

Boumhounan Newsletter

Eastmain-1-A Powerhouse and Rupert Diversion

Bulletin No.6
January 2005

The objective of this newsletter is to provide information on the **Eastmain-1-A powerhouse and Rupert diversion project**. At this stage, however, we thought it would be helpful to provide our readers with information on the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric development as well, to help clarify the distinction between the two. One fundamental difference is that while construction has begun on the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric development, the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion project is still in the feasibility-study stage.

Consultations with the affected tallymen:

CONCLUSION

At the beginning of 2004, the Boumhounan Committee undertook a major program of consultations with the tallymen affected by the Eastmain-1-A powerhouse and Rupert diversion project. As the last issue of the *Boumhounan Newsletter* pointed out, the consultation sessions carried out in winter 2004 led to an agreement with the Mistissini tallymen concerning the land clearing plan for the Rupert diversion bays, and with the Nemaska and Waskaganish tallymen concerning the location of the hydraulic structures (weirs) on the Rupert, downstream of the dam at KP 314.

Following the spring goose-hunting season, consultations with the tallymen and other land users resumed on a more intensive basis with a view to



discussing the project's potential impacts on the environment and on hunting, fishing and trapping activities on affected land.

To allow for in-depth discussion, foster a common understanding of

the project's impacts and allow the participants to agree on mitigation measures, consultation workshops lasting 2 or 3 days, as needed, and involving a smaller number of Boumhounan Committee or Hydro-Québec/SEBJ representatives, were held in English with interpretation into Cree.

This consultation format was also intended to respond to a concern often expressed to Boumhounan representatives concerning the rapid progression of the draft-design process and the lack of time available for assimilating data essential to understanding the implications of the project.

Documents specific to each village were prepared for workshop participants. The documents included a





Eastmain



Mistissini



Waskaganish

description of the work, a presentation of inventory results from 2002 and 2003, the project's impacts on each environmental component (soil, water, vegetation, aquatic wildlife, land animals, etc.), and a description of impacts on the activities of trapline users and of the mitigation measures under consideration.

To facilitate the work of the Boumhounan representatives at the workshops in the communities most affected by the project (Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish), preliminary meetings were held in Montréal with the Cree Boumhounan and CRA representatives, as well as Hydro-Québec and SEBJ resources, in order to go through the documents, clarify unclear points, explain complex data, answer the representatives' questions, etc.

In Mistissini, Nemaska and Waskaganish, two workshops were held in each village. Participants in the first workshop discussed the impacts of the project on environmental components such as soil, water, vegetation, aquatic wildlife and land animals. The meeting included representatives of all the traplines affected by the project. The second workshop, held a few weeks later, addressed the impacts of the project

on harvesting activities for individual traplines; therefore, groups were divided by trapline and included the tallyman (or his delegate) and his guests. In addition, workshops targeting a wider audience were organized in Waskaganish to discuss project impacts on Rupert Bay and the Smokey Hill site.

A single workshop was held in Eastmain and Chisasibi, while two workshops were held in Wemindji.



Wemindji



Chisasibi



Nemaska

| Workshop Date | Place | Topic | Number of participants |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| May 27-28 | Mistissini | Environmental impacts | 15 |
| June 8-9 | Mistissini | Impacts on each trapline | 16 |
| July 21 | Mistissini | Overall impacts | 17 |
| July 22-23 | Nemaska | Environmental impacts | 29 |
| July 27-28 | Waskaganish | Environmental impacts | 20 |
| July 29 | Eastmain | Overall impacts | 11 |
| September 13-14-15 | Nemaska | Impacts on each trapline | 25 |
| September 16 | Wemindji | Impacts on each trapline | 10 |
| September 28 | Nemaska | Overall impacts | 26 |
| October 5 | Chisasibi | Overall impacts | 18 |
| October 18-19-20 | Waskaganish | Impacts on each trapline | 18 |
| October 20-21 | Waskaganish | Impacts on Rupert Bay | 52 |
| October 21-22 | Waskaganish | Impacts on Smokey Hill | 20 |
| November 10 | Waskaganish | Overall impacts | 16 |
| November 11 | Wemindji | Overall impacts | 16 |

The Crees, Hydro-Québec and SEBJ

A Successful PARTNERSHIP

The environmental land-clearing activities carried out by the trappers during the Eastmain-1 project is an example of the cooperative effort undertaken by the Crees, Hydro-Québec and SEBJ. This successful partnership may well continue and become an integral part of the Eastmain-1-A powerhouse and Rupert diversion project.

The Eastmain-1 hydroelectric development, on which construction began in May 2002, is located on the Eastmain River, upstream of Opinaca reservoir. The development involves the creation of a reservoir encompassing 603 km², impoundment of which will begin in fall 2005, to be completed in summer 2006.

All of the work specified on the land-clearing plan must be completed by the end of October 2005.



Reservoir land-clearing objectives

- **Increasing wildlife potential**
 - Clearing the mouths of tributaries to improve fish production
 - Clearing shorelines to produce favourable riparian habitat areas for large and small wildlife
- **Facilitating fishing**
 - Improving fishing conditions in watercourses flowing into the reservoir
- **Facilitating the use of the reservoir to provide access to adjoining areas**
 - Clearing launching and landing sites
 - Clearing navigation corridors

The first land-clearing contracts were negotiated with the CCDC (Cree Construction and Development Company) and began in summer 2003. At the same time, the five tallymen directly affected by the creation of the reservoir informed SEBJ and the Grand Council of the Crees that they were interested in carrying out part of the land-clearing work, so that their families and the members of their respective communities could benefit from the direct economic spinoffs.

At the end of 2003 and on a trial basis, SEBJ negotiated contracts with each of the five families to clear an area of some 25 to 30 ha, respectively. By summer 2004, it had been confirmed that the tallymen could carry out clearing work to SEBJ's satisfaction, in terms



of meeting deadlines, quality of felling and of gathering and disposing of cutting debris. At the tallymen's request, SEBJ and the CCDC also gave them additional clearing work in the reservoir, through subcontracts. Land-clearing work to be carried out in the reservoir by tallymen is currently evaluated at more than 700 ha. This is in addition to clearing the right-of-way for the 315-kV power line, which has also been assigned to them.

Reservoir Land-Clearing Work Carried Out by Tallymen

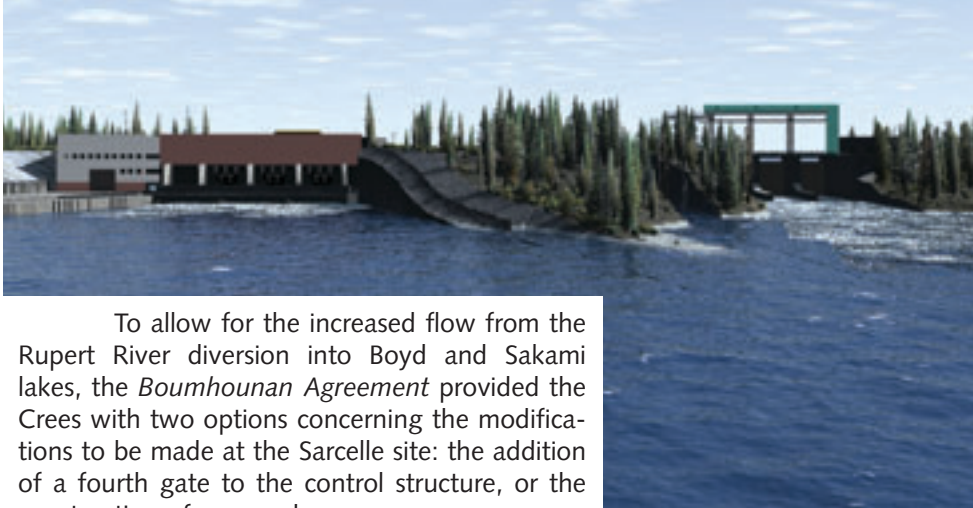
| Community | Cree family | Trapline | Area |
|------------|------------------------|--------------|---------|
| Mistissini | Coonishish | M14-A | 79 ha |
| | Jimikin | M18 | 226 ha |
| | Jimikin and Coonishish | M14A and M18 | 29 ha |
| Nemaska | Wapachee | R19 | 167 ha* |
| Eastmain | Moses E. | RE-1 | 158 ha |
| | Moses T. | VC37 | 49 ha |

* including a part subcontracted from CCDC



The pilot project gave the tallymen the opportunity to show their entrepreneurial spirit and their interest in carrying out the mitigation measures planned to reduce the impact of reservoir impoundment on portions of their traplines.

Sarcelle Powerhouse



To allow for the increased flow from the Rupert River diversion into Boyd and Sakami lakes, the *Boumhounan Agreement* provided the Crees with two options concerning the modifications to be made at the Sarcelle site: the addition of a fourth gate to the control structure, or the construction of a powerhouse.

The Crees opted for the construction of Sarcelle powerhouse.

The new facility will be built east of the existing control structure. The powerhouse, supplied by Opinaca reservoir, will be equipped with three horizontal bulb-type turbine generating units with an installed capacity of 40 MW each, for a total of 120 MW and annual output of about 0.9 TWh.

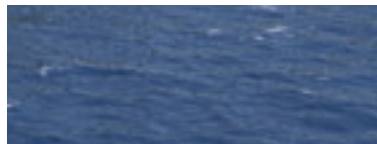
Operation of the powerhouse will not affect the maximum operating level of Opinaca reservoir, which will remain the same as it is now.

During construction of Sarcelle powerhouse, which will take six years to complete, a temporary workcamp with a capacity of roughly 600 beds will be set up about 9 km from the powerhouse site, along the Sarcelle-Muskeg road.

Graphic illustration of Sarcelle powerhouse



Commissioning of Sarcelle powerhouse is planned for 2011.



Representatives

and Coordinators

Don't hesitate to GET IN TOUCH with us !

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**Che miyeyihtamekw
makusheuchiahikaache!**

In the spirit of cooperation, the members of the Boumhounan Committee offer you their best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

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**Société d'énergie
de la Baie James**

