



Comité d'évaluation
REÇU LE
08 JUL. 2003
COMEV

FAX COVER PAGE

DATE: July 8, 2003

We are transmitting 2 pages (excluding this page) to:

NAME: Mr. Michael O'Neill

FIRM: Evaluating Committee

FAX NUMBER: 418 646-0266

FROM: Robbie Tapriatic

CREE NATION OF CHISASIBI
P. O. BOX 150
CHISASIBI, QUEBEC
J0M 1E0

TELEPHONE: (819) 855-2878

FAX NUMBER: (819) 855-2875

Message: Comment, Concerns, and Recommendation
on Directives and Eastmain 1-A Rupert
Diversion Project

Robbie Tapriatic

July 7, 2003

Evaluating Committee
675 René-Lévesque Blvd. East
6th Floor, Marie-Guyart Building
Québec QC G1R 5V7

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subject: Eastmain 1-A Rupert Diversion Project – Joseph Pepabano

First of all, my name is Robbie Tapiatic, Field Coordinator of Chisasibi under the Boumhounan Agreement. I have volunteered on behalf of Joseph Pepabano, an elder from Chisasibi, QC to translate his notes written in Cree.

Joseph came to see me in my office the day after the consultation session was held on June 11, 2003 in Chisasibi, QC. He showed me the notes written in Cree that he wanted to talk about at the consultation session. Unfortunately he realized that the Consultation has already ended. He didn't know that the Session would be held for one night only.

The following are his comments, recommendations, and concerns about the Directives and Eastmain 1-A Rupert Diversion Project:

He is disappointed of how brief the session was considering the importance of this process of the Evaluating Committee.

He believes the Evaluating Committee should visit all nine Cree Communities so everybody could have a say at these consultation sessions.

He recommends that present and future studies be done by two separate entities, meaning that one consultant investigating the possible impacts should be from outside the province of Quebec.

He recommends when the project does get approved, the flooding of the land (impounded area) start early in the summer for the sake of wildlife.

He mentions how devastating it had been to see animals suffering from the flooding of Robert Bourassa Reservoir when it had begun in the fall.

Eastmain 1-A Rupert Diversion Project – Joseph Pepabano
July 07, 2003
Robbie Tapiatic

He is also worried of what could happen to the *Water Treatment Plant* in Chisasibi once the Rupert River will be diverted towards Chisasibi (La Grande River).

The other concern of his has to do with the fish that go through the turbines at La Grande 2. He says that you can tell that lots of fish die there because of the abundance of seagulls at the exit of these facilities. This situation must also have an effect on the *Quality of Water*.

He recommends that there be a detailed investigation on quality of the water and the contaminants that develop because of these existing turbines and facilities in the La Grande 1,2,3,4 areas. The water should always remain drinkable for future generations.

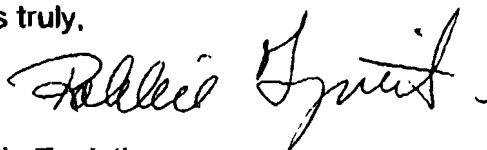
He says the sewage from the Cree communities and existing Hydro complexes should not be drained back into our rivers.

He mentions that due to the increased flow of the La Grande River near Chisasibi and its unfrozen state during the winter, there are health problems related to the resulting humid smog that hangs in the air and comes down on the community. Moreover, when the diversion project goes through, this smog problem will worsen because of the increasing of the water flow.

Overall he is concerned about *Dam Safety*. He mentions what was said to the community if even a single dam breaks in LG-2, 3 and 4 and the consequences the people will have to face. He says he does not want to see the breaking of dams because of how delicate and fragile life is.

In summary, he is stressing that all aspects of things should be looked at very carefully so that the Cree Way of Life and Health will not be lost forever.

Yours truly,



Robbie Tapiatic