

The stakes related to seismic surveys in the St. Lawrence Gulf and Estuary

BEGINNING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS

ON APRIL 13, 2004

Québec City, April 6, 2004 – The commission of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE), composed of Michel Germain, president, and Pierre André and Jacques Locat, commissioners, continues the first part of its public hearing on the stakes involved in seismic surveys in the St. Lawrence gulf and estuary with a visit in the **Magdalen Islands on April 13, 2004, at 7 p.m.** The public hearings, held at the Cap-aux-Meules civic centre, located at 460, chemin Principal, may extend past April 13, depending on the needs of the public and the commission.

A TWO-PART HEARING

1. Getting information

The first part of the hearing, attended by the experts convened to answer questions by the participants, will enable the public and the commission to get as much information as possible about seismic surveying and to consider the related issues.

Note that a live audio broadcast of all the sessions of the first part of the hearing will be available at the BAPE website at **www.bape.gouv.qc.ca**. Questions may also be sent to the commission on-line. The commission will collate these questions for use for its question period and the public question period.

2. Expressing your opinion

During the second part of the public hearing, scheduled to begin May 18, 2004, the commission will gather opinions and suggestions from the public. It will hear any individual, organization, group or municipality wishing to voice an opinion on the subject, whether as a brief or an oral presentation.

The BAPE's mandate began on March 15, 2004, and will end with tabling of its report with Environment Minister Thomas J. Mulcair, by August 31, 2004 at the latest. The Minister then has 60 days to release the report.

WHERE TO CONSULT THE DOCUMENTATION?

All documents pertaining to the file are available at the BAPE documentation centres in Québec City (Bureau du BAPE, Édifice Lomer-Gouin, 575, rue Saint-Amable, 2^e étage) and Montréal (Bibliothèque centrale de l'Université du Québec à Montréal, 1255, rue Saint-Denis), on the BAPE website at www.bape.gouv.qc.ca and at the reading rooms in the communities visited by the commission. For the Magdalen Islands, the reading room is located at the Cap-aux-Meules municipal library, at 315, chemin Principal.

For more information, contact Danielle Dallaire, coordinator of the commission secretariat, or Marie-Ève Chamberland, communications consultant, at (418) 643-7447 or toll-free at 1-800-463-4732. You can also reach the commission by e-mail at sismiques@bape.gouv.qc.ca.

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