

James Bay

seen as test

on environment

OTTAWA (CP) — The man in charge of assessing the environmental impact of Quebec's massive James Bay hydroelectric project admitted Wednesday no one is sure just what its impact on the environment will be.

"We are using this project as an experience to see what will happen," Alain Soucy said in an interview. "We have about \$100 million to spend over the next three years on remedial action, though."

The head of the James Bay Energy Corporation's environment department said that even if there were severe environmental problems caused by the project it would not be curtailed.

"We can't change the scale of the project or it will not work," he explained.

Since the James Bay hydroelectric project was announced in 1971 environmentalists have been worried about its effects.

In 1973 engineer-scientist Hans Neu of the Bedford Institute in Halifax said the project may even affect the climate of the Maritimes.