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DATE:	406 A: July 26, 2022	406 B: July 27, 2022
	406 C: July 28, 2022	406 D: August 11, 2022
PLACE:	Video conference (Teams)	
PRESENT:	Luc Lainé, Chairman Daniel Berrouard, Québec Robert Joly, Québec John Paul Murdoch, CNG Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary	
ABSENT:	Luc Lainé (406 A)	

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 405th meeting

The minutes of the 405th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 405th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from June 15 to July 26, 2022 are presented in Appendix A.

4) Meeting 406 A: July 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, CELC

Ref. No.: 3214-14-053

- a) Environmental and social impact assessment
- b) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- c) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- d) Follow-up on public hearings - Questions and comments
- e) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- f) Preliminary review report
 - i) For recommendation

A second version of the review report for the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project was submitted to COMEX for reconsideration. Following comments and questions submitted by the MELCC and CNG analysts, COMEX is waiting on verification of certain aspects of the project. A third version of the report will be submitted for COMEX's review and approval at the next meeting.

5) Extension of Route 167 North to the Otish Mountains, Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ)

Ref. No.: 3214-05-077

- a) Answers to questions and comments – Follow-up on conditions of the CA
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, the Review Committee (COMEX) received the answers to the questions and comments sent to the proponent on January 15, 2018, regarding the MTQ's project to extend Route 167 North to the Otish Mountains. The goal was to determine whether the proponent's answers constituted sufficient follow-up on the authorization conditions.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and were satisfied with the proponent's answers to the questions concerning conditions 4, 7, 20 and 23. COMEX considers that these conditions have been met.

WHEREAS COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator with its comments regarding the following conditions:

Condition 5: Installation of signs at the limits of wildlife reserves

Although it was determined that the proponent had answered the question in a satisfactory manner, the signs don't appear to have been installed in 2021, presumably because the Nibiischii national park was still being created. The proponent had pledged to post the signs. In order to meet condition 5, the proponent must confirm that signs have been posted at the limits of Albanel-Mistassini-and-Waconichi Lakes wildlife reserve and the Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish (now Nibiischii) park.

Condition 6: Creation of a special hunting and fishing zone

Although it was determined that the proponent had answered the question in a satisfactory manner, having provided the requested update, discussions with the stakeholders, in particular the Cree Regional Administrator and the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee, have not yet begun. The proponent says that it will provide the follow-up on this condition at a later date. COMEX is still waiting to receive this follow-up.

Condition 24: Woodland caribou protection

In 2018, COMEX asked the proponent to submit the results of the woodland caribou monitoring program. The proponent says that discussions with the stakeholders, in particular the Cree Regional Administrator and the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee, have not yet begun. The proponent says that it will provide the follow-up on this condition at a later date. COMEX is still waiting to receive this follow-up.

#2022-0726-01: write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like more information from the proponent regarding condition 5. In addition, COMEX will inform the Administrator that it is waiting to receive the follow-up reports for conditions 6 and 24.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Request additional information from the proponent

6) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project

Ref. No.: 3214-10-017

- a) Water quality monitoring in the Rupert and Nemiscau rivers – 2017
 - For information

WHEREAS on January 14, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the water quality monitoring report (2017) for the Rupert and Nemiscau rivers. The monitoring was a requirement of condition 6.6 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization issued on July 28, 2008.

Following the partial diversion of Rupert River in November 2009, Hydro-Québec had to monitor the quality of water in the Rupert and Nemiscau rivers downstream of the Rupert diversion bay based on domestic uses, not including drinking water. The following parameters were measured: colour, turbidity and suspended solids (SS) concentrations.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent, including the monitoring results since 2008, and considering that the monitoring conducted achieved the set objective of determining changes in water quality related to domestic use. The monitoring results are consistent with the assumptions noted regarding the project's potential impacts on the water quality of the Rupert and Nemiscau rivers. However, some perceptions regarding the quality of the water persist within the Cree community. In fact, these perceptions are mentioned in other reports produced by Hydro-Québec following consultations with Cree land users. COMEX will comment on the matter after it analyzes and reviews these reports.

#2022-0726-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

7) Extension of access roads “H, Section west” and “I” (Phase II), Matériaux Blanchet inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-05-075

- a) Application to amend the certificate of authorization
- b) Additional information (proponent's answers to QC01)
 - For recommendation

COMEX is waiting to receive more documents, including the report on woodland caribou produced by Martin Hughes Saint-Laurent (UQAR), before continuing its review of this project. The project will be discussed at a future date.

8) Meeting 406 B: July 27, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion of cumulative impacts and actions proposed by the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) – JBACE participants: Graeme Morin (analyst), Suzie Boudreau and Marc Dunn

The JBACE conducted a diagnostic analysis of issues and potential solutions related to assessment and consideration of cumulative impacts in development projects subject to environmental and social impact assessment and review under Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) and in the context of land use planning and the regional policy.

The goal of the meeting was to have an open discussion on the four courses of action identified in the diagnostic analysis to better guide the JBACE's future activities and efforts. The aim is to focus the JBACE's efforts on relevant, achievable and practical targets.

During the meeting, it was mentioned that creating a database or other methodological aspects of the traditional approach to cumulative impact assessment would be laudable, but would not necessarily inform decision making. Instead, it would be worth exploring developing a tool designed to take into consideration the environmental and social support capacity of a specific area or region for new projects. The COMEX members suggested that the JBACE's efforts could be better placed by focusing on the regional policy and land use planning.

9) Other business

a. Annual Report 2021-2022

COMEX's Annual Report 2021-2022 was adopted unanimously.

#2022-0726-03: Adoption of Annual Report 2021-2022.

Action: Send the report to the administrators, the JBACE and other relevant organizations as well as to the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers. Publish the report on COMEX's website

b. Office québécois de la langue française: Exemption from the francization process

On July 6, 2022, COMEX was notified by the Office québécois de la langue française that it is exempt from the francization process pursuant to section 95 of the *Charter of the French Language*. Sophie Cooper will inform the Office québécois de la langue française that COMEX would like to receive an official attestation of exemption from the francization process.

- c. **Preliminary review report: Project to connect the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mine and relocate a segment of the 315-kV line**

A preliminary version of the report was sent to COMEX and will be reviewed soon.

- d. **Interview request: Sébastien Girard Lindsay, University of Ottawa**

On July 13, 2022, COMEX received an interview request from Mr. Lindsay, a doctoral candidate in public administration at the University of Ottawa. He'd like to interview a COMEX member about the application and implementation of the Québec government's mine remediation policy, particularly in relation to the Principale mine in Chibougamau. Daniel Berrouard volunteered to meet with Mr. Lindsay. Sophie Cooper will contact Mr. Lindsay to set up the meeting.

- e. **Projects on the agenda for the meetings in September and October:**

- Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, CELC
- James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project, Hydro -Québec
- Bachelor Mine Project, Bonterra Resources

10) 405C meeting: July 28, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-055

- a) Environmental and social impact assessment
- b) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- c) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- d) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- e) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
 - For recommendation

After reviewing the proponent's answers to the 4th set of questions and comments, COMEX discussed the MELCC and GNC analysts' comments and determined a strategy for the following steps. Sophie Cooper will draft a letter to the Provincial Administrator and submit it to the members for review at the COMEX meeting on August 11, 2022.

11) 406 D meeting: August 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-055

- f) Environmental and social impact assessment
- g) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- h) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- i) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- j) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on November 7, 2018, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for its recommendation, the environmental and social impact assessment for the above-mentioned project. Additional information was received on July 31, 2019 (answers QC1) and June 2, 2020 (answers QC2). An update to the impact assessment and a third set of information (answers QC3) were received on July 14, 2021. A fourth set of information (answers QC4) was received on April 22, 2022, along with the amended restoration plan.

WHEREAS COMEX reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and is waiting to receive information previously requested or announced by the proponent concerning various aspects of the project that will enable the committee to take the next step, namely organizing and holding public hearings on the project.

#2022-0726-04: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like to obtain information from the proponent.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Request additional information from the proponent

12) Next meeting

COMEX will hold its next meeting by video conference on September 20, 2022.

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: June 15 to July 26, 2022					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Construction of access roads “H, Section west” and “I,” Matériaux Blanchet inc. Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Luc Lainé COMEX	Chief Marcel Happyjack Cree First Nation of Waswanipi	Permission to publish on COMEX’s website	Sent: June 16, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Ryan Trapper Cree First Nation of Waswanipi	Sophie Cooper COMEX	Email reply	Sent: July 5, 2022 Received by COMEX: July 5, 2022	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Follow-up on conditions of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006	Sent: February 14, 2022	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: June 20, 2022 Received by COMEX: June 20, 2022	
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Maud Ablain MELCC	Maryse Godin Stornoway Diamonds	Questions and comments – Environmental and social monitoring reports, 2018, 2019 and 2020	Sent: June 21, 2022	
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Maud Ablain MELCC	Maryse Godin Stornoway Diamonds	Questions and comments – Surface water and sediment quality monitoring reports, 2017 to 2019	Sent: June 21, 2022	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Benoit Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Follow-up on conditions of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006	Sent: February 17, 2022	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: June 28, 2022 Received by COMEX: June 29, 2022	

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: June 15 to July 26, 2022					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
CC22.1 - Portrait climatique EIBJ-Nunavik-AT, Ministère des Transports	Blanche Paré MTQ	Sophie Cooper COMEX	Final research report	Sent: July 5, 2022 Received by COMEX: July 6, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Francization process	Sandra Bergeron Office québécois de la langue française	Luc Lainé COMEX	Exemption from the francization process pursuant to s. 95 of the <i>Charter of the French Language</i>	Sent: July 6, 2022 Received by COMEX: July 6, 2022	
Whabouchi project: development and operation of a spodumene deposit in the James Bay territory, Nemaska Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Denis Isabel Nemsaka Lithium Inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Environmental and social monitoring report, 2021	Sent: June 27, 2022	<i>For information</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: July 7, 2022 Received by COMEX: July 7, 2022	
Construction of access roads “H, Section west” and “I,” Matériaux Blanchet inc. Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Luc Lainé COMEX	Jocelyn Sauvageau EACOM	Permission to publish on COMEX’s website	Sent: July 15, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 20, 2022	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Sophie Cooper COMEX	Request to meet with COMEX	Sent: July 21, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 25, 2022	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project – Permanent housing complex on the Eastmain-1 temporary workcamp site, Société d’Énergie de la Baie-James (SEBJ) Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Nourredine Moucef SEBJ	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: June 17, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: July 25, 2022 Received by COMEX: July 25, 2022	

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Correspondence and follow-up: June 15 to July 26, 2022					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Follow-up on conditions of the certificate of authorization	Sent: July 25, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 26, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>