



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
434TH MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Adopted)**

DATE:	April 30, 2025
PLACE:	Videoconference (Teams)
PRESENT:	Daniel Berrouard, Québec Robert Joly, Québec John Paul Murdoch, CNG Lucas Del Vecchio, CNG
ABSENT:	Luc Lainé, Chairman Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the 434th meeting was adopted as presented.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 433rd meeting

The minutes of the 433rd meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 433rd meeting minutes

3) Correspondence follow-up

The follow-up to correspondence from March 19, 2025, to April 30, 2025, is presented in Appendix A.

4) Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp Canada Ltd

Ref.: 3214-14-042

- a) Application to amend the CA: expansion of the tailings site
- b) Additional information (answers to QC01)
- c) Additional information (answers to QC02)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on July 19, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, an addendum to the application to amend the certificate of authorization for the expansion of the mine tailings site (MTS) at the Éléonore mine. Additional information was received on February 12, 2025, and April 7, 2025.

The Éléonore mine tailings site currently covers an area of 80 ha. The planned expansion, referred to as phase 5 in the application to amend the CA, will enable the current MTS to be extended by 20 ha. The expansion includes two construction phases and two operating phases. Construction of cell 5A is scheduled for 2025, with operations expected to begin in mid-2026. Construction of cell 5B is scheduled for 2027, with operations expected to begin in mid-2028. It should be noted that the proponent's original application also included a plan to expand the collection pond. The proponent now indicates that it has revised its calculations and has concluded that it is not necessary to expand the pond for phase 5.

WHEREAS the members of the COMEX have reviewed all the documents submitted for the request to amend the certificate of authorization. COMEX considers that the proponent has responded satisfactorily to questions and concerns regarding dam stability and dust emissions. COMEX understands that the proponent has agreed to submit additional studies for the tailings site expansion at the ministerial authorization application stage under section 22 of the *Environment Quality Act*.

WHEREAS COMEX recommends authorizing the tailings site expansion project at the Éléonore mine site. A letter detailing COMEX's recommendation will be sent to the Provincial Administrator.

#2025-0430-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that the members of COMEX recommend authorizing the request to amend the certificate of authorization for the expansion of the tailings site at the Éléonore mining site.*

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

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

- a) Monitoring program for geomembrane watertightness and haul road construction
 ➤ For recommendation

WHEREAS on February 12, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for recommendation, the membrane watertightness monitoring program for the haul roads for the James Bay Lithium Mine project. This plan was produced by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 8 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023. Additional information was received on January 24, 2025.

After reviewing all the documents submitted by the proponent, questions and concerns remain regarding the construction stages of the haul roads, the dipole method used by the proponent to detect leaks in the geomembrane, and the lifespan of the geomembrane. The proponent does not specify whether another preventive leak detection method is available, nor does it make any commitment to find a more appropriate method when the thickness of the covering material exceeds 1000 mm, as requested. The proponent also fails to propose any solution to the geomembrane lifespan issue and indicates that no method will be adopted to validate its durability.

WHEREAS the members of the COMEX consider that the proponent has not adequately addressed the concerns raised by the Review Committee and are not convinced of the effectiveness of the monitoring program proposed by the proponent. COMEX considers that the proponent lacks foresight, since it does not propose any new mitigation measures or monitoring methods for preventive tests other than the dipole method, or to ensure the durability of the membrane before the end of the mine's life.

WHEREAS there is no consensus among COMEX members concerning the recommendation to be forwarded to the Provincial Administrator for this file. COMEX will continue to discuss this issue at the meeting scheduled for May 27, 2025.

- b) Follow-up on condition 34 – Cree culture awareness program
 ➤ For information

WHEREAS on February 21, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, the Cree cultural awareness program (CCAP) for the project in question. This

plan was drawn up by the proponent to meet the requirements of condition 34 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023. Additional information was received on January 15, 2025.

The CCAP was developed by the proponent's community relations team in collaboration with a Cree community liaison officer from the Cree Nation of Eastmain. 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 mine employees. In response to questions from COMEX, the CCAP has been updated to include details of the sponsorship program, harassment policy and procedure, professional integration guide, and annual review and monitoring of the program. In addition, the proponent has committed to revising the cultural sensitivity training content.

WHEREAS COMEX considers that the information provided by the proponent to analyze the Cree cultural awareness program generally meets the condition. COMEX will recommend that this condition be considered completed, conditional on the proponent's commitment to have its Cree cultural awareness program reviewed by an external firm to ensure the validity and accuracy of the information conveyed.

#2025-0430-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members recommend that condition 34 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 27, 2023, be considered completed, conditional on the proponent's commitment to have its Cree cultural awareness program reviewed by a third party.*

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

6) Renard diamond mine project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc.

Ref.: 3214-14-041

- a) Monitoring: Cessation of mining operations
 - For information

WHEREAS on January 19, 2024, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information, a letter addressed to the Provincial Administrator concerning the temporary cessation of operations at the Renard diamond mine. The proponent, Les Diamants Stornoway Inc. (Stornoway), has announced that it will be maintaining a small team during this temporary shutdown to monitor and maintain the facilities, particularly regarding environmental issues. In another letter received on March 3, 2025, the proponent indicates that the company ceased operations on January 28, 2025.

The Renard mine is currently in the process of being sold. An agreement has been reached between Stornoway Inc. and Winsome Resources Ltd. (Winsome) for the potential sale of the Renard mine assets. Winsome plans to acquire the Renard mine to process ore from the Adina deposit, located some 73 km north of the Renard site. Winsome's option to purchase the Renard mine site, with an initial expiry date of February 28, 2025, has been

extended to August 31, 2025. Until the proponent changes, Stornoway will be responsible for site activities and environmental monitoring. The buyer of the mine will also have to continue environmental monitoring, comply with authorization conditions and maintain Stornoway's commitments.

In the letters sent, Stornoway mentions starting work on dismantling underground infrastructure at the mine and ore processing plant. The proponent therefore does not appear to be complying with condition 6.5 of the certificate of authorization (CA) by starting dismantling work without having submitted a dismantling plan. In addition, the proponent claims to be continuing environmental monitoring, particularly of mine effluent. However, the annual reports for 2022, 2023 and 2024 have not yet been filed. This contravenes condition 4.1 of the CA, which requires environmental monitoring reports to be submitted to the Administrator annually for information.

WHEREAS the members of the COMEX have reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and, after analyzing this latest information, recommend that questions and comments be sent to the proponent reminding them of their obligations and advising them to provide information on current and future dismantling activities. A letter, with questions and comments to be submitted to the proponent, will be forwarded to the Provincial Administrator.

#2025-0430-03: *write to the Provincial Administrator informing him that COMEX members have reviewed the document sent by the proponent and recommend that questions and comments be sent to the proponent reminding them of their obligations and advising them to provide information on current and future dismantling activities.*

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

7) Other business

a) Windfall mining project – Concerns of Cree communities

Lucas Del Vecchio informed COMEX members that land users' concerns about possible contamination of lake SN2 by dust from waste rock have not been adequately addressed by the proponent. Since questions about this issue were forwarded to the proponent in the second round of questions and comments, COMEX members agreed to pay particular attention to this issue when analyzing the proponent's responses.

b) Bachelor mining project – Status of QC03 analysis

The Executive Secretary updated COMEX members on the progress made analyzing the proponent's answers to the third round of questions and comments. Committee members informed the Executive Secretary of the documents and information they consider necessary to proceed with the next stage of the project review. COMEX will continue to discuss this issue at the meeting scheduled for May 27, 2025.

c) AQEI

The Executive Secretary informed COMEX members that Graeme Morin of the Cree Nation Government (CNG) will participate in an AQEI webinar on October 8, 2025. His presentation is entitled "A brief overview of the consideration of climate issues in the northern (James Bay) evaluation and review process for section 22 of the JBNQA - CNG perspective."

d) 2024–2025 COMEX Annual Report

In the absence of the Chairman, this discussion item will be postponed until the next meeting scheduled for May 27, 2025.

e) Projects on the agenda for the meetings scheduled for spring 2025

- Project to extend forest roads H and I – MODCA
- Barry and Moroy gold ore processing project at Bachelor site and increase in milling rate

8) Next meetings

The next meetings are scheduled for May 27, 2025, and June 26, 2025, by videoconference.

Appendix A
Follow-up correspondence from March 19, 2025, to April 30, 2025

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium Inc.	Monitoring of conditions 12, 13, 16 and 19: WBW compensation plan; Fish habitat compensation plan – Transmission of questions and comments	Sent February 29, 2025 Received COMEX March 19, 2025	<i>For information and recommendation</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 7: Contact water management plan – Transmission of questions and comments	Sent March 20, 2025 Acknowledged March 20, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium Inc.		Sent April 22, 2025 Received COMEX April 23, 2025	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 10: Water treatment plant (WTP) – Transmission of questions and comments	Sent March 20, 2025 Acknowledged March 20, 2025	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium Inc.		Sent April 23, 2025 Received COMEX April 23, 2025	
New trench landfill construction project in Wemindji, Cree Nation of Wemindji Ref.: 3219-16-002	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Howard MacDonald Cree Nation of Wemindji	Transmission of the amendment to the certificate of authorization issued on June 16, 2021	Sent March 25, 2025 Received COMEX March 31, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
Éléonore mining project, Dhilmar Éléonore (formerly Goldcorp Canada Ltd) Ref.: 3214-14-042	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Geneviève Pépin Dhilmar Éléonore	Transmission of a request for additional information (2 nd round of questions and comments)	Sent February 28, 2025 Received COMEX March 31, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium Inc.	Monitoring of condition 26: Monitoring program on the Increased road traffic and social and environmental nuisances monitoring program – Transmission of the amendment to the CA issued on December 27, 2023	Sent March 27, 2025 Received COMEX April 1, 2025	

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Project to dewater pits J-4 and 87 at the former Troilus mine site, Troilus Gold Corp. Ref.: 3214-14-025	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX	Environmental and social monitoring report – 2024	Submitted March 31, 2025 Received COMEX April 2, 2025	<i>For information</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium Inc.	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 8: Monitoring program for geomembrane watertightness and towpath construction – Transmission of additional information (answers to questions and comments)	Sent January 19, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent January 29, 2025 Received COMEX April 3, 2025	
Windfall mining project, Windfall Mining Group Ref.: 3214-14-059	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmission of a request for additional information (2 nd round of questions and comments)	Sent April 4, 2025 Acknowledged April 4, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
Great Whale River wind farm project, KWREC Ref.: 3219-10-001	Luc Lainé COMEX	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator CNG	Monitoring of conditions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 15 and 22 of the certificate of authorization issued on June 3, 2022	Sent April 4, 2025	<i>For information and recommendation</i>
	Nadia Saganash Regional Administrator (Acting) CNG	Matthew Mukash KWREC		Sent April 28, 2025 Received COMEX April 29, 2025	
Éléonore mining project, Dhilmar Éléonore (formerly Goldcorp Canada Ltd) Ref.: 3214-14-042	Geneviève Pépin Dhilmar Éléonore	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Transmission of additional information (answers to 2 nd round of questions and comments)	Sent April 4, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent April 4, 2025 Received COMEX April 7, 2025	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 3: Commitment tracking table – Transmission of questions and comments	Sent April 15, 2025 Acknowledged April 15, 2025	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium		Sent April 29, 2025 Received COMEX April 30, 2025	

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Mine Principale restoration project in Chibougamau, MTMD Ref.: 3214-14-055	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 2 of the amendment to the certificate of authorization	Sent April 15, 2025 Acknowledged April 15, 2025	<i>For information</i>
Whabouchi spodumene mine project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-052	Denis Isabel Nemaska Lithium	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Extension of temporary camp use	Sent April 1, 2025	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent April 15, 2025 Received COMEX April 16, 2025	
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, CELC Ref.: 3214-14-053	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of condition 5: Update for the physicochemical characterization of the initial soil state – Transmission of comments	Sent April 16, 2025 Acknowledged April 16, 2025	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Nancy Duquet-Harvey CELC		Sent April 29, 2025 Received COMEX April 30, 2025	
Eastmain-1-A and and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project, Hydro-Québec Ref.: 3214-10-017	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring report: (a) Monitoring of 2015 recreational and tourism activities; (b) Monitoring of mercury levels in fish 2021; (c) Monitoring of economic benefits 2017–2021; (d) Monitoring of waterfowl 2023 – Transmission of comments	Sent April 16, 2025 Acknowledged April 16, 2025	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Marie-Josée Grimard Hydro-Québec		Sent April 29, 2025 Received COMEX April 30, 2025	
Extension of Route 167 North to the Otish Mountains, Ministère du Transport et de la Mobilité durable Ref.: 3214-05-077	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Monitoring of conditions of the certificate of authorization: condition 24	Sent April 22, 2025 Acknowledged April 22, 2025	<i>For information</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Sébastien Doire MTMD		Sent April 29, 2025 Received COMEX April 30, 2025	

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161-kV power line construction project for BlackRock Metals' mine facilities, Hydro-Québec Ref.: 3214-09-027	Mélicca Gagnon MELCCFP	Mathieu Drolet Hydro-Québec	Request to update file	Sent April 29, 2025 Received COMEX April 30, 2025	<i>For information</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref.: 3214-14-055	Mélicca Gagnon MELCCFP	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Monitoring of condition 37: Emergency measures plan – Transmission of comments	Sent April 28, 2025 Acknowledged April 30, 2025	<i>For information</i>