

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the 431st meeting was adopted as presented.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 430th meeting

The minutes of the 430th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 430th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence follow-up

The follow-up to correspondence from November 28, 2024, to January 22, 2025 is presented in Appendix A.

**4) Great Whale River wind farm project in Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik, Kuujuarapik-Whapmagoostui Renewable Energy Corporation (KWREC)
Ref.: 3219-10-001**

- a) Monitoring of conditions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 15 and 22 of the certificate of authorization
 - For information and recommendation

WHEREAS on October 31, 2024, and November 28, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information and recommendation, the information requested by the proponent to meet the requirements of conditions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 15 and 22 of the certificate of authorization issued on June 3, 2022 for the wind farm project (formerly hybrid power plant construction project).

Condition 1: Monitoring and consultation committee (for information)

The proponent presents the composition of the monitoring and consultation committee, which includes representatives of the Whapmagoostui First Nation community, the Kuujuaraapik community, the Cree Nation Government, tallymen, the Hunters and Trappers Association and land users. It also specifies the various mandates and role of the committee in accordance with the expectations stipulated in the condition, notably to monitor the economic benefits of the project and to gather and discuss complaints relating to the project.

Condition 3: Ambient noise monitoring program (for recommendation)

Condition 3 requires the proponent to set up an ambient noise monitoring system for the first three years of operation of the wind farm, and then every ten years thereafter for the duration of its operation. The ambient noise monitoring program proposed by the proponent presents the location of ambient noise monitoring points, the methodology to be used, the validity criteria for the data collected, and the parameters to be recorded and analyzed. The proponent has undertaken to submit a report presenting the results of annual monitoring to the Regional Administrator, as well as to the monitoring and consultation committee, within three months of the end of each monitoring session.

Condition 4: Complaints handling system (for information)

The document entitled *Complaints Handling System* outlines the procedure for handling complaints, the intervention mechanism for managing these complaints, and the commitment to submit an annual complaints handling report to the Regional Administrator and the monitoring and consultation committee.

Condition 6: Inventory of migrating birds of prey (for information)

The bird of prey inventory report submitted by the proponent presents the results of the inventories carried out in 2022 and 2023. This report confirms sightings of 6 species of birds of prey, including the golden eagle, merlin and bald eagle. According to the proponent, no additional mitigation measures are required at this time. However, it has undertaken to monitor bird mortality during the operations phase of the wind farm. In the event that it reveals bird of prey mortality, the proponent undertakes to inform the Regional Administrator of the discovery of a carcass within 24 hours. It also undertakes to submit an annual monitoring report to the Regional Administrator and to work with the relevant authorities to implement additional mitigation measures as required. Considering the discovery of active golden eagle nests at a distance of 2 and 9 km from the future wind farm, the implementation of additional mitigation measures based on the results of the bird mortality monitoring program could be considered.

Condition 7 - Bat inventory (for information)

The bat inventory report submitted by the proponent presents the results of the inventories carried out in 2022 and 2023. This report indicates that only one bat call, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), was detected. According to the initiator, the detection of a single individual and the absence of summer roosts suggest that this is an individual on the move in the study area. Nevertheless, the proponent has planned mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts on bats, including avoiding deforestation during the breeding season and carrying out a bat mortality monitoring program. However, the implementation of additional mitigation measures based on the results of the bat mortality monitoring program could be considered.

Condition 8: Bird and bat mortality monitoring program during the operations phase (for recommendation)

Condition 8 requires the proponent to carry out bird and bat mortality monitoring for the first three years of the wind farm's operation, and every ten years thereafter for the duration of its operation. The proposed *Environmental Monitoring Program - Birds and Bats* includes a timetable and the methodology that will be used to monitor the mortality of these species in accordance with the MELCCFP reference protocol. The proponent has undertaken to submit an annual monitoring report to the Regional Administrator and to the monitoring and consultation committee. Should the results show a significant mortality rate, the proponent has undertaken to present and discuss additional mitigation and monitoring measures.

Condition 15: Supply contract (for information)

The proponent has submitted the supply contract between Hydro-Québec and KWREC for the wind farm project, dated April 27, 2023, as well as the decision of the Régie de l'énergie du Québec, dated July 26, 2023, approving the contract between Hydro-Québec and KWREC.

Condition 22: Archaeological inventory (for information)

Prior to the start of construction, the proponent was required to contact the Cree Anischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute and the Avataq Cultural Institute to be informed about any archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project site. The archaeological inventory was carried out in seven separate areas. Two of these areas contained archaeological remains for which mitigation measures were recommended and communicated to the proponent by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC).

WHEREAS COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and find that the proponent has met the requirements of conditions 1, 4, 6, 7, 15 and 22 of the certificate

of authorization dated June 3, 2022. COMEX is still waiting to receive information on conditions 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23 of the certificate of authorization.

WHEREAS COMEX will recommend that the Regional Administrator authorize the Ambient Noise Monitoring Program and the Bird and Bat Mortality Monitoring Program during the operations phase. Once the bird and bat mortality monitoring reports have been received, as well as the noise climate monitoring reports for the operations phase, further recommendations may be made to implement additional monitoring and mitigation measures.

WHEREAS COMEX will also recommend that the Cree Nation Government inform the proponent that it must pay particular attention to the presence of golden eagles during the operations phase of the wind farm. The addition of summer monitoring of golden eagle movements, particularly between mid-July and early August after the young have fledged from the nest, could be added to its inventory of migrating birds of prey.

WHEREAS COMEX will recommend that the Regional Administrator inform the proponent that it will need to submit a request to amend the certificate of authorization, given that it plans to change the wind turbine model. The proponent will have to present the positive and negative impacts of replacing the initial wind turbines with another model that will reduce the size and capacity of the turbines.

#2025-0122-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent. The members consider that conditions 1, 4, 6, 7, 15 and 22 of the certificate of authorization issued on June 3, 2022 have been met by the proponent. COMEX members recommend authorizing the Ambient Noise Monitoring Program and the Bird and Bat Mortality Monitoring Program during the operations phase.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator
Submit a recommendation (Conditions 3 and 8)**

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

- a) Monitoring recreational and tourist activities – 2015 study report
➤ For information

WHEREAS on April 5, 2017, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, the 2015 monitoring report on recreational and tourist activities in connection with the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project. This monitoring report was produced by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 6.9 of the November 24, 2006 certificate of authorization, as well as condition 1 of the July 28, 2008 amendment to the certificate of authorization.

This monitoring program was designed to assess the project's impact on land use, occupation and development for recreational and tourist activities. Initial monitoring was carried out in 2011, and 2015 was the final year of monitoring in the operations phase. As in 2011, the 2015 recreation and tourism monitoring was carried out in collaboration with the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association and Tourisme Baie-James.

From 2003 to 2015, the frequency of road use increased, although the proportion of new users decreased in both summer and winter. In summer, most users are tourists, while in winter, most users are workers, hunters and residents. Recreational tourism is seen as a potential vector of economic development for the region, but visitor volumes for most activities are stagnating or growing slowly. Finally, the report concludes that the development of recreational and tourist activities in the James Bay region is multifactorial, but generally seems to be largely unaffected by the hydroelectric project.

WHEREAS COMEX has reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and considers that the 2015 monitoring report on recreational and tourist activities has met the objectives set. COMEX members have no comments.

#2025-0122-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments.*

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

- b) Monitoring mercury levels in fish flesh – 2021 study report
➤ For information

WHEREAS on September 15, 2023, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, the 2021 monitoring report on mercury levels in fish flesh for the Eatsmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project. This monitoring report was produced by the proponent to meet the requirements of conditions 5.3, 5.9, 5.27 and 5.34 of the November 24, 2006 certificate of authorization, as well as condition 1 of the July 28, 2008 amendment to the certificate of authorization.

The general aim of the monitoring report was to track changes in mercury levels in fish flesh so that users (Cree and sport fishermen) could continue to eat fish without damaging their health. Species monitored included lake whitefish, northern pike, walleye and occasionally northern sucker and lake sturgeon.

For the Paix des Braves reservoir area, the results suggest that peak mercury levels have been reached in the target species, although this needs to be confirmed in the next monitoring report. The same observations were noted for most of the species sampled in Opinaca reservoir, except for northern pike. There seems to be overpredation in this sector, which would explain the higher average levels compared to 2016. The Opinaca reservoir northern pike limit should therefore remain at one meal per month.

In the Rupert diversion bays, average levels have risen significantly compared with natural conditions, particularly in the headbay for northern pike. The peak does not appear to have been reached in this area; as a result, the effects of the impoundment in this sector will need to be assessed after the next monitoring report. In the Lemare, Nemiscau and Rupert Rivers, mercury levels in lake sturgeon and northern pike are still higher than in natural environments, and the peak does not appear to have been reached. In the Misticawissich River, the results indicate that average mercury levels for northern pike remain above natural values. It is advisable to restrict consumption of fish from this sector.

Hydro-Québec recommends restricting consumption of walleye from Paix des Braves reservoir, Opinaca reservoir, Rupert diversion bays, and Lemare and Nemiscau Rivers, as well as northern pike from Paix des Braves reservoir, Rupert tailbay, downstream in the Lemare and Nemiscau Rivers, Village Lake North and South. However, lake whitefish from the Paix des Braves and Opinaca reservoirs can now be consumed without restrictions. Under the 2007–2023 environmental monitoring program, mercury levels will continue to be monitored until target levels are reached for lake whitefish, lake sturgeon, northern pike and walleye. Hydro-Québec notes that there will be another monitoring report, but does not specify the target period.

WHEREAS COMEX has reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and considers that the 2021 monitoring report on mercury levels in fish flesh was exhaustive and detailed and met the objectives set. COMEX members have no comments at present, although they noted that peak mercury levels do not appear to have been reached for piscivorous species in several sectors. COMEX is still waiting to receive the next monitoring report for an unspecified target period.

#2025-0122-03: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent. COMEX members have no comments for the time being and are awaiting the next monitoring report.*

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

6) James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.

Ref.: 3214-14-053

- a) Condition 3 – Commitment monitoring table
 - For information

WHEREAS on February 21, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, the commitment monitoring table for the Galaxy Lithium mining project. This table was produced by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 3 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023.

Condition 3 of the certificate of authorization stipulates that, before construction begins, the proponent must submit a table tracking the commitments made with regard to the project during the social and environmental impact assessment and review procedure (SEIARP) to the Provincial Administrator and publish the table on its website. These are actual commitments made to committees, the Ministry, workers, land users, etc., as well as commitments to implement mitigation, compensation or other measures. It is also requested that this table be updated on a regular basis to keep everyone informed on the progress of commitments and the implementation of actions specific to these commitments.

The table, published online on February 12, 2024, on the Allkem website, presents the commitments made by the proponent and the mitigation measures it plans to implement during the various phases of the project. However, it was found that several commitments made by the proponent were not included. In addition, since its initial publication, the table has not been updated on the website.

WHEREAS COMEX members have reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and consider that the table of commitments submitted by the proponent and published on the website on February 12, 2024 does not include all the commitments made to the project during the SEIARP and does not meet the requirements of condition 3 of the certificate of authorization.

COMEX members wish to obtain additional information on various aspects of the table of commitments which, in their view, should be clarified. COMEX will forward a letter, with questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, to the Provincial Administrator.

#2025-0122-04: *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 think should be clarified.*

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

7) Other business

a. Progress of the Windfall mining project analysis

The Executive Secretary informed COMEX members that the analysis of the proponent's answers to the series of questions and comments, which was sent to the proponent in 2024, will be completed for the meeting scheduled for February 19, 2024.

b. 2024 Québec Mines + Énergie Convention:

The Executive Secretary informed COMEX members that presentations from the annual Québec Mines + Énergie Convention are available online until January 31, 2025.

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

- Windfall mining project: Additional information - Answers to QC01
- MRNF project to restore Mine Principale
- Project to extend forest roads H and I – MODCA
- Project to build a new trench landfill (TL) in Wemindji – MODCA
- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project – condition monitoring – economic benefits

8) Next meetings

The next meetings are scheduled for February 19, 2025, March 18, 2025, and April 30, 2025, by videoconference.

Appendix A
Follow-up correspondence from November 28, 2024, to January 22, 2025

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Great Whale River wind farm project in Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaraapik, KWREC Ref.: 3219-10-001	Mathieu F��ret PESCA/KWREC	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Monitoring of conditions of the global CA issued in June 2022 (Condition 15)	Sent November 13, 2024	For information
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Luc Lain�� COMEX		Sent November 26, 2024 Received COMEX November 28, 2024	
Project to develop a new trench landfill in Nemaska, Cree Nation of Nemaska Ref.: 3214-16-079	M��lissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Cree Nation of Nemaska	Transmission of a request for additional information (questions and comments)	Sent November 28, 2024 Received COMEX November 29, 2024	For recommendation
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lain�� COMEX	Marie-Jos��e Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Monitoring of condition 24 (Transportation management plan for the construction phase) –	Sent December 2, 2024 Acknowledged December 2, 2024	For recommendation
	M��lissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Transmission of a request for additional information (questions and comments)	Sent January 6, 2024 Received COMEX January 7, 2025	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lain�� COMEX	Marie-Jos��e Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Monitoring of conditions 26 (Agreement with road maintenance managers) and 27 (Monitoring program on increased road traffic and social and environmental nuisances) - Transmission of a recommendation	Sent December 2, 2024 Acknowledged December 2, 2024	For information and recommendation
	M��lissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium		Sent December 20, 2024 Received COMEX January 7, 2025	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lain�� COMEX	Marie-Jos��e Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Monitoring of condition 37 (Emergency measures plan) - Transmission of a comment	Sent December 2, 2024 Acknowledged December 2, 2024	For information

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp Canada Ltd. Ref.: 3214-14-042	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Application to amend the certificate of authorization: Expansion of the tailings impoundment area - Transmission of a request for additional information (Questions and comments)	Sent December 5, 2024 Acknowledged December 5, 2024	For recommendation
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Geneviève Pépin Goldcorp Canada Ltd.		Sent December 17, 2024 Received COMEX December 17, 2024	
Municipal landfill project in Waswanipi, Cree First Nation of Waswanipi Ref.: 3214-16-068	Luc Lainé COMEX	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Monitoring of condition 2 of the certificate of authorization - Transmission of a recommendation	Sent December 9, 2024 Acknowledged December 9, 2024	For recommendation
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Rhonda Cooper Cree First Nation of Waswanipi		Sent December 10, 2024 Received COMEX December 13, 2024	
Windfall Mine Project, Windfall Mining Group Ref.: 3214-14-059	Andréanne Boisvert Windfall Mining Group	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Notice of change of proponent	Sent November 25, 2024	For information
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent December 9, 2024 Received COMEX December 10, 2024	
Project to restore Mine Principale in Chibougamau, MRNF Ref.: 3214-14-058	Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 2 of the October 21, 2020 amendment to the certificate of authorization issued on August 22, 2014	Submitted May 3, 2024, and completed November 8, 2024	For information
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent December 9, 2024 Received COMEX December 10, 2024	
James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE)	Michèle Leduc-Lapierre JBACE	Sophie Cooper COMEX	Report on 2023–2024 activities	Sent December 13, 2024 Received COMEX December 13, 2024	For information
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 4 (Environmental monitoring program) - Transmission of a request for additional information (Questions and comments)	Sent December 17, 2024 Acknowledged December 17, 2024	For recommendation

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 8 (Towpath membrane watertightness monitoring program) - Transmission of a request for additional information (Questions and comments)	Sent December 17, 2024 Acknowledged December 17, 2024	For recommendation
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium		Sent December 20, 2024 Received COMEX January 7, 2025	
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation (CELC) Ref.: 3214-14-053	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 4 (Environmental and Social Monitoring Program (ESMP)) – Transmission of a request for additional information (Questions and comments)	Sent December 19, 2024 Acknowledged December 19, 2024	For recommendation
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, Critical Elements Lithium Corporation (CELC) Ref.: 3214-14-053	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 11 (WBW compensation plan) and 15 (Fish habitat compensation plan) - Transmission of a request for additional information (Questions and comments)	Sent December 19, 2024 Acknowledged December 19, 2024	For recommendation
Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp Canada Ltd. Ref.: 3214-14-042	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Geneviève Pépin Goldcorp Canada Ltd.	Transmission of the amendment to the certificate of authorization issued on November 10, 2011 – Drinking water supply	Sent December 20, 2024 Received COMEX January 7, 2025	
Project to extend forest roads “H section west” and “I,” EACOM Timber Corporation Ref.: 3214-05-075	Jocelyn Sauvageau Interfor/EACOM	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmission of additional information for the application to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent November 19, 2024	For recommendation
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent December 18, 2024 Received COMEX January 9, 2025	

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Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project, Hydro-Québec Ref.: 3214-10-017	Marie-Ève Lemieux Hydro-Québec	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring reports (Cree Land Use Monitoring – 2020-2021 and Environmental Activity Report – 2017)	Sent December 4, 2024	For information
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 9, 2025 Received COMEX January 10, 2025	
Project to extend Route 167 North to the Otish Mountains, MTMD Ref.: 3214-05-077	Sébastien Doire MTMD	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 24 of the December 1, 2011 certificate of authorization - Answers to questions	Sent November 18, 2024	For information
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 9, 2025 Received COMEX January 10, 2025	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 34 of the December 27, 2023 certificate of authorization – Cree cultural awareness – Answers to questions	Sent December 19, 2024	For information
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 15, 2025 Received COMEX January 15, 2025	
Renard diamond mine, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-041	Raphaël Perreault Patrick Sévigny Stornoway Diamonds	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Update to operation status	Sent December 27, 2024	For information
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 14, 2025 Received COMEX January 14, 2025	