

Notices

Notice

Environment Quality Act
(chapter Q-2)

Energy East Pipeline by Energy East Pipeline Ltd

Notice is hereby given under the provisions of Section 6.3 of the Environment Quality Act, CQLR c Q-2, that on June 8, 2015, I mandated the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE), 575 Rue Saint-Amable, Québec, to open an inquiry and hold a public hearing on the Québec portion of the Energy East Pipeline project.

This step authorized an inquiry and public hearing on the entire Québec portion of the project that would include a greenhouse gas emission assessment as well as consultations with local communities ensuring the project's social acceptability. In addition, the measure was aimed at making certain that the project promoter meets the highest level of technical standards, guarantees the safety of our citizens and the protection of the environment, prepares an action plan with detailed emergency measures set out to the highest available standards and assumes full liability in case of land or water spills including a compensation fund and financial guarantees that demonstrate its ability to act should an accident occur.

The scope of the mandate is to cover the effects of the pipeline on, over and through all affected bodies of water, including the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers; the impact of construction on sensitive environments (wetlands, threatened and vulnerable species and/or species likely to become as such, ecosystems of interest, etc.); the Québec greenhouse gas emission balance; the risk of major technological accidents to individual health and safety, major water supply points and the environment, etc., as well as the emergency plan to be put in place and coordinated with municipal plans.

The mandate will make it possible to inform the citizenry about the stakes involved, consult with it and provide informed input to the government in its deliberations on the position to be adopted in regard to the project at the National Energy Board project assessment hearings.

The mandate is to begin as soon as the Québec portion of the Energy East Pipeline Ltd. is confirmed or as soon as the NEB restarts its assessment process, with the report being delivered to me no later than 60 days prior to the start of the NEB hearings.

Given at Québec City, this 4th day of March, 2016

DAVID HEURTEL,
*Minister of Sustainable Development,
the Environment and the
Fight Against Climate Change*

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