

**CONVENTION DE LA BAIE-JAMES
ET DU NORD QUÉBÉCOIS**

**COMITÉ D'EXAMEN DES RÉPERCUSSIONS
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE MILIEU SOCIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT
REVIEW COMMITTEE**

WERE PRESENT: Mr. LUC LAINÉ, Chairman
 Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, member
 Mr. ROBERT JOLY, member
 Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, member
 Ms. SOPHIE COOPER, Executive Secretary

**AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE / PUBLIC HEARING
SUR LE PROJET DE CENTRALE D'ÉNERGIE HYBRIDE
WHAPMAGOOSTUI KUUJJUARAAPIK HYBRID POWER PLANT PROJECT**

VOLUME 1

Session held in person in Whapmagoostui
and online via ZOOM

February 23, 2022, at 13:00

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SESSION OF FEBRUARY 23, 2022

OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN	1
[OPENING PRAYER IN CREE]	
OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE COMEX EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	2
OPENING SPEECH FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....	7

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT BY THE PROPONENT

Mr. Benjamin Matsy.....	9
-------------------------	---

SHORT RECESS

RESUMPTION

OPENING COMMENTS FROM MR. ANTHONY ITTOSHAT, MAYOR OF KUUJJUARAAPIK	17
---	----

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. EDDIE MATSY SENIOR.....	20
Mr. MATTHEW MUKASH.....	21

SHORT RECESS

RESUMPTION

QUESTION PERIOD (continued)

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER.....	31
Mr. ROBERT JOLY, MEMBER.....	35
Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER.....	45
Mr. MATTHEW MUKASH.....	49

SHORT RECESS

RESUMPTION

QUESTION PERIOD (continued)

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER.....	52
Mr. SAM W. GULL.....	58
Mr. JOSEPH GEORGE SENIOR.....	60

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

SHORT RECESS
RESUMPTION

QUESTION PERIOD (continued)

Mr. MATHIEU FÉRET.....	66
Mr. JOHN SHEM.....	70
MR. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER.....	75
MR. ROBERT JOLY, MEMBER.....	81
Ms. JADE.....	86
Mr. SAM W. GULL.....	88
Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD.....	91
Mr. ROBERT JOLY.....	94
Mr. MATTHEW MUKASH.....	97

SHORT RECESS
RESUMPTION

QUESTION PERIOD (continued)

Mr. GEORGE E. PACHANO.....	105
CLOSING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....	109
CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE ELDER (IN CREE).....	109

ADJOURNMENT

FEBRUARY 23, 2022
AFTERNOON SESSION

THE CHAIRMAN:

5

Good afternoon, everybody, good afternoon. May I have your attention, please? My name is Luc Lainé, I am the chair of COMEX. COMEX is the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee, and I would like to start in saying thank you to the people of Whapmagoostui for welcoming us on their territory and agreeing to host this public hearing. Thank you.

10

To begin, based on your own protocol and traditions, I would like to call upon Elder Samson Petagumskum to open the public hearing with a prayer. Elder, please.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

15

If we could turn off our cameras, please.

ELDER SAMSON PETAGUMSKUM:

20

[Opening prayer in Cree]

THE CHAIRMAN:

25

Miigwech, Miigwech, Elder, and on those good words, I would like to invite the Executive Secretary of the COMEX, Mrs. Sophie Cooper. Sophie will provide us with the guidelines for this public hearing. Sophie, please.

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS FROM Ms. SOPHIE COOPER,
COMEX EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

30

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

35

Yes. Hello everyone. So, as the Chairman, Luc Lainé said, my name is Sophie Cooper. I am the executive secretary of COMEX, and I welcome you to this public hearing for the Hybrid Power Plant Project. Before we begin, I would like to discuss some guidelines.

40

Due to the restrictions in place related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public hearing will be presented in a hybrid format, both in person in Whapmagoostui and virtually via Zoom. The public from both the Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuaraapik communities will have the opportunity to attend the public hearing, in person, at the gathering place in Whapmagoostui.

45

For those attending in person, we ask that you respect all COVID-19 protocols, such as handwashing, proper mask wearing, and social distancing. Also, although we are providing snacks and refreshments, we would ask that you, once you've grabbed your snack, that you go, please, return to your seat and remain seated, in order to enjoy your snack.

50

When asking a question or making a comment during the question period, please look into the camera, and clearly state your full name, and whether you are from Whapmagoostui or Kuujjuaraapik. English into Cree translation will be offered on the floor. I regret that we couldn't find any translators for the Inuktitut, so, sorry for that. We apologize.

55

For those participating virtually via the Zoom link, please note that a waiting room has been set up, and that you can only gain access to the Zoom session after you have provided your full name and location, or group, or the group that you're affiliated with. Once a participant has entered a Zoom session, please keep your cameras and microphones closed at all times.

For those on Zoom, if you wish to ask a question or make a comment during the question period, please send your question to the chat editor, but you can find that in the chat section of the Zoom. Any comment or question that is asked in the regular chat will be ignored, so you must send

60 your questions to the chat editor. And then – and this is for the Chairman – those questions will be forwarded to the Chairman, who will have to check his chat for your questions.

So, also, if you do wish to speak, you can also use the raise your hand icon, but we would rather prefer that if you have a question, to use the chat editor. To indicate that it's your turn to speak, I will name you, and ask you to turn on your microphone. Please state your name and location before speaking.

70 French translation is offered in the Zoom session. Again, regrettably, we were unable to locate any Cree or Inuktitut translators for the virtual format. To access the translation, you must click on the interpretation icon at the bottom of the Zoom screen and select your language.

Please note that the hearing is being recorded and will be broadcast live on Livestream. The livestream is available on the Cree Nation Government website. No questions will be taken from the Livestream, so no comments can be written there either. The recording will be available on the COMEX website within a few days after the public hearing. Also, all information related to this hearing, such as PowerPoint presentations and transcripts, will also be available on the COMEX website.

80 I will also be taking questions via Facebook Messenger, at Secrétariat COMEX. In addition, please note that all questions or comments shall be addressed directly to the Chairman of COMEX, monsieur Luc Lainé, who will ensure that they are transmitted to the correct person to answer that question.

I would now like to introduce the participants for this public hearing, starting with the members of COMEX. First, we have a member appointed from the Cree Nation Government, who is present in Whapmagoostui, John Paul Murdoch, if you could wave, John Paul, I see you. There we go.

90 Next, we have the members appointed by the Government of Québec. We have the Chairman, Mr. Luc Lainé. We have monsieur Daniel Berrouard, and monsieur Robert Joly, who are all attending via Zoom.

Participants for the Kuujjuaraapik Whapmagoostui Renewable Energy Corporation, the Proponent for the Hybrid Power Plant Project, include Matthew Mukash, who is the president of the company, and Mayor Anthony Ittoshat, who is the vice president, and he is attending via Zoom.

95

They will also be accompanied by various consultants and funders, who are also attending via Zoom. Also present are representatives of PESCA Environment, Marjolaine Castonguay et Mathieu F  ret, who are also consultants for the project.

100

Representatives from Hydro-Qu  bec were also invited to join the public hearing, considering that the wind turbines will be connected to a newly built substation that will eventually be linked to the existing power plant operated by Hydro-Qu  bec. They will answer technical questions about the project. We have, today with us, we have Bruno M  nard, Laurie Dor  -Ouellet, Fr  d  ric Brassard, Olivier Arsenault, and St  phane Mercier, if I am correct.

105

Lastly, also present are the project analysts from le minist  re de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements climatiques, Cynthia Marchildon et Vincent Boucher. We also have project analysts from the Cree Nation Government, Kelly Leblanc, and Erica Guth.

110

I will now give the floor back to the Chairman of COMEX, monsieur Luc Lain  , who will summarize the agenda for the public hearing. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

115

Thanks a lot, Sophie, you did a great job. On my part, I would like also to give you the roadmap for this afternoon. First of all, you know, we will begin the public hearing with opening comments from Chief Robbie Kawapit of Whapmagoostui, followed by opening comments from Mayor Anthony Ittoshat of Kuujjuarapik. Afterwards, I'll take the floor to provide some information regarding the COMEX.

120

After my presentation, the Proponent will present its project, and after the Proponent presentation, I think we will all deserve a good 15 minutes' break. Following the break, the public, means you, and the members of COMEX will have a chance to ask questions or comment; and also,

125 I want to tell you that we will break periodically to allow people to formulate their questions as the hearing progresses.

130 As mentioned, we will also accept questions sent to us via the chat editor and Facebook Messenger from the Secretariat COMEX. We are available and prepared to take all the required time to give everyone a chance to address the COMEX. So, this is your public hearing, and we are available to take all the time we need, you know, to listen to you.

135 So, on this note, I would like to invite Chief Robbie Kawapit to address the floor. Chief, please, and also, Chief, I would like, based on our tradition, from my left hand, to offer you tobacco. Thank you, Chief.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Sorry, I didn't have – I was on mute.

140 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Okay.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

145 I apologize, Chairman, but it seems like Chief Robbie Kawapit is absent at the moment, as well as the Mayor of Kuujjuaraapik, Anthony Ittoshat.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

150 No, the Mayor is actually joining us via Zoom.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

155 Oh, okay. So, in that case it would be him.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Yes.

160

THE CHAIRMAN:

And I'm not sure if Robbie is on virtual, or if he's going to physically be coming to the gathering place to attend. I'm not sure.

165

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Okay, well, I guess we can ask the Mayor of Kuujuaaraapik to say a few words at least.

170

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. Okay, we'll do it. So, Mayor Anthony Ittoshat, I would like also to offer you, I have also tobacco for you, to express our gratitude, and also our respect. So, Mayor, we would like to listen to you now.

175

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

You're on mute, sir. Here, wait, one moment. There we go.

180

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:

Mr. Mayor, the bottom left-hand side of your screen, you have a mute button. You just have to click on that to unmute. It's a little microphone on the bottom left-hand of...

185

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

It would seem that we are experiencing some technical difficulties. I guess we should all – I apologize for that. So, Luc, we'll return to the others in a moment. Could you please continue with perhaps presenting the COMEX?

190 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, by all means.

195 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Yes.

200 **OPENING SPEECH FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

THE CHAIRMAN:

205 So, first, you know, Mayor, I see you, that you are really trying hard, and I'd like to say *Nakurmiik, Nakurmiik*. So, in the meantime, I guess people are asking, you know, the COMEX, what is it about? So, the COMEX was established under Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement back in 1975. It's made up of five members. Three members are appointed by the Québec government, and two members are appointed by the Cree Nation Government.

210 COMEX is an independent body for the assessment and review of the social and environmental impacts of projects. The COMEX members meet on a regular basis, typically once every month. However, the COMEX members are prepared to meet more often, depending on the number and type of projects needing review.

215 The COMEX is supported by a team of analysts from the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements climatiques, and the Cree Nation Government. The COMEX is prepared, like today, for example, to hold public hearings if required.

220 It's very important to know that the mandate of the COMEX is to make recommendations to provincial and regional administrators, and to ensure the environmental and social follow-ups and monitoring.

225 Information regarding past and current projects under review is available on the website.
Information regarding public hearings is posted on the website as well, on Facebook at Secrétariat
COMEX.

230 Based on the Section 22.4, the COMEX must devote attention to certain guiding principles.
The main principle focussed on the protections of the hunting, fishing, trapping rights of Native
People of Eeyou Istchee Territory;

To minimize of negative environmental and social impacts of development on Native people
and Native communities by reasonable means;

235 To protect wildlife resource, and ecological system in the Territory, and to protect the rights
and interest of non-Native people in the Territory.

Of course, all this information is available on our website.

240 And to summarize, our roadmap at the COMEX, first, you know, the preliminary information
statement is submitted to the appropriate administrator. It means the provincial one, and the
regional one. Then, there is another committee called COMEV, and the COMEV will evaluate the
projects, the committee issues, and for all projects that must undergo the process.

245 Then there will be, by the Proponent, preparation of the impact study, and then the COMEX
will review all documents, including any questions and responses, with assistance from various
environmental experts from the Québec Government, and also from the Cree Nation Government,
and then, if required, public hearings are held, and final analysis and recommendations are
submitted to the administrator.

250 The administrator will make the decision either to authorize the projects, or to refuse the
projects, and finally, the COMEX will monitor and control the – sorry. The COMEX is monitored and
controlled by the administrator, the MELCC, and the Cree Nation Government.

255 So, to conclude this introduction to the COMEX, I would like to invite now the spokesperson of the project, the Hybrid Power Plant Project, Mr. Benjamin Matsy, to present the project. Mr. Matsy, please.

MR. SAM W. GULL:

260 Sam W. Gull here, I need to access the Chair.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

265 The microphone is off at Whapmagoostui.

**PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT BY THE PROPONENT
FROM MR. BENJAMIN MATSY**

270 **MR. BENJAMIN MATSY:**

275 Hello, everyone. My name is Benjamin Matsy. I was asked to present the PowerPoint presentation that was prepared for this consultation, The Whapmagoostui-Kuujjuaraapik Hybrid Power Plant Project, project presentation, COMEX Hearing, February 23rd, 2022. Yes? Yes, yes.

I'm going to mix both Cree and English. I'll summarize it into English, and then translate it as much as I can into Cree, just for your information. So, next slide.

280 So, this is the content of the presentation, the PowerPoint:

1. Proposed Wind Energy Project [in Cree]
2. History of the Project (in Cree)
3. (In Cree)
- 285 4. (In Cree)
5. Community Environmental Consultation Process (in Cree)

6. Workshops and Assembly (in Cree)
7. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (in Cree)
8. (In Cree)
9. (In Cree) ...

290

Next slide, please. [In Cree] I can't read the top part. Can you fix it? Because it's going to be in my way, still. Okay.

295

The WKHPPP and Hybrid Power Plant Project, the purpose of the project is to reduce the dependence on fossil fuel, [in Cree] the electricity production, and between 40 to 50% of the energy demand for the community will be produced by the wind energy, savings of about 1.5 million litres per year of diesel fuel, resulting in a reduction of CO₂, which is equivalent to about 1,200 cars per year. [In Cree]

300

The Main Elements of the Project:

305

There will be two wind turbines installed, totalling about 3 megawatts, and one wind mast, which is about 5 kilometres from the community centre, and there's an existing road which will be upgraded, that's about 7 kilometres in length, and a new road will be constructed, which is just over 2 kilometres in length.

310

So, those roads that are existing, they're going to be upgraded, and it's going to be extended to the site, and also the power line, the 25 kilovolts, it's 6.8 kilometres, and the construction of a substation, control, and the maintenance centre. [In Cree]. Next slide, please.

The History of the Project:

315

From 2010 to 2012, there was a mandate from the WFN to find alternative measures for energy production, electricity generation, Plan Nord – Renewal Energy Development, and a Preliminary Project Study with our Chinese partners. [In Cree]

2013, it's the Front-End Engineer Design Study, regarding the actual equipment, and also the Preliminary Environmental Impact Study.

320 From 2014 to '17, there was the negotiation with the Québec Energy Board to get the permit for the project.

From 2018 to 2019, there was the creation of the steering committee, composed of people from both the Whapmasgoostui [inaudible] and there was the negotiation with the Hydro-Québec, 325 to set the conditions of the project.

From 2020 to 2021, that's when the Kuujjuaraapik Whapmasgoostui Renewable Energy Corp., to develop and operate the project; the request for grants, and also an environmental and social impact assessment was done. The public hearings with Inuit and Cree communities; the 330 negotiation of the non-recourse loan from Canadian Infrastructure Bank. [In Cree]

Next slide, please. [In Cree] So, 2011 to 2020 [in Cree], that's when the resolutions and mandates were created, and all these can be found in the report, Volume 1, the ESIA report.

335 Next slide, please. And here's the structure of the ownership of the project, the partnership between the Cree and Inuit. So, at the bottom part is KWREC, Kuujjuaraapik Whapmagoostui Renewable Energy Corporation, and as you go down – oh, it's inverted here – on the right side it's the Nimschu Iskudow which owns half of it, and on the left side is the Sakkug Landholding, they own half of it, and that's where the (inaudible) of Kuujjuaraapik is attached, and as you can see, 340 Nimschu Iskudow is owned 85% by WFN, and 15% by Tawich Development Corp., which is based in Wemindji. [in Cree]

Next slide, please. Here are the main project components, access roads and power lines. So, this is the map of Whapmagoostui, that's the river, as you can see, and that's the road that 345 currently exists, and also the extension. The upgrade will be in green, it's 6.9 kilometres, and the turbine road is in red, which is 2.1 kilometres. The power line itself is 6.8 kilometres. [In Cree]

Next slide, please. [In Cree] On the left side is the Hydro-Québec substation site. If you can recognize it, that's where Loon Lake is, the new development area right now, that the WFN has undertaken at the moment, and on the right side is the cultural campsite. That's where the cabins are and stuff, and that's where the temporary construction, and control and maintenance centres will be located. [In Cree] 350

355 Next slide, please. [In Cree] Turbine sites. In the green squares is where they will be located, the two turbines, and the yellow part there is the substation, and the other part there, I can't tell the colour, it's lighter in colour, that's where the mast area will be. [In Cree] This is located up the hills, called – what's called Whapmagoostui, just south of that, there's a hill there, that's where they'll be located, the wind turbines. [In Cree]

360 Next slide, please. [In Cree] The land use details. The two turbine sites will be 10,000 metres squared, T2 and T3;

The anemometer tower site 625 metres squared, with a connection point substation that'll be 900 metres squared.

365 The new turbine road, there'll be 2,100 metres by 7 metres, and then the Hydro-Québec substation will be 3,000 metres squared, and the Whapmagoostui maintenance centre, with the water and the sewage, will be connected, it's over 1,200 metres squared, and the lot for temporary construction camp, which is almost 2,000 metres squared. [In Cree]

370 Next slide, please. [In Cree] Description of the turbines themselves. Goldwind, and that's the model number GW87. There will be two of them, and of 1.5 megawatts, and the hub height will be 75 metres. The blade length, one blade, is 42.1 metres, and the diameter of the blade sweep, the whole, when it rotates, will cover 87 metres. [In Cree]

375 Next slide, please. [In Cree] So, these are the wind turbines that Goldwind has installed in Vermont, USA.

380 Next slide. The community environmental consultation was carried to inform the public of the proposed wind energy project, and they were – they included informing them of the improved roads, and the road extensions, and the developer is KWREC. They wanted to make sure that people were informed in all aspects, and not just one group; it covered basically everyone.

385 They invited the men, women, the elders' groups, trappers, hunters, even businesses were invited to attend, and for this current public hearing, it was requested by the COMEX to confirm the results of last year's public hearing. [In Cree]

Next slide. [In Cree] ... on the website, on the KWREC site, when they advertised the consultations, that was on the site, and so the posters were posted in the community, so people had been informed.

390 Next slide. And then the public workshops for more details, these are the dates that happened, from December 16 to March 9, 2021. That's when the consultations happened with the Inuit and Cree youth, the men and women's associations, and the businesses, the hunters, trappers, both on the Cree and Inuit side.

395 And the 4th to the 9th was a joint assembly, between the Cree and Inuit. I believe the Inuit assembly took place at the Kativik Centre, and on March 10th to 11th there was an online session with the Cree and Inuit regional entities.

400 With the 12 workshops and assemblies, there were 98 participants. There was a survey – there was a survey done, with 72 responses for both Cree and Inuit. 38 questions were addressed in writing, and responded, on the project. You can find those answers and questions on the site itself, on the KWREC website. [In Cree]

405 Next slide. And here's just an example of one of the workshops that took place, and as you can see the map there, we brought them a map, and we showed them where the turbines would be, and there were tasks, they were given a the workshop, to provide areas of interest surrounding where the wind turbines would be, and all those markings there is where they noted areas of interest in terms of berry picking, hunting, even getting in some firewood, stuff like that, anything related to traditional activities, or in any way they use the land. [In Cree]

410 Next slide, please. And these are the general interests expressed by the attendees. [In Cree] They wanted to know the impacts on the environment, the wildlife, the impact on the traditional activities, camping, and they even asked about the noise impact in the community, and how it benefits both communities.

415 They were concerned about the effects of the weather, the strong winds, the cold temperatures, and there were also questions on security and emergency planning, in case something happens.

420 And lastly was the Solid Waste Management, which is like what's going to happen once this project is done, when the actual physical wind turbines need to be taken down, what's going to happen there, so there were questions regarding that. [In Cree]

425 Next slide, please. [In Cree] the main results of the ESIA study. All concerns and interests expressed during the consultation process were addressed in the environmental and social impact assessment, and you can find the summary of the questions made during the public hearing on the KWREC website. There are two volumes of the study, that's posted in the KWREC website and the COMEX website, and it's the link written there.

430 And, additionally, there were 19 questions and comments from COMEX were answered in August 2021, and they're both on the websites. [In Cree]

435 Next slide, please. These are the visual impacts. This is what you're going to see once they're erected. The top part is where the Inuksuk is, and I can't really see from here, but they will be visible only from the Inuksuk, but when you're in the community, which is demonstrated in the second picture, you will not see them.

440 And the bottom picture is from the first point, and you'll still be able to see them. It's really hard to see, and it's really far, but it has a visual representation of what you'll be able to see physically, when you're out and about in those areas. [In Cree] The top one – yes, that one.

445 Next slide, please. [In Cree] So, this is the noise impacts. On the right side is just an example of a decibel level, I don't know what it's called, but under the turbines themselves, it's going to be 50 decibel points, and the nearest cabin will be less than 30 decibel points, and you can see on the graph, it's going to be a – it's a 50, which is light traffic, so it's moderate under the turbines themselves, and the nearest cabin to the turbines is at less than 30 decibels, which is a quiet room. [In Cree]

450 Next slide, please. This is the employment and training. It's going to employ about 30 people, three years throughout the construction, and there'll be 3 to 6 technicians and assistant technicians.

The training will be provided by NERGICA, at their training centre in Gaspé, Québec, and it will be given in three phases:

455 The first phase will be to generate interest; between 10 to 20 participants will be recruited, that will be started in the fall of this year, 2022.

460 The second phase will be given in the winter of 2023, where those who are successful will be given a chance to – no, they will reinforce the concepts they learnt, and they will be given specific training blocks.

465 And, finally, the third phase will be during the construction of the actual wind turbines, which will take place between 2023 and 2024. And, also, those participants who complete the full training, will be certified technicians in operation and maintenance of wind turbines. It's a three-year course. [In Cree]

470 Next slide, please. And here's the revised schedule from 2020 to 2025. Last year, from 2020 to last year, there was the Design and Financial model, and the consultations with the community. And this year, they're going to – the environmental operational permit, contracts and financial closing, yes, and the final design and details, that's when they'll be done.

475 And 2023 will be the civil works, the construction of the roads, and the wind turbine foundations, and then in 2024 will be the assembly, the electrical works, and the commissioning, when they begin the operations, and 2025 it should be fully operational. [In Cree]

480 Next slide, please. [In Cree] That's the end of the presentation. I believe the next part is the video, it's a 14-minute video, so it's going to explain the project. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

480 Thank you, Mr. Matsy. *Miigwech.*

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

We don't hear the audio. Do you want to rewind?

485

(PRESENTATION OF A VIDEO)

490

(DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING SOME TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES NOT TRANSCRIBED)

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, thank you to everybody. I think on this point we will take about a 15-minute break, and when we resume, we will open the floor for questions, either from the participants, and also from the COMEX members. So, enjoy a 15-minute break, so I'd like to see people back at 2:55, 2:55, please. Thank you.

495

SHORT RECESS

500

**RESUMPTION
QUESTION PERIOD**

505

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Hello, and we're back from our break. Before we continue, I would like to mention that we did have some technical difficulties. So, if anyone was joining us from Zoom, and you wanted to ask a question, the chat editor, you might have seen, had disappeared. He had a power outage, so we've corrected that problem. If you had asked a question, or had a question, if you could please re-ask it in the chat editor, and we'll try to send it off to the Chairman during the question period.

510

Also, we had experienced problems with the Zoom link that I had put on the Secrétariat COMEX Facebook page. It has been fixed, so if you're still interested in joining us via Zoom, you

515 can click, go to Secrétariat COMEX, and the Zoom link should be working now, and I will pass the floor to the Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN:

520 Thank you, Sophie. It's so good to hear those great news, that everything is back now to normal, and also it's my pleasure to introduce to you Mayor Anthony Ittoshat. Mayor, we would like you to share some of your comments with us, please.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

525 Mr. Mayor, your mike is off.

THE CHAIRMAN:

530 Now, you are the expert.

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS FROM Mr. ANTHONY ITTOSHAT,
535 MAYOR OF KUJJUARAAPIK AND VICE PRESIDENT OF KWREC**

MAYOR ANTHONY ITTOSHAT:

540 Okay, now we are unmuted. We're back to normal now. Okay. Mr. Chair, thank you very much. Bonjour, tout le monde. Hello everybody. [In Cree] Mr. Chair, thank you. Earlier, when you introduced me earlier, you made an offering of tobacco. Thank you very much for that, that gesture. I really appreciate it. However, when I started speaking, I had some difficulties, but that was on my side. I was computer-illiterate, but I learn very quickly, and I adjusted the problem.

545 So, once again I want to welcome everybody to Kuujjuaraapik/Whapmagoostui. I want you to feel welcome there, particularly Mr. John Paul Murdoch that I notice was sitting in the crowd. So, a special welcome to you, sir, for making the effort to go to our community.

550 And also, Sophie, thank you for arranging everything. We appreciate this opportunity to yet again address the COMEX, to allow people to speak of their concerns.

Also, a thank-you to Ben for the presentation, it was well done. I've seen it before, but I don't mind watching it again. It makes me feel a bit more at home when I'm away. Thank you for that.

555 And thank you to our fellow board members, Matthew, Charlie, and Cora I believe are there. John, thank you for being there.

560 I just wanted to basically welcome everybody and make a few remarks about the project. I believe I have not had a chance to address the panel directly, although we do have discussions indirectly about the project. It is important for the Cree and the Inuit, this project; to us it's a very important project, we support it completely, as a community, something that we'd like to see come to fruition at some point.

565 To us, it's more than just a project, more than just a windmill project. To us, it's more symbolic to some extent; the willingness of both parties to work totally together for the betterment of their constituents is really to me very important.

570 I just wanted to highlight that, that the support is there. I noticed that there was not very many people at the gathering, despite the fact that we've been campaigning regularly to come and address their concerns, but however, they have other avenues which they will probably use.

So, as I said, thanks to everybody for taking the time to review this project. I'll leave it at that. I just want to welcome everybody, and thanks again, Mr. Chair, for your generous gesture, and do feel welcome. *Merci beaucoup, Miigwech*, thank you very much, and *Nakurmiik*.

575 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Nakurmiik, Mr. Mayor. It was great to have you with us.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

580

I would like to – excuse me, I would like to introduce...

MR. ANTHONY ITTOSHAT:

585

I just forgot one thing. Mr. Chair, you will have to excuse me at 4:00 because I do have a medical appointment that I do not want to miss, so I just wanted to let you know.

THE CHAIRMAN:

590

Okay, thank you, I appreciate it, Mr. Mayor.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

595

I would like to mention that the members of COMEX and certain members of the Proponent, you could open your cameras if you so wish, to make – apparently the live Zoom isn't pretty enough, the Livestream isn't pretty enough, so we need like certain faces, and to make it a bit more interesting. So, I would invite the members of COMEX to open their cameras.

THE CHAIRMAN:

600

Thank you. Yes, thank you, Sophie, I felt so lonely.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

605

Yes. Thank you, Robert. Mr. Mukash, if you wanted to open your camera, there we go, hello, Mr. Mukash. So, let the meeting continue, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN:

610

Okay, thank you, Sophie. So, we got a pretty comprehensive presentation on the part of the Proponent. Now, this is a public hearing, this is your public hearing, so I would like to invite people

to ask questions. I think Sophie explained the process, so the floor is open to all the participants, and also to the COMEX members. Thank you.

615 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Sophie, we seem to have someone on our floor that's going to ask a question, and his name is Eddie Matsy Senior.

620

MR. EDDIE MATSY SENIOR

THE CHAIRMAN:

625

Okay. Mr. Matsy Senior, please.

MR. EDDIE MATSY SENIOR:

630

Wachiya! I will ask the questions in Cree. [In Cree]

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

635

Okay. So, the first question that he asked was what will be the operating costs for the two turbines that are going to be installed in Whapmagoostui.

The second question is who will maintain those turbines throughout the whole year, and will WFN, or Whapmagoostui First Nation, contribute to the implementation of the turbines?

640

And there was a side question in regard to the renewable energy that was produced earlier, years back. It's regarding the biomass project that was installed but hasn't been operating. Is it going to be in operation, or is it going to be complementing this project of the hybrid wind turbines that are going to be installed? Okay, so those are his questions.

645 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

So, who will answer, who will address the questions from the Proponent?

650 **MAYOR ANTHONY ITTOSHAT:**

Maybe I will – Matthew, do you want to say a few words first? You're on mute. You're on mute, Matthew. You're still on mute. Bottom left-hand corner, there's an unmute button.

655 **MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:**

Testing.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

660 Sorry, he had the defect of the microphone.

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

665 I'm going to first speak in Cree. [In Cree] First of all, I want to welcome the – I'm the president of KWREC. I want to welcome the committee; I'm very happy to see that this public hearing is ongoing, is happening, and I also want to acknowledge the presence of Mr. John Paul Murdoch, who is a member of the COMEX, representing the Cree Nation Government.

670 We have a technical team online also that will answer the technical questions, because some of these questions are very complex. So, I want to make sure that we answer all the questions that are being put forth in this hearing.

675 The first question regarding the annual costs, I'm not sure I get the question right, but if it is in reference to user fees, the user fees will apply for the area of the land that's going to be used by this project. So, the Proponent will pay the WFN for the user fees because the project will be on Category, Category 1A land. That's the answer to the first question.

680 The second question concerning who is going to operate the project, and all of that, we have
a partner called Ikayu Corporation. This is a corporation that is owned by the Association of
Landholding Corporations in Nunavik. We own this company. They are the ones that are operating
the wind turbines in the Raglan Mine; there's two of them there. So, they're going to be the ones
that will be responsible for operating the wind turbines here. They will also be in charge of the –
they will be given a contract to manage the project itself. [In Cree]

685 So, I would like to invite our technical team, Jean Schiettekatte, if you are there, to - if I have
missed anything in answering those two questions about the annual cost, the user fees and all that,
and the role of Ikayu Corporation – are you there, Jean?

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

690 Thank you, Matthew, thank you, everybody, to be there, thank you, Luc, our Chairman...

THE CHAIRMAN:

695 Thank you.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

700 ... and our Chair, the title you choose, and the Mayor, all the committee, Mr. Murdoch, our
representative from the Cree on the COMEX. Yes, Matthew, you gave a good answer, but roughly,
to give more precision, the cost of operation is around \$1 million a year. The main cost of operation
is for sure the cost of the operators, and this is our main goal, we want to create local employment.

705 We, as you saw in the presentation that Benjamin did, we have a very important training
programme, to make sure that those operators are Cree or Inuit, and they will be under the
supervision of our partner, the Inuit that have the experience of operating successfully a power – a
wind turbine, or some wind turbines, in the mine of Raglan. So, actually, they are one of the only
reference sites that we can use to show that it was a successful operation in the north of Québec,
so that's the main answer to those questions.

710

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Mr. Mukash, would you like to add something?

715 **MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:**

Yes, we still have three more questions to answer. The third question was – by the way, thank you, Jean, for adding to what I said already, and answering the two questions, the first two questions. The third question was, is there going to be a community decision for the use of the land, the location of the turbines, and all of that? This is the third question.

720 Of course, we have to respect the by-laws on Category 1A, that apply to Category 1A land. Usually, when there's a land being proposed for usage by projects, there's a community resolution required, a general assembly resolution required. So, that will be respected, and it will be the community that will decide on the use of the land, where the land, where the components of the project will be located. [In Cree]

725 So, the response to number 3 is, of course, we have to respect the existing by-laws that govern Category 1A land. It's on Category 1A land where the project will be located, and the land usage has to be decided by the committee. I think for this type of project, we will call a general assembly to approve the land usage.

730 The third question is for COMEX, the fourth question is for COMEX. I will leave that to you, Luc, but the Biomass Project is an important – the question on the Biomass Project is a very important question because we've had hurdles with it when we started. This, by the way, is not KWREC project. It was the Nimschu Iskudow that was mandated to find an alternative to the diesel generated power that goes into the heating of the arena. So, we came back with an alternative; it was the Biomass alternative, and we've had difficulties with it, and I'll let Jean explain the details of what happened, why the project is not going just yet. It's in the process, we're working on it, and we're hoping by 740 2023 it will be in operation. Okay, Jean?

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

745

Yes. Thank you, Matthew. Yes, maybe to just complement on the first question, we have initiated the process to request the land use, but it is subject for sure of the approval of COMEX. So, we don't request the land that has environmental issues, so that process will be taken care of once we have the COMEX approval.

750

The second question, yes, Matthew, you're right. We had some issues over the Biomass Project. The main lesson learned on that project is that it has to be the same group that builds and operates the project. The way that that project was designed, sadly the NI just did the build, and put it in service. It was not in charge of putting it on operation. So, sadly there was some management change at the level of the community, and we're proposing actually to the community to take the project back and put it in service. Remind yourself, that project was in service a couple of months when NI was operating it, but when it was passed back to the community, it ran into some issues.

755

So, the main recommendation and lesson learned in this, and that's what brought us to not only do the build, and the commissioning, but also to do the operation, and to build a strong team. So, it was a good lesson learned, and that's why we came up with the solution, with our Inuit partner to do the operation.

760

THE CHAIRMAN:

765

Thank you. Mr. Schiettekatte, just for the record, the COMEX doesn't have the authority to approve or not to approve projects. We have the authority to...

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

770

The recommendation, yes, I understand.

THE CHAIRMAN:

775

Yes, it's only for the records, yes.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Yes, yes. Yes, but at least we have to get your recommendation before we can get the land.

780

THE CHAIRMAN:

Exactly. That's the next step, yes.

785

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Thank you, Luc.

THE CHAIRMAN:

790

Thank you, Mr. Schiettekatte. Matthew?

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

795

The fourth question was concerning COMEX, regarding the costs of the hearing, whether if these can be – if there is any cost that will be charged to the Whapmagoostui First Nation. I think that was – was that the question, Eddie? Do I have it right? Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

800

No, there will be no cost charged to both communities, no, no.

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

805

Okay, good. Okay. I think the question was – I had it wrong, I'm sorry about that. The question really was if the community was going to pay any costs of the project itself. So, again, neither the municipality or the Whapmagoostui First Nation will pay for the project, and I will ask Jean to give us more details on that, how it's going to go.

810 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

Yes, thank you, Matthew. The way we structured it, it's a bit different than the other project that – Luc, we were in a seminar a couple of weeks ago with the other windmill project.

815 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes.

820 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

Basically, in Québec, they did a structure where some private partner went and financed, and became partner in the project. We took a bit a different approach, where we want only the community to be shareholder, and as you know, we don't have access in those communities to a large amount of money, so there are basically no funds to invest. So, we did a structure where we go get some grants, and we have access to some special loans, to finance 100% of the project. So, basically the answer that Matthew gave, there's no cost for the two communities, and actually there will be the dividend at the end, so that's the main answer.

830 I want to stress out an important point, and I think we did it already. It's important that each time we have some delays, the costs go up, so we want to make sure that we don't delay too much this process, and I want to thank the effort of the COMEX to go fast, and to try to get that famous approval as soon as possible, so we can respect our costs, and give the best return to the community.

835 Remind yourself also, this was very important for us, that in our financing structure, we request non-recourse financing. So, we have to make sure that the bank, the project sustains itself, and is only financed based on the quality of the guarantee that is basically the PPA that we have with Hydro Quebec. So, that's why, Matthew, we presented that in the presentation. It's a very important financing tool, and that's what the banks are basically taking as guarantee, not any guarantee from neither of the communities.

840

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Schiettekatte. Mr. Mukash?

845 **MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to translate what we said in response to the question, okay?
[In Cree] Thank you, Luc.

850 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Miigwech, Mr. Mukash. So, did we address all the questions? I think the name of the first intervener was Mr. Matsy, too?

855 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Eddie Matsy, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

860

Yes, okay.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

865

Eddie Matsy.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

870

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Can I propose several minutes of break? There is two points I have to translate to the local radio.

875 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Oh, yes, by all means, and also, in all fairness, I don't know about the Inuit people, you know, if somebody during this break can maybe provide them with some interpretation? Just in all fairness, if it's possible. Okay, so what about 10 minutes, will it be okay?

880 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes, that's more than enough.

885 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, so six minutes.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

890 Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN:

895 Thank you.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

900 You're tough, Luc, you're tough.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh yes.

905 **SHORT RECESS**

**RESUMPTION
QUESTION PERIOD**

910

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. We wish you the best, Mr. Mayor. Okay, so the floor is open, so any questions from those who are in person, and also in virtual?

915

Maybe I would like to ask a question to the Proponent, you know, when we – when Mr. Matthew made the presentation, he mentioned that there was discussion, and still discussion with Hydro-Québec, and I would like to know, you know, what is the update or situation regarding the energy purchase contract with Hydro-Québec. Can you give us some information about this energy purchase contract? Matthew? We cannot hear you.

920

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

Yes, I will ask Jean Schiettekatte to answer the question. He's our negotiator with Hydro-Québec.

925

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, Mr. Schiettekatte.

930

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Yes, thanks, Luc and Matthew. Yes, to answer your question, and I think we have maybe Bruno, or someone from Hydro-Québec that is also on the line. First thing, we have to be careful because we have a non-disclosure agreement on – with Hydro-Québec on the exact discussions, okay? I can maybe say that we're at the end of the process, to be fair, and again, one of the important points for them is that they see the – that the administrator recommends to the Minister, or you recommend to the administrator that we get there, but we're getting at the – we have a quite advanced draft of the contract, basically, as I can put it.

940

945 It took time because that contract will serve as a base for all the other communities. So, for Hydro-Québec, a lot of the standard, and you will see that contract when it becomes public at the Energy Board. You know, the contract will have to be submitted to the Energy Board, but the process is quite a long negotiation, and also some technical standard on the interpretation. So, that's what has been done in the last two years of negotiation, okay, where we basically have an agreement, I think, with Hydro-Québec.

950 Maybe Bruno, I don't know if he's still on the line from Hydro-Québec, can say something, but remind yourself, the contract of Hydro-Québec will have to go also in the approval at – in Hydro-Québec, so it will take maybe one or two months of process to get it approved, but we don't see any, I would say, a red light, if I can put it this way. Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

955 Thank you. Maybe, Mr. Ménard, if you want to add anything regarding the status?

MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:

960 Thank you, Mr. Chair, Mr. Lainé. Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for having us attend this session this afternoon. As Mr. Schiettekatte mentioned, of course our exchanges and negotiations are confidential, but basically what he's saying is right. We have progressed in our negotiations, and we still have work to do, of course, but we feel like at this point in time, there is no red light as such. We still have a lot of work to do, though, to get to the final stage, which would be a signature of a contract with KWREC. And that's all I would say for the time being.

965

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. So, you have no red lights, but you have within, in yourselves.

970 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

It's a good expression, Luc, yes, but remind yourself it's – it was a bit more difficult than the other PPA on the grid, because it's not a standard case, and remind yourself, once we have the

975 approval and the signature of Hydro-Québec, we still have to go through the approval of the Energy Board. The Energy Board must review that it's acceptable for the Québec taxpayer, you know, and so for sure there's some steps that will take place in the next months. So, if you remember our general schedule, that's what we want to complete all the contracts this year. This is an element in the process.

980

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

THE CHAIRMAN:

985

Okay, thank you. I see one of my colleagues on the COMEX, Mr. Berrouard, Daniel, please.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

990

Yes, maybe a question for Mr. Ménard.

THE CHAIRMAN:

995

Go.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

It's okay? Do you hear me?

1000

THE CHAIRMAN:

Daniel, I don't know if it's only me, but I cannot hear you. It's not clear.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

1005

Okay, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

I don't know, it could be only me, but...

1010

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

I hear him. I hear him.

1015

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

Okay. Can I go ahead? Yes? Okay.

MS. SOPHIE COOPER:

1020

Actually, can we – I think Joshua on the floor needs a bit of time to translate between each question and answer, so...

THE CHAIRMAN:

1025

It's a good idea. I wanted to do it, and then I forgot, yes.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1030

Just a reminder that we do have someone who is translating simultaneously for the radio, and so yes, if you could perhaps...

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

1035

Okay, slowly.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, slowly.

1040 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Yes.

1045 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

So, Mr. Berrouard, we'll be right back to you. So, Joshua, please?

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

1050 Okay. My question is very simple for Mr. Ménard. So can you...

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Yes, you can go ahead.

1055

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

... indicate (sound cut) if it would change to have, for example, a power line between the south and the Whapmagoostui/Kuujjuaraapik. I mean, for example, from the Robert Bourassa Power House, so, do you understand what I mean?

1060

MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:

I think you will have to repeat the question. I'm sorry, I missed part of it.

1065

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

Okay. My question is, in the project that we have to consider here, in the project that you are negotiating, will it change something in the possibility one day, I don't know when, but the possibility to have, for example, a power line between the south, between, for example, LG2, LG-2-A and Kuujjuaraapik/Whapmagoostui?

1070

MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:

1075 Well, I would say it would be difficult for us today to say whether it's going to have an impact
on the project that we're concentrating at this point in time, but whenever we examine a solution, a
conversion solution for a remote operated system, we consider all alternatives, including the
possibility, whether it's possible or not, to build a line to connect this community to the main grid, but
at this point, whenever we do this evaluation, if it's the best solution, then we would look to it first,
1080 but this is not the case here, and I think we're far from that at this point in time.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1085 Thank you.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1090 Maybe I could add something to this point. We were asked already that question when we
were at the Energy Board, so the Energy Board addressed those questions. There's some cases,
like, for example, the Iles de la Madeleine, where Hydro-Québec is considering to do an
interconnection with a cable, and generally speaking those options are quite more expensive than
doing a local connection that is – and also I would say up to a point, but you're the expert to
determine this, but you know that there's a lot of environmental concerns in doing a new line, or
interconnection lines.

1095 So, for now I think it's on a, I would say, short-term basis, or a mid-term basis. For sure the
installation of wind turbines is the best solution, and it has been applied in a lot of different projects,
not only in the case of Whapmagoostui, but outside of Québec. I would refer you to a lot of projects
in Alaska, that took the decision to do interconnection like we're doing, instead of connecting to the
1100 grid.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1105 Thank you, Mr. Schiettekatte. So, if I – no, you're right, Sophie, I have to wait a little bit for the interpretations, okay, and then I will move to Mr. Joly, another member of the COMEX, but just hold on, Robert, for a sec.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1110 I'm done with the translation; you can continue.

MR. ROBERT JOLY

1115

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you. Robert, Mr. Joly, please.

1120

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

Yes, thank you, Luc. Well, first I don't want to take the place of anyone who has a question in the gathering room. If someone is waiting for a question, I'll let him go.

1125

THE CHAIRMAN:

I don't think there is anybody, Mr. Joly, so...

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

1130

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1135

This is your chance.

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

1140 Thank you. Okay, so I just want to piggyback a little bit on this, on the same question. I understand that one of the distributors, Hydro-Québec, in this process of evaluating the project, has to assess some technical and economical aspects. I understand that some of those information are not public, but on the technical side, what are you looking at? Is there something that we don't look at the COMEX, to the impact study, or what are the general aspects of the project you're looking at?

1145 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1150 Do you want me to maybe answer, because...

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

1155 Well, yes, go ahead, Mr. Jean.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1160 Yes?

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

Yes, yes.

1165 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Jean, Jean...

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1170

Oui.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1175

... just before you go forward, I don't know about the interpretation, if Joshua needs time to translate. I'm sorry to interrupt you.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1180

No, I will translate with the question and the answer.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1185

Okay, so go ahead, Jean.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1190

Okay. So, basically, I think the most important data for us and Hydro-Québec is the assessment of the wind resource. So, you may have seen, I think we had some reference in our studies to the wind assessment, but basically, we have to make sure that there's enough wind to make the turbine provide the energy that we want to supply. So, there was a lot of validation with the Hydro-Québec team on the studies, the impact of ice, and a lot of issues, technical issues. So, that's why it took time.

1195

Also, maybe another point, and Hydro-Québec, as you know, when they do a project like this, they ask the provider, that will be KWREC, to respect a certain number of specialized standards. So, they – we had a lot of exchange, and still have exchange to the end of the – what are the interconnection standards. So, you will have issues of active power in the various technical aspects of integrating our energy on a small grid like Whapmagoostui, you know.

1200

1205 So, there's a lot of technical issues. Maybe I can leave Bruno, or maybe someone of his team, to elaborate on that, but I think the main point is that we have been doing studies for years, you know, on the site, so we have a lot of data. It took us time to convince Hydro-Québec and the Energy Board to go for those type of solutions. So, it's probably one of the sites that has been the best studied, on that area, and there'll be studies up to the commissioning, like they are in all the other projects, yes, like – yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1210 Thank you, Mr. Schiettekatte.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1215 Maybe Bruno?

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, maybe Mr. Bruno, if you want to add anything, but again...

1220 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

Back to the translator.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1225 Let me check again with the interpreter. Are you okay?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1230 Yes, I'm fine.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1235

Okay, Jay, I'm impressed. So, Mr. Masse, please.

MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:

1240

You meant Mr. Ménard.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Ménard, sorry, yes.

1245

MR. BRUNO MENARD:

No, that's okay. Perhaps as a complement to what Mr. Schiettekatte is saying is that from Hydro-Québec's perspective, of course we have to maintain reliability of our (sound cut) the network, so that we can provide service, electricity service to the population. That means that whenever you integrate a renewable source, a fluctuating source, you have to do a lot of analysis, and also consider the extent which you can integrate this new energy into the system. So, that requires a lot of simulation and studies overall, and so, yes, of course the technical aspects, it's critical, for us as well.

1250

1255

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

1260

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

Robert here. If there's no more questions, I'd like to go further...

THE CHAIRMAN:

1265

Robert, no, Robert, sorry, we're just waiting for the interpreter, and then it will be you, I will go back to you. Sorry.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1270 You can go ahead.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1275 Okay. Mr. Joly, please.

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

1280 Okay, just to go a little bit further on the discussion – thank you for the answer – it is very clear for me, and it's very interesting, too, and I understand that one important aspect will be the – how do you call it – the use factor of the wind turbines, so that Hydro-Québec can adapt its production with the thermal power plant. And one of the – of course one of the very important aspects of the project is to diminish the greenhouse gas effect, green gas, des gaz à effet de serre, sorry for that...

THE CHAIRMAN:

1285 Greenhouse, greenhouse gas.

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

1290 Oui, c'est cela. And it's really a big advantage of the project, of course. Do you have considered to monitor, on the long-term basis, the exact amount of fuel, diesel fuel that will be avoided by using the wind turbine? So, I think it would be very interesting to have a continuous information on how it performs, and how exactly the amount of fuel, diesel fuel, is avoided by using the wind turbines.

1295

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Matthew, who should address this question? Jean? Mr. Schiettekatte?

1300

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1305

Yes, maybe I can address it, and maybe Bruno. So, I just have to be careful on the confidentiality agreement that we have with Hydro, but like it is in other projects, there'll be a reporting process, and the reporting process will also extend to the GHG savings. So, it will cover your concern. I cannot go more in specific unless Bruno had something to add to this.

1310

And you're right, the penetration rate is the big factor, and we, you know, we made sure having two units, because this was a discussion when we studied the topology at the beginning of the project, would we install one larger turbine, two small turbines? We assume that we can achieve a higher penetration with two turbines, for some technical reason, but I don't want to go in the detail, but that was one of our concerns, is to minimize the effect of global warming. So, it's basically how to integrate more energy in the grid, but there's limitation. For example, the size of the battery, and X number Y, Z, other reasons, yes.

1315

Maybe Bruno, I don't know if you have something to add to this?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1320

Yes, Mr. Ménard, please.

1325

MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:

Yes, thank you, Jean. Peut-être, pour terminer – perhaps, I will ask my colleague to complement the answer, but yes, of course, we're going to monitor, and we already have some estimations of what are the gas emissions reductions in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, and of course, we also – and this is our goal, to reduce those emissions, and, of course, the fuel utilization at the plant. And that's the big challenge, really, to maximize the integration of wind energy, into a small system like this one, and having a big wind farm compared to the size of our own thermal power plant. And, but we're working hard doing that.

1330

As I mentioned before with simulation, so adding some features to our own system, to have a better control over the management of energy and as well as the application of storage systems, the use of storage systems as well.

1335 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Ménard.

1340 **MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:**

Maybe I would invite Olivier Arsenault, the engineer working on this project, if he has something to add.

1345 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay. Yes.

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

1350 Olivier Arsenault, from Hydro-Québec. I'm a planning engineer, and electrical engineer. So, there is not much more to say. It's pretty easy for us to calculate how much fuel we'll save and report it. So, the question is, where we are going to report it. Probably at the Energy Board every year, I don't know, but from a technical point of view, it's pretty easy to do that, and we will.

1355 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay. Thank you. Mr. Joly, do you have any additional questions?

1360 **MR. ROBERT JOLY:**

Well, just a final question.

1365 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

I don't hear you, I'm so sorry.

1370 **MR. ROBERT JOLY:**

Okay. My mike is open, so you don't hear me?

1375 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

It's not loud enough.

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

Okay, and that's – is it more loud? No? Sorry.

1380

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh, now, it's perfect.

1385 **MR. ROBERT JOLY:**

1390 Okay, okay. I just wanted to know if this information could be shared with the review committee, if it is to be reported in some way to the Energy Board, is the COMEX could – is COMEX could have a grasp on this information, and be reported? I understand that this effect is not an impact or is not a condition that has to be imposed upon the KWREC. It's Hydro-Québec's side that will benefit from the reduction of the fuel consumption, but since it's directly linked to the project, it would be interesting to have this information. So, I just wanted to know if this information could be shared with the review committee.

1395 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, thank you. Yes, I don't know, Mr. Ménard, or Mr. Schiettekatte.

MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:

1400

I can answer for Hydro-Québec, sure, we can share this information with the committee.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1405

Thank you.

MR. BRUNO MÉNARD:

1410

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

1415

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1420

And me also, I have no problem to share that information also to the committee. Remind yourself, maybe one point that is important, you know, and probably the community members already saw the big battery that was there, you know, we – there is already some part of the tools that are important for the project that are being installed in Whapmagoostui. So that already that the use of that battery will enable to, you know, increment the penetration rate of the energy, and optimize the scenarios.

1425

Maybe on the long run we will see that it's maybe worth it to install a bigger battery, to increase our penetration, but yes, we have some scenarios of penetration that I think can be shared. They will confirm you the 40% that is in our presentation. So, they will give you a justification. It's not only the promoter that says it, we, Hydro-Québec had to validate the number, and I think this is – I agree with your question. I think it's a very good question.

1430 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Daniel, before we move to you, I would like to go back to the interpreter, because this was a long answer. So, we'll give him a chance, and then I go to you, Daniel.

1435 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

I'm pretty much good.

1440 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

It is alright?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1445 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

So, can I invite the next speaker?

1450 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes.

1455 _____
MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

THE CHAIRMAN:

1460 Okay. Mr. Berrouard, please.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

1465 Okay. On the same, on the aspect of the monitoring programme, on the same aspect that Robert mentioned, but about the duration of noise monitoring programme, you seem to not indicate how many times you will do the follow-up of that. Can you specify, will it be during all the operational phase, or can you just specify how many times will be the duration of this monitoring aspect?

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1470 Yes, if you may. I don't know if Marjolaine, or someone from the team of PESCA, is there to maybe answer this question on the monitoring of the sound. Yes. Just one point, you know, the sound will be – well, the impact of the sound will be very limited to the – as you saw in our presentation – to the real area of the turbine, you know.

1475

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

Yes.

1480

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

So, there's nobody living there, but there's worse cases in Quebec that were approved by the BAPE, but in the case of Whapmagoostui, that site is really far and, but yes, we had a monitoring programme. I'll leave Marjolaine, maybe, or...

1485

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. F  ret? Who is prepared to go, Mrs. Castonguay or Mr. F  ret?

1490

MR. MATTHIEU F  RET:

Yes.

MRS. MARJOLAINE CASTONGUAY:

1495

Okay.

MR. MATTHIEU FÉRET:

1500

I will answer to this question. Usually, as we could see down south, for different kinds of wind projects, the noise monitoring, the monitoring on the noise is conducted basically during the first year of operation, and if there is any concern, it could be repeated, but most of the time, where there is no issue, there's no other monitoring during the operation.

1505

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

1510

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1515

So, I'll wait now for Joshua. Sophie, you mentioned that after 4:00 there is a possibility that more people join us, so is it the case, or?

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1520

I don't know. I do not see the room, so...

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh.

1525

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

And no one on Zoom, there's no extra people who have arrived on Zoom, so...

1530

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

1535

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

... we'd have to ask if there is anyone on the floor who would like to ask a question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1540

Yes, this, and I'd like to know, if people feel like they would like to take another 10-minute break, you know, to – so feel free, we're open.

Mr. Sam, oh, I thought Sam, you wanted to talk.

1545

MR. SAM GULL:

Well, I was just going to say Matthew Mukash is also there, so he could tell you if people are arriving or not.

1550

THE CHAIRMAN:

Ah, okay, good point, yes.

1555

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

Oh, hello, hello.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1560

Matthew? I don't know if Joshua is done with the interpretation. Is he?

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

1565

Yes, he's done. He's done.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, so...

1570

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH

1575

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

I told him to stop. I'm just kidding. No, I just wanted to add to the discussion on the battery itself. I understand that this is one of the components of the hybrid project that we looked at, is the possibility of installing a battery to take care of the – when we have a shutdown of the power. It's very important, because we have a lot of power outages. We had one last night, and there was one I think a week before that. So, that happens, and mind you, it's not a long period, it's maybe two or three minutes, and then it comes back on again.

1580

I wanted to ask perhaps Mr. Ménard, about the – you know, sometimes there is – there was a case where the appliances in the households burned because of the fluctuation of the current in the system. I know that we had a warning a while back that that may happen. With this project, with this, would the battery resolve that, or is there a way to regulate that, once we have the system, the wind energy project in, will that be regulated? I think this is a very important question for the community to know, okay? So, that's my question.

1585

1590

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Mr. Ménard?

1595

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

Maybe I will answer that one, so it's going Olivier Arsenault.

1600

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes? So go ahead, please.

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

1605

I'll say yes, the battery is there for such a thing, so regulate the power from the wind turbine, but this is not the only thing we'll put in place to regulate the electricity for the consumer. At this moment, we are working very hard on the integration study and – I'll try to remember the word – and all the study for the impact with electricity, and...

1610

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Let's say the grid stability.

1615

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

There is many automation things we will put in line to avoid such kind of problem. So yes, the battery will do the job, but we will try to have many other things to be sure that the electricity will be acceptable for the consumer. This is our main goal on the Hydro-Québec side.

1620

THE CHAIRMAN:

1625 Thank you. Mr. Mukash, are you okay with the response? Yes? Okay. Thank you. I know I asked the questions, but I'm not sure if I got an answer. I wanted to ask you if you needed to take a 10-minute break? Would you like to? I know in Whapmagoostui, you have been spoiled, you have catered services.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1630 There's a lot of food.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1635 Let's take a break. I'm losing my voice over here.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1640 Yes, yes, yes, I understand, Joshua. It's very demanding on you, yes. So, okay, only coffee for you, Joshua.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

There's no coffee, there's water.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1645 Is that right? Okay.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1650 With COVID, I had to make sure everything was safe.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1655 I agree, and I know I have Mr. Murdoch in the line after.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1660 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1665 So when we come back, I will invite Mr. Murdoch to ask his questions. So, okay, so I see it's 4:10 – 'til 4:20, so don't tell the Chair he's tough, he's very sensitive.

SHORT RECESS

1670

RESUMPTION

QUESTION PERIOD

MR. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH

THE CHAIRMAN:

1675 Okay, everybody is back? Okay. I think, Mr. Murdoch, you would like to ask a question, so I'd like to recognize you. Sophie, can you – oh, you cannot see in the room if Mr. Murdoch is...

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1680 No, the camera is not pointed at...

THE CHAIRMAN:

1685 No?

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Yes, there we go.

1690 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Ah, here he is, okay. Mr. Murdoch, please.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1695 Oh, the mike is not working.

MR. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH:

1700 Oh, there we go.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1705 There we go.

MR. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH:

1710 Alright. [In Cree] So, my first comment was just a clarification on the question made by Eddie Matsy, and he was inquiring about what the process would be with regards to the land, and the decision-making process that would be made by the community. And like the promoter explained, you know, once they get past this step, they then want to go on to the other steps.

1715 Under the Cree Constitution, there is a specific provision that relates to allowing Category 1 lands, it's Section 410. It will be either a special meeting of the community, so like Mr. Mukash said, there will have to be an assembly, a special meeting of the community, or a referendum where 25% of the community votes, but like the promoter explained, this is a step that they'll be pursuing after, you know, after the administrators makes their decision.

1720 So, I just wanted to explain that. I guess the other question I had – so, the specific question
I had for the promoter... [In Cree] So, the question I had was, you know, considering the challenge
that the promoter has taken on, and it's a very big challenge, and I think it's an admirable thing,
seeing communities want to be more active, and participate in the type of energy that their
community consumes, and where it comes from, but my question was, say this goes well, and this
turns out to be a very, very good example, is the project expandable, or will it always be, you know,
these two windmills, this capacity, and that's it?

1725 So, I guess that was my question to the promoter, how expandable is the project?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1730 Thank you, Mr. Murdoch. So, the Proponent?

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1735 Maybe I can answer that question. Thank you, John Paul, that's a very good question. The
answer is yes...

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

1740 Jean, before you do, before you do...

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Yes?

1745 **MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:**

... I just want to make a comment.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1750

Yes.

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

1755

I was going to ask you to make a comment anyway.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

1760

Yes, maybe you start.

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

Yes.

1765

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

We don't see you on the main screen, I don't know...

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

1770

Okay, I think my computer is having a problem. Anyway, we need electricity, a better flow of it, but, yes, I just want to thank John Paul for stating what he said regarding the requirements for projects on Category 1 land. Of course, you know we will respect that. Yes, concerning the – we did talk about the potential expansion of the project, as of course, you know, as our community grows, and also as other projects come through in the north, in our area.

1775

This is why I think the Mayor said that this project is not only a project in itself, but it is an opportunity for the Cree and the Inuit to enter into an economic alliance north of the 55th parallel of latitude. As you know, the delineation of the land under the James Bay Agreement, the 55th parallel of latitude falls under the responsibility of the Kativik Regional Government for administrative purposes.

1780

1785 So, whenever there's a project happening in the north, north of that 55th parallel, the Inuit have to be involved. So, when you look at the proposed grand alliance, of course, there will be, if that goes through, of course, there will be all the attorneys there, and of course if there is any activity within the region that involves, you know, the production of electricity for projects and all that, of course this is an area where we can potentially expand.

Okay, that's my point, so I'll ask Jean Schiettekatte to add to that. Thank you.

1790 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

1795 Thank you, Matthew. The answer is yes, but our focus is to make a success first of this step, of this first step, and eventually we can look at other options. We already mentioned, for example, to install a larger battery, or things like that. The objective on the long run is to try to have 100% of renewable energy. So, we don't know how much time this will take, but the first step is really to make this first step working and go with the help of Hydro-Québec to finalize the first agreements, and to proceed with the construction, and to have our first Cree operator in the windmill, like we saw some Mi'gmaq operators, and soon some Inuit operators, or even maybe some Huron operators, Luc, soon.

1800 So, the idea is to try to really get the first part of the project. We have the chance of having, like Matthew says, the partnership with our Inuit friends and sister community, and they already are looking at, I think there is measurement campaigning going in the rest of Nunavik, so I think it will be a model that will be looked for other projects also. So, I think this is important.

1805 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you. Mr. Bureau, before I go to you, I will give a chance to our interpreter, in-house interpreter.

1810 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

So, you can go ahead.

1815 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, thank you. Mr. Bureau, please.

1820 **MR. YVES-ANDRÉ BUREAU:**

Oui, bonjour Luc. I just want to add to what Jean and Matthew just mentioned about expanding. We have been looking at, of course it's on long term, but we have been looking on other possibilities. As you may be aware, in the off-grid community, you're not allowed to heat with the electricity, as it is right now. However, eventually, if there were some additional wind turbines with an accumulator such as a battery, we can eventually heat with that renewable energy, heat some households, some arenas, or whatever else building that is convenient to start with.

1825
1830
1835
1840
1845
1850
1855
1860
1865
1870
1875
1880
1885
1890
1895
1900
1905
1910
1915
1920
1925
1930
1935
1940
1945
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
2050
2055
2060
2065
2070
2075
2080
2085
2090
2095
2100
2105
2110
2115
2120
2125
2130
2135
2140
2145
2150
2155
2160
2165
2170
2175
2180
2185
2190
2195
2200
2205
2210
2215
2220
2225
2230
2235
2240
2245
2250
2255
2260
2265
2270
2275
2280
2285
2290
2295
2300
2305
2310
2315
2320
2325
2330
2335
2340
2345
2350
2355
2360
2365
2370
2375
2380
2385
2390
2395
2400
2405
2410
2415
2420
2425
2430
2435
2440
2445
2450
2455
2460
2465
2470
2475
2480
2485
2490
2495
2500
2505
2510
2515
2520
2525
2530
2535
2540
2545
2550
2555
2560
2565
2570
2575
2580
2585
2590
2595
2600
2605
2610
2615
2620
2625
2630
2635
2640
2645
2650
2655
2660
2665
2670
2675
2680
2685
2690
2695
2700
2705
2710
2715
2720
2725
2730
2735
2740
2745
2750
2755
2760
2765
2770
2775
2780
2785
2790
2795
2800
2805
2810
2815
2820
2825
2830
2835
2840
2845
2850
2855
2860
2865
2870
2875
2880
2885
2890
2895
2900
2905
2910
2915
2920
2925
2930
2935
2940
2945
2950
2955
2960
2965
2970
2975
2980
2985
2990
2995
3000
3005
3010
3015
3020
3025
3030
3035
3040
3045
3050
3055
3060
3065
3070
3075
3080
3085
3090
3095
3100
3105
3110
3115
3120
3125
3130
3135
3140
3145
3150
3155
3160
3165
3170
3175
3180
3185
3190
3195
3200
3205
3210
3215
3220
3225
3230
3235
3240
3245
3250
3255
3260
3265
3270
3275
3280
3285
3290
3295
3300
3305
3310
3315
3320
3325
3330
3335
3340
3345
3350
3355
3360
3365
3370
3375
3380
3385
3390
3395
3400
3405
3410
3415
3420
3425
3430
3435
3440
3445
3450
3455
3460
3465
3470
3475
3480
3485
3490
3495
3500
3505
3510
3515
3520
3525
3530
3535
3540
3545
3550
3555
3560
3565
3570
3575
3580
3585
3590
3595
3600
3605
3610
3615
3620
3625
3630
3635
3640
3645
3650
3655
3660
3665
3670
3675
3680
3685
3690
3695
3700
3705
3710
3715
3720
3725
3730
3735
3740
3745
3750
3755
3760
3765
3770
3775
3780
3785
3790
3795
3800
3805
3810
3815
3820
3825
3830
3835
3840
3845
3850
3855
3860
3865
3870
3875
3880
3885
3890
3895
3900
3905
3910
3915
3920
3925
3930
3935
3940
3945
3950
3955
3960
3965
3970
3975
3980
3985
3990
3995
4000
4005
4010
4015
4020
4025
4030
4035
4040
4045
4050
4055
4060
4065
4070
4075
4080
4085
4090
4095
4100
4105
4110
4115
4120
4125
4130
4135
4140
4145
4150
4155
4160
4165
4170
4175
4180
4185
4190
4195
4200
4205
4210
4215
4220
4225
4230
4235
4240
4245
4250
4255
4260
4265
4270
4275
4280
4285
4290
4295
4300
4305
4310
4315
4320
4325
4330
4335
4340
4345
4350
4355
4360
4365
4370
4375
4380
4385
4390
4395
4400
4405
4410
4415
4420
4425
4430
4435
4440
4445
4450
4455
4460
4465
4470
4475
4480
4485
4490
4495
4500
4505
4510
4515
4520
4525
4530
4535
4540
4545
4550
4555
4560
4565
4570
4575
4580
4585
4590
4595
4600
4605
4610
4615
4620
4625
4630
4635
4640
4645
4650
4655
4660
4665
4670
4675
4680
4685
4690
4695
4700
4705
4710
4715
4720
4725
4730
4735
4740
4745
4750
4755
4760
4765
4770
4775
4780
4785
4790
4795
4800
4805
4810
4815
4820
4825
4830
4835
4840
4845
4850
4855
4860
4865
4870
4875
4880
4885
4890
4895
4900
4905
4910
4915
4920
4925
4930
4935
4940
4945
4950
4955
4960
4965
4970
4975
4980
4985
4990
4995
5000
5005
5010
5015
5020
5025
5030
5035
5040
5045
5050
5055
5060
5065
5070
5075
5080
5085
5090
5095
5100
5105
5110
5115
5120
5125
5130
5135
5140
5145
5150
5155
5160
5165
5170
5175
5180
5185
5190
5195
5200
5205
5210
5215
5220
5225
5230
5235
5240
5245
5250
5255
5260
5265
5270
5275
5280
5285
5290
5295
5300
5305
5310
5315
5320
5325
5330
5335
5340
5345
5350
5355
5360
5365
5370
5375
5380
5385
5390
5395
5400
5405
5410
5415
5420
5425
5430
5435
5440
5445
5450
5455
5460
5465
5470
5475
5480
5485
5490
5495
5500
5505
5510
5515
5520
5525
5530
5535
5540
5545
5550
5555
5560
5565
5570
5575
5580
5585
5590
5595
5600
5605
5610
5615
5620
5625
5630
5635
5640
5645
5650
5655
5660
5665
5670
5675
5680
5685
5690
5695
5700
5705
5710
5715
5720
5725
5730
5735
5740
5745
5750
5755
5760
5765
5770
5775
5780
5785
5790
5795
5800
5805
5810
5815
5820
5825
5830
5835
5840
5845
5850
5855
5860
5865
5870
5875
5880
5885
5890
5895
5900
5905
5910
5915
5920
5925
5930
5935
5940
5945
5950
5955
5960
5965
5970
5975
5980
5985
5990
5995
6000
6005
6010
6015
6020
6025
6030
6035
6040
6045
6050
6055
6060
6065
6070
6075
6080
6085
6090
6095
6100
6105
6110
6115
6120
6125
6130
6135
6140
6145
6150
6155
6160
6165
6170
6175
6180
6185
6190
6195
6200
6205
6210
6215
6220
6225
6230
6235
6240
6245
6250
6255
6260
6265
6270
6275
6280
6285
6290
6295
6300
6305
6310
6315
6320
6325
6330
6335
6340
6345
6350
6355
6360
6365
6370
6375
6380
6385
6390
6395
6400
6405
6410
6415
6420
6425
6430
6435
6440
6445
6450
6455
6460
6465
6470
6475
6480
6485
6490
6495
6500
6505
6510
6515
6520
6525
6530
6535
6540
6545
6550
6555
6560
6565
6570
6575
6580
6585
6590
6595
6600
6605
6610
6615
6620
6625
6630
6635
6640
6645
6650
6655
6660
6665
6670
6675
6680
6685
6690
6695
6700
6705
6710
6715
6720
6725
6730
6735
6740
6745
6750
6755
6760
6765
6770
6775
6780
6785
6790
6795
6800
6805
6810
6815
6820
6825
6830
6835
6840
6845
6850
6855
6860
6865
6870
6875
6880
6885
6890
6895
6900
6905
6910
6915
6920
6925
6930
6935
6940
6945
6950
6955
6960
6965
6970
6975
6980
6985
6990
6995
7000
7005
7010
7015
7020
7025
7030
7035
7040
7045
7050
7055
7060
7065
7070
7075
7080
7085
7090
7095
7100
7105
7110
7115
7120
7125
7130
7135
7140
7145
7150
7155
7160
7165
7170
7175
7180
7185
7190
7195
7200
7205
7210
7215
7220
7225
7230
7235
7240
7245
7250
7255
7260
7265
7270
7275
7280
7285
7290
7295
7300
7305
7310
7315
7320
7325
7330
7335
7340
7345
7350
7355
7360
7365
7370
7375
7380
7385
7390
7395
7400
7405
7410
7415
7420
7425
7430
7435
7440
7445
7450
7455
7460
7465
7470
7475
7480
7485
7490
7495
7500
7505
7510
7515
7520
7525
7530
7535
7540
7545
7550
7555
7560
7565
7570
7575
7580
7585
7590
7595
7600
7605
7610
7615
7620
7625
7630
7635
7640
7645
7650
7655
7660
7665
7670
7675
7680
7685
7690
7695
7700
7705
7710
7715
7720
7725
7730
7735
7740
7745
7750
7755
7760
7765
7770
7775
7780
7785
7790
7795
7800
7805
7810
7815
7820
7825
7830
7835
7840
7845
7850
7855
7860
7865
7870
7875
7880
7885
7890
7895
7900
7905
7910
7915
7920
7925
7930
7935
7940
7945
7950
7955
7960
7965
7970
7975
7980
7985
7990
7995
8000
8005
8010
8015
8020
8025
8030
8035
8040
8045
8050
8055
8060
8065
8070
8075
8080
8085
8090
8095
8100
8105
8110
8115
8120
8125
8130
8135
8140
8145
8150
8155
8160
8165
8170
8175
8180
8185
8190
8195
8200
8205
8210
8215
8220
8225
8230
8235
8240
8245
8250
8255
8260
8265
8270
8275
8280
8285
8290
8295
8300
8305
8310
8315
8320
8325
8330
8335
8340
8345
8350
8355
8360
8365
8370
8375
8380
8385
8390
8395
8400
8405
8410
8415
8420
8425
8430
8435
8440
8445
8450
8455
8460
8465
8470
8475
8480
8485
8490
8495
8500
8505
8510
8515
8520
8525
8530
8535
8540
8545
8550
8555
8560
8565
8570
8575
8580
8585
8590
8595
8600
8605
8610
8615
8620
8625
8630
8635
8640
8645
8650
8655
8660
8665
8670
8675
8680
8685
8690
8695
8700
8705
8710
8715
8720
8725
8730
8735
8740
8745
8750
8755
8760
8765
8770
8775
8780
8785
8790
8795
8800
8805
8810
8815
8820
8825
8830
8835
8840
8845
8850
8855
8860
8865
8870
8875
8880
8885
8890
8895
8900
8905
8910
8915
8920
8925
8930
8935
8940
8945
8950
8955
8960
8965
8970
8975
8980
8985
8990
8995
9000
9005
9010
9015
9020
9025
9030
9035
9040
9045
9050
9055
9060
9065
9070
9075
9080
9085
9090
9095
9100
9105
9110
9115
9120
9125
9130
9135
9140
9145
9150
9155
9160
9165
9170
9175
9180
9185
9190
9195
9200
9205
9210
9215
9220
9225
9230
9235
9240
9245
9250
9255
9260
9265
9270
9275
9280
9285
9290
9295
9300
9305
9310
9315
9320
9325
9330
9335
9340
9345
9350
9355
9360
9365
9370
9375
9380
9385
9390
9395
9400
9405
9410
9415
9420
9425
9430
9435
9440
9445
9450
9455
9460
9465
9470
9475
9480
9485
9490
9495
9500
9505
9510
9515
9520
9525
9530
9535
9540
9545
9550
9555
9560
9565
9570
9575
9580
9585
9590
9595
9600
9605
9610
9615
9620
9625
9630
9635
9640
9645
9650
9655
9660
9665
9670
9675
9680
9685
9690
9695
9700
9705
9710
9715
9720
9725
9730
9735
9740
9745
9750
9755
9760
9765
9770
9775
9780
9785
9790
9795
9800
9805
9810
9815
9820
9825
9830
9835
9840
9845
9850
9855
9860
9865
9870
9875
9880
9885
9890
9895
9900
9905
9910
9915
9920
9925
9930
9935
9940
9945
9950
9955
9960
9965
9970
9975
9980
9985
9990
9995
10000

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Bureau.

MR. YVES-ANDRÉ BUREAU:

Thank you.

Mr. SAM W. GULL

1845

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Gull, would you like to address the floor?

1850

MR. SAM W. GULL:

Yes, just a quick comment.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1855

But I'm so sorry to stop you. I'm just thinking about our interpreter, then I will go to you.

MR. SAM W. GULL:

1860

Sure.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Thank you for that. You may go ahead.

1865

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you. Mr. Gull, please.

1870

MR. SAM W. GULL:

Yes, it's Sam W. Gull. I am one of the promoters of the project for the past 11 years, going on 12 now since it's a new year of 2022. One of the original ideas of this project is to look at a hybrid model, you know, for wind, solar, biomass, whatever else technology that exists out there, because we also have wave technology.

1875

1880

So, it was the mandate of the General Assembly and the Chief in Council that passed several resolutions supporting that concept, and I wanted to share with the Whapmagoostui people, and the participants, that the Federal Government, under Natural Resources Canada, has been a tremendous support in this project, and one of the unique things about this project is it's the only kind, for now, in Canada, where it's 100% owned by First Nations.

1885

So, it's a very unique project, it's never been done before in Canada, so it's a model for Canada that can be used to be applied elsewhere across the country. That's what I wanted to share.
Miigwech.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1890

Thank you.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1895

So, you can go ahead, Chair, and also I have a person here with questions, if you want to give him some time.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1900

By all means, yes. They have the priority.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Okay. So, I'm going to put him on, I will put him on the screen first.

1905

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

1910

MR. JOSEPH GEORGE SENIOR

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

There he is. Joe, you might as well take the microphone.

1915

THE CHAIRMAN:

Would you ask him to introduce himself?

1920

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1925

Okay.

MR. JOSEPH GEORGE SENIOR:

1930

[In Cree] Hi. Bonjour. Hi. My name is Joseph George. I work for the (inaudible) that's the janitorial services in Whapmagoostui. My question was the same as John Paul Murdoch's question, that to do the environmental studies here in Great Whale. [In Cree]

THE CHAIRMAN:

1935

Miigwech.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1940

Joe, can I have my note back? So, I'm going to translate what he asked.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1945 Please.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

1950 Just give me a second. So, the first question he had - that was Joseph George Senior. So, the first question he had was, was there or is there going to be an environmental study that's going to be done, in regards to the wind turbine?

1955 He mentioned what Matthew Mukash talked about earlier. At the time of the Hydro project 2, there was a lot of consultation that was done with the hunters, especially the land users. So, is that something that was put into consideration, or is that something that's going to be done in the future? So, the best source of information that you may get would be from the hunters and land users, in regards to a project like this.

1960 Before he asked his questions, I had to write down the questions before, so is there going to be like some kind of a consensus or a survey that's going to be done with the hunters and the land users?

1965 The other question that he had was will there be a resolution that has to be passed by both Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuaraapik, in regards to this project? Would there be a referendum? And the other one was what are the warranty – what is the lifespan of the turbines? Is there a warranty just in case if they break down during the next coming years, or if they break down, would there be a warranty on the turbines, so that we can continue to use them?

1970 And also, when it comes to modern projects, such as the wind turbine, I feel like there's no proper education or introduction to such a project, especially to our elders and our community. Maybe there could be a pilot, a small pilot project to introduce that new form of system to the community, as well as the elders, to make them see and understand what the project is really all about, so they have a full understanding of what you're proposing to Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuaraapik.

1975 So, those are his questions and recommendations or comments.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you, Joshua. So, Mr. Mukash, I don't know who in your group would like to address those questions?

1980

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

Okay, well, thank you very much. [In Cree] I want to thank Joseph for putting those important questions forward. Number one, again I'm going to ask our technical team to answer some of the – to help me answer some of the questions. The first one, about the environmental impact assessment, that was done already. Maybe Matthieu can explain what has been done so far since 2013, from PESCA.

1985

When we do a project, usually we – when we prepare for the environmental and social impact assessment, we use people that do that, one of them is PESCA, and they are the ones that helped us, and also guided us on that process, environmental process. So, I will ask Matthieu F ret to explain what we did in the early stages of the project.

1990

Just before that, I'm going to just say something about the consensus. That is very important; that's why we have gone to the Councils before. We needed direction from both levels of the leadership in our community, the municipality of Kuujjuaraapik also from the Whapmagoostui First Nation. And we have been getting support from each of the administrations of the Whapmagoostui First Nation to pursue this project, and it was always – there was always a question on the education of the people, which we tried to do as much as we could.

1995

Like, last year we did consultations of over three months, and we explained on the radio what the project was, and the capacity, and also the design of the project, and we also explained it to the people, that – okay, we did eight workshops in this building, where people came to ask questions.

2000

And so, one of the difficult things that we do is the difficulty, the difficulty of bringing people together to make a decision on certain things. I think we faced that on both sides of the community. It's part of the human nature, I suppose, because that happens also in the mainstream world, and also, on the approval of the project by the community by referendum, that is of course on our side.

2005

2010 There are rules for that we have to follow, but on the Inuit side they have different rules concerning the approval of projects.

2015 But on our side, because the project is going to be on Category 1A land, we have to follow the by-laws concerning the use, concerning land usage, and we've told the Councils this, that it's important for both sides of the community to decide, because this project impacts our community. Whether you're Cree or Inuit, it will impact you in the same way.

2020 Concerning the lifespan of the project, that's about 25 years, and I will have Jean Schiettekatte talk about that, and of course, I just want to remind people that this public hearing is not – it's going to continue, the discussion on the project will continue, and we will educate the people about the project, the impact, the impacts of the project, as we did it before. We will continue to do that until the project is approved in the fall, I would hope, and people will have a chance to learn more about wind turbines, and how it impacts the community, the environment, and the people.

2025 So, on the first question regarding the environmental impact assessment, I'll ask Matthieu F  ret of PESCA to elaborate on that.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2030 Okay. Just before – thank you, Mr. Mukash. Again, just before, I'll check with the interpreter, if he needs time.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2035 Yes, please. Thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

2040 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

So, you can go ahead now.

2045 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you. Before recognizing either Mr. Féret or Mr. Schiettekatte, Mr. Mukash, I would like to ask you a question, just for clarification. You mentioned that on the Cree side, with the Cree Government in Whapmagoostui, you have a by-law for, how can I say it, collective approval, or community approval. So, can you tell us more about this by-law?

2050

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

2055 It's a requirement under the Cree Constitution, John Paul explained that. So, basically there are rules. I don't know what the rules are myself, but I know that they exist, because I haven't been in politics for over 10 years now, so – but it's what John Paul said.

2060 There is a constitution, the Cree Nation Constitution that we have to follow. It applies to the communities, it's the old Cree-Naskapi Act. I think that John Paul could explain it again, just to make sure it'd be on record, to make sure that everybody knows that we have those regulations that we, as a developer, have to follow.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2065 Yes, I think it might be important. Mr. Murdoch, please, could you shed some light, please, on us?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2070 He's indisposed at the moment.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes? Okay, so we'll get back to him. In the meantime, Mr. Mukash, you wanted to invite who, Mr. Féret or Mr. Schiettekatte?

2075

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

Yes, Mr. Féret, to talk about the environmental impact assessment that's been done since 2013.

2080

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

2085

MR. MATHIEU FÉRET:

Yes, thank you, Matthew. A good question. I think the first question was related to the impact study, just to make sure that I answer appropriately to the question. Yes, so we were in charge, here in PESCA, to prepare the impact assessment, and this document was submitted to the COMEX to be reviewed, and of course those documents are available on the website, but we have all the information about the project, and the species, the land use, and this study is based on different kinds of information from different sources.

2090

So, since the last 10 years, we had conducted surveys, field surveys on the territory, for, let's say, fish, birds, bats, plants, so different kinds of surveys to describe the environment locally.

2095

We also gathered information from the workshops and the sessions that were conducted last year during – when the Proponent met different groups, including hunters and land users. Maybe you saw it in the presentation earlier this afternoon, but there were maps where people and attendees could draw on the map where are the areas of interest for hunting, or for camping, or for the plants, or stuff like this. So, all this information was collected and used in the impact assessment, and also surveys were distributed, were sent to the community, and we received answers from users, from

2100

both communities, so Kuujjuaraapik and Whapmagoostui. So, all this information was included in the impact assessment that was submitted to the COMEX.

2105

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Féret. I'm not sure if the gentleman who asked this question, if he was in the room when we broadcasted the video, so that's probably why he asked this question, but before, Jean, would you like to add something to what Mr. Féret said, or?

2110

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Yes, maybe I think one important point is, and I agree with that gentleman, the hunters have to be consulted, and they were consulted last year, but sadly, maybe he was not at that meeting, but it's for that reason that we didn't retain the site number T1. So, we only retained the site number T2 and T3, because there were some hunters that had some activity in the zone of T1.

2115

So, yes, the hunters were consulted in that process, and I want to thank again the great team on the ground in Whapmagoostui last year, during the COVID, that did all those consultations. It was not easy for them, but as you have in the environmental impact, I think there was, between the survey and the people consulted, there was over 100 people that basically gave their comments on the project.

2120

On the continuous information, it's also a good point. That's why we set up a website where we're continually going to inform the people. Hopefully maybe the COVID will finish one day, and we'll be able to reconvene to a more formal process, but yes, there will be an information process that will be done with the community, as the project goes, so that's another of the answers that was requested.

2125

The third point is over the warranty of the equipment. Yes, there's a warranty on the machine, there's – as we selected, because we looked at various equipment. So, there was like, I would not say a tender, but a bid, but we did a survey of the various machines that would be used, and one of the criteria was the guarantee that was offered by the provider of the equipment.

2130

2135

2140 So, yes, but I want to stress again, those machines, they need some maintenance, and that's why we have the expertise of the team of Ikayu Energy that is used to operate, and they have a very good track record. We measured this in what they call availability factor, so they have one of the best availability factors in their plant in the north, at the mine of Raglan.

2145 So, this is something that we will have, we will be doing with them, over the years, to do the preventive maintenance. We don't want to be in a situation where we have a shutdown of the machines. So, yes, there's a guarantee, and yes, there is a good maintenance programme that has been established based on what they have been doing in Raglan.

2150 I don't know if this covers all the questions that I noted. So, yes, the education, so I think this was a good question. I remind yourselves that some of those answers I'm giving are available on the site of KWREC, as some of them were already asked by other participants over the years, so we're updating this.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you, Mr. Schiettekatte. I will go back to Joshua.

2155 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes. So, John Paul Murdoch unfortunately didn't hear the requests.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2160 Ah, no, but just before, you know, the answers that Mr. Féret and Mr. Schiettekatte provided, can you translate it for the – I'm so sorry, I didn't get the name of the gentleman who asked the question.

2165 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

That was Joseph George.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2170

Yes, Joseph, so do you – is there a need for you to translate both what Mr. Schiettekatte said, and Mr. Féret?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2175

Yes, I would have to do it on the radio. I'm just informing John Paul Murdoch that there was a request in regards to the Cree Constitution, the requirements to follow, to implement the project. So, they ask you if you can do a presentation, and also, we have another person in line who has a question, so I'll do my translation, and I'll give you – I'll give the mike to John Paul after.

2180

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. We'll wait for you.

2185

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Thank you. So, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2190

You're done? Okay, thank you. So, Mr. Murdoch, I would like to go to you. I don't know if they explained to you the questions, what we would like you to explain? Okay. Take it away.

MR. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH:

2195

Alright. [In Cree] So, I'll explain it in English. The process for a community to approve a project on Category 1 lands, for the allocation of lands to a project, in this case it would be land for 25 years or more. There is a procedure in the Cree Constitution, and it requires the approval by the community in one of two ways.

2200

2205

The first one is a special assembly, so this is not done at a general assembly, it would have to be a special assembly, or by a referendum. In either case, if it's a special assembly, or if it's by referendum, you need 25% of the electorate to participate. That doesn't mean that everybody has to approve; you just need 25% of the electorate to participate. This might sound like an unusual procedure, but it really isn't, because our communities are very used to doing these procedures. Every year we do our financial statements, borrowing by-laws, so this is not a – it's not an unusual thing.

2210

So, it's either by special assembly or referendum. I'm assuming that if it's a special assembly, there'll be lots of food. Knowing Mr. Mukash's music ability, there will definitely be dancing, and I've heard rumours of Mr. W. Gull's singing ability. So, singing and dancing would probably be on the menu as well.

2215

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Murdoch. Again, Joshua, I go back to you for – would you like to translate this response?

2220

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

No, I don't need to, because he translated it himself. That's why I like Mr. Murdoch.

2225

THE CHAIRMAN:

Fantastic.

2230

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

He's able to speak both Cree and English.

THE CHAIRMAN:

He is multitasked, I agree with you. I think there was another person in line, Sophie, did you tell me that, that were was some...

2235

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Yes, so, there's a Mr. John Shem, if he's still in the room, on the floor.

2240

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Yes, he is.

2245

MR. JOHN SHEM

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, so I'd like to invite him, yes.

2250

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Yes.

2255

MR. JOHN SHEM:

Just give me a second, let me adjust the camera.

MR. JOHN SHEM:

2260

[In Cree] Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving me this opportunity. My name is John Shem. I'm a committee member, and also, I'm a board member of the Renewable Energy company. [In Cree] The first thing I want to say is that I want to acknowledge our leaders advancing these

2265 types of projects together here in our community. As Matthew had – or Ben had mentioned in the presentation, we're a community working together on various levels of community development, which are based on – thank God to the government's advancing the UNDRIP respecting our rights as indigenous peoples.

2270 So, and also, these types of projects are part of the global movement of advancing the sustainable goals. So, it's a global effort, fighting the greenhouse gases here. So, I think it was Sam, Sam W. Gull, who had mentioned that there are various forms of energy projects now, with the advancement of technology. So, my question was to the Hydro-Québec, which is a Crown Corporation, has the massive resources to do these research, on our behalf, in Québec.

2275 So, with the kinetic energy turbines that Sam had mentioned, these systems run on – without damming rivers or diverting rivers, have the institution or Hydro-Québec had considered using these technologies, not only in Québec, but I mean, I'm sure they did studies already. So, and I'm assuming they did it, but my question is to Hydro:

2280 Mr. Ménard, is there a company already that you trust, that you could test these technologies which we're thinking about, because at one point in the Board, we discussed all these sources of energy, clean energy, green energy.

2285 So, that's the question I wanted to ask, and the other question I have is, this has to do with the environment, and PESCA probably could answer this. This has to do with the caribou, caribou migration, because up here we subsist on caribou. I know in Scandinavian countries they've done studies concerning these wind turbines, in which the caribou migrate. So, have you considered using this secondary information that might be already there? As an example, in Scandinavia, I don't know which one, maybe Norway, did studies, environmental studies there.

2290 So, the question I have is: Have you gathered that information, or the wind turbine up north, I'm sure they have already, like there's observations there. So, those are the two questions I have. [In Cree] Sam, thank you for making that comment. Thank you.

2295

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. I would like to go first to Hydro-Québec. Mr. Ménard, you know, informed me that he had to excuse himself, but we still have with us a few people from Hydro-Québec. Who would like to grab the ball?

2300

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Well, I think we only have monsieur Arsenault left, from Hydro-Québec.

2305

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes? Okay.

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

2310

Yes, there is only me, but...

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

2315

Yes.

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

... I will be able to...

2320

THE CHAIRMAN:

And I guess the answer will be easy, it's you.

2325 **MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:**

Yes, the answer will be easy. So, the answer is yes, we have studied hydrokinetic for a river, but at this moment, we are still studying such technology. We are not ready to go ahead with it, but we are still studying. So, at any time, if they want to discuss with us about the technology they have in mind, there is possible - there is no problem.

2330 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay. Thank you. Joshua, before we go to the other group, you know, for the other question, do you want to translate, or you prefer waiting?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

I will translate the – very quickly.

2340 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

2345 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

So, go ahead.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2350 Thank you. Mr. Berrouard, before I recognize you, I would like to invite either Mr. Féret or Mrs. Castonguay to answer the second part of the question.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2355 Yes, maybe one thing, Luc, I would just maybe want to do a comment, is I would like also, and maybe we could start with that, to have Laurent to answer on the caribou, and – because they

have the wind turbine, so they may have more information that is actually relevant to the question, so on the caribou.

2360

THE CHAIRMAN:

Well, okay, good point, yes.

2365

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

So, I would maybe invite you, and maybe one comment to the hydrokinetic, and yes, but our focus is really on the wind, to make the wind work, and after that we may look at other solutions. The thing, I would just add that there's a particular case in Whapmagoostui that was the large landslide last year. This would have been a problem if there would be some hydrokinetic system installed in the river. They would have been quite affected by that type of event. So, you know, if they are installed in other places, Alaska, and other things, but we don't have the soil characteristics of clay foundation, and also impact of the global warming that we're trying to save with that reduction of diesel.

2370

2375

So, sadly, even the University of Laval is mentioning that there could be other landslides in that river, if we don't do anything about the global warming. So, that's why I think we have to be careful on what type of technology we look at, and I think Olivier, the team of Hydro is doing a lot of work in that area, and I think one day maybe they will have a solution. But for now, we're using safe solutions. So, maybe I would invite Laurent to speak a bit.

2380

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

2385

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Okay. Just give me a moment, please.

2390 **MR. LAURENT ABBATIELLO:**

So, Laurent Abbatiello speaking. So, on the caribou front, we've got a passage of caribous when it's the season in Raglan, and there has never been any issues whatsoever reported. So, of course, no casualty, no – not even, you know (sound cut) on the flow of caribous on the road, on the road that they're taking. So, it doesn't seem to be any impact whatsoever on the caribous.

2395 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, thank you. So, Joshua, I go back to you, if you want to take care of translation.

2400

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Yes, just give me a moment. You can proceed, Mr. Chair.

2405

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

THE CHAIRMAN:

2410

Okay, thank you again, Joshua. So, I think, Mr. Berrouard, I promised that I'll go back to you after, so it's your turn.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2415

Yes. I thank you, Luc. My question was about the answer about the answer about the caribou, okay? I'm not sure that the answer – what was the answer about the question about caribou? I understand that Mr. Arseneault mentioned that Hydro considered the impact, or the possibility to install maybe the *hydrolienne*, but they continue to do the experience somewhere else. But about the caribou, I'm not sure, I'm not sure what was the answer on the question of caribou.

2420

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2425 Basically we had Laurent, that is the – represents Ica Yu Energy, and the operator of the turbine in Raglan, where they have a passage of caribou on their site, and there's no effect at all from the caribou.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2430 What does it mean, no effect? They pass...

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2435 They continue to cross as they were crossing before – before they installed the turbines.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

Yes, but do you have any results about that?

2440 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

There we would ask maybe Laurent?

MR. LAURENT ABBATIELLO:

2445 Yes, so there's nothing that can really be measured. The only thing that we are seeing is that there were caribous, and there are still caribous after, and we haven't seen, as I was saying, we haven't seen any (inaudible), we haven't seen any impact whatsoever on any animals, basically, that are nearby the turbines. So, the only thing that we can say is that we haven't noticed any effect.

2450

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Mr. Berrouard?

2455 **MR. LAURENT ABBATIELLO:**

If an effect had been noticeable (inaudible) and it has never been cited.

2460 **MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:**

Okay, I received the answer. I'm not sure of the – that's really based on some result, but I receive the answer.

2465 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

Maybe Matthieu Féret wants to add something about that.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2470 Mr. Féret, please.

MR. MATHIEU FÉRET:

2475 Yes, thank you, Jean. Yes, the comparison with Raglan is interesting, but remember that the project is south from Raglan, and pretty far from the Cree habitat of the caribou. We used the telemetry from the – available from the MMFP, and we considered, and we addressed this issue in the impact assessment, and the case of Raglan is pretty interesting, about this issue.

2480 **MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:**

You are right, because on the Raglan project, we are in the area of calving ground, and of course it's simply – the project is interesting on this aspect, but can you consider that if the Caribou Leaf River herd increase, but that's not the case now, but if it increases significantly it would not change anything for the people from Whapmagoostui and Kuujuaaraapik?

2485

MR. MATTHIEU FÉRET:

Are you addressing this question to me?

2490 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes. Yes, Mr. Féret. Sorry.

MR. MATTHIEU FÉRET:

2495

I'm not sure to understand, if you are talking about the project, or you are talking about the – for the hunters, the chance to ...

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2500

The change for hunting, the change for...

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2505

Maybe I could have a partial answer for you, Mr. Berrouard. When we consulted with the trappers, basically the site that we were looking is not interesting for them, no animal goes there, basically. That's why it's not the case for the site T1; there they have noticed some animals, so that's where we pulled out that site, to make sure that we had no impact.

2510

Bon. For sure if the herd is bigger, they will probably try to go around to feed themselves, but from what I saw, to have been on the site a couple of times, the moss is more lower ground where the cabins are, not near the turbine. It's mainly rocks.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2515

Yes.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2520 So, I don't think you'll see them going eating there. They have other places to go. And it's a mountain, so it's not a place that they would cross.

2525 What is interesting in Raglan, it's a flat land, so they have passage or crossing. That's not our case. You know, they would stay, not in our zone, maybe in the zone of the site T1, but not as I know on the site T2 and T3.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2530 Okay. I wanted to just discuss the point with you. Okay. Thanks.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Thank you.

2535 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Joshua? No break for you, Joshua.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2540 Yes, just give me a moment.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2545 Joshua, I was just concerned about the elder. Is he okay, or, I don't know if – I know we have a snack or something in the room.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2550 I think so.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes? We just want to take good care of him.

2555 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes, I have someone to deliver some water and snacks for him.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2560
Okay, thank you.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2565 Thank you.

MR. LAURENT ABBATIELLO:

2570
Gentlemen?

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes?

2575 **MR. LAURENT ABBATIELLO:**

2580
Laurent Abbatiello speaking from Icaju. I'm going to have to get going, I'm sorry I can't stay much more, so I've got another 10 minutes at the most. So, if there is any question that pertains to similarities with Raglan, or the maintenance programme, so forth and so on, it would be best to address them as quickly as we can; after that I'm... (sound cut).

THE CHAIRMAN:

2585

Okay. Thank you for your patience. Yes, we'll see, if there is any question we'll go directly to you, yes.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2590

Mr. Chair, you can continue.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2595

Okay. Thank you. To the participants who just heard this Mr. Gentleman, Laurent, you know, from the Raglan site. So, he has to leave in about 10 minutes. If there's any questions, we would like to ask him before he leaves, it's, as Elvis Presley said, it's now or never. No? Okay.

2600

So, Mr. Laurent, thank you for your contribution, and us, we will keep going. Is there anybody else who would like to ask a question? Sophie, do you see anybody in the line, or – oh, I see Mr. Joly. Mr. Joly, please.

MR. ROBERT JOLY

2605

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

2610

Yes, thank you. I would have a question about the economic impact of the project. We've seen in your impact study that there's a certain proportion, a certain amount of the global cost of the project that will return to the community, either by hiring people, or contracts to local enterprises, and there's also dividends that are planned for the two communities, Kuujjuaraapik and Whapmagoostui. Can you give me a sense of how it will work? How does the amount of dividends will be calculated? Will they be paid on a yearly basis, all along the time of the project, for 25 years, something like that? Just to have a sense, I don't want to go into the financial details, but the general way the system would work.

2615 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Joly. Who would like to address this question?

2620 **MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:**

I can answer that question. Bon. First, I would like you to attend the Energy Board, because they will review the financial of the project. Just let me tell you, starting – basically, it's quite a regulated return. As you know, the Energy Board won't approve returns that are over 12% on the equity, okay? So, that's already a level that has to be set for our project, and on the tariff by itself, 2625 Hydro-Québec always based itself on the – and this is in, basically, the resolution in the end of 2018, if I remember, or 2017, I don't remember, that gave the parameters or the frame for it. It has to be equivalent to what Hydro-Québec, the cost is now.

2630 So, they have a metric where they can calculate the cost of their actual fuel, and so we have to present a contract to Hydro-Québec that is basically not over that cost.

2635 So, the parameters are already set by the Energy Board, on what is the return. So, the way it was structured is that the shares will be owned by the entity of the two communities, and based on those parameters, we first reimburse the loan that we will have, so that's the first service of the debt, and as we complete the payment of the loan, there'll be some dividend to pay to the community.

2640 I stress again, the timeline is important, because as we wait more and more, there's a big inflation pressure now in the market of construction, so if we delay and delay the project, at the end the tariff of Hydro won't change, because it's based on their actual cost, and there'll be less return for the communities.

2645 So, that's, it's like a give and take process, you know, so, but it is around this process that is – and this is a part of two other benefits. One first benefit is the creation of jobs, that is a high budget per year, okay, so we're creating all those operators, and I talked to you about that million-dollar operation budget, so this is already a big impact in the community, to create long-term jobs.

2650 The second impact is we want to try also in the construction period to give contracts to local construction companies, and also Cree entities. So, we have – I think there was someone from Creeco that is very interested in this discussion now, to have some local contracts, and our intention is to favour local and Cree or Inuit contractors.

2655 So, there'll be an impact on that, but basically the dividend will be split 50/50, and you have the cost of the project roughly, so you can estimate roughly what would be the return, so – but yes, there'll be an interesting return for the communities. Sadly, it's affected by delays, you know, so – yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2660 Mr. Skitkat, thank you. Just to complete under the best circumstances, I understand all the inflation and delays and those things, but how many years should it take to pay off the loan?

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2665 It will take a substantial number of years, if I can say. Those projects are financed on a long-term debt process, so yes, but it's comparable to what you see in the market for the project of the Mi'gmaq, or the project of the Inuit...

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2670 Yes.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2675 ... where the numbers are published at the Energy Board.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2680 Yes.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2685 Since we didn't go there, it's very touchy for me to give you the number publicly, but it's very similar because it's the same return that we are based, it's all based on that thing. One big advantage in this project, Mr. Chairman, is that there's no private partners that we have to share the revenue with. It's basically split directly between the two communities.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2690 Okay. Thank you. Does it answer your question?

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2695 Yes, absolutely. Thank you very much for the answer; it is very clear and very informative for me.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2700 Thank you, Mr. Schiettekatte. Joshua?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Yes.

2705 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

If you still have energy.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2710 Okay, I will try to translate this as best as I can. Just give me a moment.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2715 Yes.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2720 You can go ahead, Mr. Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2725 Okay. Thank you again. *Miigwech*. Sophie, I don't see anybody with the hands up, or – no, do you see any?

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

2730 No, I don't see any indication.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2735 Okay.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

2740 Oh, Robert just put his hand up. Monsieur Joly.

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

2745 Just ask, and I will be there.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

2745 Actually, I believe someone on the floor would like to ask a question.

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

Oh, okay, so I'll leave my place, okay.

2750 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Robert, I will be right back to you, okay, so...

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2755

Yes, someone's on the floor, and I'll ask – I can't recognize them with their mask, so I'm going to ask them to identify themselves.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2760

Thank you, Joshua.

2765

MS. JADE

MS. JADE:

2770

Hi, my name is Jade. I'm a youth who lives in Whapmagoostui. I'm not sure who to direct the question to, so just in general. I guess just speaking on behalf of the youth of Whapmagoostui, I want to know why is this project important, you know, for our future generations, and the youth that live here. You know, is this project going to bring change or improvement, you know? I feel like that's the big difference, so, yes, that's my question.

2775

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. I'll ask somebody from the Proponent, I don't know, Mr. Mukash, or, if you would like to provide some responses?

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

2780

Alright. Well, thank you for the question. Yes, when we did the consultation last year, a lot of youth came to the workshops, and they asked a lot of questions, and one of the questions was exactly that: What is in it for the youth, you know, to support this project, and all of that?

2785

And, of course, you know, the youth are the next generation of leaders that will take over the community, and one of the important aspects of community growth is environmental impacts – not impact – economy, of course, the building of our economy, and in order to do that, we have to have people that are well trained to take over the jobs that exist within our community.

2790

And wind is only one of the projects that is being looked at, to build jobs, and also to promote training for the youth. What comes with that is the spin-offs from tourism, you know, we know that if the pandemic goes away, you know, and there's a story about this community who once fought to save its river, has an alternative, or a sustainable energy project. There will be a lot of people that will want to see it, so most likely we'll have a lot of opportunities in tourism.

2795

Of course, that is in, you know, in accommodations, hotels, and all that, and that's only part of it. There are many opportunities for the youth in the future, in regards to, you know, the impacts of this project, and also, of course, it's a non – it's environmentally safe. We're not talking about damming a river, or promoting a mining project that, you know, that has impact on the water, and all of that.

2800

So, it's a sustainable project that has little impact on the land. It might have impact on the waterfowl and possibly on the caribou, or other animals, but very slightly. So, for the youth, I think it's very important for them to consider the potential economic impacts of the project, and also for opportunity for a sustainable community growth. Okay. Thank you.

2805

THE CHAIRMAN:

2810

Miigwech, Mr. Mukash. You will not believe it, but I will ask Joshua to translate what you said in Cree.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay, go ahead, Mr. Chair.

2815

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. Thanks a lot again, Joshua. So, is there somebody else who would like to ask a question? Sophie, help me. Do you see somebody? No?

2820

MR. SAM W. GULL:

Sam W. Gull here.

2825

MR. SAM W. GULL

THE CHAIRMAN:

2830

Okay, Mr. Gull.

MR. SAM W. GULL:

2835

I just want to respond to Jade, is her question, and I think it's a very good question for the future of youth in Whapmagoostui. I was a youth once, and I always looked at what are the opportunities.

2840

I think for this project, you know, of course jobs is one of the key components that we want to secure for local young people, because we're looking at a training programme where they could look at a career opportunity in the field of energy, with a college in Gaspésie. So, I think there's an opportunity there for a career building and development for young people, both Cree and the Inuit side.

2845 In one of our sessions, the tourism director of the Cree Nation mentioned, did you guys ever
think about industrial tourism? Because this could be a very good project for Whapmagoostui and
Kuujjuaraapik for industrial tourism, for people from Radisson, or Montréal, to fly into the community
to see the new energy project there, but then there could be spinoffs from that, for tourism, for
2850 restaurants, hotels, tourism, fishing, hunting, berry picking. So, there could be a big business
around tourism, and that's what we call economic growth.

I don't know what the unemployment rate is in Whapmagoostui, but I know for Waswanipi it's
very high, and in most cases, in the Cree communities, the population of young people is growing
so fast that our job market is not growing with the population, and we, our population is growing four
2855 times faster than Québec or Canada. So, the jobs are really needed in those communities, and one
of the things we talked to already to the local economic development, is get ready to capitalize on
these contracts, you know, for the road building, you know, for construction of the camps, you know,
to support the workers, you know, if they need room and board, or lodging.

2860 So, contracts are also a big economic benefit for local workers. Some of them have
businesses that they need to support. For the past two years, it didn't help any contractor to try to
sustain its business, and one last thing that I think is, you know, I think Whapmagoostui and
Kuujjuaraapik, in the future, you know, they don't need to depend on diesel, and this is something
that Québec has announced, to eliminate diesel in the north, and this is one step forward. It's not a
2865 full solution, but it's a step forward, and you know, and we reduce the chances of polluting our
drinking water.

We heard what happened I think it was in Kuujjuaraapik, where they had a spill, and it was
going down into their water system. So, we don't want that to happen in any community in the north.
2870 So, by finding new methods of creating renewable energy, sustainable renewable energy, I think will
be better for the youth in the future, and there's going to be technology that's going to come, that's
going to get better and better as the future develops, and we'll find these technologies that could
help off-grid communities like Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuaraapik, to better manage, not just in the
community, but also at their campsites, because today we still use a lot of generators to fuel our
2875 camps, you know, maybe a bit of solar, but it's still mainly generators and wood fire, but these are
opportunities.

2880 I think that career training programme that we want to do with the college in Gaspésie could be a good opportunity for youth to expand their knowledge and their ideas of developing further in their education, looking for different business ideas, participating in this training programme to become a technician. So, I see a wide variety of things that could spin off for the community, and to reduce the unemployment rate, and increase the employment rate, and the circular economy that happens within Kuujjuaraapik and Whapmagoostui.

2885 So, I think there's a lot of benefits. Maybe the economic development could look at how to measure that, and report back to the community, on how much spinoffs did happen from a project of this size, you know. Like, I know universities like to do that, so if you get a university involved, I know Laval is in Whapmagoostui already, so they could get involved in doing a study of such thing.

2890 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Miigwech, Mr. Gull. Joshua?

2895 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2900 We need you.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2905 Okay, just give me a few seconds or minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes. A minute. While Joshua is getting ready, do you mind, I mean, I'm talking to all the participants, you know, if we keep going, and I guess there are only a few questions, and then

2910 maybe we can break, and if we believe that an evening session is needed, I'll be more than happy to be back.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

2915 Mr. Chair?

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes.

2920

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

You can go ahead.

2925

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

THE CHAIRMAN:

2930

Okay, thank you again, Joshua. Mr. Berrouard, please.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2935 Okay. It's a short question, probably a short answer. That's on the administrative point of view, the Proponent mentioned that they will use an existing borrow pit. Who will operate, or who operates the borrow pit, and who will obtain the permit about that, if the Proponent needs a permit about that? That's the question.

2940

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Berrouard. Mr. Schiettekatte, do you want to address the question, or somebody else from your group?

2945

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Yes, I will address the question. The idea is to do the pit at the lower part of the road to go up, so we do the less movement of earth, and it will be probably NI that will request the permit, but with TCI, that is the company that is – will be the EPC general contractor. TCI is one of the largest contractors for Hydro-Québec also, so, and they have built a lot of the wind projects in Québec, so, but the idea is that we will do that with them, yes.

2950

We also understand that to start that process, that takes a couple of months. We need the authorization from the COMEX to go to the administrator and everything, to be able to start that process, yes.

2955

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

Thank you.

2960

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Do you have any additional questions, Mr. Berrouard, about the borrowing fee? No?

2965

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

No, it's okay. We understand that's an existing borrow pit, that's it?

2970

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2975 I don't know. No, it's not an existing, there is an existing site that we can use to start, if we don't have the permit, but it is a new site that is at the bottom of the thing that was indicated in the answer that we gave to you last summer.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD:

2980 Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you. Joshua?

2985 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes. There was a whole lot of the acronyms I couldn't get. I'm not familiar with those abbreviations.

2990 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

I cannot help you, unfortunately; I will go back to Mr. Schiettekatte, please.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

2995
3000 Sorry, yes, not easy to translate. Basically, what we mean is that we need to request, like Mr. Berrouard said, a special permit to mine the material. So, we have a process to do about that, that site, so we – the terms were basically the process that the Chair described at the beginning of the presentation, but before we can request those permits, we need to wait the COMEX to finish this process and to get the environment license, so we can proceed in that. We selected for sure the site that is the best to do that, with minimum impact on the road. It actually will be on the road, so, yes.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3005

Wonderful. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3010

Thank you, Mr. Schiettekatte. So, Joshua, we'll wait for you.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3015

Thanks. You can go ahead, Mr. Chair.

MR. ROBERT JOLY

3020

THE CHAIRMAN:

Miigwech. Mr. Joly, please.

MR. ROBERT JOLY:

3025

Thank you. Just a few comments. Even if the Proponent has taken any, all means and ways to avoid the impact of the project, or to mitigate the residuals impact, it may happen that someone or some people have complaints about the project, on many aspects of the project. So, what I wanted to know is, have you thought about putting into place some means, or some process to gather those complaints, and to answer any complaint that would come on the project.

3030

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Again, who would like to address the question?

3035

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

3040 I can address it, but maybe Sam can complement it. What we have been discussing is to do
a community follow-up committee that will follow the project during its construction and, also, we will
document the process of the construction, so it can be used as a reference for – on the history, or
if, like Sam said, a tourism project is done, so we could show what was done to do the work.

3045 So, yes, that committee will be in contact with the community, and follow up the process during
the construction time, and answer if there's a complaint from people, but we try to limit, for example,
not to have trucks going up on the road, to do the mining at the closest point of the new road.

3050 Maybe also one detail is that there'll be also dynamite used at the bottom of the turbine, to do
the foundation by itself. So, this will be more detailed in the request of the permit, but that is typical
to all the wind projects.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3055 Thank you. Mr. Gull, would you like to add something?

MR. SAM W. GULL:

3060 Yes. We had a discussion at one of the KWREC board meetings on this subject, and we
wanted to - on the Cree side, we have the Cree Trappers Association that have coordinators and
liaison officers, and we would like to have them participate, amongst other community members, to
create a committee jointly with the Inuit, in a query, to have that dialogue, or that discussion, you
know, during construction, during hunting season, you know, look at some of the issues that may
come out.

3065 So, we did think about that. We do want to create a liaison committee, to communicate that
to the board of KWREC so they could address some of these issues. And part of that was also to
look at – and that was the question Jade asked earlier, is that part of the mitigating of these issues
that may come out, is we could create – the local communities can create programmes. From the

3070 dividends that they're going to receive from the project, they could create programmes for the hunters, and trappers, and youth.

3075 Whatever the issue may be, it will be up to the community to decide what is the priority on these programmes they want to develop, because those dividends, the profit that they're going to make, is going to go back to the community, and the community will decide how to mitigate those issues, that the community faces, if it's hunting, if it's fishing, if it's something to do with traffic on that road, you know, security issues, young people issues. There's a lot of issues among our young people, and it could be a variety of helping getting firewood for trappers or elders. So, there's a large variety of programmes that can be developed from this.

3080 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you. Joshua, probably you heard your name again?

3085 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes. Just for the record, I believe there's no longer a Cree Trappers Association. Didn't they change their name a couple of years ago, to Hunters and Trappers Association? It's no longer CTA?

3090 **MR. SAM W. GULL:**

It's possible. I'm not up to date to the name, but the organization still exists.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3095 Okay.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3100 So, just for your record, it's the Hunters and Trappers Association. In Whapmagoostui, it's Whapmagoostui Hunters and Trappers Association, but people still use Cree Trappers Association. So, just give me a few seconds to translate.

THE CHAIRMAN:

By all means, Joshua.

3105

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

You can go ahead, Mr. Chair.

3110

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. Thank you again, Joshua. So, I don't know if we have participants who would like to ask questions, or if the Proponent would like to add something, or the COMEX members?

3115

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

Yes.

3120

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH

THE CHAIRMAN:

3125

Yes.

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

Matthew Mukash here.

3130

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, Matthew.

3135 **MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:**

Yes. Okay, I just want to make sure I'm on the screen. It seems like my camera is off, or it's not in focus. Yes. I just want to make a comment, basically to clarify, and make sure that people understand concerning the discussion on the battery, the battery. Originally, this was part of the plan that we have with our project, but as we spoke with Hydro-Québec, they told us that it was going to be theirs, they would own the battery, and they would deal with it, its operation, and all that.

3140 So, it's not – the battery is not part of our component, the wind component, okay? It's just that I wanted to make sure that everybody understands that. So, I just wanted to clarify that. The other thing is, you know, it's – it is indeed a complex project, and like we said at the beginning, there were a lot of questions about the potential impacts on the hunters, and all of that, and those were answered, and the answers were posted in the website of KWREC, and also those questions were submitted to the COMEX.

3150 What we're going to do for – I just want to inform the community that what we're going to do from here on, is that we're going to continue to educate the people about the project. We were planning to have a podcast in Cree, and to have various people from the industry come and talk to us about the actual impacts of a wind project. So, that's going to be ongoing, until the project is approved. So, people will be informed about that, and they will have a chance to understand the potential impacts.

3160 Also, before the community makes a decision on the land use, we have to make sure that they understand well the project, and what happens if we don't approve the land use, and all that. So, it's important for people to understand it, so we're going to continue to educate the people. And I do have a question to Hydro-Québec, still there, the representatives of Hydro-Québec?

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

3165 Yes, I'm still there.

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

3170 Okay. Okay. I guess my question is, you know, we always look at the future when we do
projects and, you know, we have Plan B, Plan A, Plan A and Plan B, and Plan C, and all that.
3175 Supposedly, the unlikely reason of an event that the project doesn't go through, okay? What are
the alternatives for Hydro-Québec to do away with diesel? Because as you know the Premier of
Québec announced that there will be no more construction of housing that involves heating systems
with diesel, and so we know that it's coming. We do have to – they really want to do away with the
greenhouse gas emissions, and all of that.

3175 So, we know that there has been – there had been a discussion, I saw that in the newspapers,
the discussion about the modular nuclear power plants. Is that something that Hydro-Québec has
looked at as an alternative to, let's say, for the north case, you know, the people don't want wind
energy, let's say? So, that's my question.

3180

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

So, the question is about the nuclear, small nuclear possibility in the north, that's it?

3185

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

That, and also what would be the alternative let's say, if projects like ours don't go through in
the north, what will be the alternative to do away with diesel?

3190

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

3195 Okay. So, first, regarding the nuclear, last time we received a question, and I'm an engineer,
I'm not a director, but last time we received the question, our director said, regarding the nuclear,
that is the only technical solution that we don't really want to analyze. So, this is not something we
have in mind on our side. So, if we are seeing that there is a problem with this project, what other
technology is feasible?

3200 I'll start by saying if there is a problem with this project, I will say that the better technology at
this moment, for your kind of community, is still the wind resources. So, from my point of view, if
there is a problem, we should try again with another way to do the project at the first time, and if it's
really not possible, from a point of view, maybe the solar could be the better option, the easiest one,
at least. But what we have to know with the solar, is it's very easy to put in place, but the impact is
not very high. You have to put in place a lot of solar to be able to get the energy. So, you will never
get the same economy of fuel with solar, than anything else.

3205 So, there is not many, many other options, maybe hydrokinetic in the future, but I don't think
it's really for now. We need to study again.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3210 Mr. Mukash?

MR. OLIVIER ARSENAULT:

3215 I don't hear you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

No?

3220 **MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:**

No, I'm good.

3225 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

You're good? Okay. So, Joshua, I hope you captured the essential to translate it, or is there
still a need to translate, or?

3230 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

I'll translate.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3235

Okay, thank you, Joshua.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3240

Go ahead, Mr. Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3245

So, thank you, Joshua. Joshua, you know what I'm thinking, is maybe we should take a 15-minute break, and we'll see if, sometimes, you know, right after dinner, if there are people that would like to participate in the hearings, because that's the only chance they will have. So, would you mind to inform people on the radio that we will take a 15-minute break, and if they want to participate it will be their chance after?

3250

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Yes, that would be very much appreciated, because I'm losing my voice right now.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3255

Yes, I know.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3260

So, we'll take a 15-minute break?

THE CHAIRMAN:

Fifteen minutes, and then we'll be right back, okay?

3265

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Wonderful. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3270

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. So, it's 6:34, 34 plus 15, I'm looking at you, Sophie.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

3275

Well, round it up.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3280

You're wise.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

It'll be 50, okay?

3285

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, 6:50. I got you, hmm?

3290

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Yes.

3295

SHORT RECESS

3300

**RESUMPTION
QUESTION PERIOD**

THE CHAIRMAN:

Joshua?

3305

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

Yes.

3310

THE CHAIRMAN:

Do you know if the elder is still in the room?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3315

Yes, he is.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3320

Okay. I thought maybe we – I'd like to ask him for maybe some closing remarks, but not now, you know, when we're done, you know, if he's still – if he wants to say a few words.

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3325

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

3330 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

So, I asked him to do the...

THE CHAIRMAN:

3335

Closing?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3340 Closing, and also to say a prayer.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3345 Okay. So, thank you. There is a question on Facebook, Facebook questions, and the question is the following. I will read it aloud: How many turbines are we talking about? And what is the backup plan if one or both are out of commission?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3350 Just give me a second, Mr. Chair, and I will try to get back on the air.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh, I'm sorry.

3355

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

So, Mr. Chair, we're back on the air, so...

THE CHAIRMAN:

3360

Okay, thank you. So, welcome back to everybody. We have the questions, in fact, Facebook questions, and the question is the following: How many turbines are we talking about? What is the backup plan if one or both are out of commission?

3365

So, Mr. Mukash, I don't know who would like to address those two questions?

MR. MATTHEW MUKASH:

I'll ask Jean Schiettekatte to answer that, please.

3370

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Schiettekatte?

3375

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

Yes, thanks, Luc. You have the name of the person who asked that question, for your records?

THE CHAIRMAN:

3380

I will ask. Sophie, do you have the name, Sophie, of the person?

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

3385

Actually it was Joshua who sent me the question...

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh, okay.

3390

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

... from someone, I think, so Joshua will have the answer...

3395

THE CHAIRMAN:

We will get...

3400

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

And yes, that is a detail that I – I was so excited to get a question that I forgot.

MR. JEAN SCHIETTEKATTE:

3405

But it's an easy question, I will answer it. You can find the name after. Basically, there is two turbines, and actually, one turbine is almost sufficient to provide all the energy we need. We have the second one as a backup, or just from some small time where we have peak load. If we don't have the turbine, for a reason that is possible in some cases, for example if we do a large maintenance or something like that, the Genset will take over and provide the electricity to the community, or a combination of one turbine with the Genset. The battery can also provide the same energy as the two turbines. So, there's various operation strategy to do that, yes.

3410

THE CHAIRMAN:

3415

Okay. Thank you. Joshua, two things. The first one, will it be possible to get the name of the participant who asked this question?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3420

Yes, that was Director General George E. Pachano that asked that question, so I forwarded it to Sophie.

3425 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, perfect, and now, do you mind to translate for the people on the radio?

3430 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Yes, just give me a few minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3435 Joshua, we don't have either the Mayor or the Chief back the room virtually, or?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3440 I don't know if the Mayor is virtually attending, but the Chief is not here. Sophie, do you have him online?

THE CHAIRMAN:

3445 No, it was just to know if they were...

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

No.

3450 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

Okay. I haven't...

THE CHAIRMAN:

3455 Okay, so...

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3460 I didn't finish my translation.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3465 You're finished with the translations? Okay. Thank you again, Joshua. So, do we have more comments or questions?

MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:

3470 I didn't finish with the translation, just give me a second.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you said you were done. Okay, sorry, Joshua.

3475 **MR. JOSHUA KAWAPIT:**

So, go ahead, Mr. Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3480 Thank you. Thank you, Joshua. So, do we have more – any questions, any comments from participants?

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

3485 I have nothing on my side.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3490 No? Okay.

**CLOSING COMMENTS
FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

3495 I think we have had a long day, you know, we have to recognize it, but also, you know, we have had a very excellent public hearing today, you know, a lot of fruitful and respectful discussions, and I would like to congratulate the people of Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuaraapik for their participation, and I would like also to thank my colleagues of the COMEX, and including, and especially Sophie and John Paul who worked very hard to make it possible.

3500 I would like also to thank the promoter, you know, the KWREC representatives, Hydro-Québec representatives, PESCA Environment, and also the people of the ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements climatiques, and of course, the representatives of the Cree Nation Government.

3505 I would like to say a special thanks to Joshua, and Joshua, I hope you will have still your voice tonight, you know, if you want to sing. You did a great job, you know, to help us to prepare for this public hearing, and also for interpretation.

3510 So, I would like to say thank you again to all of you. It was my pleasure to be the Chair for the day, and also, since the Elder is still with us, I would like to invite the Elder to say a few closing remarks, to make some closing remarks. Elder, please?

Mr. SAMSON PETAGUMSKUM:

3515 [In Cree]

THE CHAIRMAN:

3520 *Miigwech*, Elder. And to all of you, I wish you a nice evening.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Thank you, everyone.

ADJOURNMENT.

3525

3530

Je soussignée, YOLANDE TEASDALE, sténographe officielle bilingue, certifie sous mon serment d'office que les pages qui précèdent sont et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des propos recueillis au meilleur de la qualité sonore et des enjeux liés à une audience par visioconférence.

Le tout conformément à la loi.

3535

ET J'AI SIGNÉ :

3540



Yolande Teasdale, s.o./o.c.r.