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 after meeting with a large number of people and community organizations through our public participation process, we have selected and optimized a lower-impact route for Côte-Nord.

The route takes into account sensitive components of the biophysical and human environments, technical constraints, economic aspects and the community’s concerns.
Route selected in Côte-Nord

Hydro-Québec is proposing a route measuring approximately 126 km, with a 26-km stretch that runs along the existing line and a 100-km stretch that bypasses the proposed Brûlis du lac Frégate biodiversity reserve.

The route was optimized near Pipmuacan reservoir and northeast of the biodiversity reserve to take into account concerns expressed during the consultations and avoid important areas used by the Innus and vacationers.

The creation of a new corridor is required for system reliability. When a right-of-way already contains two 735-kV lines, a third 735-kV line must be kept at some distance.

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.

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 by the jobsite will be restored.

MORE CONTENT AVAILABLE ONLINE
Reference documents, detailed maps, informative videos and other additional information can be found on the project Web site: hydro.quebec/micouasaguenay.
In the sensitive area used by forest-dwelling woodland caribou, the selected route runs mainly through habitats that are already disturbed, thus limiting new disturbances. Within intact forests suitable to caribou, Hydro-Québec will propose mitigation measures such as wooded corridors to facilitate the movement of this species.

Advantages of selected route

Thanks to the consultations, we were able to better understand the community's concerns, including those related to land use.

The selected route avoids existing and planned biological refuges, crossings of large bodies of water and very rugged terrain. Whenever possible, the route also avoids recreational lakes. In addition, grouping facilities together over 26 km decreases the impact on the landscape and on land use. The route aims to preserve the areas valued and used by the Innus.

Distance covered by the line in the different territories

**Route selected in Côte-Nord (126 km)**

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

**Territory claimed by the Innus**

| Territory claimed by the community of Pessamit | 126 km |
Public participation

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

To date, we have held some 30 meetings in Côte-Nord with these groups, received two dozen opinion submission forms and answered about 30 calls through our Info-project line. We have also conducted numerous personalized follow-ups at the request of stakeholders.

These exchanges are invaluable. They have 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

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<td>Public consultation on routes</td>
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<td>Information on the solution selected</td>
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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

Côte-Nord

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