Hydro-Québec plans to build a 735-kV high-voltage line extending some 260 km between Micoua substation in the Côte-Nord region and Saguenay substation in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

The new line will help maintain the reliability of Hydro-Québec’s transmission system. It has become necessary as a result of reduced electricity consumption in the Côte-Nord region and the decommissioning of thermal and nuclear generating stations in southern Québec.

These changes have led to an increase in the quantity of electricity transmitted to major load centres by the lines that make up the Manic–Québec corridor.

The new facilities will be commissioned in 2022.

Enlightening consultations
After several months of technical and environmental studies and the conclusion of a public participation process through which we met hundreds of residents and community organizations, a lower-impact route was selected for Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

The route takes into account the sensitive components of the biophysical and human environments, technical constraints, economic aspects and the community’s concerns.

**Project components**
- Selected line route

**Transmission substations and lines**
- 161 kV
- 230 kV
- 315 kV
- 735 kV

**Boundaries**
- Administrative region
- Regional county municipality (MRC) or equivalent territory (TE)
- Territory claimed by the Innus
- Urban area
Route selected in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

In the lowlands, Hydro-Québec proposed two route variants, which share a common 6-km long stretch from Saguenay substation. The south variant then runs mainly along the existing line, whereas the north variant moves away from the existing line and bypasses urban areas. After holding open house events with affected residents and meetings with community representatives and organizations, Hydro-Québec selected the 54-km long south variant.

North variant: route not selected

The consultations confirmed the anticipated impacts and brought to light other impacts. Although the north variant was optimized to take into account the concerns expressed, the main impacts, which were related to opening a new corridor and crossing the Rivière Saguenay, remained.
This variant avoids opening a new line corridor and creating a new crossing of the Rivière Saguenay. In addition, lines were grouped together in response to concerns expressed during the consultations.

Hydro-Québec is aware of the south variant’s impacts on affected property owners, and will make sure to offer them adequate and personalized support.

**South variant: route selected**

Thanks to the consultations, we were able to better understand local concerns and confirm the advantages of the south variant along with its anticipated impacts, including its effect on the built environment.

The south variant runs along an existing line and crosses the Rivière Saguenay in an industrial area, which facilitates its integration into the landscape and reduces its impacts on the natural environment.

The line is 13 km shorter, is easier to access and involves lower construction costs.
Route selected in unorganized territory in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

Hydro-Québec is proposing a single 76-km route, which runs along the existing 735-kV line for 64 km. This route avoids fragmenting and cutting off territory abundant with wildlife and used by Innu and vacationers. To ensure the reliability of the new line, the route was modified to avoid areas at high risk of icing, at an altitude of over 750 m.
When determining the distribution of towers, Hydro-Québec will take the community’s concerns into account to reduce the impact on the landscape. We will also consider hunting activities and the natural environment in applying mitigation measures during construction.

Advantages of selected route

Thanks to the consultations, we were able to better understand the community’s concerns, including those related to the landscape.

The route avoids existing and planned biological refuges and crossings of large bodies of water. In addition, the facilities will be grouped together to decrease the impact on the landscape. The route also avoids fragmenting and cutting off the territory and stays clear of nearby cottages and outfitter and Zec facilities.

The route preserves the areas valued by Innu communities and avoids several areas made up of very steep slopes and rocky escarpments.
**Distance covered by the line in the different territories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route selected in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (136 km)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Saguenay</td>
<td>20 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Saint-Honoré</td>
<td>11 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality of Saint-David-de-Falardeau</td>
<td>20 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unorganized territory in the regional county municipality (MRC) of Fjord-du-Saguenay (TNO Mont-Valin)</td>
<td>85 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Territory claimed by the Innus**

| Territory claimed by the community of Mashteuiatsh | 78 km |
| Territory claimed by the community of Essipit      | 35 km |
| Territory claimed by the community of Pessamit     | 23 km |

**Section running along the existing 735-kV line**

**Section built in a new corridor**

**Guyed V tower**

- Maximum height: 56.7 m
- Minimum height: 38.4 m
- Typical clearing: ~97.4 m
DID YOU KNOW?

CLEARING
Clearing will begin in 2019, and will involve both mechanical and manual work. In sensitive environments, particularly along riparian strips, clearing will be done by hand and only trees and shrubs that grow higher than 2.5 m at maturity will be cut down. On private properties, owners may do the clearing themselves and recover the merchantable timber.

ACCESS TO THE JOBSITE
Hydro-Québec’s strategy for accessing the jobsite is still preliminary. We plan to use the many existing roads and restore them after the work. If required, spur roads may be built to provide access to the future right-of-way.

RESTORATION
Once the project is complete, the worksites around the towers will be cleaned, all waste will be removed from the site and the ground will be reshaped. Any infrastructure (roads, fences, etc.) damaged during the course of work will be restored.

MORE CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLINE
Reference documents, detailed maps, explanatory videos and other additional information can be found on the project Web site: hydro.quebec/micouasaguenay
Public participation

For several months, Hydro-Québec has been informing and consulting with the various groups affected by the project: official representatives of the communities, Aboriginal communities, local organizations, members of the business community, government departments, property owners and residents.

To date, in addition to meetings organized for residents and vacationers, we have held some 50 meetings with local organizations, received hundreds of opinion submission forms and some 30 calls to our Info-project line, as well as conducted numerous personalized follow-ups at the request of stakeholders.

These exchanges are invaluable. They allowed us to refine the analysis, improve the project and develop mitigation measures to limit the project’s impacts as much as possible.

The optimization work continues, as do discussions with the community.

Schedule

**DRAFT DESIGN**

| Draft design studies and public participation | 2016–2018 |
| General information | Winter 2016 |
| Public consultation on line routes | Fall 2016 – Winter 2017 |
| Information on the solution selected | Spring 2017 |
| Filing of the environmental impact statement | 2018 |

**PROJECT**

| Government approvals | 2018–2019 |
| Construction | 2019–2022 |
| Commissioning | 2022 |

Support for community development

Hydro-Québec makes sure that its projects are an opportunity to participate in the development of the host communities through its Integrated Enhancement Program (IEP). Once the work has begun, the company grants eligible organizations funding equivalent to 1% of the initially authorized value of the new facilities covered by the IEP.

For more information

Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

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