

CANADA

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
DISTRICT OF MONTRÉAL

RÉGIE DE L'ÉNERGIE

NO : R-4085-2019

HYDRO-QUÉBEC, a legal person is established in the public interest constituted under the *Hydro-Québec Act* (CQLR, c. H-5), having its head office at 75 René-Lévesque West, in the city and district of Montréal, province of Québec

Applicant

APPLICATION OF THE ELECTRIC POWER CARRIER TO DISPOSE OF ASSETS OF
ITS TRANSPORT NETWORK

SOLEMN DECLARATION

1. I am the Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Chairman of the Cree Nation Government;
2. In the context of the present application (the "**Application**") from the electric power carrier, I represent the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and all of its members;
3. In 2011, the Cree Nation Government (then, the Cree Regional Authority), the Cree School Board, the *Commission scolaire de la Baie-James* and the *Administration régionale Baie-James* (then, the *Commission régionale des élus de la Baie-James*) concluded a joint venture agreement for the construction and initial deployment of a telecommunications network (the "**Network**") and its future expansion, the whole for the benefit of the Cree and Jamesian populations of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region;
4. Eeyou Communications Network, established as a not-for-profit corporation in 2009, was tasked with the responsibilities to construct and operate the Network;
5. The Cree Nation Government is the co-owner of the network built and operated by the Eeyou Communications Network ("**ECN**") since 2011, along with the *Administration régionale Baie James* and the James Bay School Board;
6. The Network serves the institutional and commercial needs in telecommunications of the various Cree and Jamesian entities located in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region;
7. In 2018, ECN proceeded to obtain funding to build improvements to the Network, the whole in order to provide fiber-to-the-home services to residents of the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee;

8. The Cree Nation Government now seeks to take part in the construction of another network, which will interconnect the ECN Network, and the Atikamekw networks down to the main services networks and content providers in Montréal providing diversified and economical offers;
9. As this network would serve the Atikamekw communities of Wemotaci, Manawan and Opitciwan, its inception would be carried out through the creation of a limited partnership between, on one hand, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ECN and, on the other hand, the collectivity of the Atikamekw communities of Wemotaci, Manawan and Opitciwan. This limited partnership, the *Société de télécommunications Atikamekw-Cris* ("**STAC**") would be responsible for this new network;
10. For that purpose, STAC will purchase fibers from Hydro-Québec on the Chamouchouane-Bout-de-l'Île 735 kV line of the electric power carrier, as appears from the map of the proposed STAC network attached hereto as **Schedule "A"**;
11. The goal of the STAC network is to adequately serve the Cree, Jamesian and Atikamekw communities with high quality telecommunications services at affordable rates, while reducing the construction, infrastructure and operation costs for stakeholders;
12. For ECN, the purchase of fibers on the Chamouchouane-Bout-de-l'Île 735 kV line would serve as a high-capacity link;
13. The Cree, Jamesian and Atikamekw components of the STAC Network are thus interdependent;
14. ECN obtained the necessary funding from various sources (the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, then the Minister of Industry, the *Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation* and the *Société du Plan Nord*) for the construction of the STAC network through the Chamouchouane-Bout-de-l'Île 735 kV line;
15. I respectfully request for the Application of the electric power carrier to be treated according to an accelerated treatment, since the regular treatment of the Application by the *Régie de l'Énergie* (the "**Régie**") for this type of authorization could lead to undue delays which could otherwise have a detrimental impact of the proposed construction of the STAC network and thus, delaying services to the Cree, Jamesian and Atikamekw communities;
16. In order to respect the obligations set out in the funding agreements, the project must be operational at the latest during the first quarter of 2021;
17. To meet this deadline, the Cree-Atikamekw limited partnership contemplated in paragraph 9 is required to immediately undertake construction activities, thus exposing it to a financial risk, should the Application be declined by the Régie ;
18. The Cree, Jamesian and Atikamekw stakeholders have spent considerable efforts over several years to secure the necessary funding for the STAC Network, which currently amounts to \$15M. It is therefore essential for the Régie to approve the electric power carrier's Application, thus allowing the Cree, Jamesian and

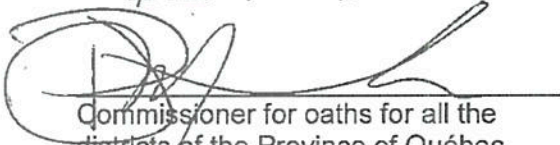
Atikamewk to have access to essential telecommunication services, available elsewhere in Québec;

19. All facts alleged in this solemn declaration are true.

AND I HAVE SIGNED


Abel Bosum

Solemnly declared before me in Nemaska,
this 15th day of May, 2019



Commissioner for oaths for all the
districts of the Province of Québec

Barron du Québec #204396-14

SCHEDULE "A"

