



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**

**423rd MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(Adopted)**

**DATE:** March 27, 2024

**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 423rd meeting was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 422nd meeting**

The minutes of the 422nd meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 422nd meeting minutes**

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

Correspondence and follow-up action from February 16, 2024, to March 27, 2024, are presented in Appendix A.

**4) Construction of a municipal landfill site for domestic waste near the community Waswanipi, Cree First Nation of Waswanipi**

**Ref. No.: 3214-16-068**

- a) Follow-up of Condition 2 – Restoration and monitoring plan
- b) Additional information (answers to questions and comments – QC01)
- c) Additional information (answers to questions and comments – QC02)
  - For recommendation

WHEREAS On December 12, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received responses to the second set of questions and comments, sent to the proponent in December 2021, regarding the restoration and monitoring plan for the former domestic waste landfill near the community of Waswanipi. This plan was completed by the proponent to meet the requirements of Condition 2 of the certificate of authorization issued on March 10, 2017.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and, following the analysis of this latest information, have remarked that the proponent's responses remain incomplete. A letter will be sent to the Regional Administrator with questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, many of which will be redirected to the proponent for the third time.

**#2024-0327-01:** *write to the Regional Administrator to inform them that the COMEX members have reviewed the information provided by the proponent and request additional information to clarify certain aspects of the project (letter with questions and comments in attached document).*

**Action: Write to the Regional Administrator**  
**Send questions and comments**

**5) Construction of a new trenched landfill (LEET) in Wemindji, Cree First Nation of Wemindji**

**Ref. No.: 3219-16-002**

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

WHEREAS on January 18, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received a request to amend the certificate of authorization (CA) for the proposed construction of a new trenched landfill site (LEET) in the community of Wemindji, which was authorized on June 16, 2021.

After construction was completed in 2023, the proponent observed a build-up of leachate at the bottom of the trenches due to low soil permeability. The presence of water in the LEET reduces the storage capacity of the site and may render the site unusable. The proponent proposes a three-step solution to manage the leachate that accumulates in the new LEET. The goal is to create a system that will allow all leachate to passively infiltrate the soil in accordance with LEET's design rules and the certificate of authorization obtained for the project.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and that, following the analysis of this latest information, the COMEX wishes to obtain certain clarifications from the proponent: a document with the questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent will be attached to the letter addressed to the Regional Administrator.

**#2024-0327-02:** *write to the Regional Administrator to inform them that the COMEX members have reviewed the information provided by the proponent and request additional information to clarify certain aspects of the project (letter with questions and comments in attached document).*

**Action: Write to the Regional Administrator  
Send question and comments**

**6) Renard Diamond Mine project, Stornoway Diamonds inc.**

**Ref. No.: 3214-14-041**

- a) Shutdown of activities at the mine site
  - For information

WHEREAS on January 19, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, a letter addressed to the Provincial Administrator regarding the temporary shutdown of operations at the Renard Diamond Mine. The developer, Stornoway Diamonds Inc., says it is currently in the process of selling the site and that the sale is expected to be completed before May 1, 2024. The proponent states that it will maintain a reduced crew during this temporary shutdown to ensure the monitoring and

maintenance of the facilities, particularly in terms of the environment. However, the proponent mentioned that they have constraints on the retention time of samples due to reduced air transportation to the mine site. The proponent also stated that it would continue to extract the ore at a rate of 400 t/d, without processing, to maintain the viability of the deposit due to the caving block mining method. The ore will be stored in an ore pile, which has a capacity of approximately 1 Mt. No waste rock has been stored on the waste rock pile since the shutdown. Dewatering of underground pits continues, as well as the treatment of mine water collected throughout the mining site. For maintenance purposes, the equipment at the ore processing plant will remain functional.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and that, following the analysis of this latest information, the COMEX wishes to obtain certain clarifications from the proponent, particularly concerning environmental monitoring and social issues. A letter, with questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, will be forwarded to the Provincial Administrator.

**#2024-0327-03:** *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform them that the COMEX members have reviewed the information provided by the proponent and request additional information on various environmental and social aspects related to the temporary shutdown of the mine.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**  
**Send question and comments**

## **7) Other business**

### **a) Documents submitted by Galaxy Lithium inc.**

The Executive Secretary informed the members of the COMEX that the documents submitted by Galaxy Lithium related to the conditions of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023, will be processed based on priority of analysis (for recommendation vs. for information). The documents received since January 2024 will be analyzed and presented to the COMEX during the meeting scheduled for May or June 2024. A follow-up will also be carried out by MELCCFP analysts regarding the progress of the transportation management plan.

### **b) COMEX 2023-2024 Annual report**

The Executive Secretary will begin writing the COMEX Annual report for the year 2023-2024. Mr. Luc Lainé will write the President's word. A few topics were mentioned by members that could be discussed in the annual report, such as a summary of the meeting between the COMEX and the Grand Alliance or between the COMEX, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board and the Société du Plan Nord.

**c) Minutes of the meeting COMEX-CCFB-SPN: January 8, 2024**

The minutes of the meeting that took place on January 8, 2024, between the COMEX, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board and the Société du Plan Nord were sent to the members of the COMEX for information.

**d) Workshop at Québec Mines et Énergie 2024**

Mr. Robert Joly will draft a proposal for a workshop organized by the COMEX, which will be sent to the organizing committee of Québec Mines et Énergie, concerning the cumulative impacts of transportation caused by the mining industry on the roads of Eeyou Istchee James Bay. The objective is to bring together interested parties to clarify the division of road responsibilities in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory and to better define the anticipated situation in terms of traffic, load, safety, speed, signalling and maintenance. The Executive Secretary will contact the organizers to explain the idea and purpose of the Executive Committee. The deadline for submission of presentation or workshop proposals is May 13, 2024.

**e) Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for April/May 2024**

- Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric complex and Rupert River diversion project
- Windfall mining project: Addendum of the impact study
- Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project: Monitoring and applications to amend the certificate of authorization (CA)
- Bay James Lithium Mine: Monitoring of conditions of the CA
- Whabouchi Mine project: Applications to amend the certificate of authorization (CA)

**8) Next meeting**

The next COMEX meetings will be held on April 24, 2024, by video conference, and in-person on May 22, 2024 (Québec city).

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: February 16, 2024, to March 27, 2024**

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Chisasibi Eeyou Resource and Research Institute (CERRI)	Luc Lainé COMEX	George Lameboy CERRI	Letter regarding the 2014 and 2019 eelgrass monitoring program from the Hydro-Québec's Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric complex and Rupert River diversion project	Sent by Canada Post: February 19, 2024	
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	Documents pertinent to Conditions 3, 7, 14, 23, 34 and 37 of the certificat of authorization	Sent: February 16, 2024	<i>For information and recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: February 21, 2024 Received by COMEX: February 21, 2024	
Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric complex and Rupert River diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Comments regarding the monitoring reports for – (a) Ice cover, (b) Evolution of shoreline and islands in the Grande Rivière estuary, and (c) Saltwater intrusion in the Rupert Bay	Sent: February 22, 2024	
Whabouchi mine project, Nemaska Lithium inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Denis Isabel Nemaska Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Optimization of mining operations	Sent: February 9, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: February 21, 2024 Received by COMEX: February 22, 2024	
Dewatering project for quarries J-4 and 87 on the Troilus mining site, Troilus Gold Corp. Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Mathieu Michaud Troilus Gold Corp.	Amended certificate of authorization	Sent: February 27, 2024	
Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric complex and Rupert River diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Marie-Ève Lemieux Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Follow-up report on shoreline vegetation (2022) and Follow-up report on the hydrology, hydraulics and thermal regime in a continental environment (2019)	Sent: January 31, 2024, and February 9, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: February 27, 2024 Received by COMEX: February 28, 2024	

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up: February 16, 2024, to March 27, 2024**

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Whabouchi mine project, Nemaska Lithium inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Request for additional information - Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Construction of a permanent worker camp and construction of an overpass, a bypass and lanes	Sent: February 29, 2024 Acknowledged: February 29, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
Rose Lithium-Tantalum mining project, Critical Elements Lithium Corp. Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Request for additional information - Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Construction of a permanent worker camp and new quarries	Sent: February 29, 2024 Acknowledged: February 29, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC		Sent: March 5, 2024 Received by COMEX: March 11, 2024	
Rose Lithium-Tantalum mining project, Critical Elements Lithium Corp. Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Request for additional information - Condition 7 – Waste management	Sent: February 29, 2024 Acknowledged: February 29, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC		Sent: March 11, 2024 Received by COMEX: March 11, 2024	
Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric complex and Rupert River diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Marie-Ève Lemieux Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Follow-up report on waterfowl	Sent: February 28, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: March 5, 2024 Received by COMEX: March 11, 2024	