



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Bill 60
(1999, chapter 35)

**An Act respecting environmental
assessment of the proposed Churchill
River hydroelectric development**

**Introduced 13 May 1999
Passage in principle 8 June 1999
Passage 17 June 1999
Assented to 19 June 1999**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The object of this bill is to authorize the establishment, pursuant to an agreement, of a single process for the environmental assessment of the proposed Churchill River hydroelectric development.

The matters that may be dealt with in the agreement are specified as well as the effect of the agreement on the application of the Environment Quality Act and the regulations.

The financing of the implementation of the agreement is also provided for.

Bill 60

AN ACT RESPECTING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED CHURCHILL RIVER HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS :

1. The Minister of the Environment may, in accordance with the law, conclude an agreement with the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland in order to establish a single environmental assessment process for the Churchill River hydroelectric development proposed by Hydro-Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”).

Any interested Native party may also be a signatory to the agreement.

The agreement must be tabled in the National Assembly within ten days of its conclusion or, if the Assembly is not in session, within ten days of resumption.

2. The agreement concluded under section 1 may provide for the constitution of a body to be charged with conducting the single environmental assessment of the Project and specify the mode of operation of the body.

The agreement may also, having regard to the requirements of the Environment Quality Act (R.S.Q., chapter Q-2) and the regulations, stipulate conditions for the assessment of the environmental effects of the Project and for the holding, by the body, of public information and consultation sessions and public hearings on the Project.

The provisions of the agreement pertaining to the matters referred to in the first and second paragraphs shall be substituted for the provisions of the Environment Quality Act and the regulations pertaining to the same matters. Thus, the assessment of the environmental effects conducted and the public information and consultation sessions and public hearings held in accordance with the provisions of the agreement are deemed to meet the requirements of that Act and the regulations.

3. The sums required for the implementation of the agreement concluded under section 1 shall be taken out of the consolidated revenue fund, to the extent determined by the Government.

4. The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the administration of this Act.

5. This Act comes into force on the date to be fixed by the Government.