



**Société d'énergie
de la Baie James**

People with a Powerful Vision

Boumhounan Agreement Eastmain-1-A Powerhouse and Rupert Diversion (Draft-Design Phase)

April 28, 2004

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Local Acceptance Before Initiation of E&SIA

- **Hydro-Québec's strategic priority was to gain Cree acceptance of the project before initiating the E&SIA**
- **In February 2002, the Cree gave their free, prior and informed consent**
 - subject to, and in accordance with, the Boumhounan Agreement; and
 - subject to applicable environmental legislation.

Eastmain-1-A Powerhouse and Rupert Diversion

Project Overview

-  Direction of flow
-  River with reduced flow
-  Hydroelectric powerhouse (generating station)
-  Planned transmission line
-  725 or ± 450-kV transmission line and substation
-  Planned road
-  Main road
-  Secondary road
-  Workcamp
-  Airport

0 10 50 km

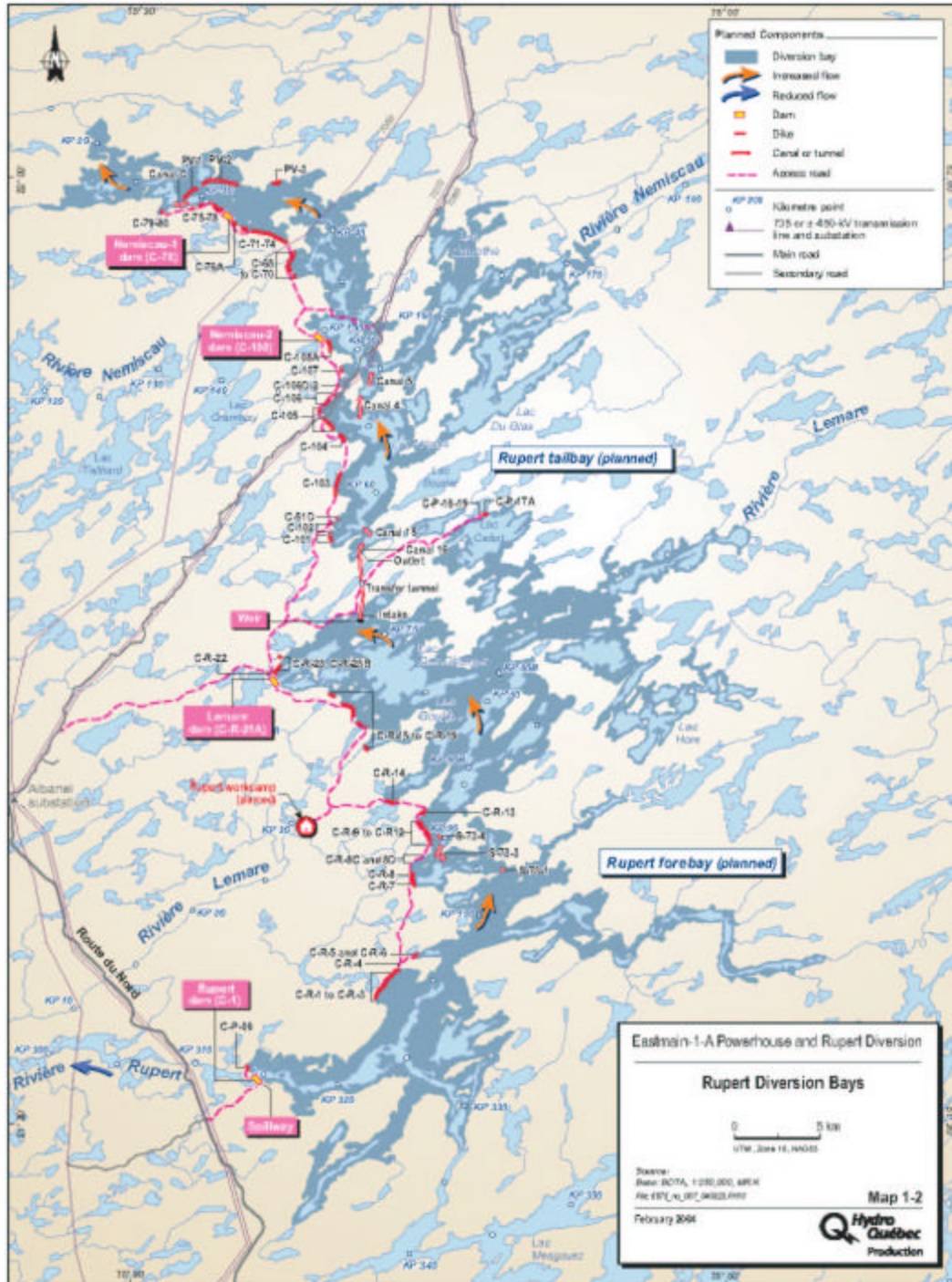
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Data: BDQA, 1:1,000,000, 1999

February 2004

Map 1-1



Project Overview



Rupert Diversion Bays

Summary Project Schedule - Eastmain-1-A Powerhouse and Rupert Diversion

<i>Year</i>	<i>Main Activity</i>
<i>2002</i>	<i>Beginning of environmental impact assessment</i>
<i>June 2004</i>	<i>Environmental Impact Statement filed with the appropriate authorities</i>
<i>Late 2005</i>	<i>Anticipated date for granting of government approvals</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>Impounding of diversion bays and Rupert diversion</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>Commissioning of facilities</i>

Boumhounan Agreement

The Boumhounan Agreement differs from past agreements in that it sets the terms and conditions of the partnership between Hydro-Québec and the Crees during the draft-design phase.

A service contract within the Agreement stipulates the working conditions for those participating in the studies.



Boumhounan Agreement

In particular, the Agreement stipulates the following:

- Rental of a fully equipped office in each of the six signatory communities of Waskaganish, Eastmain, Nemaska, Mistissini, Chisasibi and Wemindji
- Rental of a fully equipped office in the premises of two Cree entities:
 - Cree Trappers' Association (CTA)
 - Cree Regional Authority (CRA)
- Establishment of a Cree/Hydro-Québec Feasibility Study Group (Boumhounan Committee)
- Participation of a tallyman or his representative on field survey teams, to ensure that Aboriginal traditional knowledge is used in conjunction with technical and scientific expertise





Boumhounan Agreement

➤ **The Agreement provides for a budget to cover the following:**

- Logistics, i.e., aerial surveys, travel, room & board
- Full-time Cree coordinators and representatives
- Fully equipped offices & appropriate training
- Technical support (specialists & lawyers)
- Translation of key documents into Cree
- Consultations in languages the local people understand
- Participation of the Crees in interviews, consultations, surveys and fieldwork



Composition of the Cree/Hydro-Québec Feasibility Study Group

- **Hydro-Québec: four representatives, including the project manager and senior advisors**
- **Crees: six representatives and two coordinators**



Mandate of the Cree / HQ Feasibility Study Group

1. To review the nature and scope of the environmental assessment mandates
2. To meet and provide project updates on a regular basis to better inform the communities throughout the draft-design phase
3. To settle issues related to the field surveys (equipment rental rates, security, participation, etc.)



Mandate of the Cree/HQ Feasibility Study Group

4. **To agree on the nature and scope of impacts and identify mitigation measures**
5. **To ensure communication**
 - within the Cree communities;
 - between the Cree communities, the Cree leadership and Hydro-Québec.
6. **To review the IA report before Hydro-Québec tables it with the Environmental Review Board**
 - Integration of Cree concerns



Results

1. **Since May 2002, sixteen Boumhounan Committee meetings have been held in the Cree communities and in Montréal**
2. **The Cree representatives and coordinators now work on a full-time basis**
3. **The Cree representatives bring questions, concerns and suggestions from their communities to the meetings**
4. **At each meeting:**
 - Questions, concerns and suggestions are discussed
 - An update of the draft-design project is provided and explained



Consultations

In addition to the regular committee meetings, a number of consultation sessions have been held with the tallymen, their families and the general public on issues of concern to them, including:

- Instream flow
- Maintaining navigable conditions
- Protection of fishing sites
- Conservation of spawning grounds
- SEBJ clearing plan
- Proposed weir sites

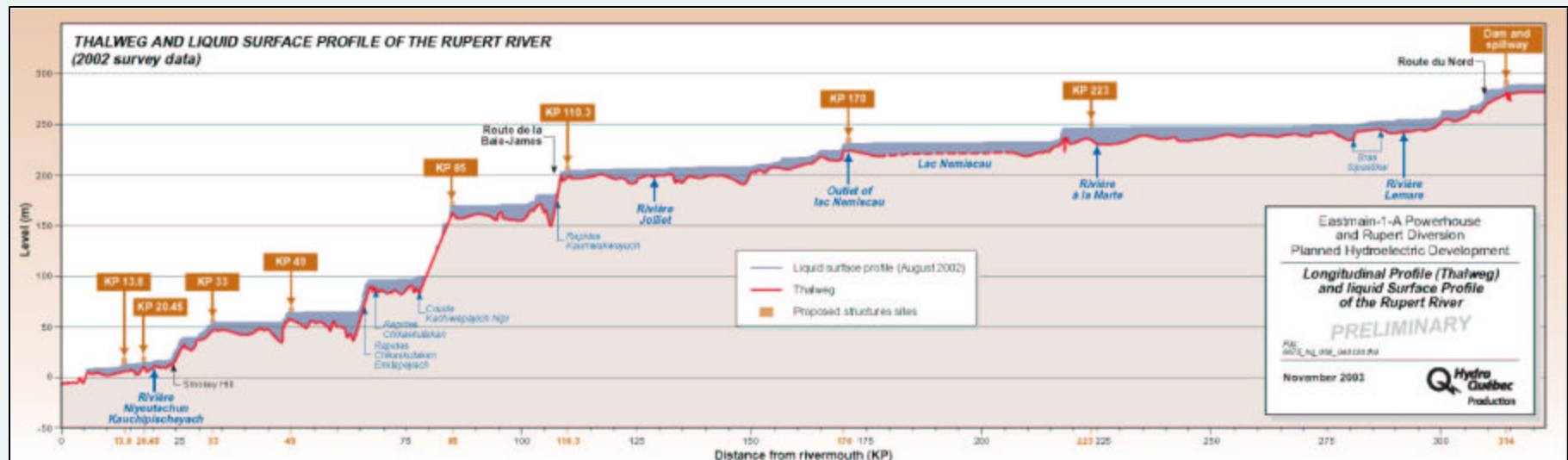
Consultations with the Affected Tallymen

- Ongoing discussions are being held with the affected tallymen in Mistissini, Nemaska and Waskaganish, both as a group and individually.
- The decisions arising from these consultations are thus the result of the fusion of Cree traditional knowledge and scientific and technical expertise.

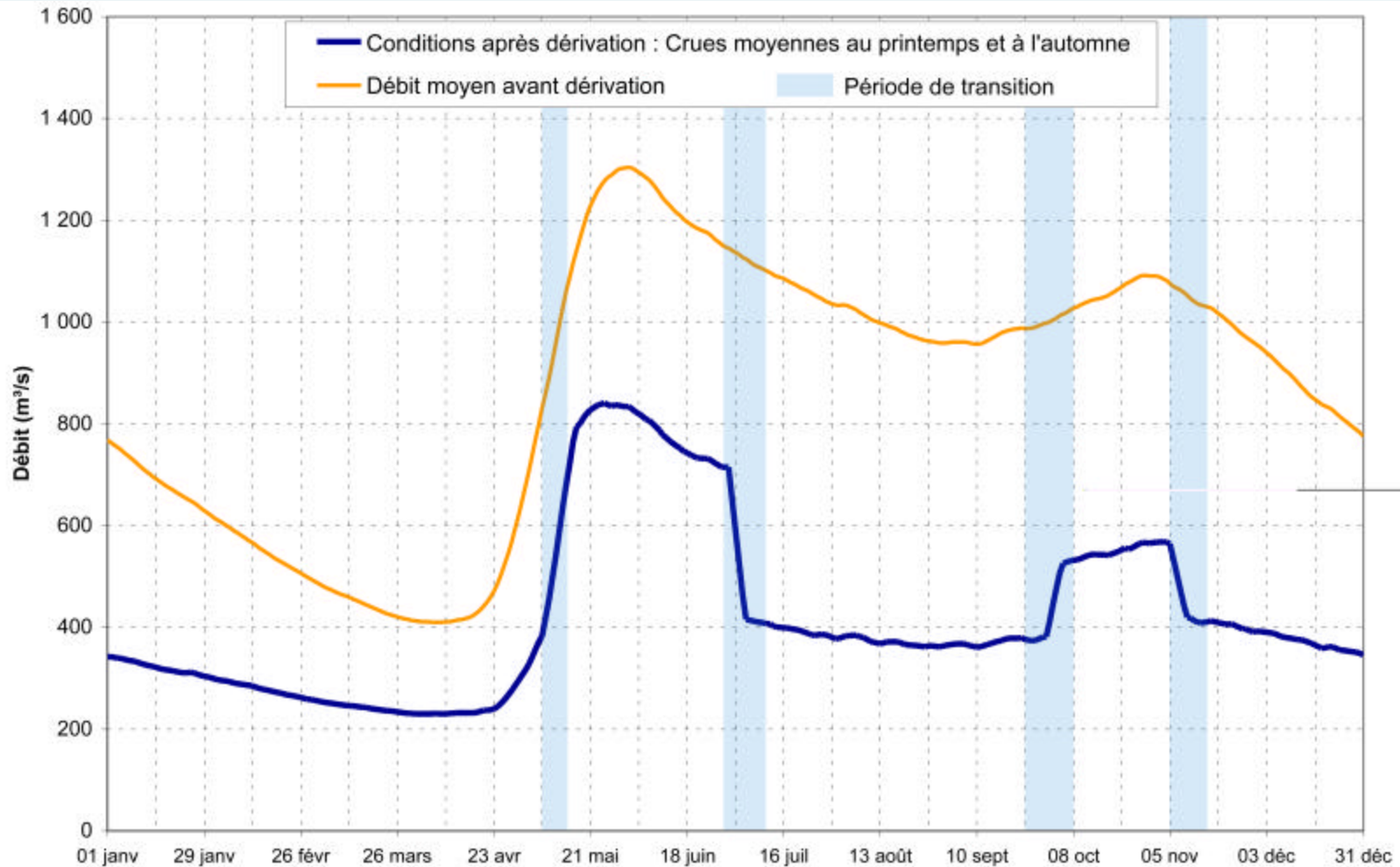


Weir Sites on the Rupert River

Hence, these discussions helped determine the proper locations for the weirs which, together with the mean annual instream flow, will maintain navigation conditions and protect fish habitats in the river.



Hydrographs Before and After Diversion - KP 0





Dissemination of information

- Information sessions held by the Boumhounan Committee representatives and Johnny Saganash, Cree Counsellor at the Eastmain-1 jobsite, for the band councils, school boards, elders councils and communities
- Boumhounan Newsletter and Boumhounan NewsFlash (insert in Cree publication "The Nation")
- Local and regional radio programs
- Information offices and booths in all communities
- Videos on field activities during the draft-design phase



Conclusion

This new relationship shows what can happen once trust is established.

Thinking becomes more focused and creative, and this leads to

- improvement and optimization of the different aspects of the project;
- better acceptance of the project by the local community;
- improved capacity building and entrepreneurial spirit within the Cree community.



Thank you!

