



AYIMIHIITUUNAUWICH Joint Process on Potential La Grande Upgrades Community Update



Field work update



Water quality sampling campaign from June 7th to June 12th, 2025 : From Left to right : Dave Benoit, Patrick Wapachee and Marie-Noëlle Chouinard



Sharing traditional food after an information session with tallymen and land users in Wemindji last June 10, 2025.

Information session in Wemindji

- On June 10, 2025, the Ayimihituunaanuwich Technical Table met in Wemindji. It was also an occasion to hold an information session for Wemindji and share a traditionnelle meal.

Water quality study – second campaign

- Water samples were collected between LG-4 and the estuary from June 7th to June 12th.
- Several community members joined the BBA team on the field: Sam Cox, Daniel Pachano, Patrick Wapachee, Mark Pepabano and Kyle Napash.
- Some stations were reached by hydroplane and some by boat.
- The water samples were sent to an accredited laboratory in Montreal for analysis.

Sediment load in water

- Water samples were collected between LG-1 and the estuary June 16 and 17, at 10 stations.
- Water chemistry profiles were performed at every station.
- The water samples were sent to an accredited laboratory in Montreal for analysis.

Socioeconomic profile

- Interviews were done between June 16th and 20th by Maamuu with representatives of different economic and socio-cultural organizations in Chisasibi.
- About ten interviews were done during those days, but people who couldn't be met will be contacted to do videoconference interview in July.



Upcoming activities

Fish community and mercury

- The first campaign will take place in July, a second one in August.
- Fish communities will be sampled at 16 stations between LG-4 and the estuary; from these, 13 will be monitored for fish mercury levels.
- The team will make a fishing effort of 5 net-days by fishing station.
- The fish will be stored in a cool place and distributed to the community.

Fish habitat characterization

- From late July to early August, a team will characterize potential habitats in 3 zones: downstream of LG-2 to the coast, downstream of LG-3 and downstream of LG-4.
- This will allow the team to delineate potential spawning areas, which will be further investigated in fall.

Shore banks dynamics (Erosion)

- The campaign will take place from mid-July to early August, with a study area spanning from LG-4 to the coast.
- The team will update the state of knowledge in relation to the dynamics of the riverbanks and specify the current state of the banks, with flyovers and ground surveys.
- This will generate knowledge that is essential to better assess the potential impacts that could result from capacity upgrades.

Eelgrass

- The campaign will begin at the end of July and end in early August.
- With flyovers and diving, the team will assess the condition of the eelgrass bed on the coast, between Point Louis-XIV and Rivière Conn.
- They will check for algae in association with the beds and general eelgrass conditions.

Sediment load

- The next field campaign will take place in July.

Water quality

- The third field campaign will take place in August.
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Highlights



Judy and Catherine Washipabano were at the Maison du Développement durable in Montreal to give two cultural awareness sessions to workers from consultants (BBA, AECOM, Niigaan, Avizo, Poly-Géo) and Hydro-Québec. They were supported by Natasha Bates, Chisasibi representative on the Ayimihituunaanuwich Technical Table.

Cultural Awareness Training

- A cultural awareness training session was developed to increase awareness about First Nations for Hydro-Québec employees and consultants working on the environmental study program.
- The training was developed and given by Catherine and Judy Washipabano.
- 2 cultural sensibilization training were held in Montreal on May 29-30th for 29 employees.
- More sessions will be held in Chisasibi in July and August.

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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