that decided. They agreed with the municipality to pay this amount which is the equivalent of the fees charged by the government. But then it is the promoter that agrees to do it with the municipality to ensure income to the municipality.

1560

THE PRESIDENT:

1565

So, what I would like to determine is what is paid to the municipality all in all is what the municipality will receive from the fact of having a power station...

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

1570

Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

1575

So, this is what each one will be receiving?

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

1580

Yes, you're right.

THE PRESIDENT:

Okay, Mr. Peluso?

1585

MR. ANTONY PELUSO:

Yes. For me, it's peanuts.

THE PRESIDENT:

1590

Well, Mr. Peluso, there's a second hearing in a month from now and that will be the time to express your opinion.

Now, I would like to invite Mr. Yvan Croteau.

1595

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

My first question refers to document PR-2 on directives on consultation. On page 8, there's a concept of an alternative to the project. I was wondering what the developer did to identify alternative solutions and what the results of his research was that are known today.

1600

THE PRESIDENT:

Yes, Mr. Coolican?

1605

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

The number?

1610

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

Yes, I'm referring to a document PR-2 on page 8.

THE PRESIDENT:

1615

This is the directive, the ministry's requirements. So, your question has to do with this particular requirement in the directive, what would the developer propose as an alternative solution?

1620

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

Yes.

MR GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1625

I will start by giving an answer. Essentially, what we're talking about, alternative solutions with respect to energy produced, we have to look at it in the context of the energy market.

1630

What we saw a year ago and we're still seeing today is that there were calls for tenders in Quebec for energy needs that were made by Hydro-Québec Distribution. The projects in this connection were basically gas projects. Basically the Angliers project is a 5 MW project. It's an

hydroelectric project on any existing facility which would replace another thermo source, that is a gas source.

1635 The alternative solutions in the project are the ones that we see in the market such as Suroît, another in the Bécancour area. So, for that reason... this is the kinds of projects we see within Quebec and outside the country.

THE PRESIDENT:

1640 In your environmental impact study, do you refer to other alternative sources, thermo, et caetera? You refer to these, but did you assess any hydroelectric potential?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1645 Hydro-Québec has a box full of potential alternate projects. Here there's an infrastructure that has a great potential. We cannot say that there are other alternatives in the area.

THE PRESIDENT:

1650 Mr. Croteau, what is your second question?

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1655 With respect to this first question, I would like to ask this question of Hydro-Québec, because they've probably initiated the mini-power plant projects. So, perhaps in this context, there has been a study for alternate solutions. I was thinking in particular of energy savings.

THE PRESIDENT:

1660 You mean what is the alternative solutions, alternative solutions that Hydro-Québec might have come up with?

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1665 But the developer cannot answer that question because he comes after a decision that's already been made. That's probably why that in his impact study, this issue is not really dealt with, because I think... you know, is the project being compromised or not?

1670 **THE PRESIDENT:**

What is the alternative if we don't go ahead with this project? What would Hydro-Québec have to propose as an alternative solution? Well, we'll send on this question to Hydro-Québec.

1675 What is your second question?

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

1680 My second question refers to the flood water report at Lac-Saint-Jean. The report was filed last year, submitted last year. I would like to know if the present impact study took into account the conclusions and findings of this report and could this report be filed here?

THE PRESIDENT:

1685 You're talking about the Nicolet report?

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

Yes.

1690

THE PRESIDENT:

You're talking about filing that report?

1695 **MR. YVAN CROTEAU:**

Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

1700

I'd like to understand something here, because I would like to see what your intention is so that we would enlighten the commission and the project developers. You know, I'm thinking, you know, if such documents were... 15 copies are required. I'd like to know what aspects interest you. What's the findings of the report...

1705

MR. YVAN CROTEAU:

The conclusions, to what extent the conclusions of the report were incorporated into the authorization process.

1710

THE PRESIDENT:

1715 Well, I'll convey that question to Hydro-Québec. But as far as the report is concerned, it is public. Perhaps I could ask the developer to explain the safety issues. In your projects, what are the aspects related directly to the recommendations made by the Nicolet report on the ministry's requirements.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1720 Well, Madam Chair, basically the conclusions of the Nicolet report which unfortunately I'm not able to list exhaustively, but essentially the essence of the report led to the Dam Safety Act and the related regulations.

1725 So, the Angliers project itself is subject to this regulation at all levels. This is a new work or part of works which has obligations relating to filing management plans, emergency plans as was explained this afternoon. So, the project per se, in the study and its approach to obtaining a permit, has to be subject to the Dam Safety Act. And I'd like to tell you that these documents have been filed.

1730 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, thank you very much.

So, I'll have a short break to stretch our legs and we will return in about ten minutes. Thank you.

1735

SUSPENSION OF THE HEARING

CONTINUATION OF THE HEARING

1740 **THE PRESIDENT:**

1745 Before inviting the next speakers, I'd like to advise you immediately that the Commission will end this first portion of its public hearings tonight. So, as far as the registry is concerned, only two people have registered. So, it's now 9 o'clock, I would ask anyone who would like to register for other questions to do so now, because we will close the registry in about five minutes.

1750 So, if you would like to ask other questions, please go and register now. In any case, don't forget that, under the mandate of the Commission, other questions will be forwarded to the developer and the resource persons by the Commission. And these questions and answers will be filed at the documentation or reference centers as soon as possible and also on our Internet site. So, therefore, you can have a look at them.

So, I will now call upon the next speaker, Mr. Henri Jacob. Good evening, Mr. Jacob.

1755 **MR. HENRI JACOB:**

Good evening. So, I'd like to refer you to page 5. In the first paragraph, it says:

1760 «*The environment, through the MRCs, are invited to take part in this project in concert with the regional office. Everything will lead to a commercial agreement between the municipal organization and the developer.*»

I'd like to know if those agreements have been filed.

1765 **THE PRESIDENT:**

We asked the developer, and the municipality, and the regional county municipality to file their agreements. Some have already been filed. Others will be filed in the next few hours, the next few days. So, you will find them in the reference centers or documentation centers.

1770

So, let's say that's not your first question. Go ahead with your first question.

MR. HENRI JACOB:

1775 I don't know if I'll be able to speak three times. So, once again with reference to the same document, page 17, the next-to-last paragraph, it says that the project also satisfies the commercial expectations of Hydro-Québec with its buying the produced energy at a competitive rate. I would like to know competitive with what?

1780 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Perhaps you could explain how the competition principle operates in the purchase and sale of energy.

1785 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

It was a negotiation that took place between Hydro-Québec and ourselves. You have to assume that Hydro-Québec knows what the other rates would be. So, this is how we arrived at a price in the contract.

1790

MR. HENRI JACOB:

It's not competitive necessarily with energy savings or wind energy?

1795 **THE PRESIDENT:**

1800 So, perhaps additional information could be provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Perhaps you could respond to the competition principle between, you know, public and private production of energy.

MR. RONALD GIGNAC:

1805 I think that we have to look at things in perspective to understand today's new concept. When Hydro-Québec made its first purchases from private producers in the early 1990s, Hydro-Québec had decided to pay a set rate which was equivalent to its avoided costs. In other words, Hydro-Québec would say, «What if I don't pay energy more expensive from a private producer than what it will cost me to produce it itself... with a power plant that I would develop. Then I'm not losing and the clients are not losing either. But that's the price I'm willing to pay, not anymore.»

1810 So, when the various activities of the ministry and Hydro-Québec were reviewed by the Doyon Commission in 95 to 97, one of the recommendations of the Commission was that this approach be dropped in favor of an approach guarantying a competitive price, a market price, a more advantageous price for Hydro-Québec and its consumers.

1815 And this is what is being applied since 2000, 2001. Hydro-Québec negotiates with developers and if the price is not interesting, there's no contract signed. A contract is signed only if Hydro-Québec ensures that it can reap a benefit meeting its own objectives, objectives in terms of return.

1820 Also, the developer has to look at the project and say, «Well, that's the rate that Hydro-Québec is willing to pay. Can I make a profit which would make it sufficiently profitable for me to implement it?» So, it's on that basis that agreements are now being reached. And it's also on that basis that the agreements relating to the three projects chosen by Hydro-Québec will take place, which were retained in last November.

1825 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Mr. Coolican, do you have something to add?

1830 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

It is the same answer.

THE PRESIDENT:

1835

Mr. Jacob, second question.

MR. HENRI JACOB:

1840

Earlier I understood that there was no agreement between the Public Works Canada and La Régionale. I imagine there's an agreement concerning the rights of passage. And if there is such an agreement, could it be filed?

THE PRESIDENT:

1845

Perhaps, Mr. Coolican, you could explain what the situation is, the ownership of the present dam and the type of agreement that you have signed or will sign with Public Works Canada.

1850

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

It's an agreement in which we asked Public Works for rights of passage over water, and a right to construct the inlet channel, and also the right to go on their property for other needs relating to operation and construction of the project.

1855

THE PRESIDENT:

So, I should understand that Public Works Canada up to now remains the owner of the site of the project?

1860

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

That is correct.

1865

THE PRESIDENT:

I know that at present there are negotiations taking place. Perhaps the MRN could tell us about these negotiations between Public Works Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources concerning the ownership of the present dam. Is this under discussion or will it remain the ownership of Public Works Canada?

1870

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

1875

I think that the discussions were between Public Works and the Ministry of the Environment. But those discussions were held a long time ago and we didn't take part in those discussions. Occasionally, Public Works told us that discussions were ongoing, but we received

no indication that they are still ongoing. But with the new government, we don't know what the position of this new government would be.

1880 **THE PRESIDENT:**

I'm sorry, you're quite right, yes. So, I wanted to know what the situation was at present. If there were discussions or negotiations as to the transfer of the ownership of the site under study, would it change anything?

1885

MR. GILLES LEFEBVRE:

Well, there are discussions ongoing between the Ministry of Environment and Public Works Canada on the transfer of ownership, but nothing has been resolved. There are discussions on both sides, but nothing has been concluded.

1890

With respect to this project, these negotiations that are ongoing have no impact on the project. We are analyzing the project without taking into account that the ownership of the site might change following negotiations. We're only looking at the environment impact of the project.

1895

THE PRESIDENT:

In other words, whoever is the owner of the project, he will have to comply with the agreement with the present operator.

1900

MR. HENRI JACOB:

Well, there's at least a written agreement on the rights of passage.

1905

THE PRESIDENT:

Do you want to know if that agreement has been filed? I believe it has, yes. You will find it in PR-5.1, last appendix or schedule, and it's dated December 28th, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Jacob.

1910

Mr. Thivierge please. Good evening, Mr. Thivierge.

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

1915

Thank you, Ma'am. The promoter earlier stated that the present dam will be closed to divert water to the new dam. As it stands right now, the water is extremely low and if the dam would drop right now on the place where it is proposed, there would be no water going there because of the rocks on the upper side.

1920 Now, what I want to know from the promoter is how wide an intake channel is going to be lasting out, how long and what he intends to do with the waste.

THE PRESIDENT:

1925 So, for the developer, Mr. Bourgeois.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1930 Yes, Madam Chairman. Each year the reservoir, water level is low. So, at present, the water level is quite low. And with respect to the present intake, there are rocky areas which will have to be excavated however, but the cofferdam and the... the cofferdam would be upstream. So, as Mr. Thivierge said, there's rock close to the surface in the sector. The power plant will require excavation work which will be done within the cofferdam.

1935 **THE PRESIDENT:**

The flow rate is what exactly now?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

1940 Unfortunately, I don't have that information.

THE PRESIDENT:

1945 Mr. Thivierge, do you have another question?

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

1950 My question number 2 is, if they're going to build two dams with each taking their own flow, doesn't that mean that the present dam is going to be less flow? Thereby, if the other dam flows, won't that create stagnation on this side near the water intake and won't that damage the minnow population, pikes and other fish? If the water is stagnant, that'll kill the minnows and then that'll kill the whole food chain or whatever it's called.

1955 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, for the developer. So, we'll wait for your answer.

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

1960 Yes, good evening. If I get the question right, I can tell you that we don't expect any problems in terms of the fish habitat. In line with what Mr. Thivierge said, downstream, well,

water won't be renewed as often, but it'll be high enough to get good quality water and a good habitat for the fish, and the same thing upstream.

1965

THE PRESIDENT:

What will be done in terms of a follow-up for the water intake and the present habitat? Is there anything that you expect to be doing in order to assess the impact after this would have been built?

1970

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

Well, as Gilles Bourgeois said initially, the follow-up program has not been totally drawn up and is not definitive at this point in time, but we thought that we would carry out some fishing activity using nets to see if the fish population is at the same level. And we want to check, looking at the new spawning ground, the new one as well as the present spawning grounds to see if the fish go on spawning.

1975

1980

THE PRESIDENT:

Well, following up on Mr. Thivierge's question, the fact that the flow rate would be lower and therefore that the water won't be moving as quickly in that part of the waterway, you will be evaluating the situation, I gather, to see if the different species are surviving and you will be looking at the water intake as well.

1985

I also understand that you have a certain number of constraints and obligation. Within the context of this project, you must make sure that there is enough water available for the intake of course.

1990

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

Yes.

1995

THE PRESIDENT:

In other words, at the minimum flow of 10 cubic meters per second, you would be in a position to make sure that you would meet the needs of the water intake, but also you'd be in a position to make sure that these species would be able to survive. Is that right?

2000

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

Yes, that is correct. And this is part of the follow-up, yes.

2005

THE PRESIDENT:

Well, Mr. Thivierge?

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

2010

I'd just like to ask for figures following up on my question. The depth and the length of the inlet or intake channel.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2015

I can provide information. The inlet channel is approximately 40 meters wide. And this is the channel that is used to bring water to the dam.

THE PRESIDENT:

2020

Pardon me. Couldn't we see something on the screen here to show Mr. Thivierge?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2025

Yes. Just give me a few seconds.

THE PRESIDENT:

2030

It won't be long, Mr. Thivierge. We'll be showing this on the screen.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2035

You can see here the inlet channel and, in front of the dam, it's approximately 40 meters wide. And south of the inlet channel, there is the channel for the auxiliary spillway. Now length upstream from the dam, and this is another diagram here, you can see where the bridge is and you look to the right-hand side and you can see that the channel is still going up. This is approximately a 40-meter distance in the reservoir.

MR. ÉRIC THIVIERGE:

2040

How many cubic meters of rock do you need to take away and what will you do with the waste?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2045

Well, overall, both upstream and downstream from the dam, there are approximately 100 cubic meters of rock that need to be taken away.

THE PRESIDENT:

2050

Just to make sure that we understand this and for the transcript, please tell us which diagram this is.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2055

This is the side view of the project.

THE PRESIDENT:

2060

Pardon me for interrupting. Go ahead.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2065

So, this is the bird's-eye view of the project. And the green spaces are the site itself, plot number 43, and the facilities.

2070

Right now, what we expect to do is to use to a large extent whatever space is available on site. So, this would be used for storing the material. And therefore everything that will be excavated or about half of it actually would be used to build the cofferdam upstream during the works. At the end of the works, they'll be put back and we'd be using all of this. We'd store it on site.

2075

There are also other possibilities. We know that there have been requests, especially on the part of people in the municipality, people want to get rock. So, if anybody needs this kind of material, anybody that has work to do, questions were asked, «Would this kind of material be made available?» So, possibly so, yes. We could come to specific agreements with people over this issue. But basically most of the rock would be put on to the site here.

2080

There are also two areas that we have been looking at. Over here, you have the former quarries that were used to get the material to build the dam initially. So, these are former quarries, they're now basins. And these too, these areas could be used to store part of the material. There's a third area right here that could be used as well. So, basically, everything can be put on site or close to the site.

2085

THE PRESIDENT:

I'd like to add something. Dealing with the former quarries, is this just a possibility or not?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2090

We are looking into that possibility. This is a possibility.

THE PRESIDENT:

2095 So, this is a study that can be found in P-58?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2100 No. This is not plot 58. This is the Ministry of Natural Resources' land.

THE PRESIDENT:

2105 Have you studied the possibility of using the quarries and what's the situation over there right now in these quarries? Have you assessed the situation there?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2110 When the snow melts away, there is water that drains into these areas and after a lot of rain, this is... but there is no permanent water there. These are simply low grounds.

THE PRESIDENT:

My colleague may have a question dealing with this issue as well.

2115 **MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :**

2120 Well, this is a question that deals with these quarries that you will use to get the material to build the cofferdams. Has the quality of this material been assessed to make sure that there are no dangerous materials here, nothing that can be a source of contamination?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Can you ask your question once again? I missed part of it.

2125 **MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :**

There are quarries out there that have been used to get material to build the cofferdam. Has the quality of this material been assessed in order to make sure that there will be no contamination into the water from these?

2130

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Well, as for the cofferdams, the material that will be used is basically what has been excavated or blasted away, most of the volume for the structure, initially anyway. And secondly, and this is not something that we see on this diagram, but there is a curtain, a sedimentation curtain put upstream to make sure that any suspended solids will not seep into the environment.

2135

So, we'll be using local material, things that are found on site. We've tested these and this is rock. There have been drillings and we know this is rock.

2140

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

You're talking about 4,200 cubic meters that will be coming from offsite initially during the construction phase.

2145

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Yes. Initially, these 4,000 or so cubic meters will be used just to prepare the situation and foundations. Right now, we're talking about material that could come from other quarries. We're talking about overburden.

2150

There's certain quarries that have been identified on the road that goes towards Rapides-des-Quinze. There are quarries right now that we know about. There are others as well along road 391 at approximately 5 kilometers from the site. And there's no been testing of the quality of those materials, but this would be done of course if we were to use these naturally.

2155

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr. Thivierge.

2160

I'd just like to make sure now by asking my colleagues at the back of the room, there are no more speakers? And therefore the registry is officially closed. We still have a few questions that we would like to ask to the developer.

2165

I would like to know in order to get information, first of all, in the impact study, you mention you need to get the Écologo from Environment-Canada to go ahead with this kind of project. What is required to get the ecological logo?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

2170

Well, there are many conditions to be getting this, to be awarded the Écologo. It has to be run-of-the-river for instance. If there is a dam already... Another condition was that it would have to be less than... well, 20 MW or less, but I think this number has been increased. And I think we can go up to 50 now, but I'm not altogether sure. This information can be obtained, I could do that.

2175

THE PRESIDENT:

Yes. Could you please file this with us, these criteria, please, that are linked to this Écologo?

2180

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Yes. There are many criteria actually to do green production. It's different in B.C. and Écologo is different as well.

2185

THE PRESIDENT:

Well, we would like to be getting that please. So, your other power plants elsewhere use this Écologo and, therefore, we would like you please to file that information.

2190

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

Yes, this can be done.

2195

THE PRESIDENT:

I would also like to come back to the issue of the economic spinoffs. You explained to us how it is that you'd be doing things in terms of employment, hiring, in terms of calls for tender as well to different companies that would be invited to participate in all of this work.

2200

And you told us this afternoon, dealing more specifically with jobs, that you would have certain requirements that you would demand of the subcontractors, and you'd make sure that local people would be hired if they were equally competent and at the same cost.

2205

Have you carried out an assessment in terms of the overall population of the region in order to find out the kind of training that people have here and therefore whether or not they are able to meet the needs of these companies or to meet your needs? I'm talking about the available jobs of course.

2210

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

2215 Well, we have not carried out any kind of official study, but talking to people from the MRC, SDT and to people in this region, the different subcontractors here, electrical contractors for instance and the contractors that deal with ironworks and millwrights, different types of contractors anyway. And, in fact, we even visited in Angliers here a plant called Cardinal and they came up with different products in terms of wood and they might be doing things for us. So, we spoke to different people. We spoke to people at the MRC, talked about their list, spoke with Comaxtem as well. And we have, you know, basic information, but we have to do more.

2220

THE PRESIDENT:

2225 And before the work starts, would you look at the possibility of providing training if more training were needed for some people here in this area? Of course, I understand that people have to be known to be competent, to be officially recognized as construction workers for instance, but have you looked at the possibility of providing training?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

2230

Well, when you talk about assessing the situation, in our book, let us say that for ourselves at La Régionale, if we happen to need certain types of services or other things, of course we'll start looking in the very area that we are in initially.

2235

And if we are talking about contractors, we will tell them, «Look and see what's available in this very region.» Besides, even if we don't say anything, they will try and find workers within this area and services right here on the spot. But we haven't carried out any further assessment of the situation at this point in time.

THE PRESIDENT:

2240

I also have a question in terms of noise and the nuisance that can be caused by noise. Do you have any kind of diagram where you could see the situation of whatever residences happen to be close to the location of the work that would have to be carried out and the power plant?

2245

But first of all, have you modeled or have you simulated the noise that would be created comparing the present situation and the future situation for whatever houses happen to be close to the site or houses that might be built close to the power station, both in terms of the construction period of course and in terms of the operation of the dam and of the power plant?

2250

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2255

Well, first of all, Madam Chair, I'd like to start with the second part of your question. During the operation of the power plant, well, yes, we've already carried out studies in terms of noise close to different small power plants. And by in large typically, outside the power plant, at a distance of 50 meters or maybe 100 meters, you do hear the noise. It's a background noise. At a

distance, I mean even close to the power plant, there is no major impact of noise during the operation of the power plant.

THE PRESIDENT:

2260

So, how close is the first residence?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2265

Well, the first residence that you see is along route 391. To the north there, you can see it on top of the diagram at approximately 500 meters from the...

THE PRESIDENT:

2270

And the one lower down close to the bank?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2275

Well, these are actually cabins. They are at approximately 350 meters. So, the work that we carried out on site showed us that at a distance of approximately 50 meters, you wouldn't really hear the noise relating to the operation of the power plant.

THE PRESIDENT:

2280

Has that been filed?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2285

I think it is part of the impact assessment study.

THE PRESIDENT:

2290 We'll be looking into this. And you're providing this information in terms of the situation where you were actually operating. But when you carry out the construction work, what kind of assessment have you carried out? Can you tell us about decibels? For instance, in terms of the different types of drilling equipment or the different periods of time when you'd be carrying out the construction work, have you tried to see what impact this might have on the houses that are closer to the work site?

2295 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

Well, Madam Chair, I'd like to come back to the issue of operations. It's part of the impact assessment study on page 93. You have the figures here for the noise level.

2300 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Simulation as well, you have the figures? You're comparing the present situation with a future situation during operation?

2305 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

Yes. Well, we haven't actually simulated this. We've carried out tests in other facilities or close to other facilities.

2310 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, you're talking about power plants that are already operating elsewhere and you figure that, compared to the present situation, there would be no increase in the noise level.

2315 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

Yes, that is the case.

THE PRESIDENT:

2320 As of 50 meters or more.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2325 When I say 50 meters, I mean even ourselves — and I'm coming back here to the work that's been done — this was done very close and the noise level was not increased.

Well yes, Madam Chair, in the impact assessment study on page 92, there is a section that deals with the impact during the construction phase and has been explained, here are the

2330 figures, the numbers. The closest house is at 600 meters from the construction site. And
between the site and the residence, there are a lot of trees, it's a wooded area. And also between
the site and the first cabin, there are approximately 300 meters, this is the distance, there are
trees in between.

2335 So, in our impact assessment study and taking into account the current mitigation
measures, I mean working regular hours, we have come to the conclusion that there is no major
significant impact.

THE PRESIDENT:

2340

Have you also looked at traffic? Route 391 north-west, would there be a lot more traffic, a
lot more trucks on that road?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2345

Well, what's interesting in this project and the location here on the right bank is that almost
all of our needs in terms of the material that have to be transported is already on site. So, there's
very little need to bring in more material.

2350 Of course, we will be transporting equipment but, I mean, that's not all that important.
And most of the trucking will occur between the site and the cofferdam. So, we're not in a
residential area. We don't have to drive through the municipality. It's almost exclusively on site.

THE PRESIDENT:

2355

As for the other residences, for the cabins, these are close to the limits or the boundaries
of the land that might be used by the company for its work. Is there a wooded area in this place?
And have you looked at the impact that we might have depending on the period when the work
occurs in terms of the use that these people might make of these secondary homes and secondary
2360 residences and their lands?

In other words, have you, for instance, come to a conclusion as to the moments, the
times where there will be more nuisance, when you'd be using drilling equipment for instance, or
when you might do blasting, or when there might be more traffic and therefore more dust?

2365

According to your schedule, when would this occur and would this occur at times when
people are in their secondary residences in the summertime?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2370

Well, normally if we can start working next fall, this fall, most of the work that happens to be, say, more noisy, and I'm talking about blasting mostly here, is something that can be done during the wintertime. And therefore as of the following summer, normally we ought to be doing cementing. We wouldn't be doing blasting, not much of it anyway. We wouldn't have to move a lot of trucks and material.

2375

THE PRESIDENT:

Would you be using drilling then?

2380

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

In the wintertime, yes. But normally, not during the summer.

2385

THE PRESIDENT:

What do you expect to use in terms of the equipment? What kind of drills, pneumatic, or air drills, or electric?

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MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

At this point in time, there's no specific constraints that have been spelled out. Evidently, in taking into account the location of this development and the fact that it's pretty far away from the residences, there's no specific constraint that's been identified. And the final method to be used is up to the developer or the contractor.

2395

THE PRESIDENT:

Have you approached these people, the owners of these residences or do you expect to approach these people to deal with the issues linked to the management of your operations and their own use of these homes or residences?

2400

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

I'm not altogether sure, but I do think that there are residences, one or two houses up here...

2405

THE PRESIDENT:

Along the 391?

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MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

2415 Yes, to the right-hand side. And at a meeting, not the BAPE meeting, but the meeting that we held in January of 2001 or rather 2002... wasn't there one of the residents who came to this meeting, one of these? Do you remember, Paul?

THE PRESIDENT:

2420 Yes, go ahead, Mr. Coulombe.

MR. PAUL COULOMBE:

2425 The people who live there are people from Ohio and they come in during the summertime only for approximately... well, say June until September. Then, during the wintertime, their cabins are not used.

THE PRESIDENT:

2430 So, from June to September, the kind of work that you'll be doing, I mean this will not be the noisier types of operations that you'll be carrying out.

2435 I would also like to ask you, has there been an agreement, I'm talking here about traffic and safety, an agreement with Angliers municipality and Notre-Dame-du-Nord municipality? My understanding is that there won't be much transportation of material from outside the site. Most of the material will be taken on site. Nevertheless, there will be some of this type of transportation. So, have you worked with the two municipalities to try and decide how things will be done to make sure that the transportation is done safely or, say, a road safety plan, if you will?

2440 **MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**

2445 Well, normally, Madam Chair, when you start a construction site, you always come up with a program in terms of road safety. And the contractor submits this. This is talked about with representatives from the municipality to make sure, well, depending on the period when the different kinds of work is being done. And they also file a plan in terms of signage. And these plans are developed by the contractor. Normally, people have access to these and the municipality can tell them what they think about it and ask that it be improved.

THE PRESIDENT:

2450 I'll give the floor to my colleague for a few questions.

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

2455 Well, my first question deals with the lowering of the flow rates in the wintertime. And to your knowledge, would this have an impact on the semiaquatic mammals and on the fauna at large, and more specifically on the birds in the wintertime? Have you studied this side of things?

MR. LOUIS BELZILE:

2460

We've looked at the data banks belonging to the Department of the Environment and the FAPAQ that deal with this area and the use by the birds and by the mammals. And we've come to see that, at first glance, there's nothing to indicate that rare species or endangered species happen to be using this milieu to a large extent. So, we don't think that, in the wintertime, this would impact in any major way.

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MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

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My second question deals with the development of the spawning ground. How will you be doing this? What kind of precautions will you be taking to make sure that there will not be a lot of suspended solids or suspended material, and to protect of course the fish farm that is downstream?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2475

Well, I'd like to start off by saying this. Normally, the spawning ground, when we start setting it up... I mean this is a situation where we've done simulations, we've done hydraulic models to try and come up with the characteristics under different flow rates. So, this has been done already and this has allowed us to design the spawning ground.

2480

Now, when we actually start developing it, all of the structures that require landfill, say the cofferdams and so forth, I mean we do expect to have confinement curtains to make sure... What needs to be understood is that the spawning ground itself, I mean the material that you will be using, there's material that's fill, probably the rock that we will have blasted and, of course, this is clean.

2485

However, at the surface level, we want to be using a substrate with a granulometry that is in line with the environment. So, we usually use something that's quite clean. There are no fibers, no particles. So, normally, everything that we intend to need in terms of fill will be protected by this curtain.

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MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

2495 When you start developing this, you will be very close to the secondary residences or the cabins, the summer camps. So, I guess you don't expect there will be much nuisance for people who are there?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2500 Here on the diagram, the project with the construction site, the shadowed area in the aquatic milieu, that's the spawning area. This area is about 150 meters from the summer camps with a wooded area of about 100 meters between the residences and the spawning area.

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

2505 So, that's all for me.

THE PRESIDENT:

2510 In your assessment report, page 5, you said that Hydro-Québec...

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

2515 Green credits, well, Hydro-Québec told us that they were theirs.

THE PRESIDENT:

How do you evaluate your green credits?

2520 **MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:**

2525 Well, this is a question.. well, can I say it in English, because I'm not very fluent in French. When we evaluate green credits, it depends on the alternative source of energy that you have to use.

In Quebec, you have... now, you're going to have gas. So, your credits aren't quite so valuable simply because they don't give off as many greenhouse gases. You also have oil at Tracy and some other places. And if that becomes your alternative, then your green credits are worth more. But even with a negotiation, we didn't get the green credits.

2530

THE PRESIDENT:

2535 In PR-3.1, page 2, you talk about the main objective of the project for La Régionale is to operate a power station at «barrage» Des Quinze. That's the main objective. Are there any other objectives?

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

2540 Well, what we're doing is developing hydro projects and that's all we do. We did about some ten projects so far and we will do more. We have a contract in B.C. But the purpose is to do them and bring them into operation and operate them ourselves.

THE PRESIDENT:

2545 So, when you say your main objective, it's the main objective of the business and not the main objective of this particular project. This project is basically meant to produce power energy.

MR. COLIN C. COOLICAN:

2550 Yes, that's it.

MR. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, Commissioner :

2555 Another question. Concerning the spawning area, on your diagram, the location of the spawning area, it does not correspond to the site indicated in figure 1, appendix 5 of the impact study. On this diagram in appendix, it's more downstream. It's located more downstream according to the appendix.

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

2560 Indeed. Well, basically, the impact study that was filed dates back to early 2002. The concept evolved a little bit. We modified it, we improve on it because we found better surveying data on local configuration. And we also made computerized modeling to better position ourselves. So, the most updated version is the one that we are presenting today.

2565

THE PRESIDENT:

2570 We understand that everything that has changed since the documents we have received will be updated?

MR. GILLES BOURGEOIS:

Yes.

2575 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, I will close this first part of the public hearing immediately. So, you are invited, as I said this afternoon, to the second part of this public hearing. It allows the citizens to take position with regard to the project.

2580

The Commission will be hearing the opinions of all those who wish to do so next May 28th at 1:00 P.M. in this same room here at the Angliers church. And we ask you to tell us as soon as possible... or to the coordinator, Madam Rochette, to express your intent to submit a brief. It does facilitate the logistics concerning the room and so on.

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As for the second part of the hearing, the way it will work is that we will question you. We will ask you questions on your brief. It could be to ask you to clarify certain aspects or in what you are presenting as opinions, to clarify certain aspects which, in our opinion, would deserve further probing to better understand them.

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So, that's why we ask you to advise the coordinator that you will be submitting one and to send your brief before May 23rd, because we read all the documents, we look at everything. And particularly the briefs, we will read all of them and we'll have enough preparation time to develop a good understanding of the opinions.

2595

Also, take advantage of the information you have received during those two sessions today and take advantage of the information that will continue to be filed as part of the investigation, and those stored at the documentation centers, to allow you not only to develop a better understanding but to be able to enhance the project.

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The principle behind the public hearings allows for that also, to make suggestions with a view to enhancing the whole project. Any project can evolve and can be improved upon. And this is in the context in which we will be looking at your position and also see how we will be dealing with it when we come to write our report.

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As I said this afternoon as well, you will be able to make a verbal presentation if you wish. And in this case, you will have to advise the coordinator of your intent to do so.

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Concerning the writing of the briefs, we do have tools that the coordinators and documentations can provide you with. It's a procedure to develop and present a brief, if it can be helpful for you, how to write it, how to present it.

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Possibly, your brief may have many pages, 15, 20 pages and more, and along with appendixes. What we suggest is that when you come to present your briefs, you will have 15 minutes to present your brief and then we have time, us, to ask you questions on your brief. So,

2620 if ever your brief is bulky, many pages, we suggest that you make a summary of the most important items that you want to raise. We will have read your brief and we'll be able to ask you questions on your whole brief, on the entirety of the brief. So, you're allocated 15 minutes to express your opinions, after which we will ask you questions on your whole brief, on the full document. So, we have a guide for writing briefs.

2625 So, the room will be arranged a bit differently for the second part. There would be no more tables for the promoters and resource people. Everybody will be in the room, but the second part will be used for the Commission to hear the public.

Now, we have asked all our questions, but the second part is for your opinion. So, the Commission will be sharing directly with you on the different aspects of your opinions regarding this project.

2630 Another difference is what we call a right to correct the facts granted to promoters and resource people. I mean to correct the facts, meaning that people won't be able to come and rectify or modify opinions. Opinions are yours. You're free to present them, but there can be no correction of opinions. If you say, «I believe this or that and I don't agree», so you cannot correct other people's opinions. But if you say that, «My home is at 200 meters and not at 500», this is what we call correcting the facts. So, this is the right that is granted to the people, to correct the facts. That's how we will proceed for the second part of the public hearing.

2640 I would like now to thank all the people who attended, the BAPE staff, my colleagues from the BAPE. I would like to thank the resource people, those who have been used a lot and those who have been used less. It doesn't mean that they won't be used again in the future, because we will continue to process questions.

2645 I would like to thank the support staff from the MRC and BAPE, also thank the people from Angliers who welcomed us in their premises, the promoter and his team, our interpreters and all the support staff. But first and foremost, I would like to thank you for your participation, for your attendance.

2650 We came to your place because we want to hear you. Of course, the first part is more straight or more formal, because we need to get all the information so that we will be able to do our job in the second part. So, we will be happy to come again in May to hear your opinions on the project.

So, thank you a lot and see you in a month from now.

2655 *****

2660 Je, soussignée, **LISE MAISONNEUVE**, sténographe judiciaire, certifiée sous mon serment d'office que les pages ci-dessus sont et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des notes sténographiques prises par moi au moyen du sténomasque, le tout conformément à la Loi.

ET J'AI SIGNÉ:

LISE MAISONNEUVE, s.o.

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