

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the 430th meeting was adopted as presented.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 429th meeting

The minutes of the 429th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 429th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence follow-up

The follow-up correspondence from October 23, 2024, to November 27, 2024, is presented in Appendix A.

**4) Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation
Ref.: 3214-14-053**

- a) Monitoring of conditions 4 and 21 – Environmental and social monitoring program, Transportation impact monitoring program for the road network and environmental and social environment
- For recommendation

WHEREAS on December 7, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, the environmental and social monitoring program (ESMP) for the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project. This program also contains a section on the project's transportation impact monitoring program entitled *Transportation Activity Management Plan*. These monitoring programs were carried out by the proponent to meet the requirements of conditions 4 and 21 of the certificate of authorization issued on October 31, 2022.

The analysis revealed that the submitted ESMP and *Transportation Activity Management Plan* are structured according to the wording of the conditions formulated by the federal Minister of Environment. COMEX expected to receive a monitoring program addressed specifically to it and containing information relevant to the certificate of authorization. COMEX is of the opinion that the ESMP should be restructured to facilitate its analysis by provincial authorities.

WHEREAS COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish to obtain additional information on various aspects of the project that they feel should be clarified. A letter, along with a document outlining the questions and comments to be forwarded to the proponent, will be sent to the Provincial Administrator.

#2024-1127-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish 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**

- b) Condition monitoring: Compensation plan for WBW losses (conditions 11 and 15) –
 Compensation plan for fish habitat losses (conditions 9 and 12)
- For information and recommendation

WHEREAS on November 7, 2023, and November 20, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, the wetlands and bodies of water (WBW) compensation plan and the fish habitat compensation plan, respectively, for the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project. These compensation plans were drawn up by the proponent to meet the requirements of conditions 11 and 15 of the certificate of authorization issued on October 31, 2022.

WHEREAS on February 2, 2024, COMEX received, for information, the study on the characterization of surface water and sediments and the complementary study on fish and fish habitat. Updates to these studies were received on April 24, 2024, and September 20, 2024, respectively. These studies were carried out by the proponent to meet the requirements of conditions 9 and 12 of the certificate of authorization. Since these studies present the impact of the project on WBW and fish habitats, they were treated in conjunction with the compensation plans.

A review revealed that the WBW compensation plan and the fish habitat compensation plan are incomplete and do not adequately address conditions 11 and 15 of the certificate of authorization. The proponent must make certain clarifications to the compensation plans before COMEX members can recommend their approval. The proponent must also provide certain clarifications to the related documents produced in response to the requirements of conditions 9 and 12 of the certificate of authorization, notably the fish habitat inventories likely to be affected by the project, before COMEX can consider that these conditions have been adequately met.

WHEREAS the members of the COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish to obtain additional information on various aspects presented in the WBW compensation plan, the fish habitat compensation plan and related documents that they feel should be clarified. A letter, along with a document outlining the questions and comments to be forwarded to the proponent, will be sent to the Provincial Administrator.

#2024-1127-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish 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

5) James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
Ref.: 3214-14-055

- a) Monitoring of condition 7 – Contact water management plan (CWMP)
 ➤ For recommendation

WHEREAS on February 21, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, the contact water management plan (CWMP) for the Galaxy Lithium mine project. This plan was drawn up by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 7 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023.

WHEREAS the CWMP provided by the proponent is incomplete and does not meet the requirements of condition 7 of the certificate of authorization. In addition, a review of the CWMP cannot be completed without obtaining the results of the geochemical characterization of waste rock and tailings requested in condition 5 of the certificate of authorization. However, COMEX deemed it appropriate to conduct an initial review of the CWMP so that the proponent could submit a complete version of the document to the Provincial Administrator when filing its application for ministerial authorization under section 22 of the Environment Quality Act for the construction of waste rock and tailings co-disposal piles, as stipulated in the certificate of authorization.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and wish to obtain additional information on various aspects of the plan they feel should be clarified. Pending receipt of the documents required by condition 5 of the certificate of authorization to complete the review of condition 7, COMEX will forward a letter, with questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, to the Provincial Administrator.

#2024-1127-03: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish 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

- b) Monitoring of condition 10 – Water treatment plant
 - For information

WHEREAS on June 12, 2024, and July 22, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, documents concerning the water treatment plant (WTP) for the Galaxy Lithium mine project. These documents were submitted by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 10 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023. The objective of Condition 10 is to ensure that the WTP in place at the start of the mine operations phase will be capable of handling contaminants generated by mining activities right from the start of operations.

The proponent planned to build a permanent plant during the construction phase. An initial treatment line would be installed to handle the low volumes of water anticipated for the construction phase and the start of the operation phase (Phase I of the WTP). A second treatment line would be added during phase II of the WTP (year 3 of operations). It therefore appears that the proponent is still considering updating the plant during Phase II of the WTP and adding treatment units as needed, despite its commitments to the MELCCFP. This runs counter to condition 10, which calls for the plant to be upgraded prior to the operational phase, and to be operational from the start.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and consider that the information submitted is not in compliance with condition 10. COMEX will send a letter to the Provincial Administrator requesting him to ask the proponent to file documents consistent with the commitments it has made in connection with condition 10 and advising him that the WTP must be able to treat ALL contaminants from the start of the operation phase as mentioned in condition 10. Questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent will be included in the letter.

#2024-1127-04: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and consider that the information submitted is not in compliance with condition 10. COMEX would like to obtain additional information on various aspects of the project that it feels should be clarified.*

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

**6) Municipal landfill project in Waswanipi, Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
Ref.: 3214-14-052**

- a) Additional information – Restoration plan (proponent’s responses)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on March 30, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, a restoration plan for the community of Waswanipi’s former landfill. This plan was produced by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 2 of the certificate of authorization issued on March 10, 2017, which specifies that the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi must submit a restoration and monitoring plan to the Regional Administrator for approval following the closure of the former landfill used by the community.

WHEREAS questions and comments regarding this restoration plan were submitted to the proponent in July 2020. Answers to these questions were received by the COMEX in October 2021. A second and third round of questions and comments were sent to the proponent in December 2021 and April 2024, respectively. Answers to these questions were received by COMEX on August 27, 2024.

WHEREAS the members of the COMEX have reviewed the documents and consider that the information presented by the proponent meets condition 2 of the certificate of authorization issued on March 10, 2017. COMEX will recommend that the Regional Administrator authorize the restoration and monitoring plan for the former landfill near the community of Waswanipi. A letter with the COMEX’s recommendation will be sent to the Regional Administrator.

#2024-1127-05: write to the Regional Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and recommend that the restoration and monitoring plan for the former landfill near the community of Waswanipi be authorized.

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

**7) Forest road construction project – Extension of roads “H section west” and “I,”
Matériaux Blanchet Inc.
Ref.: 3214-05-075**

- a) Further information
 - For discussion

COMEX members have been informed that the proponent plans to submit an amendment to its application. COMEX will continue its review of the project once it has received this new information.

8) Other business

a. Recap of the AQÉI Congress – November 19 and 20, 2024

COMEX members would like to congratulate Daniel Berrouard on receiving the Prix Carrière at the annual AQÉI Gala. The Prix Carrière is awarded to an AQÉI member in recognition of their outstanding professional achievements.

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

- Windfall mine project - Additional information - QC01 answers
- Great Whale River wind farm construction project – Condition monitoring
- Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric project and Rupert diversion – Condition monitoring
 - Recreational and tourist activities
 - Economic impact
 - Mercury content in fish flesh

9) Next meeting

The next meetings are scheduled for January 22, 2025, and February 19, 2025, by videoconference.

Appendix A
Follow-up correspondence from October 23, 2024, to November 27, 2024

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Wind farm construction project, Great Whale River to Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaraapik, KWREC Ref.: 3219-10-001	Mathieu F�ret PESCA/KWREC	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Monitoring of the conditions of the global CA issued in June 2022 (Conditions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 22)	Sent September 30, 2024	<i>For information and recommendation</i>
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Luc Lain� COMEX		Sent October 30, 2024 Received COMEX October 31, 2024	
COMEX Annual Report 2023–2024	Sophie Cooper COMEX	Marie-Jos�e Lizotte, Deputy Minister MELCC Isaac Voyageur, Regional Director (CNG) M�lissa Gagnon, Julie Rodrigue, Murielle Vachon and Ian Courtemanche, MELCC JBACE CCCPP CQFB CTA CNG EIJBRG ARBJ	Transmission of document	Sent November 1, 2024 Acknowledged November 1, 2024	
Nemaska trench landfill development project, Cree Nation of Nemaska Ref.: 3214-16-079	Luc Lain� COMEX	Marie-Jos�e Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmission of a request for additional information (questions and comment)	Sent November 1, 2024 Acknowledged November 1, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
Windfall mine project, Windfall Mining Group Ref.: 3214-14-059	Andr�anne Boisvert Osisko Mining	Marie-Jos�e Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmission of additional information (QC01 answers)	Sent October 17, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	M�lissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lain� COMEX		Sent November 6, 2024 Received COMEX November 7, 2024	

Appendix A
Follow-up correspondence from October 23, 2024, to November 27, 2024

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Wemindji trench landfill development project, Cree Nation of Wemindji Ref.: 3219-16-002	Luc Lainé COMEX	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Application to amend a certificate of authorization – Transmission of a request for additional information (questions and comments – QC02)	Sent November 11, 2024 Acknowledged November 12, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Howard MacDonald Cree Nation of Wemindji		Sent November 12, 2024 Received COMEX November 14, 2024	
Whabouchi mine project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-052	Vincent Perron Nemaska Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Follow-up on the conditions of the CA amendment – Construction of a camp and bypass road and widening of the Route du Nord (Condition 1)	Sent October 30, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent November 20, 2024 Received COMEX November 22, 2024	
Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp Canada Ltd Ref.: 3214-14-042	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Request to amend the CA: Drinking water supply – Transmission of a recommendation	Sent November 22, 2024 Acknowledged November 22, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
Visit and inspection report for the Galaxy Lithium mine site, Cree Nation Government	Graeme Morin CNG	Annie Cassista MELCCFP	Transmission of environmental and social monitoring report 2023	Sent November 22, 2024	<i>For information</i>
	Graeme Morin CNG	Sophie Cooper COMEX		Sent November 22, 2024 Received COMEX November 22, 2024	