

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.

Commenté [A.1]: Note interne: At first I considered revising the black font section of this document (i.e., the actual form), particularly because LT already has translation solutions for these sentences that are an improvement over what is here. However, then I found this form directly on the Ministère's website (see below), so I left the form as is and didn't even read through it (except to make sure the answers given were coherent).

<https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/evaluations/documents/renseign-prelim-formulaire-nordique-en.docx>

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 Minister of Finance 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-josee.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: 855, rue Sainte-Catherine Est, 18th floor, Montréal (Québec) H2L 4P5	
Postal address (if different from civic address):	
Name and function of the signatory(s) authorized to submit the application: Michel Forest, Chief Projects	
Telephone: 514 840-6101	Telephone (other): 438 869-7276
Email: forest.michel@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
Dismantling and rehabilitation of the Tasiujaq generating station
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.
This project is not subject to either Schedule A or Schedule B of the EQA. 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.
In line with its commitments to the community and to government authorities, Hydro-Québec must completely dismantle the old generating station and decontaminate the site.
Building demolition, which is the first phase of this project, is slated to begin in June 2025. Dismantling activities will be followed by a decontamination phase, during which contaminated soil will be excavated and treated using an aerated pile biodegradation process that will last between three and seven years. The project should be completed by fall 2032.
These steps will all be carried out in compliance with the requirements of the <i>Environment Quality Act</i> under the scrutiny of government authorities (MELCCFP).
At the end of the project, Hydro-Québec will be able to hand over the site to the Arqivik Landholding Corporation of Tasiujaq.

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.).

Hydro-Québec must dismantle the buildings housing the main genset bay, the fuel room, workshops, storage containers, RHM shelters, fuel tank and transformation substation.

Hydro-Québec will recover part of the strategic equipment for power generation, which will be reused in other northern facilities. The other materials and surplus goods will be dismantled in a way that ensures that they can be reused or reclaimed. Some of the equipment will be moved to the new thermal generating station and others will be sent, by boat, to Hydro-Québec's sorting center in Saint-Jérôme. Discussions are under way with the community of Tasiujaq to determine which materials and equipment can be used in the region. For example, the main garage was offered to the community and will therefore be kept intact.

Transportation and disposal of residual materials will be carried out in compliance with current safety and environmental protection rules.

The natural soil, found on the surface in the north and west sections of the site and beneath the fill material in the other sections, varies between sand with a variable proportion of silt and gravel, and silt with a variable proportion of clay, sand and gravel. The natural soil has been observed up to 3.05 m deep, at which point resistance from boulders or permafrost begins.

Soil characterization showed the presence of contaminated soil. Specifically, there are concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons C10–C50, and/or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and/or phenol compounds, and/or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and/or dioxins and furans that surpass the B-level criteria of the MELCCFP Guide d'intervention].

Contaminated zones cover an area of approximately 6,718.7 m². The volume of contaminated soils surpassing B-level criteria of the MELCCFP guide is estimated at 8,361 m³, while the volume of contaminated soils surpassing level C criteria is estimated at 3,040 m³. These soils are located in the north, center and east sections of the site, between the surface and up to 3.30 m deep.

Discussions with the community are under way to determine the rehabilitation criterion, which will help establish the specific areas to be excavated. Hydro-Québec will then work with specialized contractors to remove contaminated soils and treat them using an aerated pile biodegradation process that takes between three and seven years. Discussions are also under way with the village to choose a location for the biopile that is not on the generating station site. Two sites have been proposed and are being assessed.

When the treated soil meets the criteria in Appendix I of the *Land Protection and Rehabilitation Regulation*, it will be used to backfill the excavated areas at the original site, in compliance with any potential constraints from the MELCCFP authorizations.

When the rehabilitation work is complete, the site will be restored (surface will be leveled).

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.

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):
Northern village of Tasiujaq, Kativik Regional Government

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: 58.696332° North Longitude: -69,930516° West

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 of 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.

Based on the 2011 Land Use and Zoning Plan for the sector, the old generating station is located in a "special-use area." However, there are also more recent documents, in which the community has expressed its vision for developing the area. According to the lease signed with the Arqivik Landholding Corporation of Tasiujaq, the generating station site covers an area of 21,083 square metres. The final surface area of the work site and the decontamination criteria to achieve will be confirmed before we submit the rehabilitation plan to the MELCCFP.

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.

- Decommissioning of thermal generating station: late March 2024
- Submission of dismantling and rehabilitation plans: late April 2024
- Recovery of equipment by Hydro-Québec: June 2025
- Dismantling of generating station: June 2025
- Soil rehabilitation: fall 2025 to fall 2032

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.

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 taken into consideration in the design of the project.

To date, Hydro-Québec has held two meetings with the representatives of Tasiujaq's municipal council and the Arqivik Landholding Corporation (LHC) to present the project to them and update them on changes made. The first meeting was held on February 15, 2023, in person in Tasiujaq, and the second was held in hybrid mode (in person and by videoconference) on July 19, 2023. Hydro-Québec plans to meet with the community's representatives again in early fall 2023 to discuss the biopile.

Information meeting – February 15, 2023

Hydro-Québec met with the representatives of the Tasiujaq municipal council and the Arqivik LHC to present the preliminary results of the soil characterization study and discuss the planned dismantling of the generating station and the scenarios studied for decontaminating the site. We also presented a preliminary schedule of the project.

In relation to our plans to dismantle the generating station building, we discussed the possibility of transferring the garage section to the community. Tasiujaq's municipal council has informed us on several occasions that they would like us to keep the garage intact so that they can convert it into a snowmobile repair workshop.

Hydro-Québec presented the results of the soil characterization study and the two scenarios for decontaminating the soil, i.e., biopile treatment and transportation of contaminated soils in bags (quatrex). The participants expressed some concerns related to the biopile treatment and the possibilities of reuse.

The planned use for the site of the old generating station was also discussed. The community representatives said they had not yet reached a decision on the planned use of the site. They said they intended to discuss this topic at a future meeting and inform Hydro-Québec of their decision.

The participants agreed to hold a second meeting to discuss the decontamination method.

Information meeting – July 19, 2023

On July 19, 2023, a second meeting was held with Tasiujaq's municipal council and the Arqivik LHC to follow up on the dismantling and decontamination project for the old thermal generating station and the discussions from the previous meeting, held on February 15. The northern village reiterated its interest in taking over the garage but said it had still not yet officially decided on the planned use of the generating station site. The village said it was considering dividing the lot to create an industrial zone for the garage portion and a residential zone for the rest of the site.

Hydro-Québec gave a detailed presentation of the two biopile treatment scenarios for the soil. Scenario #1 involves setting up a specific site to treat the soil using a biopile. Scenario #2 involves using a biopile at the site of the old generating station. Hydro-Québec explained that the option to dispose of the soils in bags (quatrex) is no longer possible due to the volumes of soil involved.

Some of the participants expressed concerns about the biopile technology, particularly about the estimated time required to reach acceptable decontamination levels for reuse. Hydro-Québec suggested holding another meeting in early fall to present examples of cases where biopiles have been used and to answer the community's questions and concerns on this topic. The community said that they were not ready to make a final decision on their preferred biopile option or on the planned use of the site. They said these topics would be discussed during a meeting scheduled for August between the LHC and the northern village of Tasiujaq.

Communication – August 17, 2023

On August 17, 2023, the northern village of Tasiujaq confirmed by email that it had met with the Arqivik LHC on August 10, and discussed the planned use of the site and the preferred decontamination scenario. The landholding corporation said that scenario #1 was selected for the biopile, i.e., setting up the biopile on another site, and suggested two options for the site of the biopile.

As for the planned use of the site, the LHC said that the garage section will be kept as an industrial use area but the rest of the site will be used for residential purposes.

A meeting will be held in November between Hydro-Québec and the Tasiujaq community to officialize this decision with a resolution.

Meetings with the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

In addition to the meetings held with Tasiujaq's community representatives, Hydro-Québec presented an outline of the project to dismantle and decontaminate the old thermal generating station and its site to the representatives of the KRG, during a meeting held on July 18, 2023, in Kuujuaq. This topic was

also discussed at meetings held on May 25 and July 26, 2023, during which Hydro-Québec kept the KRG's representatives abreast of the project's progress and of the discussions with the community of Tasiujaq on the decontamination method. The KRG expressed support for Hydro-Québec's approach of treating the contaminated soil using a biopile located on another site.

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 Tasiujaq community informed of the project's progress. We intend to hold meetings with the community's representatives (municipal council and LHC) at every step of the project. Updates to the project may also be made.

In any case, the terms and conditions for public information and consultation activities will be determined beforehand with the representatives of the Tasiujaq municipal council and the LHC so that these activities can be carried out with respect for the community's members.

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.

The main issues anticipated are as follows:

- Restoring the generating station site while taking into account the community's expectations, including with regard to the location of the biopile and preserving the main garage.
- Maintaining the quality of life of the area's residents and land users during construction.
- Optimizing economic spinoffs for the host community.

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.

In terms of the human and biological environments, the impacts on the community of Tasiujaq of the project to dismantle and rehabilitate the generating station and its site will be mainly positive. Once the site is rehabilitated, it becomes available for the community to use. The work required for the project will likely cause temporary nuisance during the dismantling of buildings and equipment and the excavation of soil (dust, noise, increased traffic). However, this work will also provide significant economic spinoffs for the village. The treatment of the soil using a biopile and the return of this soil to the location from which it was excavated will have only negligible, temporary impacts.

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

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.

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.

The project is likely to result in the emission of greenhouse gases chiefly from the use of work site machinery during the dismantling of equipment and the decontamination of the generating station site.

7. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

7.1 Other relevant information

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

8. DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

8.1 Declaration and signature

I certify that :

1° the documents and information provided in this preliminary information form are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

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.

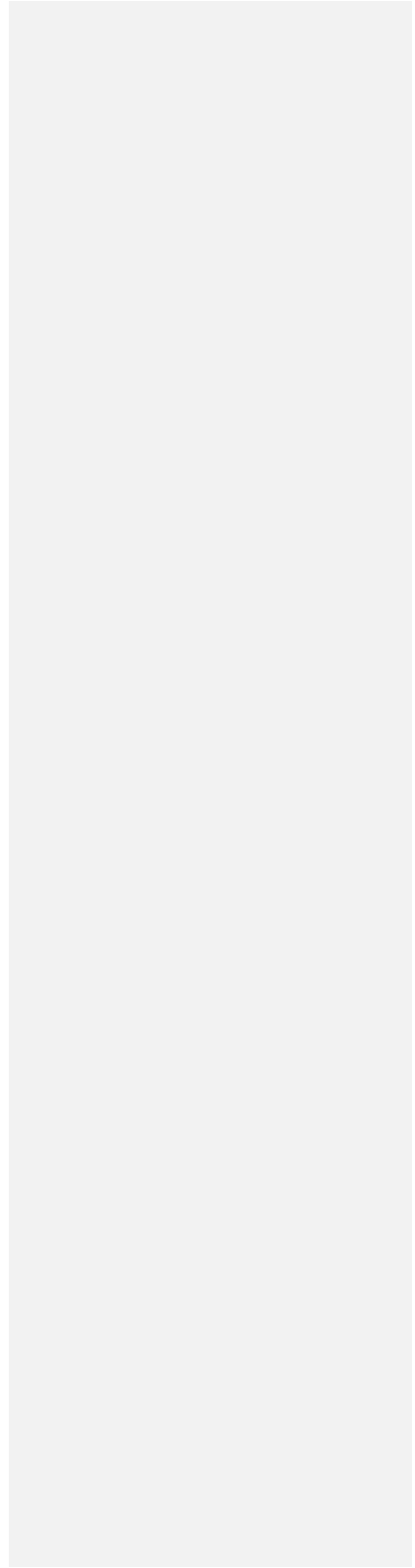
First and last name

Christian Bérubé, Chief Projects DMAP

Signature

Date :

Appendix I
General location plan of the site





Ce document est l'œuvre de Hydro-Québec, Corp., toute reproduction, diffusion ou utilisation, partielle ou totale, est strictement prohibée sans autorisation préalable écrite de Hydro-Québec et de son client. Aucune information contenue dans ce document ne peut être utilisée par un tiers sans l'autorisation écrite de Hydro-Québec et de son client. Hydro-Québec, Corp., se réserve ses droits réservés pour toute reproduction, diffusion, utilisation ou utilisation non autorisée de ce document.

ÉCHELLE GRAPHIQUE
 0 100 200 300 m

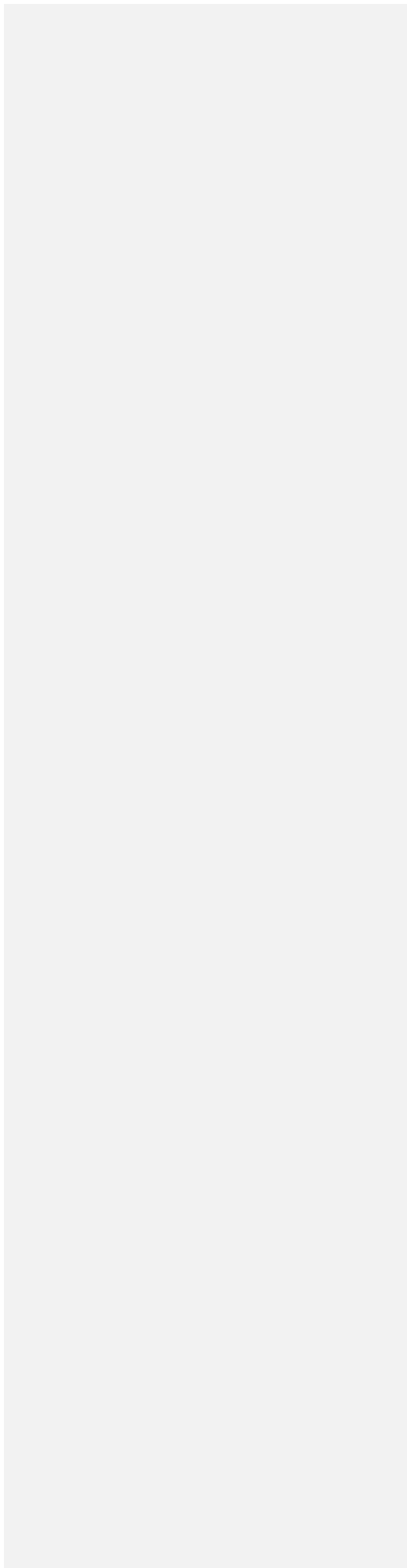
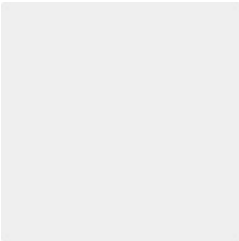


Source: Google, Jan 2019

Client	Hydro-Québec
Projet	Caractérisation environnementale de site complémentaire
Titre	Centrale thermique Tasujiaq (Québec) Figure 1 Localisation générale du site à l'étude

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.



Appendix II

Location plan of the thermal plant and principal equipment

