

**CONVENTION DE LA BAIE-JAMES
ET DU NORD QUÉBÉCOIS**

**COMITÉ D'EXAMEN DES RÉPERCUSSIONS
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE MILIEU SOCIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT
REVIEW COMMITTEE**

WERE PRESENT: Mr. LUC LAINÉ, Chairman
 Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, member
 Mr. ROBERT JOLY, member
 Mr JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, member
 Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, member
 Ms. VANESSA CHALIFOUR, Executive Secretary

**AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES / PUBLIC HEARINGS
SUR LE PROJET MINIER ROSE LITHIUM-TANTALE
ROSE LITHIUM-TANTALUM MINING PROJECT
CORPORATION ÉLÉMENTS CRITIQUES**

VOLUME 2

Session held online via ZOOM
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Statjune Complex (Gymnasium)
168 Opinaca Road,
Eastmain

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**FEBRUARY 16, 2021
AFTERNOON SESSION
EASTMAIN**

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

[...] to Chief Kenneth Cheezo. Chief Cheezo, *Tubakco*, on behalf of our group and all the participants, and I would like to invite you to say a few words as a prayer, please.

10 **CHIEF KENNETH CHEEZO:**

[Prayer in Cree].

15 All right. First, I want to thank everyone that joined in, and I'm hoping that we are going to have more people to log in as we go along. I know there's – it's very weird to just have everything virtual here. You know, it's Zoom meetings, but what needs to be done, I guess has to be done.

20 So, I know people have questions and, you know, these things with the mining company, and they want clarifications. Hopefully, this will clarify a lot of questions that the people and our members have, and I thank you for taking the time, I guess, to inform the general public here.

I welcome you guys in Eastmain and thank you for the *Tubacko*. I'm hoping that we both can safely work together with this, all right? Thank you.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Migwech, Chief Cheezo. On this note, I would like to invite the Executive Secretary of the COMEX, Ms. Vanessa Chalifour, please. Vanessa?

30

**OPENING COMMENTS FROM Ms. VANESSA CHALIFOUR,
COMEX EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

35 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Thank you, Mr. Lainé. So, my name is Vanessa Chalifour... [inaudible - sound problems] ... Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee, the COMEX, and I welcome you to this public hearing for the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project.

40

So, considering the context currently prevailing in Quebec with COVID-19, the public hearings will mainly take place via ZOOM. However, the communities of Eastmain and Nemaska, the public will have the opportunity to attend face to face.

45

So, today's session will be hybrid, that is a virtual and face to face, and translation is offered in French, English, and Cree. To access the translation, you must click on the interpretation icon at the bottom of the Zoom platform and select your language. So, you have Cree, French and English.

50

Also note that the hearing is recorded and broadcast live on Livestream. The recording will also be available on the COMEX Website following it. Also, all the information relating to this hearing is available on the COMEX Website as well as on the Committee's social networks.

55

So, before we start, here are some guidelines for everyone to follow to ensure the smooth running of the day. So, please keep your microphone closed at all times. If you wish to ask questions or make a comment during the periods provided for this purpose, use the icon "Raise your hand" or the chat. When appropriate, I will name you and ask you to turn on your microphone, you can then ask your question.

60

Note that questions will be taken only via ZOOM and in face-to-face format. No question will be taken via Livestream.

In addition, note that your question and/or comments shall be addressed directly to the chairman of COMEX, Luc Lainé, who will ensure that they are transmitted to the appropriate persons.

65 Also, I would like to introduce the people present for this hearing, starting with COMEX. First, the members appointed by the Cree Nation Government: John Paul Murdoch and Brian Craik; and the members appointed by the Government of Quebec: Luc Lainé, Chairman of COMEX; Daniel Berrouard and Robert Joly.

70 Also note the presence of the proponent of the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project. We have with us today, four people from Critical Elements Corporation, namely: Jean-Sébastien Lavallée, Paul Bonneville, Anne Gabor, and Jacqueline Leroux.

They are also with their consultant, WSP.

75 Hydro Quebec was also invited to join the public hearing considering their project to relocate a section of a power line, which is a related project to the mine. We have three people from Hydro Quebec with us today: Pierre Potvin, Alexandre Beauchemin, and Jimmy Lavoie.

80 Note that Hydro Quebec will only answer questions about the power line project.

Finally, there are also project analysts from the Ministry of Environment and Fight Against Climate Change, Murielle Vachon and David Ouzilleau.

85 Same as those of the Cree Nation Government: Kelly Leblanc and Erica Guth.

I will now give the floor to the chairman of COMEX who will briefly present the Committee and will explain to you in more details, the conduct of today's hearing.

90 Thank you, and I wish you a good day.

OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

95

THE CHAIRMAN:

100

Thanks a lot, Vanessa. First of all, I would like to take time to say thank you, *migwech*, to the Eastmain First Nations to allow us to hold our public hearing on its Territory. Thank you for your welcoming.

105

And, yes, I would like to give you some information about this public hearing. First of all, as Vanessa said, my name is Luc Lainé, I am from Wendake First Nation, and I am the Chair of the COMEX. Maybe people are asking what COMEX is all about, I will explain a little bit further, but in English, we say The Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee. But if you don't mind, I will keep calling it COMEX, it is so convenient.

And this is our agenda for the day:

110

So, after my presentation, we will invite the Chief Executive Officer of the project to make a presentation and also, it will be followed by a question period to clarify the project by the public and, also, the COMEX members will be allowed as well to ask questions for clarification.

115

I think after that we will deserve a break, and we will come back with presentation of briefs and comments by the public.

120

So, again, for many people, maybe you are asking yourself, what is the COMEX all about? So, the COMEX is a committee that was established under Section 22 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement of 1975. There are five members: three members are appointed by the Quebec Government, and two members are appointed by the Cree Nation Government.

Protection of health and environment as well as economic and social well-being is our main purpose.

125

The COMEX is an independent body for the assessment and review of the social and environmental impacts of projects, and the COMEX holds about an average of one meeting per

month. We do more if there is a need to do so. It reviews, supported by a team of analysts from the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and from the Cree Nation Government, and when necessary, you know, we are holding public hearings like today.

130

And our mandate, it is important to know that our mandate is to make recommendations to provincial and regional administrators, and to do the environmental and social follow-ups. And we have a Website – you see the address of the COMEX Website.

135

We have some guiding principles, first of all:

140

a) The protection of the hunting, fishing, and trapping rights of native people and the Territory and their other rights in the Category 1 lands, with respect to the developmental activity affecting the Territory;

145

b) The environmental and social protection regime with respect to minimizing the impacts on Native people by developmental activity affecting the Territory;

c) The protection of Native people, societies, communities, economies, with respect to developmental activity affecting the Territory;

d) The protection of wildlife resources, physical and biotic environment, and ecological systems in the Territory with respect to developmental activity affecting the Territory;

150

e) The rights and guarantees of the Native people within Category II established by and in accordance with section 24 until such land is developed;

f) The involvement of the Cree people in the application of this regime;

155

g) The rights and interests of non-Native people, whatever they may be;

h) The right to develop by persons acting lawfully in the Territory;

And finally,

160 i) The minimizing of negative environmental and social impacts of development on Native people
and on Native communities by reasonable means with special reference to those measures
proposed or recommended by the impact assessment and review procedure.

165 And now, on this note, I would like to invite Mr. Jean-Sébastien Lavallée to present the project
Rose Lithium-Tantalum.

170 **PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT BY THE PROPONENT**

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

175 Thank you very much, Mr. Lainé. So, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome and good afternoon.
We would like to thank everyone to be present today. So, we will start today by presenting a short
video that gives a good overview of the project, followed by a presentation that gives more details on
the impact and mitigation measures that we will put in place for the project.

180 But before we start with the video, I would like to let my team introduce themselves, so I would
like to name Mr. Paul Bonneville, to introduce himself.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

[Inaudible – sound problems]

185 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Ms. Anne Gabor.

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

190 Hello, I'm Anne Gabor, I am the Environmental Director for Critical Elements.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

195 Ms. Jacqueline Leroux?

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

[Inaudible - sound problems]

200

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

And Mr. Jean Lavoie.

205

Mr. JEAN LAVOIE:

[Inaudible – sound problems]

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

210

Thank you. So, we will start presenting the video.

(PRESENTATION OF A VIDEO ON THE PROJECT)

215

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Now, we will pursue with the presentation. Just let me know if it is on the screen now. So, Critical Elements' vision is to become a large, responsible supplier of lithium for the flourishing electric vehicle and energy storage system industries.

220

With the first opportunity, our first project, the Rose Project, that features one of the purest lithium deposits globally.

225

Quebec is strategically well-positioned regarding the critical transitioning energy and e-mobility markets in Europe and in the United States and boasts excellent infrastructure including low-cost energy and low carbon footprint electricity.

Our cooperative relationship with the Cree Nation of Eastmain, the Grand Council and the Cree Nation Government has been formalized through the Pikhuutaa Agreement signed in July 2019.

230

Lithium-tantalum used – so, a majority of the lithium produced and the growing demand is coming from the EV market, actually, and we are forecasting a significant growth in this industry in the future, but the purity of Rose also gives the opportunity to sell some of the production also in the glass and ceramics specialized industry, mainly used for some of the specialized cooking ware like Le Creuset, also for the ceramic plates on the stove and in all the electronic devices, like iPad, or the screen, TV flat screen, iPhone; so, there is lithium everywhere.

235

The tantalum is used for the capacitor industry, mainly in the electronics, so there is tantalum in every computer, in every cell phone, iPad; so, it is used for the electronics.

240

If we talk about the location of the project: it is a real lithium district where there are different projects in development. The Rose Project is the pink star here in the middle located at kilometre 42 on the Eastmain Road on the Ernie Moses' territory, and there is a road access to the project.

245

There is a power line that goes over the deposit where we plan to displace a few pylons to go around the deposit, and the claims in red are the claims owned by Critical Elements. So, the focus is mainly on the Rose Project, but there is also an opportunity for the future to develop other projects in the area where we already have some discovery of lithium.

250

If we look at the mine infrastructure, the project plans to have an open pit that we showed during the video. There will be also the waste and tailing pad that will be just beside the pit, and there will be an industrial pad where there will be an office, a camp, a garage and also the Spodumene Plant where we will extract the lithium from the rock to produce a concentrate.

255

We can also see the deviation of the power line here that will go around the open pit.

For the project logistic, we plan to ship the concentrate from the mine through Matagami by truck, then by train from Matagami down to Montreal, Quebec, and Trois-Rivières. And we are also targeting to hire as much people as possible from the local communities, in the different communities

260 close to the project as a workforce and for contract, also out in the other mining towns in the area, as
the project will create more than 250 jobs for 17 years.

In terms of timeline, the plan is to complete the authorization over 2021, and also work on the
project financing, then be able to start the construction by the end of '21, continuing the construction
265 in 2022, in order to be able to start commercial production in 2023. And prior to that, the company
plans also to complete engineering on a phase 2 for the project where we will convert the lithium
concentrate into lithium hydroxide. That is a plan for this year in terms of engineering, and during that
study, we will also evaluate the location for that plant.

270 For the next part of the presentation, I will leave Ms. Gabor to present the impact and mitigation
measures for the project.

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

275 First, we will look at the main concerns on the mitigation measures that we will put in place to
either compensate or correct for these, and the first area that we are going to look at is the surface
water and groundwater quality. So, they are important both for their environmental aspect and value
to the community.

280 So, for the quality of water, both surface and underground, all the water will be treated in a
water treatment facility before being released into the environment, and monitoring of the water
quality will be done regularly.

All the results from these studies will be communicated to the Exchange and Consultation
285 Committee, the communities, and the tallyman. The camps and communities are far from the mine
site, so any impact on the water basin would be minimal, and we will actually see that in the following
two slides to see the current conditions.

290 So, we see here the mining areas where we see mostly the green and pink and we see in the
next slide that for future conditions, the impact is quite small and really restricted to the area of the
mine site.

295 Next, we are going to take a look at the wildlife and aquatic fauna, beginning with the impact
on fish because two of the lakes are going to be drained because the mine is in the same area as
these lakes. They are both being loss of fish habitat. So, for the lakes, what we will be doing is we
will have a portion of the fish captured prior to draining, but then also because the impact is
unavoidable, what we will be doing, we will be putting in place a compensation project. Right now,
what is proposed is a sturgeon spawning ground being built on the Eastmain River, and this picture
in the bottom left that you see is actually the approximate area where the sturgeon spawning ground
300 would be.

Next, we will talk about the impact on vegetation. Still, we will limit deforestation and conserve
as much vegetation as possible, of course. And then, we will revegetate quickly with local types of
plants, so as not to introduce any foreign plants. And the revegetation will actually be progressive.

305 [Inaudible – sound problems] ... forbidden to have hunting weapons or equipment for fishing
both at the mine site and on the workers' camp.

[Inaudible – sound problems] ... of Cree workers in the workplace. We want to create a healthy
environment for all our workers, and in order to do that we will implement a multicultural integration
program which will focus on Cree culture and uses, and we will also be hiring a Cree employment
councillor.

315 One concern is the increase of social issues related to alcohol and drug use, debts and
financial planning and family relationships among workers and communities.

So, it is very important to note that the camp will be a dry camp; neither alcohol nor drugs will
be permitted at the mining camp. As well, there will be in place an employee awareness program to
practise healthy lifestyle habits and to learn money management skills. And we will support the
organization and the stakeholders in Cree communities regarding these social issues.

320 There is a big concern, as mentioned previously, with road safety and this is not just for the
animals but also for the users. So, it will be very important to monitor speed limit and that will be done
by means of traffic signs, GPS tracking, security staff monitoring the road, and it should also be noted

325 that the increase of traffic on the road will not be significant; we're talking about six trucks per day during construction, and 22 trucks per day during operations.

And then, we'll talk about the risk of accidents. So, risk of contamination by spillage, accidents of any sort, but in our mitigation measures, we also want to talk about the plans that we will have in place in case employees or anyone else should be injured on the mine site.

330
335 So, to begin with, there will be an emergency plan and kit in place at the mine site; there will be a team of trained professionals to deal with these emergencies and they will always be present on the mine site. And there will be agreements both with local and regional hospitals for treatment of injured workers.

So now, we see a little bit what the mine will potentially look like. We've got some equipment here to give you an idea of what mining looks like.

340 So, here, we are talking about our strong relations with the First Nations, and Jean-Sébastien will take over here.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

345 Yes. So, cooperation with the local community and the Cree community is very important for the Corporation. So, since 2012, we signed a pre-development agreement with the Eastmain community and, also, we completed a capacity study in 2014 in order to very understand who is interested to work at the mine, what are the challenges to manage over the mine life and to make sure that the community is really benefiting from the project.

350 Also, we discussed about working programs and working training programs for the project. We had discussion also with the Human Resources and Development, the Cree Human Resources Development, the CHRD, and also with the Cree School Board in order to make sure that training programs will be put in place and we will support the community to get trained for all kinds of jobs.

355 The project will generate a significant amount of jobs, not just for the mine but also for accounting, for nursing, for administration; so there is a vast opportunity here for different training

and jobs, and also Lloyd Mayappo is working also with the Corporation in the community as a liaison agent since 2017.

360

So, as we said before, the project will generate more than 250 jobs, close to 300 jobs. The workers will work on the project over two shifts of 150 workers per shift; we plan to have a schedule of 14/14 and the employees will be transported to the project by airplane, and we are focussing to hire as much people as possible from the local communities, so from Eastmain, from Nemaska, from Waskaganish, and the other three nations, and also from the Jamesian community in the area.

365

So, here is just an example of the different jobs that will be available for the mine, for the maintenance, also for different technical services, but it is not just limited to mining aspects but also for processing in the mill, and the mill and the spodumene plant. There is also a laboratory. There will be a large spec of different jobs in the environmental tracking of the project. Also, human resources, security, nurses, coordinator, janitors and all the accounting. So, there is a lot of opportunities here.

370

So here is the map to give more details on the deviation of the power line. So, mainly, the power line will go around the open pit here, and there will be also a substation that will be put in place also to connect the mine on the power line.

375

So that mainly covers the presentation. I will leave it now to Ms. Chalifour from the COMEX.

380

QUESTION PERIOD

Ms. VANESSA CHALIFOUR:

385

Thank you very much. Mr. Lavallée. I will leave the floor to Mr. Lainé, Chairman of COMEX. If you want to ask the participants if they have some questions or comments about the presentation, it is the time.

THE CHAIRMAN:

390

Okay, thank you, Vanessa. I think it was a good presentation. Now, we are really curious to hear your reactions, questions or comments. So, the floor is open. And, again, Vanessa, I guess if somebody wants to intervene, they have to raise the hand.

395

Ms. VANESSA CHALIFOUR:

Exactly, or they can write in the chat also.

THE CHAIRMAN:

400

Okay, yes, both ways. Thank you, yes.

405

EASTMAIN YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

Can you hear me?

410

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes. Can you introduce yourself, please?

415

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

Yes, my name is Denis Moses. I am the current Eastmain Youth Chief. I have a question on the jobs that you just described: skilled, unskilled, university. I don't see ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... is your emergency team besides your emergency kit there?

420

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, I think it's a good question. I don't know, Mr. Lavallée or Ms. Gabor?

425

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I did not hear the end of the question, so I heard about the skilled, unskilled jobs and the emergency kit, but I did not hear the full question, if it's possible to repeat?

430

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

Yes, the presentation at the end there, it showed job titles, education, and I noticed that you guys don't have your first responders, your Fire Department. Those types of emergency teams. The only emergency team you mentioned was the ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... spill or hazard spill. That's the only emergency team you guys mentioned. Where is your other emergency teams besides security?

435

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Anne, can you answer that question?

440

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

I think I would actually ask Jacqueline to take it over from here.

445

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

Yes, so in the mining department, what you are – the mining rescue team that we will have is often comprised in there, but, of course, there will be first responders and people that are on the rescue team. Even if it is an open pit, we have that for all ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... of the safety department, the mine department and it will be present.

450

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

455

Ce sera couvert.

THE CHAIRMAN:

460

Does it answer your question?

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

465

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes.

470

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

I would add that those... we have, the mine will have a Safety Department and a Security Department, but the first respondents, usually, are regular workers; it is not a full-time job. And the fire fighters, so they are either miners, truck drivers, or mechanics or a combination of all those things.

475

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Bonneville.

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YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

I have another question on Cree values. You, guys, mentioned our Cree values, who is your expert on this recommendation on Cree values?

485

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

490 Yes. For the Cree values, we are working, we have Lloyds who helps for this but we are also working with the community, and the plan is also to put in place – there will be a committee with Cree representatives to work on the Cree values.

THE CHAIRMAN:

495 Thank you.

500 **Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART**

Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART:

505 Hi, my name is Daniel Mark-Stewart, I am one of the Council members here in Eastmain. You know, I am also one of the ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... and one thing that concerns me, you know, that I have been hearing lately is that, you know, once we extract, you know, there's plans to potentially send some of the material to Asian countries, and one of the things that they mentioned at the Council Board meeting is how that is probably not – you know, that was not probably in the spirit and the intent of La Paix des Braves.

510 You know, when things, when minerals are extracted from Eeyou Istchee, we kind of get and amount at the end, but if some of this material is sent to Asian countries, then we are not really, like, the production is not done in Quebec. So, my question is: why can't we complete the – why can't we ensure that the... you know, this is an opportunity for Quebec also ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... raw material to Asian countries?

520 So, that's one of my questions, and the other question I have is that the – I noticed that some of the things I'm reading about right now is that, you know, anything of the scale requires a lot of water, you know, any lithium mine requires a lot of water, so because it is so close to where some of the Hydro Electric projects have been happening, you know, and in the event that there might be a

spill, like, how does that impact Wemindji or even Chisasibi traplines or even, like, the coast of James Bay should a spill ever occur?

525 So, that's my question, and obviously the question I have is, like, what the type of impact that would have in terms of the environment and all the fish species and even the animals that would drink some of the water, should there be a spill, especially when it is so close to water that's going to end up in La Grande.

530 So, that's kind of like something that I am concerned about.

THE CHAIRMAN:

535 Thank you. Mr. Lavallée, I think you can address those two questions, one on the opportunity to do some transformation here in Quebec, and also the environment protection, especially regarding water. So, Mr. Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

540 Yes, thank you. Yes, first, for the first question, the goal of the Company is not to sell the material in Asia; the goal is mainly to – in a phase 2, later on, and this is planned for this year to work on the engineering to convert the concentrate into lithium hydroxide or lithium carbonate. So, the goal is to convert it in Quebec, and the market that we are looking for that material is mainly the US and European markets.

545 So, it is not our intention to target Asia. That, I hope, answers the first question. Maybe I can also mention that a portion of the material that will go in the specialized market for the glass and ceramic industry, that market is mainly a European market and US market. The largest producers of these glasses are based mainly in Europe.

550 For the second question, more related to water use and spill, maybe I can let Jacqueline go a little bit more in detail, but it is important to have a differentiation between the different lithium projects. There are two kinds of lithium deposits: there is the hard rock deposit, like the Rose Project, and then there is the brine deposit out of South America, where they are pumping water to extract the lithium.

555 So that is using a lot of water. The hard rock deposits are using a minimal amount of water and that water is treated and recirculated to use the minimum amount possible.

Maybe for the spill – Jacqueline, maybe you can explain a bit about the dry tailing?

THE CHAIRMAN:

560 Jacqueline?

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

565 Yes. So, for the use of water and for the spills, as Mr. Lavallée told us, the water is recirculated and, also, all the contact water that is produced at the mine is collected by ditches around all the property and pumped to a water treatment facility.

570 So, for that, that is our main prevention to not get the water contaminated, so it's all enclosed. And, also, to make sure that we have a minimal water spillage or use, we filter the tailings. So that means that in the mill, the water will get – will be ducted out of the tailings, it will be dried; the tailings will be placed into the tailings area and the water that we have taken out will be returned to the process.

575 So, and plus that, if there is a spill, we have trained people who are part of the security teams and that we talked a bit earlier. We also monitor all the effluents very regularly and, in fact, the main effluent is monitored in a continuous matter, with automated regulators. So, we can react very quickly if there is something that is not – that is not well or if we see a contamination.

580 So, I hope that answers the question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

585 Merci, Jacqueline. Mr. Mark-Stewart, do you have any additional questions or comments about both issues you raised?

Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART:

590 Maybe it's a separate question but I will ask it here, and maybe somebody can correct me if I
am wrong, but I read somewhere that they anticipate that there might be a shortage of lithium in the
next coming years. I guess lithium is something that is going to be high in demand, but for some
reason, you know, there is – I guess the amount of lithium that the world needs, I guess there is kind
of a shortage. Maybe somebody can correct me if I am wrong on that information, but you know.

595 And the reason why I'm asking that is that the – is that one of the reasons why, like, you guys
have this project in mind here in our traditional territories, but the reason why I am asking also is that
the traditional territories have been used by hunters and trappers and fishermen for a long, long time,
now, and, you know, I want to believe that our ancestors envisioned having some of that natural state
remained for generations to come. And so, I don't know if that was one of the reasons why, but I
600 think, you know, I kind of want like an explanation on that as to why you have perhaps – why, and
why now kind of thing.

So, that is something that I am always curious about when it comes to development within the
Cree territory. I just think that it is a legitimate question that needs to be answered and, because, you
605 know, I think there is still some of us that believe that the natural state should be preserved as best
as we can for future generations.

THE CHAIRMAN:

610 Thank you. I would like to say, your question is very, very good and also any question is good,
so feel free, it's the time, you know, to speak up.

So, I guess, Mr. Lavallée, I will go back to you again?

615 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes.

620 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes.

625 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes, and I will be pleased to answer. Mainly, the demand, yes, for lithium is increasing with all the development of the e-mobility, and that's all part of the, let's say, global climate change. And lithium is needed, actually, to reduce that carbon emissions, so for the future generations it's important.

630

So, it's why there are different policies, like put in place in the different countries like Canada, the US and Europe; there are strict policies to reduce carbon emissions and lithium will be part of it to be able to reduce these carbon emissions.

635

But all this, and the development of Rose – and this is why we work with, let's say, the Cree Government, the community, the Grand Council to have the Impact Agreement in place to work together to get minimal impact on the environment around the project for the future.

640 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you.

645 **Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART:**

Part of the reason why I'm asking the question is because, like some of the articles that I've read, although lithium is proving to reduce some of our carbon footprint, if you ask some of those places where there's been a lot of mining activity, you know, all they are left with is devastation, you know, is the impacts of a mine. And so, in some way they are kind of told that they are helping the world reduces its carbon footprint, but there is also a lasting footprint on their traditional territories.

650

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

But the project – maybe, Mr. Lainé, I don't know if...

655 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes. Yes, go ahead, Mr. Lavallée, yes.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

660

The full project also includes rehabilitation and closure plan that will bring the project back to its initial situation as much as possible, and over time, let's say over the last "décennie", like 30 years, 40 years, you know, the method has been improved a lot, and this is why we have been, you know, doing that environmental study and put mitigation measures in place to make sure that we reduce a maximum impact on the project, and around the project.

665

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Does it answer your question, Mr. Mark-Stewart?

670

Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART:

Yes, I'll leave it for now.

675 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, thank you. There is a question in the chat, I guess it's complimentary questions to the processing on site. I will read it loud, okay:

680

"Will the tantalum be processed on site? If yes, how will we ensure that it does not negatively people, wildlife, and environment from this toxic metal? I'm asking in relation to the fumes and dust when processing this metal."

And it's from Mr. or Ms. Cheezo. I guess it's Mr. Cheezo. Mr. Lavallée?

685

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes, the tantalum will be processed on site. There will be concentrate on site. It's not a powder that will be produced, it's a concentrate, and tantalum is not "lexivable" and is not creating any fume. Maybe, I don't know if Paul or Jacqueline, you want to add a bit on that question?

690

THE CHAIRMAN:

Just before, Mr. Lavallée, can you explain what "lexivable" stands for?

695

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes, the tantalum is not "lexivable".

700

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

It doesn't leach. It doesn't leach acid. So, essentially, what it means is that if the roc is exposed to water and not just pure water – we have done laboratory test samples –, it doesn't release anything into the water, so nothing is going from the rock into the water that is toxic, or acid.

705

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you. I feel already smarter. So, Mr. Lavallée, maybe I lost the last part of your sentence, but were you asking to one of your colleagues to...

710

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes, to Jacqueline or Paul, if they want to add something on the process for tantalum.

715 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

And the dust and the fumes, yes.

720 **Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:**

Yes, I can add that, in fact, tantalum was looked at precisely in one of – we modelled it and just as Anne mentioned before, it's not going, it stays in its form, it stays in the rock, and because we make mud out of tantalum, we make sure that it doesn't go in the environment and also, the water that is in contact with the rock does not take that tantalum. So, we do have a specific study on that, so it is in the public documents that are available.

725 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you. Any other comments on your part? No?

730

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

No.

735

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES

THE CHAIRMAN:

740

No, okay. Thank you. So, Vanessa, I am looking at you, do we have any other questions or... Ah, yes?

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

745

Eastmain Youth Chief again. I'm going back to the water treatment. I have a question: when it is released back to the reservoir – is it going back to the reservoir?

THE CHAIRMAN:

750 Okay. Who would you like to address this question, Mr. Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

755 Maybe Anne or Paul. It's going back to the effluent, but I don't know exactly from my side, so maybe Paul or...

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

760 Yes, I'll take this one. So, the water is actually going to be sent back into a stream that is in proximity of the water treatment plant, and that stream just eventually flows back into the watershed. It is not going directly into the reservoir and, actually, it's on the other side of the mine site, so it will be flowing in the other direction.

765 Of course, water disperses itself generously, so where all the water ends up in the very end, some of it will eventually go back into the reservoir – we're talking about evaporation and rain, and so on and so forth, but essentially going into a stream right near the effluent and then goes back to the watershed.

THE CHAIRMAN:

770 And how does it work during wintertime?

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

775 I think I would actually ask my experts from WSP to step in here.

THE CHAIRMAN:

780 Okay.

M. JEAN LAVOIE:

Oui, bonjour. Peut-être juste répéter la question pour être certain?
Maybe we can repeat the question to be sure that I have really...

785

THE CHAIRMAN:

The question was how during the winter, if there is this stream, is going to the stream – returns to the canal...

790

M. JEAN LAVOIE:

I will give you a partial answer. I'm not an engineer, but generally speaking, water, before it's purified, is captured from everywhere, then it is sent into a basin to be – a purification basin. After that, part of that water will be in close circuit, but the rest will be sent back to the effluent, to the current, like any water course, they will fall. The water will still go back to its natural environment.

795

Calculations have been made about – there is less water on the surface during the winter, so less water that returns into the environment during the winter because it will come out in terms of snow or... but especially in spring, the spring thaw, the water will be managed, so the water which is going back to its natural environment will be purified before it is sent to – released back into the nature.

800

THE CHAIRMAN:

Are you satisfied with the answer?

805

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

Yes, but I will follow up with my question as there is a part of it. Once it is treated – I don't know how to put it, but the percentage of the water that you use, now you treat it, is it the same level of water that's not toxic or is it going to be way above of what you, guys, took once it is treated?

810

THE CHAIRMAN:

815

J'imagine, Monsieur Lavoie, vous êtes la personne...

I imagine, Mr. Lavoie, you would be the person to answer the question? No? Mr. Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

820

I will ask Madame Leroux to answer the question.

Mme JACQUELINE LEROUX:

825

I just want to make sure I understand well the question. When you talk about the level, are you talking about the quantity or the purity or the quality of the water?

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

830

The quality, not the quantity.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

835

Okay. So, we measure what we take in the process and in the mine, and we have very strict standards and parameters to meet. So, the quality of the water has to be at least as good as what comes in, but preferably it has to be even better because we measure all those metals and suspended solids, and the mining industry has to answer to very specific criteria, and we have to meet those.

840

So, yes, in summary, same or better than what we took.

THE CHAIRMAN:

845

And Ms. Leroux, those reports you are talking about, are they public or it is confidential information?

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

850 It is public documents and Critical Elements has already committed to have those reports available to any stakeholder that wants to look at them.

THE CHAIRMAN:

855 Okay, thank you. Ah, I see your thumbs up, Eastmain Youth Chief.

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER

860 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Nous avons une question de monsieur Berrouard.

We have a question from Mr. Berrouard.

865 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Berrouard, you can ask your question. Mr. Berrouard, we cannot hear you.

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER:

870 Can you hear me now?

THE CHAIRMAN:

875 Yes.

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER:

880 Can you just explain for everybody – here we are and we have the Eastmain watershed, we have the Pontax River – can you ... [inaudible - sound problems] ...

THE CHAIRMAN:

M. Berrouard, on perd le son, malheureusement.

885 *Mr. Berrouard, unfortunately, you are cutting out, we can't hear you. We can't hear you anymore.*

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER:

890 My point was to just explain the question about the effluent ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... but both Eastmain watershed: Eastmain River watershed and the Pontax River watershed. Just, if the proponent can give this explanation?

THE CHAIRMAN:

895 O.K. Monsieur Lavallée, qui serait la personne la plus habilitée?

Okay. Mr. Lavallée, who would be the best person to answer the question?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

900 *This would probably be out specialist at WSP.*

THE CHAIRMAN:

905 Oui.

Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:

910 *Yes, good afternoon. [Inaudible – sound problems] ... is located at the top of two watersheds, and some of the water flows to the Pontax watershed some to the Eastmain in natural conditions. With the project, all the waters, all the rain that falls onto the site will be collected, and all will be directed to the treatment plant and will be put in one of the streams that go to the Pontax watershed and treated. So, it will be all clean. Does it answer the question?*

915 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Merci. Mr. Berrouard? Can you let us know if you are satisfied with the answer?

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD:

920 *Yes, thank you very much.*

THE CHAIRMAN:

925 *I didn't understand the answer, I assume the answer was, yes?*

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD:

930 *Yes.*

THE CHAIRMAN:

935 *Thank you very much and thank you, Madame Sormain. Vanessa, do we have another question?*

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH

940 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Yes, we have a question from the room. So, Mr. Murdoch, please go ahead with your question.

945 **Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:**

Yes, I have a question, it relates to transport. If we go back to the beginning of the presentation, there was a slide that described how many trips per day and 90 tons per trip, I'm assuming, I was wondering, could you describe one – or I guess recap the number of trips that we are talking about? And then, is that an average? Meaning there will be times it will be higher because there will be certain days of the weeks that we are not travelling that much. I'm asking, could you describe more the frequency, how that's distributed and what exactly would a 90-ton truck looked like?

950 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

955 *Merci, Monsieur Murdoch.*

Thank you, Mr. Murdoch. Mr. Lavallée, can you tell us who will answer?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

960 I will ask Mr. Bonneville to answer the question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

965 All right, Mr. Bonneville.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

970 So, the transportation of the concentrate will be spread pretty evenly over seven days per week, but it could be spread over five days, like from Monday to Friday, and preferably during the daylight hours. But because of the quantity of trucking, some of the trucks may overflow in the evening.

975

So, that is for the number of the transportation. And the 90-ton trucks on the James Bay Road would consist of a main truck with a trailer. Now, I am not an expert in trucking, but it can be – that will respect the transportation regulations on that road. The James Bay Road is allowed to have overweight or overloads and, but those respect those loads as well.

I hope that answers your question, John Paul?

980

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Murdoch?

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH:

985

Yes. Actually, no, it didn't, because we didn't recap the number of trucks that we are talking per day, and you say, "a regular truck with a trailer"; what do we mean by a regular truck?

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

990

Well, it would be – the load will be spread into two boxes. So, I don't have the details of what the truck is, but you have the main truck would have 45 tons and the trailer would have 45 tons. There are various combinations that can be added.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH:

995

And how many were we saying per day? I couldn't remember from the slide.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

1000

Yes, I can't remember very well either, but it's about 22 loads per day, roughly speaking. It's in that ballpark.

1005

EASTMAIN YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

1010 So, how damage would that do on the Billy Diamond Highway? Especially now that there has been some investment to have it resurfaced, is that something that is going to have an impact on the other communities or other users of the Billy Diamond Highway?

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

1015 No, the road is built for a high tonnage, for that kind of load, so I don't expect it to have a big impact on it. Now, the road is built for economic development, so it is built to take some certain loads of transportation.

1020 And then, for the further leg for the James Bay, or you call it the Billy Diamond Highway – I wasn't aware of its name – but the leg of road that is on the road of – la route ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... and the highway to the Eastmain Highway, we'll be sharing on the maintenance of that road with the other users, like Nemaska and Hydro Quebec and any other stakeholders in the region.

1025 So, I hope that answers the question again?

Mr. JEFFREY

1030 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

 Mr. Murdoch, are you satisfied with the response you got? I guess yes, thank you.

1035 I will check in the chat if there is a question? No, there is none.

Mr. JEFFREY:

1040

Going back to John Murdoch's question there – no, Daniel Mark-Stewart's – the load tons, will it be changed during, like, the fall season? Like in the wintertime and then in summertime?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1045

Yes. I guess, especially during ... [inaudible - sound problems]. For the records, you know, would you please introduce yourself?

Mr. JEFFREY:

1050

My name is Jeffrey [Inaudible - sound problems].

THE CHAIRMAN:

1055

Okay, thank you. Because it says "Public Works" for your name. So, I guess you're working for Public Works?

Mr. JEFFREY:

Yes.

1060

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you. Mr. Lavallée, who would you like to address this question?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1065

Paul can confirm, but in the spring, normally, the weight in the trucks will be lighter to respect the legislation.

1070

THE CHAIRMAN:

Monsieur Bonneville?

1075

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

Yes, I did not understand what the question was.

1080

THE CHAIRMAN:

Would you repeat your question, please? You are muted. Okay.

1085

Mr. JEFFREY:

You guys mentioned, like it's 45 tons, with two loads it's 90 tons. In the wintertime, it probably would take the weight, but during thaw season in the springtime, will you guys reduce the ton load per load?

1090

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

Well, yes, Jean-Sébastien is correct. Usually, the Ministry of Transportation has a spring thaw period during which the truck transportation has to reduce its load. So, for sure, we will abide by those regulations whatever they are on that road. That's the kind of detail that I don't know what the loads would be, but for sure, we would reduce the load to respect the regulations.

1095

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you.

1100

EASTMAIN YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

1105 But let us assume that there is going to be some damage to the road and, you know, is Critical Elements willing to commit that they are going to put up some of the costs to repair it for future users of those roads?

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

1110 Well, if you're talking about the road to James Bay, the road from Matagami going north, that is maintained by – I think it's the Minister of Transportation, I'm not sure of the detail. And then, the road from there, from that road, they ... [inaudible – sound problems]. Like I said before, we would share on the maintenance of that road according to our traffic, based on a pro rata basis on... based
1115 on our use of that road. I can't tell you any more because I don't know any more than that.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1120 Mr. Bonneville, when you say the costs will be shared, but with whom? With the Department of Transportation or...

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

1125 Yes, the Ministry of Transportation, Hydro Quebec is responsible, assumes a lot of that cost, and so with the main users of the road.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1130 Okay.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

But like I said, I don't have the details of that right now.

Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART

1135

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. Mr. Mark-Stewart?

1140

Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART:

It's pretty clear to me that they are benefiting from externalities, you know, it's capitalism at its finest hour.

1145

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

1150

Well, it's – no, no. It was a question that was asked during the COMEX, our dealings with the Environment Ministry, and we answered that we had – we discussed with Hydro Quebec and other... we committed to share on the costs of the maintenance of the road with the other stakeholders. So, I cannot go any more than that.

1155

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

1160

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

You welcome.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1165

Mr. Lainé, we have a question from Ted Moses. So, if you want to talk?

Mr. TED MOSES

THE CHAIRMAN:

1170

Yes, with pleasure. Mr. Moses, please. You are muted, we don't hear you.

Mr. TED MOSES:

1175

Okay, you can hear me, now?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1180

Okay. Yes, perfectly.

Mr. TED MOSES:

1185

Okay. Eh, *Waachiyaa* everyone and greetings. Thank you for the presentation on the project Tantalum Rose. I have a question – well, two questions, I will ask the first one, with regards to the consent of the community members. You made reference in your presentation to an IBA that was signed in 2018, and you also made reference to the Pikhuutaau Agreement.

1190

I just wanted to inform you that that far as I am aware, this agreement doesn't exist, has not been presented to the members nor had the members given their consent, nor a mandate to the Chief in Council to go ahead and execute such an agreement. It is an important agreement that affects not only the tallymen and trappers, but also members of the community even though the distances may be far. You know, it has territorial impacts.

1195

The last time we had a presentation, we were invited to a presentation – it was probably in late winter or early spring, I think it was 2018 – in which the tallymen, trappers and other people interested went. The people that went were myself, my wife, my brother, Ernie Moses, representatives of the [inaudible] family because they would be impacted by the James Bay Lithium, and it was to inform the people of the progress of the negotiations, set by the Cree Nation Government, by – I forget his name, now. He's no longer there, he left about a month after that, and that was fine.

1200 Back in March in 2020, there was an information session by Critical Elements and the James
Bay Lithium and there was also a reference to that agreement, an IBA, and I asked where it is, and
how come we don't know anything about it. I personally don't know. I have no knowledge of it. I know
that, it's referenced that it's been signed. I asked the person responsible for Eastmain for
negotiations, he shook his head up and down, saying, yes, there was an agreement signed. But how
1205 come, as members, we don't see it? We're not aware of it?

I checked with some of the staff, they are not aware of it; even within the Council, it's not the
common knowledge. I even requested a copy of the agreement as well as the members' resolution
with respect to that agreement from the Secretary, the band Secretary, and the response I got was,
1210 well, there is no such agreement and there is no resolution, there was not a meeting of the members
of Eastmain.

So, I'm quite puzzled. How can there be an agreement when the members have not been
consulted? So, I'm invoking on my rights, as recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada, the right
1215 to be consulted and, secondly, I am also invoking my rights under the United Nations Declaration on
the rights of indigenous people to a free and informed consent.

In the absence of this, without the consent of the community, is COMEX still going to go ahead
and recommend the project to the Minister? And when will we get copies of the text of the Pikhuutaa
1220 Agreement or IBA 2018?

THE CHAIRMAN:

So, this was your first question? Do you mind if we deal with this one first, and then I will go
1225 back to you again?

I guess, on behalf of the COMEX, you know, we will make sure that, first, there is really an
agreement, and again, you're right, you know, when you spoke about the United Nations Declaration,
and also the right to be consulted. So, I guess at the COMEX level, we will make sure that, at least,
1230 the political authority, you know, has given their support to the project.

Of course, you know, it's always sensitive to get involved into domestic affairs but, of course, we will ask some questions and we will also ask the company to confirm that there is really an agreement.

1235

So, I don't know, Mr. Lavallée, if you want to add a few comments?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1240

The comments I can say is there is an agreement ... [inaudible – sound problems] ... signed by the Grand Council, the Cree Government and the Community Council, and the Tallymen.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1245

So, Mr. Moses, that's the information we have at the COMEX and I think this – correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Lavallée – but I think this agreement is kind of confidential or part of it is confidential between your company and Eastmain First Nations, am I right?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1250

Yes, there is a portion that is confidential, but it's a public document that is available on SEDAR, that is a public domain, and the Community is having a copy for sure. And a portion of it is confidential for not just with Eastmain but with Grand Council and the Cree Government.

1255

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Moses, would you like to react to?

Mr. TED MOSES:

1260

Yes, yes. You know, it doesn't exempt him from, you know, their confidentiality information doesn't exempt them from consultation with the members. We haven't been consulted by our own Chief and Council. All we hear is that there is a document, there is an agreement, but what are the contents of that agreement, and do the members support that, you know? Don't forget that this

1265 supposedly is an agreement signed with the Chief – the Chief had no mandate from his members to that effect.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1270 So, I guess what we can do is I can ask the company to provide you with the information that is from the public domain and for the rest, I don't know, I have to check. Again, we don't want to interfere in your domestic affairs, but we can ask your political people to make sure that the community members are well informed about the project and – not the project, but about the agreement itself.

1275

Mr. TED MOSES:

1280 Yes, it would be appreciated because right now, you know, we're just talking, now, of the title of supposedly an agreement but we are not aware of the contents. So, you know, if the Chief and Council cannot provide me with a copy, then maybe, Jean-Sébastien, you can make sure that I get a copy of it. You can email me or mail me a hard copy, you know. I need to satisfy myself as an individual that will be voting as a member of the Cree Nation of Eastmain on these issues, and to remind you a Chief and Council cannot act unilaterally; it must receive mandates from its members, in order for its decisions and actions to be valid.

1285

THE CHAIRMAN:

1290 Yes. We can appreciate it. And if you want, Mr. Moses, if you – in the chat, you know, if you can send me your email address, I will make sure that a copy is sent to you. And as I told you, we will send you the information, which is of the public domain, you know. And for the rest, I guess it will have to be negotiated or asked to your own Chief and Council.

So, if you can, if you don't mind in the chat, just to give me your email address.

1295 **Mr. TED MOSES:**

I don't have chat.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1300 No? Oh, sorry.

Mr. TED MOSES:

1305 I will tell you, someone can pick it up while speaking.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, go ahead, I am ready to.

1310 **Mr. TED MOSES:**

It's gmosus@petronor.ca

THE CHAIRMAN:

1315 Okay, it was easy. So, we will take care of it. And if I remember, you say you also have a second question?

Mr. TED MOSES:

1320 No, no, no, I will [inaudible] at the end, yes. You already answered my second question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1325 Okay, so we will take care of it before the end of the day.

Mr. TED MOSES:

1330 And what will COMEX do? Are they still going to go ahead and make a recommendation to the Minister on this project even though the members haven't, you know, really supported it? It's not that

I don't support the project; I support the project, but, you know, it's important here that due process be followed, you know, then you don't have Ted Moses jumping up and down saying, hey, something is wrong, something is missing. Okay?

1335 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, thank you. And we will let you know what the COMEX will do, but one thing for sure, you know, we can ask in writing to the Chief and Council if they can confirm that the members have been fully consulted, and that...

1340

Mr. TED MOSES:

Very good. Very good, I appreciate that.

1345 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Moses.

Mr. TED MOSES:

1350

All right, have a good day.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1355 And we have a question from the Cree Nation of Eastmain, so John Paul, go ahead.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Monsieur John Paul.

1360

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH:

It's not actually me, it's the Chief who had a question.

CHIEF KENNETH CHEEZO

1365

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh, Chief Cheezo.

1370

CHIEF KENNETH CHEEZO:

My question is about the transport. The transport, you mentioned there was going to be 22 per day, seven days a week on that highway. So, if you look at the numbers just on one mining company, that means every 15 minutes, we will meet up going in and out, south and north, every 15 minutes a truck, a 90-ton truck reefer truck, and what happens when it's moose-hunting season? We know that there is a lot of heavy traffic when people go hunting on that highway Waskaganish, Wemindji, Nemaska, so there is going to be a lot of hunters on the road.

1375

I am not so sure that it is going to be safe for our harvesting, for us to practise our traditional way of life.

1380

THE CHAIRMAN:

Merci. J'imagine, Mr. Bonneville?

1385

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Well, I can go for that one.

1390

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, Mr. Lavallée.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1395

It's part of the plan with – you know, we have a committee, an implementation committee that will take – can you hear me? Yes? Okay. – that will take care of it, and there will be a discussion about the plan, during the hunting season and the goose break, is also to manage the transport and make sure that it's in line with the traditional practice for safety.

1400

Maybe Paul, if you want to add a bit?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1405

Yes, Paul please.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

1410

No, that's right. I forget what we said, but we said that there would be some adjustments during the hunting seasons to minimize the impact on the hunting. And as for safety, like we said, we have the speed limits, and we will make an effort to have the transportation be on the road at hours that do not interfere with the hunting or on days that don't interfere with the hunting. But that's to be determined with the committees, like Jean-Sébastien said.

1415

THE CHAIRMAN:

Merci. Chief, does it answer your question? Chief Cheezo?

CHIEF KENNETH CHEEZO:

1420

Yes, that answers my question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1425

Okay, thank you. So, it's already past 3:00, I think we deserve a 10-minute break, if you don't mind, and then we will resume, let's say 3:15, we're back altogether online. Thank you, so enjoy this 10-minute break.

SHORT RECESS

1430

**RESUMPTION
QUESTION PERIOD**

THE CHAIRMAN:

1435

Welcome back. Welcome back everybody. I think we can resume our meeting. I just want to let you know that we have not received any brief, so what we would like to do is to keep the flow, and I will keep the floor open, so if there are comments, questions, you are more than welcome.

1440

Vanessa, do you see any comments or questions?

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1445

Pas pour l'instant.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Non? O.K.

1450

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

I have a question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1455

Okay.

1460

EASTMAIN YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

1465

I'm going back to the emergency kit, well, for hazards, spillage, will there be any training provided for our workforce, us, Crees?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1470

Okay, Mr. Lavallée, who do you think should be addressing this question?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I can answer this question. Yes, there will be training.

1475

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

1480

All right. For this emergency kit, for spillage and stuff, now, let's say a truck, you know, went off the road – I'm not saying it is going to happen, but it is possible – will the kit leave from the work camp or is it in the truck?

THE CHAIRMAN:

Monsieur Lavallée?

1485

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

That's a good question. For this, I can maybe ask Mr. Bonneville because I don't have the answer on my side.

1490

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

1495 I should be able to answer this one. Trucks are typically equipped with spill kits. As soon as the truck is transporting anything that's potentially hazardous, the driver will be trained for how to use this spill kit and will have a spill kit in the truck.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1500 Thank you. I wanted to ask about the training, where will it be done?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1505 There is training that will be done at the mine and there is also training that will be done in the community, and that will be... the training program will be developed like in cooperation with the community, and also with CHRD, in order to make sure that we can cover the different communities.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1510 Thank you.

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

1515 Thank you, you answered my question. I also have another question. This will be the last of my questions. After, you say, 17 years of this project, after 17 years, what happens to the residents, the camp, all the toys that you, guys, used, who would be the sole – particular, I guess, owner, once this project is done?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1520 Monsieur Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1525 Oui. Part of the closure and the rehabilitation plan, we need – it's part of the plan to... we need to dismantle all the infrastructure. The camp, it's planned that the camp will be owned by the community, so will stay to the community, and as for the equipment, the mining equipment, normally at the end of the mine life, they are used, so they will be sold or refurbished, but I don't know if that answers the question?

1530 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

 Merci. Thank you.

YOUTH CHIEF DENIS MOSES:

1535 Thank you. You answered a little bit; I like it.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1540 We have a question from Mr. Mark-Stewart.

Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART

1545 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

 Oui. Mr. Mark-Stewart, please.

1550 **Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART:**

 The next question I have is more for the workforce if we're in fact committed to the idea of having most of the workforce come from the community of Eastmain or even in the Cree Nation nearby communities, one of the biggest challenges that those communities are – all the communities

1555 in the Cree Nation have his housing, and so, you know, is Critical Elements willing to help communities solve the housing issue?

1560 You know, right now, there is a strong push to have people build, get into homeownership, and for some people to get into homeownership, you know, you almost have to pay a certain amount upfront to build your home. Is that something that you, guys, would be comfortable or would be willing to do for your workforce, the Cree workforce, to help them, to put them on a path where they can build ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... their home and, you know, obviously, it would help with the social issues that some of the overcrowded homes might have in the communities, and I think, you know, I think in some way, like if a young individual start working at the mine site, I would presume that they're probably going to make a good – they probably would have good salaries, and during the period of their work, I think, you know, hopefully, they can have something that they can own in the end.

1570 So, is that something that you, guys, would be willing to... would you, guys, be open to that, you know, especially for your workforce in helping them, putting them on a path having... [inaudible - sound problems] ...

THE CHAIRMAN:

1575 Monsieur Lavallée? Question intéressante.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1580 Yes. Yes, and that question – this is a subject that has already been discussed in the past, and yes, it is something that, you know, we need to work together to develop some kind of process to help the community to get new houses built.

1585 I don't have the answer exactly how we can do it, but this is something that is being discussed and that we are open to work with the community to help for it, and also, you know, the mine will, let's say at the construction time, buy a lot of equipment to build the mine. It gives some kind of, let's say, buying power or buying volume that can maybe be helpful to help the community to – let's say concrete price on different things like this. So, that's something that we are considering to make sure

we can get the benefit for the community and get the worker from the community as much as possible. So, yes.

1590

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Marck-Stewart?

1595

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

If I could just add, we mentioned in the presentation there will be collaborating with the communities and offering programs to employees and these programs also include financial management... [inaudible – sound problems] ... that perhaps young employees would be gaining a larger salary and we would have the programs in place to help them manage their money long-term, so whether that be in investing in a home or savings, it's definitely part of our plan.

1600

THE CHAIRMAN:

Merci. Mr. Mark-Stewart?

1605

Mr. DANIEL MARK-STEWART:

Thank you. Thank you for answering the question.

1610

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you.

1615

Mr. JAMIE MOSES:

If I may? I have a question.

1620

Mr. JAMIE MOSES:

THE CHAIRMAN:

1625 Yes.

Mr. JAMIE MOSES:

1630 Hi, my name is Jamie Moses, I'm a resident of Eastmain, and I also happen to be one of the active hunters and trappers of the neighbouring trapline of the protected mine site, and as you can see, I have little scars from this weekend, going out, riding with the boys, and where we went this weekend was on grounds where some of the water waste drained to the Eastmain River from upper from... from where the mine site is going to be.

1635 So my question is on – I guess I have two parts on my question: one part is, with the non-Natives' workers that will be working at the site, how much of exchange are we willing to make, to make them understand about who we are as Cree people, why are we doing certain things, why are we still up there out on the land fishing, trapping and all these activities and why do we have camps along the road, along the highways, so they respect us when we're out there.

1640 My camp is located on the Eastmain Road, not far from the highway, and part of my family trapline touches the highway as well. So, if we do some hunting and trapping on both roads, and in the wintertime, we do some riding at – we don't have the same amount of access as we would do during the summer, fall months where we could go further on snowmobiles over the wintertime, so what kind of exchange do we foresee with the workers that will be there for us to understand who we are as Cree people?

1650 And, also, my other question is, is there a potential for the, I guess for tourism, either run by the community or potential business for the people that are around the mine site that will have access, I mean, extended amount of travel?

I didn't get to hear all the presentations, I was kind of – I've only got in just prior to the break, so I kind of miss the presentation. I don't know if you've shared that information already.

1655

Yes, my family and I will be affected by the drastic amount of travel, like the Chief said earlier, that's where we do most of our moose hunting and our activities or family activities, and we do welcome people to come and fish in our lakes and in our trapline, but also we want to minimize the amount of activity on our trapline because the respect of – we're still active on our trapline and we want people to respect our campsite, and also for outsiders that may be interested in fishing, some of our trapline is also on land Category III, where non-Natives have the authority to fish if they have all their permits, but our camp is located on land Category II, where a special permit is required from the community in other for them to do any activities on land Category II. So, my family trapline falls on the two categories, so Categories III and II.

1660

1665

So, we are open to sharing our knowledge, our experience, our tradition to non-Natives that do have interest in learning. So, I guess that's what worries me is we had people that – I had an experience, well, I have an experience where a truck driver stole our gear, and there was a witness that saw a person, this truck driver grabbed some stuff on our site, and we managed to retrieve some of that stuff. So, sometimes, we don't have trust in having some of these materials, some of this stuff where somebody could just come and grab our stuff.

1670

1675

Us, Crees, we respect each other, we don't touch other people's belonging. Yes, we have certain people that still does it, but I want to feel safe at my campsite, I want to feel safe that nothing, nothing from my campsite is being taken from somebody that may not know that I'll be back using my campsite again. Sometimes, it could be our snowmobiles, it could our four-wheelers, it could our boats. We've seen and heard planes land on our lake on land Category II where non-Natives are not supposed to hunt and fish, and yet come and land with a plane.

1680

So, those are things that kind of worry us, land users and active land users like myself and my family and some of the neighbouring traplines.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1685 So, yes, Mr. Moses, we touched base those two points you are talking about, but I think it's really, really worth it, you know, to revisit those two points, and I would like to ask Mr. Lavallée, please, to address those.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1690 Yes. Like we explained previously, the workers that will work at the mine and be at the camp will come to the project by plane and they are not allowed to use – to go hunting or fishing when they are at the mine for work. So, I think that should answer one of the questions.

1695 And in terms of the cultural, like transmit the cultural of the Cree, it's also part of some of the plans of the company, and maybe, Anne, you can add on that portion.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1700 Anne, please?

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

1705 Yes. So, we will be putting in place a multicultural integration program about Cree culture, about the uses of the territory, so that the employees that are coming from elsewhere have an understanding of the culture and respect for it as well. And we should always keep in mind that there are going to be committees in place. So, whether the problems that arise are with regards to the integration, with regards to perhaps employees trying to break the law, so there is always going to be a follow-up, we're always going to be there and there's always open communication.

1710 I have also heard stories about snowmobiles going missing, and so on and so forth, so there is a venue, there is going to be always a way to contact the company and discuss these things, and then from there, take the necessary follow-ups, make the necessary adjustments, but definitely, like Jean-Sébastien said, employees are not allowed to have any hunting or fishing equipment with them
1715 at the mine site or at the workers camps, and since they are flying in, flying out, unless they come

during their vacation, they are not allowed to hunt. And if they're going on a vacation, then they would be going through a tourist program of some sort. It wouldn't be of their own volition.

I hope that answers your question.

1720

THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Moses?

1725

Mr. JAMIE MOSES:

Yes. One of the reasons why I brought up some of those points is the tallyman of where I hunt – my uncle is a tallyman, and he is in the verge of finding ways to retire, and one of his plans was to have an eco-tourism approach where he brings in people and shares about our knowledge, our traditions, some hiking trails, some paddling. Because I know, Quebec does not allow any additional permits on fishing, fishing camps, so he was looking at some stuff like that, and having more activity around, would there be any support in supporting his desire to be active out on his land and also a source of revenue for him?

1730

1735

I have a background in some tourism, and also taking out people on snowshoe trips, but I have never gone to the avenue of getting, obtaining money from it as a form of tourism operation or anything like that. It was more towards during our own people transferring that knowledge to the next generation was the kind of trips that I have experienced. I had interest our people – as establishing as a tourist event, but I am a very busy guy myself, so I don't have the desire to venture into that direction at this point in my life, but my uncle kind of has that desire to have a kind of form of tourism.

1740

At the same time, he wants to reassure that his trapline is being protected or respected, making sure that our next generation of our family continues to practise our traditional activities the same way my grandfather and the people before us were able to do.

1745

And the same goes with me. I want to rest assured that my children and my future grandchildren will be able to do the exact same things I am able to do; go fishing and trapping and be able to do these activities on our family trapline. So, that's why I brought up those points.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1750

Thank you. I don't know, Anne or Jean-Sébastien, if you can offer some response?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1755

Yes, I can add that this is direct in line with, you know, our spirit of cultural integration, this is the kind of projects that are very interesting, to work on that integration, cultural integration.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1760

Okay. Thank you. We have a question in the chat, it comes from, I guess, Mr. Cheezo. I am going to read it aloud, okay?

1765

“There was a list of job opportunities listed in your presentation and mentions of training provided for Crees. Which jobs for training will be made available? And most of the job opportunities on the list require a certificate in the specialized job that requires minimum two to three years of schooling or training. If this project goes ahead in the coming years, will the process of schooling or training be enough for Crees to be certified before the actual project?”

1770

Monsieur Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1775

Yes. There will be training that will be, let's say, given in the different communities that will cover certain parts of the job offers. We also know, you know, based on the last 10 years... [inaudible – sound problems] ... there is already a workforce that is being trained for certain jobs.

1780

Yes, in the list, there are different jobs, like, that will need more specialized training like a university degree or – but for these jobs, there will be a priority to, you know, when a student will complete his degree, let's say in engineering, to get a job at the mine, to be integrated in the project.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Merci.

1785

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

In general, there is also log job opportunities that will be trained on site during the project development. There are different opportunities for different training levels.

1790

THE CHAIRMAN:

And, also, if I understand, Mr. Lavallée, this training will probably – some of it will probably start before the mining operations, so people will be prepared and ready to take up in the job opportunities?

1795

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes.

1800

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. Thank you. Vanessa, est-ce que tu as un autre intervenant?

Do you have any other questions?

1805

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Non. Pour l'instant, je n'ai personne. *No, I don't see any raised hands.*

1810

THE CHAIRMAN:

Vanessa, can you explain to the participants that from, as of now, there will be a feedback period? Can you explain the process?

1815 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Yes. COMEX would like to give the opportunity to all participants to send their written comments or briefs following the public hearings. The last session will be on March 18th, and you will have time to write to the COMEX Secretariat until March 18, 2021. People can send their brief, or questions or comments to me, I will share these with the different COMEX members that are addressed by this.

1820 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

1825 Thank you very much, Vanessa. [Inaudible – sound problems] ... today, I really enjoyed this public hearing with all of you and as Vanessa explained, you know, you will still have this possibility to make your views known for another 30-day period. You just write to Vanessa, Vanessa will provide our email address at the COMEX, so you have still plenty of time, you know, to make your comments known.

1830 And unless there are no other speakers, you know, I would like to go back to Chief Cheezo to ask him to offer some closing remarks, please. Chief?

1835 **Mr. FRED TOMATUK :**

I have a question. I did have a question.

1840 **Mr. FRED TOMATUK**

THE CHAIRMAN:

1845 Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, we are listening to you.

Mr. FRED TOMATUK:

Yes sir, let me close my door, it's going to take me one second.

1850 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay. Mr. Tomatuk.

Mr. FRED TOMATUK:

1855

Yes. Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Fred Tomatuk, I am the president of the Cree Trappers' Association. My office is based in Eastmain; the head office of the Cree Trappers' Association is in Eastmain ... [inaudible – sound problems]. I am sorry I am late, and I did want to join for the beginning, but there was a note ... [inaudible – sound problems] ... and I just have a question about, is there a consultation ... [inaudible – sound problems] ... Cree Nation or to other organizations ... [inaudible – sound problems] ...because when I ... [inaudible – sound problems] ... is not matching ... [inaudible – sound problems].

1860

THE CHAIRMAN:

1865

Mr. Tomatuk, the agreement you are making reference to, is the 1975 James Bay Agreement, is it that one?

Mr. FRED TOMATUK:

1870

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1875

Okay. Mr. Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1880 Well, to that agreement, I don't have the full answer for that, but yes, through the IBA, the Impact and Benefit Agreement, there is a compensation for the project, to the community and the Cree Nation.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1885 So, I guess, Mr. Tomatuk, if I got Mr. Lavallée right, what he is suggesting is to address your questions directly to your Chief and Council and within the package of this IBA, I understand there might be some compensations as you are talking about.

Mr. FRED TOMATUK:

1890 Okay, great. Great, it's very good to know. There is a particular reason why I say that. The Cree Trappers' Association is a non-profit organization, it's a – as a result of the James Bay and Northern of Quebec Agreement, and we have tripartite funding, and of all the Cree organizations, we are the lowest funded entity.

1895 So, we're all ... [inaudible – sound problems] ... any new developments that come within the James Bay area or the James Bay Agreement area should – it's not guaranteed anywhere that so much money or some money should be going to the CTA. It does say that, but it's never a figure, "juste la pensée" this is going to be an annual payout to the CTA.

1900 Because while I am in this office here, I was thinking that if any development came like that, I was going to push for a compensation line for the ... [inaudible – sound problems] ... and I guess I will be going to my Chief, for that. Okay, thank you very much, gentlemen.

1905 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Tomatuk. And I can tell that you are a strong speaker, so I think the trappers are well represented.

1910

Mr. FRED TOMATUK:

Thank you very much.

1915

CLOSING COMMENTS

THE CHAIRMAN:

1920

So, thank you. And, again, in the chat, you know, Vanessa wrote down our email address, so feel free if you want to send your brief or comments, and the COMEX will take the time to review them, and we will take care of them as well.

1925

So, on this note, I would like, maybe before a note, to say thank you to all of you. It was great to be part of this public hearing. I would like to say thank you to my colleagues of COMEX, also to the interpreters, and also to the representatives of Corporation Éléments Critiques, Hydro Québec, ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques et aussi des représentants du... *and I wish to thank the representatives of WSP, of the Cree Nation Government.*

1930

It was a pleasure, I repeat myself, to be with you today. And just for your information, tomorrow, we will have also a similar public hearing in Nemaska.

So, on this note, I would like to invite Chief Cheezo, please, for the closing comments.

1935

**CLOSING COMMENTS FROM
CHIEF KENNETH CHEEZO**

1940 **CHIEF KENNETH CHEEZO:**

All right, thank you. This time, I will speak Cree since now, there is a translation guy.

1945 *So, I thank all of you that have joined the meeting for the hearing that we had today, and those who provided questions, and those that had the answers because this is a very big endeavour.*

1950 *When we look at the past, it was already begun in 2012. And you might have seen it in the presentation. So now, it's been nine years they have been working on it and since I have been Chief, they – those mines have made the presentation to address the Eastmain people and for the [inaudible] in our community, and they sat with various members of our community, even with the women, and it's been three consultations or presentations that they've had with the community members.*

1955 *When we have these meetings, a few people were present. And when it comes to this agreement, Jean-Sébastien, I'd like to thank, Lloyd Mayappo I'd like to thank these gentlemen, these people because in the past, before COVID, I met with them. Even in the school, they were asking about jobs, potential jobs that would exist. And from the extraction of our communities, from our Territory. And how they will preserve the land or clean up once their mine has reached its end of life, and I hope in the future that the land is taken care of and cleaned because there will be a lot of job opportunities for years. And the young people. And it says there in the Agreement, what Fred discussed, compensation. We're talking about training programs, and how to access funding for cultural projects.*

1965 *And I am grateful for everybody who made themselves present because not everybody can enter the meeting. Some people are present, some people could not be, though we all want to be heard, we all want to be present.*

I heard that we asked about housing, that's why they are doing the fly-in/fly-out, it's to build on the Eastmain economy, and when we look at opportunities that are available from other communities,

1970 *these employees would end up going back down south to Ottawa, Montreal and for their housing situations. So, what we were trying to discuss were some solutions to – for how even our own workers and our own people to gain housing.*

1975 *And we discussed in James Bay Eeyou if they can help the Eastmain people for housing apartments. And hopefully, when COVID passes, we can have more discussions.*

So, again, I am grateful. God bless you all. Take care.

1980

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. So, this was the last speaker of the day. Thank you again, Chief. *Migwech.*

1985 [Prayer]

THE CHAIRMAN:

Migwech for your good word. Have a nice evening everybody.

1990

ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL CONTINUE AT 13:00 ON FEBRUARY 18, 2021, IN NEMASKA

1995

2000 Je soussignée, YOLANDE TEASDALE, sténographe officielle bilingue, certifiée sous mon serment d'office que les pages qui précèdent sont et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des propos recueillis hors de mon contrôle au moyen d'un enregistrement numérique, le tout selon la loi.

2005 ET J'AI SIGNÉ :

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Yolande Teasdale", written over a horizontal line.

Yolande Teasdale, s.o./o.c.r.