



AYIMIHIITUUNAANUWICH
Joint Process on Potential La Grande Upgrades
Community Update



Field work update



Abraham Cox (in black) from Chisasibi joined Dave Benoît and Marie-Noëlle Chouinard (in orange) from the environmental firm BBA to carry out the first field campaign of the water quality study in March.



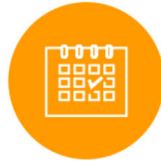
Aaron Ratt and Justin Pash from Chisasibi joined Philippe Scalabrini from Hydro-Québec in a helicopter flyover on March 11th to do the ice studies.

Ice and thermal regime studies

- Ice samplings and temperature measurements
- 1st Field campaign conducted between January 13 to January 16
- 5 community members joined on the field
- Flyovers: March 10 to March 12
- Flyovers and sampling: April 7 to April 10

Water quality studies

- Samplings between LG-4 and the estuary from March 10 to March 16
- Two community members joined on the field
- The water samples are then sent to an accredited laboratory in Montreal for analysis
- The next field campaign will take place in May



Upcoming activities

Cree Knowledge Workshops

- The Ayimihituunaanuwich Technical Table recognizes the importance and equivalence of Cree knowledge with Western scientific knowledge. In this spirit, Cree knowledge will be gathered in a number of ways during the environmental studies, starting with Cree knowledge workshops for certain important topics.
- In early April, two types of workshops will be done to gather Cree knowledge on fish and ice.



Highlights



A workshop was held on September 17, 2024 with 34 tallymen representing 20 traplines aimed at getting input early in the planning stage for the environmental study program.

In 2024, the Technical Table

- Met on 12 occasions between June and December to establish the Environmental Study Program
- Reviewed and commented the Terms of Reference of 10 sectorial studies and the environmental evaluation
- Held 3 workshops with land users
- Made 4 presentations to Councils in Chisasibi, Wemindji and Mistissini
- Held 1 open house/public presentation event in Chisasibi, broadcasted live on local radio on November 26

At the beginning of 2025 the Technical Table

- Had a major role in the call for tenders to carry out the environmental study for the project, including criteria that favoured Cree partnership
- 2 Cree representatives on the Technical Table were part of the tender evaluation committee with the Hydro-Québec Procurement Team, a first for Hydro-Québec and the Crees
- In February 2025, AECOM was awarded the mandate, in partnership with 3 Cree firms: Niigaan/Synergis, Maamu consultants and EnviroCree Ltd.

To foster beneficial conditions for the study, they ensured that:

- *An office be set up in Chisasibi for the duration of the work*
- *A training program be offered to Cree employees*
- *A list of local suppliers be made available*

The Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Hydro-Québec have established the Ayimihituunaanuwich Joint Process on the Potential La Grande Upgrades to assess the environmental, social and cultural aspects of the potential upgrades of Robert-Bourassa, La-Grande-3 and La-Grande-4 power stations.

For more information

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