

MINUTES

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE HYBRID POWER PLANT PROJECT

(Adopted)

DATE January 11, 2022

PLACE Videoconference (Teams)

PARTICIPANTS

COMEX

Luc Lainé, Chairman
Daniel Berrouard
Robert Joly
John Paul Murdoch

KWREC

Matthew Mukash, President
Anthony Ittoshat, Vice-president
Jean Schiettekatte, Project Director
Jimmy Royer, Renewable Energy Advisor
Sam W. Gull, Consultation Advisor
Yves-André Bureau, Corporate Secretary
Guy Morin
Alex Kibale, Ikayu Energy
Larent Abbatiello, Tugliq Energy Corporation
Marjolaine Castonguay, Project Director,
- PESCA Environment
Matthieu Féret, Project Manager,
- PESCA Environment

Project analysts:

Cynthia Marchildon (MELCC)
Vincent Boucher (MELCC)
Kelly Leblanc, Cree Nation Government
Erica Guth, Cree Nation Government

Executive secretary:

Sophie Cooper

1) OPENING OF THE MEETING

The preparatory meeting begins on January 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. All invited participants are present. Participants are invited to briefly introduce themselves.

The following agenda is proposed:

- Introduction by the COMEX chairman
 - Update on the COMEX analysis of the project
 - Conduct of the public hearing
- Presentation by the proponent
 - Status of the proponent's preparation for the public hearing
 - Possibility of organizing a rehearsal meeting
- Post hearing
- Publication of documents produced by the proponent
- Questions and comments (if needed)

2) INTRODUCTION BY THE COMEX CHAIRMAN

The meeting begins with the announcement that due the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the COMEX has decided to postpone the public hearing at Whapmagoostui to Wednesday, February 23, 2022. COVID-19 protocol for the Eeyou Istchee region (as of January 11, 2022) currently prohibits all indoor or outdoor private gatherings with people who aren't members of the immediate household and prohibits intercommunity travel within Eeyou Istchee. Furthermore, most administrative offices are closed until further notice. The postponement of the public hearing is discussed throughout the meeting.

COMEX Chairman presents a summary of the steps in the environmental and social impact assessment procedure as well as the Review Committee's administrative framework and mandate.

2.1 AGENDA FOR THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

The planned order of events at the public hearing is as follows:

- Opening prayer by an elder
- Opening remarks by the Chief
- Opening of the public hearing
 - Chairman's message
 - Presentation of the COMEX, members, and mandate
- Presentation of the project by the proponent
- Question period from the public and COMEX
- Break
- Presentation of briefs and comments by the public
- End of the public hearing (Chairman's message)

If necessary and depending on the number of questions and comments raised by the public, the public hearing could be extended into the evening.

Anthony Ittoshat, Mayor of Kuujjuarapik, wishes to also address the public during the hearing, after Chief Robbie Kawapit. The COMEX have no objection to this request.

Representatives for KWREC express their disappointment with the COMEX's decision to postpone the public hearing. They recommend that the COMEX hold the public hearing on January 26, 2022, as previously announced, and suggest that the COMEX organize a 100% virtual public hearing. They also suggest that COMEX find a third-party to represent them during the public hearing in Whapmagoostui. The KWREC's team mentions that they have carried out several virtual public consultations last year under a similar context.

They note that postponing the hearing will delay the project by a full year which will have important environmental and financial consequences. Financially, the anticipated increase in interest rates as well as an increase of the total price of the project (ex., equipment and labour) will translate into less return for the project shareholders, such as the Cree and Inuit communities. Environmentally, the delay would mean that the community of Whapmagoostui would remain 100% depend on fossil fuel-based generators for an additional year resulting in the emission of 3,000 to 4,000 tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

Anthony Ittoshat reminds the Committee members that for them to attend the public hearing in Whapmagoostui, they must arrive via the airport and stay at the hotel based in Kuujjuarapik. Currently, Kuujjuarapik follows a different COVID-19 protocol than the one imposed in the Eeyou Istchee region. He states that if the COMEX insists on attending the public hearing in-person, then he agrees with the COMEX's decision to postpone the hearing until the end of February.

The KWREC team continues stating that they believe that the current incertitude related to the pandemic does not warrant postponing by a full month the public hearing on the hope that the COMEX members will be able to attend the hearing in person. They also believe that the postponement will have an adverse effect on the attendance of participants. They reiterate that the COMEX must maintain the January date so that the Review Committee can issue its recommendation before March 31, 2022. A suggestion is made that if a delay is necessary, to only postpone the public hearing by 1 or 2 weeks.

In response to the concerns expressed by the KWREC team, COMEX informs the proponent that preparation of the final analysis report has begun since December. The final analysis report will be quickly revised and finalized after the public hearing.

COMEX informs the proponent their need to hold a public hearing is not a criticism of the consultations meeting conducted by the proponent. However, information and analysis conducted by various ministries and organizations show that the information provided by the proponent to date meets the conditions for holding a public hearing.

A public hearing allows the COMEX to gather information regarding the social acceptability of the project within the community. This information is important notably for projects as unique as the one being proposed by the proponent: 1) first wind farm project

in the Eeyou Istchee region; 2) joint project between Cree-Inuit communities; 3) largely community funded project. COMEX wants to ensure that it has all the required information to make an informed recommendation to the Regional Administrator.

COMEX will deliberate after this preparatory meeting to discuss the concerns expressed by the KWREC team. They will also closely monitor the situation regarding the pandemic and following all recommendation presented by the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, as well as any recommendations presented by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services. COMEX will inform the proponent of its decision and, if necessary, will issue an official announcement for the postponement of the public hearing in Whapmagoostui on its website as well as on its social network accounts and various local media (ex., local radio station).

3) PRESENTATION BY THE PROPONENT

The proponent wishes to present an updated version of one or two PowerPoint presentations that were used during their consultation meetings within the community. They would also like to show a video created and produced by Benjamin Matsy describing the project. They also mention that they would like Benjamin Matsy to represent them during the public hearing, as well as someone from the Inuit community, and reiterate that the COMEX should find a third-party to represent them during the hearing.

KWREC's presentation on its project will be up to 1.5 hours. It will be performed in English, Cree and Inuktitut.

A rehearsal meeting is suggested to ensure the smooth running of the public hearing in virtual mode. The proponent sees no need for a rehearsal as they have ample experience holding virtual consultations.

Nonetheless, COMEX will hold a rehearsal meeting with the community representatives of Whapmagoostui. Participants will be able to test their camera, sound, PowerPoint presentation, etc. An external consultant will also be present to verify the configurations of each participant, answer technical questions and provide advice (ex., having the proper bandwidth), as needed, to ensure the smooth running of the hearings. The proponent will also need to communicate the names and contact information of the persons from his organization who will be present at the hearings to the executive secretary of COMEX so that the invitation can also be sent to them.

COMEX asked the proponent questions regarding their agreement with Hydro-Québec. The KWREC team suggest the COMEX contact Hydro-Québec regarding the agreement between them. They also suggest inviting Hydro-Québec to join in the public hearing to answer any technical questions regarding connecting the wind turbines to the sub-station run by Hydro-Québec.

COMEX asked whether the proponent had discussed with the community the possibility and consequences of infrasound, low frequency sounds, being emitted from the wind turbines. The proponent and the representatives from PESCA Environment state that this subject was discussed in the report.

COMEX suggests additional visual representations of the project may be necessary to allow the public to fully understand the size of the wind turbines and how they may alter the landscape. The proponent may update some maps and photos.

COMEX suggest that the proponent update the timeline of their project to reflect the new date for the public hearing. The proponent does not wish to update their project timeline and reiterates that they would appreciate that the COMEX respect the March 31, 2022, deadline.

4) POST HEARINGS

Within 30 days following the public hearings, that is until March 23, 2022, the public can send their comments or briefs on the project to the Review Committee's executive secretary.

When the 30-day period is completed, the COMEX will be able to take note of the comments received, finalize the analysis of the project and, possibly, issue a recommendation on this project to the Regional Administrator of Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Representatives from KWREC reiterate their disappointment at the delay the postponement will on the implementation of the project.

5) PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THE PROPONENT

COMEX wants the public hearing process to be credible and transparent. Thus, all documents related to this project are available on its website for consultation at the following address: <https://comexqc.ca/en/>. A link to the proponent's website has also been included on the COMEX website page for this project. The proponent is invited to make available to the public all the documents related to this project on his website. Note the summary report for the preparatory meeting and the proponent's presentation at the public hearing will also be made available.