



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**

**413th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(Adopted)**

**DATE:** April 27, 2023

**PLACE:** Video conference (Teams)

**PRESENT:** Luc Lainé, Chairman  
Daniel Berrouard, Québec  
Robert Joly, Québec  
Lucas Del Vecchio, CNG  
John Paul Murdoch, 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 412th meeting**

The minutes of the 412th meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 412th meeting minutes**

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

Correspondence and follow-up action from March 30 to April 27, 2023, are presented in Appendix A.

**4) Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric and Rupert River diversion project**

**Ref. No.: 3214-10-017**

➤ For information

a) Wood debris monitoring in the Rupert River diversion bays – 2015

WHEREAS on March 21, 2017, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the 2015 monitoring report on wood debris in the Rupert River diversion bays for the Eastmain/Rupert hydroelectric development project. 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 monitoring objectives were to assess the effectiveness of deforestation by natural causes (ice, waves, wind) and the behaviour of wood debris, identify accumulation zones, predict future behaviour of wood debris and develop a wood debris collection program to facilitate navigation, primarily in deforested areas.

The observations made during wood debris monitoring in the Rupert River diversion bays showed that deforestation by natural causes is much slower than expected and produces very little wood debris. According to monitoring observations in 2011, 2012 and 2015, no pile or accumulation of wood debris hinder use of the navigation corridors identified by tallymen or jeopardized the safe operation of hydraulic structures. The frequency of wood debris collection was therefore revised. Predictive analysis results for sensitive areas in 2015 confirm that it is unlikely that wood debris collection and disposal will be needed in the navigation corridors for another five years, or even longer. The proponent proposed to continue minimal regular monitoring of structures and, if necessary, removal of wood debris in the event of accumulation.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and consider that the monitoring objectives were achieved. However, as mentioned in the reports on navigation conditions monitoring, the presence of floating bogs should not be overlooked. In fact, users say they need to keep a sharper eye out now for floating bogs

when boating in targeted areas. Given the desire to take back the land expressed by communities during the land use consultations, it is important to ensure access and safe boating conditions.

WHEREAS COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator to say that it has taken note of the report and wants to be informed if the situation changes or if users raise any issues so that action can be taken if deemed necessary.

**#2023-0427-01:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and that COMEX wants to be informed if the situation changes or if land users raise any issues.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

b) Terrestrial hydrology, hydraulics and thermal regime monitoring report – 2016

WHEREAS on September 4, 2018, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the 2016 terrestrial hydrology, hydraulics and thermal regime monitoring report for the Eastmain/Rupert hydroelectric development project. 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 report discusses water temperatures, levels and flows measured between January 1 and December 31, 2016 across the project study area (Rupert, Lemare and Nemiscau rivers and Rupert River diversion bays). The results show that the instream flows associated with all structures were restored throughout 2016. Inflow for all drainage areas affected by the project were similar to the normal inflow rates expected over the long term. Water temperature measurements along the reaches of the Rupert River show that water flowing out of the dam is slightly cooler in summer and warmer in fall than that of Lake Mesgouez, which reflects the natural temperature of the Rupert River. The differences in water temperature with Lake Mesgouez decrease as water flows downstream, and water temperatures downstream from KP 290 are no longer affected by the project.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and consider that, based on the monitoring results, the various control structures have maintained instream flows and water levels in streams and lakes, as required by the certificate of authorization. However, since the report contains no discussion or conclusions, it is impossible to establish any links between the physical indicators of the environment and the biological environment. In addition, the report makes no mention of future monitoring or whether further monitoring is even required, although it does recommend more measurements in 2017 and updating as needed.

WHEREAS COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator to say that it has taken note of the report and has no comments to submit at this time. However, the Review Committee wants to be informed if any changes will be made to the current monitoring activities.

**#2023-0427-02:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and COMEX wants to be informed if any changes will be made to the current monitoring activities.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

c) Monitoring of riparian and aquatic vegetation, Environmental monitoring during the operation phase (2015 and 2018)

WHEREAS on April 5, 2017 and June 20, 2022, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the 2015 and 2018 riparian and aquatic vegetation monitoring reports, respectively, for the Eastmain/Rupert hydroelectric development project. The monitoring was a requirement of conditions 5.1 and 5.19 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 purpose of riparian and aquatic vegetation monitoring was to assess the anticipated changes in the Rupert diversion bay sector, the Rupert reduced-flow reach, and the Rupert River estuary and bay. The monitoring objectives were to describe plant colonization of the shores of the Rupert River diversion bays, describe the riparian and aquatic vegetation in the Rupert reduced-flow reach and Rupert River estuary post-diversion, observe the effects of graminaceous plant seeding on the banks of the Rupert River and assess changes in riparian and aquatic vegetation (low marsh) in the eastern part of Rupert Bay.

The monitoring in 2011, 2015 and 2018 showed that the objectives were achieved. Vegetation densification was observed on all the shorelines of the six seeded transects under study in addition to greater representation of swamps and marshes compared to the shorelines. The 2018 monitoring results show an increase in species richness compared to 2015 in 85% of the transects. In addition, species richness was equal to or greater than those observed in 2011 for 22 of the transects, that is, nearly half of the transects surveyed. Overall, the number of species inventoried rose by 7% over 2011. However, the monitoring conducted in 2015 was less representative because the composition of riparian vegetation was significantly affected by the atypical hydraulic conditions in 2014 and 2015.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and consider that the monitoring objectives were achieved. COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator to say that it has taken note of the reports and has no comments to submit at this time. COMEX will mention that it's waiting to receive the 2022 monitoring report.

**#2023-0427-03:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time. COMEX is waiting to receive the 2022 monitoring report.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

## **5) Other business**

### **a. Forest roads H and I: Under review**

COMEX will continue reviewing the project to extend forest roads H and I at coming meetings.

### **b. MRNF: Harmonious mining development**

The COMEX members were invited to complete the online questionnaire (on the MRNF website) about the participatory approach to promote harmonious development of mining activities (in French only).

### **c. Annual Report 2022-2023**

The executive secretary is in the process of writing the annual report. The preliminary version will be submitted to the COMEX members prior to the up-coming meeting in May.

### **d. Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled in April and May 2023**

- James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
  - Drafting of the review report
- Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric and Rupert River diversion project

## **6) Next meeting**

The next meeting of COMEX will be held on May 24, 2023, by video conference.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: March 30 to April 27, 2023**

<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Windfall mining project, Osisko Mining Ref. No.: 3214-14-059	Andréanne Boisvert Osisko Mining	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Environmental and social impact assessment	Sent: March 29, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: April 3, 2023 Received by COMEX: April 4, 2023	
Bachelor Mine Project, Bonterra Resources Ref. No.: 3214-14-027	Marc-André Pelletier Bonterra Resources	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	2022 Environment and Social Monitoring Report	Sent: March 30, 2023	<i>For information</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: April 6, 2023 Received by COMEX: April 6, 2023	
Troilus mining project, Troilus Gold Corp. Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Jaqueline Leroux Troilus Gold Corp.	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	2022 post-closure environmental and social monitoring report	Sent: March 24, 2023	<i>For information</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: April 6, 2023 Received by COMEX: April 6, 2023	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Follow-up on conditions 5.1, 6.9, 6.10, 6.13 and 6.19 of the certificate of authorization	Sent: April 11, 2023	<i>For information</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Allkem/Galaxy Lithium Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Allkem/Galaxy Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Additional information – Alternative solution: northwest ore dump	Sent: April 4, 2023	<i>For information</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: April 17, 2023 Received by COMEX: April 18, 2023	

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: March 30 to April 27, 2023**

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Processing of gold ore from the Barry and Moroy projects at the Bachelor site and increase in the milling rate, Bonterra Resources Ref. No.: 3214-14-027	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Request for additional information	Sent: April 20, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: April 20, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>