

C A N A D A

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
DISTRICT OF MONTRÉAL

FILE No. R-4045-2018

PHASE 3

RÉGIE DE L'ÉNERGIE

TARIFFS AND SERVICE CONDITIONS OF
HYDRO-QUÉBEC DISTRIBUTION (HQD)
FOR CRYPTOGRAPHIC USE APPLIED TO
BLOCKCHAINS

HYDRO-QUÉBEC
In its quality of Distributor

Petitioner

-and-

THE CREE GROUP,
consisting of :

The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi

And

The Tawish Development Corporation (a
Corporation entirely owned by the Cree First
Nation of Wemindji through a holding
corporation)

Intervenor

OPENING STATEMENT IN PHASE 3

Mr. Sam Gull

for

The Cree Group,
consisting of

The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
The Tawish Development Corporation (Wemindji)

August 2021

OPENING STATEMENT IN PHASE 3

Mr. Sam Gull
 for
 The Cree Group,
 consisting of
 The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
 The Tawich Development Corporation (Wemindji)

August 2021

ENGLISH TRANSLATION FROM CREE

It is with great pleasure for me to represent before the Energy Board the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi as well as the Tawich Development Corporation, which is a society entirely owned by the First Nation of Wemindji, through a holding corporation.

We greet the Energy Board as well Hydro-Quebec and all other participants who are taking part in this hearing.

When we visit a new location, it is customary for us to also greet the First Nation where this location is situated. But in this case, since this hearing is held on the Internet, with participants coming from many different places in Quebec and in Ontario, as well as other listeners to this call that may come from even further locations, my greetings are extended to all 55 Native communities which are part of the First Nations of Quebec and some even in Ontario, all of them including the Cree, the Inuit, the Algonquin, the Mohawk, the Attikamekw-Nehirowisiw, the Huron-Wendat, the Innu, the Abenaki, the Malecite, the Naskapi and the Mi'kmaq Nations.

As I said in the Cree language, I represent today before you the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi as well as the Tawich Development Corporation, which is a Corporation entirely owned, through a holding Corporation, by the Cree First Nation of Wemindji.

Our first nations are located in the James Bay area where, as you know, a large quantity of hydroelectricity is being produced and is used by all Quebecors as well as partly exported to surrounding Canadian provinces and part of the United States.

The electricity which is being produced in the Cree territories therefore benefits to a lot of people both in Canada and the United States. But the Cree Nations, even after the James Bay Agreement and its "Paix des Braves" supplement, are still struggling economically and socially and are still far away from reaching the same quality of life which is enjoyed in more southern regions.

However, the Cree Nations that I represent today wish to take their destiny into their own hands.

We wish to take part in the current development of blockchain usage in Quebec, both for non-monetary cryptographic use (which no longer requires a special authorization) and for monetary cryptographic use (which is the subject of the present file before the Energy Board), including projects mixing monetary and non-monetary cryptographic use.

Such blockchain projects will provide **economic benefits to our communities, both financially and by providing jobs**. Also, such blockchain projects will provide **residual heat** which we intend to use in greenhouse projects that will provide fresh fruits and vegetables to our communities at an affordable price all year long, as well as using that residual heat possibly also for a chicken farm and a fish farm. Such use of the residual heat would be of considerable benefit to our communities which, as too many First Nations, is suffering deeply from **lack of access to fresh and economicall accessible nutritious food**.

Consquently, we are supporting the proposal presented by Hydro-Québec with some modifications. As Mr. Schiettekatte will further explain, we agree to Hydro-Quebec's proposal :

- a) To no longer proceed with a call of proposition or tender ;
- b) To allocate all the balance of the proposed dedicated energy block ;
- c) To continue requesting that the customer assume the entire cost of the work required to make the connection and before the beginning of the work ;

But we also recommend a modification to Hydro-Quebec's proposal :

- d) To request that all participants in the future process be required **to recover at least a minimal portion of the heat** from the cryptographic machines, thus providing another socially or economically useful purpose as well as an environmental benefit as well as building ties with the community, providing stability and providing a plus-value.

The Cree Nations that I represent today strongly recommend the Energy Board to accept our recommendation, as Mr. Jean Schiettekatte will now further explain.
