



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  
432<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
(Adopted)**

**DATE:** February 19, 2025

**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

## **Minutes of the 432<sup>nd</sup> COMEX meeting**

### **1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The agenda for the 432<sup>nd</sup> meeting was adopted as presented.

### **2) Adoption of the minutes of the 431<sup>st</sup> meeting**

The minutes of the 431<sup>st</sup> meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 431<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes**

### **3) Correspondence follow-up**

The follow-up to correspondence from January 23, 2025, to February 19, 2025, is presented in Appendix A.

### **4) Restoration of the Mine Principale in Chibougamau, MRNF**

#### **Ref.: 3214-14-058**

- a) Monitoring of condition 2 of the October 21, 2020 amendment to the certificate of authorization issued on August 22, 2014
  - For information

WHEREAS on December 10, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information and recommendation, the documents requested by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 2 of the October 21, 2020 amendment to the certificate of authorization (CA) issued on August 22, 2014 for the Mine Principale restoration project.

Condition 2 of the CA amendment required the proponent to hold a public consultation session with the communities of Chibougamau and Oujé-Bougoumou to present the updated restoration plan and ensure the plan addresses the environmental concerns of the affected communities. The proponent was also required to keep channels of communication open with the communities as the project progressed, and to communicate the results of discussions with the communities to the deputy minister of the MELCCFP.

On January 23 and 24, 2024, the MRNF presented a status update on the Mine Principale restoration project to members of the community of Oujé-Bougoumou and the town of Chibougamau. All questions were answered by the MRNF during the public sessions. The presentations (French and English versions), questions asked by the communities and answers provided by the MRNF are presented in the minutes submitted by the proponent.

WHEREAS the members of COMEX consider that the proponent has fulfilled the requirements of condition 2 of the October 21, 2020 amendment to the August 22, 2014 certificate of authorization for the Mine Principale restoration project. A public consultation with the communities of Chibougamau and Oujé-Bougoumou was carried out by the MRNF, and a report outlining the environmental concerns of the communities concerned and the responses to these questions was forwarded to the Provincial Administrator.

**#2025-0219-01:** *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent. COMEX considers that the proponent has met the requirements of condition 2 of the October 21, 2020 amendment to the August 22, 2014 certificate of authorization for the Mine Principale restoration project.*

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

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### **5) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project, Hydro-Québec**

**Ref.: 3214-10-017**

#### a) Economic impact monitoring – 2017–2021 study report

➤ For information

WHEREAS on June 3, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, the economic impact report on the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project. This monitoring report was produced by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 6.39 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 report is the latest economic impact monitoring study.

The report presents the economic benefits of the project for the Cree communities and the James Bay agglomerations of the Eastmain-1-A–Sarcelle–Rupert (“ESR”) project for the 2017-2021 period, including jobs and contracts awarded. Its objective was to update the economic portrait of the communities affected by the project, describe the means implemented to promote economic benefits, and assess the extent of the economic benefits generated by the project in these communities.

From 2007 to the end of 2021, \$998 million was allocated to some 40 Cree companies and organizations, including \$62.5 million for the operating phase. Contract award commitments for the construction phase (\$290 million) and operating phase (\$45 million) have therefore been far exceeded. Of the contracts awarded (construction and operation phases combined), 37% were awarded for environmental studies and work. The funds allocated by Hydro-Québec under the Boumhounan Agreement, the La Sarcelle Generating Station Agreement and the Land Reclamation Agreement totalled nearly \$122 million in 2021. These funds have had a visible impact on the communities.

James Bay businesses have also benefitted, with pre-project forecasts far exceeded. In addition, numerous contracts have been awarded to companies from other regions, and Hydro-Québec contributes to government revenues, notably through water-power royalties. It is important to note that the companies and workers who have had contracts with Hydro-Québec have developed considerable expertise that they will be able to put to good use with other employers.

Reflections are underway on the criteria for defining a Cree business, as it was found that as in the 2012–2016 study, a portion of the spinoffs did not benefit the Cree people living in the communities.

WHEREAS COMEX has reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and considers that the 2017–2021 economic impact monitoring report has met the objectives set. COMEX members have no comments to make on this subject and consider that economic impact monitoring can be concluded.

**#2025-0219-02:** *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and consider that the economic impact monitoring can be concluded.*

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

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### b) Waterfowl monitoring – 2023 study report

➤ For information

WHEREAS on March 5, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, correspondence indicating that Hydro-Québec does not wish to resume the 2023 waterfowl monitoring for the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project. This monitoring was supposed to be conducted by the proponent to meet the requirements of conditions 5.10 and 5.11 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 2023 waterfowl study was an additional study added at the request of the Monitoring Committee.

The monitoring had three areas of focus: Canada goose use of the Rupert diversion bays, breeding pairs and broods. Monitoring of the first two was fully completed in spring 2023. However, brood monitoring could not be carried out due to the forest fires that ravaged northern Quebec, preventing the proponent from accessing helicopters to conduct the final field operations scheduled for July. In addition, the habitat had also been greatly affected by the forest fires, making comparison with earlier studies difficult.

The Cree communities had also noted that the overflights were conducted at a time when Cree land users were engaged in traditional hunting activities (goose break), and this third aspect of the monitoring was very disruptive, particularly due to the low-level helicopter flights. Finally, this decision was discussed with members of the Monitoring Committee at meetings held on November 28, 2023, and February 6, 2024. Members were of the opinion that, given the intrusive nature of the monitoring, additional monitoring would not be justified.

WHEREAS COMEX has reviewed the document transmitted by the proponent and confirms that it has no objection to the monitoring not being pursued for the reasons provided by Hydro-Québec in its letter of February 28, 2024.

**#2025-0219-03:** *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and confirm that they have no objection to the monitoring not being pursued for the reasons provided by Hydro-Québec in its letter of February 28, 2024.*

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

### **6) Windfall mining project, Windfall Mining Group**

**Ref.: 3214-14-059**

- a) Environmental and social impact study
- b) Addendum – Impact study
- c) Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
  - For recommendation

On November 8, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, the proponent's responses to the questions and comments submitted in June 2024.

The members of COMEX have reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and, after reviewing this information, wish to obtain certain clarifications from the proponent. A first draft of a second set of questions and comments was submitted to COMEX for review. Following

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comments provided by MELCCFP and CNG analysts, COMEX is awaiting verification on a few aspects of the project before continuing to draft the document.

### **7) New trench landfill project in Wemindji, Cree Nation of Wemindji**

**Ref.: 3219-16-002**

- a) Request to amend the CA
- b) Additional information (QC01)
- c) Additional information (QC02)
  - For recommendation

WHEREAS on January 18, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received a request to amend the certificate of authorization for the project to build a new trench landfill (TL) in the community of Wemindji, which was authorized on June 16, 2021. Additional information was received on August 1, 2024, August 20, 2024, and January 27, 2025.

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. Water in the TL reduces the burial capacity of the site and makes it unsuitable. As a solution, the proponent had proposed installing an infiltration system that would allow all leachate to passively infiltrate 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 TL 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 recommend conditional authorization to amend the comprehensive certificate of authorization dated June 16, 2021, for the new trench landfill project in Wemindji so that the proponent may incorporate the proposed solutions to prevent leachate from accumulating at the bottom of the trenches.

COMEX recommends the following condition concerning the location of observation wells and groundwater monitoring for the amendment to the certificate of authorization:

The proponent must provide the Regional Administrator, for information, with plans showing the location of the three observation wells that will be installed in the area of existing wells POF-02-2023 to POF-04-2023 to monitor the water table.

Furthermore, COMEX considers it appropriate to remind the proponent of the importance of obtaining ministerial authorizations under section 22 of the Environment Quality Act to ensure that the project complies with current regulations. No such application has been filed as of February 19, 2025. The proponent must also comply with the conditions set out in the certificate of authorization issued on June 16, 2021, in particular condition 3 concerning the submission, for approval, of plans and procedures relating to the closure of the former landfill site.

**#2024-0219-04:** *write to the Regional Administrator informing him that COMEX members recommend authorizing, with conditions, the request to amend the certificate of authorization.*

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

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**8) Other business**

**a) Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for winter 2025**

- Project to extend forest roads H and I – MODCA
- Project to extend Chemin 167N to the Otish Mountains by the MTMD
- Barry and Moroy gold ore processing project at Bachelor site and increase in milling rate

**9) Next meetings**

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

**Appendix A**  
**Follow-up correspondence from January 23, 2025, to February 19, 2025**

<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Monitoring of condition 13 (WBW compensation plan) – Transmission of a request for additional information (questions and comments)	Sent January 24, 2025 Acknowledged January 24, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
Project to build a new trench landfill in Wemindji, Cree Nation of Wemindji Ref.: 3219-16-002	Katherine Moses Cree Nation of Wemindji	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Transmission of additional information (answers to 2nd series of questions and comments)	Sent January 23, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 23, 2024 Received COMEX January 27, 2025	
Barry and Moroy gold ore processing project, Bonterra Resources Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-027	Marc-André Pelletier Bonterra Resources	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmission of additional information (answers to 3rd series of questions and comments)	Sent December 20, 2024	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 23, 2025 Received COMEX January 7, 2025	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Monitoring of condition 37 (Emergency Measures Plan) – Transmission of additional information	Sent January 17, 2025	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 28, 2025 Received COMEX January 30, 2025	
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, CELC Ref.: 3214-14-053	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC	Monitoring of conditions 9, 11, 12 and 15 of the CA (WBW Compensation Plan and Fish Habitat Compensation Plan) – Transmission of questions and comments	Sent February 3, 2025 Received COMEX February 5, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>

**Appendix A**  
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<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, CELC Ref.: 3214-14-053	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC	Monitoring of conditions 4 and 21 of the CA (Environmental and Social Monitoring Program and Transportation Impact Monitoring Program) – Transmission of questions and comments	Sent February 3, 2025 Received COMEX February 6, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp Canada Ltd. Ref.: 3214-14-042	Geneviève Pepin Goldcorp Canada	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCC	Amendment to the certificate of authorization: Expansion of the tailings impoundment area – Transmission of additional information (answers to questions and comments)	Sent February 3, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent February 11, 2025 Received COMEX February 12, 2025	