

Draft Regulations

Draft Regulation

Environment Quality Act
(R.S.Q., c. Q-2)

Environmental impact assessment and review — Amendment

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (R.S.Q., c. R-18.1) and with section 124 of the Environment Quality Act, that the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting environmental impact assessment and review, the text of which appears below, may be made by the Government upon the expiry of 60 days following this publication.

The purpose of the draft Regulation is to exempt the projects or programmes for aerial spraying of the biopesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* (B.t.k.) from the environmental impact assessment and review procedure provided for in Division IV.1 of the Environment Quality Act.

Study of the matter has shown no particular impact on small and medium-sized businesses; it shows however the following impact on the bodies that carry out aerial spraying.

For all intents and purposes, only the Société de protection des forêts contre les insectes et les maladies (SOPFIM) carries out such projects under the spruce budworm management programme. The projects will be subject to the authorization scheme provided for in section 22 of the Environment Quality Act whereas they are currently subject to the authorization scheme provided for in Division IV.1. The change of scheme will represent a noticeable saving since the last impact assessment statement prepared by SOPFIM under the 1996-2000 spraying programme cost \$1.5 million. The change of procedure will also shorten the time period for obtaining authorization.

Even though the public would no longer be able to request that public hearings be held, it is necessary to point out that, under the spruce budworm management programme, three public hearings have been held since 1982, as well as a general hearing on the Stratégie de protection des forêts. The hearings resulted in the elaboration of a very strict supervision program for the use of insecticides in forests.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Louis Germain, Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets en milieu terrestre, Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune, édifice Marie-Guyart, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 6^e étage, boîte 81, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7; tel. (418) 521-3900, ext. 4569; fax: (418) 644-8222; e-mail: louis.germain@mef.qc.ca.

Any person having comments to make on the draft Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting environmental impact assessment and review is asked to send them in writing, before the expiry of the 60-day period, to the Minister of the Environment and Wildlife, édifice Marie-Guyart, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 30^e étage, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7.

PAUL BÉGIN,
*Minister of the Environment
and Wildlife*

Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting environmental impact assess- ment and review(*)

Environment Quality Act
(R.S.Q., c. Q-2, s. 31.9, 1st par., subpar. a)

1. The Regulation respecting environmental impact assessment and review is amended by inserting the words “spraying of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* and” after the word “except for” in subparagraph *q* of the first paragraph of section 2.

2. This Regulation comes into force on the fifteenth day following the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

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* The Regulation respecting environmental impact assessment and review (R.R.Q., 1981, c. Q-2, r. 9) was last amended by the Regulation made by Order in Council 1514-97 dated 26 November 1997 (1997, *G.O.* 2, 5804). For previous amendments, refer to the *Tableau des modifications et Index sommaire*, Éditeur officiel du Québec, 1998, updated to 1 September 1998.