

MINUTES

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ROSE LITHIUM-TANTALUM MINING PROJECT

(Adopted)

DATE January 20, 2021

PLACE Videoconference (Teams)

PARTICIPANTS

COMEX

Luc Lainé, Chairman
Daniel Berrouard
Robert Joly
Brian Craik
John Paul Murdoch

Critical Elements Corporation

Jean-Sébastien Lavallée, CEO
Paul Bonneville, Director Operations
Anne Gabor, Director Environment
Jacqueline Leroux, Environmental specialist

Project analysts:

Murielle Vachon (MELCC)
David Ouzilleau (MELCC)
Kelly Leblanc, Cree Nation Government
Erica Guth, Cree Nation Government

Executive secretary:

Vanessa Chalifour

1) OPENING OF THE MEETING

The preparatory meeting begins on January 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

All invited participants are present, except for Jacqueline Leroux, environmental specialist for Critical Elements Corporation. Participants are invited to briefly introduce themselves.

The following agenda is proposed:

- ~~Start~~ Opening of the working session
- Introduction by the COMEX chairman
 - Update on the COMEX analysis of the project
 - Announcement of public hearings / Beginning of the 30-days period
- Introduction by the proponent
 - Status of the proponent's preparation for the public hearings
- Conduct of the public hearings
- Post hearings
- Publication of documents produced by the proponent

2) INTRODUCTION BY THE COMEX CHAIRMAN

COMEX's analysis to date of the project, in consultation with various ministries and organizations, shows that the information provided by the proponent to date meets the conditions for holding public hearings.

The 30-day period before the public hearings have started. Public hearings on the Rose Lithium-Tantalum mining project will take place virtually, via the Zoom platform, in the afternoon on February 15, 2021 in Matagami, February 16, 2021 in Eastmain and February 18, 2021 in Nemaska. Conference rooms have also been reserved in each of the communities so that those who wish to attend the hearings on site can do so. The official announcement of the public hearings was published on the COMEX website as well as on social networks and various local media (newspapers, radio stations) on January 15, 2021.

3) INTRODUCTION BY THE PROPONENT

To make information on the project accessible to as many people as possible, the proponent mentions that a short video of a few minutes is available on its website in French and English. This video will be presented by the proponent during public hearings. A short PowerPoint presentation, including maps of the project, will also be presented by the proponent during the hearings to present the main characteristics of its project.

The proponent mentions that he has met with the Nemaska First Nation Council in recent weeks to provide a project update. He also states that he is in regular contact with the affected family as well as with the Eastmain First Nation Council.

4) CONDUCT OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

The planned order of events at each hearing is as follows:

- Opening prayer by an elder (Eastmain and Nemaska)
- Opening remarks by the Chief (Eastmain and Nemaska)
- Opening of the public hearing, Chairman's message and presentation of the COMEX, members and mandate
- Presentation of the project by the proponent
- Question period to clarify the project by the public and COMEX
- Break
- Presentation of briefs and comments by the public
- End of the public hearing (Chairman's message)

If necessary and depending on the number of questions and comments raised by the public, the public hearings could be extended into the evening.

Critical Element Corporation's presentation on its project will be up to 30 minutes. It will be performed in French in Matagami and in English in Eastmain and Nemaska. Also note that simultaneous translation will be offered online (English / Cree) for the sessions taking place in Eastmain and Nemaska.

To ensure the smooth running of public hearings in virtual mode, a rehearsal will be carried out a few days before the first hearing on February 15, 2021. The members of COMEX and the executive secretary, project analysts as well as Critical Elements Corporation are invited to this meeting. In addition, Hydro-Québec will also be invited to join this rehearsal considering that the corporation will be present during the hearings to answer questions about the Rose Lithium-Tantalum mine connection project and the relocation of a section of 315 kV line, if applicable. All participants will therefore be able to test their camera, sound, PowerPoint presentation, etc. An external consultant will also be present to verify the configurations of each, answer technical questions and provide advice, as needed, to ensure the smooth running of the hearings.

To this end, a meeting invitation and a Zoom link will be sent by Vanessa Chalifour to all participants for the rehearsal hearings of February 10, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The proponent is also invited to communicate the names and contact information of the persons from his organization who will be present at the hearings to the executive secretary of COMEX so that the invitation can also be sent to them.

5) POST HEARINGS

Within 30 days following the public hearings, the public can send to the committee's executive secretary their comments or briefs on the project, that is until March 18, 2021.

When the 30-day period is completed, the COMEX will be able to take note of the comments received, finalize the analysis of the project, write its analysis report and, possibly, issue a recommendation on this project to the Provincial Administrator of Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Note also that it is possible, following the public hearings, for COMEX to address questions and comments to the proponent to clarify certain issues or questions that may have been raised during the hearings.

6) PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THE PROPONENT

COMEX wants the public hearing process to be credible and transparent. Thus, all documents related to this project are available on its website for consultation at the following address: <https://comexqc.ca/en/>. On the page of the project, a link to the proponent's website has also been included. Thus, the proponent is invited to make available to the public all the documents related to this project on his website.