

**TRADUCTION**

**Projet de construction d'une ligne à 315kV, ligne Chénier-Outaouais**

**THE BAPE WILL INFORM THE PUBLIC**

**Québec, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2008** – The Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) is holding information sessions on the *Projet de construction d'une nouvelle ligne à 315kV : ligne Chénier-Outaouais par Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie*. These sessions, in which the proponent will participate, will be hosted by a representative of the BAPE and will take place on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the following locations:

<b>Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, at 7 :30 p.m.</b>	<b>Mirabel (Secteur Saint-Augustin)</b> Centre culturel Jean-Laurin 8475, rue Saint-Jacques
<b>Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008, at 7 :30 p.m.</b>	<b>Montebello</b> Centre d'art de Montebello 550, rue Notre-Dame
<b>Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008, at 7 :30 p.m.</b>	<b>Gatineau (Secteur Buckingham)</b> Salle de quilles Roule ta boule 210, rue Sauvé

The purpose of the information sessions is to allow citizens to obtain information on the project, the environmental impact assessment study and review procedure, the public consultation process, as well as the role of the BAPE. This information session is being held as part of the mandate entrusted to the BAPE by Madam Line Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development Environment and Parks. The BAPE must make available to the public the impact assessment study and entire file related to the project. The public information and consultation period begins today **March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008** and will end on **April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.

It is during this 45-day period that citizens, groups, municipalities or organizations can submit a request for public hearing to the Minister of Sustainable Development Environment and Parks. If necessary, a commission of the BAPE could be mandated to make inquiry on the project and to consult the public on this subject.

**WHERE CAN THE PROJECT DOCUMENTATION BE CONSULTED?**

Citizens can learn more about the project by consulting the impact assessment study prepared by the proponent and the other documents describing the project and, among other things, its repercussions on the environment. Starting today and until **April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, these documents can be consulted at these following locations :

<p><b>Mirabel</b> Bibliothèque centrale, secteur Saint-Janvier 17710, rue du Val-D'Espoir</p>	<p><b>L'Ange-Gardien</b> Centre municipal de l'Ange-Gardien 870, chemin Donaldson</p>
<p><b>Montebello</b> Hôtel de ville de Montebello, 550, rue Notre-Dame</p>	<p><b>Kanesatake</b> Conseil des Mohawks de Kanésatake 681, rue Sainte-Philomène</p>
<p><b>Maniwaki</b> Conseil de bande Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg 1, Paganakomin Mikan</p>	

The entire file is also available at the BAPE office in Québec city, at the Central Library of Université du Québec à Montréal, as well as on the BAPE website at [www.bape.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.bape.gouv.qc.ca), under the heading "Mandats en cours".

**WHAT RIGHTS DO CITIZENS HAVE?**

Any individual, group, organization or municipality wishing a public discussion and evaluation of the project may submit an application for a public hearing during the public information and consultation period. This request must be sent in writing no later than **April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008** to Madam Line Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development Environment and Parks, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 30<sup>e</sup> étage, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7. The applicant must indicate the reasons for his request and his interest in relation to the milieu affected by the project.

**WHAT IS THE BAPE?**

The BAPE is a public information and consultation organization that allows citizens to learn about and express their opinion on a project and, in so doing, take part in the process leading up to the government's decision. The BAPE carries out the mandates entrusted to it by the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, notably the public information and consultation mandate lasting 45 days and the inquiry and public hearing mandate lasting a maximum of 4 months.

Persons wishing to obtain more information can get in touch with Madam Louise Bourdages at 418 643-7447 or toll-free, at 1 800 463-4732 extension 532, or by e-mail at the following address: [ligne-chenier-outaouais@bape.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:ligne-chenier-outaouais@bape.gouv.qc.ca).

**Projet de construction d'une ligne à 315kV, la ligne Chénier-Outaouais,  
par Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie**

**THE PROJECT**

Hydro-Québec plans to build a 315kV transmission line, between the Chénier station, in Mirabel, and the Outaouais station currently under construction in Ange-Gardien in order to reinforce the Outaouais station to permit the exploitation of the 1 250 MW of firm capacity of the interconnection with Ontario under all network operating conditions. This line would be built in accordance with strict criteria from the standpoint of its resistance to wind and ice accumulation. Having an approximate length of 114 km, this line would cross through 15 municipalities and would be located within Hydro-Québec's right-of-way, on the north side of the existing Chénier-Vignan line. The new line would mainly cross over private tenure lands on protected agricultural territory. The establishment of this line would require the addition of equipment inside the Chénier station and the expansion of the Outaouais station. Hydro-Québec estimates the global cost of the project to be \$214 million. The proponent would like to start its work in 2008 and put the line into service for the spring of 2010.

**Repercussions anticipated by the proponent and mitigation measures proposed in the impact study**

During the construction period, the work could result in a loss or a restriction of use for the owners of the private lands affected, notably for the exploitation of farmlands. In this respect, Hydro-Québec would use space-saving towers in zones having an agricultural vocation. In addition, access to the right-of-way would be negotiated by mutual agreement with the owners, and farm production losses would be compensated according to the agreement reached between Hydro-Québec and the UPA. As for the natural environment, the project would result in the clearing of an area of 237 ha of stands, which would reduce, among other things, the nesting habitat of some forty forest-dwelling bird species. To mitigate these impacts, Hydro-Québec would make sure that several wooded areas are maintained in the right-of-way, notably close to watercourses. In addition, clearing work would be done in winter, outside the birds' nesting period.

During the operating period, the establishment of the line would have impacts on the quality of the landscape. However, these impacts would be reduced by placing the new line, over its entire length, next to existing lines, including the Chénier-Vignan line, which offers a good insertion capacity for the planned line. The impacts would mainly be felt in open sectors, notably in farming zones. As for the exposure to electrical and magnetic fields, Hydro-Québec has concluded that the contribution of the new line to the intensity of these fields in the vicinity of the right-of-way would be minor.

Finally, according to the impact assessment study, the project would make it possible to improve the quality of life and regional economic development, while further securing the energy supply for customers of the Outaouais region. The construction work would result in direct economic spin-offs at the regional level, and the municipalities and regional county municipalities affected by the project could benefit from Hydro-Québec's integrated development project.