FORM
Preliminary Information

PREAMBLE

Chapters 22 and 23 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) establish an environmental and social protection regime in Northern Québec. Certain aspects of these chapters are the responsibility of the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec or both. Those under Québec's jurisdiction have been included in Chapter II of the Environment Quality Act (EQA) (c. Q-2). This chapter of the EQA sets out the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures that apply in the Baie-James region (Section 133 of the EQA) or in Nunavik (Section 168 of the EQA) (www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/evaluations/mil-nordique/index.htm).

Projects listed in Schedule A of the EQA are required to undergo one of the procedures applicable in Northern areas, while those listed in Schedule B are not. Those not covered by these schedules are considered "grey area" projects. They must therefore be submitted to the *Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques* (MELCC), which will determine whether they are subject to any of the procedures applicable in a Northern area.

The "Preliminary Information" form is used to describe the general characteristics of the project. It must be completed in a clear and concise manner and be limited to the information needed for good understanding of the project, its impacts and the issues at stake. Preliminary information will be published on the Environmental Assessment Registry as required under Section 118.5.0.1 of the EQA.

Any proponent wishing to carry out a project covered by Schedule A of the EQA or a "grey area" project in these territories must first apply for a certificate of authorization or attestation of exemption, in accordance with sections 154 and 189 of the EQA. The proponent must therefore submit preliminary information on the project to the MELCC.

In accordance with sections 115.5 to 115.12 of the EQA, the applicant for any authorization granted under the Act must, as a condition, produce the declaration of the applicant or holder of an authorization issued under the EQA along with the other documents required by the Minister. This requirement does not apply to projects deemed not subject to the Act. An explanatory guide and the required forms can be found in French at https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/lqe/renforcement/index.htm.

The "Preliminary Information" form must be accompanied by payment under the environmental permit application fee system. The payment must be made payable to the Minister of Finance. Details of the applicable rates are available in French at https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/tarification/ministere.htm (click on the link "Procédure d'évaluation environnementale – Milieu nordique"). Note that the application will not be processed until payment is received. Preliminary information should be sent in ten (10) French hard copies, four (4) English hard copies and one electronic copy to the following address:

Provincial Administrator of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement
Deputy Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 30e étage
675, boul. René-Lévesque Est, boîte 02
Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7
Telephone: 418 521-3933
Fax: 418 646-0266

Moreover, in accordance with the EQA, the preliminary information form is sent to the Evaluation Committee, if the project concerns the James Bay region, or to the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee, if the project concerns Nunavik territory. These two committees review the preliminary information and, in the case of projects covered by Schedule A of the EQA, they produce a recommendation or an opinion on the Directive indicating the nature, scope and extent of the impact statement to be prepared by the proponent. For "grey area" projects, the committees produce a recommendation or decision on whether the project should be covered by the procedure and, if so, on the project directive. These recommendations, opinions and decisions are then forwarded to the MELCC, which sends its decision to the proponent. This may result in the issuance of a certificate of exemption, for projects not subject to the procedure, or a directive, for projects subject to the procedure.

The Evaluation Committee is a tripartite committee made up of representatives appointed by the Cree Nation and by the governments of Canada and Québec. The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee is a bipartite committee made up of Inuit or Naskapi representatives appointed by the Kativik Regional Government and of representatives of the Québec government. In carrying out their duties, these two committees pay particular attention to the following principles, which are set out in sections 152 and 186 of the EQA:

a) protection of Indigenous hunting, fishing and trapping rights;
b) protection of the biophysical and human environments;
c) protection of Indigenous people and of their societies, communities and economies;
d) protection of wildlife, the biophysical environment and the ecosystems of the territory;
e) Indigenous rights and guarantees in Category II lands;
f) participation of the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi in the application of the environmental and social protection framework;
g) all rights and interests of non-Indigenous people; and
h) the right to carry out projects, possessed by persons acting legally in the territory.

1. APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1.1 Proponent identification	
Name: **Hydro-Québec (TransÉnergie et Équipement Division)**	
Street address: **855, Sainte-Catherine Street east, 16th floor Montréal (Québec) H2L 4P5**	
Mailing address (if different from street address):	
Name and title of signing officer(s) authorized to submit the application: **Guy Côté, Senior Director – Transmission and Construction Projects**	
Phone number: **514 840-3000, ext. 4675**	Phone number (other): - -
Email: **cote.guy@hydroquebec.com**	

1.2 Company number
Québec enterprise number (NEQ): **8811141181**

1.3 Municipal Council Resolution
If the applicant is a municipality, the preliminary information form must be accompanied by a duly certified resolution of the municipal council authorizing the signatory or signatories of the application to submit the application to the Minister. Attach a copy of the municipal resolution to Schedule I.

1.4 Identification of proponent's consultant (if applicable)	
Name:	
Street address:	
Mailing address (if different from street address):	
Phone number: -	Phone number (other): - -
Email: @ .	
Description of mandate:	

2. PROJECT LOCATION AND TIMETABLE

2.1 Identification and location of project and operations
Name of the municipality, village or community where the project will be carried out (indicate if more than one municipality, village or community is affected by the project): **Kuujjuarapik (NV), Nunavik**
Land categories (I, II or III): **Category I lands**
Geographic coordinates (in decimal degrees) of the project's central point; for linear projects, provide the coordinates of the project's start and end points: Central point or beginning of project: Latitude: 55.280673 Longitude: -77.756173 End point of project (if applicable): Latitude: Longitude:

2.2 Description of project site

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

Hydro-Québec currently operates a 3.4-MW diesel generating station that supplies power to the northern village of Kuujjuarapik. To increase the generating station's capacity, Hydro-Québec will be installing new equipment within the existing property boundary of the station. Work will be carried out inside or near the existing generating station's building, which is located in the northern sector of the village.

The most southern village in Nunavik, Kuujjuarapik (formerly known also as Poste-de-la-Baleine) is located at the mouth of the Grande rivière de la Baleine on the coast of the Hudson Bay. The Manitounuk Islands are found just a little to the north, along the coast. The village is home to a Cree community, Whapmagoostui, and to an Inuit community. The combined population of the Whapmagoostui-Kuujjuarapik community is just under 700 people.

The climate of Whapmagoostui-Kuujjuarapik is strongly influenced by the proximity of the Hudson Bay. The village is located at the edge of the taiga and tundra and is built on a large sandspit, with the surrounding region consisting of granitic bedrock covered by a thick layer of sand. The parabolic dunes that have formed along the coasts are heavily influenced by the vegetation cover. The land in the area is rising quickly due to the ongoing process of isostatic rebound that followed the retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet. Running east-west, at the level of the Rivière Grande-Baleine, is the tundra-taiga ecotone, with the taiga (boreal forest) located mainly south of the river, and the tundra, which progressively takes over in the north.

The average annual temperature is about -4°C. Laval University has a research center in Kuujjuarapik called the Centre d'études Nordiques [Northern Study Center]. This Center studies a variety of subjects, such as the impact of climate change on tundra ecosystems, on permafrost, and the origin and evolution of Inuit communities.

The project aims to supply the population with electricity and continue to meet growing demand for energy.

2.3 Schedule

Provide the project schedule (expected period and estimated duration of each project phase) taking into account the time required for the impact study and for the procedure to take its course.

- **Draft-design: May 2020 to March 2021.**
- **Government approvals: February 2021 to July 2022.**
- **Detailed engineering: April 2021 to December 2021.**
- **Call for tenders and contract award: April 2022 to July 2022.**
- **Construction:**
  - **Jobsite setup and preparatory work: September 2022 to November 2022.**
  - **Construction work and equipment installation: April 2023 to October 2023.**
  - **Start-up and commissioning verifications: October to December 2023.**

2.4 Location map

In Schedule III, add a topographic or cadastral map showing the project location and, if applicable, a location map of the work or activities at an appropriate scale, indicating in particular the infrastructure in place in relation to the work site.

3. GENERAL PROJECT PRESENTATION

3.1 Project name

Project for the . . . (construction/expansion/development/etc.) of . . . (installation/equipment/plant/etc.) within the territory of . . . (municipality/village/community)

Project to increase the production capacity of the Kuujjuarapik thermal generating station

3.2 Under legislation

So that we can determine whether your project comes under the legislation, indicate which subsection of Schedule A of the Environment Quality Act your project is covered by, and why (e.g., meeting the threshold). Indicate whether your project is in the "grey area".

Although projects for new fossil-fuel fired thermal generating plants with a heat capacity equal to or greater than 3,000 kW are subject to the mandatory assessment and review process (schedule A, paragraph g), projects whose aim is to increase the capacity of an existing generating station above the 3,000-kW limit are mentioned in neither schedules A nor B of the *Environment Quality Act*. The project is thus in a "grey zone."

3.3 Summary description of the project and its variants

Briefly describe your project (length, width, quantity, voltage, surface area, etc.) and, for each of its phases (development, construction and operation and, if applicable, closure and restoration), briefly describe the main characteristics associated with each of the project variants, including activities, structures and work planned (clearing, expropriation, blasting, backfilling, etc.).

The power supply of the village of Kuujjuarapik comes from a thermal generating station equipped with three diesel-powered generating sets with a capacity of 1,135 kW each. The project involves the addition of a fourth generating set of about 1,880 kW, along with the expansion of the generating station building in order to accommodate this new equipment.
The current building will be expanded by about 300 square meters. The expansion will create space for the new generating set and for new storage, access and handling areas for operations and maintenance activities. The expansion will be built on-site, using concrete foundations, a steel structure and a general architectural design that matches the current building. Plans for the building also include an envelope and wall systems incorporating noise mitigation measures.
In terms of related work, the project also includes the modification of the generating station's 4-kV switchyard, to which a third distribution feeder will be added to better distribute the new load on the village's distribution system. The new components will mainly consist of wooden poles and electrical conductors.
The new generating set will be connected to the generating station's existing fuel storage and supply systems. We do not plan to increase the fuel reserve or the storage capacity for lubricating oils, given that the existing facilities have sufficient capacity and are already adapted and compliant, in terms of petroleum equipment.
The project also includes some minor work inside the generating station, like the expansion of the current control room, the addition of 4-kV cabinets and the update of some of the generating station's electrical protection systems.
A radiator and an exhaust stack for the fourth generating set will be added to the exterior of the station. These components will be built on concrete foundations and use steel structures for the stack.

In Schedule II, add any relevant documents that will help us better identify the project characteristics (plan, sketch, sectional view, etc.).

3.4 Project objectives and justification

Indicate the main objectives and the reasons for implementing the project.

The northern village of Kuujjuarapik's power supply comes from a thermal generating station equipped with three diesel-powered generating sets. The generating station's total installed capacity is 3,405 kW and its firm power is 2,043 kW. Due to increased demand, the plant is no longer capable of supplying a reliable power source. In fact, we expect that in 2022–2023 peak demand could reach 2,403 kW, surpassing the facility's firm power. To meet the additional demand, Hydro-Québec plans to increase the generating station's production capacity for 2023, by adding a fourth generating set with a capacity of about 1,880 kW.
The project will thus increase the generating station's installed capacity to about 5,300 kW, for a firm power capacity of about 3,065 kW.

3.5 Related activities

Summarize any related activities (e.g., access road construction, crushing, cofferdam placement or diversion of rivers or streams) and any other projects that may influence the design of the proposed project.

Not applicable.

4. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION

4.1 Public information and consultation

Provide details about any public information and consultation activities carried out as part of the project design (methods used, number of participants, communities represented), including those carried out with local populations, particularly the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi, and indicate any concerns raised and how they were taken into account in the project design.

On January 28, 2021, a first letter was sent to the Mayor of Kuujjuaraapik and the Chief of Whapmagoostui informing them of Hydro-Québec's project to increase the capacity of the generating station. The letter briefly described the project and provided a preliminary schedule.

A communication plan will be rolled out in 2021 to inform the Kuujjuaraapik-Whapmagoostui community about planned work, which will start in summer of 2023.

5. DESCRIPTION OF MAIN ISSUES AND PROJECT IMPACTS ON HOST COMMUNITIES

5.1 Description of main project issues

For the development, construction, operation and, if applicable, closure and restoration phases of the project, briefly describe the main issues of the project, i.e., the major concerns of the government, the scientific community or the population, including the Indigenous communities concerned, whose analysis could influence the government's decision as to whether or not to authorize the project.

This project addresses the issues of meeting the Inuit and Cree communities' growing electricity needs while preserving the quality of life of residents by mitigating the project's potential impacts. The communities are concerned about the project's impacts in terms of pollution and noise. Hydro-Québec carried out modeling studies to study these two issues.

5.2 Description of main anticipated project impacts on host communities

For the development, construction, operation and, if applicable, closure and restoration phases of the project, briefly describe the main anticipated issues of the project on the host environment (physical, biological and human).

Hydro-Québec endeavours to mitigate the environmental impacts of this capacity-increase project. Noise levels and air quality are being analyzed and documented to ensure that no deterioration occurs in these aspects occurs.

The material needed for the work will be transported by sea. Residual hazardous materials generated will be managed through the generating station's recovery stations and sent south by boat.

In the case of a "grey area" project, provide sufficient information to assess its environmental and social impacts in order to determine whether it should be subject to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Review Procedure. Outline any planned mitigation or remediation measures.

6. GHG EMISSIONS

6.1 GHG emissions

Indicate whether the project is likely to emit GHGs, and if so, which ones. Briefly describe the main sources of expected emissions at the different project stages.

The capacity-increase project requires the installation of a new motor and the atmospheric dispersion of contaminants study showed that the standards for the quality of the atmosphere are respected for the contaminants (CO, SO_2, PM_T, $PM_{2.5}$). For nitrogen dioxide and fine particles, the situation will be improved compared to the present.

The new stack for the new motor will be 14.7 m high and will be equipped with an inverted cone at its opening.

7. OTHER INFORMATION

7.1 Other Information
Provide any other information you feel is necessary to better understand the project. No other information.

8. DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

8.1 Declaration and signature
I declare that the documents and information provided in this preliminary information form is accurate to the best of my knowledge. ***False reporting may result in penalties under the EQA. All information provided will form an integral part of the application and will be published on the website of the Evaluation Committee (COMEV) or the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) and on the Environmental Assessment Registry.***
First name, family name
Guy Côté
Signature 2021.07.08
18:28:53
Date -04'00'

Schedule I
Municipal Council Resolution

If applicable, please attach the duly certified resolution of the municipal council authorizing the signatory or signatories to submit the application to the Minister.

Schedule II
Project characteristics

Below, add any relevant documents that will help us better identify the project characteristics (plan, sketch, cross-section diagram, etc.).

SY, Djibril, eng., M.Sc.A., Hydro Québec “Centrale Kuujjuarapik – Projet d’augmentation de puissance : ajout d’un groupe électrogène de 1880kW – Étude du bruit audible” February 18, 2021.

DUPUIS, Eric, eng., SNC Lavalin “Étude de dispersion atmosphérique des émissions de la centrale de Kuujjuarapik -2021” March 23, 2021.

Schedule III
Location Map

Add a topographic or cadastral map showing the project location and, if applicable, a location map of the work or activities at an appropriate scale, indicating, in particular, the infrastructure in place in relation to the work site.