



## Environmental Assessment and Review Processes for the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project

The Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project is subject to two environmental assessment and review processes: the provincial environmental and social protection regime set out in Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and the process provided for under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. An agreement reached between the governments of Canada and of Quebec and the Cree Regional Authority specifies how the major steps of the two processes will be coordinated. Public participation, including that of the Quebec Crees, is an important component of the environmental assessment and review processes.

The environmental assessment and review processes comprise six important steps:

**1 – Filing of Project Notice:** The proponents, Hydro-Québec and its subsidiary, the *Société d'énergie de la Baie James*, confirm in writing to the federal and provincial authorities their intention to build the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project. Preliminary information on the project is attached to the notice.

**2 – Issuance of Directives:** The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency review preliminary information provided on the project and develop draft directives for the preparation of the impact statement of the project.

At this stage, COMEV and the Agency invite public comments on the draft directives and on issues that the proponents should address during the preparation of their impact statement.

Following a review of the comments received from the public, final directives are prepared by COMEV and the Agency. Final directives are approved by the Provincial Administrator of Chapter 22 of the JBNQA and by the federal Minister of the Environment who will then forward them to the proponents.

**3 – Preparing the Impact Statement:** After receiving the directives, the proponents prepare the impact statement of their project.

**4 – Review of the Impact Statement:** The Provincial Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee (COMEX) and the federal review panel review the impact statement to determine its adequacy.

At this stage, COMEX and the federal panel invite the public to comment on the impact statement.

Should additional information be required from the proponents and when that information is available, COMEX and the federal panel will review it to determine whether it is adequate to move on to public hearings stage.

**5 - Public Hearings:** COMEX and the federal panel hold public hearings in order to obtain opinions, comments, and concerns from the public about the project.

**6 – Conclusions and Recommendations:** COMEX and the federal panel each prepare a report containing their conclusions and recommendations concerning the assessment and review of the impacts of the project. COMEX sends its report to the Provincial Administrator and the federal panel sends its report to the federal Minister of the Environment and the responsible authority.



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