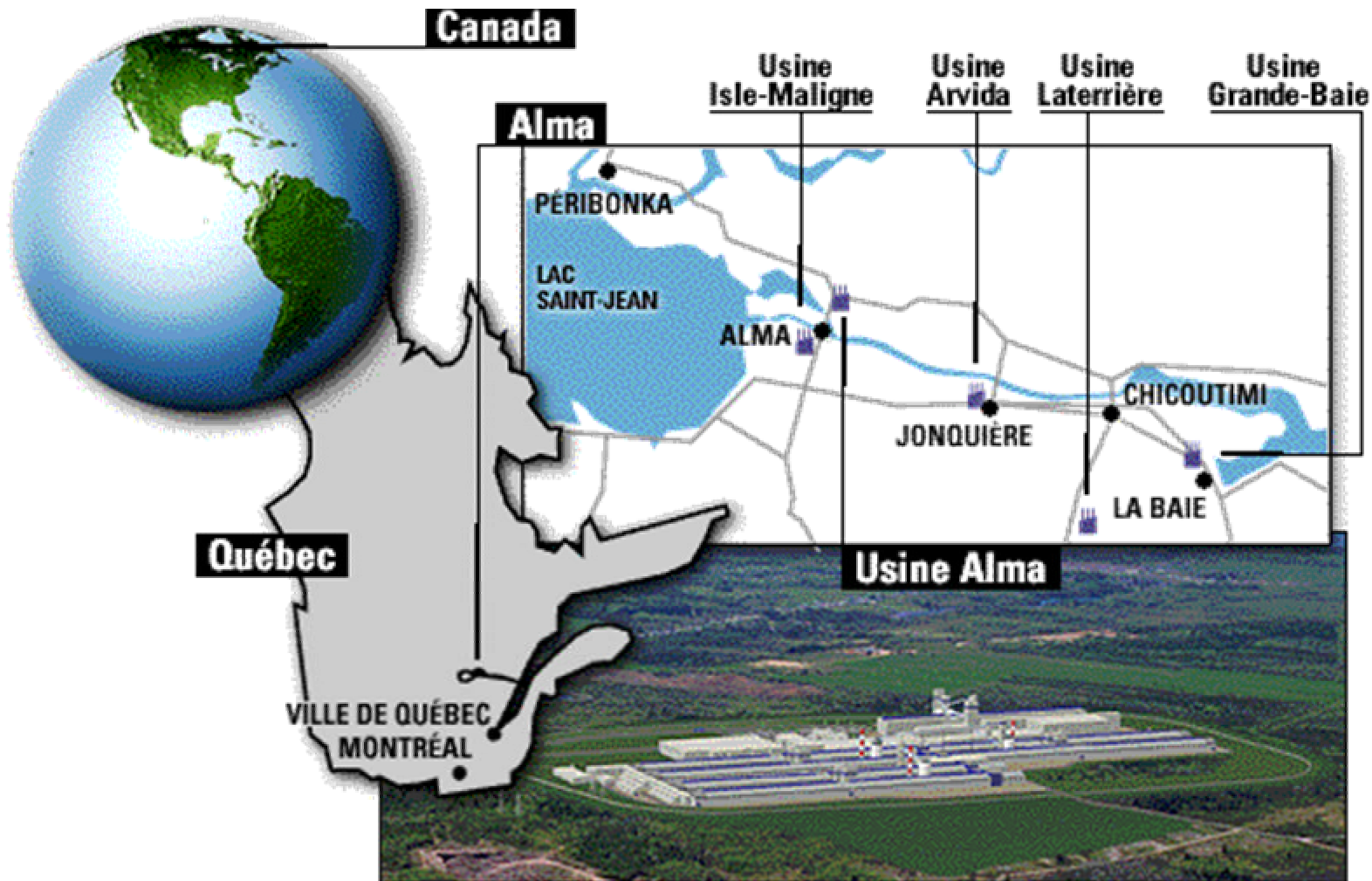# HOLDER PARTICIPATION TO SSESSMENT AND FOLLOW UP: EMPORWERMENT OR AN OTHER CIATE PROJECT ACCEPTANCE?

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in Chicoutimi

ation for Impact Assessment   Vancouver 2004

THE PROJECT

Source : Site Web Alcan aluminium Ltée http://www.alcan.com

THE PROJECT

Source : Alcan, 2001

EMPIRICAL OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

To what extent the participation of stakeholders:

- contributes to the identification of environmental and social impacts in the planning and management of an industrial project,

- helps in the dialogue between stakeholders,

- contributes to a more equitable arbitration of conflicting interests,

- contributes to a better distribution of power among stakeholders in the sense of providing social control over changes at the local level.

The tacit agreement between the community and the promoter concerning the project superseded any consideration that would have risen from the EIA process.

All things considered, those attitudes raise questions about the efficiency of participation strategies based only on individual initiatives and willingness of stakeholders to express their concerns or opinion openly in a consultation or in committee.

Participation in the EIA did not foster thinking in the community based on analysis of foreseen impacts of the project.

The consultations held on the project had very limited effect on structuring the impact assessment and many concerns raised by participants remaining unanswered.

The public hearing did not add new comprehension on the impact of the project concerning new concerns raised by participants, and therefore did not fill the gap of the impact assessment report, particularly concerning considerations related to public health and social impacts

CONCLUSION

Participation:

- can encourage a reassertion of control and power by dominant individuals and groups,

- it can lead to reification of social norms through self-surveillance and consensus-building,

- it purifies knowledge and the spaces of participation through the codification, classification and control of information, and its analysis and representation.

CONCLUSION

Without an approach to really integrate the concerns of stakeholders in the environmental impact assessment and the follow-up process, and to establish a real follow-up procedure that does not only verify conformity to the established plan, the contribution of stakeholders will remain very limited and will cause distrust in participative processes.