



la Convention
de la Baie James
et du Nord québécois

**Comité d'examen des répercussions
sur l'environnement et le milieu social**

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**MINUTES OF THE
408th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Adopted)**

DATE: 408: November 2, 2022

PLACE: Video conference (Teams)

PRESENT: Luc Lainé, Chairman
Daniel Berrouard, Québec
Robert Joly, Québec
John Paul Murdoch, CNG
Lucas Del Vecchio, CNG

Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary

1) Word of welcome and introduction of a new COMEX member

Lucas Del Vecchio, member appointed by the Cree Nation Government

2) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3) Adoption of the minutes of the 407th meeting

The minutes of the 407th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 407th meeting minutes

4) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from September 21 to November 2, 2022 are presented in Appendix A.

5) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project

Ref. No.: 3214-10-017

- a) 2015 monitoring report on Rupert River bank dynamics – Volumes 1 and 2
- b) Study of the riverbanks right and upstream of the eight structures on Rupert River – Volumes 1 and 2 – 2018 monitoring report
 - For information

WHEREAS on September 27, 2016 and June 28, 2022, respectively, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the 2015 and 2018 monitoring reports on Rupert River bank dynamics. The monitoring was a requirement of condition 5.1 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization issued on July 28, 2008.

The bank study was initiated in 2011 for the purpose of addressing concerns regarding frequent high water levels upstream of structures during spring flood. The monitoring objectives were to update maps of riverbanks and active zones, identify and locate sensitive areas (e.g. erosion zones and their stabilization) and assess medium- and long-term bank trends (e.g. bank erosion and stabilization, change in sediment transport, turbidity) relative to the management method. During the 2018 monitoring campaign, special attention was paid to the left bank of Rupert River between KP 244 and KP 245, as the community of Nemaska was concerned about erosion.

Based on the data collected, erosion upstream of the hydraulic structures is concentrated primarily in three of the eight river segments studied, that is, those upstream of sills at KP 33, KP 110 and KP 223. These segments include clayey and sandy banks exposed to strong waves. Little erosion has been observed in the remaining five stretches of the river, with no significant increase noted during the study, except for upstream of sill KP 170. The erosion of sandy slopes on the left bank of Rupert River,

between KP 244 and KP 245, is of concern. It is recommended that the proponent plan mitigation measures for these specific stretches of the river with a view to bank stabilization using vegetation or mechanical methods.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and consider that the monitoring conducted achieved the set objective. However, certain stretches were identified as being prone to erosion over the medium or long term. COMEX will recommend that the proponent propose mitigation measures to minimize the impacts of erosion on the targeted bank stretches.

#2022-1102-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like additional information from the proponent.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Request additional information

- c) Monitoring of the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the Sarcelle powerhouse – 2017 monitoring report
- d) Monitoring of the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the Sarcelle powerhouse – 2019 monitoring report
 - For information

WHEREAS on September March 12, 2020 and June 28, 2022, respectively, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the 2017 and 2019 monitoring reports on the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the Sarcelle powerhouse. The monitoring was a requirement of conditions 5.1 and 5.31 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization issued on July 28, 2008.

The spawning ground downstream of the Sarcelle powerhouse was developed in winter 2009. Although it was primarily designed for walleye, catostomids and lake whitefish, it is also a suitable spawning site for lake sturgeon. The specific monitoring objectives were to verify the physical integrity and utilization by walleye, suckers and lake sturgeon during the spring spawn and utilization by lake whitefish during the fall spawn.

The monitoring conducted in 2015, 2017 and 2019 confirmed utilization of the spawning ground by the target species (walleye, coregonids and catostomids). Lake sturgeon appear to spawn in the surrounding area, but do not necessarily favour the developed spawning ground. However, persistent silting was observed. During the monitoring in 2017, silting covered 28% of the spawning ground. In 2019, an estimated 38% of the spawning ground was affected by silting. The presence of algae or deposits can reduce the quality of spawning substrate in terms of attraction or successful egg development. No remedial measures were proposed by the proponent to deal with gradual silting up of the spawning ground.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and will recommend that Hydro-Québec specify what measures are planned to monitor silting up of the spawning ground so that the site remains effective over the long term.

#2022-1102-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and would like additional information from the proponent.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Request additional information

- e) Monitoring of brook trout enhancements and fish passes in Rupert River – 2015 monitoring report
 - For information

WHEREAS on September 13, 2017, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the 2015 monitoring report on the brook trout enhancements and fish passes in Rupert River. The monitoring was a requirement of conditions 5.1 and 5.24 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization issued on July 28, 2008.

The specific monitoring objectives were to verify the physical integrity and utilization of the spawning grounds developed for brook trout as well as the physical integrity and compliance of flow conditions in the fish passes at KP 223 and KP 290. The results show that brook trout use the spawning grounds and that the latter were still effective in subsequent monitoring campaigns. Despite leaching in certain spots, the enhancements apparently still meet the design objectives.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and find that the enhancements meet the conditions stipulated in the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006. The members have no comments to submit.

#2022-1102-03: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) Connecting the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mine and relocating a segment of the 315-kV line

Ref. No.: 3214-09-028

- a) Environmental Impact Statement
- b) Additional information (answers to questions)
- c) Review Report
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS in April 2019, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for its recommendation, the Environmental Impact Statement for the project to connect the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mine and relocate a segment of the 315-kV line. After reviewing the EIS, COMEX put together questions and comments in October 2018, to which the proponent responded in May 2019.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent with respect to this project and recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the project, subject to conditions. The review report will be enclosed with the letter and stipulate the conditions governing the carrying out of the project.

#2022-1102-04: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that he authorize the project, subject to conditions (conditions set out in the review report).*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Transmit a recommendation**

7) Other business

a. Extension of forest roads H and I: Meeting with Mr. St-Laurent

COMEX and Mr. St-Laurent have not met yet. Sophie Cooper will suggest another date for a meeting with Mr. St-Laurent (UQAR) to discuss the main findings of his woodland caribou report to be released.

b. Public hearings in Eastmain and Matagami for Galaxy Lithium's James Bay Lithium Mine Project – Status report

COMEX is waiting to receive a letter from Chief Kenneth Cheezo, Cree Nation of Eastmain, about holding public hearings on Allkem/Galaxy Lithium's lithium mine project.

c. Letter of congratulations to Marie-Josée Lizotte and invitation to meet with the COMEX members, and letter to Marc Croteau

COMEX will send a letter of congratulations to Marie-Josée Lizotte, the new Deputy Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

(MELCCFP) and Provincial Administrator of the JBNQA. The letter will also invite the Provincial Administrator to meet with the COMEX members. A thank-you letter will be sent to Marc Croteau.

d. Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled in December and January

- James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project
- Bachelor Mine Project, Bonterra Resources (waiting for answers from the proponent)
- Quarry project near LG3, Hydro-Québec
- AMENCA – Expansion of Quarry C-02 – Éléonore Mine
- Whabouchi Project – Restoration plan, Environmental and social monitoring in 2021 and Prolonged use of the temporary camp (AMENCA)

8) Next meeting

The next COMEX meeting will be held by video conference on December 5, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up: September 21 to November 2, 2022

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Supplementary information to the impact assessment – Addenda	Sent: September 8, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: September 22, 2022 Received by COMEX: September 22, 2022	
Cree -Québec Forestry Board	Hervé Deschênes CQFB	Luc Lainé COMEX	CQFB Annual Report 2021-2022	Sent: September 22, 2022 Received by COMEX: September 22, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation	Sent: September 23, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 26, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain	Jean-Sébastien Lavallée CELCC	Certificate of authorization	Sent: November 1, 2022 Received by COMEX: November 1, 2022	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Follow-up on conditions of the certificate of authorization	Sent: September 26, 2022 Received by COMEX: September 26, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	Luc Lainé COMEX	Benoît Dubreuil Regional Director IAAC	Collaboration request – COMEX’s reply	Sent: September 29, 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 condition 6.37 – Landscape monitoring and rock-painting	Sent: August 25, 2022	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: September 29, 2022 Received by COMEX: September 30, 2022	

Appendix A
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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Quarry over 3 ha in size near LG3, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-03-045	Guy Côté Hydro-Québec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Environmental and social impact assessment	Sent: September 16, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: October 5, 2022 Received by COMEX: October 5, 2022	
Expansion of quarry C-02 on the Éléonore property, Goldcorp Canada Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-042	Geneviève Pépin Newmont Canada	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Request to amend the certificate of authorization – Enlargement of a quarry	Sent: September 26, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: October 6, 2022 Received by COMEX: October 6, 2022	
Extension of forest roads "H, section West" and "I", Matériaux Blanchet inc. Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Luc Lainé COMEX	Martin-Hugues St-Laurent UQAR	Request to meet	Sent: October 7, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: October 11, 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 CA – Monitoring of lake trout spawning grounds – 2020 monitoring report	Sent: September 8, 2022	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: October 11, 2022 Received by COMEX: October 12, 2022	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information	Sent: October 7, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: October 18, 2022 Received by COMEX: October 19, 2022	

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up: September 21 to November 2, 2022

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Dewatering of pits J-4 and 87 on the former Troilus mine site, Troilus Gold Corp. Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Request to amend the CA – Recommendation	Sent: October 18, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: October 19, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information – Diagnosis of Kapisikama lake	Sent: October 21, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: October 31, 2022 Received by COMEX: November 1, 2022	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Follow-up on conditions of the certificate authorization	Sent: November 1, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: November 2, 2022	<i>For information</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Chief Kenneth Cheezo Cree Nation of Eastmain	Sophie Cooper COMEX	Invitation to hold public hearings in Eastmain in January 2023	Sent: November 2, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: November 2, 2022	