



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
420th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Adopted)**

DATE: December 13, 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

It was suggested that the James Bay Lithium Mine Project be discussed first to make sure all the members were present. The agenda of the 420th meeting was amended accordingly and then adopted.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 419th meeting

The minutes of the 419th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 419th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from October 31 to December 13, 2023, are presented in Appendix A.

4) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec

Ref. No.: 3214-10-017

a) Monitoring of bank and island dynamics in the Grande Rivière estuary – 2017

➤ For information

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the 2017 monitoring report on bank and island dynamics in the Grande Rivière estuary for the Eastmain-1-A 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 general monitoring objective was to document bank erosion and changes in the shoals and channels in the Grande Rivière delta since 2012. Monitoring was based on a comparative analysis of aerial photographs taken at low tide in 2012 and 2017.

The aerial photographs of deltaic forms (shoals, sandbanks and channels) reveal changes in the delta since 2012 and strong dynamics in the middle section of the delta. The two main channels of the Grande Rivière and most of the islands in the delta (including Goat, Fort George and Governor's islands), whose shores are exposed to severe erosion, are located in this section. From 2012 to 2017, the biggest recession of embankments was recorded on low-lying shores (< 2 m) in the downstream section of Fort George Island and on Governor's Island. On average, these shores have receded 2.5-5 m/year since 2012. Maximum recession rates of 30-40 m were measured locally in these sectors between 2012 and 2017. The recession rates are lower where embankments are higher (from 2 to 10 m).

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The middle section of the delta has been affected by erosion and sediment transport since 2012, the outcome being a negative sediment budget despite a significant influx of sand from eroding shores and sandbanks. Sandbanks move downstream, even in the outer section of the delta (downstream of Fort George and Governor's islands, between KP -2 and -4). The delta is expanding offshore and sandy sediment carried by the river accumulates above the visible limits of the delta (at low tide).

The monitoring results show that the increase in erosion and the offshore movement of the delta is due in part to changes in the river's water and sediment regimes caused by the La Grande hydroelectric development. The increase in flow and flow velocity and the decrease in sediment transport from upstream of LG-1 have contributed to greater erodibility and sediment transport in the Grande Rivière estuary. The report concludes that, if hydrodynamic conditions remain roughly the same, banks and shorelines in the study area will continue to experience heavy erosion in the medium and long terms.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and consider that the monitoring objectives were achieved. While the proponent identified numerous areas as being prone to erosion, it does not think remedial action is necessary. The proponent must state whether vegetative or mechanical stabilization methods are warranted, or other measures to control erosion in sectors where erosion has been the heaviest or where land users think there might be issues. If so, the proponent must describe the methods or measures it intends to take.

#2023-1213-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and that the proponent must state whether vegetative or mechanical methods are warranted to stabilize banks and shorelines, or other measures to control erosion in sectors where erosion has been the heaviest.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Request additional information**

- b) Ice cover monitoring – Winter 2016-2017, winter 2017-2018 and winter 2018-2019
- Follow-up: Ice cover monitoring – Winter 2013-2014, winter 2014-2015 and winter 2015-2016
 - For information

WHEREAS on October 19, 2015 (monitoring in 2013-2014), November 30, 2017 (monitoring in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016), March 20, 2020 (monitoring in 2016-2017), and June 20, 2022 (monitoring in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019), the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the ice cover monitoring reports for the Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric development project. The monitoring was a requirement of

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conditions 6.12 and 6.14 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 help affected Cree communities and tallymen assess the quality of ice, observe, photograph and map ice coverage in the Rupert bay and estuary, take ice samples at the mouth of Rupert River (KP 0) three (3) or four (4) times to determine ice type and thickness, and compare the freezing season in the study area against past winters.

The ice regime and predictions of ice behaviour in the Rupert diversion bay, Rupert, Lemare and Nemiscau rivers, Rupert Bay, Grande Rivière estuary and the increased-flow section during the construction and operation phases of the project were documented at the draft design stage. According to the environmental impact assessment, few changes were anticipated under operating conditions in the entire reduced-flow sections (Rupert river, bay and estuary). The observations recorded during monitoring in the bay, mouth and estuary of Rupert River and other sections in winters 2013-2014 to 2018-2019 are consistent with the predictions in the environmental impact assessment and confirm previous monitoring results. The data shows that ice conditions in Rupert Bay are not affected by the reduced flow, but rather by weather and oceanographic events. Cree observers gave concrete examples of the effects of ocean phenomena (storm surges) on ice dynamics, such as the amount of slush on the ice.

Even though 2018-2019 was the final year of ice cover monitoring under the 2007-2013 environmental monitoring program, monitoring will continue with the community of Waskaganish.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and find that the monitoring achieved the set objectives, COMEX has no comments.

#2023-1213-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have no comments.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

5) Dewatering of pits J4 and 87 on the former Troilus mine site, Troilus Gold Corp.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-025

- a) Application to amend the certificate of authorization (AMENDCA 3)
 - For recommendation

On October 2, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received an application to amend the global certificate of authorization (CA) issued on June 29, 2020, to postpone the commencement of the dewatering project. The start date was already deferred under an amended CA issued on November 7, 2022. According to the proponent, the project needs

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to be postponed again because forest fires affected the infrastructure supplying power to the Troilus mine site.

After going over the documents submitted by the proponent, the COMEX members want certain aspects of the project to be verified before completing the review process. They'll continue discussing the project at the meeting scheduled in January 2024.

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) Environmental Review Report
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS in October 2018, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for its recommendation, the initial environmental impact assessment for Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.'s James Bay Lithium Mine Project. After reviewing the document, COMEX sent three (3) series of questions and comments for the proponent in April 2019, December 2019 and September 2020, respectively. The proponent responded to the questions and comments in July 2019, June 2020 and July 2021, respectively. In July 2021, the proponent submitted an updated impact assessment, with substantial changes to reflect the changes made to the project.

COMEX sent a fourth series of questions and comments, along with a request for additional information, in January 2022 and August 2022. The proponent responded in April 2022 and November 2022, respectively. In January 2023, COMEX held hybrid public hearings in Eastmain and Matagami. Further to those hearings, the proponent sent additional information in April 2023 and again in November 2023.

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

In its letter, COMEX will inform the Provincial Administrator that it often had to wait for the information that it requested or that was announced by the proponent, resulting in significant delays in the review process. The environmental review report will include COMEX's thoughts on the Billy-Diamond Highway's ability in the short and medium terms to handle more traffic, especially oversize/overweight vehicles transporting material from mine sites.

#2023-1213-03: *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 project with conditions (conditions set out in the review report).*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Send recommendation**

7) Other business

a) Letter from George Lameboy, Chisasibi Eeyou Resource and Research Institute (CERRI)

COMEX received another letter from George Lameboy, dated November 20, 2023, saying that he still hadn't received the 2014 and 2019 eelgrass monitoring reports from Hydro-Québec. Further to his first letter, dated September 6, 2023, COMEX informed Mr. Lameboy in an email dated October 30, 2023, that the monitoring reports for the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion project are available to the public in Hydro-Québec's online catalogue, CherLoc.

In addition, COMEX's executive secretary sent Dante Torio, a biologist with CERRI, electronic copies of the eelgrass monitoring reports on November 3, 2023. COMEX will reply to the second letter received from Mr. Lameboy.

b) Québec Mines + Énergie 2023

The executive secretary informed the COMEX members that the talks given at Québec Mines + Énergie, held November 20-23, 2023, are now available online.

c) Meeting between COMEX-CQFB-SPN

In preparation for the meeting between COMEX, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB) and the Société du Plan Nord (SPN) on January 8, 2024, the executive secretary asked the COMEX members to propose items for discussion. The following issues were proposed: the impact of forest fires in Eeyou Istchee James Bay, the cumulative impacts of transportation related to logging and mining, and the caribou protection strategy. The executive secretary will send them to Mr. Léveillé-Perreault, the CQFB's executive director.

d) Temporary suspension of Renard Mine operations

The COMEX members were informed that the MELCCFP representatives met with the proponent to discuss the possibility of continuing environmental monitoring, as indicated in the certificate of authorization, even if operations have been suspended.

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e) Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for winter 2024

- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project
- Planned extension of forest roads "H, Section west" and "I"
- Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project: Monitoring and applications to amend the certificate of authorization
- Whabouchi – Application to amend the certificate of authorization

8) Next meeting

The next COMEX meetings will be held on January 25, Février 15 and March 21, 2024, by video conference (Teams).

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up: October 31 to December 13, 2023

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Condition 11: Wetland compensation plan	Sent: October 31, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: November 7, 2023 Received by COMEX: November 8, 2023	
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Condition 6: Work camp and more borrow pits	Sent: October 13, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: November 7, 2023 Received by COMEX: November 8, 2023	
Quarry in the area of the La Grande-3 hydroelectric development, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-03-045	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Recommendation	Sent: November 10, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: November 10, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	François-Pierre Gaudreault Hydro-Québec	Certificate of authorization	Sent: December 12, 2023	
Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp Canada Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-042	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Recommendation	Sent: November 10, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt: November 10, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
Whabouchi Mine Project, Nemaska Lithium Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Denis Isabel Nemaska Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Planned construction of a camp on the Whabouchi mine site, viaduct, bypass and widening of the Route du Nord	Sent: October 24, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: November 3, 2023 Received by COMEX: November 10, 2023	

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Construction of a 120-kV transmission line to connect the Windfall mine to the power grid, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-09-029	Louis-Philippe Bérubé Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	File closure	Sent: November 2, 2023	
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Mathieu Bolullo Hydro-Québec		Sent: November 15, 2023 Received by COMEX: November 20, 2023	
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Compensation plan for fish habitat loss	Sent: November 8, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: November 20, 2023 Received by COMEX: November 21, 2023	
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Follow-up on condition 7 of the CA - Residual material management plan	Sent: November 13, 2023	<i>For information</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: November 17, 2023 Received by COMEX: November 21, 2023	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Additional information	Sent: November 20, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: November 24, 2023 Received by COMEX: November 27, 2023	

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Follow-up on conditions 4 and 21 – Environmental and social monitoring program	Sent: November 21, 2023	<i>For recommendations</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: December 1, 2023 Received COMEV: December 7, 2023	
Chisasibi Eeyou Resource and Research Institute (CERRI)	George Lameboy CERRI	Luc Lainé COMEX	Request for information	Sent: November 20, 2023 Received COMEV: December 22, 2023	
Hybrid power plant, Kuujuaraapik Whapmagoostui Renewable Energy Corporation (KWREC) Ref. No.: 3219-10-001	Matthew Mukash KWREC	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Project progress report	Sent: November 28, 2023	<i>For information</i>
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: December 12, 2023 Received COMEV: December 12, 2023	
Solid waste disposal site in Waswanipi, Cree First Nation of Waswanipi Ref. No.: 3214-16-068	Luc Lévesque Cree First Nation of Waswanipi	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Follow-up on condition 2 – Restoration and closure plan	Sent: October 10, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: December 12, 2023 Received COMEV: December 12, 2023	

Commenté [u1]: C'est bien COMEV et pas COMEX (aux 4 endroits)?