

735-kV Micoua-Saguenay Line

PUBLIC CONSULTATION • FALL 2016

In 2016, Hydro-Québec began draft-design studies for the construction of a 735-kV* transmission line stretching some 265 km between Micoua substation in the Côte-Nord region and Saguenay substation in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean.

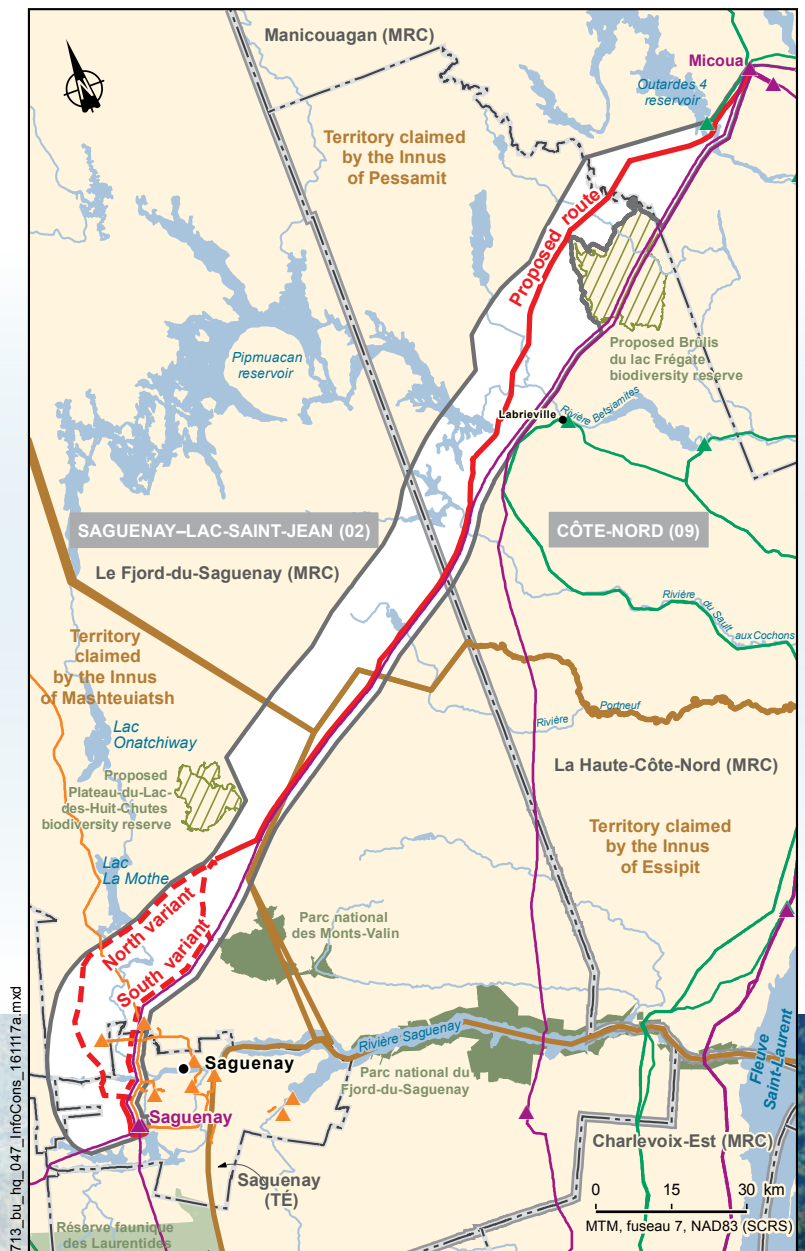
The new line will serve to:

- Maintain the reliability of the 735-kV transmission system
- Reinforce the Manic-Québec corridor by adding a robust link
- Reduce energy losses
- Increase the system's operating flexibility

For several months, Hydro-Québec has been conducting studies to determine the line routes with the least impact. These routes take into account sensitive elements in the biophysical and human environments, technical constraints, economic aspects and the concerns expressed by the host community.

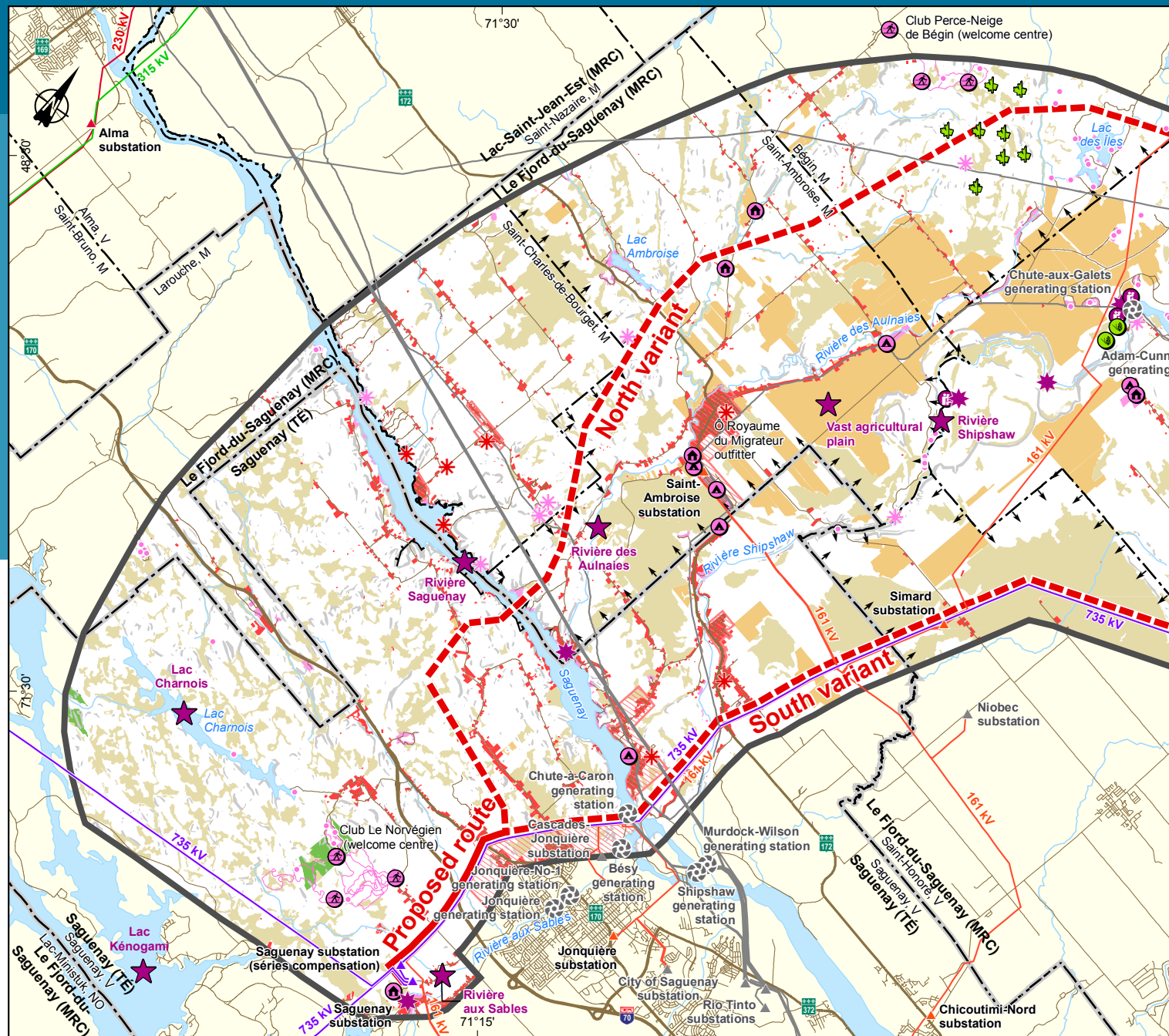
* kV = kilovolt, or 1,000 volts

Study area



Route variants proposed in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

Hydro-Québec is studying two line route variants for the part of the line between Saguenay substation and the Bras-Louis reception office of the Onatchiway controlled harvesting zone (ZEC). From Saguenay substation, a portion of the line route common to both variants runs along existing lines. Then, the south variant (54 km) continues to run along the existing 735-kV line for most of its length, while the north variant (67 km) opens a new corridor.



Technical constraints

- ***** Area at high risk of icing
- Very steep slope
- Rocky escarpment area

Biophysical and human environment components

- Urban area and scattered properties
- Urban development area
- Vacation area

- * * Planned residential or vacation development

- Cottage or cabin (lease on public land)

- Ⓐ Ⓐ Ⓐ Recreation/ tourism facility (number)

- ★ Scenic area

- ★ Visual attraction

- f Lookout

- Ⓢ Experimental forest

- Ⓢ Sugar bush operation (number)

- Wetland

- Biological refuge

- Specialty crops (seed potatoes, blueberries, berries)

- ↑ ↑ Protected crop zone

Project components

- Study area
- Proposed route
- Route variant

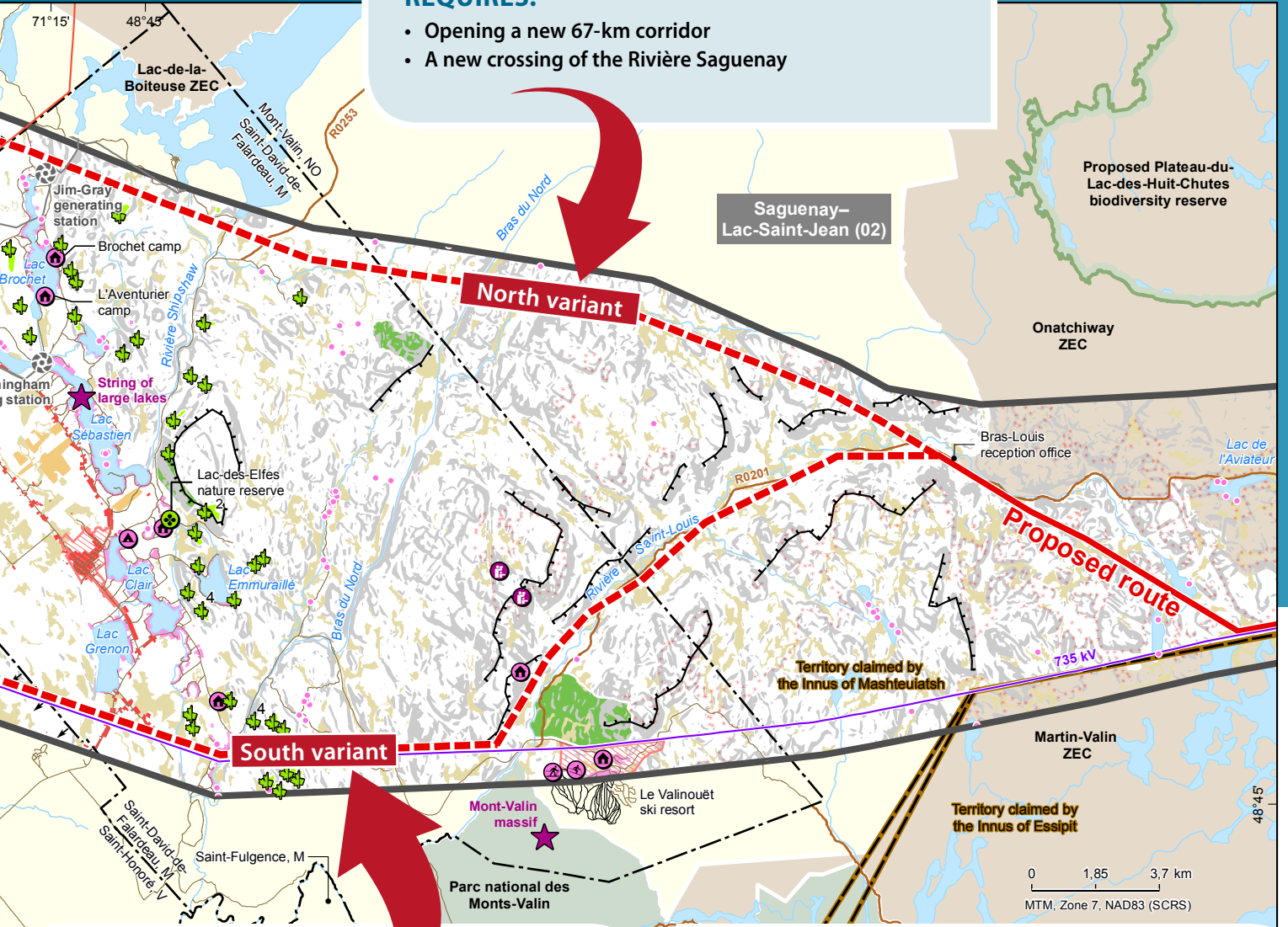
North variant (67 km)

AVOIDS:

- Urban areas
- Specialty crop fields
- Recreational lakes in Saint-David-de-Falardeau and Bégin

REQUIRES:

- Opening a new 67-km corridor
- A new crossing of the Rivière Saguenay



South variant (54 km)

AVOIDS:

- 38-km of new corridor
- A new crossing of the Rivière Saguenay
- Specialty crop fields
- Recreational lakes in Saint-David-de-Falardeau
- A planned biological refuge

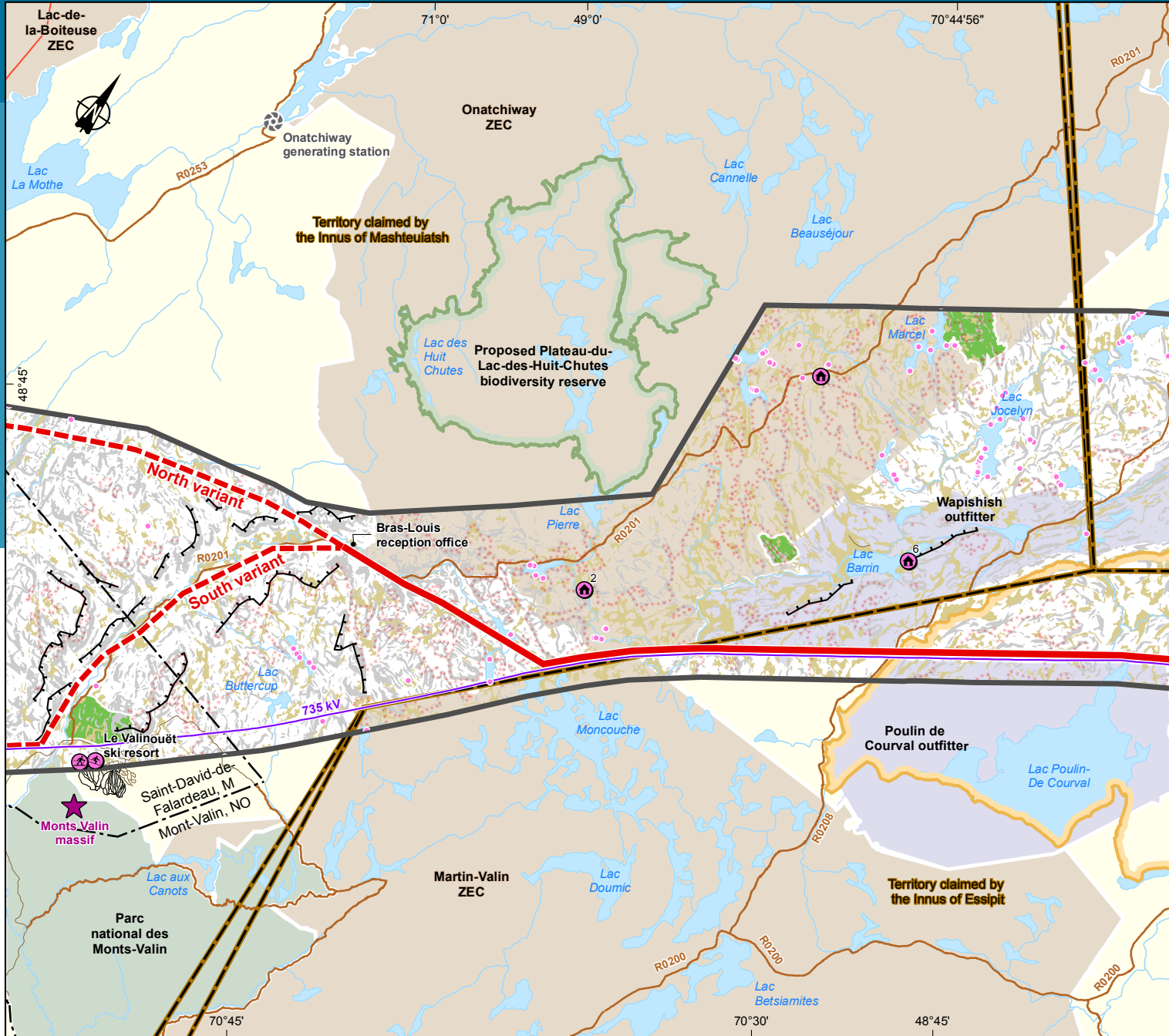
REQUIRES:

- Enlarging a 38-km stretch of the existing right-of-way
- Opening a new 16-km corridor
- Acquiring homes
- Crossing deep peat bogs in Saint-Honoré

	North variant	South variant
City of Saguenay	9.5 km	14 km
Municipality of Saint-Ambroise	16 km	—
Municipality of Saint-David-de-Falardeau	12 km	20 km
Town of Saint-Honoré	—	11 km
Municipality of Bégin	11.5 km	—
Municipality of Saint-Charles-de-Bourget	1 km	—
Unorganized territory of Mont-Valin in the regional county municipality (MRC) of Le Fjord-du-Saguenay	17 km	9 km
Territory claimed by the Innus of Mashteuiatsh	67 km	54 km

Route proposed in unorganized territory in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

Between the Bras-Louis reception office of the Onatchiway ZEC and the eastern boundary of the Fjord-du-Saguenay regional county municipality (MRC), Hydro-Québec is proposing a single route that mainly runs along the existing 735-kV line.



Technical constraints

- Area at high risk of icing
- Very steep slope
- Rocky escarpment area

Biophysical and human environment components

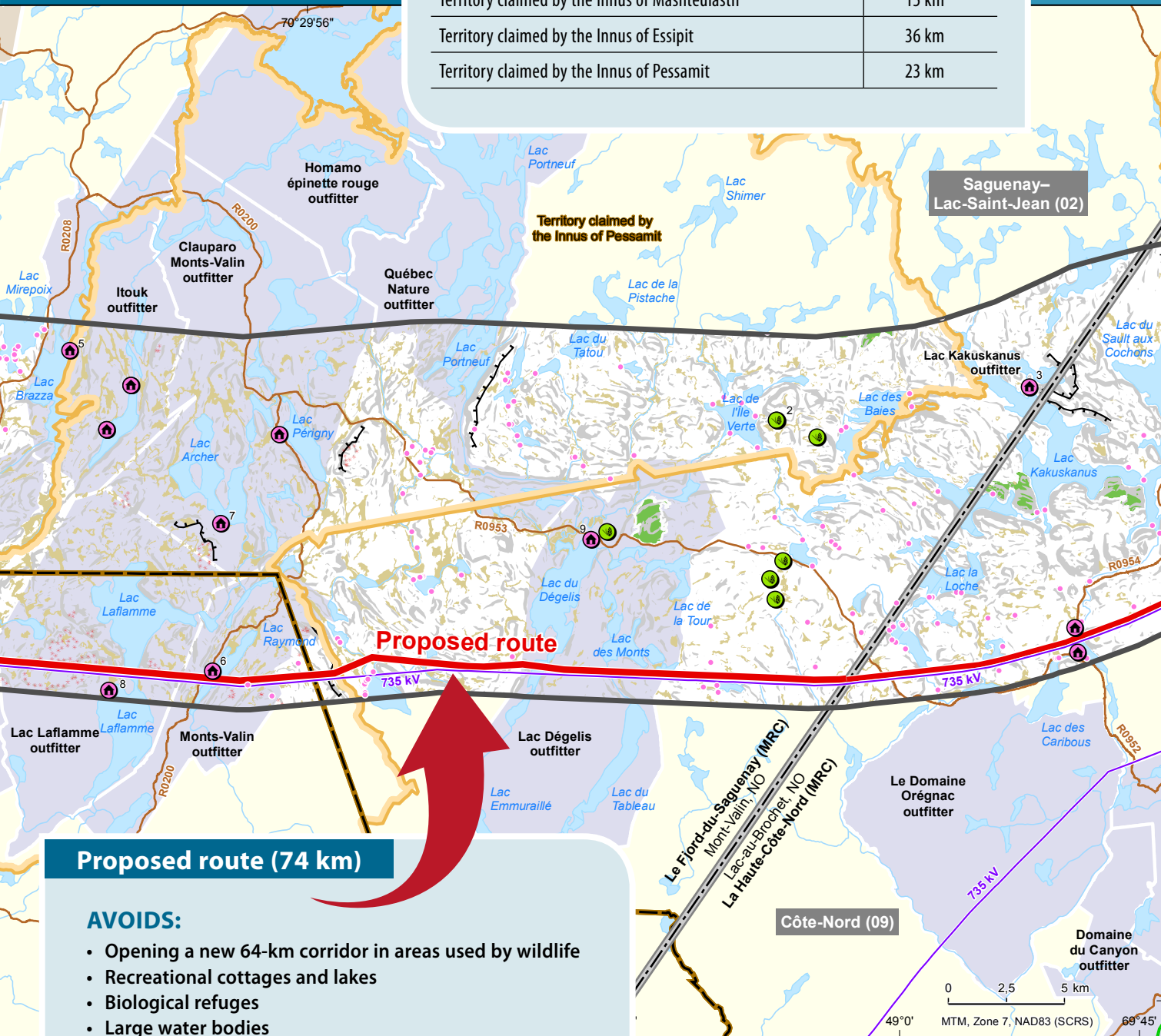
- Cottage or cabin (lease on public land)
- Recreation/ tourism facility ^(number)
- ★ Scenic area

- Experimental forest
- Wetland
- Biological refuge
- Sensitive area – Forest-dwelling woodland caribou

Project components

- Study area
- Proposed route
- Route variant

Unorganized territory of Mont-Valin in the Fjord-du-Saguenay MRC	74 km
Lac Dégelis, Monts-Valin, Lac Laflamme, Poulin de Courval and Wapishish outfitters	28 km
Onatchiway ZEC	4 km
Territory claimed by the Innus of Mashteuiasth	15 km
Territory claimed by the Innus of Essipit	36 km
Territory claimed by the Innus of Pessamit	23 km



Proposed route (74 km)

AVOIDS:

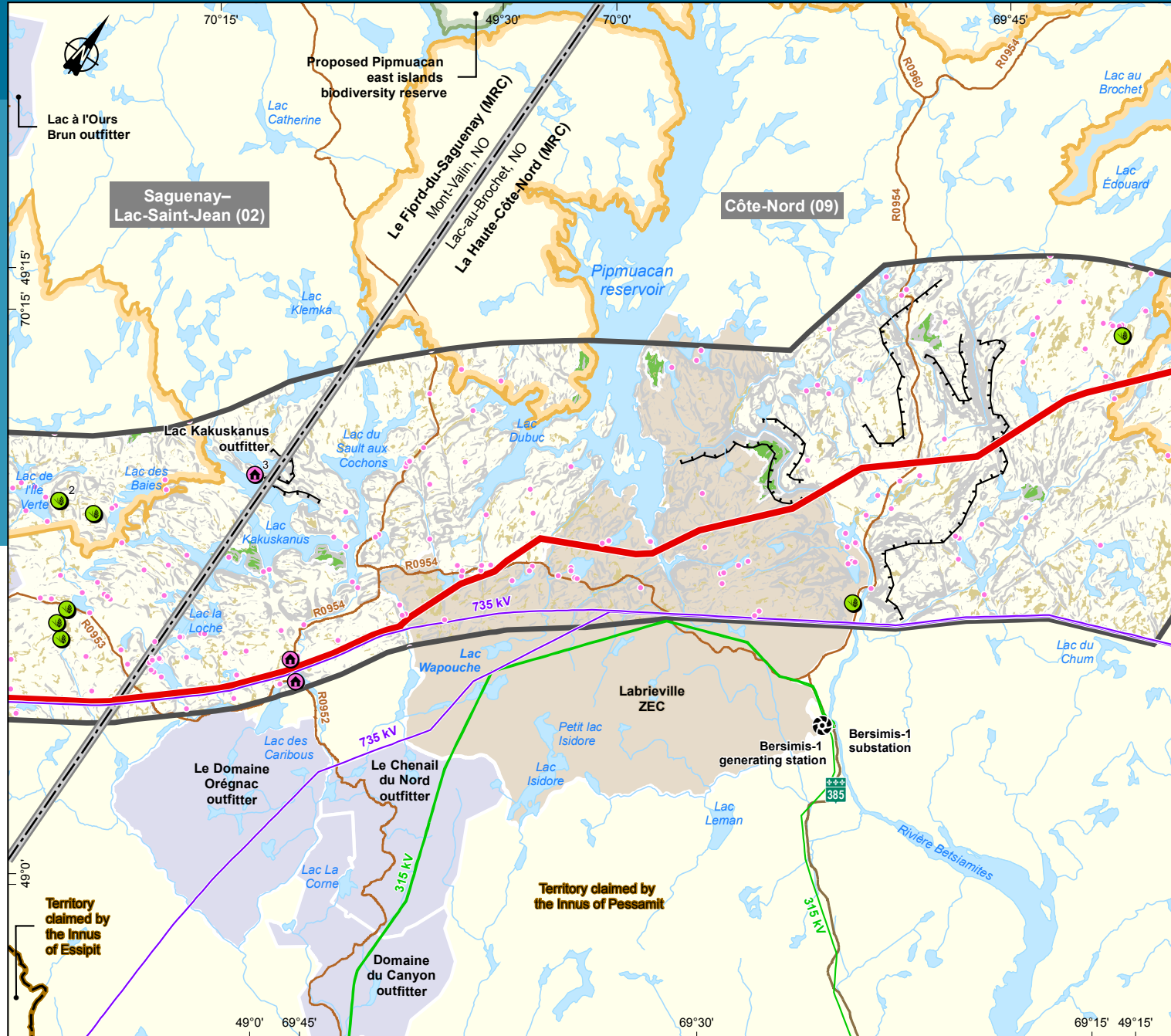
- Opening a new 64-km corridor in areas used by wildlife
- Recreational cottages and lakes
- Biological refuges
- Large water bodies
- Areas with very steep slopes and at high risk of icing

REQUIRES:

- Widening a 64-km stretch of the existing right-of-way
- Opening a new 10-km corridor
- Crossing an area considered sensitive due to its use by forest-dwelling woodland caribou

Route proposed in unorganized territory in Côte-Nord

Between the western boundary of the Haute-Côte-Nord MRC and Micoua substation, the route proposed includes a stretch that runs along the existing 735-kV line and another stretch that moves away from it, bypassing the planned Brûlis-du-lac-Frégate biodiversity reserve. The creation of a new corridor is required for system reliability. When a right-of-way already contains two 735-kV lines, it is preferable to keep a third 735-kV line at some distance.



Technical constraints

- ***** Area at high risk of icing
- Very steep slope
- Rocky escarpment area

Biophysical and human environment components

- Cottage or cabin (lease on public land)
- ① ② ③ Recreation/ tourism facility (number)
- ★ Scenic area

Project components

- ④ Experimental forest
- Wetland
- Biological refuge
- Sensitive area – Forest-dwelling woodland caribou
- Study area
- Proposed route
- Route variant

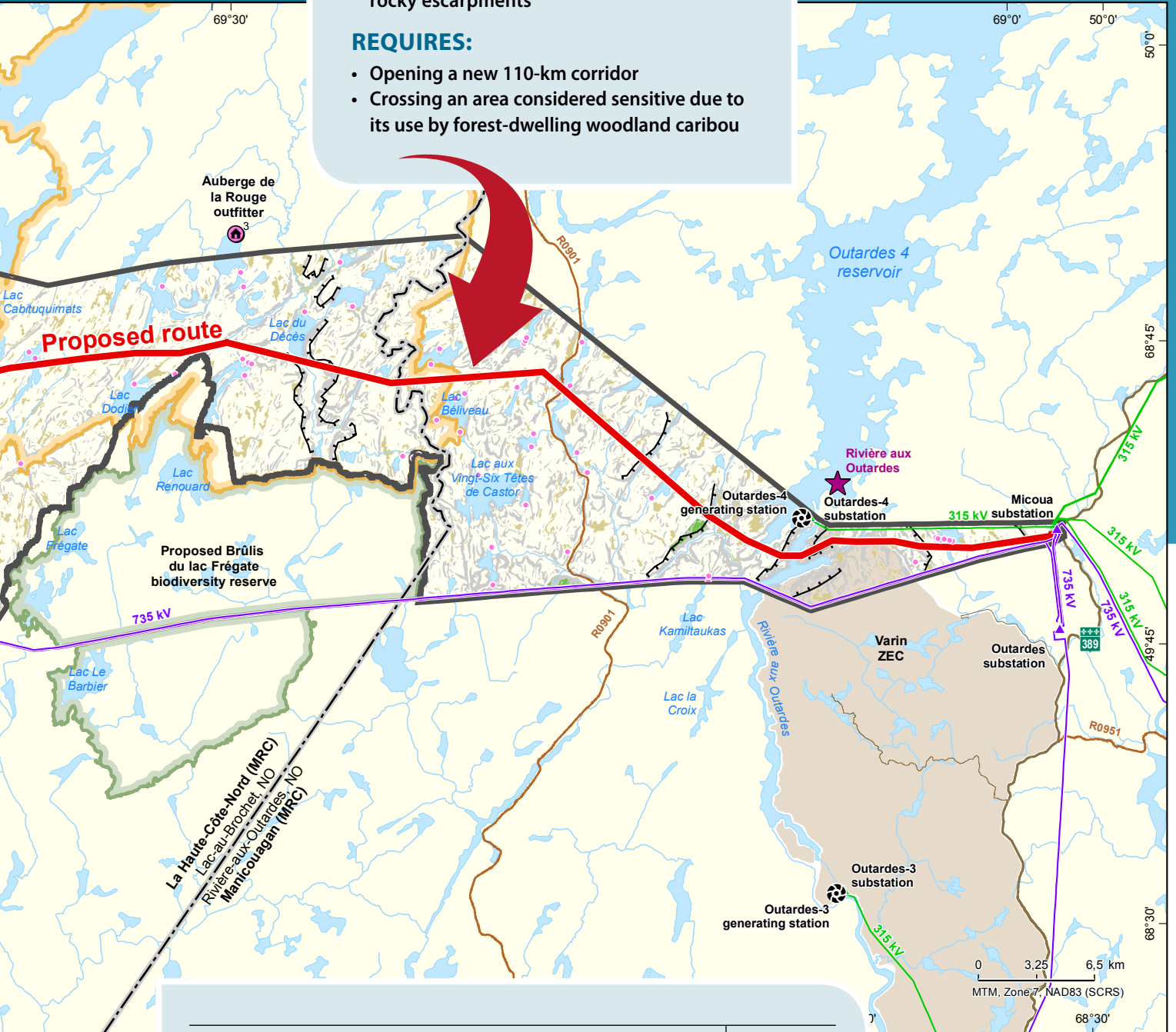
Proposed route (127 km)

AVOIDS:

- Biological refuges
- Cottages and lakes used for recreation
- Large water bodies
- Several areas with very steep slopes and rocky escarpments

REQUIRES:

- Opening a new 110-km corridor
- Crossing an area considered sensitive due to its use by forest-dwelling woodland caribou



Unorganized territory of Lac-au-Brochet in the Haute-Côte-Nord MRC	86 km
Unorganized territory of Rivière-aux-Outardes in the Manicouagan MRC	41 km
Labrieville ZEC	23 km
Varin ZEC	5 km
Territory claimed by the Innus of Pessamit	127 km

Public participation

Favorable reception from local communities is an essential condition for Hydro-Québec projects. The company develops each new project with a view to striking a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic aspects.

As a result, Hydro-Québec has implemented a public participation and consultation process. This measure allows the company to take into account the concerns of the community and its leaders so as to best adapt the project to local realities.

Hydro-Québec met with representatives from municipalities, local organizations and various provincial departments to gather their initial comments. Meetings have also been held with representatives from the Innu communities of Mashteuiatsh, Pessamit and Essipit. In addition, meetings with property owners, land users and the public will take place in the coming weeks.

Project schedule

DRAFT DESIGN

Studies and public participation process	2016-2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public consultation on the route and variants (in progress)Information on the solution selected	

Filing of environmental impact statement	2018
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PROJECT

Government approvals	2018-2019
Construction	2019-2022
Commissioning	2022

Tangible support for community development

Hydro-Québec sees its projects as an opportunity to participate in the development of host communities through the Integrated Enhancement Program (IEP).

Once the work has begun, Hydro-Québec will grant eligible organizations funding equivalent to 1% of the initially authorized value of the new facilities, to be used for local enhancement initiatives that improve the community.

For more information

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Ce document est également publié en français.
This document is a translation of the original French text.
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