



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  
417th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
(Adopted)**

**DATE:** September 1, 2023

**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 416th meeting**

The minutes of the 416th meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 416th meeting minutes**

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

Correspondence and follow-up action from July 28 to September 1, 2023, are presented in Appendix A.

**4) 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 (answers to questions)
- g) Public hearings
- h) Drafting of the review report
  - For recommendation

The draft review report for the James Bay Lithium Mine Project was submitted to COMEX for review. Following comments and questions presented by the MELCCFP and CNG analysts, COMEX is awaiting verification on certain aspects of the project before finalizing the report.

**5) Development of a new landfill in Whapmagoostui**

**Ref. No.: 3219-16-001**

- a) Follow-up on conditions 1 and 7 of the certificate of authorization
  - For information

WHEREAS on June 29, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the construction plans for the new landfill, including the access road, and the agreement between the Whapmagoostui First Nation and the Northern Village of Kuujjuarapik concerning operation and management of the new landfill. The documents were a requirement of conditions 1 and 7 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 13, 2019.

The objective was to ensure that the final project design corresponded to the information presented in the proponent's impact assessment and would minimize environmental and social impacts, particularly by avoiding lakes and watercourses in the

study area. The detailed plans and maps submitted by the proponent show that the final location for the landfill is at the required distance away from nearby lakes and watercourses. In addition, the agreement between the Cree community of Whapmagoostui and the Northern Village Municipality of Kuujjuarapik seems appropriate. However, an explanatory document accompanying the plans/maps and agreement would have been very helpful and would have provided some context to the current situation.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and consider that the proponent has satisfied conditions 1 and 7 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 13, 2019, the members have no comments to submit at this time.

**#2023-0901-01:** *write to the Regional Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time.*

**Action: Write to the Regional Administrator**

**6) Compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water – Assessment of the situation in territories under agreement**

- a) Consultation request
  - For comments

On August 14, 2023, the Review Committee received a request from MELCCFP seeking the committee 's opinion and comments on the application of the *Regulation respecting compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water* in territories under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The executive secretary gathered the members' comments and suggestions. She'll draft a letter and send it to the COMEX members for their consideration and approval.

**7) Other business**

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

The COMEX members are still waiting for additional information from the MELCCFP regarding the impact of forest fires on logging activities and protected areas for caribou. COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the committee will resume the project review once it has received this crucial information.

**#2023-0901-02:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the project review is on hold and that COMEX will resume the review process once it has received all crucial information.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**b. Report on the meeting with Ronald Brizard, Chair of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB)**

Luc Lainé summarized the meeting held on August 17 with Mr. Brizard, the CQFB's new chairperson, and Patrick Léveillé-Perreault, executive director. The discussion focused on logging roads and the recent forest fires. Mr. Léveillé-Perreault will send COMEX information on the impact of forest fires on the environment and the forest industry.

Mr. Lainé and Mr. Brizard also discussed the possibility of a meeting between the COMEX and CQFB members this fall. COMEX's executive secretary will start organizing a meeting with the CQFB.

**c. Update on the CELC's Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project**

In its news release dated August 29, 2023, Critical Elements Lithium announced a new mineral reserve and the construction of a new camp/lodging complex near the junction between the site access and Eastmain-1 road.

**f. Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for summer 2023**

- James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
  - Drafting of the review report
- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec
- Planned quarry over 3 ha in size near the La Grande-3 hydroelectric development, Hydro-Québec
- Planned expansion of the quarry on the Éléonore property: Application to amend the certificate of authorization

**8) Next meetings**

The next COMEX meetings will be held on October 4 and 31, 2023, by video conference.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: July 28 to September 1, 2023**

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
COMEX Annual Report 2022-2023	Sophie Cooper COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte, Deputy Minister, MELCC Isaac Voyageur, Regional Administrator (CNG) Mélicca Gagnon, Julie Rodrigue, Maud Ablain and Ian Courtemanche, MELCC JBACE HFTCC CQFB CTA CNG EIJBRG ARBJ	COMEX Annual Report 2021-2022	Sent: July 28, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 28, 2023	
Cree-Québec Forestry Board	Luc Lainé COMEX	Patrick Léveillé-Perreault CQFB	Letter of congratulations and request for a meeting with the new CQFB chair	Sent: July 28, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: August 2, 2023	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Follow-up reports on conditions of the certificate of authorization	Sent: June 19, 2023	<i>For information</i>
	Mélicca Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: August 1, 2023 Received by COMEX: August 1, 2023	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Mélicca Gagnon MELCCFP	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Comments on the follow-up reports on conditions of the certificate of authorization	Sent: August 2, 2023 Received by COMEX: August 4, 2023	<i>For information</i>

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**Correspondence and follow-up: July 28 to September 1, 2023**

<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water – Assessment of the situation in territories under agreement	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX	Consultation request	Sent: August 9, 2023 Received by COMEX: August 14, 2023	<i>For opinion and comments</i>
Windfall mining project, Osisko Mining Ref. No.: 3214-14-059	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Opinion on the impact assessment	Sent: August 16, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: August 16, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCCFP	Andréanne Boisvert Windfall Mining Group		Sent: August 25, 2023 Received by COMEX: August 25, 2023	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Follow-up on conditions of the certificate of authorization dated November 24, 2006	Sent: August 16, 2023	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: August 18, 2023 Received by COMEX: August 18, 2023	