

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

**THE COMMISSION WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS IN GASPÉ
STARTING APRIL 19 AND IN SEPT-ÎLES STARTING APRIL 21**

Québec City, April 13, 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 hearings on issues related to seismic surveying in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence with a visit to **Gaspé on April 19, 2004, at 7 p.m.** The public hearings will be held at the **Hector-Denis and Émilie rooms of Hôtel des Commandants, located at 178, rue de la Reine in Gaspé.** The hearings may carry over to the next day, depending on the needs of the public and the commission.

The commission will then move on to **Sept-Îles, where the hearings will begin on April 21, at 7 p.m.** If necessary, the hearings will continue the next day at 1 and 7 p.m. They will be held at the **Corrosol room of Hôtel Sept-Îles, located at 451, rue Arnaud.**

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 IS 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 **Gaspé** region, the reading room is located at the library of Cégep de la Gaspésie, located at 96, Jacques-Cartier in Gaspé. In addition, free Internet access to the BAPE website is available at the library of the Vieux-Couvent de New Richmond, located at 99, place Suzanne-Guité, in New Richmond.

For the **North Shore** region, the reading room is located at Bibliothèque Louis-Ange-Santerre, 500, rue Jolliet in Sept-Îles. In addition, free Internet access to the BAPE website is available at Alice-Lane municipal library, located at 6, avenue Radisson in Baie-Comeau, and at Tadoussac city hall, at 162, rue des Jésuites.

For more information, contact Danielle Dallaire, coordinator of the commission secretariat, or Marie-Ève Chamberland, communications advisor, 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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