

2026-04-17 - Notice of Decision – Estacade, pier and deck repairs, Phase 2

A study conducted by The Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated (JCCBI) has determined that the *Estacade, pier and deck repairs project (Phase 2)* is not likely to have any major adverse environmental effects.

This determination is based on the following factors:

- impacts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- scientific knowledge;
- comments received from the public;
- technically and economically feasible mitigation measures.

Stakeholders were taken into account in the study, particularly with regard to navigation, access to and the accessibility of the bicycle path, marine safety, and protection of fish habitats.

Effective mitigation measures are planned for each potential environmental impact. The project includes various measures for protecting the natural environment, fauna and flora, nuisance control measures, and protection of species with a special status. Here are a few examples of the key mitigation measures developed specifically for this project:

- Discharge of suspended materials into water: implementation of an erosion and sediment control plan; storage of materials away from the river; covering or stabilizing stored materials; removal of excess materials after work is completed.
- Water quality and spill risk: environmental protection plan and spill response plan; equipment maintenance; refuelling away from the waterway (except where approved) and provision of spill kits.
- Work in aquatic environments (cofferdams): installation of a turbidity curtain or other control device; treatment/filtration of pumped water before discharge; sampling at the outlet of the treatment device; cofferdam design verified for winter conditions, if applicable.
- Fish habitats: conducting work in the water outside of sensitive periods; capturing and releasing fish under the supervision of a biologist as needed; installing screens at the inlets of the pumping lines.
- Fauna and flora (including species at risk): daily inspection of work areas; protection of material stockpiles; management measures for nesting birds (for example, monitoring and/or protective measures as needed); cleaning of equipment to prevent the spread of invasive alien species.
- Air, noise and vibrations: best worksite practices (dust control, idling restrictions, equipment maintenance); compliance with municipal by-laws; noise reduction measures (mufflers, acoustic enclosures) and vibration reduction as needed.

The project contributes to sustainability by enabling the conservation of an important multi-use infrastructure, including a bicycle path, a multipurpose path, and access for emergency vehicles. This structure is also home to a large colony of cliff swallows.

Residual and cumulative effects were taken into account in this analysis. By implementing mitigation measures and a comprehensive environmental monitoring program, the project is not expected to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Finally, JCCBI has also retained a firm

specializing in worksite supervision to continuously monitor the work and ensure compliance with the planned mitigation measures.

In light of the analysis carried out, JCCBI will move forward and allow the project to be carried out, in whole or in part.