

**AMENDMENT**

**Bill 17**

**AN ACT MAINLY TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING NATURAL GAS STORAGE AND NATURAL GAS AND OIL PIPELINES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERGROUND RESERVOIRS AND CERTAIN PIPELINES**

**SECTIONS 1 to 49**

Withdraw.

*Adopted  
CR*

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**SECTION 50** (section 207.4 of the Act respecting natural gas storage  
and natural gas and oil pipelines)

Insert "including, in particular, the municipalities and Indigenous communities,"  
after "concerned," in the first paragraph of proposed section 207.4, introduced by  
amendment.

*Adopte  
CR*

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**SECTION 50** (sections 207.2 to 207.5 of the Act respecting natural gas storage and natural gas and oil pipelines)

Replace by:

**50.** The Act respecting natural gas storage and natural gas and oil pipelines is amended by inserting the following chapter after section 207.1:

**“CHAPTER XVII.1  
“PILOT PROJECT**

**“207.2.** Nothing in this chapter allows any activity prohibited under the Act ending exploration for petroleum and underground reservoirs and production of petroleum and brine (chapter R-1.01).

**“207.3.** Fluids, other than water, minerals in any fluids and underground reservoirs, including pore spaces, when they are naturally present under the topsoil, are part of the domain of the State.

**“207.4.** The Government may, after consulting the local communities concerned, for a period of up to five years, which can be extended by up to two years, authorize the implementation of a pilot project relating to the exploration for or operation or exploitation of an underground reservoir or certain fluids and the purpose of which is to, as the case may be,

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- (1) study, improve or define standards or methodologies;
- (2) acquire geoscientific knowledge or support research, development or innovation, including by testing new technologies; or
- (3) undertaking work with respect to innovating sectors.

The authorized pilot project determines the territory concerned, the activities covered, the rights in the territory, underground reservoir or fluid, and the standards and obligations applicable within the framework of the pilot project's implementation, which may differ from the rights, standards and obligations set out in this Act or the regulations without compromising the health and safety of persons, the security of property or the protection of the environment. It also determines the monitoring and reporting mechanisms applicable within the framework of the project as well as the information that is required to exercise those mechanisms and that must be sent to the Minister by any person. It may also determine, among the standards and conditions that apply to the pilot project, those whose violation constitutes an offence, and set the minimum and maximum amounts of the fine to which the offender is liable. The maximum penalties may, in particular, vary according to the importance of the standards to which the contravention relates, but may not exceed \$1,000,000 in the case of a natural person and \$6,000,000 in any other case.

The Minister publishes the pilot project on the website of the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie.

The person authorized to implement the pilot project has a right of access to the territory that is the subject of the pilot project. However, for private land or land leased by the State, that person must obtain written authorization from the owner or lessee at least 5 days before accessing the land and at least 30 days before performing the work.

The pilot project may be terminated or amended at any time by the Government.

For the purposes of this section, the Government takes into account, in particular, the anticipated economic benefits, the social and environmental impacts and the presence of mining rights.

At the end of the pilot project, the information sent to the Minister for the purposes of this section is public, subject to the right-of-access restrictions provided for in section 28 of the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information (chapter A-2.1). The Minister makes the information public in the manner the Minister sees fit.

**“207.5.** The underground reservoirs and the fluids, other than water, that are naturally present under the topsoil situated within the limits of the vertical projection of any protected area registered in the register referred to in section 5 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (chapter C-61.01) may not be the subject of a pilot project under section 207.4.

The Minister may, on the conditions set by the Minister, allow an underground reservoir or a fluid withdrawn under the first paragraph to be the

subject of activities determined by the Minister within the framework of a pilot project authorized under this chapter, after consulting the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks.”

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**SECTIONS 51 to 80**

Withdraw.

*Adopte  
CR*

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**SECTION 81**

1. Replace "Act to provide a framework for underground reservoirs and certain pipelines" by "Act respecting natural gas storage and natural gas and oil pipelines".
2. Add the following sentence at the end: "Such a pilot project is, however, authorized by an order of the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, after consulting the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks."
3. Add the following paragraph at the end:

A pilot project authorized under the first paragraph may apply to a well that is subject to the obligation regarding well closure and site restoration under the Act ending exploration for petroleum and underground reservoirs and production of petroleum and brine (chapter R-1.01). If applicable, the pilot project determines the person responsible for the permanent well closure and site restoration in accordance with the provisions of that Act, with the necessary modifications, as well as the prescribed time limits to carry out that work.

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**SECTIONS 82 and 83**

Withdraw.

Adopted  
CR

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**SECTION 84**

Replace by:

**84.** This Act comes into force on *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*.

*Adopted  
CR*

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**AN ACT MAINLY TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING NATURAL GAS STORAGE AND NATURAL GAS AND OIL PIPELINES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERGROUND RESERVOIRS AND CERTAIN PIPELINES**

**TITLE OF BILL**

Replace by:

ACT TO AMEND THE ACT RESPECTING NATURAL GAS STORAGE AND NATURAL GAS AND OIL PIPELINES IN ORDER TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT PROJECT RELATING TO THE EXPLORATION FOR UNDERGROUND RESERVOIRS OR CERTAIN FLUIDS, OR THEIR OPERATION OR EXPLOITATION

*Adopted  
CR*