

*For immediate release*

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### **Hydro-Québec will refurbish Gentilly-2 nuclear generating station**

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Hydro-Québec will invest \$1.9 billion to refurbish Gentilly-2 nuclear generating station in Bécancour. Refurbishing the 675-MW plant will extend its operation until about 2040, allowing Hydro-Québec to keep a reliable asset that contributes significantly to the stability of its power grid. This generating facility, in commercial operation for 25 years, has another advantage: it does not produce any greenhouse-gas emissions.

#### **Project rationale**

After conducting many technical, economic and safety-related studies, Hydro-Québec has determined that it is justified to continue operating the existing facility. A reliable, continuous source of energy located near major load centres in the St. Lawrence Valley, Gentilly-2 generating station also plays an important role in maintaining the stability and reliability of Hydro-Québec's transmission grid. Its annual output is approximately 5 TWh—enough power to supply 270,000 homes. The unit cost of energy generated from 2012 onward will be 7.2¢/kWh. Since it is not subject to vagaries of the weather, Gentilly-2 helps diversify the company's generating portfolio and thus contributes to securing Quebecers' energy supply.

#### **The project**

The project has two components: refurbishment of Gentilly-2 nuclear generating station, commissioned in 1983, and construction of a solid radioactive waste management facility (SRWMF).

With regard to refurbishing the generating station, engineering and procurement will commence in 2008 and construction work will begin in 2011, with a return-to-service in 2012. Construction activities consist in refurbishing the reactor, the turbo-generator unit, as well as the control and support systems.

Construction work on the SRWMF is divided into four phases. Phase 1, already under way, will meet the plant's immediate operating requirements with the building of storage units for low- and medium-level solid radioactive waste. Phase 2 will

provide storage for radioactive waste arising from plant refurbishment work. The other phases will meet the plant's needs until the end of its operating life.

Every day, more than 800 employees work to ensure the safe, secure operation of Gentilly-2 generating station. All personnel adhere to a strict, safety-oriented operational framework based on commitment and teamwork, with a view to protecting public health and the environment. Employees who participate in the plant's operation and refurbishment scrupulously comply with the standards, regulations and legislation in effect. All Hydro-Québec employees are subject to radiological monitoring to ensure their personal safety and security. The same protective measures apply at all times to the employees of contractors, who must also take part in appropriate training programs.

### **Regional economic spinoffs**

The operation of Gentilly-2 generating station produces direct regional spinoffs of approximately \$100 million in the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec region. The project will make it possible to maintain these spinoffs.

The refurbishment project will result in approximately \$600 million in spinoffs for Québec as a whole—one third of them in the host region. Refurbishment of the generating station alone will create about 800 jobs over a 20-month period, in addition to the facility's current staff. To maximize regional economic impacts, Hydro-Québec will continue to work with the regional economic benefits committee, whose mandate is to facilitate communication and discussion with business people in the community.

For more information on the Gentilly-2 refurbishment, click [here](#).