

The project to construct a 315-kV power transmission line (Chénier-Outaouais)

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BEGIN ON JUNE 3rd, 2008

Quebec City, May 23th 2008 – The commission of the *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE)*, made up of Mr. Qussaï Samak, chair, and Mr. François Lafond, commissioner, is holding the first part of the public hearing on the *Project to construct a 315-kV power transmission line (Chénier-Outaouais) proposed by Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie*. The hearing will begin on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2008 at 7:00 pm at **Château Montebello, Canada room, located at 392, rue Notre-Dame, in Montebello, Qc**. The hearing will continue on the following days, depending on the needs of the public and the commission.

The sessions of the first part of the public hearings will also be available for members of the public via a broadcast live in audio mode through the BAPE website at: www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

A HEARING IN TWO PARTS

1. Obtaining information

The first part of the public hearing will be held in the presence of the proponent as well as representatives of different government departments who will be called upon to provide all information sought by either members of the public or the commission regarding the project.

2. Voicing opinions

During the second part of the public hearing, which will begin on July 9th 2008, the commission will receive the public's concerns, views and suggestions concerning the project. In the course of this part of the public hearing the commission will hear any person, group, organization or municipality wishing to express an opinion on the project, be it in the form of a written brief or an oral presentation.

The commission has a maximum period of four months to carry out its mandate. The BAPE report will be submitted to Ms. Line Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, by September 26th, 2008, at the latest who shall make the report public with 60 days of that date.

WHERE CAN THE PROJECT DOCUMENTATION BE CONSULTED?

All documents pertaining to the project are available for consultation at the BAPE office in Québec City, the Central Library of Université du Québec à Montréal, as well as at the following locations:

- Bibliothèque de Mirabel, bibliothèque centrale, secteur Saint-Janvier, 17710, rue du Val-d'Espoir, Mirabel ;

- Centre municipal de L'Ange-Gardien, 870, chemin Donaldson, L'Ange-Gardien ;
- Mohawks Council of Kanasatake, 120A, rue Notre-Dame, Oka ;
- Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Band Council, 1, Paganakomin Mikan, Maniwaki ;
- Hôtel de ville de Montebello, 550, rue Notre-Dame, Montebello.

The same documents are also available through the BAPE website at the following address: www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

For more information, feel free to contact Ms. Marie-Josée Méthot, coordinator of the commission's secretariat, by dialing 418 643-7447 or, toll-free, 1 800 463-4732, extension 426. You can also contact the commission by e-mail at the following address: ligne-chenier-outaouais@bape.gouv.qc.ca.

THE PROJECT

Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie proposes 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-Vignau 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.

WHAT IS THE BAPE?

The BAPE is a public information and consultation organization that allows citizens to express their views on a given project and to take part in the decision-making process, which may or may not lead to the authorization of a project. The BAPE carries out the mandates entrusted to it by the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, notably the public information and consultation mandates lasting 45 days, inquiry and public hearing mandates which may last up to 4 months, and the mediation mandate lasting about 2 months.

In response to the requests for a public hearing submitted to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks by citizens, groups, organizations or municipalities, the BAPE has been mandated to hold a public hearing on the *Projet de construction d'une ligne à 315 kV, la ligne Chénier-Outaouais*.

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