

### **Attachment 7.4.3**

#### **Hydro-Québec Public Participation Program**

As soon as it begins a transmission project, Hydro-Québec implements a public participation program to inform local stakeholders and take the host community's concerns into account. This approach aims to provide an understanding of the project, respond to stakeholders' information needs and gather community concerns regarding the project. A variety of means of communication are established with representatives from various levels of government, official community representatives, affected property owners, citizens, community organizations and local media. These discussions help determine line routes and substation locations. They also contribute to ensuring that projects take into account the needs and expectations of the host community.

The public participation process includes many steps and is adjusted based on the scale of the project and specific needs. The objective is to maintain a dialogue with the public interested in the project to integrate, as much as possible, their concerns throughout each step of the project. Several stakeholder groups are informed and consulted during the process, including:

- Government departments
- Municipalities and regional county municipalities (RCM) (elected officials and staff)
- Landowners concerned, neighbors and citizens
- Farmers union
- Economic, Environmental, Recreation and tourism organizations (local, regional)
- Media, etc.

The consultation is conducted in 4 steps during draft-design studies.

1. General Information
2. Pre-Consultation
3. Public Consultation
4. Information on the solution selected

A multidisciplinary team leads the public consultation. This team typically consists of project management (engineer and project leader), environment (project manager), engineering (design engineer), real estate expertise and communications (community relations).

The following are examples of public participation activities:

- Different kind of meetings (public, by invitation and open houses)
- Jobsite visits
- Media relations

And examples of public participation tools include:

- Information bulletins and opinion submission forms
- Visual presentations
- Web pages
- Online Q&A
- Public notices, invitations
- Info-project line
- Press releases

Once the necessary government approvals are granted and construction has begun, Hydro-Québec continues to keep the public informed about the project. It remains attentive to the concerns of the affected publics and ensures that the impact of the work is kept to a minimum.