



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
429th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Adopted)**

DATE: October 22, 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 agenda for the 429th meeting was adopted as presented.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 428th meeting

The minutes of the 428th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 428th meeting minutes.

3) Correspondence follow-up

The follow-up to correspondence between September 24, 2024, and October 22, 2024, is presented in Appendix A.

4) New trench landfill project in Wemindji by the Cree Nation of Wemindji

Ref.: 3219-16-002

- a) Application to amend the certificate of authorization
- b) Additional information (answers to QC01)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on January 18, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received a request to amend the certificate of authorization concerning the project to build a new trench landfill in the community of Wemindji, which was authorized on June 16, 2021. Additional information was received on August 1st and 20, 2024.

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. As a solution, the proponent had proposed installing an infiltration system that would allow all leachate to passively seep into the ground. The proponent has since modified its initial solution and is now proposing to create additional ditches to intercept the horizontal flow of water in the low-permeability zone. The proponent is also proposing to raise the southern part of trenches 1 to 4 to an altitude of 14 metres to avoid water accumulation in the landfill between when the water is pumped and when the waste is deposited.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and, after analyzing this information, COMEX wishes to obtain certain clarifications. A letter, with questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator.

#2024-1022-01: *write to the Regional 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.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Regional Administrator
 Submit a request for additional information
 Forward questions and comments**

**5) Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp Canada Ltd.
Ref.: 3214-14-042**

- a) Application to amend certificate of authorization - Surface water withdrawal for drinking water supply
- For recommendation

WHEREAS on August 6, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received a request to amend the certificate of authorization concerning the drinking water supply at the Éléonore mine.

The mine operated eight wells that served as groundwater withdrawal sites to supply the mine site with drinking water. Three of these wells are now out of service. To provide a sustainable supply of drinking water at the mine site, the proponent wishes to add a new source of surface drinking water from Lake #2. This new drinking water outlet was approved as a temporary solution to supply drinking water to the mine site, and installation work was completed in the summer of 2024. The outlet will be operational in autumn 2024. This request to amend the CA will make this solution permanent at the mine site.

WHEREAS the members of the COMEX have reviewed the proponent's request to amend the certificate of authorization and recommend that the new surface water withdrawal site at Lake #2 be authorized as a source of drinking water. However, the proponent must apply all the mitigation measures presented in its document, such as monitoring the water level of Lake #2 and the flow of Simoneau Creek, to ensure that this source of drinking water is sustainable. A letter detailing the COMEX's recommendation will be sent to the Provincial Administrator.

#2024-1022-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members recommend that he authorize the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator
 Submit a recommendation**

- b) Application to amend certificate of authorization – Tailings impoundment expansion
- For recommendation

WHEREAS on July 19, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received an addendum to the request to amend the overall certificate of authorization (CA) concerning the tailings impoundment expansion at the Éléonore mine.

The Éléonore mine tailings impoundment currently covers an area of 80 ha. The planned expansion, referred to as phase 5, of the CA amendment application will enable the current tailings site to be extended by 20 ha. The expansion comprises two construction

phases and two operations phases. The construction of cell 5A and expansion of the collection pond are scheduled for 2025, with cell 5A operations scheduled to begin in mid-2026. The construction of cell 5B is scheduled for 2027, with operations scheduled to begin in mid-2028.

The nature of the tailings to be stored in cell 5 will be identical to that of the tailings stored in cells 1 to 4: desulphurized tailings from the concentrator, waste rock from the underground mine, sedimentation sludge and treatment sludge from the water treatment plant (WTP).

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and, after analyzing this information, COMEX wishes to obtain certain clarifications. A letter, along with a document outlining the questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, will be sent to the Provincial Administrator.

#2024-1022-03: *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.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator
 Submit a request for additional information
 Forward questions and comments**

6) Rose lithium-tantalum mining project, CELC

Ref.: 3214-14-053

- a) Monitoring of conditions 4 and 21 – Environmental and social monitoring program, Transportation impact monitoring program
 - For recommendation

Analysis of this project has been postponed to the meeting scheduled for November 27, 2024.

7) Other business

a. James Bay Lithium mining project discussion with MELCCFP

Mélissa Gagnon, Deputy Director General - Environmental and Strategic Assessments - Industrial, Mining, Energy and Northern Projects, and Murielle Vachon, Acting Director of Environmental Assessment for Industrial and Mining Projects, met with COMEX members to discuss the progress of follow-up work on the Galaxy Lithium mining project. They indicated that the work observed at the Galaxy Lithium mine complies with the conditions and ministerial authorizations issued to date by the MELCCFP, and that several conditions are still pending approval. COMEX members raised concerns about the extent of construction work observed at the site, which the proponent considers to be pre-

construction. A second meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024, to continue the discussion.

b. Purchase of Arcadium Lithium by Rio Tinto

The Executive Secretary informed COMEX members that Arcadium Lithium, the parent company of Galaxy Lithium and Nemaska Lithium, had been acquired by Rio Tinto.

c. COMEX participation in the AQÉI Congress (November 19 and 20, 2024)

The Executive Secretary confirmed with COMEX members that COMEX Chairman Luc Lainé would receive an official invitation from AQÉI to participate in the panel discussion at the AQÉI Congress, which will be held at Université Laval in Quebec City on November 20, 2024.

d. Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for winter 2024/2025

- Condition monitoring – James Bay Lithium mining project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
 - Condition 10 – WTP
- Condition monitoring – Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project
 - MHH compensation plans and fish habitat
 - Characterization and initial status of surface water/sediments
- Condition monitoring – Waswanipi TL (Conditions 2 and 13)
- Condition monitoring – Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion (January 2025)
 - Recreational and tourist activities
 - Economic impact
 - Mercury content in fish flesh

8) Next meeting

The next COMEX meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2024, by videoconference.

Appendix A					
Follow-up correspondence from September 25, 2024, to October 22, 2024					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Mont-Sorcier mining project, Voyager Metals Ref.: 3214-14-071	Cliff Hale-Sanders Voyager Metals	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Update on the Mont-Sorcier mining project	Sent September 30, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Cliff Hale-Sanders Voyager Metals		Sent October 7, 2024 Received COMEX October 11, 2024	
Construction of logging roads “H section west” and “I,” Matériaux Blanchet Inc. Ref.: 3214-05-075	Jocelyn Sauvageau Interfor/EACOM	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmission of additional information	Sent October 15, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent October 18, 2024 Received COMEX October 18, 2024	