



April 4, 2023

Tony Le Verger
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SUBJECT: Final reminder of the three-year time limit to submit required information and studies under the IAA or to request a time limit extension for the Gazoduq project

Dear Tony Le Verger:

In follow-up to previous correspondence sent to you on December 16, 2022, the Agency is writing to provide a **final reminder** of the three-year legislated time limit for you to provide the required information or studies for the impact assessment of the proposed Gazoduq Project (the Project) under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

The deadline to submit the required information or studies described in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines issued for the Project is **July 17, 2023**. The required information and studies to be provided by this date include the Impact Statement (IS) and any additional information or studies required subsequently as a result of:

- the Agency and the Canada Energy Regulator's verification review of the IS;
- the public comment period on the IS;
- the technical review of the IS by the Agency, the Canada Energy Regulator, and federal authorities; and
- associated consultation and engagement by the Agency with Indigenous communities.



Extension of time limit

In accordance with subsection 19(2) of the IAA, the Agency may, at the proponent's request, grant an extension to the three-year legislated time limit, before it ends, by any period necessary for the proponent to provide the required information or studies.

In order for an extension to be considered and granted by the Agency, the proponent must demonstrate that they have made progress on the development of the IS and that they have a work plan in place for its completion.

Should Gazoduq Inc. wish to request an extension to the legislated time limit, please provide the following information as soon as possible to support the Agency's review of the request:

- the reasons, directly related to the impact assessment process, for requesting an extension of the time limit (e.g., baseline studies that could require multiple field seasons to complete);
- comparing to the information presented in the detailed project description, any changes to the environment at the project location, or to the project itself, that may affect the impact assessment (e.g. any aspects of the guidelines that may require updating or are no longer valid);
- a progress report demonstrating advances made to meet the requirements of the guidelines, including:
 - a description of the type of engagement activities conducted to date with Indigenous groups, the public and government experts, and their outcomes;
 - a summary of the baseline data collected to date;
 - any other documentation demonstrating the advancement of the impact assessment that began in 2020;
- a work plan detailing how the additional time requested would be utilized to provide all the required information and studies, including time for:
 - preparation and submission of the IS, as a whole or in sections, considering time required for proponent-led engagement, as applicable, and the review of drafts by the Agency, the Canada Energy Regulator, federal authorities, and Indigenous communities, as applicable;
 - the milestone of the submission of the complete IS to the Agency;
 - Agency-led engagement activities on the IS, including time needed for:
 - cooperation with the Government of Québec (in accordance sections 7.2 and 7.3 of the [Cooperation](#)

[Plan for the Impact Assessment of the Gazoduq Project](#));

- the public comment period on the IS, and
- the technical review of the IS by the Agency with the Canada Energy Regulator, federal authorities, Indigenous communities, and other participants, as applicable; and
 - contingency allowance for unexpected delays;
- information on extenuating circumstances outside the care and control of the proponent that have affected Gazoduq Inc.'s ability to submit the required information (e.g., events preventing public and Indigenous engagement or information gathering); and;
- any additional information that you believe is relevant.

Please note that the Agency may require additional information or studies, in accordance with subsection 19(3) of the IAA, if it grants an extension to the three-year legislated time limit prescribed by the Act.

Important: If you anticipate submitting a request for an extension, we ask you to do so no later than **April 24, 2023** to allow the Agency to process the request in time to issue an extension, if applicable, prior to the expiration of the legislated time limit (i.e. July 17, 2023). The Agency will post all extension request documents and the Agency's response on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry.

Termination of impact assessment

If the required information or studies are not provided within the three-year time limit, or within any extension of that time limit that may be granted by the Agency, the impact assessment for the Project under the IAA will be terminated in accordance with section 20(1) of the IAA.

If the impact assessment is terminated, as the Gazoduq Project is a designated project as described in section 41 of the *Physical Activities Regulations*, the prohibitions under section 7 of the IAA will apply to the Project.

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If the impact assessment is terminated, and a proponent wishes to re-commence an assessment of a project, it must submit a new Initial Project Description to the Agency, in accordance with section 10 of the IAA.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Isabelle Turcotte, Panel Manager, by phone at 613-668-5520 or by email at gazodug@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Colette Spagnuolo
Director, Review Panels Division
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

c.c. Erin Tabah, Director, Facilities East, Canada Energy Regulator
Ian Courtemanche, Director General, Environmental and Strategic Assessment, Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs, Gouvernement du Québec