

# News Release

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## Up to \$200,000 Available to Participate in the Environmental Assessment of the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project

**HULL, Quebec - March 7, 2003** - The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency announces the establishment of a Participant Funding Program. It will provide up to \$200,000 to allow the public to take part in the panel review of the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project. The panel will review the environmental impacts of the project.

A funding review committee, independent of the review panel, will consider all applications and recommend allocation of funds to applicants according to the eligibility criteria set out in the Guide to the Participant Funding Program. Funding will be available in two phases.

**Phase I:** Up to \$50,000 will be provided for reviewing the draft directives which will guide the proponents in preparing their impact statement of the project. Applications for funding for first phase activities must be received at the Agency no later than April 11, 2003, in order to be considered.

**Phase II:** Up to \$150,000 will be available for reviewing the impact statement, along with preparing for and participating in the public hearings. The impact statement will serve as the basis for the panel's review of the project. The deadline for application for the second phase will be announced at a later date.

The Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project being proposed by Hydro-Québec and its subsidiary, the *Société d'énergie de la Baie James*, is located in northwestern Quebec, east of James Bay. The project includes:

- The Rupert diversion, which consists in redirecting some of the waters (up to 800m<sup>3</sup>/s) from the Rupert River watershed into the Eastmain watershed;
- The construction of the Eastmain-1-A powerhouse (up to 770 MV) on Eastmain 1 reservoir; and
- The addition of structures at the Sarcelle site, at the outlet of Opinaca reservoir.

The project calls for the construction of four dams, 51 dikes, two diversion bays flooding an area of 395 km<sup>2</sup>, 12,000 m of diversion channels or tunnel and two permanent access roads.

The [Guide to the Participant Funding Program](#), the [application form](#) and information on the panel review process of the [project](#) are available on the Agency Web site.

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The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency administers the federal environmental assessment process, which identifies the environmental effects of proposed projects and measures to address those effects, in support of sustainable development.

### For more information:

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