

Traduction

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

THE COMMISSION INVITES CITIZENS TO VOICE THEIR OPINION

AS OF MAY 18, 2004

Québec City, May 4, 2004 – The Commission of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) will begin the second part of the public hearing on the stakes related to seismic surveys in the St. Lawrence Gulf and Estuary in **Québec City on May 18, 2004, at 7 p.m., and May 19, 2004, at 1 p.m.** The scheduled sessions will take place at the salle Bergenia, 2955, boul. Laurier, Sainte-Foy–Sillery borough.

The Commission will also hold hearings at the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, on May 26, 2004, at 7 p.m. (local time), and on May 27, 2004, at 1 p.m. (local time). The sessions will take place at the Centre civique de Cap-aux-Meules, 460 chemin Principal.

Citizens, groups, organizations and municipalities wishing to voice their opinion can present a brief, do a live presentation by telephone, or give an oral presentation before the Commission at the locations and times referred to above.

To ensure effective session planning, anyone wishing to express a point of view, either in the form of a brief or orally, is asked to inform the coordinator of the Commission's secretariat, Danielle Dallaire, as soon as possible, by calling (418) 643-7447, extension 422, or toll free at 1-800-463-4732.

PRESENTING AND SUBMITTING BRIEFS

To ensure that briefs are read by the Commission prior to the public hearing, briefs for presentation should be clearly identified with the project title and submitted **no later than May 14, 2004**, to BAPE's secretariat, 575 rue Saint-Amable, suite 2.10, Québec City, G1R 6A6, for the attention of **Danielle Dallaire**.

Anyone wishing to submit a brief by e-mail should forward it to sismiques@bape.gouv.qc.ca. An original copy must follow by regular mail. Copies of the briefs will be posted on the Commission Web site as soon as they are released by the Commission.

TIPS FOR PREPARING A BRIEF

A brief is a communication tool designed to express opinions on or concerns about a given topic. It also provides an opportunity to develop and clarify the arguments underlying this viewpoint. As a rule, a brief should contain the following elements: a short introduction of the individual, group, organization or municipality submitting the brief; a short explanation of the author's interest in the subject; and subject-related concerns and opinions. A participant may choose to present an orally expressed view instead of a brief. The oral opinion should contain the same elements as a brief.

These tips are given by way of indication only and are available in question form at the Commission Web site in : *English information -- How to participate* section.

WHERE TO CONSULT THE DOCUMENTATION?

All documents pertaining to the file are available at the BAPE documentation centres in Québec City, at the Université du Québec à Montréal's main library, and at the following locations:

- Université du Québec à Rimouski's library ;
- Cégep de la Gaspésie library, 96, Jacques-Cartier, Gaspé ;
- Cap-aux-Meules municipal library, 315 chemin Principal, Îles-de-la-Madeleine ;
- Louis-Ange-Santerre library, 500 rue Jolliet, Sept-Îles.

You can access BAPE's Web site at www.bape.gouv.qc.ca at any time. It contains the file and all the documents tabled by the Commission throughout the mandate. The stages of the consultation will be posted at the Commission Web site under the heading *À surveiller*. Free Internet access to the BAPE Web site is available at the following locations:

- Matane municipal library (Fonds de solidarité FTQ), 520 avenue Saint-Jérôme ;
- Vieux-Couvent library, 99 place Suzanne-Guité, New Richmond ;
- Alice-Lane municipal library, 6 avenue Radisson, Baie-Comeau ;
- Tadoussac city hall, 162 rue des Jésuites.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS FUNDAMENTAL

Public participation is fundamental to the Commission. It provides an opportunity to hear arguments, opinions and suggestions from participants before the drafting of the report to be submitted to the Minister of the Environment, Thomas J. Mulcair, no later than August 31, 2004. The report will examine, among other things, the stakes and proposed solutions identified by the *Expert Committee on Environmental Stakes Associated with Seismic Surveys in the St. Lawrence Gulf and Estuary*, as well as recommendations for promoting sustainable development.

For more information, contact Marie-Ève Chamberland, Communications Advisor, at (418) 643-7447, extension 533, or toll-free at 1-800-463-4732, or by e-mail at sismiques@bape.gouv.qc.ca.

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