Social acceptability: a crucial factor in successful wind energy development
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1) Quebec wind energy: the context
2) Government wind energy development policy
3) Social acceptability
4) Wind energy score card
5) Renewable energy progress report
6) Conclusion
Quebec wind energy: the context

- 1978 - Government adopts *Assurer l’Avenir* (“providing for the future”)
- 1998 - Commissioning of Le Nordais 100 MW wind farm
- 2001 - HQ announces the *Le Suroît* project; and Population rallies against the *Le Suroît* project
- 2003 - Adoption of decree no. 352-2003, setting in motion the process for the first request for proposals for 1000 MW
Government Wind Energy Development Policy

Wind energy development addresses several government concerns:

• Fulfills request of Gaspe residents
• Creates a new industrial cluster
• Diversifies sources of supply
• Fights global warming
GOVERNMENT STRATEGY
Quebec opens the door to wind energy development through decrees

Hydro-Quebec issues 3 RFPs:
• May 12, 2003 for 1000 MW
• October 31, 2005 for 2000 MW
• April 30, 2009 for 500 MW
  ➢ 250 MW community
  ➢ 250 MW First Nations
RESPONSE TO FIRST RFP

Number of MW offered 4292
Number or MW retained 990
Median purchase price 6,3 ¢/kWh
RESPONSE TO 2nd RFP

Number of MW offered: 7798

Number of MW retained: 2008

Median purchase price: 8.7¢/kWh
RESPONSE TO 3rd RFP

Number of MW offered: 1050

Number of MW retained: 291

Median purchase price: 11.3 ¢/kWh
The RFP process does have negative sides:

While preparing their proposals, project proponents are in competition. They must play it close to the chest.
SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY IS CRUCIAL

Before people accept wind farms on their turf, they expect transparency. They want:

• To be respected
• To be consulted
• To be heard
• To understand the project
• To get something out of it
• To preserve their quality of life
SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY IS CRUCIAL

Once proposals are submitted, successful proponents must:

• Organize information sessions
• Publish information on the project
• Meet with host communities
• Listen to comments
• Make sure people’s comments are taken into consideration by project engineers
• Go back and consult again after the project has been modified
SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY IS CRUCIAL

• Two-way conversations are the basic building blocks of mutual understanding and neighbourly relations
• Creating a follow-up committee is essential
• Maintaining close contact with the local business community maximizes benefits to host communities
• The developer must adapt to the host community, not the other way around
Wind energy score card as at June 15, 2012

The first 2 RFPs included **24 projects** for a total of **2998 MW**. Of these:

- Number of abandoned projects: 1
- Number of relocated projects: 3
- Expected completion rate: 96%
Wind energy score card as at June 15, 2012

On 2998 MW

- In production: 29%
- Under construction: 47%
- Under evaluation: 19%
- Abandoned: 5%
Wind energy projects enjoy significant acceptability and do not require public inquiries by the BAPE (Quebec bureau of public inquiries for the environment)
CONCLUSION

100% Of the projects without social acceptability are not built

1/3 Of the projects retained did not require public inquiries by the BAPE
CONCLUSION

Consensus is not unanimity, but there are consequences to having only marginal social acceptability:

- ↑ list of conditions on decree authorizing construction
- ↑ time required to obtain decree
Renewable energy progress report
Quebec Hydroelectric power plants
Renewable energy progress report
Quebec Biomass power plants
Renewable energy progress report
Quebec Biogas sites
CONCLUSION

Social acceptability crucial to successful wind energy development!