



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
426th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Adopted)**

DATE: June 27, 2024

PLACE: Videoconference (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 Executive Secretary proposes reversing the projects on the agenda. The proposal was accepted and the agenda adopted.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 425th meeting

The minutes of the 425th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 425th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence follow-up

The follow-up to correspondence between May 22, 2024 and June 27, 2024 is presented in Appendix A.

4) James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Allkem/Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.

Ref.: 3214-14-055

a) Follow-up condition 23 - Transportation management plan for the construction phase

WHEREAS COMEX received, on February 21, 2024, for information, the transportation management plan for the James Bay lithium mine project. This management plan was drawn up by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 23 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023.

A transportation management plan for the pre-construction period and a draft transportation management plan for the construction period have been provided by the proponent. The purpose of the transportation management plan was to define the requirements and processes for ensuring safe movement on public highways, both on- and off-site roads, during the various phases of the James Bay lithium mine. The proponent explained that its plan prevents injuries and accidents caused by vehicle-to-vehicle interactions, vehicle-to-pedestrian interactions and single-vehicle incidents both on- and off-site. It briefly listed the causes and general factors contributing to incidents involving light and heavy vehicles.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and, following analysis of this information, COMEX wishes to obtain certain clarifications from the proponent. A letter, containing questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, will be forwarded to the Provincial Administrator.

#2024-0627-01: *to write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like additional information on various aspects of the monitoring projects that they feel should be clarified.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator
Transmittal of a Request for additional information**

- b) Follow-up to conditions 31 and 33 - Archaeology, heritage and glossary of Cree place names

WHEREAS COMEX received on February 21, 2024, for information, an Archaeological Resource Protection Plan (ARPP) and a glossary of Cree place names for the James Bay lithium mine project. These reports were prepared by the proponent to meet the requirements of conditions 31 and 33 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023.

Development of an ARPP is a mitigation measure put in place by the proponent to limit impacts on archaeological resources. The ARPP describes the laws applicable in the event of an archaeological discovery on the study area and mining site. It paints a detailed picture of the region's archaeological heritage and of the Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources that could be discovered in the study area. Finally, the document describes the procedures to follow and the authorities to contact in the event of an accidental discovery.

The glossary of Cree place names was produced in consultation with First Nations and the Department of Social and Cultural Development of the Cree Nation Government. A representative of the Eastmain Cree Nation and the RE02 tallyman met to discuss Cree place names and to identify specific locations and landmarks on the territory. The glossary includes Cree place names for three lakes and two waterways in the mine project area.

WHEREAS COMEX will send a letter to the Provincial Administrator stating that it has read the documents and has no comments to make. The information presented in the ARPP and the glossary of Cree place names address the concerns raised by conditions 31 and 33 of the certificate of authorization.

#2024-0627-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have no comments on this subject.*

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

- c) Follow-up condition 34 - Cree culture awareness program

WHEREAS COMEX received on February 21, 2024, for information, the Cree Cultural Awareness Program (CCAP) for the James Bay lithium mine project. This report was prepared by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 34 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023.

The CCAP was developed by the proponent's community relations team, in collaboration with a Cree community liaison officer from the Eastmain Cree Nation. The main objectives of the CCAP are to promote a better understanding of the different realities of Cree workers, deepen relationships and foster greater cohesion among project workers. The

program comprises a number of activities that will be carried out at different stages of the project. Training on Cree culture will be offered during the integration of new employees and contractors. An employee integration guide will be distributed to managers who have employees to manage in tandem with a sponsorship program. Several other activities are mentioned in the CCAP, such as the construction of a Cree cultural centre on the mine site.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have read the document sent by the proponent and, following analysis of this information, COMEX wishes to obtain certain clarifications from the proponent. A letter, containing questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, will be forwarded to the Provincial Administrator.

#2024-0627-03: *to write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like additional information on various aspects of the follow-up projects that they feel should be clarified.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator
Transmittal of a Request for additional information**

5) Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation Ref.

Ref.: 3214-14-053

- a) AMENDCA - Addition of borrow pits and camp (QC01 responses)
- b) Follow-up condition 7 - Waste management (QC01 responses)

NOTE: To facilitate analysis of the documents, the CA amendment request for the addition of borrow pits, the approval of the new camp and the revision of the residual materials management plan will be dealt with together.

WHEREAS on November 7, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received a request to amend the certificate of authorization (CA) for the Rose mining project to add borrow pits and approve a new worker camp site. Additional information was also received on January 12, 2024, April 9, 2024 and May 15, 2024. On November 21, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received for information the follow-up to condition 7 of the certificate of authorization concerning the waste management plan for the Rose mining project. Additional information was also received on April 26, 2024.

In the amendment application, the proponent would like to operate several borrow pits to meet the granular material needs of the project. As the proponent had only retained borrow pit B-2 in his impact study, a modification to the CA is required to allow it to add borrow pits B-4 and B-8 to the project.

The amendment application also seeks approval for a new camp to be built 3 km southeast of the mine complex. The proposed camp will occupy an area of 50,000 sq. m. and will be able to accommodate 250 people during operation, and will include a further 250 temporary rooms for the construction phase. In the supplementary information, the proponent indicates

that it will implement caribou monitoring measures in its monitoring program and that it is committed to collaborating with the MELCCFP to better understand the spatial dynamics of caribou in the mining area.

In its residual materials management plan, the proponent specified the quantities of residual materials generated on-site and for each project phase. It confirmed the agreements reached with the collaborators and the final choice of the existing site. It also clarified the site's capacity to receive the residual materials generated by the project, and updated the truck traffic reports to include the cumulative environmental impacts of transporting residual materials.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the modification of the October 31, 2022 global certificate of authorization since the use of borrow pits B-4 and B-8 is deemed acceptable from environmental and social standpoints.

WHEREAS COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent for the camp and recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the camp project. It is recommended, however, that the proponent be informed that the requirements regarding the monitoring of woodland caribou may be specified at the time of analysis of the Environmental and Social Monitoring Program, in accordance with condition 4 of the certificate of authorization.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent for the waste management plan. The information presented by the proponent fully addresses COMEX's concerns and expectations, and complies with condition 7 on waste management of the October 31, 2022 CA. However, COMEX recommends imposing the following condition:

The proponent must inform the Provincial Administrator of the residual materials management option that will be selected after December 31, 2026, i.e. at the end of the current agreement with the City of Chibougamau, as soon as this option is confirmed. At that time, it will have to present all the measures put in place to reduce the production of residual materials. It will also have to demonstrate that the use of an existing landfill site has been favoured, with a view to promoting a regional and coordinated approach to residual materials management.

This condition will be added when the CA is modified for the camp and borrow pits.

#2024-0627-04: *to write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents forwarded by the proponent and recommend authorizing, with conditions, the amendment to the global certificate of authorization issued on October 31, 2022 for the addition of borrow pits and the camp project.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator
 Transmittal of a recommendation**

**6) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec
Ref.: 3214-10-017**

a) Monitoring of hydrology, hydraulics and heat balance in continental environments - 2019

WHEREAS the Review Committee (COMEX) received, on February 27, 2024, for information, the follow-up report on the hydrology, hydraulics and heat balance in continental environments (2019) for the Eastmain/Rupert hydroelectric project. The monitoring was produced by the proponent in response to 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 2019 report corresponds to the last year of monitoring of these parameters under the environmental and social monitoring program.

The report presents the flows, temperatures and water levels measured between January 1 and December 31, 2019, over the entire project study area (Rupert, Lemare and Nemiscau rivers and Rupert diversion bays). The purpose of the follow-up was to document changes in hydrological and hydraulic conditions in areas affected by the partial diversion of the Rupert River, and to identify modifications caused by the project. The data collected were also to provide a better understanding of the evolution of the physical and biological components of the environment.

The results show that the compensation water associated with several structures were restored throughout 2019. In all watersheds affected by the project, inflows were similar to expected long-term normals. Water temperature measurements in the Rupert River indicate that the water leaving the dam is cooler in summer and warmer in fall than that of Mesgouez Lake, whose temperatures serve as a reference and reflect natural conditions. Deviations from the water temperature of Mesgouez Lake diminish as the water flows downstream. In general, the data show that the diversion had little effect on the heat balance of the areas studied.

WHEREAS COMEX will send a letter to the Provincial Administrator stating that it has read the document and has no comments to make on the information provided in the follow-up report on the hydrology, hydraulics and heat balance in the continental environment for the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project. However, COMEX would have appreciated presentation of a discussion of the links between physical indicators of the state of the environment and the biological environment.

#2024-0424-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have no comments on this subject.*

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

b) Monitoring riparian and aquatic vegetation on the Rupert River 2022

WHEREAS the Review Committee (COMEX) received, on February 27, 2024, for information, the 2022 riparian and aquatic vegetation monitoring reports for the Eastmain/Rupert hydroelectric project. The monitoring was produced by the proponent in response to a requirement of condition 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 2022 report corresponds to the last year of monitoring of riparian and aquatic vegetation under the environmental and social monitoring program.

Riparian and aquatic vegetation were monitored to assess anticipated changes in the Rupert diversion bay section, the reduced-flow section of the Rupert River, the Rupert Estuary and Rupert Bay. The objectives of the monitoring were to describe plant colonization on the banks of the Rupert diversion bays, to describe riparian and aquatic vegetation in the reduced-flow section of the Rupert River and in the Rupert Estuary after diversion, to observe the effects of grass seeding on the banks of the Rupert River, and to assess changes in riparian and aquatic vegetation in the eastern part of Rupert Bay.

The four monitoring efforts carried out between 2011 and 2022 enabled the observation of changes in riparian vegetation in the study areas. The riparian zones in the estuary and Rupert Bay showed almost no change between 2011 and 2022, and are broadly in line with what was described in the pre-project characterization study. In the riparian zones of the Rupert River, the results show that between 2011 and 2022, the average proportion of marshland has almost doubled in some transects, and there has been a significant gain in the area of aquatic grass beds, since all shorelines show a strong increase in vegetation cover. In the Rupert diversion bays, there has been an appreciable gain in shallow-water areas due to the expansion of the aquatic environment and an increase in the presence of floating peat bogs. Overall, the average species richness of the various sectors under study has remained stable or shown slight variations between 2011 and 2022, except for stations located in areas influenced by hydraulic structures, which show a decrease in average species richness.

WHEREAS COMEX will send a letter to the Provincial Administrator stating that it has read the document and has no comments to make on the information provided in the monitoring report on riparian and aquatic vegetation for the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project. However, for the sake of clarity, and even though some of the information can be found in the reports previously submitted, COMEX would have appreciated a discussion of the impact of the changes observed in vegetation and the use of grass beds by northern pike and their prey species.

#2024-0627-06: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have no comments on this subject.*

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

7) Windfall mining project by Windfall Mining Group

Ref.: 3214-14-059

- a) Environmental and social impact assessment
- b) Addendum: Impact study
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on April 4, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received for recommendation the environmental and social impact study for the Windfall mining project. In August 2023, correspondence was sent to the proponent informing it that COMEX members considered the impact study incomplete and that it will have to submit all the missing information to the Provincial Administrator so that COMEX can continue its analysis of the project. On January 29, 2024, COMEX received an addendum to the impact study.

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

#2024-0627-07: *to write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like to obtain additional information on various aspects of the project that they feel should be clarified (document with questions and comments attached).*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator
 Forwarding of questions and comments**

8) Other business

- a) **Dewatering of pits J-4 and 87 on the former Troilus mine site, Troilus Gold Corp.**

The Executive Secretary informed COMEX members that Troilus Gold's pit dewatering project would begin in July or August 2024.

- b) **COMEX Annual Report 2023–2204**

The Executive Secretary will submit a first draft of COMEX 2023-2024 annual report for review at the next meeting scheduled for August 7, 2024.

- c) **Workshop at Québec Mines + Energy 2024**

A COMEX-organized workshop proposal on the cumulative impacts of mining industry transportation on Eeyou Istchee James Bay roads was transmitted on May 2, 2024 and

retransmitted on May 15, 2024. The Executive Secretary is awaiting a response from the Québec Mine et Énergie organizing committee.

d) Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for August/September 2024

- Whabouchi Mining Project - MODCA12: Optimization of mining operations
- Condition monitoring: James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
- Condition monitoring (Responses QC01: Camp and borrow pit additions)

9) Next meeting

The next COMEX meetings are scheduled for August 7, 2024 and September 24, by videoconference.

Appendix A					
Follow-up correspondence from May 22, 2024 to June 27, 2024					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Whabouchi spodumene mine project by Nemaska Lithium inc. Ref.: 3214-14-052	Denis Isabel Nemaska Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Submission of the 2023 Environmental and Social Monitoring Report	Transmitted March 30, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Transmitted May 23, 2024 Received COMEX May 23, 2024	
Bonterra Resources Bachelor Mine Project Ref.: 3214-14-027	Marc-André Pelletier Bonterra Resources	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Submission of the 2023 Environmental and Social Monitoring Report	Transmitted March 28, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Transmitted May 23, 2024 Received COMEX May 23, 2024	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project by Hydro-Québec Ref.: 3214-10-017	Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring Condition 6.39: Economic impact monitoring - 2017-2021	Transmitted April 16, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Transmitted May 29, 2024 Received COMEX June 3, 2024	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project by Hydro-Québec Ref.: 3214-10-017	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Requests for additional information on: Monitoring of constructed and natural lake sturgeon spawning grounds (2021); Monitoring of constructed and natural lake trout spawning grounds (2020); Monitoring of birds of prey (2021).	Transmitted June 3, 2024 Acknowledged June 3, 2024	<i>For information</i>

Appendix A
Follow-up correspondence from May 22, 2024 to June 27, 2024

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project by Hydro-Québec Ref.: 3214-10-017	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmission of correspondence for: Monitoring fish communities in the Rupert River (2021); Monitoring the KP 170 multispecies spawning ground in the Rupert River (2021); Monitoring fish communities in the Rupert diversion bays (2021); Monitoring forest birds (2017 and 2021)	Transmitted June 3, 2024 Acknowledged June 3, 2024	<i>For information</i>
Troilus mine by Troilus Gold Corp. Dewatering project for pits Je and 87 Ref.: 3214-14-025	Mathieu Michaud Troilus Gold Corp.	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Environmental monitoring program - Condition 3 monitoring	Transmitted May 30, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Transmitted June 10, 2024 Received by COMEX on June 10, 2024	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project by Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmission of additional information - Follow-up to condition 10 of the certificate of authorization	Transmitted May 24, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Murielle Vachon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Transmitted May 31, 2024 Received by COMEX on June 12, 2024	
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project by Hydro-Québec Ref.: 3214-10-017	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec	Transmission of COMEX comments for follow-up on conditions 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.19 and 5.24 of the certificate of authorization	Transmitted June 19, 2024 Received by COMEX on June 21, 2024	<i>For information</i>