



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 91

(1999, chapter 76)

An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act concerning the procedure for environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects

Introduced 11 November 1999

Passage in principle 1 December 1999

Passage 14 December 1999

Assented to 16 December 1999

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The object of this bill is to empower the Minister of the Environment to make an agreement with the competent authority to coordinate all applicable environmental assessment procedures, where a project is to be carried out partly outside Québec and is subject to another environmental assessment procedure.

The bill specifies that an agreement may concern the constitution and operation of a body responsible for the implementation of the environmental assessment procedure, and the conditions applicable to impact studies and information and consultation sessions. The provisions of the agreement will stand in lieu of the corresponding legislative provisions.

Lastly, the bill provides that the agreement is to be tabled in the National Assembly.

Bill 91

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENT QUALITY ACT CONCERNING THE PROCEDURE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF CERTAIN PROJECTS

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS :

1. The Environment Quality Act (R.S.Q., chapter Q-2) is amended by inserting the following section after section 31.8 :

“31.8.1. Where a project referred to in section 31.1 is to be carried out in part outside Québec and, as a consequence, the project is also subject to an environmental assessment procedure prescribed under an Act of a legislative authority other than the Parliament of Québec, the Minister may make, as provided by law, an agreement with any competent authority to coordinate the environmental assessment procedures, which may include the establishment of a unified procedure.

The agreement may, in keeping with the objectives of this division, provide for

(1) the constitution and operation of a body responsible for the implementation of all or part of the environmental assessment procedure ;

(2) the conditions applicable to the carrying out of the study on the project’s environmental impact ; and

(3) the holding of information sessions and public consultations as well as public hearings on the project.

The provisions of the agreement pertaining to the matters mentioned in the second paragraph apply in lieu of the corresponding provisions of this Act and its statutory instruments.

The agreement shall be tabled in the National Assembly within 10 days of its making or, if the National Assembly is not sitting, within 10 days of resumption.”

2. This Act comes into force on 16 December 1999.