



Pan-Canada Perspectives/Quebec

Spring 2026

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Pipeline Projects in Quebec

Two energy projects presented as green are currently in the news in Quebec. Here is a brief overview.

Coastal LNG Facility

The Norwegian company Marinvest Energy wants to build a gas export complex in Baie-Comeau on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. This project is very like the one that the Quebec and Canadian governments rejected five years ago, following two environmental assessments. Methane, extracted by fracking in Alberta, would be transported through the Canadian LNG pipeline network to a new 1,000-km pipeline to be built across northern Quebec, at the expense of the boreal forest and waterways. The methane would be processed at the Baie-Comeau gas liquefaction plant and exported to Europe by sea. <https://www.ledevoir.com/actualites/environnement/985505/marinvest-energy-salue-volonte-canada-exporter-gnl-europe>

This project is similar to the Ksi Lisms LNG project, designated as being of “national interest” by the Canadian government. Ksi Lisms is controlled by an American company that wants to export methane to Asia from the Pacific coast.

Hydrogen Pipeline

A high-pressure hydrogen pipeline could be built in the Buckingham sector of Gatineau. The 22-km pipeline would originate from the ERCO chemical compound plant, whose operations produce residual hydrogen. It would run alongside residential areas of Buckingham to inject “green” hydrogen into the natural gas distribution network. <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/2052441/gazifere-hydrogene-conduite-gatineau>

Enbridge Gas has been developing this project since 2021. Although hydrogen is a highly explosive molecule, the Quebec government decided not to submit the project to a Bureau d'audiences publiques en environnement (BAPE). The Buckingham Residents' Association is actively working to obtain a risk analysis of the project.

<https://www.ledroit.com/actualites/actualiteslocales/gatineau/2026/06/05/hydrogene-a-buckingham-enbridge-coupe-la-communication-avec-les-citoyens-TPTZZP5TPZARLK5VLNICLUZWC4/>

The burial and transport of nuclear waste are raising concerns in Quebec.

Nuclear energy does not emit greenhouse gases (GHGs), but the radioactive waste it produces cannot be disposed of, only accumulates, and remains toxic for tens of thousands of years. The proposed near-surface nuclear waste repository at Chalk River in Ontario, 1 km from the Ottawa River, is being criticized in Quebec because it threatens the drinking water of hundreds of municipalities, including Gatineau and Montreal, located downstream. This project is being carried out by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL), to which the government entrusted the governance of nuclear sites and laboratories in 2015. It should be noted that CNL is managed by a consortium of American companies, some of which are linked to the American defense sector.

Kebaowek First Nation is waging a legal battle against LNC because their project threatens the water, biodiversity, and territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe. They are supported by citizen groups and members of the Bloc Québécois. In August 2025, these members denounced the transport of radioactive waste from Gentilly, which had taken place that summer, from the south shore of the St. Lawrence River to Chalk River along Quebec roads, without public consultation or notification to the population.

As Ontario accelerates its nuclear development, Quebec is considering a possible return to nuclear power. It is worth noting that the Gentilly-1 experimental reactor operated for only a few months in 1970, and that the reactors at the Gentilly-2 plant were shut down in 2012 after less than 30 years of operation. In 2024, Hydro-Québec indicated that a reopening could be considered after 2035.

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/2045564/nucleaire-hydro-quebec-etude-snc-gentilly-centrale>

According to Jean-Pierre Finet, an analyst with the Quebec Network of Environmental Energy Organizations (Regroupement des organismes environnementaux en énergie), “adding low-carbon production should not be confused with decarbonization...It's primarily a pretext for further industrialization.” <https://www.ledevoir.com/actualites/environnement/984554/atome-revient-debat-energetique-quebecois>