



A reduced call for tenders for railway structures

● NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ - After cancelling one of the four major calls for tenders launched last December, the Quebec government has finally launched a call for proposals to repair various railway structures, but has reduced the scope of the contract.

Initially, the call for tenders was for the repair or construction of nine infrastructures, but the quote request now only covers a small bridge in Pabos Mills, the Grand Pabos River bridge, the Pabos River bridge, the Barachois bridge and the road bridge on Highway 132 in Barachois.

The Ministry of Transport has removed the four retaining walls in Anse-à-Beaufils and Sandy Beach from the project.

The ministry indicates that the revised contract is esti-



The Barachois Bridge.

Photo: N. Sergerie

mated at over \$50 million. For the first contract involving nine structures, only Pomerleau had submitted a bid of \$104 million.

In early June, the ministry announced that it was analyzing different possibilities considering only one bidder

submitted a proposal.

The option of splitting the contract was finally retained, as indicated by our sources.

In addition, a fifth deadline has been added for the opening of bids for the last of the four major calls for tenders launched on March 21

for the rehabilitation of the rail between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé.

The new date is now set for August 9, while the proposals were originally to be opened on April 22 and postponed four times thereafter.

The work consists of re-

pairing two bridges in Gascons, one between Gascons and Newport, another in Newport and one in Douglas-town. In addition, the bridge between Grande-Rivière and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé must be replaced. A retaining wall in Pabos Mills is also part of the bid.

So far, two of the four major contracts have been awarded. A first was concluded with the Séma group of Sainte-Flavie for the rehabilitation of the bridges over Grande-Rivière and Anse-à-Brillant. The Émile-Couture stream bridges in Grande-Rivière and the beach in Gaspé will be rebuilt for \$74.9 million.

The Stellaire construction company of Saint-Augustin-Desmaures was awarded a \$37 million contract for repairing six bridges in Pabos Mills, Pabos and Anse-à-Beaufils.