



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**

**419th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(Adopted)**

**DATES:** **419 A:** October 30, 2023  
**419 B:** November 7, 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 of the 419th meeting was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 418th meeting**

The minutes of the 418th meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 418th meeting minutes**

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

Correspondence and follow-up action from October 5 to October 30, 2023, are presented in Appendix A.

**4) Quarry near the La Grande-3 hydroelectric development, Hydro-Québec**

**Ref. No.: 3214-03-045**

- a) *Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Statement*
- b) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- c) Additional information (Addendum)
- d) Review report
  - For recommendation

WHEREAS in October 2022, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for its recommendation, the *Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Statement* for the quarry project near the La Grande-3 hydroelectric development. After reviewing the impact statement and the additional information received on June 12, 2023, COMEX determined that the project could not be authorized by the Minister under section 22 of the *Environment Quality Act* because it contravenes the second paragraph of section 20 of the *Regulation respecting sand pits and quarries*, which stipulates "The operation of a quarry or sand pit is also prohibited in a marsh or an open peatland." On October 5, 2023, COMEX received an addendum proposing an alternative quarry configuration to avoid an open peatland.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent for this project and recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the project with a condition. The review report will be enclosed with the letter and stipulate the authorization condition.

**#2023-1030-01:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and recommend that she authorize the project with one condition (condition set out in the review report).*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**  
**Send her COMEX's recommendation**

**5) Éléonore mining project: Expansion of Quarry C-02 to increase the extraction volume, Goldcorp Canada Ltd.**

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

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

WHEREAS on October 6, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received the application to amend the global certificate of authorization issued on November 10, 2011, for Quarry C-02 on the Éléonore mine site.

In September 2022, the proponent filed an application to amend the CA to permit the expansion of Quarry C-02, increasing the total operating area to 26.11 ha, the total extraction volume to 3,020,000 m<sup>3</sup> and the annual extraction rate to 800,000 m<sup>3</sup>. The purpose of the amendment was to secure the quarry site because the terraces had collapsed. The current application for amendment stems from an error in the estimated extraction volumes in the documents submitted with the September 2022 application. The stated extraction volume was 70,000 m<sup>3</sup>, whereas it should have been 875,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

WHEREAS COMEX reviewed the document submitted by the proponent, it will recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the requested amendment to the global certificate of authorization issued on November 10, 2011, because the purpose of the application is to correct the extraction volume for Quarry C-02, all of the other operating components remain unchanged and no significant impact is anticipated.

In the 2022 annual report, the proponent states that, due to additional proven mineral reserves, the mine could continue operating until 2028, instead of 2025, as anticipated. COMEX will ask that the proponent submit, for information purposes, its plan for the continuation of mining operations as well as site restoration, particularly Quarry C-02.

**#2023-1030-02:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that she authorize the requested amendment to the global certificate of authorization issued on November 10, 2011.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator  
Send her COMEX's recommendation**

**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
- h) Drafting of the review report
  - For recommendation

COMEX is awaiting verification of a few aspects of the project before finalizing the review report. The committee will continue discussing the report at its meeting on November 7.

**7) Other business**

**a) Meeting between COMEX, the CQFB and the SPN – January 8, 2024**

The executive secretary informed the COMEX members that COMEX (Luc Lainé), the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (Ronald Brizard, Chair) and the Société du Plan Nord (Ian Morissette, vice-president for sustainable development and northern partnership) will be meeting on January 8, 2024. The members were invited to submit ideas/talking points.

**b) Renard Mine closure**

Closure of the Renard Diamond Mine was announced in an article published in the October 27, 2023, edition of *La Presse*. The MELCCFP will contact the proponent, Stornoway Diamonds, and get back to COMEX with an update.

**c) Media request**

A request received from Radio-Canada on October 13, 2023, was forwarded to the Cree Nation Government. The reporter, Delphine Jung, wanted to know the number of public consultations held in Cree communities.

**d) Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for fall 2023**

- James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
  - Drafting of the review report
- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project
- Planned extension of forest roads "H, Section west" and "I"

- Dewatering of pits J4 and 87 on the former Troilus mine site, Troilus Gold – AMENDCA
- 8) Meeting 419 B – November 7, at 9:00 a.m., held by video conference  
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
  - h) Drafting of the review report (for discussion)
    - For recommendation

After reviewing the members' comments, a third version of the report will be sent to COMEX for review. The committee will continue discussing the report at the meeting scheduled for November 29, 2023.

**9) Next meeting**

The next COMEX meeting will be held on December 13, 2023, by video conference (Teams).

Appendix A					
Correspondence and follow-up: October 5 to October 30, 2023					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Quarry in the area of the La Grande-3 hydroelectric development, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-03-045	François-Pierre Gaudreault Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Additional information - Addendum	Sent: September 29, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: October 5, 2023 Received by COMEX: October 5, 2023	
Compensation for adverse effects on wetlands and bodies of water – MELCCFP assessment of the situation in territories under agreement	Luc Lainé COMEX	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Comments	Sent: October 23, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: October 24, 2023	<i>For opinion and comments</i>
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 of authorization – Monitoring of saltwater intrusion in Rupert Bay (2017)	Sent: October 30, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: October 30, 2023	<i>For information</i>
Troilus Gold Project, Troilus Gold Ref. No.: 3214-14-067	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Table of concerns and issues	Sent: October 30, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: October 30, 2023	<i>For information</i>