

Notice of Determination

Mai 12th, 2026 – Transport Canada has determined that the replacement of the suspension cables on the Pierre-Laporte Bridge is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

This determination was based on a consideration of the following factors:

- Impacts on rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Indigenous knowledge;
- Community knowledge;
- Comments received from the public; and
- Technically and economically feasible mitigation measures.

Mitigation measures taken into account for this determination are:

Water Quality

- The construction of temporary structures in aquatic environments is prohibited.
- No machinery is permitted to operate on the shoreline or banks of a lake or watercourse (including the St. Lawrence River).
- Before work begins, the contractor must install protective perimeter barriers (temporary fencing) around wetlands, aquatic environments, and other sensitive areas as described in the following sections and at locations identified by the supervisor, if applicable.
- It is prohibited to push, blow, or deposit snow on a lake, watercourse, riparian zone, or wetland. The contractor must remove and transport the snow for disposal at a snow disposal site authorized under section 22 of the LQE.
- The contractor must use a biodegradable hydraulic fluid for machinery operated within 10 meters of a wetland or the shoreline of a lake or watercourse (including the St. Lawrence River), even if the work is carried out on dry land.
- Secure parts used for assembling and installing platforms to prevent them from falling into the water.
- Install protective nets and secure equipment and tools.
- The contractor must take the appropriate protective measures as described in sections 7.1 to 7.3 of Specification 130 and sections 16.10 to 16.10.3 of the PCPMO to ensure the health and safety of workers and to protect the environment.
- The contractor is responsible for managing waste in accordance with the LQE and the Hazardous Materials Regulation.

- The contractor must provide a control program for exposure to lead and other toxic metals to ensure the health and safety of workers and protect the environment.
- Set up containment enclosures to collect dust and debris generated during the work that may contain lead.
- Implement a lead management procedure to prevent contamination outside the enclosure, as required by the RSST (changing area, shower, etc.). The goal is to ensure that the contaminant (lead) is not transferred outside the work site.
- Waste that may contain lead and contaminated equipment (gloves, etc.) must be transported safely and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.
- The contractor must develop an effective emergency response plan for environmental incidents, spills, or fires, taking into account the characteristics and constraints of the construction site and its surroundings, and distribute it to all relevant parties, including the departmental representative. Ensure that the response plan includes, at a minimum, a response diagram and an alert structure, and that it is posted in an easily accessible location visible to all employees.
- The Environmental Protection Action Plan (EPAP) must include the names of the individuals and authorities to contact, as well as the measures to be implemented in the event of a spill. This emergency plan must be submitted to Transport Canada at least five (5) business days before work begins.
- All personnel on the construction site must be fully trained in emergency response procedures in the event of a spill, as well as in the methods and use of relevant equipment and materials.
- The contractor must adapt its work methods to ensure that no demolition debris, waste, or foreign objects related to construction activities are discharged into the river, onto the traffic lanes of Champlain Boulevard, or onto the natural terrain beneath the bridge.

Soil Management

- Soil and other materials contaminated as a result of an accidental spill caused by the contractor must be managed in accordance with the MELCCFP Response Guide, the LQE, and the corresponding regulations.
- Work areas, job site facilities, and access points must be arranged in accordance with the constraints specified in the completed environmental characterization documents.
- It is prohibited to discharge waste materials into the environment.

Noise and Air Quality

- The work area must be organized so that the noisiest equipment is located as far as possible from sensitive buildings, or so that a barrier between the equipment and the buildings—such as construction trailers—acts as a noise barrier.
- Use machinery and equipment in good working order to minimize noise. Optimize maneuvers to minimize the duration of operations.
- The contractor must implement various mitigation measures to reduce noise generated by construction site activities, such as: optimizing the layout of the work area, reducing noise from stationary equipment, using broadband backup alarms, and employing sandblasting nozzles with silencers and acoustic screens.
- The contractor must comply with the provisions of Section 12.4, “Dust Control,” of the CCDG.
- Establish a safety program that specifies the signage to be installed and traffic restrictions in work areas.

Birds

- The contractor must take the necessary measures to comply with laws and regulations pertaining to migratory birds, including, but not limited to, the Species at Risk Act, the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, and the Migratory Birds Regulations. Among other things:
 - Minimize encroachment on the natural environment as much as possible.
 - Special care must be taken to avoid disturbing or destroying any migratory bird nests.
 - Avoid approaching or disturbing any birds or bird nests if they are observed during the work.
- Before work begins, check for waterfowl nests on the structures where the work will take place. If one or more nests are found, immediately notify the ministry representative before beginning work. If one or more nests are found, immediately notify the departmental representative before beginning work. If a nest containing eggs or chicks of migratory birds is discovered near or within the work area, stop all noisy activities near the nesting site and protect the nest(s) by establishing a buffer zone. Immediately contact the departmental representative, who will contact the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) at ECCC to ensure that the appropriate measures are taken.

Navigation

- Implement and monitor the requirements of the approval issued under the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.

Transport Canada is satisfied that the carrying out of the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, Transport Canada can exercise any power, or perform any duty or function, to enable the project to be carried out.