

Poste-Saint Jean and 315kV Transmission Line

Submitted to BAPE

May 12, 2016

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Why the Opposition to the Poste-Saint-Jean Project?

- Visual, environmental, aesthetic impact
- Lack of public consultation
- Health concerns – EMF exposure
- Property value diminution
- Enlarged footprint of Poste Saint-Jean
- Noise and sound pollution
- Weather impacts on reliability of the grid
- Physical safety regarding high-tension power lines and pylons

Urbanization of DDO

1983

Poste des Sources

Poste Saint-Jean

2013

Poste des Sources

Poste Saint-Jean

Now densely populated URBAN area.
315kV line should be built underground

Project Timeline for Construction of Line Advanced 2 years, Poste by 1 year



Calendrier

PROGRAMME DE PARTICIPATION DU PUBLIC

Information et consultation	Été à automne 2014
Information sur la solution retenue	Hiver 2014-2015

PROJET

Dépôt de l'étude d'impact sur l'environnement	Printemps 2015
Obtention des autorisations gouvernementales	Automne 2016
Travaux préparatoires	
• Déplacement de lignes de distribution	
• Réaménagement de la ligne à 120 kV	2015-2016
Réfection du poste et conversion de la tension	Hiver 2016-2017 à automne 2019
Construction de la ligne	Été à automne 2019
Mise en service du poste et de la ligne	Printemps 2020

Pour plus d'information
Ligne **Info-projets**
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This publication is also available in English.
2014E0738-F

Imprimé sur du papier fabriqué
100 % de fibres recyclées post



2.4 Calendrier et coûts du projet

Les travaux se dérouleront de l'hiver 2016 à l'automne 2018. La mise en service du poste et de la ligne aura lieu au printemps 2019. Le calendrier de réalisation des principales étapes du projet est présenté au tableau 2.

Tableau 2 : Calendrier de réalisation du projet

Étape	Période cible
Demande des autorisations gouvernementales	Printemps 2015
Obtention des autorisations gouvernementales	Automne 2016
Construction du nouveau poste	Hiver 2016-2017 à automne 2018
Construction de la ligne à 315 kV	Printemps à automne 2017
Mise en service du poste	Printemps 2019

Le coût global du projet est estimé à 90 millions de dollars, soit 76 M\$ pour la construction du poste et 14 M\$ pour celle de la ligne.

Lack of Public Consultation

- HQ held one public meeting in December 2014. HQ claims sent 1,000 invitations. Not one single resident we spoke to had received this letter.
- In December 2014, HQ officials indicated a second public consultation meeting was scheduled for Spring 2015. This meeting was never convened by HQ.
- Publireportage is NOT public consultation.
- HQ has met numerous times with city officials and mayor BUT this is NOT public consultation.

Lack of Public Consultation

- New potential pylon configurations only unveiled for first time at BAPE meeting of April 20-21, 2016
 - Testimony Mr. Bolullo April 21, 2016 “So these solutions were presented at one point or another in conversations..” These variations were never discussed previously with residents or in any public consultation.
- HQ’s “Seven Question about the Poste Saint-Jean Project” document was only received by a limited number of residents the night before the 1st BAPE hearing of April 20, 2016.

Lack of Public Consultation

- HQ claimed underground solution not viable then it was viable on a cost-sharing basis.
- HQ contends it proposed underground cost sharing option between City of DDO and HQ. No public consultation of this solution ever presented.
 - Mr. Benzaquen (DDO Town Manager) in transcript of April 20, 2016 indicated “...in no instance did we get any letter from HQ asking us to pay part of the costs to get an underground line.”

Conflicting Information

- Detailed costing only recently provided despite repeated requests.
- Each costing comparison to other projects is contradictory and costing analyses for the Saint-Jean project are not substantiated and appear inflated.
- HQ representatives publicly stated cost of 230kV Limoilou project at \$3 million/Km. How can the Saint-Jean underground project be listed at \$59 million?
 - Limoilou and De Lormier trajectories much more complex. Saint-Jean project costs listed much higher than these projects.
- In testimony before the BAPE, April 21, 2016, Page 37) Mr, Vaillancourt testified a distribution line will be placed underground.

Conflicting Information

- Proposed pylon structure changes from tubular (original HQ proposal 2014) to reduced footprint lattice (Spring 2015) to tubular options presented April 20, 2016. Without public consultation.
 - In May 2015, we were told that tubular pylons were not an option because of “aesthetic concerns” and risk of vandalism/graffiti. (Phone conversation with Jean-Phillipe Rousseau May 29, 2015).
 - Proposed reduced footprint lattice referred to as a “new” type of pylon. Examples of where this pylon used are in rural areas Joliette and Becancour (Phone conversation/email with Jean-Phillipe Rousseau May 29, 2015).

Costs Vs. Revenues

- Much discussion about costs of underground solution but the installation of 315kV Transmission line and upgrading of Saint-Jean substation are revenue generating for HQ.
- As per HQ, upgraded Saint-Jean substation will be able to service an additional 30,000 customers (email Jean Phillipe Rousseau May 13, 2015).
- No cost/benefit analysis of this project has been done. (BAPE transcript April 21, 2016 evening session, Page 156-157).
- 315 kV line will eventually go all the way to Baie D'Urfe
 - (Mr. Bolullo, BAPE Transcript, April 20, 2016, Page 79).

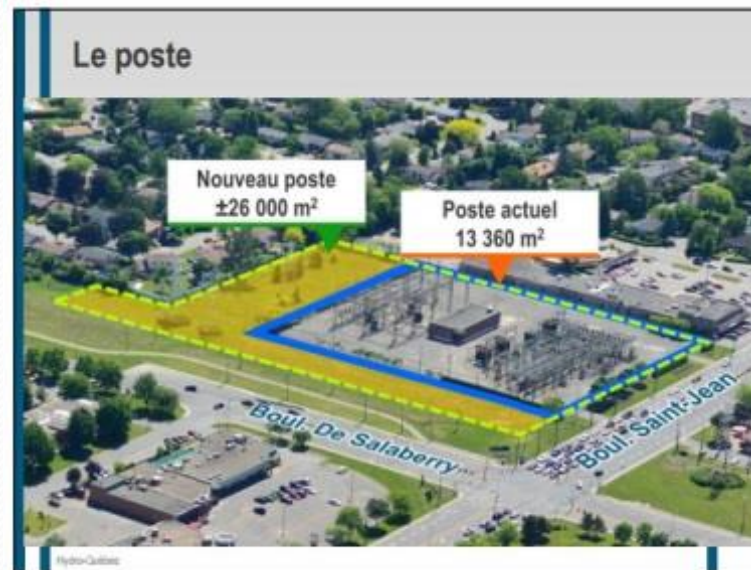
Contradictory Information

HQ Contends Underground Cabling Hard to Repair

- HQ indicated that underground cabling can take up to two weeks to repair (BAPE testimony M. Royer, April 21, Afternoon session).
- However, HQ's M. Royer also speaks about the reliability of underground cables "...Underground lines are very reliable so any internal breakage due to wiring is so rare, once every 5 or 10 years (BAPE testimony M. Royer, April 21, Afternoon session).
- HQ has developed the SimLoc tool to locate damage along underground lines and at cable joints. "With the old method, locating a fault could take 3-4 hours on average or even several days...The tool has proven its worth, as the average time to locate a fault is now one hour."
(<http://www.hydroquebec.com/innovation/en/pdf/2012Go69-SIMLOC.pdf>)

Saint-Jean Substation

- New enlarged footprint (roughly 2X larger) brings the station in extremely close proximity to surrounding homes.
- Architectural wall was projected at 1.5 Meters from property lines but has been changed to 3 Meters (BAPE DA34).



Saint-Jean Substation

- According to Mr. Bolullo, 3 options were considered including “building a new 315kV substation on another site” (BAPE Transcript, April 20, 2016, Page 26).
- Of the other 7 - 315kV substations on the island of Montreal, the Saint-Jean substation is in the CLOSEST proximity to residential properties.
- If there is no intention to relocate the Poste Saint-Jean, then residents of homes abutting the substation should receive significant financial compensation or expropriation (if the homeowners wish to move).

Conclusions & Recommendations

- HQ has failed to complete due diligence with regard carefully examining and publicly presenting all possible solutions/ramifications of the installation of the 315kV transmission line.
- The best interests of children/residents must be **seriously considered** not merely recognized.
- The Court of Appeals has affirmed that “there is, as a general common law principle, a duty of procedural fairness lying on every public authority making an administrative decision which is not of a legislative nature and which affects the rights, privileges or interests of an individual.” (Court of Appeal Decision, Judge Larouche, March 26, 1996, P. 35).

Conclusions & Recommendations

- The 315 kV transmission line be built underground.
- The planned upgrading of the Saint-Jean substation with increased footprint be re-evaluated.
- A committee of residents, City of DDO officials and HQ representatives (as was done in Limoilou) be formed to steer the modifications required for this project.
- Delay project start date.