

Annual Report  
1983 - 1984



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## Message From The Chairman

The Kativik Environmental Quality Commission was established pursuant to Section 23 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and is governed by the Environment Quality Act, RSQ, c. Q-2.

Since the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement in 1975, development activities in Northern Quebec have been subject to federal and/or Quebec environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures. These procedures are designed to minimize the negative impacts of development upon the Inuit people and the wildlife resources of the territory and to ensure that the impacts of development are evaluated in the preliminary planning stage before irreversible decisions are made that could adversely affect the environment and social milieu.

In this context, the mandate of the Commission is to review and assess the environmental and social impacts of projects proposed in the territory of Quebec situated north of the fifty-fifth parallel. After such a review, the Commission is asked to decide whether or not to authorize a project and, if authorized, under which conditions. A decision of the Commission can only be reversed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council upon the advice of the government of Quebec.

A brief summary of the composition, activities, and finances of the Commission for the year April 1, 1983 - March 31, 1984 follows. You are cordially invited to contact the Commission if you have any questions or comments.

Peter Jacobs

# 1. The Commission



The Commission is composed of nine members, including the Chairman. Four members are appointed by the government of Quebec and four by the Kativik Regional Government. The Chairman is proposed by the Government of Quebec and must be approved by the Kativik Regional Government. At the end of this year, the members of the Commission were:

Chairman:	Peter Jacobs, Université de Montréal
Kativik members:	David Annanack, Kativik Regional Government*
	Bernard Arcand, Université Laval
	David Okpik, Kativik Regional Government
	Eli Weetaluktuk, Anguvigak Corporation
Quebec members:	Michael Beaulieu, Ministère de l'Environnement
	Daniel Berrouard, Ministère de l'Environnement
	Bertrand Bouchard, Ministère de l'Environnement
	Georges Simard, Ministère de l'Environnement

The head office of the Commission is located in Kuujjuaq, where it maintains a public register of its decisions as well as all the data connected with its work. The Secretary of the Commission is Mr. Hervé Chatagnier.

The commission held nine sittings between April 1, 1983 and March 31, 1984. The following is a list of dates and locations of the Commission's sitting in the past year:

27th sitting	May 16-17, 1983 Kuujjuaq
28th sitting	June 13, 1983 Montreal
29th sitting	June 28, 1983 Montreal
30th sitting	August 8-9, 1983 Kuujjuarapik
31st sitting	September 19-20, 1983 Bromont
32nd sitting	October 17-18, 1983 Kuujjuaq
33rd sitting	November 28-29, 1983 Ste-Foy (Quebec)
34th sitting	January 30-31, 1984 Ste-Foy (Quebec)
35th sitting	March 5-6, 1984 Kuujjuarapik

\*Mr. David Annanack replaced Mr. Mark R. Gordon who resigned.

## 2. Activities of the Commission for the Year 1983-1984

A considerable portion of the projects reviewed by the Commission dealt with municipal infrastructures. In addition to reviewing several solid and liquid waste disposal sites the Commission began its review of the future community of Umiujaq, a major project for Northern Quebec. Finally, several landing strips proposed to provide access to the region for the purposes of mineral exploration were brought to the attention of the Commission for its review and evaluation

### Solid Waste Disposal Sites

The Commission reviewed and evaluated projects to relocate solid waste disposal sites for the municipalities of Salluit, Unukjuak, Aupaluk and Kangiqsujuaq. In its review of these projects, the Commission gave due consideration to the following factors:

- the coordination and planning of these projects in conjunction with other municipal infrastructures (access roads, landing strips, water points, etc.)
- the proper discharge of surface run-off
- the assurance of access to the sites throughout the year
- the proper restoration and closing of the former waste disposal site
- the conformity of the proposed technique to environmental regulations
- the location of granular materials to be used for the construction of the access roads



## Liquid waste disposal sites

The Commission reviewed projects for wastewater treatment and elimination systems for virtually every Inuit municipality with the exceptions of Kuujuaq and Kuujuarapik. In addition, the Commission reviewed a proposed wastewater elimination system for the Cree community of Whapmagoostoo as this project proposed to use the territory of the Inuit municipality of Kuujuarapik. With the exception of Whapmagoostoo, which proposed elimination without treatment, the treatment systems proposed for the municipalities were either biological disks or non aerated facultative oxidation ponds. The projects are not automatically subject to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure and the Commission therefore had the task of deciding whether or not to submit the projects to the procedure.

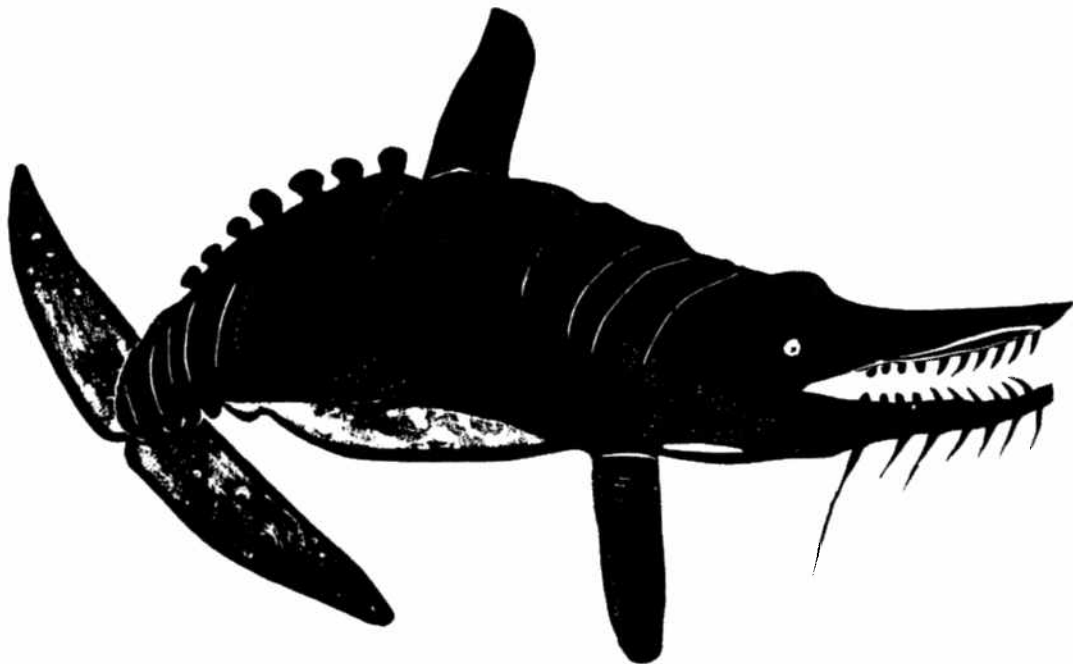
In its review of these projects, the Commission gave special consideration to the following factors:

- access to the proposed wastewater treatment sites
- simplicity, efficiency and flexibility of the chosen treatment techniques
- the dilution capacity of the receiving waters on the treated effluent
- in the case of biological disk systems, emergency procedures foreseen in case of a mechanical breakdown

## Landing strips for mineral exploration

The Commission reviewed a project to extend an airstrip in the lac Brisson/Strange Lake region for the purposes of mineral exploration. Furthermore, it is in the process of reviewing a project for the construction of landing strips in the Labrador trough, also designed to facilitate access to the region for mineral exploration.

In its review of the landing strip extension at lac Brisson, the Commission paid particular attention to the impacts of the project on caribou, the flora and fauna of the region, the physical impacts of construction and operational activities (e.g. storage and manipulation of petroleum products) and consultation with the Inuit and Naskapis. The Commission advised the ministère de l'Environnement that the landing strip had originally been built without the necessary authorizations. The Naskapis expressed their concern that the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure had not been followed in the case of the landing strip at lac Brisson. As for the extension of the airstrip, the Chairman met with a Naskapi representative to discuss the project and the procedure. The project was ultimately approved, subject to various conditions.





## Umiujaq Relocation Project

The Commission received preliminary information on the proposed development of Umiujaq, a new community to be established in the lac Guillaume-Delisle region. Earlier in the year, the Commission had reviewed a proposal to establish a temporary campsite and landing strip in the region.

The relocation of Inuit from Kuujjuarapik to Umiujaq is provided for in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. On November 2, 1982, the Inuit of Kuujjuarapik voted in favour of relocating and on February 22, 1984, the Richmond Gulf Relocation Agreement was signed. This Agreement established a Relocation Steering Committee composed of a representative from Quebec and three Inuit representatives respectively from the Kativik Regional Government, the community of Kuujjuarapik and Makivik. The Committee is the project proponent and is responsible for implementing the relocation to Umiujaq according to the terms of the Relocation Agreement.

Guideline recommendations for the environmental and social impact study for this project were prepared by the Commission and a meeting was requested with the proponent to discuss the principles behind the guidelines and to clarify any aspects that might not be fully understood. The three general preoccupations of the Commission in its preparation of guidelines are:

- that the proponent has the unique opportunity of creating a new village and can therefore avoid many of the problems prevailing in other northern municipalities;
- that as demographical variations could be significant, the proponent must introduce a certain degree of flexibility in planning and conceptualizing the village;
- that the proponent consider life cycle costing when economic considerations are given.

This major project will be reviewed by the Commission in the course of the following year.

## Great Whale River Hydro-Electric Project

Hydro-Quebec announced on December 15, 1982 that the construction of the project would be delayed, possibly until 1988, and it now appears that there have been further delays in the construction schedule. The Commission suspended its review of the impact assessment statement and, on October 24, 1983 wrote to the Deputy-minister of the ministère de l'Environnement to request a clarification on the status of the impact assessment and review procedure for the project.

## Publications

In the course of the year, the Commission published the following two documents:

- 1) *Quebec Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Review Procedures North of the 55th parallel: Guide for Proponents*

The objective of the guide is to inform proponents wishing to carry out projects north of the 55th parallel of the procedures necessary to obtain the required authorizations of the ministère de l'Environnement du Québec.

- 2) *Inuit Knowledge and Perceptions of the Proposed Great Whale River Hydro-Electric Project; by William Kemp*

*Inuit Knowledge and Perceptions of the Proposed Great Whale River Hydro-Electric Project* was published to fill a void in the existing literature on the project. In effect, the study evaluates the knowledge and perceptions of Inuit hunters about the impact of the proposed hydro-electric project on the environment, resources and subsistence economy of Kuujjuarapik.

Copies of these publications are available at the Secretariat of the Commission.

### 3. Finances for 1983-1984

The expenses for the Secretariat of the Commission for the year ending March 31, 1984 were as follows:

#### REVENUE

Appropriation of Surplus (82-83)	2 590
83-84 Contract	52 000
Total Revenue	54 590

#### EXPENSES

Salaries	17 076
Employer's contribution	1 175
Annual leave	725
Cargo	818
Travel	5 954
Travel expenses	3 731
Publications & Memberships	8 086
Adm. charges - KRG	7 800
Adm. charges - Others	3 000
Housing charges	6 410
Others	490
Total Expenses	55 265
Deficit	(675)

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