

AQLPA Report on the SEA Working Plan

Shale gas and Québec's 16 Sustainable Development Principles

February 2012



16 following principles of Sustainable Development has been defined and drafted in MDDEP:

- 1- Health and quality of life
- 2- Social equity and solidarity
- 3- Environmental protection
- 4- Access to knowledge
- 5- Economic efficiency
- 6- Biodiversity protection
- 7- Respect of the ecosystem supporting capacity
- 8- Participation and engagement
- 9- preservation of cultural heritage



- 10- Internalization of costs
- 11- Polluter pays
- 12- Respect for ecosystem support capacity
- 13- Precaution
- 14- Prevention
- 15- Protection of cultural heritage
- 16- Responsible production and consumption

“16 principles must be respected by all government ministries and agencies as they seek to improve the incorporation of sustainable development in their policies, programs and actions. These principles serve as a guide to action in a sustainable development perspective while furthering the coherence of government action in this area”
(Government of Quebec)

Does the shale gas industry respect
the 16 principles of the sustainable
development?

Parallel BAPE report*(2011) :

Shale gas is against the sustainable development principles.

The SEA plan draft and the 16 principles of sustainable development:

- Most of the principles are already ignored or violated but this fact is been neglected by the SEA committee.
- Vague in how the principles are going to be analyzed in relation with the shale gas industry.
- Most relevant principles get more attention and assessment by committee according to the report.

Health and quality of life

People, human health and improved quality of life are at the centre of sustainable development concerns. People are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature

- Health impacts of the shale gas industry is widely reported from other countries, specially US
- Health impact threats has been reported by various researchers (INSPQ, Theo Colborn, Michelle and Robert Bamburg Oswald)
- The quality of life of citizens is already affected by the industry in Quebec (1':53"L. hearing, "People are sad and angry")

Social equity and solidarity

Development must be undertaken in a spirit of intra- and inter-generational equity and social ethics and solidarity

No inter-generational equity:

- Citizens living close to wells are already victimized by the industry. (1':53'' in Longueuil hearing)
- Lack of solidarity among neighbors

No intra-generational equity:

- SEA is designed for a period of 25 years. However, the environmental consequences stay for many years (Marc Durand)
- Properties near the shale industry won't have any value for the future generation.

Dishonesty and lack of transparency is against the social ethics

Environmental Protection

To achieve sustainable development, environmental protection must constitute an integral part of the development process.

Environmental protection is certainly not an integral part of the shale gas development since it is associated with production of environmental issues:

- Air pollution (Theo Colborn, 2012)
- Water contamination (Theo Colborn, 2012)
- Waste management (Dr. Duard, 2011)
- Shale gas production decrease the investment in renewable energies (Bernard Saulnier, Réal Reid and Normand Mousseau)

Respect for ecosystem support capacity

Human activities must be respectful of the support capacity of ecosystems and ensure the pereniality of ecosystems.

Biodiversity preservation

Biological diversity offers incalculable advantages and must be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations. The protection of species, ecosystems and the natural processes that maintain life is essential if quality of human life is to be maintained.

Ecosystem is a part of nature and biodiversity is one of the ecosystem services. Previous slide shows the disrespectfulness of the industry towards it.

Protection of cultural heritage

The cultural heritage, made up of property, sites, landscapes, traditions and knowledge, reflects the identity of a society. It passes on the values of a society from generation to generation, and the preservation of this heritage fosters the sustainability of development. Cultural heritage components must be identified, protected and enhanced, taking their intrinsic rarity and fragility into account.

- The Ministries of Culture, Communications and the Status of women has not been consulted during the BAPE hearings and the SEA.
- Nothing in the industry has been designed to protect the cultural heritage of Quebec.

Responsible production and consumption

Production and consumption patterns must be changed in order to make production and consumption more viable and more socially and environmentally responsible, in particular through an ecoefficient approach that avoids waste and optimizes the use of resource.

- **No responsible production:** for the production of shale gas:
 - Consuming huge amounts of water
 - Causing various forms of pollution: air pollution, light pollution, contaminating water
 - Destabilizing the ground
- **No responsible consumption:**
Shale gas is a fossil fuel and it's consumption is as irresponsible as other already existing fossil fuels.

Prevention

In the presence of a known risk, preventive, mitigating and corrective actions must be taken, with priority given to actions at the source.

Precaution

When there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty must not be used as a reason for postponing the adoption of effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Not having a moratorium is against the precautionary principle!

Today, there are still lots of uncertainties about the impact of the shale gas industry. Lots of research warns against the technological flaws of this industry. However there no moratorium in place.

Economic Efficiency

The economy of Québec and its regions must be effective, geared toward innovation and economic prosperity that is conducive to social progress and respectful of the environment.

- It has been proven that there are no economic progress from shale gas for the region of Quebec (see details in the the main document).
- Economic study considering the environment and social effects seems not to be the case in the current SEA draft.

Participation and Engagement

The participation and commitment of citizens and citizens' groups are needed to define a concerted vision of development and to ensure its environmental, social and economic sustainability.

- Shale gas exploration started in 2008 without the permission and consultation with citizens.
- Even now in the SEA draft phase, the level of local engagement seems to be not of a concern: the public hearings have been announced only on Internet and were held just before the Christmas holidays.
- Verbatim is not available, as is usually the case when there are public hearings (ex: BAPE); transcriptions are partial.
- Documents from participants at the public consultation are not published.

Access to knowledge

Measures favourable to education, access to information and research must be encouraged in order to stimulate innovation, raise awareness and ensure effective participation of the public in the implementation of sustainable development.

- There are no methods of awareness raising nor encouragement for the effective participation in the case of shale gas in Quebec.
- Many details and quote references are missing in the SEA draft.
- Lack of intellectual independence from the government, which is reflected in the selection of committee members
- Lack of real dialogue between the SEA Committee and the affected population and groups working on the issue (environmental protection, scientific research, citizens).

Subsidiarity

Powers and responsibilities must be delegated to the appropriate level of authority. Decision-making centers should be adequately distributed and as close as possible to the citizens and communities concerned.

Inter-governmental partnership

Governments must collaborate to ensure that development is sustainable from an environmental, social and economic standpoint. The external impact of actions in a given territory must be taken into consideration.

Article 246 of the Mining is against both above principles

246. Aucune disposition de la présente loi, d'un plan métropolitain, d'un schéma, d'un règlement ou d'une résolution de contrôle intérimaire ou d'un règlement de zonage, de lotissement ou de construction ne peut avoir pour effet d'empêcher le jalonnement ou la désignation sur carte d'un claim, l'exploration, la recherche, la mise en valeur ou l'exploitation de substances minérales et de réservoirs souterrains, faits conformément à la Loi sur les mines (chapitre M-13.1).

Internalization of costs

The value of goods and services must reflect all the costs they generate for society during their whole life cycle, from their design to their final consumption and their disposal.

Costs of all natural services, health and social issues, potential negative impacts to other ministry responsibilities and targets during the whole life cycle of the shale gas is not been included in the SEA plan draft.

Polluter

pays

Those who generate pollution or whose actions otherwise degrade the environment must bear their share of the cost of measures to prevent, reduce, control and mitigate environmental damage.

- How the **Polluters pay** principle is going to be applicable on the shale gas industry?
- Is the industry paying for all that of the Quebec government?
- Again, there is not information provided by the SEA.

AQLPA's recommendations

- Provide precise explanation on how the 16 principles are going to be analyzed in relation with the shale gas industry.
- Provide answers to the AQLPA's comments for each principle.
- Consider each principle as equally important rather than only *the most relevant*.

For more information, see complete report at:

www.aqlpa.com