

EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV)

Whapmagoostui New Solid Waste Disposal Site

N/Réf : 3214-16-099

Directive for the preparation of the environmental and social
impact assessment

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1. INTRODUCTION

Whapmagoostui currently uses a waste disposal facility located on Category 1 Inuit land, in partnership with Kuujjuarapik. The current site is about to reach the limits of its capacity, which requires the development of a new site for solid waste management. Kuujjuarapik and Whapmagoostui councils have passed resolutions approving the new site, approving that Whapmagoostui will act as the leader in this project and approving the formation of a technical committee composed of both parties to oversee the project. The two communities will eventually sign an agreement for the completion and operation of the project.

A document titled “New Solid Waste Disposal site - Preliminary information” was submitted by the Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui to the Regional Administrator on August 28th, 2017, and subsequently transmitted to COMEV on August 29th, 2017. The project is automatically subject to assessment, per Schedule 1 5.b) of Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Restoration of the current site located on Category I Inuit lands will be the responsibility of Kuujjuarapik and the Kativik Regional Government. However, given that it is important to have an overall picture of waste management, questions on this subject are included in this document and it will be their responsibility to obtain the required authorizations from the provincial administrator.

1.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The proponent will provide the agreement with the community of Kuujjuarapik. The proponent will also present the laws and regulations related to waste management for the four levels of government (local, regional, provincial and federal) as well as the legal framework applicable to the project. The policies and guidelines should also be presented. He will explain how this legal framework will be respected throughout the construction, operation and closure of the landfill site. The proponent will present, with adequate mapping, the different categories of land, jurisdictions, and applicable authorities.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 CONTEXT, OBJECTIVE AND JUSTIFICATION

To adequately describe the context, objective and justification of the project, the proponent will need to address the following:

- Presentation of the proponent and his consultant;
- Supporting documentation (i.e. resolutions) and a clear description of the role of each community in this project;
- The need that the project is responding to;
 - the different forms of waste generated by Whapmagoostui & Kuujjuarapik;
 - the current waste disposal system used by Whapmagoostui & Kuujjuarapik;
- The approach concerning the reduction at the source, the reuse, the recycling and the valorization of the residual materials;
- The projected needs of the community in relation to waste disposal (provide data on the population this site will serve); how the project fits within the community plans and integrates with future development in the area and the current trends with respect to population growth for both communities;
- How the project relates to local and regional policies with respect to waste management;
- How the project takes into account the experience acquired by the Southern Cree communities and by the Northern Inuit communities, taking into consideration that the two communities are not connected to the Québec road network.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES

2.2.1 SITE SELECTION ALTERNATIVE

The preliminary information provided by the proponent indicates that several alternative sites were the subject of a comparative analysis and of consultations with area users. The proponent will describe the operating potential of each site assessed and prepare a comparative analysis of these sites covering both the applicable regulations and the economic, technical, social and environmental criteria used. The proponent will identify and justify the final choice for the location of the planned waste disposal site compared to the alternatives assessed.

2.2.2 TECHNOLOGICAL AND LOGISTICAL ALTERNATIVES

The proponent should also evaluate technological and logistical variants of the project. This should include but is not limited to:

- Project access roads;
- Technological variants for waste disposal.

2.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proponent will provide a complete description of the project, including how it will develop and manage the new site. It will include the following:

- The site's location on a topographic map at an appropriate scale (1/20,000, if possible), indicating the proximity of rivers and water bodies, homes, camps, runways, etc.;
- Access to the site (access road, land user safety, fencing, opening hours, etc.), specifying the existing accesses and those to be built or to be decommissioned;
- Site visibility from the road;
- Location of borrow pits (past and current) in the project area for the required road materials for the access road, specifying their surface area, the volume of material required and the necessary restoration works;
- A development plan, to scale, of the entire site, identifying the various components and their respective dimensions (roads within the site perimeter, cleared perimeter, in-trench landfill areas, recyclable materials area, lagoons for septic tank sludge, ELV and bulky waste storage and disposal etc.);
- The number of trenches, their depth, the covering of wastes, the depth of the water table and other relevant hydro-geological information, the nature of the materials in place;
- The total area of the site including the surrounding cleared 15-meter band;
- The site capacity (lifespan);
- The possibilities for expansion;
- The types of waste to be transported;
- Possible arrangements for storing, recycling and waste diversion;
- The methods of waste transport and frequency;
- For any septic tank sludge that may be directed to the site, the proponent should indicate the surface area, facilities and equipment that will be required for processing;
- The work schedule, employment, training and costs of construction and operation of the site;
- The role of each community in the construction, operation and closure phases of the new site;
- The lifespan of the new site that is to be opened as well as a closure plan;
- The composition and mandate of the *Technical Committee* mentioned in the preliminary information.

2.4 DECOMMISSIONING AND REHABILITATION OF THE EXISTING SITES

To provide a global picture of the situation, the proponent will need to provide an overview of the measures implemented for the restoration and closure of the old waste disposal site and the old ELV storage sites. Details should be provided on the roles of each community in these projects. The proponent will submit the relevant information on the measures for decommissioning and redeveloping the old site. To this end, it must provide a plan for dismantling and restoring the old site and the expected schedule for achieving this once the new landfill is operational. The proponent will indicate whether the old site contains recyclable materials that could be recovered and how the old site will be monitored to ensure that no more solid wastes are deposited there. This section is for information purpose only.

3. DESCRIPTION OF RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

The proponent will justify the delimitation of the study zone where the project could generate impacts. The study zone may change according to the biophysical or socio-cultural components and impacts studied.

The proponent will need to demonstrate a thorough understanding and analysis of the biophysical and social environment into which the project will be inserted, and specifically those elements that could be impacted by the project. Therefore, the proponent should prioritize the identification and description of the biophysical and socio-economic valued components (including those of traditional, scientific, social, cultural, and economic importance) that will be impacted by the project. A complete description of the environment is required and should include:

- Local weather conditions, current and long-term prediction;
- The present and post project occupation and use of the territory within the study zone;
- The ambient air (dust, odors present) and characterization of prevailing winds;
- The noise and possible mitigation of its consequences (i.e. interruption of hunting schedules, damages or dangers created for traditional camps);
- The lakes and watercourses network (hydrography) are in risk from being affected by the project;
- The vegetation cover around the future waste disposal site and the access road;
- Rare or threatened species that are present within the perimeter and that are in potential risk of being affected by the project;
- The wildlife and wildlife habitat that could be affected by the project;
- The environmental and social value of the sites from the standpoint of the tallymen concerned;
- The Cree and Inuit land use within the study zone;
- The presence of protected areas within the affected zone;
- Archaeological potential of the site with accompanying survey results and recommendations for protection or excavation;
- The community's development plan and how the current project fits within it.

4. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

The proponent must identify and assess the impacts that will be caused both during the construction phase of the new waste site and in the operational phase. If applicable, the proponent will include and explain the methodology and criteria used to identify and assess the environmental and social impacts of the project. It will assess the following impacts in particular:

- Impacts of natural disturbance and climate on the project (i.e. naturally occurring fire);
- Nuisance risks (noise, dust, odors, pests) and their effects on nearby land users;
- Air pollution, targeting in particular those with a significant impact on the environment and its users health;
- The risk of contamination to streams, water bodies and groundwater in the construction, operational and closure phases;
- Changes or adjustments the tallymen will have to make to the trapline affected by the project;
- Impacts on the visual environment from the intrusion of new elements and changes to the aesthetic quality of the landscape;
- Impacts on wildlife near the site (terrestrial, aquatic and avian) and potential ways of avoiding the impacts on the wildlife;
- Effects on plant species, especially those at risk or of special interest to the Crees and the Inuits (i.e. medicinal plants);
- Impacts on land use, occupancy and access to hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering territories for the Crees and Inuit;
- Impacts of climate change on the project.

The proponent should provide mitigation measures to address the identified impacts, or justify the absence of mitigation measures. Mitigation measures should target to reduce risks associated with the project at an acceptable level. Each of these efforts should be aimed at the best possible integration of the project into the receiving environment.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMS

This chapter is intended to specify the procedures for the design and implementation of monitoring and follow-up programs related to the project. The proponent will address the issues of groundwater quality.

5.1 MONITORING PROGRAM

The proponent will describe the surveillance and monitoring program that will put in place to ensure compliance with the measures proposed in the environmental impact study. These programs will help ensure that measures are properly implemented and that they are effective, during the construction, operational and closure phases.

The monitoring program should include the measures that the proponent will take to control the nature of the waste that will be transported to the disposal site, as well as the disposal methods.

5.2 FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM

An environmental follow-up program must be developed in the event that aspects of risk or uncertainty are identified in the environmental impact study. This program will verify the accuracy of the assessment and determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. This program must cover the parameters studied, the methodology used, the frequency and duration of observations, and the type and number of follow-up reports that will be provided to both Councils and the Administrator.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The proponent should dedicate a section of the study to presenting and analyzing the results of public consultations held concerning this project. The proponent should provide details of these consultations including the methodology used to achieve the goal of public participation, the dates of consultations, the people and organizations consulted, and the concerns expressed. A special section of the study should be dedicated to consultations with the families on whose trapline the project is located and whose land use could be affected by the project. In all cases the proponent should be able to clearly and accurately describe the perceptions of the project, including input about mitigations measures.

Finally, the proponent should explain how communication with the public regarding the project will be sustained throughout the construction and operation of the new waste disposal site.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE IMPACT STUDY

The impact study must be presented in a clear and concise manner and limited to the information relevant to understanding the project and its impacts. Whenever possible, information should be summarized in the form of drawings or maps, at an appropriate scale. The various components of the project should be included on both thematic maps and summary maps. Whenever possible, information should be analyzed considering the appropriate documentation.

To facilitate the comprehension, a glossary should be provided defining all technical terms, abbreviations and acronyms. The proponent should also provide a summary document, with the target audience being the public. The summary should be detailed enough to provide a general understanding of the project, the impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and conclusions.

We encourage the proponent to use photographs to illustrate the highlights of the study. The proponent should also evaluate the availability and quality of data used. References should be provided for all sources of information. In addition, the methods used to carry out the impact assessment (inventory, comparative analysis, etc.) and information from traditional and local knowledge should be presented and explained. Environmental inventories should include the details required to assess their quality (station locations, inventory dates, techniques used, limitations), and involve the Crees. References must be supplied for all sources of information. The name, profession and position of those responsible for conducting the study should be indicated.

When submitting its impact study, the proponent must provide at least 20 copies of all documents and five electronic copies in PDF format (Portage Document Format). The summary document should be provided in both English and French.