



GUIDELINES OF THE MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES IN THE AREA OF **SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY**

The Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (MERN) began work on a broad-based workshop project on social acceptability in 2014. In its Green Paper on Social Acceptability, tabled in February 2016, the MERN proposed five guidelines to ensure that social acceptability factors receive more consideration in its own practices and in its analysis and information tools.

Numerous representatives from the municipal, research, business and industry communities were heard by a standing parliamentary committee, as were representatives of Aboriginal organizations and environmental groups. At sessions held in March and April 2016, participants confirmed the guidelines proposed by the MERN, and also helped improve the suggested implementation measures.

The resulting approach will help reconcile different uses and improve the way projects are received by host communities, by ensuring that their aspirations and interests, along with their views of how the region in which they live should be developed, are taken into account.

FIVE GUIDELINES

Guideline 1 Make the MERN's roles and responsibilities in the area of land use planning and land management better known

Guideline 2 Make the mechanisms for land planning and land use harmonization contained in public land use plans more transparent, participatory and up-to-date

Guideline 3 Establish predictable public participation processes at every step of a project

Guideline 4 Promote the sharing of benefits from energy and mining development projects with host communities

Guideline 5 Enhance the MERN's ability to analyze the impacts, economic benefits and repercussions of projects by taking social acceptability factors into account

WINNING CONDITIONS

The MERN's guidelines will help create winning conditions to foster the social acceptability of projects in Québec, by:

- ▲ allowing promoters to work within a predictable, profitable context with authorization processes that are both transparent and efficient;
- ▲ fostering dialogue between promoters and local communities;
- ▲ fostering informed participation by local actors in the territorial planning process and in the preparation and monitoring of projects.



ADAPTED SERVICES AND TOOLS

The MERN will offer a number of adapted services and tools that will:

- ▲ allow promoters and local actors to obtain information and discuss projects, thanks to the presence of regional project officers;
- ▲ support the promoters of land, energy and mineral resource development projects, among other things by publishing good practice guides on public consultations and monitoring committees;
- ▲ make the planning process more accessible to the general public, in particular by reviewing the current land use planning approach;
- ▲ improve participatory approaches by introducing a ministerial policy for local community participation.



For further information, please see:

MERN.GOUV.QC.CA/MINISTERE/ACCEPTABILITE-SOCIALE/