Information bulletin
Winter 2021

735-kV Micoua–Saguenay Line

Progress of clearing operations and start of construction

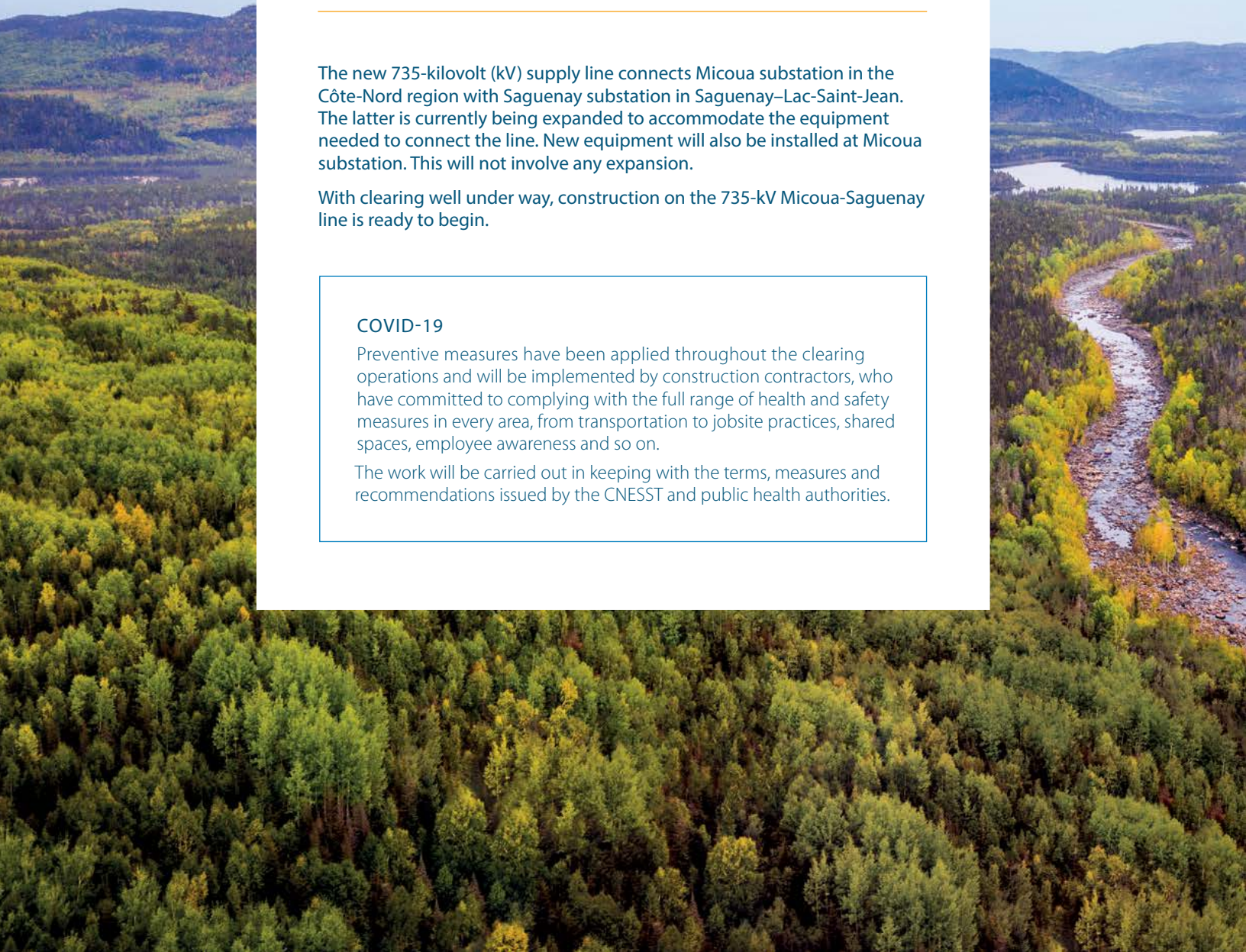
The new 735-kilovolt (kV) supply line connects Micoua substation in the Côte-Nord region with Saguenay substation in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean. The latter is currently being expanded to accommodate the equipment needed to connect the line. New equipment will also be installed at Micoua substation. This will not involve any expansion.

With clearing well under way, construction on the 735-kV Micoua-Saguenay line is ready to begin.

COVID-19

Preventive measures have been applied throughout the clearing operations and will be implemented by construction contractors, who have committed to complying with the full range of health and safety measures in every area, from transportation to jobsite practices, shared spaces, employee awareness and so on.

The work will be carried out in keeping with the terms, measures and recommendations issued by the CNESST and public health authorities.









Stages in the construction of a power line

1. Clearing

Clearing entails felling trees and removing bushes in the rights-of-way of the planned line and temporary roads. On public lands, clearing operations are contracted out; merchantable timber will be recovered and sent to local sawmills. On private lands, the work may be done by the landowner, to whom the felled timber belongs.

2. Developing access roads

Clearing operations may require existing roads to be improved and/or temporary roads to be built. Whenever possible, temporary roads will be built in the line right-of-way, but always with a view to protecting sensitive zones (e.g., wetlands, waterways, woodland caribou habitats). For existing roads, Hydro-Québec makes every effort to promote shared and safe use. On private lands, the company negotiates temporary access with the owners.

3. Installing the tower foundations

This step involves excavation, filling and leveling. The foundations will vary, depending on tower model, soil type and the depth of the bedrock.

4. Assembling the towers and unwinding the conductors

This stage involves several steps: assembling the towers on the ground; erecting the towers; and installing the insulator strings, conductors and ground wires.

5. Restoring the site

The final stage to construction involves cleaning up the worksites, leveling and reshaping the ground, filling ruts, seeding the worksites around the towers and restoring infrastructures (e.g., roads, bridges, culverts, fences, etc.). On private lands, Hydro-Québec tours the site with landowners to ensure that the restoration work has been carried out to their satisfaction.

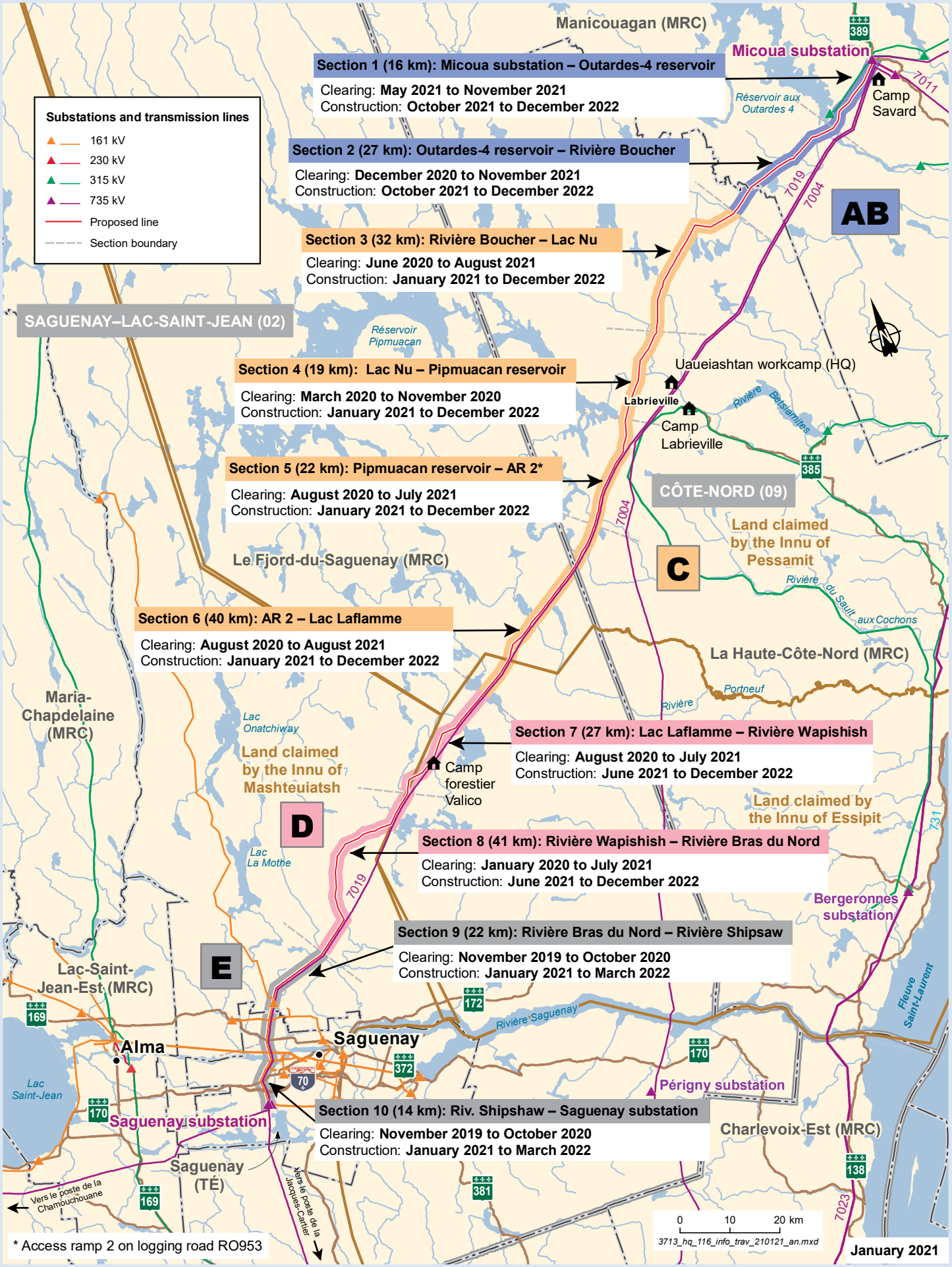
Line distances through the different territories

Côte-Nord (126 km)	
Unorganized territory of Lac-au-Brochet in regional county municipality (MRC) of La Haute-Côte-Nord	89 km
Unorganized territory of Rivière-aux-Outardes in the regional county municipality (MRC) of Manicouagan	37 km

Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (136 km)	
Ville de Saguenay	20 km
Ville de Saint-Honoré	11 km
Municipality of Saint-David-de-Falardeau	20 km
Unorganized territory of Mont-Valin in the regional county municipality (MRC) of Fjord-du-Saguenay	85 km

Claimed lands	
Land claimed by the community of Mashteuiatsh	78 km
Land claimed by the community of Essipit	35 km
Land claimed by the community of Pessamit	149 km

Planned line route



* Access ramp 2 on logging road RO953

January 2021

Access road maintenance

Hydro-Québec contacts the landowners, vacation lessees and community organizations responsible for maintaining the access roads that will be used during the project. Whenever Hydro-Québec must use these roads for a given period, the company reaches maintenance agreements with the landowners and organizations in question. Any questions regarding access road use and maintenance must therefore be addressed to these stakeholders. Access roads are indicated on a map on the project's Web page.

Project timeline and jobsite supervision

Clearing began in August 2019 and will continue until the end of 2021. These operations have been divided into ten sections.

Construction work, in turn, has been divided into four sections. Construction is due to begin in January 2021, with commissioning scheduled for late 2022.

The Uaueiashtan workcamp near Labrieville (Côte-Nord) is now up and running and will gradually accommodate some 300 workers. Maintenance and food services have been entrusted to a Pessamit company.

Hydro-Québec is responsible for jobsite supervision, which entails making sure that all work meets technical, environmental and safety requirements. Specific measures introduced to mitigate the impact of the work help ensure the harmonious coexistence between land users and the worksite on both private and public lands.

Economic spinoffs

- An investment in Québec worth over $500 million
- Equivalent of several hundred full-time jobs in Québec over a three-year period, with over 500 workers on the job while work is at its peak

The 735-kV Micoua–Saguenay line will also stimulate the regional economy. The project is continually monitored by committees formed of local economic and Indigenous stakeholders and Hydro-Québec representatives.

Regional economic spinoffs generally represent between 15% and 20% of the value of new line construction contracts.

For more information

Hydro-Québec strives to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the communities affected by its work.

Targeted (regional) communications are issued as the work advances.

Hydro-Québec regularly updates the project Web page to keep the public fully informed of work progress. The Web page features:

- An interactive map of the line route
- The access roads identified
- Information on the work in each section
- The names of the selected contractors

For more information or to obtain additional copies of this bulletin, please contact:

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To find out more
www.hydro.quebec/micouasaguenay

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Ce document est également publié en français.

Hydro Québec

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