

120-kV Grand-Brûlé–Saint-Sauveur Supply Line Project: Public consultations well attended by Laurentides residents

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Hydro-Québec draws a positive summary of the public consultation meetings held last fall in the regional county municipalities (MRCs) of Laurentides and Pays-d'en-Haut regarding the company's 120-kV supply line project.

The company presented local representatives, affected landowners and residents of the municipalities concerned with an improved line route that takes into account suggestions arising from the public consultation meetings and the work completed by the regional technical committee. The company also held three additional meetings in the municipalities of Montcalm, Sainte-Adèle and Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard last November and December.

More than 500 people attended these meetings. Moreover, a number of representatives from the Laurentides region commended Hydro-Québec's optimization work as well as its efforts to minimize the line's visual impact.

Several improvements made

Hydro-Québec has already made a number of adjustments in order to develop a line route with the least impact. The use of existing rights-of-way was favored for over 40% of the line. A new family of towers was also designed in order to minimize the visual impact of the towers on the landscape and the width of cleared strips was significantly reduced. Furthermore, modifications were made to the route so that it would avoid populated areas.

Over the next few weeks, Hydro-Québec will carefully review all of the suggestions and concerns voiced by the public and will integrate them, to the extent possible. Hydro-Québec is also assessing a proposed alternative route presented by the Pays-d'en-Haut MRC and examining certain requests for more minor adjustments submitted by some of the affected landowners.

The aim of this supply line project is to help sustain the region's residential, commercial, economic and tourism development and meet its electricity needs for the next 20 years. Furthermore, electricity needs in the Laurentides region, where Hydro-Québec's customers will be the first to benefit from this project, have been increasing twice as quickly as in the rest of Québec.

Over the next few months, Hydro-Québec will share the optimized and finalized line route with community representatives and residents of the region.

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