



November 27th, 2013

REGULATION AMENDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES REGULATION

Tunnel de Melocheville



On November 13th, 2013, the gouvernement du Québec adopted the *Regulation amending the Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation*, which was published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on November 27th, 2013.

Under the *Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation*, road vehicles are prohibited from travelling through certain tunnels¹ in Québec, when transporting dangerous substances. This prohibition is justified by the implications that an accident with a vehicle transporting dangerous substances (VTDS) could have in one of these tunnels.

Since 1998, following an agreement between the federal government authorities concerned and the ministère des Transports du Québec, the tunnel de Melocheville has been equipped with a traffic light system and a waiting lane that allows VTDSs to travel in the tunnel alone. Up until December 15, 2012, when autoroute 30 was opened, this system prevented VTDSs from having to use a bypass road network that significantly increased the travel distance in that region (50-km detour).

The opening of autoroute 30 brings into question the relevance of maintaining a control system for VTDSs, since the detour has been reduced by about 11.5 km. In addition,

¹ Pont-tunnel Louis-Hippolyte-La Fontaine, tunnels Ville- Marie and Viger in Montréal, pont-tunnel Joseph-Samson in Québec and tunnel de Melocheville in Beauharnois.

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Information bulletin



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the situation analysis indicates that, although the probability of an accident with a VTDS occurring in this tunnel is low, the consequences could be tragic and considerable:

- Loss of human life;
- Serious damage to the infrastructure causing a section of route 132 to be closed, negative consequences for the economy because of the closure of the St. Lawrence Seaway, as well as very costly repair work;
- Negative impact on the environment.

In light of this situation analysis, and given the actual risks associated with VTDSs travelling in this tunnel, section 43 of the TDSR was modified to prohibit VTDSs from travelling in the tunnel de Melocheville, as it is prohibited in the other tunnels covered by that regulation.