

FORM

Preliminary information

PREAMBLE

The James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA), by its chapters 22 and 23, establishes a system of protection for both the natural and social environment in the James Bay and Northern Quebec region. Depending on the type of project, some aspects of these chapters may report under the responsibility of the Government of Canada, or the Government of Québec or both levels of government. Some projects can also be reported under the responsibility of the Cree Nation Government, notably for projects conducted on Category IA lands. Title II of the [Environment Quality Act \(EQA\)](#) presents the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures applicable in the James Bay region (section 133 of the EQA) and in Northern Quebec (section 168 of the EQA).

The projects mentioned in schedule A of the EQA are subjected to one of the procedures applicable in the Northern environment, contrary to those mentioned in schedule B, which are exempt from the procedures. Projects not outlined in either schedule are considered "grey zone" projects. Anyone who intends to undertake a project in a northern environment covered by schedule A of the EQA must apply for a certificate of authorization. For "grey zone" projects, a proponent must request an attestation of exemption and the Provincial Administrator will confirm to him, after analysis of the project by the northern committee concerned, whether the project is not subject to the [Environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure](#) or if it is subject to it. In the first case, an attestation of exemption will be issued to the proponent for the project and, in the second, a directive will be prepared and sent to him, which will indicate the nature, scope and extent of the impact study he must prepare. Thus, except for the projects listed in schedule B, a proponent must file a preliminary information form with the Provincial Administrator of the JBNQA.

If necessary, it is possible to confirm whether your project corresponds to an activity listed in schedules A and B of the EQA or a "grey zone" by sending an e-mail request for verification of exemption, including a short description of your project, its location and the anticipated impacts at the following email address: dgees-assujettissement@environnement.gouv.qc.ca.

The preliminary information form is used to describe the general characteristics of a project. It must be completed in a clear and concise manner and the information must be limited to the elements that are relevant for a proper understanding of the project, its anticipated impacts, and possible ramifications.

In accordance with the EQA, the preliminary information form is either sent to the Evaluating Committee (COMEV), if the project concerns the region south of the 55th parallel (James Bay), or to the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC), if the project concerns the region north of the 55th parallel (Nunavik). These two committees review the preliminary information and, in the case of projects covered by schedule A of the EQA, produce a recommendation on the directive indicating the nature, scope and extent of the study impact that the proponent must prepare. For "grey zone" projects, these committees produce a recommendation (COMEV) or a decision (KEQC) on whether the project is subjected to or exempt from the procedure. These recommendations and decisions are then forwarded to the Provincial Administrator who communicates his decision to the proponent. The proponent may be issued an attestation of exemption for projects that are exempt from the procedure or issued a directive for those subjected to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure.

The Evaluating Committee is a tripartite advisory body composed of representatives appointed by the Cree Nation Government and representatives of the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec. The Kativik Environmental Quality Commission is a bipartite body of Inuit or Naskapi representatives appointed by the Kativik Regional Government and representatives of the Government of Quebec. While performing their duties, both bodies pay particular attention to the following principles, which are outlined in sections 152 and 186 of the EQA:

- a) the protection of the hunting, fishing and trapping rights of the Native people;
- b) the protection of the environment and social milieu;
- c) the protection of the Native people, of their societies, communities and economy;
- d) the protection of the wildlife, of the physical and biological milieu and of the ecological systems of the territory;
- e) the rights and guarantees of the Native people in Category II lands;
- f) the participation of the Crees, Inuit and Naskapis in the application of the environmental and social protection regime provided for in this division;
- g) any rights and interest of non-Native people, and
- h) the right of the persons acting lawfully to carry out projects in the territory.

Also note that the preliminary information form will be published in the [Environmental assessment register](#) (French only) as defined in section 118.5 of the EQA but only for projects for which a directive will be issued. The [COMEUV](#) and [KEQC](#) also publish preliminary information form on their websites.

Since May 2022, the applicant for any authorization must produce, as a condition for the issuance of an authorization, the applicant's declaration of background (déclaration d'antécédents). This declaration replaces the declaration of the applicant. You will find the form to be completed at the following address : <https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/evaluations/declaration-antecedents.pdf> (French only).

The preliminary information form must be accompanied by the payment, charging the proponent for services provided under the environmental authorization system. This payment can be made by check to the ministre des Finances or via bank transfer. Details regarding the applicable rates are available in the [Tarification](#) section (French only) of the environmental assessment web page. It should be noted that the MELCCFP will not process the application until payment is received.

Once completed, the proponent must send its preliminary information form together with a letter of transmission, which must be sent to the JBNQA Provincial Administrator:

- Send the electronic copy of the documents (form and letter of transmission) to reception.30e@environnement.gouv.qc.ca including the Deputy minister (marie-josée.lizotte@environnement.gouv.qc.ca) as well as Vanessa Chalifour, coordinator/team leader for northern projects (vanessa.chalifour@environnement.gouv.qc.ca). The letter of transmission must confirm that the hard copies are consistent with the electronic ones. In case of large electronic documents, please consult the last bullet.

- Send a hard copy of the documents (French) to the Deputy minister office at the following address:

James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement Provincial Administrator
Deputy minister of the Environment, Fight against Climate change, Wildlife and Parks
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 30e étage
675, boul. René-Lévesque Est, boîte 02
Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7

- Send the other hard copies and the USB keys (including the French and English versions) to the Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets industriels, miniers, énergétiques et nordiques at the following address:

Mélissa Gagnon, director
Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets
industriels, miniers, énergétiques et nordiques
Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques , de la
Faune et des Parcs
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 6e étage, boîte 83
675, boul. René-Lévesque Est
Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7

Projects located south of the 55th parallel (James Bay)
Nine (9) hard copies, including six (6) in French and three (3) in English
Three (3) PDF copies in electronic format
Additional copies may be requested depending on the scope of the project.

Projects located north of the 55th parallel (Northern Quebec/Nunavik)
Fourteen (14) hard copies, including seven (7) in French and seven (7) in English
Three (3) PDF copies in electronic format
Additional copies may be requested depending on the scope of the project.

- If the electronic documents are very large: Inform the Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets industriels, miniers, énergétiques et nordiques (vanessa.chalifour@environnement.gouv.qc.ca) and a secure link allowing you to send your documents on the ShareFile platform will be shared with you. This link will be valid for a period of 7 days. Attach the letter of transmission to the email, indicating that the electronic version will be transmitted via the ShareFile platform of the DGÉES.

1. IDENTIFICATION AND COORDINATES OF THE PROPONENT

1.1 Identification of the proponent	
Name : Hydro-Québec	
Civic address : 75, boulevard René- Lévesque Ouest, 17th floor, Montréal (Québec) H2Z 1A4	
Postal address (if different from civic address) :	
Name and function of the signatory(s) authorized to submit the application: Mathieu Bolullo, Senior Director – Transmission, Construction and Distribution Projects	
Telephone : 514 840-3000, ext. 5215	Telephone (other) : -
Email : bolullo.mathieu@hydroquebec.com	
1.2 Company number	
Québec enterprise number (NEQ) : 11141181	
1.3 Resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village, or responsible body	
If the proponent is a municipality, the preliminary information form is accompanied by the resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village, or the responsible body duly certified authorizing the signatory(s) of the application to present it. Add a copy of the resolution to appendix I.	
1.4 Identification of the consultant mandated by the proponent (if applicable)	
Name :	
Civic address :	
Postal address (if different from civic address) :	
Telephone : -	Telephone (other) : -
Email : @ .	
Description of mandate :	

2. GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Project title
Project of ... (construction/extension/development/ etc.) of ... (installation/equipment/factory/etc.) in the territory of ... (municipality/village/community) Construction of an access road in the northern village of Aupaluk
2.2 Article of accordance
To verify the accordance of your project, indicate which paragraph of schedule A of the Environment Quality Act your project is subjected to, in your opinion, and why (threshold, for example). Indicate if your project is considered a "grey zone" project, if applicable. Construction of the access road is not subject to either Schedule A or Schedule B of the Environment Quality Act. It is thus in the "grey zone."
2.3 Objectives and justification of the project
Indicate the main objectives and highlight the reasons for implementing the project. The site of the existing Aupaluk generating station does not meet future operating needs. Furthermore, because of the site's location and configuration, it is subject to a number of limitations and issues. Aupaluk generating station is located near the Baie Hopes Advance, nearly in the center of the village. This location does not meet all the operator's development needs, and the growth projects that the station requires are similarly difficult or impossible. The current site, with an area of just over 4,300 square metres, is split in two by a municipal road that crosses it, posing certain health and safety issues for the operator. Being near the bay, the site is also more sensitive to the effects of climate change, which poses a risk for the facility's future. A new site must therefore be chosen for a new generating station (1,975 kW) as well as a possible employee house providing accommodations for maintenance personnel.

The generating station site will be connected to an existing access route by means of an access road.

2.4 Brief description of the project and alternatives

Briefly describe the project (length, width, quantity, voltage, surface, etc.) and for each of its phases (development, construction, and operation and, when appropriate, closure and restoration), briefly describe the main characteristics associated with each of the project alternatives, including planned activities, developments, and construction (deforestation, expropriation, blasting, backfilling, etc.).

The project involves building an access road between the site of the new Aupaluk generating station, which will be commissioned in early 2027, and an existing service road.

The access road will be about 300 m long, with a road surface averaging 7.0 m wide. The right-of-way will be 8.8 m wide, including the shoulders.

The road's construction will require grading. The infrastructure will comprise a 300-mm-thick top coat of compacted 20-0 aggregate, placed on a compacted layer of non-frost-susceptible fill at least 600 mm thick. The infrastructure will be protected by a roughly 300-mm-thick layer of 50–150-mm riprap. Geotextile will be placed between the riprap and the natural ground. Construction of the road will require roughly 1,885 m³ of granular material and 850 m³ of riprap.

If relevant, add to appendix II all the documents allowing to better understand the characteristics of the project (diagram, sketch, cross-section, etc.).

2.5 Related activities

Summarize, if applicable, related planned activities (ex: road access, crushing or milling, installation of a cofferdam, stream diversion) and any other projects that may influence the project design.

The access road will connect the site of the future Aupaluk generating station to the existing road system. The generating station, scheduled to be commissioned in early 2027, will enable Hydro-Québec to supply the community of Aupaluk. Construction of the station (under 3,000 kW) is not subject to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure, as provided for under Paragraph c) of Schedule B of Title II of the *Environment Quality Act*. The granular material required for the access road's construction would be sourced from a quarry or borrow pit located ±1.0 km west of the work site.

3. PROJECT LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

3.1 Identification and location of the project and its activities

Name of the municipality, village, or community where the project is located (indicate if several municipalities, villages, or communities are affected by the project):

Aupaluk (VN), Nunavik

Land categories (I, II and III): **Category I lands**

Geographical coordinates in decimal degrees of the central point of the project (for linear projects, provide the coordinates of the project start and end point):

Central point or start of the project: Latitude: **59.307897** Longitude: **-69.581118**

Project end point (if applicable) : Latitude: Longitude:

3.2 Description of the project site

Describe the main components of the physical, biological, and human environments likely to be affected by the project by focusing on the description on elements considered to be of scientific, social, cultural, economic, historical, archaeological, or aesthetic importance (environmental valued components). Indicate, if applicable, the ownership status of the lands where the project is planned, as well as the main features of the site: zoning, available space, sensitive environments, wetlands and bodies of water, compatibility with current uses, availability services, topography, presence of buildings, aboriginal land use and occupation, etc.

The planned access road is roughly 1.3 km from the village of Aupaluk's northern boundary, and ±300 m northwest of the road leading from Aupaluk to a series of borrow pits.

The site is on a level lot that slopes slightly to the northwest. The bedrock is visible at several locations in the site's southeastern portion and is covered only by a thin layer of granular material elsewhere on the site. The site allows for easy building due to the nature of the surface soil and the relatively level terrain. The landscaping work required for the site's development should be fairly limited. The terrain's natural slope promotes drainage. The site includes a few transitory ponds, and the plant cover consists of species that are common and usual in the region. There were no visible signs of the site's occupation or use by any animal species that is fragile or of special interest.

Based on the initial observations for this road site:

- 1) The road does not appear to cross any wetlands or aquatic environment, which will be verified once the site's ecological characterization has been remitted, in late 2022 or early 2023 (wetlands shown in orange and green):



- 2) No special-status plant or animal species was identified in the inventory area.
- 3) The preliminary archaeological survey did not identify any potential sites along the access road.
- 4) The road is located near other roads. Current uses are therefore similar.
- 5) Indigenous people have used the site in part to extract granular material from the soil and to raise dogs. However, the community seems to be in agreement with the selected site.

3.3 Project schedule

Provide the implementation schedule (estimated period and estimated duration of each step of the project) considering the time required for the preparation of the impact study, if applicable, and the progress of the procedure.

- Detailed engineering phase: February 2023 to March 2024
- Call for tenders and contract award phase:
 - Lot 1 / Production of granular material, landscaping and mass backfill: October 2023 to January 2024
 - Lot 2 /Construction of generating station and substation: June 2024 to October 2024
- Construction:
 - Lot 1: July 2024 to November 2024
 - Lot 2: July 2025 to February 2027

3.4 Location plan

Add to appendix III a topographic or cadastral map showing the location of the project and, if applicable, a plan for the location of development or activities on an appropriate scale indicating any existing infrastructure and its relation to the proposed work site.

See the map “Aupaluk Access Road – Location” in the appendix.

4. INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES OF THE PUBLIC, ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND USERS OF THE TERRITORY

4.1 Information and consultation activities carried out

If applicable, indicate the terms and conditions relating to the public information and consultation activities carried out as part of the project design (methods used, number of participants and represented areas), including those carried out with the local populations, among others the Crees, Inuit and Naskapi, as well as the users of the territory, and indicate, if needed, the concerns raised by the public and whether these concerns were taking into consideration in the design of the project.

During the initial meeting with the Aupaluk municipal council and the Nunavik Landholding Corporation of Aupaluk held on October 12, 2021, the community was informed of Hydro-Québec's intention to replace the current thermal generating station with a new generating station. The objective of the meeting was to present the potential sites to be analyzed and to obtain the community representatives' comments and proposals.

At a second meeting on April 12, 2022, Hydro-Québec presented its recommended site and the results of the analysis of the potential sites to the representatives of the Aupaluk municipal council and the Nunavik Landholding Corporation of Aupaluk. Hydro-Québec also presented detailed information on the new thermal generating station project (rationale, technical specifications, preliminary timeline, environmental studies). The route for the access road was not addressed in detail at the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to obtain the community's authorization regarding the choice of the site recommended by Hydro-Québec. The Aupaluk representatives did not raise any concerns regarding the site or the design of the access road leading to the generating station.

On May 18, 2022, the Nunavik Landholding Corporation of Aupaluk adopted Resolution No. 2022-26, thereby approving the choice of the site recommended by Hydro-Québec and the construction of the new thermal generating station (including building an access road).

On August 29, 2022, Hydro-Québec sent a detailed plan of the access road as well as its technical specifications to the Landholding Corporation and the northern village in order to obtain their comments and concerns and to determine whether a community consultation on the topic would be necessary.

On September 22, 2022, Hydro-Québec and the Nunavik Landholding Corporation of Aupaluk agreed via email to include the issue of the access road and its route in the community consultation to be held in November.

On November 10, 2022, Hydro-Québec met with the Aupaluk municipal council and the Nunavik Landholding Corporation of Aupaluk to present an update of the generating station project, and to present the access road route in more detail. A concern was raised by the community representatives regarding the configuration of the access road as well as the accessibility of the site during winter storms. Hydro-Québec outlined the constraints and the route choice and those attending the meeting seemed to agree with the choice. As agreed with the community during the meeting of April 12, 2022, a public consultation was also held on the community radio to gain insight into the population's potential concerns regarding the project. No particular concerns regarding the configuration of the access road were raised by the community members on that occasion. Forms were also sent to the population to obtain their impressions as well as information on the use of the land affected by the construction. No completed forms have been received thus far but Hydro-Québec will take into account any new information provided on the forms. As anticipated, the questions raised regarding snow removal on the access road were also raised during the radio consultation. The method of snow removal will be discussed with the municipal council in the coming months.

4.2 Information and consultation activities planned during the environmental and social impact assessment procedure

If applicable, indicate the terms and conditions for public information and consultation activities during the environmental and social impact assessment procedure, including those planned for aboriginal communities and users of the territory impacted by the project.

Hydro-Québec plans to continue its efforts to keep the Aupaluk community informed as the project progresses. The company plans to hold meetings with community representatives (the municipal council and the Landholding Corporation) throughout the project.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN ISSUES¹ AND IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT ON THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Description of the main issues of the project

Briefly describe the main issues regarding the development, construction, and operation phases and, when applicable, closure and restoration phases of the project.

Because the road is short and mostly located in an already disturbed area, its construction poses few issues. During the work, stripping/backfilling of the natural milieu and disturbed area will lead to a temporary increase in traffic when bringing in materials. During the operations phase, little traffic is expected because the road leads only to the future generating station. In terms of maintenance, other than the maintenance associated with a gravel road and snow removal, no other issues have been identified.

Other than the possible presence of wetlands near the work site, no other sensitive environment has been identified at this time.

Moreover, the community has not expressed any concerns about the road.

5.2 Description of the main anticipated impacts of the project on the receiving environment

For the development, construction, and operation phases and, when appropriate, closure and restoration phases of the project, briefly describe what are the anticipated impacts of the project on the receiving environment (physical, biological, and human). Briefly outline the planned mitigation or remediation measures, if applicable.

The road's construction could cause temporary disturbances to wetlands because the road might pass near wetlands in the area identified during the interpretation of aerial photos and the ecological characterization of the environment. The environmental assessment and characterization of the natural environment are in progress. A culvert will be laid beneath the access road to ensure water can flow between either side of the road. A field expertise study is also in progress on construction of infrastructure of this type. If the study confirms wetland encroachment, an application for ministerial authorization for the work will be filed.

In addition, the road does not run through the habitats of any special-status wildlife or plant species according to information obtained from the relevant government agencies.

The plant cover is composed of species common throughout the northern environment, and no signs of occupation or use of the site by wildlife species of interest have been reported.

The impacts on the biophysical environment will thus be negligible.

The access road is far from the village and from residential zones or potential residential zones. No one hunts or gathers plants on this land. On a preliminary basis, based on the information obtained to date, there do not appear to be any archaeological sites along the access road. The impacts on the host environment will thus be negligible.

For a "grey zone" project, provide sufficient information to assess its environmental and social impacts to determine whether it should be subjected to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure. Provide mitigation or remediation measures, if applicable.

6. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION

6.1 Greenhouse gas emission

Indicate if the project is likely to lead to the emission of greenhouse gases and, if so, which ones. Briefly describe the main sources of projected emissions at the various phases of the project.

N/A

7. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

7.1 Other relevant information

¹ Issue: A major concern for the government, the scientific community, or the population, including the impacted indigenous communities, and whose analysis could influence the recommendations or decisions of the northern committees regarding the authorization or refusal of a project.

Enter any other information deemed necessary for a better understanding of the project.

8. DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

8.1 Declaration and signature
<p><i>I certify that :</i></p> <p><i>1° the documents and information provided in this preliminary information form are accurate to the best of my knowledge.</i></p> <p><i>Any misrepresentation may result in sanctions under the EQA. All information provided will form an integral part of the application and will be published on the website of the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) or the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) and the Environmental assessment register.</i></p>
First and last name
Mathieu Bolullo
Signature
Date : December 12, 2022

Appendix I

Resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village, or responsible body

If applicable, insert below the resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village or responsible body duly certified authorizing the signatory(s) of the application to present it.

N/A

Appendix II

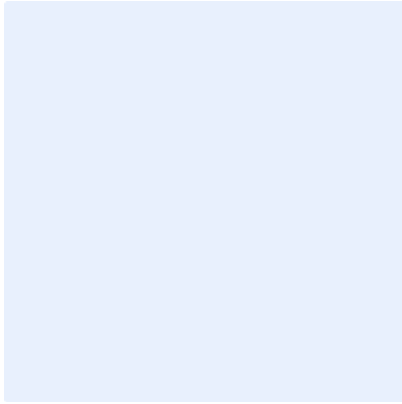
Project characteristics

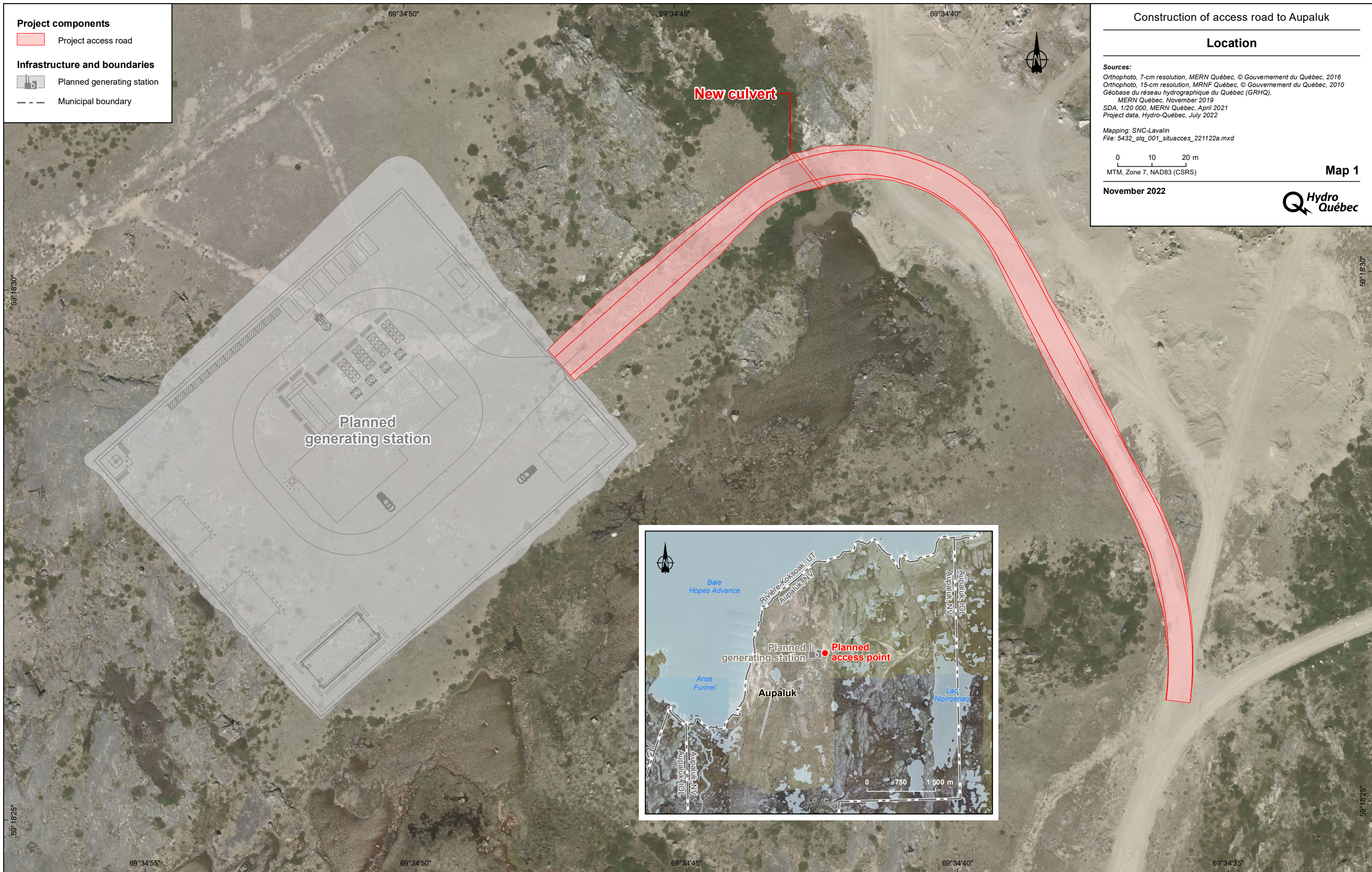
If relevant, insert below documents to better understand the characteristics of the project (diagram, sketch, cross-section, etc.).

See Section 3.3

Appendix III
Location plan

Insert a topographic or cadastral map showing the location of the project and, if applicable, a plan for the location of works or activities on an appropriate scale indicating in particular the infrastructures in place in relation to the work site.





Project components

- Project access road

Infrastructure and boundaries

- Planned generating station
- Municipal boundary

Construction of access road to Aupaluk

Location

Sources:
 Orthophoto, 7-cm resolution, MERN Québec, © Gouvernement du Québec, 2016
 Orthophoto, 15-cm resolution, MRNF Québec, © Gouvernement du Québec, 2010
 Géobase du réseau hydrographique du Québec (GRHQ), MERN Québec, November 2019
 SDA, 1/20 000, MERN Québec, April 2021
 Project data, Hydro-Québec, July 2022

Mapping: SNC-Lavalin
 File: 5432_slq_001_situaccs_221122a.mxd

0 10 20 m

MTM, Zone 7, NAD83 (CSRS)

Map 1

November 2022

Hydro Québec

