Nadoshtin Residence

Request for attestation of exemption from the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure under section 154(b) of the *Environment Quality Act*

Supporting document

Final version

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APPENDICES

1. Project background and justification

1.1. Overview

The partial diversion of the Rivière Rupert took place in November 2009, after a certificate of authorization for the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert Diversion project (EM1ASR project) was issued on November 24, 2006, by the Ministère du Développement durable de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP), today the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC), that is, Québec's department of the environment and of the fight against climate change. This certificate also authorized construction of Eastmain-1-A powerhouse (*since renamed Bernard Landry generating station*) and Sarcelle powerhouse[1]. Commissioned in 2011 and 2013 respectively, these two hydropower plants were additions to the Hydro-Québec electric generating fleet, which already included another hydropower plant in the area, Eastmain-1.

To construct the different components of the E1ASR project, a number of workcamps were built and operated, including the Eastmain-1 temporary workcamp (Eastmain-1 workcamp), built for the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric development project. In accordance with conditions 2.7 and 2.8 of the certificate of authorization for the E1ASR project, most of these workcamps were dismantled and their sites fully restored, as duly authorized by the MELCC via amendments to the certificate of authorization. The Eastmain-1 workcamp[2], however, was not completely dismantled.

As stated in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the E1ASR project, Hydro Québec planned to expand the Nemiscau residence to house personnel required to operate the Eastmain-1, Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle powerhouses, in accordance with the provisions of the *Boumhounan Agreement*[3]. However, costs, logistics and worker transportation safety as well as reliability related to operating personnel availability led Hydro-Québec to review these plans and to opt instead to construct a permanent residence at the Eastmain-1 workcamp site (the "Project"). Map 1 "Geographical situation of the Project" included in Appendix A shows the locations of the Nemiscau residence, the Eastmain-1 workcamp and the area's generating stations.

Discussions were subsequently held between Hydro-Québec and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) (GCC(EI)) to allow the establishment of a permanent residence. These discussions led to the signing, in 2013, of the master agreement regarding the establishment and maintenance of residences in the territory, included in Appendix B.

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[1] The certificate of authorization was amended on August 27, 2008, to allow optimization of Sarcelle powerhouse.

[2] In Hydro-Québec's register of place names, this temporary camp is known as campement de l'Eastmain (Eastmain workcamp). To distinguish this camp from others that might be built in the Cree community of Eastmain, it is called Eastmain-1 workcamp in this document.

[3] Section 15.1 of the Boumhounan Agreement reads as follows: Hydro-Québec shall not establish any permanent non-native village, community or town or work camp in connection with the construction of the Project or as a result of the Project.

In this master agreement, the GCC(EI) consented to the establishment of new permanent residences in the territory (as defined in the master agreement), subject to compliance with the conditions set out therein.

One of the conditions of the master agreement is that the owner/operator of a new residence in the territory must be a Cree enterprise.

Discussions were thus initiated with the firm T&E MOSES MANAGEMENT COMPANY (MMC). These discussions ended in 2019 without the conclusion of a final agreement between the parties.

Hydro-Québec then initiated discussions about the Project in 2019 with representatives of the Cree Nation of Eastmain, the GCC(EI) and the Cree Nation Government (CNG). On May 21, 2020, Hydro-Québec, the GCC(EI) and the Cree Nation of Eastmain entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the purpose of establishing parameters on the basis of which the parties are prepared to continue discussions about the Project, in particular that the Cree enterprise designated by the GCC(EI) shall be created and held by the Cree Nation of Eastmain and the CNG.

The Nadoshtin Residence Corporation was thus created by the CNG and the Cree Nation of Eastmain to act as Project proponent (the “NRC”).

Lastly, the master agreement stipulates that the owner/operator of the new permanent residence and the tallyman of the affected trapline must come to a reasonable agreement allowing mutual enjoyment.

To this end, NRC will sign an agreement with the GCC (EI)/CNG and the Cree Nation of Eastmain on Project impacts and benefits that covers the management and remediation of impacts on traditional activities for the benefit of concerned users, including the tallyman of the trapline affected by the Project.

In this context, and since Eastmain-1 workcamp is closer to the Eastmain-1, Eastmain-1 A and Sarcelle powerhouses than the Nemiscau residence, Hydro-Québec wishes to build a permanent residence at the Eastmain-1 workcamp site. In addition, selecting the Eastmain-1 workcamp site for construction of the permanent residence will have no impact on which airport will be used by Hydro-Québec personnel and subcontractors. As with the Nemiscau residence option proposed in the EIS for the E1ASR, the Nemiscau airport will be used.

1.2. Roles and responsibilities of the NRC, Hydro-Québec and the Société d’énergie de la Baie James

The NRC, a corporation directly or indirectly held by the Cree Nation of Eastmain and the CNG, is the Project proponent.

The NRC must first acquire rights to the land, which belongs to the Government of Quebec, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MERN). Hence, a lease shall be signed between MERN, as landowner, and the NRC, as lessee.

Concurrently with this process, HQ will transfer to the NRC the ownership of certain existing buildings on the camp site which will be used for the operation of the residence, subject to the construction and renovation work to be carried out.

The Société d'énergie de la Baie James (SEBJ) shall supply the NRC with engineering, procurement and construction management services, including but not limited to conducting calls for tenders for construction, it being understood that the Cree Nation of Eastmain will designate three qualified companies to be invited to tender.

SEBJ shall act as the NRC's representative to obtain, on its behalf, all environmental permits and authorizations required to build and operate the permanent residence.

Once the permanent residence is built, a gross lease agreement shall come into effect whereby the NRC shall lease the residence to Hydro-Québec and provide accommodation services in the residence for Hydro-Québec exclusively. These services shall include lodging, food preparation and housekeeping, as well as related services to be agreed upon. The initial term of the lease shall be 40 years, with two 20-year renewal options at Hydro-Québec's discretion.

1.3. Legal framework and permitting

In August 2020, a letter signed by representatives of the Cree Nation of Eastmain, the CNG and Hydro-Québec (letter of July 21, 2020, Appendix C) was sent to the Provincial Administrator of Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement about the Eastmain-1 workcamp site and the application filed by SEBJ in 2016 (3214 10 017) to amend the certificate of authorization for the EM1ASR project to allow a permanent residence to be set up and operated at the workcamp site. In response to this letter, the Provincial Administrator informed the proponent in December 2020 that a request for an attestation of exemption from the environmental and social impacts assessment and review procedure must be filed under section 154(b) of the *Environment Quality Act* for the Project to transform the temporary camp into a permanent residence (letter of November 30, 2020, Appendix C). The present document supports this request.

Before work starts, the NRC must obtain through its representative, SEBJ, the permits and sectoral authorizations needed to execute the Project. Requests for authorizations and/or permits will be prepared depending on planned activities and infrastructure and laws and regulations in effect at the time of submission. In addition, some sectoral authorizations held by SEBJ or Hydro-Québec, such as those for wastewater and drinking water system, could possibly be transferred to the proponent.

2. Project description

2.1. Existing and planned configuration of the site of the permanent residence

Eastmain-1 workcamp was built for the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric development project. It was subsequently maintained to house workers assigned to build the Eastmain-1-A powerhouse after the EM1ASR project was approved by Québec government authorities in November 2006 and Canadian government authorities in February 2007.

Initially designed to house up to 2,000 workers, this temporary camp was gradually dismantled between 2011 and 2015, during which time SEBJ took down some of the buildings and revegetated certain areas. There are still a number of buildings on the site.

Map 2 “Location of buildings and infrastructure at Eastmain -1 workcamp” included in Appendix A shows the buildings that will be preserved and those that are to be dismantled for construction of the new permanent residence. The buildings shown in blue are to be part of the permanent residence and will be transferred to the NRC by Hydro-Québec. Renovations and some construction are planned, after which the buildings will be leased by Hydro-Québec under the gross lease agreement. The buildings shown in green are to be transferred by Hydro-Québec to the NRC and used as is by the NRC for its own purposes. The buildings shown in red are existing buildings that will be dismantled by SEBJ when the Project ends. And finally, the buildings shown in yellow belong to third parties. All existing infrastructure and buildings will be subject to renovations and/or construction work.

2.2. Description of permanent residence

The permanent residence shall essentially comprise of a new residential building, a community center and existing infrastructure and buildings including (see map 2 Appendix A which illustrates the layout plan).

The residential building, which will accommodate and house employees of Hydro Québec and of its suppliers of goods and services, will be located next to the existing sports center (which will be transformed into a community center) and connected to it by a closed corridor. The new building will have five floors, four of them habitable, and a capacity of 100 rooms. It will house about 85 people assigned to operations and other work at the sites of the Eastmain-1, Eastmain-1 A and Sarcelle powerhouses as well as residence management, maintenance and housekeeping staff. A few dormitories will be preserved and maintained for seasonal personnel, such as consultants participating in environmental monitoring activities for the EM1ASR complex and suppliers of goods and services (see Map 2, Appendix A). The residence and the dormitories may also be used to accommodate employees of Hydro-Québec or of contractors working on the construction, maintenance, refurbishing and/or dismantling of lines or substations in the area that belong to Hydro-Québec.

2.2.1. New residential building

The ground floor area of the new building will be roughly 1,153 m^2. The building will be a modular construction, factory prefabricated and assembled on site. Prefabricated modular construction has many benefits, including fast on-site installation; maximum energy efficiency thanks to factory design, quality control and sealing; and less transportation of materials to the jobsite.

The exterior cladding of the building will be of insulated metal panels and ceramic. The remaining surface will be taken up by louvered shutters, curtain walls and exterior doors. The building will be configured as follows:

- It will have 100 rooms distributed over its four habitable floors.
- Each habitable floor will have 24 to 26 rooms (depending on the floor) arranged on either side of a central area where the following will be located: common living areas (living room and dining room), floor bathroom, elevator, laundry room, machine room and janitor's closet.
- In addition to resident rooms and the central area, the main floor will also have a telecommunications room, locker room and electrical room.
- In addition to resident rooms and the central area, the fourth floor will also house the area's Emergency Response Center (CMUS).
- Emergency exit stairs will be located at the ends of the corridors.
- A mechanical penthouse will be built on the fifth floor, accessible by stairs and elevator.
- The building will sit on a foundation (footings, columns and walls) and will have a crawl space.
- A sprinkler system connected to a fire alarm system will be installed on each floor.

Note that foundations will not be built in areas that may be contaminated.

2.2.2. Community center

The existing sports center will be renovated and converted into a community center. It will also be enlarged to incorporate a new cafeteria (area roughly 800 m^2) and a mezzanine.

The enlargement will require, among other things, rebuilding the external and internal envelope of the building and installing a sprinkler system.

When the work is completed, the following will be located on the ground floor of the community center:

- Reception
- Cafeteria (about 170 m^2) and kitchen with food production area
- Offices and rooms associated with the cafeteria
- Sports and recreation rooms
- Common service areas
- Visitors' areas
- Infirmary
- A pad-mounted transformer will be located close to the building.

The mezzanine of the community center will include the following:

- Locker room
- Offices
- Meeting rooms
- Mechanical room

A closed corridor about 22 m long will be built between the community center and the permanent residence.

2.2.3. Exterior

The following exterior work is planned given the new arrangement:

- Modification of roads around the permanent residence
- Construction of two parking lots, one in front of the entrance to the community center and the other behind the residential building, with outdoor power outlets for block heaters at each parking space
- Landscaping will include the following:

    - ❖ Landscaped areas at entrances to all buildings
    - ❖ A network of pedestrian paths connecting entrances to all buildings
    - ❖ Sodding and seeding
    - ❖ Lighting
    - ❖ Furniture (tables, benches, trash can)

Granular material required for foundations (for the residential building, for example), will come mainly from existing stockpiles near the Eastmain-1 workcamp site. No new sources of borrow material will be required to construct the permanent residence.

No land clearing is planned for any of this work. However, clearing may be required to upgrade the primary wastewater treatment system.

2.3. Activities and schedule

The Project essentially calls for the activities described below.

2.3.1. Activities

The residence modules will be factory designed and manufactured. The finishing (wall cladding and roof) will be completed on site. When the modules arrive on site (truck transport), they will be placed on foundations built before their arrival. The rest of the work will consist in electrically and mechanically connecting the modules to one another and to the service rooms.

At the same time, the existing sports center will be renovated and converted into a community center. It will also be enlarged to include a new cafeteria and a mezzanine. A closed corridor will also be built to connect the community center to the new residential building.

Next, the civil work and landscaping described in Section 2.2.3 will be carried out. The civil work consists mainly in connecting the residential building and the community center to the existing water supply and sewage systems and setting up the stormwater management system for the new residential building, which will also be used by the community center.

The buildings shown on Map 2, Appendix A, will be dismantled by SEBJ once the renovations and construction at the sports center are completed. Some buildings, however, may only be removed after the new residential building is constructed and the community center is completed, as they will be used during this work. The sites of these buildings and of the infrastructure will be restored.

2.3.2. Schedule

Here is the preliminary Project schedule:

Table 1

Description	**Start**	**End**
Obtention of government approvals, industry authorizations and permits	Spring 2022	Fall 2022
Call for tenders and contract awards	Fall 2022	Winter 2023
Construction	Winter 2023	Fall 2024
Commissioning of permanent residence	Summer 2025	

Plans are, at present, to dismantle the buildings in the spring and summer and fall of 2024. Note that the work schedule may be modified depending on developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, market conditions and the dates certain approvals are obtained.

3. Related activities

3.1. Dismantling the 69-kV Muskeg–Eastmain-1 line

Eastmain-1 workcamp is currently supplied by the 69-kV Muskeg–Eastmain-1 line. Built in 2003 for the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric development project, this line connects Muskeg substation to a temporary 69/25-kV substation built in what is commonly called the industrial zone of the workcamp. This line is shown on map 1, Appendix A. About 42.5 km long, the line enters the workcamp site from the west, in the industrial zone. Designed and built for temporary use only, this line as well as the 69/25-kV transformer substation are to be dismantled by Hydro-Québec.

3.2. Supplying the permanent residence from Eastmain-1

Dismantling the 69-kV Muskeg–Eastmain-1 line and the 69/25-kV transformer substation means a new energy source will be required to supply power to the permanent residence site. Since Eastmain-1 powerhouse is close by, plans are to supply the permanent residence site from this plant.

Hydro-Québec is considering the possibility of installing a 25 kV section inside the Eastmain-1 substation, and an auxiliary source will be supplied via the Eastmain-1 power station. This new 25 kV source would supply the existing 25 kV distribution network, which serves the Eastmain-1 workcamp and the powerhouse spillway.

A pad-mounted transformer will also have to be erected near the new permanent residence to supply the new residential building and the community center from the 25 kV line at the workcamp site (this line is shown on Map 3 entitled “Biophysical and Human Environments”, Appendix A). If needed, some wooden poles will be put up to connect these buildings to the transformer. No wetlands or streams will be affected by the work.

Based on current forecasts 9and, if applicable, assuming all authorizations and permits required to carry out the work are obtained), the work described in this section could begin in 2024, which would allow service of the 25 kV supply network no later than 2025.

3.3. Restoring disturbed areas

As mentioned in Section 2.1 above, SEBJ is planning to dismantle some of the buildings on the Eastmain-1 workcamp site at the end of the Project. SEBJ plans to restore the sites of the dismantled buildings and revegetate certain areas.

4. Host environment

4.1. Biophysical environment

All the buildings and facilities comprising the new residence will be located in the footprint of the existing Eastmain-1 workcamp (see Map 3 “Natural and human environments” included in Appendix A). The new residential building will be located approximately at the center of the current workcamp site. All existing and future buildings will thus sit on already prepared surfaces composed of gravel—like the existing and future roads around the buildings, the road to the site and the road to the site’s industrial zone, where the warehouses are located.

The only wetland on the site is the peat bog used for secondary wastewater treatment. This peat bog is located in the western part of the site (see Map 3, Appendix A).

The closest stream is the Rivière Eastmain, located east of the access roads to facilities 60A and 60B, and 61A and 61B (see Map 3 , Appendix A). No construction activities are to take place along the shoreline, on the riparian strip or near the banks of the river.

The site includes two areas covered by grasses, shrubs and trees, one between the existing workcamp and the industrial zone and the other in the southeast part of the site, where the drinking water wells are located (see Map 3, Appendix A). The existing sewage system has to be upgraded (existing septic tanks replaced by new ones a little further south), and this will require clearing about 0.14 ha.

No protected or designated species are being monitored on the planned construction site.

Black bear and fox are the mammal species that have used the site most frequently over the years. There is no reason to believe they will stop using the site after work on the permanent residence is completed.

Wildlife management on the Eastmain-1 workcamp site involves black bear almost exclusively. Though frequent delivery and deposit of non-recyclable materials to the trench landfill site reduces usage conflicts, black bears do sometimes prowl the site, near the cafeteria delivery area and the garbage bins, for instance. Management to date has been handled by Hydro-Québec’s security team using traps and bait to catch the bears or calling on a tallyman to slaughter an animal, as needed.

In all cases where capture or slaughter of a bear is required, the proponent shall refer to the MFFP. In the James Bay Territory, where the Eastmain permanent residence will be located, the tallymen will continue to be involved in any slaughtering.

4.2. Human environment

The permanent residence and all infrastructure required for its operation will be located on Category III lands. Under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, Category III lands are for the joint use of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, subject to the rights, conditions and restrictions established by the agreement. These are public lands where Indigenous people have a right to hunt, fish and trap.

The permanent residence will be located on a trapline belonging to the community of Eastmain, specifically in the northeastern part of trapline RE-01. Ernie Moses is the tallyman of this trapline. Near the planned permanent residence, on the other side of Rivière Eastmain, is trapline VC-37. Ted Moses is the tallyman of this trapline. Further away, approximately 16 km south of the permanent residence, is trapline R-19 of the community of Nemaska (Matthew Wapachee, deceased), and about 10 km northwest is trapline VC-35 of the community of Eastmain (Roderick Mayapo). All other traplines in the area, those of Mistissini, Wemindji and Waskaganish, are more than 20 km from the Eastmain-1 workcamp site.

Trapline RE-01 covers a total of 1,874 km^2. Some permanent components of the EM1ASR project and the Eastmain-1 project are located on this trapline and have given rise to mitigation and compensation measures. These include the Eastmain-1 and Eastmain-1-A powerhouses, the 315-kV Sarcelle–Eastmain-1 and Eastmain-1–Nemiscau transmission lines, the Muskeg–Eastmain-1 and Nemiscau–Eastmain-1 roads and several Eastmain-1 reservoir dikes.

The Eastmain-1 workcamp site is not, itself, of much interest in terms of natural resources (wildlife, flora and forests, for example). However, traditional activities (goose hunting, moose hunting, fishing and trapping) are practised on trapline RE-01 and on neighboring traplines.

The agreement on project impacts and benefits calls for setting up a mitigation measures fund accessible to users affected by the Project, in particular so that traditional activities can continue to be practised.

A committee will be established and be composed of representatives of the NRC, Hydro-Québec, Niskamoon Corporation and users of the area to ensure access, use and harmonious occupation of the land by all parties.

5. Information and consultation activities

5.1. Communications

Over the years, the project to build a permanent residence at the Eastmain-1 workcamp site has been presented to different groups, including land users, and discussed in a number of forums, among them the Council of the Cree Nation of Eastmain, the Board of Directors of Niskamoon Corporation and the Environment Monitoring Committee. Though the legal structure of the Project has changed, the architectural and engineering concept has remained the same.

On June 6th, 2019, the NRC representatives did a first round of consultations in Eastmain on the Project. On February 4th and 7th, 2020, the NRC representatives met with the Chief of the Cree Nation of Eastmain and the tallyman of RE-01 to discuss the Project, and its corporate and contractual structure. In August 2021, the Cree partners of the NRC presented to the general assembly of the Cree Nation of Eastmain a status update on the project and a proposal for a development agreement (the "**Development Agreement**"). This Development Agreement provides for:

- Management and remediation of the impact on traditional activities for the benefit of land users concerned, including the tallyman of the trapline affected by the Project;
- Recognition of the traditional authority of the tallyman on the management of the harvesting on the RE-01 Trapline;
- Establishment of Implementation Committee composed of representatives of the NRC, Hydro-Québec, land users, Niskamoon Corporation;
- Establishment of a remedial works fund of an amount of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($150,000.00) yearly, to be used for projects, programs and remedial measures for the benefit of the land users impacted by the Project to be managed by the Niskamoon Corporation;
- Prioritization in the hiring of the workforce for the benefit of the impacted land users, Crees of Eastmain and Nemaska, the Crees in general, and the Iinu from Mashteuiasht; and
- Prioritization in the awarding of contracts and the business opportunities to the benefit of the enterprises associated with the land users, Crees of Eastmain and Nemaska, the Crees in general, and the Iinu from Mashteuiasht;
- Commitments to include in calls for tender for goods and services a requirement that bidders state the number of Crees the bidder employs and submit annual reports on the number of Cree employees executing the contract.

The Development Agreement will be presented submitted for approval by the Council of the Cree Nation of Eastmain in June 2022.

6. Main anticipated Project issues, impacts and mitigation measures

6.1. Main anticipated Project issues

The main environmental issue raised by the Project is the social acceptability of a permanent residential complex on the territory concerned. To promote such acceptability, the NRC is composed of Wabannutao Eeyou Development Corporation, wholly owned by the Cree Nation of Eastmain, and the James Bay Native Development Corporation, a corporation owned by the CNG and established pursuant to the *Act respecting the James Bay Native Development Corporation* (CQLR, c. S-9-1). This joint-venture corporation will help to maximize the local and regional economic spinoffs of construction and operation activities and will contribute to the continuation of Cree hunting, fishing and trapping activities during construction and operation of the facilities of the residential complex.

6.2. Main anticipated Project impacts on the host environment and mitigation measures

The main possible sources of Project impacts during the construction phase are as follows:

- Workers' presence and activities during the work period
- Increased truck traffic near the site and road transportation of workers and materials

The main possible sources of Project impacts during the operation phase are as follows:

- Presence and activities of about 85 people (Hydro-Québec personnel and service suppliers) for the entire term of the lease agreement between the NRC and Hydro-Québec
- Road transportation of Hydro-Québec personnel and suppliers

The main mitigation measure for the presence of workers during construction of the permanent residence and operation of the E1ASR complex remains meetings with land users organized by the proponent.

Regarding the increase in road traffic in the area of the permanent residence during its construction and operation, appropriate signage shall be installed, and dust controls will be used, if needed, to manage dust in certain areas.

Use of a site already occupied by a large workcamp with buildings, access roads and public utility infrastructure is a major benefit in that the environmental impacts of installing such facilities are avoided. Among other things, only a very small area will have to be cleared for the Project.

7. Environmental considerations during construction and dismantling

This section provides information on environmental compliance monitoring during the construction and dismantling, as well as other environmental considerations during the work.

7.1. Environmental compliance monitoring

Environmental monitoring of the work consists in ensuring application of and compliance with laws and regulations for protection of the environment and implementation of standard and particular mitigation measures. These measures as well as any condition arising from the attestation of exemption and/or any other applicable sectoral authorizations shall be included in the contracts of service suppliers to ensure environmental compliance of their activities.

In addition, contractors must ensure that an environment protection supervisor is present at all times during the execution of their work. This supervisor shall be tasked with ensuring environmental compliance of the work, including compliance with effective environmental legislation and regulations. In addition, an environmental compliance officer shall perform a jobsite inspection to check compliance.

7.2. Management of waste and residual hazardous materials

The following directives apply to the management of waste generated during the construction work and the partial dismantling of Eastmain-1 workcamp:

- Contractors must collect, transport and dispose of their household waste in places authorized by the proponent on the Eastmain-1 workcamp site. This household waste and any dry waste (construction waste, for example) must be transported to the trench landfill site (DET-51) at km 48 of the Nemiscau–Eastmain-1 road.
- Waste identified as recyclable by the proponent must be sorted and temporarily stored at a site approved by the proponent and then transported to a recovery or recycling center outside the James Bay Territory.

Residual hazardous materials must be recovered and stored in a recovery zone as required under the *Environment Quality Act*, the *Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact* and the *Regulation respecting hazardous materials*. Contractors shall ensure that residual hazardous materials are not mixed with waste or with other hazardous materials. Residual hazardous materials must be taken away and disposed of at an authorized disposal site in compliance with the *Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation* and the *Regulation respecting hazardous materials*.

The proponent shall ensure suitable management of halocarbons during the dismantling work.

7.3. Contaminated soil management

The operation and refuelling of construction machinery and trucks during the work are potential sources of soil contamination by petroleum products in the event of damage, spilling or equipment failure. General mitigation measures shall be applied in such an event.

The proponent shall require that all contractors submit a contaminant spill response plan. The plan must include a response flow chart and an alerting procedure, and it must be posted and communicated to employees. In addition, contractors must inform their employees of the procedures to follow in case of a spill and must make sure they understand the importance of acting quickly. Contractors must also ensure they have at least one oil spill kit suited to the jobsite conditions on site from the start of the work.

Contractors are solely responsible for managing any soil contaminated during their activities, including soil contaminated by anyone under the contractor's jurisdiction. A contractor's responsibility also extends, as applicable, to the management of excavated soil, the temporary storage of excavated material and the transportation and disposal of contaminated soils. Contractors shall manage contaminated soil in accordance with the Québec government's policy on soil protection and the rehabilitation of contaminated sites, the *Regulation respecting the burial of contaminated soils* and the *Regulation respecting contaminated soil storage and contaminated soil transfer stations*. Any transportation of contaminated soils shall comply with the *Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation*.

To establish the history of activities at the Eastmain-1 workcamp site and determine if designated industrial activities liable to contaminate the site were carried out on or near it, SEBJ conducted a phase I site characterization study in 2014. This study identified several possible sources of contamination at the site, including storage of oil-filled equipment and treated wood and presence of a transformer substation and of tanks for diesel generator fuel and building heating oil. Though no signs of contamination were noted during the study, SEBJ is nonetheless going ahead with a phase II characterization study.

Should the study reveal presence of contaminants in concentrations exceeding regulatory limits, the contamination shall be managed in compliance with the Québec government's policy on soil protection and rehabilitation of contaminated sites, as well as applicable environmental legislation and regulations. When applicable, compliance with the provisions of the *Environment Quality Act* on cessation of a designated activity or change in land use is required.

8. Environmental considerations during operation of the permanent residence

Environmental considerations during operation of the permanent residence are outlined below.

8.1. Waste management and recovery

The NRC is tasked with responsible management of waste that takes into account the context in the James Bay Territory.

8.1.1. Recyclable waste

The NRC may manage waste treatment through its contracts with suppliers of goods and services. Once procedures for recovery of recyclable waste in bins are put in place, the fact that trucks carrying food to the residence often leave empty for urban centers after completing their deliveries can be put to good use. Suppliers of goods and services could then deliver the recyclable waste to eco centers. Paper, paperboard, glass, plastic and metal waste could possibly be handled in this way.

8.1.2. Non-recyclable waste

Non-recyclable waste will be buried in the trench landfill (DET-51) at km 48 of the Nemiscau–Eastmain-1 road. This landfill is operated by Hydro-Québec in compliance with the *Regulation respecting the landfilling and incineration of residual materials*.

The landfill is currently about 62% full. An estimated 40,000 m^3 will be available at this site at the end of 2020.

An estimated 0.07 m^3 of waste is produced per employee per day. With an average of 85 people per day at the permanent residence, an estimated 2,100 m^3 of waste will be produced annually. Based on these estimates, once the construction of the new residence is completed, the trench landfill could be used for approximately the next 15 years.

Note that Hydro-Québec does not intend to allow any other users to dispose of waste in the trench landfill, apart from those already authorized to do so, in the interests of environmental responsibility and given the lifespan of the site.

8.1.3. Composting

The possibility of composting food waste once the permanent residence is in operation was evaluated. A technology that allows composting of both plant and animal waste was studied. With this technology, the compost can be used after spending a month in the composter. However, a substantial quantity of paperboard (about 40%) must be added as a source of carbon (organic waste tends to generate nitrogen compounds). Paperboard also helps to control the humidity of the mix.

However, no possible uses for the compost near the campsite have been identified. Once the permanent residence is built and the site has been restored, the NRC would not be able to use the compost to restore affected areas, as is done at active construction sites, since all affected areas would have already been restored.

For this reason, there are no plans to compost food waste. However, the proponent will remain on the look out for other possible uses of compost and will re-evaluate the situation if any are identified.

8.1.4. Residual hazardous materials

A residual hazardous materials recovery zone will be present on the site. This zone shall meet the requirements of the *Environment Quality Act*, the *Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact and the Regulation respecting hazardous materials*. The proponent shall ensure that residual hazardous materials are not mixed with other waste or with hazardous materials. The residual hazardous materials shall be managed (recovered and stored) as required by the abovementioned laws and regulations and shipped to authorized disposal sites, the transportation compliant with the *Transportation of Dangerous Substances Regulation.*

8.2. Electricity and fuel supply

8.2.1. Electricity supply for the permanent residence

The permanent residence will be connected to the Eastmain-1 powerhouse by a 25-kV line and will thus use a renewable power supply.

In addition, a 750-kW permanent generator will be installed near the community center to take over in case of power outages. The generator will be equipped with a 10,000-L double-walled fuel tank and will be installed in a shed built for it in compliance with current building and safety codes.

8.2.2. Fuel supply for vehicle fleet

Fuel for the vehicle fleet will continue to come mainly from the gas station less than a kilometre from Eastmain-1 workcamp.

8.3. Water management

The water supply, sewage and stormwater management systems at the Eastmain-1 workcamp site will be largely preserved. Changes will be made to these systems given the new spatial distribution of the facilities and the number of people to be served.

Underground water and sewage lines will also be installed to connect the new residence and the community center to the existing systems. Other underground pipes will also be installed to collect and transport stormwater from the new residence and the cafeteria to the existing outfall. Any required sectoral authorizations will be obtained prior to carrying out this work.

More information is provided below.

8.3.1. Water supply system

The temporary camp gets its water from four artesian wells. These wells (wells 1, 2, 4 and 5) and the drinking water treatment system are located on the east side of the site (see Map 3, Appendix A). During the construction of the new residence, the four wells will be sealed and the water supply lines to some buildings that are to be dismantled will be removed. The drinking water treatment unit will be upgraded.

As the water supply system is being designed to supply the permanent residence as currently envisioned, it is at present meant for the exclusive use of Hydro-Québec. Any sharing of the system with other users would require an addendum to the Utilities Service Agreement between the NRC and Hydro-Québec on sharing of operating costs. Should an increase in the capacity of the system be required, the NRC would be solely responsible for the work and would have to obtain all required authorizations and permits from provincial and municipal authorities.

8.3.2. Sewage system

Wastewater from Eastmain-1 workcamp is treated in two stages: three septic tanks in series are responsible for primary treatment; and secondary treatment takes place in a peat bog. The primary treatment system is expected to need resizing.

8.3.2.1. Existing treatment system

Originally designed to treat wastewater generated daily by a population of 2,100, the primary treatment system consists of three prefabricated septic tanks in series. Water flow between the tanks is driven by gravity.

Effluent from the septic tanks is routed through a pumping station and discharged from there into a peat bog by two submersible pumps. The pumping station is made of concrete and has a capacity of 2,600 m^3/day.

Secondary treatment of the wastewater takes place in a peat bog by natural filtration, adsorption, absorption and microbial activity using nutrients in the wastewater. The peat bog covers about 110,000 m^2 and is 1.2 m deep. Effective capacity of the peat bog is estimated at 146,800 m^3.

The wastewater is fed through a main collector that covers the width of the peat bog and directs the wastewater into concentrically arranged trenches that distribute it over the entire area of the peat bog. Some of the treated water is absorbed by the soil and the rest flows through the outfall into a stream that empties into the Rivière Eastmain.

8.3.2.2. Modifications to existing sewage system

During the construction work on the permanent residence, the sewer lines between the buildings that are to be dismantled at the workcamp site will be removed.

In addition, though the septic tanks are working properly and performing well (meet BOD_5 and TSS design criteria since installation in 2003), their service life is almost over. They are to be replaced by two new fibreglass tanks, a 120-m^3 tank and a 60-m^3 tank. Because of the significant decrease in the amount of wastewater to be treated, the third tank will be removed but not replaced. Any sectoral authorizations required will be obtained prior to starting the work.

8.3.2.3. Peat bog performance

When it was designed in 2003, a population of 2003, a polulation of 2,100 peopler per day was expected on the camp site, at the camp site, at the rate of 40 m^3 per person -year, which corresponded to 57% of the useful volume of the bog. However, in reality, the number of staff on site was much lower. There has been a marked decline over the years, resulting in much less demand on the bog. More recently, the average headcount was approximately 86 people in 2018, 74 people in 2019, 85 people 2020 and 79 people in 2021.

The following table shows targets for removal rates and concentrations at the peat bog effluent for a number of parameters.

Table 2
Performance goals (peat bog effluent, PE-8)
Secondary wastewater treatment

Parameter	Target concentration	Target removal rate (%)
DBO5	7.0 mg/L	**96.7**
TSS	16.5 mg/L	**94.0**
Ammonia nitrogen	2.3 mg/L N	**73.0**
Total phosphorus	0.9 mg/L	**83.0**
Fecal coliforms	36.4 UFC/100 mL	**100.0**
Total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN)	4.3 mg/L N	**85.0**

The annual reports on wastewater treatment compliance monitoring at Eastmain-1 workcamp show that the peat bog is performing very well. For example, in 2021, removal rates were as follows:

- 100% for BOD_5
- 84,4% for TSS
- 100% for ammonia nitrogen
- 93.9% for total phosphorus
- 100% for fecal coliform
- 98.1% for total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN)

The peat bog's wastewater treatment capacity is very good and there are no signs that its performance is diminishing. Note as well that since the wastewater treatment has had no significant impact on the peat, the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) in 2012 authorized discontinuation of the annual peat sampling campaign.

Generally speaking, there are no signs of failure of the wastewater treatment system at Eastmain-1 workcamp, other than the fact that the septic tanks have reached the end of their service life and that two of them are supposed to be replaced. The peat bog was used far less in recent years given the decline in the workcamp population since 2010. Its performance is still very good. The proponent thus intends to preserve it.

8.3.2.4. Alternatives to the peat bog

Two other wastewater treatment options that do not entail discharging effluent into a peat bog were analyzed:

- Aerated facultative ponds
- A Bionest KAMAK wastewater treatment chain with fixed-media biological reactor

Both these options however require a discharge point in an aquatic environment where an environmental discharge objective (EDO) must be met.

The analyses are described below.

Aerated facultative ponds

This option involves treating wastewater by lagooning. Aerated facultative ponds are ponds aerated either by surface aerators or by submerged diffusers installed at the bottom of the pond.

This option was not selected for the reasons outlined below.

Two ponds would have to be created, with a total area of about 3,432 m^2 at the talus top. In addition, exterior slopes would have to be constructed as well as an access road and a building to house the machines, equipment and materials required to operate the system. In all, an area of about 10,000 m^2 (1 ha) would be required to set up the system. Clearing of roughly this much land would also be required, which would mean a loss of natural woodland.

Furthermore, installing these ponds near the new septic tanks would require building an outfall (a pipe or a ditch) that would empty directly into the Rivière Eastmain. This not only means additional work but permanent encroachment on the riparian strip and shoreline of the river.

In addition, this technology has limitations: it must be paired with other technologies if removal of ammonia nitrogen is required to meet toxicity criteria. When used alone, aerated facultative pond technology cannot ensure year-round nitrogen (NH3-N and TKN) removal. The bacteria that remove these wastewater nitrogen components require temperatures above 15°C to thrive. This effectively rules out removal of ammonia nitrogen and total Kjeldahl nitrogen for most of the year.

Lastly, adding an effluent EDO in addition to the BOD_5 target could significantly impact system design or even undermine the feasibility of this option. Depending on the phosphorus targets, a coagulant dosing system (using alum or a ferric sulphate) might have to be installed. The scarcity of coagulants in remote regions could render this option unfeasible or require storage of large volumes of coagulants to minimize deliveries. However, if the EDO for phosphorus is high enough, the pond retention time alone might be adequate to meet the objective.

Bionest KAMAK wastewater treatment chain with fixed media biological reactor

The KAMAK wastewater treatment chain works on the principle of submerged fixed-film biological treatment, the generated biomass transported with the effluent. This system enables degradation of carbon and nitrification of ammonia nitrogen in domestic wastewater. It does not, however, treat phosphorus and compliance with effluent EDOs will be required, as with the aerated ponds.

Pond sludge removal frequency remains to be determined. A vertical-wall lagoon 3.25 m deep with an effective capacity of 800 m^3 will have to be built, which means the lagoon will have to be about 15 m in diameter.

Though this option requires less land (about 400 m^2), a more or less equivalent area will have to be cleared, resulting in an equivalent loss of natural woodland. In addition, installing this system near the new septic tanks would require building an outfall (a pipe or a ditch) that would empty directly into the Rivière Eastmain. This not only means additional work but permanent encroachment on the riparian strip and shoreline of the river.

This treatment option was not selected for these reasons.

In sum, both alternatives studied would require the installation of significant infrastructure (large footprint), as well as the use of chemicals and sludge management. Both alternatives also require energy, one of them cannot denitrify, and both are very costly. The total phosphorus removal capability of the peat bog must be considered and used. A tertiary phosphate removal system complexifies the system for the user and requires handling of toxic products.

Based on this comparison and given that the existing secondary treatment system (peat bog) is working well and performing very well, the proponent plans to keep it.

As the sewage system is being designed to serve the permanent residence as currently envisioned, it is at present meant for the exclusive use of Hydro-Québec. Any sharing of the system with other users would require that an agreement be signed with Hydro Québec on sharing of operating costs. Should an increase in the capacity of the system be required, the proponent would be solely responsible for the work and would have to obtain all required authorizations and permits from provincial and municipal authorities.

8.3.3. Stormwater

Stormwater will be partly collected by the existing stormwater management system, which covers the entire workcamp and consists of several drainage ditches around the edge of the workcamp site. Underground pipes will be installed to collect and carry away stormwater from the new residence, the delivery access ramp for the community center and the cafeteria and the corridor connecting the two buildings. The system outlet will remain the same, southeast of the Eastmain-1 workcamp site. The water is absorbed by the forest.

9. Greenhouse gas emissions

The project will generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The use of petroleum products, such as gasoline and diesel fuel, will produce carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions during the construction and operation phases of the Project. The main sources of emission will be mobile combustion: exhaust from trucks carrying goods and prefabricated modules, and from power shovels and other construction equipment at the jobsite and pick-up trucks, for example. Contractors' contracts will include clauses limiting idling time of vehicles and machinery.

The impact of the required clearing is considered negligible since only a very small area has to be cleared. In addition, some parts of the workcamp are to be revegetated, which could help in capturing CO_2. Also, the carbon capture capability of the peat bog used for secondary wastewater treatment will be maintained during the Project, as will its contaminant removal capability, particularly with respect to phosphorus.

The air conditioning and refrigeration systems that will be dismantled during the construction phase contain hydrofluorocarbons (HFC). Contracts will include clauses on suitable management and disposal of these GHGs, and no HFC emissions are anticipated from this Project.

10. Economic spinoffs

10.1. Economic spinoffs from the construction phase

The NRC will sign the Development Agreement with the GCC(EI)/CNG and the Cree Nation of Eastmain in June 2022. This agreement provides for the following with respect to the hiring of Cree labour:

- The NRC undertakes to ensure the following order of priority in hiring by all contractors and subcontractors involved in the construction and operation of the permanent residence:

  - ❖ Land users whose traplines are directly affected by the Project and their families
  - ❖ Cree applicants from the Cree community of Eastmain
  - ❖ Cree applicants from the Cree community of Nemaska
  - ❖ Cree applicants generally available and interested in working on the Project
  - ❖ Innu applicants from the community of Mashteuiasht

- The NRC undertakes to invite at least three Cree enterprises identified by the Cree Nation of Eastmain to submit bids for construction of the permanent residence.

10.2. Economic spinoffs from the operation phase

We reiterate that the NRC is held jointly by the CNG and the Cree Nation of Eastmain, which can thus share the profits the NRC will earn from the gross lease agreement signed with Hydro-Québec.

In addition, as mentioned above, the NRC will sign the Development Agreement with the GCC(EI)/CNG and the Cree Nation of Eastmain in June 2022. This agreement covers the following:

- Management and remediation of the impact on traditional activities for the benefit of land users concerned, including the tallyman of the trapline affected by the Project.
- Establishment of a fund, to which the NRC will contribute $150,000 annually, for programs and projects for users of the site affected by the Project, the fund to be managed by the Niskamoon Corporation.
- The NRC's commitment to award contracts for operation of the permanent residence in the following order of priority:

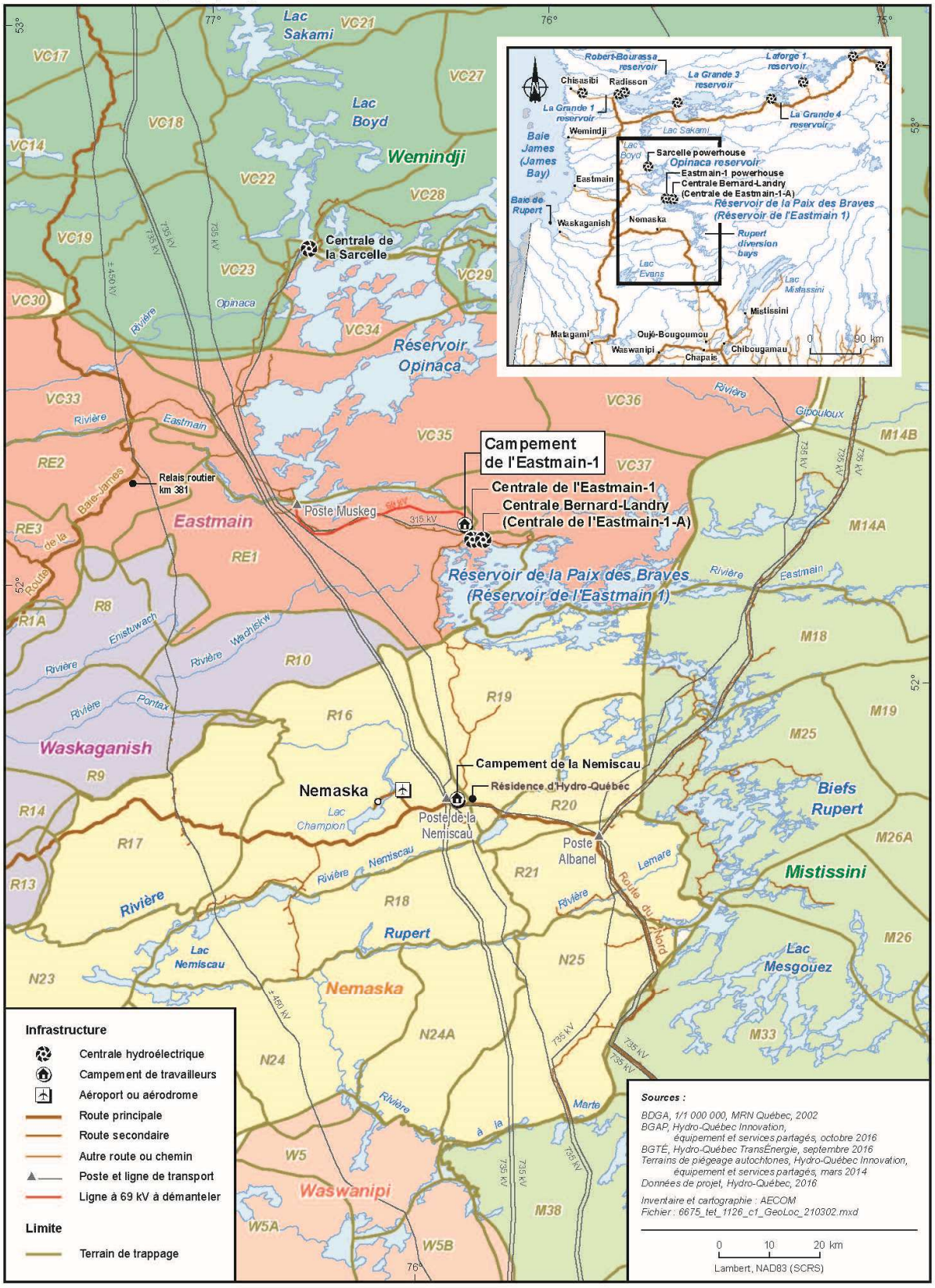
  - ❖ Cree enterprises of the Cree community of Eastmain
  - ❖ Cree enterprises of the Cree community of Nemaska
  - ❖ Other Cree enterprises
  - ❖ Innu enterprises of the community of Mashteuiasht

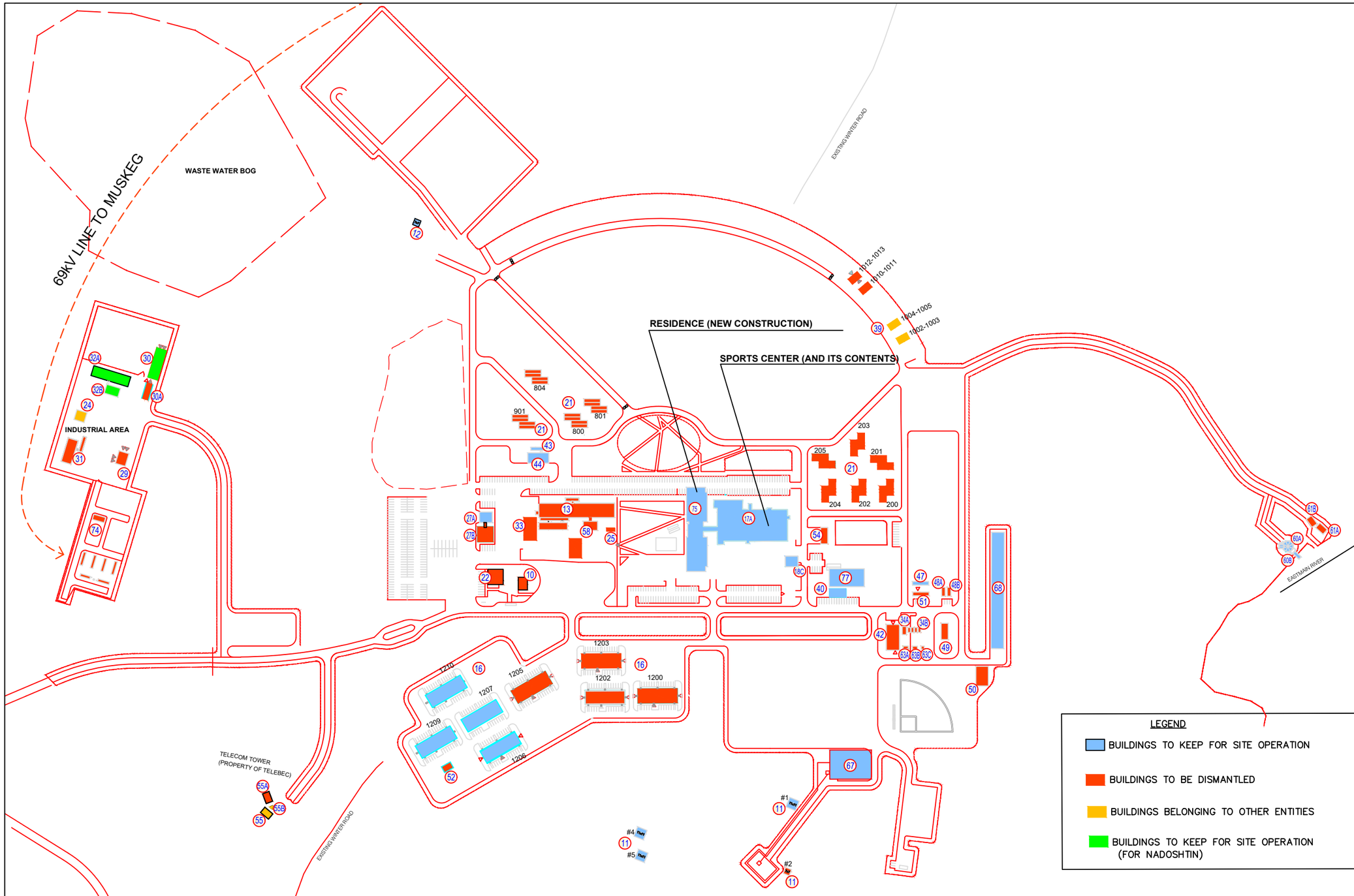
- The NRC's commitment to include in calls for tender for goods and services a requirement that bidders state the number of Crees the bidder employs and submit annual reports on the number of Cree employees executing the contract.

APPENDIX A – MAPS

(see attached)

Carte 1 : Situation géographique





12	PURGE STATION SHELTER
16	20 ROOM DORMITORY FOR HQP
17A	SPORTS CENTER (AND ITS CONTENTS)
18C	FAW ARENA - STORAGE
27A	FIRE AND SAFETY STATION STORAGE/GARAGE
40	LOCKER ROOM
43	BEDDING OFFICE
44	BEDDING STORAGE
47	NEW FISH COUNTER
55	TELECOM AND LINE HEAD SHELTER
60A	COTTAGE
60B	FLOATING DOCK
67	WELL AND FILTRATION PLANT
68	WASTEWATER SYSTEM (FAW AND TANKS)
75	RESIDENCE (NEW CONSTRUCTION)
77	SKATING RINK
24	TELECOM GARAGE
30A	TELECOM OFFICE
32A	A) WORKSHOP
32B	WORKSHOP OFFICE
10	INFIRMARY AND SECURITY POST
13	CAFETERIA 1000 PERSONS
16	20 ROOM MGMT HOUSING
21	21 ROOM DORMITORY
22	RECEPTION AND ADMIN. OFFICE
25	REST AREA BUILDING
27B	SECURITY STATION OFFICE & CORRIDOR
29	HQP ENVIRONMENT STORAGE
31A	A) GARAGE & OFFICE - HQ AUBÉ
31B	GARAGE OFFICE & CORRIDOR
34	A) ENVIRONMENT TENT
34	B) CONTAINERS
42	HQP ENVIRONMENT OFFICE
48	A) KAWESHAKAW DRYING ROOM
48	B) KAWESHAKAW STORAGE SHED
49	HQP ENVIRONMENT OFFICE
51	WEH-SEES INDOHOUN OFFICE
63	A) FISH COUNTER
63	B) SHELTER FOR DRYING
63	C) LAB/FISH COUNTER
30	GENERAL STORAGE
33	FOOD WAREHOUSE
39	2 ROOM MGMT HOUSING
50	HQP WAREHOUSE
52	HQ RECREATION CENTER
54	TELECOM OFFICE
55A	SEBJ TELECOM SHED
58	FOOD INSPECTION TRAILER
61	A) FRY NURSERY
61	B) SHELTER FOR SPAWNING AREA
74	MOBILE OFFICE
55	TELEBEC TELECOM SHELTER

FILE:

Société d'énergie de la Baie James

Aménagement hydroélectrique de l'Eastmain-1A

TITLE:
EASTMAIN WORKCAMP SITE
RESIDENCES PROJECT – LAYOUT DIAGRAM

CONTRACT:

No. DOCUMENT (REF.):
CET-002 / 6859-80178-129-01-0-QC-0

DRAWN BY: JOEL GONSAN

PROJECTED BY: G. THIBAULT/G. BOIVIN

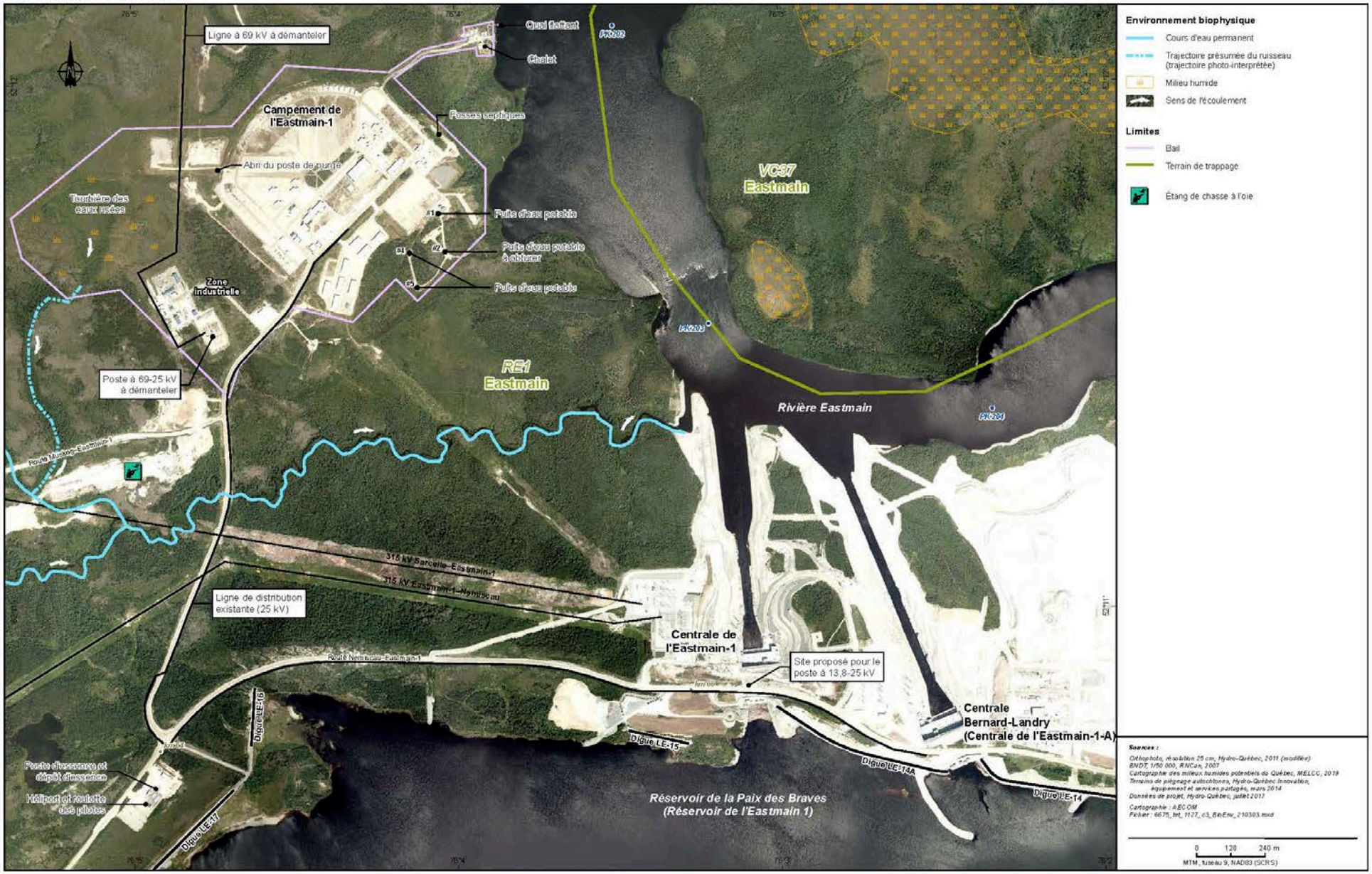
APPROVED BY:

REVIEWED BY: 2021-04-05

DESIGN NO.: ODP-003

Rev.

Carte 3 : Milieux naturel et humain



APPENDIX B – CORRESPONDENCE

(see attached)

July 21, 2020

BY EMAIL

Monsieur Marc Croteau
Deputy Minister and Administer of Section 22
Of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec

Re : Eastmain-1 temporary workcamp

Mr. Croteau,

We are writing to you in regards to the Eastmain-1 temporary workcamp that was built and operated by Hydro-Quebec/Société d'énergie de la Baie James (SEBJ) to house its workers during the construction phase of the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert Diversion Project. This workcamp is subject to restoration conditions, which are provided in the Certificate of Authorization that was issued on November 24th, 2006 for the project (hereinafter "Certificate of Authorization"), which we would like to have reconsidered in the context of much larger discussions between Hydro-Quebec, the Cree Nation of Eastmain and the Cree Nation Government.

We are in the process of finalizing the necessary Agreements, protocols and contracts so that, between us, we are hoping to achieve a first which will be the ownership and operation by a First Nation of a major infrastructure component to meet the needs of a natural resource developer. These Agreements would not only cover commercial components but also how traditional land use is accommodated, local economic and employment opportunities are distributed, the community shall play an active and central role in the monitoring of environmental and social impacts and other matters and most importantly how we, as partners, will work together to comply with Government priorities and the guiding principles under Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The Proponent of the project would be a newly created entity under the entire control and ownership of the Cree Nation of Eastmain and the Cree Nation Government. The Proponent would assume the ownership and operation of a permanent residence on the Eastmain-1 workcamp site for the exclusive use of Hydro-Quebec as the client.

An application to modify Hydro-Québec's Certificate of Authorization regarding the Eastmain-1 workcamp in order to allow the building of a permanent residence on the site is currently pending (file number 3214-10-017).

In our endeavour we would greatly appreciate a resumption of the authorization process regarding the project, including the aforementioned application, so that we can take advantage of the current exercise

of defining our relationship as amongst ourselves to ensure that no concern or preoccupation of your Ministry goes unanswered or our ability to answer being the source of unnecessary delay.

The Cree Nation of Eastmain and the Cree Nation Government mandate SEBJ to apply for and obtain, in the name of the Proponent, all necessary permits and authorizations required under applicable environmental and municipal laws and regulations (including any attestations of exemption) to carry out the project. SEBJ thus has full authority to act in the name of and on behalf of the Proponent, and to represent it in all correspondence and exchanges with the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and all other governmental and municipal authorities in connection with the foregoing purpose.

Please do not hesitate to share any information, concerns or questions you may have in regards to the project with representatives of SEBJ on behalf of such parties.

CREE NATION OF EASTAMIN	GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES/ CREE NATION GOVERNMENT	HYDRO-QUÉBEC
Chief Kenneth Cheezo	Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum	David Murray Chef Innovation Officer of Hydro-Québec and President of Hydro-Québec Production

21 juillet 2021

PAR COURRIEL

Monsieur Marc Croteau
Sous-ministre et responsable de l'application du chapitre 22 de la Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec

Objet : Campement temporaire Eastmain 1-A

Monsieur Croteau,

Nous vous écrivons au sujet du campement temporaire de l'Eastmain-1 qui a été aménagé et exploité par Hydro-Québec/Société d'énergie de la Baie James (SEBJ) pour héberger les travailleurs pendant la réalisation du projet de l'Eastmain-1-A–Sarcelle–Rupert. Le campement fait l'objet de conditions de réfection en vertu du certificat d'autorisation délivré le 24 novembre 2006 aux fins du projet (ci-après le « certificat d'autorisation »). Nous souhaitons que ces conditions soient réévaluées dans le contexte de discussions portant sur des sujets beaucoup plus larges entre Hydro-Québec, la Nation crie d'Eastmain et le gouvernement de la Nation crie.

Nous finalisons actuellement les ententes, protocoles et contrats nécessaires afin qu'ensemble nous réalisions une première, soit l'exploitation par une Première Nation d'une infrastructure importante lui appartenant pour répondre aux besoins d'un exploitant de ressources naturelles. Ces ententes et autres documents porteraient non seulement sur les aspects commerciaux, mais aussi notamment sur les mesures qui permettront d'intégrer l'utilisation traditionnelle du territoire, de répartir les occasions d'affaires et d'emploi, d'assurer que la communauté joue un rôle actif et central dans le suivi des impacts environnementaux et sociaux ainsi que, ce qui est le plus important, sur les façons dont nous, en tant que partenaires, travaillerons ensemble pour respecter les priorités gouvernementales et les lignes directrices énoncées dans le chapitre 22 de la *Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois*.

Le promoteur du projet serait une nouvelle entité détenue et gérée exclusivement par la Nation crie d'Eastmain et le gouvernement de la Nation crie. Le promoteur assumerait la propriété et l'exploitation d'une résidence permanente à l'emplacement du campement de l'Eastmain-1 pour les besoins d'une seule cliente, Hydro-Québec.

Une demande visant la modification du certificat d'autorisation d'Hydro-Québec afin qu'une résidence permanente puisse être construite à l'emplacement du campement a été soumise (dossier 3214-10-017).

Pour que notre projet aille de l'avant, nous apprécierions grandement que le processus d'autorisation reprenne, y compris en ce qui concerne la demande mentionnée ci-dessus, de façon à ce que nous

puissions tirer parti de l'exercice actuel de redéfinition de notre relation pour nous assurer que nous tenons compte de toutes les préoccupations et inquiétudes de votre ministère et que la réponse à toute interrogation de votre part ne se traduise pas par des retards inutiles.

La Nation crie d'Eastmain et le gouvernement de la Nation crie mandatent la SEBJ pour demander et obtenir, au nom du promoteur, tous les permis et autorisations nécessaires selon la législation environnementale et les règlements municipaux en vigueur (y compris toute attestation d'exemption) pour la réalisation du projet. La SEBJ a ainsi pleins pouvoirs pour agir au nom du promoteur ainsi que pour le représenter dans tous les échanges, verbaux et écrits, avec le ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques et avec tout autre organisme gouvernemental, y compris municipal, relativement à son mandat.

Veuillez ne pas hésiter à partager avec les représentants de la SEBJ toute information, inquiétude ou question que vous ayez au sujet du projet.

NATION CRIE D'EASTMAIN	GOUVERNEMENT DE LA NATION CRIE	HYDRO-QUÉBEC
Chef Kenneth Cheezo	Grand Chef Dr. Abel Bosum	David Murray Chef de l'Innovation d'Hydro-Québec et président d'Hydro-Québec Production

Ministère
de l'Environnement
et de la Lutte contre
les changements
climatiques
Québec

Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets miniers et nordiques
et de l'évaluation environnementale stratégique

COURTESY TRANSLATION

November 30, 2020

Grand Chief Abel Bosum
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
2, rue Lakeshore
Nemaska (Québec) J0Y 3B0

Chief Kenneth Cheezo
Cree Nation of Eastmain
76, rue Nouchimi
Case postale 90
Eastmain (Québec) J0M 1W0

Subject: **Eastmain 1-A temporary camp**
(File #: 3214-10-017)

Grand Chief Bosum,
Chief Cheezo,

This letter is a follow-up up to yours of July 21, 2020, also co-signed by David Murray, Hydro-Québec Chief Innovation Officer and President of Hydro-Québec Production, which was addressed to the Deputy Minister and Provincial Administrator of Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Marc Croteau.

It is useful to note that the Certificate of Authorization (CA) issued to Hydro-Québec on November 24, 2006 for the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, authorized the use of the Eastmain 1-A temporary workcamp during the construction phase. Hydro-Québec was to subsequently submit its complete plan for closing down the various components of the work site. In consideration of your request, we have informed Hydro-Québec that it first needs to file for an amendment to the CA in order to be relieved from its obligations relating to the dismantlement and restoration of the Eastmain-1-A temporary workcamp. This requirement stems in particular from Condition 2.8 of the November 26, 2006 CA for the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydro power project.

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Internet : www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca
Courriel : dominique.lavoie@environnement.gouv.qc.ca

Before being in a position to process your request, we wish to inform you that the Société d'énergie de la Baie-James is required to apply for an attestation of exemption for transforming the Eastmain-1-A temporary workcamp into permanent residence for the exclusive use of Hydro-Québec as the client, on behalf of the project proponent. It is our understanding that the proponent of the future project will be a new entity jointly held and managed by the Cree Nation of Eastmain and the Cree Nation Government.

Yours truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Dominique Lavoie
Director

Cc David Murray, Hydro-Québec Chief Innovation Officer and President of Hydro-Québec Production
Noureddine Mouncef, Department Head, Société d'énergie de la Baie James