



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  
409th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
(Adopted)**

**DATE:** 409: December 5, 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) Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 408th meeting**

The minutes of the 408th meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 408th meeting minutes**

**3) Correspondence and follow-up action**

Correspondence and follow-up action from November 3 to December 5, 2022 are presented in Appendix A.

**4) Quarry C-02 expansion project, Éléonore mine site, Goldcorp Canada Ltd.**

**Ref. No.: 3214-14-042**

- a) Application to amend the certificate of authorization
  - For recommendation

WHEREAS on October 6, 2022, the Review Committee (COMEX) received the application to amend the global certificate of authorization issued for the quarry on the Éléonore mine site on November 10, 2011. The application seeks authorization to expand quarry C-02, which was already the object of amendments on February 11, 2013 and August 13, 2019.

Since 2014, quarry C-02 has provided granular material for maintenance of roads and mining infrastructure, in particular construction of the tailings site. The current application to amend the certificate of authorization flows from an inspection of quarry C-02 conducted in 2021 by Contrôle environnemental du Québec (CEQ). CEQ had notified the proponent of required changes to the geometry of the quarry's working face in order to comply with section 44 of the *Regulation respecting sand pits and quarries* (RSQ). The redevelopment and restoration options set out in section 44 of the RSQ stipulate that "the working face must be made up of benches not more than 10 m in height and of horizontal terraces at least 4 m in width." Considering that the quarry rock is friable, a number of the horizontal terraces no longer meet the 4-m-wide requirement. The purpose of the current application to expand quarry C-02 is to ensure compliance with the RSQ as well as an additional supply of aggregate for various mining activities.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and recommend that the requested amendment to the global certificate of authorization dated November 10, 2011 be authorized, given that the objective is to ensure that quarry C-02 meets the safety requirements of the RSQ and that no significant impacts are anticipated.

Whereas COMEX would like the proponent to be informed that it must also obtain an amendment to the authorization from the Direction régionale de l'analyse et de l'expertise of the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP), pursuant to section 30 of the *Environment Quality Act*.

**#2022-1205-01:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and recommend that the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization be authorized.*

**Action:**     **Write to the Provincial Administrator**  
                  **Send a recommendation to authorize the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization**

**5) Whabouchi Project – Prolonged use of the temporary camp, Nemaska Lithium**

**Ref. No.: 3214-14-052**

- a) Application to amend the certificate of authorization
  - For recommendation

WHEREAS on November 15, 2022, the Review Committee (COMEX) received the application to amend the global certificate of authorization issued for the Whabouchi mining project on September 8, 2015. The application seeks authorization to continue using the temporary camp (camp Z) on the Whabouchi mine site until December 2025.

On COMEX's recommendation, a certificate of authorization was issued on December 20, 2018, authorizing Nemaska Lithium to establish the temporary camp in question. The authorization subject to the proponent's compliance with the following conditions:

**Condition 1:**

The proponent's annual report must include, for information purposes, follow-up on the installation and effectiveness of the wastewater treatment system for the construction camp, as well as details on the temporary wastewater management measures in winter.

**Condition 2:**

In the event that the proponent wants to extend use or dismantling of the temporary camp beyond April 1, 2020, it must obtain approval from the Administrator.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and, given that there will be no change to either the camp's location or the drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities, COMEX recommends that the requested amendment to the global certificate of authorization issued for the Whabouchi project on September 8, 2015 be authorized to extend the use of the temporary camp from April 1, 2020 to December 1, 2025.

WHEREAS COMEX will recommend that condition 2 of the amended certificate of authorization dated December 20, 2018 be replaced by the following:

In the event that the proponent is required to use the temporary camp beyond December 1, 2025, it must apply to the Administrator for approval to continue using or to expand the camp.

WHEREAS COMEX wishes to point out that the proponent has submitted several applications for amendment to the global certificate of authorization, that the review of some of them is on hold at the proponent's request and that, consequently, the project timeline has changed since December 2019, COMEX recommends that the Provincial Administrator require the proponent to update the project timeline submitted in 2019 and submit it to her, for information purposes, along with a follow-up on the applications to amend the certificate of authorization that are on hold.

**#2022-1205-02:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent, recommend that the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization be authorized and would like additional information from the proponent concerning the project timeline.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**  
**Send a recommendation to authorize the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization and request additional information**

**6) James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium (Canada) 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)
- f) Supplementary information
- g) Public hearings

The COMEX members received updated information on the project, including technical notes the proponent submitted recently, including groundwater characterization for phosphorus concentrations, soil characterization for Cr VI levels, a Kapisikama Lake study and the report on air dispersion modelling in English. COMEX is still waiting to receive the report in French.

The documents submitted by the proponent provide missing information needed to hold public hearings. A number of elements still need to be clarified by the proponent.

**7) Other business**

- a. **Forest roads H and I: Meeting with Mr. St-Laurent**

COMEX held a video conference meeting with Martin Hugues St-Laurent (UQAR) on November 24, 2022. Mr. St-Laurent informed the committee that his report on Québec's woodland caribou population is not yet available. It is up to the client (CNG) to decide to release it or not. However, he said he would send the executive secretary scientific articles he thinks might interest the COMEX members, as well as a brief he contributed to that was submitted during the public hearings held by the Commission Indépendante sur les caribous forestiers et montagnards in spring 2022.

In the coming weeks, COMEX will adopt a position on the report as well as on the outcome of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15).

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

The executive secretary brought the members up to speed on the preparations for the public hearings. Denis Couture, Head of Canadian Operations for Allkem/Galaxy Lithium, confirmed that he would attend the pre-hearing meeting with COMEX, scheduled for January 10, 2023.

**c. Projects on the agenda for the next meetings (2023)**

- James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project
- Bachelor Mine Project, Bonterra Resources (under review)
- Quarry project near LG3, Hydro-Québec (under review)
- Whabouchi Mine – Restoration Plan, Environmental and social monitoring in 2021
- Renard Diamond Mine – Environmental and social monitoring in 2021

**8) Next meeting**

The next three COMEX meetings will be held on January 24, 2023, in Eastmain, and on February 15 and March 29, 2023, by video conference.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: November 3 to December 5, 2022**

| Project   | From  | To                                       | Document   | Date  | Action - Comments         |
|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| Renard Diamond Project,<br>Stornoway Diamond<br>(Canada) Inc.<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-041  | Anissa Amri<br>Stornoway Diamonds<br>Inc.       | Marc Croteau<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCC | Environmental and Social<br>Monitoring Program – Annual<br>Monitoring Report, 2021                                   | Sent: April 15, 2022  | <i>For information</i>    |
|   | Maud Ablain<br>MELCCFP                          | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                       |  | Sent: November 8, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: November 8, 2022   |                           |
| James Bay Lithium Mine<br>Project,<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium<br>(Canada) Inc.<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-055   | Denis Couture<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium          | Marc Croteau<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCC | Additional information<br>– Air Dispersion Modeling  | Sent: October 21, 2022  | <i>For recommendation</i> |
|   | Maud Ablain<br>MELCCFP                          | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                       |  | Sent: November 9, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: November 14, 2022  |                           |
| Processing of gold ore from<br>the Barry and Moroy<br>projects at the Bachelor site<br>and increase in the milling<br>rate,<br>Bonterra Resources Inc.<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-027 | Marc-André Pelletier<br>Bonterra Resources Inc. | Marc Croteau<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCC | Additional information<br>– Answers to 2nd set of questions<br>and comments  | Sent: November 4, 2022  | <i>For recommendation</i> |
|   | Maud Ablain<br>MELCCFP                          | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                       |  | Sent: November 11, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: November 14, 2022 |                           |
| Dewatering of pits J-4 and<br>87 on the former Troilus<br>mine site,<br>Troilus Gold Corp.<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-025   | Maud Ablain<br>MELCCFP                          | Mathieu Michaud<br>Troilus Gold Corp.    | Amendment to the certificate of<br>authorization – Deadline for<br>starting cleanup extended to<br>December 31, 2023 | Sent: November 11, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: November 14, 2022 |                           |
| Whabouchi project -<br>Prolonged use of the<br>temporary camp,<br>Nemaska Lithium<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-052  | Denis Isabel<br>Nemaska Lithium                 | Marc Croteau<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCC | Application for amendment to<br>certificate of authorization   | Sent: October 12, 2022  | <i>For recommendation</i> |
|   | Maud Ablain<br>MELCCFP                          | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                       |  | Sent: November 15, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: November 15, 2022 |                           |

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: November 3 to December 5, 2022**

| <b>Project</b>  | <b>From</b>                            | <b>To</b>   | <b>Document</b>   | <b>Date</b>  | <b>Action - Comments</b>  |
|---|--|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| James Bay Lithium Mine Project,<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-055                                 | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                     | Denis Couture<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium            | Announcement of public hearings   | Sent: November 15, 2022<br>Acknowledgement of receipt: November 15, 2022 | <i>For recommendation</i> |
|   | Denis Couture<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                                |   | Sent: November 17, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: November 17, 2022          |                           |
| James Bay Lithium Mine Project,<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-055                                 | Denis Couture<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium | Marc Croteau<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCC          | Additional information – Revised Kapisikama Lake study<br>Revised summary of the impact statement | Sent: November 10, 2022  | <i>For recommendation</i> |
|   | Maud Ablain<br>MELCCFP                 | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                                |   | Sent: November 24, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: November 24, 2022          |                           |
| James Bay Lithium Mine Project,<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.<br>Ref. No.: 3214-14-055                                 | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                     | Denis Couture<br>Allkem/Galaxy Lithium            | Invitation to a pre-hearing meeting   | Sent: November 28, 2022<br>Acknowledgement of receipt: November 30, 2022 |                           |
| Connecting the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mine and relocating a segment of the 315-kV line,<br>Hydro-Québec<br>Ref. No.: 3214-09-028 | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                     | Marie-Josée Lizotte<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCCFP | Recommendation  | Sent: November 30, 2022<br>Acknowledgement of receipt: December 1, 2022  | <i>For recommendation</i> |
| Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project,<br>Hydro-Québec<br>Ref. No.: 3214-10-017   | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                     | Marie-Josée Lizotte<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCCFP | Request for additional information  | Sent: December 2, 2022<br>Acknowledgement of receipt: December 2, 2022   | <i>For information</i>    |

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: November 3 to December 5, 2022**

| <b>Project</b>  | <b>From</b>                         | <b>To</b>                                | <b>Document</b>  | <b>Date</b>  | <b>Action - Comments</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project,<br>Hydro-Québec<br>Ref. No.: 3214-10-017 | Mélissa Gagnon<br>MELCCFP           | Marie-Josée Grimard<br>Hydro-Québec      | Request for additional information                             | Sent: December 1, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: December 2, 2022  | <i>For information</i>   |
| Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project,<br>Hydro-Québec<br>Ref. No.: 3214-10-017 | Marie-Josée Grimard<br>Hydro-Québec | Marc Croteau<br>Deputy Minister<br>MELCC | Follow-up on economic spinoffs,<br>2012-2016 – Operating phase | Sent: November 16, 2022  | <i>For information</i>   |
|   | Mélissa Gagnon<br>MELCCFP           | Luc Lainé<br>COMEX                       |  | Sent: November 30, 2022<br>Received by COMEX: December 2, 2022 |                          |