

**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 3

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Nemaska

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ADJOURNMENT

**FEBRUARY 18, 2021
AFTERNOON SESSION
NEMASKA**

5 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Good afternoon, good afternoon, everybody, may I have your attention, please? My name is Luc Lainé. I'm the Chair of the COMEX. COMEX is the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee, and I would like to start in saying thank you to the Nemaska people to welcome us on their territory to host this public hearing. So, thank you.

10

And on this note, I would like to invite my colleague, the Executive Secretary of the COMEX, Ms. Vanessa Chalifour, please.

15 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Well, I would rather let the prayer be before I speak.

THE CHAIRMAN:

20

Yes, good idea, I think to get started, based on our protocol, I would like to call upon Mr. Walter Jolly, Councillor, to offer us to make the prayer, the opening prayer. And, Mr. Jolly, based on our protocol, I would like to offer you a pouch of tobacco on behalf of our group; Mr. Jolly, please.

25 **Mr. WALTER JOLLY:**

[Opening prayer in Cree]

THE CHAIRMAN:

30

Thank you for this opening prayer. I would like to call upon the Executive Secretary of the COMEX, Ms. Chalifour, please.

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

35

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

40

Thank you; so, good afternoon, everyone, my name is Vanessa Chalifour, and I'm the Executive Secretary of COMEX, and I welcome you to this public hearing for the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project.

45

So, considering the context currently prevailing in Quebec with COVID-19, the public hearings will mainly take place via Zoom. However, for the community of Nemaska, the public will have the opportunity to attend face to face. So, today's session will be hybrid, that is virtual and face to face, and translation is offered in French, English, and Cree.

50

To access the translation, you must click on the interpretation icon at the bottom of the Zoom platform and select your language.

Also note that the hearing is recorded and broadcast live on Livestream. The recording will also be available on the COMEX website following it.

55

Also, all the information relating to this hearing is available on COMEX's website as well on the committee's social network.

60

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 a question or make a comment during the periods provided for this purpose, use the icons "Raise your Hand" or "Chat". When appropriate, I will name you and ask you to turn on your microphone.

65

Note that questions will be taken only via Zoom and in face-to-face format. No question will be taken via Livestream. In addition, take note that your questions and/or comments shall be addressed directly to the Chairman of COMEX, Luc Lainé, who will ensure that they are transmitted to the appropriate person.

70 Also, I would like to introduce the people present for this public 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, Daniel Berrouard, and Robert Joly.

75 Also note the presence of the proponent of the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project. We have with us from there, four people from Critical Elements Corporation, namely Jean-Sébastien Lavallée, Paul Bonneville, Anne Gabor, and Jacqueline Leroux. They are also with their consultant, WSP.

80 Hydro Quebec was also invited to join the public hearing, considering their project to relocate a section of 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 Luc Duquette. Note that Hydro Quebec will only answer questions about the power line project.

85 Finally, there are also project analysts from the Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change, Murielle Vachon and David Ouzilleau, the 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 detail the conduct of today's hearing. Thank you, and I wish you a good day.

90

**OPENING COMMENTS
FROM CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR**

95 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Vanessa, thanks a lot for those clear instructions and information, but just before, I would like to recognize the Chief of Nemaska. And, Chief Thomas Jolly, Senior, we are told that today is a special day for you, and we would like to wish you a happy birthday. We are happy to be – what a

100 coincidence, to be with you on your birthday. So, happy birthday, Chief, and, on this note, I would like to invite you to address the floor.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

105 Thank you. By the way, my name is not Thomas Jolly. My name is Clarence Jolly, Senior. So, it is my birthday today. I'm 50 years young. So, I'm hoping to reach 100. It's a milestone.

110 It's very unfortunate we couldn't do this in person, but, nevertheless, I'd like to welcome you all to this session, people from the COMEX committee, the Rose Mine Lithium committee, Hydro Quebec, and everybody here in the room.

115 I want to give thanks to all those that are present for today's presentations, the Rose Mine project and they will tell us what their plans are the project; also, COMEX that will listen to our comments and our concerns, since that is their role and to listen to the people's thoughts and concerns concerning this development in our territory and what potential effects they'll have on us and the animals. That's the expectation, of course, is to listen to our thoughts, and, hopefully, it will encompass all our thoughts.

120 *Migwech.* Thank you all, and hopefully we will have a good session this afternoon.

OPENING SPEECH FROM THE CHAIRMAN

125 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Migwech, Chief Clarence Jolly, Senior. I would like to provide you with some information regarding the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee, which we'll call COMEX.

130 First of all, maybe I should say a few words about the agenda of the day. We will start, you know, after my presentation, we will start with the presentation of the project by the proponent. And then, you will have a chance to ask questions for clarifications or comments you may have, and also, the COMEX members will be also invited to ask any questions or make any comments.

135 And I believe, around 3:00, we'll deserve a break, a 15-minute break, and we will resume at 3:15 with presentations of briefs and comments by the public. And we are available and prepared, you know, to take all the time, the required time, you know, to give a chance to everybody to address the COMEX. So, no problem, the time is not an issue.

140 So, let me introduce you to the COMEX. So, COMEX was established under Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement back in 1975. It's made up of five members: three members are appointed by the Quebec government and two members are appointed by the Cree Nation Government. Our mandate is regarding protection of health and environment as well as economic and social well-being.

145 COMEX is an independent body for the assessment and review of the social and environmental impacts of projects. We meet, we have monthly meetings. And if there is a need, you know, we're prepared to meet more often.

150 The COMEX review is supported by a team of analysts from the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and the CNG, the Cree Nation Government.

155 And the COMEX is prepared, like today, for example, to hold public hearings, if required, and it's very important to know that the mandate of the COMEX is to make recommendations to provincial and regional administrators, plus the environmental – and to ensure the environmental and social follow-ups. And we also have a website, and you have the address here on the screen.

COMEX, based on the Section 22.2.4, we have some guiding principles. The first one is:

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

165 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;

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

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;

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

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

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

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.

185 So, those notes were to introduce you to our group. And, again, we would like to, at this point, I would like to invite the spokesperson, the CEO, of the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project to present the project.

190

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT BY THE PROPONENT

THE CHAIRMAN:

195 Mr. Lavallée, please, Jean-Sébastien Lavallée.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

200 Ladies and gentlemen, welcome and good afternoon. My name is Jean-Sébastien Lavallée, and I'm the CEO of Critical Elements Lithium Corporation. So, today, we will present you a video that gives a good overview of the project followed by a detailed presentation that shows the impact of the project and also the mitigation measures that we plan to put in place.

205 But first, before we start, I would like also to introduce the other members of our team. So, I will invite Paul Bonneville to introduce himself.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

210 Good afternoon, everybody, my name is Paul Bonneville, and I am the Project Manager.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Mrs. Anne Gabor.

215 **Ms. ANNE GABOR:**

Hello, this is Anne Gabor. I'm the...

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

220 *Mr. Lainé, can we just break now? We have a technical glitch to solve.*

THE CHAIRMAN:

225 *Yes, thank you; I was just reading this as you speak.*

We have a technical issue. So, if you want to give us a few minutes, we're going to fix it. Sorry, Mr. Lavallée.

230

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

No problem.

235 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

John Paul, does it mean I have to start over?

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

Only where you introduced the Chief.

245 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

I thought you were my friend.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

No, I'm just kidding. We're just getting the speaker hooked up.

250 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

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

Mr. Lainé, can you hear us?

260 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, I can hear you. Yes, are you ready to resume?

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

265

Do you hear me?

THE CHAIRMAN:

270

Yes, I can hear you.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

275

Just before the presentation, because we don't have the audio feed here, I will make a quick introduction, because we do have people here attending. I'll take it as a yes.

THE INTERPRETER:

280

Mr. Murdoch is just relating to the elders what the beginning of the meeting, what was noted at the beginning of the meeting. Because of their technical problems, they might have missed it. So, he's just relating to them in that room what we have already heard so far.

285

Now, he's going into the same details that Luc Lainé had gone, the composition of the COMEX committee and their responsibilities and into the details of what we heard earlier.

He's now discussing that they had a meeting yesterday, a virtual meeting yesterday, with the youth, and that all of this information is to the benefit of the people that are present, that nobody should think that their questions are not important or that are unimportant.

290

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

I have seen it at least twice now when people come, and they might have misunderstandings, and they're entitled to ask the questions based on what they might either misunderstand or might not understand completely, and it's okay to not have questions.

295

And you're welcome to also discuss your reverence of the land or what you deem is important in terms of preserving the land. And even though like we have this meeting today, it's not going to end with this meeting. It's a continuous process.

300 That's all I wanted to say that we are here to listen to you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

305 Thank you, John Paul, it was a pretty good summary. Can we go on? Okay, fantastic, so, let's start over. I would like to invite the president of the company, the promoter, Mr. Jean-Sébastien Lavallée, please.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

310 Ladies and gentlemen, welcome again, my name is Jean-Sébastien Lavallée. I'm the Chief Executive Officer of Critical Element. So, today, we will present you a video that showed an overview of the project followed by a detailed presentation explaining the impact and the mitigation measures for the project that we plan to put in place.

315 So, first, I would like to introduce the members of our team. Mr. Paul Bonneville, Paul?

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

320 Hello, everybody, good afternoon, my name is Paul Bonneville, and I am the Project Manager.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Ms. Anne Gabor.

325 **Ms. ANNE GABOR:**

Hello, this is Anne Gabor. I'm the Environmental Director of Critical Elements.

330 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Mrs. Jacqueline Leroux.

335 **Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:**

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Leroux. I am a counsellor in environment for Critical Elements.

340 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

And Mr. Jean Lavoie from WSP.

Mr. JEAN LAVOIE:

345 Hi, my name is Jean Lavoie from WSP. I am in charge of the environmental impact study, and, today, I am [inaudible - sound problems] Elsa Sormain for the hydrology aspect and Daniel Lemaire for the hydrogeology aspects.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

350 Thanks, everyone; so, now, we'll start with the presentation. We'll start with the video. So, let me know if there is any problem of sound.

(PRESENTATION OF A VIDEO)

355 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Now, we will pursue with the presentation. We should now see the presentation.

360 So, Critical Elements Lithium's vision is to become a large responsible supplier of lithium for the flourishing electrical vehicle and energy storage system industry with its first project, the Rose deposit, that features one of the purest lithium deposits globally.

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

365

The goal of the company is really to work in cooperation with the local community and the Cree community. We formalized that with the IBA, the Impact and Benefit Agreement, that was signed with the Cree Nation of Eastmain, the Grand Council, and the Cree government in July 2019.

370

The lithium is used in different applications, but the real growing market is really for the electrical vehicles and hybrid vehicles and also in the electronic industry.

375

We will also produce concentrate of tantalum that will be used in the different electronic devices to produce capacitors. So, that's used in all cell phones, iPads, computers. So, there is tantalum everywhere.

380

If we look at the location of the project, the deposit is located at the kilometre of 42 on the Eastmain Road. You can see on the map the pink star. This is the Rose Project, and there is a large district of lithium projects in the area where Critical Elements owns a large land package that are all the claims in red.

So, Rose is the first of one project. And in the future, we would like to pursue the exploration to develop other projects in collaboration with the local community.

385

So, the mine site design, at the mine, there will be an open-pit mine on the east portion of it. Then, there will be a waste and tailing disposal site, where we will accumulate the waste and tailing. Then, there will be an industrial pad, where there will be the office, the garage, and the processing plant to produce the concentrate.

390

There's a power line that goes over the deposit, where we will displace and move a few pylons to go around the open pit.

395

We plan to ship the concentrate by the road to Matagami by truck, then put the concentrate on the railway, and ship it to Quebec, Montreal, or Trois Rivières in order to ship the material to the customer.

The plan is to work with the regional community to hire as much as possible workers from the local area and as much as possible from the Cree community.

400

In terms of development timeline, the objective is to complete the permitting during 2021, then complete project financing in order to start the construction over the '21 and 2022 to start commercial production in 2023.

405

In parallel to that development, we have as an objective to complete the engineering study to complete a conversion plan that will produce lithium hydroxide in the future to add a second transformation to the product.

410

So, I will now let Anne Gabor to explain the different impacts of the project and the mitigation measures that we plan to put in place to reduce the impact.

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

415

Hello, so in the next section, we'll be taking a look at the impacts of the project, mainly, the most important concerns and then which mitigation measures we're putting in place to either counterbalance these impacts or to correct them.

420

So, the first thing we'll be looking at is surface water and groundwater quality. So, for the quality of the water, we're looking at the surface and underground as far as the impact on the water basin. So, the mitigation measures that we're putting in place for this is the treatment of the water spouting – sorry, I'll just take a...

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

425

Anne, you are on mute.

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

430 Sorry – the mitigation measures we'll be putting in place will be the treatment of the water by a water treatment facility before any of the water is released back into the environment. There'll be monitoring of the water quality done on a regular basis.

435 Actually, for the main effluent, it will be a continuous monitoring. The results of all these studies will be communicated to the Exchange and Consultation Committee, the communities, and the tallymen, and it should be noted also that the camps and communities are far from the mine site.

So, we see here this is the current conditions of the watershed. The area where we see the pink and the lighter green is actually the mine site. And as you will see in the next slide, the future conditions, the gist of the impact is really in this area, and the rest of the watershed isn't affected.

440 Next, we'll take a look at the wildlife and aquatic fauna. First of all, we'll talk about the impact on fish. So, because of the position of the pit, two lakes are going to have to be drained, Lake 1 and Lake 2. So, the plan is to capture the fish from these lakes before draining.

445 And regardless of all this, there will be an impact on fish habitats. So, in this case, what we're doing is we're putting in place compensation. So, we would have a certain spawning ground built on the Eastmain River to compensate for the loss of fish habitat.

450 And if you take a look at the picture in the bottom left of the screen, this is actually the approximate area of where the spawning ground would be built.

455 Next, we'll talk about the impact on vegetation. So, of course, the first plan of action is to limit deforestation as much as possible and conserve as much of the present vegetation as can be done, but in terms of the restoration plan, it will be re-vegetated as quickly as possible and with only local types of plants. So, the revegetation will actually be progressive. As sites become available for revegetation, this will be done.

Next, we take a look at the impact on wildlife. A big concern, of course, is the risk of collision for not just the bigger animals, but the smaller ones also. So, in order to mitigate this, we'll be monitoring vehicle speed and reducing transportation at night.

460

Another big concern, of course, is hunting. So, it should be noted that it will be prohibited for the employees to have hunting weapons at the mine site or the workers camp as well as any equipment for fishing, and they will not be allowed to hunt while they're at work.

465

Next, we take a look at the common use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. So, we're talking about the loss of territory. Of course, on the mine site, some of these traditional activities will no longer be able to be performed.

470

So, the mitigation measures that we are proposing, the first concerns the moose break and the goose breaks. During these periods of time, there will be reduced blasting. We'll use minimal staff during production and avoid any shut down operations or other operations that could require additional staff. And then, before the start of construction, what we'll do is we'll have harvesting of medicinal plants on the mine site just to maximize the opportunity before construction begins.

475

Next, we take a look at community health and well-being, so the risk to human health. So, of course, human health is a very big concern throughout the life of the project.

480

So, what we'll do is we'll create a committee to discuss and find solutions to the different issues related to the mine's activities. And, of course, we'll invite Cree participation in all the environmental monitoring during the plan, the restoration, so throughout the entire life of the mine site.

485

Part of the community health and well-being, of course, is issues with the integration of the Cree workers in the workplace. We want to create an environment that's comfortable for all the employees. So, in order to do this, what we'll do is we'll implement multicultural integration programs to really focus on Cree culture and land uses as well as the hiring of a Cree employment counsellor.

One concern that has come up often is the increase of social issues related to alcohol and drug use, debt, and financial planning, family relationships among workers and communities. So, to

490 mitigate these concerns, first of all, it should be noted that the camp will be a dry camp. It will be prohibited to consume alcohol and drugs at the mining camp.

There will be employee awareness programs to practise healthy lifestyle habits and to learn money management skills, as well as the intention to support organizations and stakeholders in
495 Cree communities for these social issues, so, really working with the communities.

So, we mentioned this a little bit before concerning the animals. The road safety is also for the users. So, what we'll do is we'll monitor the speed limits as mentioned before by means of traffic signs, GPS tracking, security staff monitoring the road, and it should also be noted that the traffic
500 on the roads will not increase significantly. We're talking about six trucks per day during construction and 22 trucks per day during operation.

Of course, the risk of accidents is a concern, so have as a concern the risk of spillage, but in our mitigation measures, we'll also talk about accidents that could happen to employees or land
505 users in proximity.

So, in order to mitigate this, we'll have an emergency plan and kit in place at the mine site. There will be an emergency team and three professionals at the mine site at all time, as well as agreements with local and regional hospitals that will be in place for the treatment of injured workers.
510 It is not on the slide here, but we should also mention that there will be agreements with local and regional firefighters as well.

And we see here a visual, basically, what a mine would look like.

515 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

But here is to explain that the relation and cooperation with the Cree communities is very important for Critical Elements. So, we started right in 2012.

520 We established the cooperation with the pre-development agreement with the Eastmain community, and we completed also a capacity study with the community in order to very understand

the interest from people from the community to work at the project, but any other matters that were related to it.

525 Also, we have been in discussion with the Cree Human Resources Development in order to put in place some training programs. We have been presenting in schools in different communities to get the interest from the young generation to get trained.

530 We also hired a Cree coordinator in Eastmain community with Lloyd Mayappo that is involved since 2017 to make the liaison with the Cree.

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

535 So, here, we take a look a little bit at the project workforce. So, during the operation, there will be three 300 employees, two shifts of 150 employees. We are going to focus as much as possible on hiring from the local communities, so, Eastmain South, Waskaganish, other Cree nations, as well as the Jamesian. The employees will be flown in by airplane, and the work schedule will be 14/14 fly in, fly out.

540 Now, in the next three slides, you'll see the list of potential job opportunities once the mine is in operation.

545 So, there's various ranges of education level, different departments, and levels of skills. So, we'll see that there is mine operation, there's mill operation. There's the chemical plant, the mill and chemical maintenance, and there's also jobs related to, say, environment; so, biology technicians, human resources, accounting. So, there's a wide range of job opportunities which will be available.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

550 So, here, we can see the planned displacement of pylons that will go around the pit of the power line, just to give a better idea of the displacement of pylons here.

 So, that covers the presentation about the project, the impact, and the mitigation measures. So, I will then pass it back to Mr. Lainé.

555 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thanks a lot, Mr. Lavallée and Ms. Gabor. So, on this note, I think it's time to hear from you, you know, from the participants.

560 So, the floor is open, and as Ms. Vanessa Chalifour explained at the beginning, you know, just raise the right hand and for those who are on virtual, and those who are in the room, I think there is another way to communicate with Vanessa, but I will recognize you as soon as I know that you would like to address the floor. So, just feel free. We are here to listen to you. So, this is your chance.

565

PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA

570 **PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:**

Hello!

THE CHAIRMAN:

575

Yes, welcome, would you please introduce yourself?

PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:

580 My name is ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... commercial development here in Nemaska, and I hear a lot about job opportunities for Cree people in the mine. What about an economic spin-off for local Cree entrepreneurs, opportunities for them?

THE CHAIRMAN:

585

Good question, Mr. Lavallée, please.

PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:

590 Mr. Lavallée will be giving the answer?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

595 Yes, just to make sure I understand the question, the question was, what about the Cree opportunity for the entrepreneur?

PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:

600 Yes.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

605 Yes, there will be not just jobs, but there will be also a lot of Cree opportunities for entrepreneurs. During the construction, there will be a lot of contracts, but also during the mine operation, there's a lot of opportunities. It's not – a lot of these jobs will be also contract jobs. So, there will be a contract for transportation. There will be a contract for, let's say, security. There will be a lot of range of contracts, and that will be announced as the development progresses.

PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:

610 Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

615 And, Mr. Lavallée, can you explain how this will be – how this information will be communicated to the people?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

620 Yes, there will be a committee in place, and there will be also, in the community, there will be some announce of these opportunities, not just for jobs, but also for the contracts, and there will be requests also for tender that will be sent to the community and the different entrepreneurs.

625 We'll work with the, let's say, the Nemaska Cree Development Corporation, with the Eastmain Cree Development Corporation, with the different corporations to make sure that these tenders are sent to all the entrepreneurs in the community.

THE CHAIRMAN:

630 And I guess it will also be posted on your website.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

635 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, so, does it answer your question?

640 **PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:**

Yes, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

645 Thank you.

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

650 Chair?

NEMASKA YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL

THE CHAIRMAN:

655 Yes, good afternoon, please introduce yourself

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

660 My name is Elton, Elton Saul. I am the Youth Chief of Nemaska. I have several questions that I'd like to ask about the lithium mine. The first one is: What are the negative effects of the extraction?

THE CHAIRMAN:

665 Mr. Lavallée.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

670 It's a large question. The negative effect of the extraction is that it will create a pit that we show in the video. Then, with the processing, we will have a tailing and waste bath that will be accumulated beside the pit. But as we explained and Anne explained over the presentation, we will reduce its maximum impact, and we'll also restart the vegetation, the rehabilitation of vegetation, you know, as we progress with the mine to try to get it back at its original situation as much as possible.

675 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Does it answer your question?

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

680 A little bit, yes, I have a few more questions. Since you were mentioning the waste, where will the waste management be located?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

685

The waste pile will be located right beside the pit on the left side, like we show in the video, but the waste management, there will be a team in place for the management of the waste and the tailing, and that will be also controlled on a very regular basis, and we need to take samples and assays and report these assays to the community and to the authorities.

690

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

Also, how will they guarantee that the extraction of lithium will be clean, and it will not have toxic effects to the soil and air, as it is not – if it's not properly processed?

695

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

The answer is a bit linked to the last question. There will be control measures and testing and essays on, let's say, on the tailing, on the reject, to control, let's say, the contamination, but the lithium mineral ore, or the rock that we'll treat is not generating, like, acid. It's not acid generation, so there's no major impacts from the material itself.

700

It's pretty – lithium is a pretty stable material. It's not like copper deposits that will generate acid material, and there are control measures for it to make sure it's not happening.

705

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

Okay, where and who will be in charge of the processing plant?

710

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

With the processing plant?

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

715

Yes.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

720 You probably mean about the – let's say, the treatment plant and who will kind of communicate this information.

725 So, there will be an environmental committee that will be created, and there will be Cree representatives on that committee, and there will be corporate company representatives, and there will be also a person from Nemaska on it, on the committee. And all the environmental reports that will be submitted regularly will be available for the community as part of the process.

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

730 How much water will be used through the process of lithium mining extraction, and where will that water source come from?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

735 So, for this, I will let Mrs. Leroux, but I can mention that the amount of water for treatment is limited. It's a hard rock deposit. So, for the treatment, it's flotation. It's not like the South American deposit that are pumping water to extract lithium.

740 So, the lithium is extracted from the rock, so, and the water is recirculated over the process. So, we're trying to use as much possible the same water, but for the treatment, every water that will be used in the process will be treated before release, but I will let Jacqueline to give you a bit more detail on that process.

THE CHAIRMAN:

745 Jacqueline, please.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

750 Yes, so, as Mr. Lavallée was saying, well, originally, we take water from the nearby environment, the lakes and the small lakes and the streams, but after a while, we are able, with the rainfall that falls on the property and the claims and the water that we recycle, to have a very minimal water intake. And after, also, the mine gets deeper, we will have some water coming from underground, and we will no longer pump anything from the surrounding environment.

755 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you.

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

760 I have one more question here.

THE CHAIRMAN:

765 Yes, go, go for it.

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

770 In South America, in Chile and Bolivia, they had to evacuate because of their water and of the toxins of the lithium mine. Do you have any concrete studies from other mines around the world if there is a law that are bound by ensuring that this doesn't happen to Nemaska?

THE CHAIRMAN:

775 Mr. Lavallée, yes.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

780 Yes, like I explained just before, the South America deposit is a very different deposit. It's a very – it's not comparable in terms of chemical composition, because they are extracting lithium out of the water. And as they're doing evaporation, there is, you know, other minerals included in their process. It's very different.

785 And based on what we saw in the Australian project that are developing similar deposit, we didn't see any issue there. And as we mentioned also, we also opt for the dry tailing, where there is no risk of leakage or these kinds of things.

THE CHAIRMAN:

790 Thank you.

YOUTH CHIEF ELTON SAUL:

795 Thank you.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Thank you very much for your question.

800

Mr. JOHN HENRY WAPACHEE

THE CHAIRMAN:

805

Thank you; I have to say you were well prepared, congratulations. I have another question. I would like to call upon Mr. Wapachee, Mr. J. H. Wapachee, please.

810 **Mr. JOHN HENRY WAPACHEE:**

Good afternoon, my name is John Henry Wapachee. I'm the – right now, I serve as the councillor for the Cree Nation of Nemaska. And just to say briefly in Cree, if I may...

815 *I first want to say you might remember that, in recently past, when they had the first dam in Eastmain, when they diverted the river, the Waskaganish River in Rupert. There were many effects, expected effects, and with the vehicles, the travelling of the large vehicles and trucks, how that affected us with our hunting practices, in our traditional – in our pursuit, traditional pursuits of happiness. And we can't say that it's just going to be affected by things such as alcoholism. And in*
820 *Nemaska, we had various effects.*

So, basically, you know, from the start of the M1 project, there are certainly a lot of issues, some impacts, I should say, with respect to the traditional territories within Nemaska, you know, in order for us to continue to pursue the harvesting rights and the harvesting activities in the territory.

825 There was, indeed, some setbacks in a sense with the traffic that has been going on for years, and I think, you know, during that time, there was certainly some – it had some effect on the land users and, you know, especially the tallymen. I think it's almost like going back to the same cycle for many land users.

830 And, you know, it not only impacted us in some way with respect to alcohol in the sense, but when you talk about the logistic, project logistics, I think, if I'm not mistaken, I see that the traffic or even transporting the material would be primarily through Nemaska and also with the activities that will be ongoing at the airport.

835 You know, these things will need to be addressed certainly other than the fact that we have a lot of concerns with the wildlife, you know, the [inaudible] aspect of it, but I think there is certainly a lot of emphasis that need to be addressed on the social impact from the project.

840 So, I just wanted to just make a comment on that for your consideration. C'est beau.

THE CHAIRMAN:

845 Thank you, Mr. Wapachee; your comments are very well – sorry, yes, I was still with the interpreters. I wanted to say, Mr. Wapachee, thank you. Your comments are very welcome, and that’s the reason why we are here today, you know, to listen to you. Maybe to offer you some response, I’d like to invite Mr. Lavallée, please.

850 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes, during the discussion we had in the past with the community and Nemaska, Eastmain, and the different communities in the area and with the tallymen, that being mentioned, and this is part of the reason why we also – you know, it’s not just mitigation measures, but there will be also
855 a committee that will be in place to take note of any issue that can happen and concerns to work and mitigate these impacts. It can be social impact, too.

So, that will be managed all over time, not just like pre-mine, but as a continuous process that we need to have in place and work together to manage it.

860

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. And, again, Mr. Wapachee, if you have any other questions, comments, or concerns, we are here to listen to you.

865

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER

870 **Mr. CHAIRMAN:**

I would like to call upon Mr. John Paul Murdoch, please.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

875

I have a follow-up question to the questions from Mr. Elton Saul, and it kind of goes to what I was saying in my introduction, that people should feel free to ask a question as many times as they want and in as many ways as they want, so that they get a clear answer, because this is the third day I've heard the presentation, and I've heard Mr. Saul's question three times, and to be honest, I don't know. I don't have a clear understanding of the answer to the question.

880

The question was: How much water will be used and where will the water go? After that question is asked, I feel like a lot of things are said, but I know, I myself, other people in the room maybe, we don't seem to be getting a clear answer. So, I'm wondering: Is there a sign? Is there an image? It is a relatively simple question. How much water are we talking about and where is it going?

885

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, Mr. Lavallée, please.

890

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes, I don't know, Jacqueline or Paul, if you have the answer of how much exactly is the amount of water used for the process? We explained that it is a limited amount. I don't have the exact number with me here, so...

895

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

Well, to answer precisely the question, I think that we would need in support our water balance sheet or something like that. So, if you give us a few minutes, I think that we could have something that is more precise and less general as an answer.

900

THE CHAIRMAN:

I think it will be greatly appreciated, okay.

905

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

Okay.

910

THE CHAIRMAN:

John Paul, I'd like to go back to you. Are there any other questions you would like to raise?

915

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

If you can ask them: Where is the water going?

PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:

920

[Inaudible – sound problems] ... question with John Paul, and he's asking: Where is the water going?

THE CHAIRMAN:

925

I'm sorry, do you have a question?

PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:

930

Hold on.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you.

935

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

Yes, he was asking a follow-up, because it's not just a question of quantity. People want to know where is the water going. We know that the water is coming from the site. We assume you

940 might be – actually, we don't even know. Is it coming from a well? Is it coming from a river? Is it
coming from a lake? So, the water that you do use, we don't know where it's coming from. We don't
know the volume, and we don't know where does it go.

THE CHAIRMAN:

945 Okay, I think it's a clear question. Jacqueline or Mr. Lavallée, will you be in a position to get
back to us with a response?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

950 I think Jacqueline will be able to answer where exactly, and Paul, where actually we're taking
the water, exactly from which effluent, and where we're putting it back. As you are looking for the
volume, they will also look at the map that shows it.

955

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH

THE CHAIRMAN:

960 Okay, whenever you are ready, I will reintroduce you. In the meantime, you know, I'd like to
take other questions or comments. Would you please introduce yourself?

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

965 Yes, my name is Sean Coonishish. I'm a community member of Nemaska, and I have a few
questions, one of them first being I recall a couple of years back, we asked you a couple of questions
about the environmental impacts, and I'm a land user of R19. R19 is located right beside the
[inaudible] that's right at the end of the Rose mine project, and I normally practise my hunting and
970 traditions in that area.

975 And the question that I have is that, you know, I feel it's kind of like hindsight to be asking these questions about, you know, what are our social impacts going to be, it's like, you know, it's ridiculous to ask us those questions, not knowing the unknown of once the project happens and, you know, after once we have the aftereffects of the project.

So, basically, that was my – like we never had any, I never received any feedback on, you know, on those questions that we asked before. Did you understand?

980 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, I'd like to, again, call upon Mr. Lavallée.

985 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes, I'm not sure I understand the question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

990 Yes, I have to be honest. The sound was not too, too loud. Would you mind to repeat your question, sir?

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

995 Yes, it's regarding the impacts of the environmental, and I know we were asked briefly on questions about, you know, how it's going to impact us, and I believe that hindsight on that part, because we don't know what's going to happen with the impacts of the project, and I just want to know what kind of insurance we have for that, you know, if something doesn't go right.

1000 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you; Mr. Lavallée, did you hear the question?

1005

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I heard the beginning. I didn't hear the question, just the last small sentence at the end. I didn't know... I didn't understand the rest, but we did several consultations in the communities, and we took the questions, and we discussed, but I need to understand the rest of the question.

1010

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

Okay, I don't know. Do you hear me clearly now or...

1015

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes, it's better.

1020

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

Yes, it's better, okay. I'm close to the mike, and I'm speaking directly to the computer. One of the questions that I had was – like, I'm a community member of Nemaska, and I'm also a land user of R19, and I know we talked about the environmental impacts, you know, surrounding the area, and R19 is literally just a few kilometres from the Rose mine project.

1025

And, you know, I believe it's – you know, we can't say, you know, what exactly is going to happen when the project is carried out. And what kind of insurance do you guys have for us in order for us not to be impacted too much, because this is – you know, I have a camp not too far from there, and I do hunt around the area, literally just a few kilometres away from the mine site. And how is that? Is there like any – I noticed that, you know, you have agreements that you talked about with the IBA's, with respect to the IBA's, but is there anything for Nemaska community to have an agreement of such?

1030

1035

I'm kind of, you know, going through a different series of questions here, because I know it's a technical issue, where you didn't hear my first question. So, this is what I wanted to bring up.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1040 Mr. Lavallée, please.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1045 Yes, so now, it's clear. The IBA is giving priority. In the document, it's clear. Yes, Eastmain is there, but Nemaska is also a priority in the IBA in terms of, like, jobs and contracts and repercussions. And in terms of having an IBA with Eastmain, it also included the Grand Council and the Cree Government, and it came from them that we signed the IBA with Eastmain, but there was a priority for Nemaska also in.

1050 **PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:**

Okay, is there like a written document that...

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1055 Yes.

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

1060 ... states so, or is there an agreement that, you know...

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1065 Yes, it's a public document.

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

1070 Okay, where can I find that?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

It is on a site called SEDAR, and it's available, but we can ask also probably with the Grand Council to share it with the community.

1075

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

Okay, what about the part of the hunting practices? Like I do moose hunting in the fall right near the area, and I know there's going to be a greater traffic. How will that be controlled during my hunting expedition, so, you know? Fall, let's say, for example, fall season, we hunt a few weeks, out in a week, for some moose, and it's right around the area of where the traffic will be.

1080

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Can I go, Mr. Lainé?

1085

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes. Yes, go ahead, please.

1090

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

So, like we explained in the presentation, but maybe not in detail in that presentation, but to answer the question, during the goose season and the moose break, there will be – we will reduce at maximum the activities on the project. We cannot stop everything, but we'll reduce the amount of, let's say, blasting and the amount of transportation to reduce the impact.

1095

And the goal is also, it's part of, let's say, the IBA, but it's part also of the company goal to be in close contact with the local tallymen around the project to make sure we're not affecting your cultural activities, to reduce it as much possible.

1100

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

1105 Yes, the reason why I bring that up is I know, in other projects, there's a radius of shutting
down of no hunting and no shooting. I am just wondering if it's going to affect the area where –
because it's right around the area where I'll be, where I do my practices on hunting. That's why I
bring that question.

1110 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

There is, let's say, a rayon around the pit and the mine for security of the workers, but all that
security area is on the Ernie territory. So, it should not affect your territory.

1115 **Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:**

Yes, but the roads are connected. The rivers are connected. The Creees are, I mean the creeks
are connected. So, you can't say we're not impacted. We are also an impacted land users on the
traplines that are connected side by side.

1120

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I'm not saying that you're not impacted. I'm talking about the security area around the mine
to protect the workers.

1125

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

Yes, alright, that's it for me. I just wanted to ask those questions and thank you very much.

1130

THE CHAIRMAN:

Excuse me, just for the record, are you on the trapline R19?

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

1135

Yes, that's correct. I'm one of the land users, and I also have a camp there just a few kilometres away.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1140

Okay. And, again, as Mr. Lavallée said, the IBA is a public document. So, you should have no problem to get a copy of it, you know, within your own council. And if there is any problem, you have our website and our email address. Let the COMEX know, because this is also our responsibility to make sure that, for example, all the tallymen, you know, are also involved in the process, and that they have all the information.

1145

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

Okay, thank you.

1150

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Stay with us. Don't go away.

1155

Vanessa, do we have somebody else, who would like to address the floor?

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Not for now.

1160

Mr. ROBERT CHICKEN

1165 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

So, would you please introduce yourself?

1170 **Mr. ROBERT KITCHEN:**

My name is Robert Kitchen. I'm the Economic Development Officer for the Cree Nation in Nemaska. So, I've been here for 12 years. I moved from Waswanipi. My wife is from here. So, I had to make the big move and no turning back. The best place to be is Nemaska.

1175 Since 2008, Nemaska has been educating themselves on lithium development. It has been a very interesting learning curve, and the experience that we had with Nemaska Lithium, it wasn't a very good experience, and everybody was working at the time, and the next thing you know, nobody is working. A lot of the entrepreneurs got really impacted very hard on that, and it brought a lot of false hope, and I'll give you reasons why.

1180 And before I do that, I want to ask the question why we're – I want to make it clear, I guess, why we weren't included into an IBA process where, at the beginning of discussions, we would participate at one time, and all of a sudden, we were – Nemaska was put out of the picture. And, eventually, an IBA was signed with Eastmain.

1185 And that trapline is right at the border. There is always – in traplines, there's always a buffer zone. Even if you have a fine line right there, there's always a buffer of five kilometres both sides. And I believe a lot of those claims are also in the Wapachee territory, R19.

1190 And you got me really confused on why we were not involved in the signing of an IBA, and I would push the community, the leadership, to make sure that we do sign an IBA to have the financial benefits also as Eastmain is having, because the impacts that we're going to be facing in this project, we're going to be facing more impacts than Eastmain on this project. Eastmain is way on the coast, all the traplines are more towards the James Bay Highway and along the coast.

1195

They're going to be travelling on the EM1 road. Then, they're going to go on the Route du Nord, then they're going to go on James Bay Highway. They're cutting right through the heart of Nemaska territory; 22 trucks a day, 90-ton. That's almost 8,000 trips a year, I would say. That's a real, real impact.

1200

How is COMEX going to deal with all this stuff that's happening in our territory?

Then, you have the Nemaska Lithium that's going to pop up. Then, you have Galaxy. Then, you have Mont Blanc. You know, I agree that there's going to be an issue on traffic. You add those three mines together – I don't know how many John Paul, 300 trucks a day, or – it's a big number.

1205

I don't know how COMEX is going to make a recommendation to pop up three mines at the same time, and the major impacts of those two mines is right in the heart of Nemaska territory. I think that is a concern that you're really going to have focus on before, you know, authorizing anything, any mines to go forward.

1210

The feasibility of these projects is based on finishing the product. Taking the raw material, mining it, drill blasts, mining it, crushing it into a concentrate of 6%, there's no money to be made there. There's no money to be made at the mine, because it's going to cost the same amount to transport it, whoever wants to buy it.

1215

It costs \$500.00 to produce it, and you're selling at \$500.00. It's a break-even operation. You can't survive. The mine will never survive.

1220

I assessed all the mines. I assessed La Corne. I assessed – Zionna is another opportunity in the Val D'Or region, Nemaska Lithium, Critical Elements. I reviewed them all, and I've been following them very, very closely to see where they're at.

1225

The point I'm trying to make there is the conversion technology is the key to all this. I think the COMEX, before authorizing anything to any of these lithium developers around here, they have to prove that they have that technology. The banks are only ... [inaudible - sound problem] ... raw material to an actual pure product. That's the economics behind this project.

1230 Now, you're looking at Quebec's electrification strategy. They don't want to take our raw material and ship it overseas to the Chinese. They want to find a way to create opportunity here, develop it here, and it doesn't make sense to take that raw material and transport it overseas, because it's not economically viable.

1235 So, the conversion project ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... and I think that scenario that the COMEX committee really have to focus their energy on, looking if this project is actually feasible.

1240 The other point I wanted to make is the issue related to, yes, the water issue. I think it's very unclear. I think that's a big concern that's in play right now also is the water, because a lot of – like the previous guy that made his comment is that a lot of those runoff waters are going to be drained somewhere eventually.

The dust that's going to be created from the blasting is going to, you know, it's going to spread into the surrounding small little lakes that have trout, plenty of trout in them.

1245 I am worried about my ptarmigan. 8,000 trucks drive in a year, that's 8,000 dead ptarmigans maybe, one hit every trip maybe. I don't know. Who's going to compensate us for ptarmigans?

1250 Yes, you know, you're going to be driving right through the heart of their moose mountains, the Wapachee moose mountains, and the Cheezo family moose mountains, too. The bear, the bear dens in the area too, plenty of bear in that area, a lot of moose in that area. So, how do you deal with that? 8,000 trucks plus Nemaska Lithium trucks; we're having a hard time with Hydro Quebec driving around all over the place.

1255 So, yes, the water is an issue, the transportation issues, the conversion technology an issue. So, Jean-Sébastien is a good friend of mine. So, I don't want to be too rough on him, but I've been trying to educate him on the conversion aspect of developing this project, but everyone has their own idea, but let's be realistic.

1260 There's only a handful of people that can take that raw material and convert it, and they're not in North America, not too many in Europe, a few in China that are low-quality products, but the Japanese and the Koreans are the best in the world right now, and that's why you got Panasonic.

That's why you got Samsung. You know, these are the key developers in terms of electronics in the world right now.

1265 Now, everybody wants to get into electric vehicles, building those batteries. [Inaudible - sound problems] ... energy storage systems, but you have to convert that product. There's a lot of lithium in the world. The problem is the bottleneck right now is the conversion part of it. I'll repeat that over and over again, because that's – I think that's one of the basis that the COMEX decision should look at clearly before pushing any of these projects in our territory, which we're tremendously impacted by.

1270
1275 Some of the ideas I have I just want to share with you, and I believe that IBA should be tackled. I don't think the Nemaska people should accept this project, until we sign an IBA with Critical Elements, and that the family, the Wapachee family, is included as part of the deal, because this is part of their trapline.

1280 When it comes up, yes, it's going to look nice, when it comes up the signing, but when it comes up to actual distributing the contracts, this is where it gets pretty messy sometimes. We experienced that with Nemaska Lithium. So, that should be, I think, one of the number 1 points. Take care of that issue right away.

1285 The few points that I wanted to make, I'll probably speak later again, but I'll leave it at that. I'm sure there's other people that want to bring out their comments. Like John Paul said, be proud they're here. Don't be worried. Don't be afraid to speak out. You know, this is ... [inaudible - sound problems]. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1290 Thank you. We listened very carefully to your comments. You raised many issues, many questions.

First of all, the existing IBA, you can find it; if you go in the chat, you will see the website address where you can get a copy of the existing IBA. I don't know personally why there is no IBA

1295 with Nemaska. I know there is one with Eastmain. Mr. Lavallée spoke about it, and I will invite him again, you know, to speak more about it, why Nemaska doesn't have its own IBA.

1300 And the other thing I would like to say, and I will do it very quickly. You know, like COMEX, you know, COMEX, we don't authorize anything, you know. We make recommendations, and that's the reason why we are here today. We were in Eastmain yesterday and Matagami before because we want to hear from the people, from the local people. This is one aspect of our work.

1305 So, before we make recommendations, we're trying to listen to as many people as possible, and we have also experts from the Cree Government working with us and also from the Quebec Government, so to make a very informed and sound recommendation to the administrators.

So, you spoke about transportation. I understand, really, it's an issue, and it's a serious issue not only around Nemaska, but in the James Bay area. We are aware of it and sensitive to this question.

1310 And you also spoke about the transformation or conversion of the raw material, and you also spoke about the water. I think those were the main issues that you raised. Mr. Lavallée, I don't know if you want to shed a little bit of light on each of those issues?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1315 I will try to give a bit of light on each of them. So, for the IBA, it has been discussed in the past between the two communities and the Grand Council. So, we cannot go into all the detail for it, but, you know, we've been talking to both communities, and it had been decided that the IBA was to be signed with Eastmain, but the Grand Council and the Cree Government is part of it. So, I cannot say more than that.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1325 I don't want to put you on the hot seat, but yourself, you know, I mean your company, are you interested or open to have a discussion with the Nemaska authority to maybe have their own IBA? Is it something you are prepared to look at?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1330 We're open to include them in the IBA, you know. We've always been open for that, but that was – you know, some decisions have been taken. It was out of our control, I will say.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1335 Okay, I understand, and I also understand that Chief Jolly, Senior, is attending the hearing. So, a decision will be made at the Nemaska Council, okay, but it's good to know that you are open. So, would you like to say a few words about the – I keep calling it transformation or conversion of the raw material?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1340 Yes, I think we've been clear, you know, that it's our intention in the second phase to develop the conversion in terms of, you know, I will say expertise for conversion, having a team where we have members in the team that have been involved in the largest producer of conversion in the world.

1345 So, we have expertise to do it, and there's studies that we plan to do for that conversion. Like we explained in the past, local conversion is the next step, but we plan to, you know, develop the project in two steps in order to reduce the execution and planning ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... for the project.

1350

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay. And, again, I would like to hear you more about the water concern, you know.

1355 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes. I think, Jacqueline, you're ready to explain a bit more what was for the question that was there? So, I will leave it to you now.

1360 **Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:**

If it's okay, I can share my screen to show you a map.

1365 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1370 I just don't – I don't have the preview right now. Just give me one second.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes.

1375

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

Okay, so ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... I did not share my screen. So, I don't have it right now.

1380

THE CHAIRMAN:

Vanessa, is there something we can do to help Jacqueline to share the screen?

1385 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

Click on the icon in the lower screen. You should see the share screen icon. There we go.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1390

It's working, thank you. Okay, so, here is ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... the final water management of the whole project when it's all done. So, we have – so, the first question was: Where

1395 does the water come from and where does it go? So, the water comes mainly, when the mine will be in operation, from the pit because a lot of water is going in it.

1400 So, that water will be treated. As you see, it goes into our basin where water will be treated, and that water, as well as all the contact water, so water that touches either the industrial area or the waste drop or the tailings that have been dried, so it's just water that is raining on top of it, so all that water goes here into a basin. It is treated and then released into the environment. So, that's one water.

1405 Another kind of water that we have on site is that we don't want that much water to go into the pit. So, we will pump. We will install underground pumps, and that's the green area. So, that pump will take water before it goes into the pit, and it will be released into lakes; so here, Little Lake A and here Little Lake 3. We have decided to share this effluent to respect the receiving capacity of those lakes.

1410 And, also, I want to show that that's the final, but we also have this for all steps of the construction. So, here, at the very beginning, we see that we dry some lakes. We will do some temporary pumping, and we will release it into the creeks and lakes, and we have that for many... the many steps of the project and, again, this is the final one.

1415 So, I want to reach out to the persons who asked about more clarification for where does the water come from and where does it go, so if this is okay or if you want me to go on, on that.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1420 Okay, thank you, Jacqueline; I think there was also – I don't know if I am right, but there was also a question on the quantity, how many litres of water will be moved around. Do you have any idea?

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1425 Correct, and that is the other thing that I want to show you. This is the complete water balance of the site. So, you have all... so, here, we have every area of the project. So, we have what the

water will be used, where does it come from, and we have that for every... also every ditch, and this you see in cubic metres per year, where it will be, how much comes from that.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1430

We see the map, but we can't see the legend.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1435

Yes, I had to adjust my glasses. Sorry, we'll provide you with the right map with all the information, sorry about it.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1440

Okay. So, what I wanted to show, secondly, was this.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1445

Okay, can you start over with the explanation?

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1450

Yes. So, this document is the complete water balance of the site. So, we have in those tables all the activities and all the areas that the water comes from, if it's coming in, like an entrant or out as an *extrant*, and we have also all the cubic metres per year of how much water there is, and where it's going. So, we have that for all kinds of conditions, so if it's a very dry year or average or very wet. So, this whole document is about that.

1455

So, I don't have one quantity to give you, because we really focussed on construction years. So, it's not the same water coming in and out at year 1 that at year 17, and that is detailed in that document.

1460 So, I don't know if there is a more specific question or if you want me to target more the early years or the later years, but with that, we can focus and take the information that is required for anyone.

1465 And, also, I want to convey that if somebody wants to have like a working session on the water, we can also draw all the maps and the water balance, and we can do it here, but we can also do it in another setting. So, we are very open to have work sessions of any kind and water included, because as you can see, it can be a very detailed experience.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1470 Thank you, Jacqueline. I don't know how details, and how the people would like to get the information today, but I know it's a major concern. Yes, I don't know if that's – there is a question in the chat, but I think you touched it, but maybe you have something else to add. The question is the following: What is the percentage of water volume utilized and returned to nature in terms of percentage?

1475 **Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:**

Okay, so, if we go – I'll go back to my map here. Okay, so do you see the map now?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1480 Yes, we do.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1485 Okay. So, in operation, all the water that is used at the plant comes from the pit. So, we do not take any intake water from the freshwater of the lakes. We will have sufficient water from the ditches, from the pit, that will go in our basin to feed 100% of the mill. Was that the question?

1490

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, the question was the percentage of water taken and returned to nature, yes.

1495 **Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:**

Okay. So, if I can detail that a little bit, zero percent in operation will be taken from freshwater. It will all be recycled water. And all the water will be eventually returned to nature except the one that will be trapped in the tailings, which is not a big percentage, because all those tailings are dried. So, it's just like wet sand.

1500

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, and I was listening to you, Mrs. Leroux, and at the same time there was a comment to say, and I think you did, to confirm that no freshwater will be taken from nature, only water from mine site and recycled.

1505

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

Yes.

1510

THE CHAIRMAN:

That's what you said.

1515

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

Yes.

1520

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER

THE CHAIRMAN:

1525

Okay, thank you. I have two more speakers. I would like to move to recognize Mr. Berrouard, and after I will recognize Mr. Wapachee. Mr. Berrouard, thank you, stay with us.

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER:

1530

Okay, thank you very much. Maybe just to complete the explanation, maybe just give some information about the quality of the treatment and about the watershed, what will be the effluent just to complete the information.

1535

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you. Mme Leroux, would you like to address this question?

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1540

Yes. So, I can re-share the screen for where will be the effluent. So, the final effluent is right here. It's after the treatment plant. And, so far, the treatment plant, as the water is expected to be easy to treat, because it will be mostly suspended solids and pH adjustments, it's just that. We will adjust the pH with either some acidity or some basic regents, and we will make sure that there is not a lot of suspended solids in the water, and it will be released.

1545

Does that answer, is that what you wanted to know, Mr. Berrouard?

Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER:

1550

Yes, and about the watershed?

1555 **Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:**

Yes, for the watershed, I will transfer that question to Ms. Gabor, because she had that in another document.

1560 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Mrs. Gabor, please.

1565 **Ms. ANNE GABOR:**

Yes, actually, if you'll give me just a moment, I should be able to share a map with you.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

1570 While they're searching for the map, I have a quick question.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER

1575 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, Mister.

1580 **Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:**

So, we say the water is going to come from the pit. Does that mean – like, that's rainwater, or is there water from another source that's flowing into the pit?

1585 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Mrs. Leroux?

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1590 Yes, it's a lot of underground water. Since we are close to the Eastmain reservoir, there is a lot of water that is near the surface. So, in fact, we have to put holes, waterholes to prevent water from coming in the pit, but there will still be a lot of – it's underground water that comes in the pit.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

1595 Okay, yes. Because the way you were describing it, it made it sound like it's just water raining into the pit that that's being used. So, this would be water coming from the Eastmain reservoir through underground sources, let's say, into the pit.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1600 Yes, and the rainwater as well.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

1605 Okay, and I'm guessing we're going to see the map, because I've driven all over Eeyou Istchee and I've never found a creek named right here.

Ms. JACQUELINE LEROUX:

1610 Yes.

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

1615 I'm sharing my screen right now. I don't know if you can see it.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1620 Yes, yes, we see it, yes.

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

1625 Okay, perfect. So, what we see here is a zoom up on the mine site. So, you've seen this
several times. I know the map is very far out. So, we've got the mine – I can show you – we've got
the mine right here, and then we see the different traplines, and I'd have to zoom this for you to see
it better.

1630 But if we take a closer look, we can see actually – I'm trying to zoom out here. We can see all
the different traplines, and you can see exactly where... sorry, I'll try to take you through it. So, we
can see where the water is going on the different traplines all the way to Waskaganish from the
mine site. I'll just try to get that zoomed back out.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1635 Mme. Gabor, just to say...

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

1640 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1645 Just for my information, the people who are in the room in Nemaska, do you have a chance
to have a screen to see the maps and all those things. Yes, I guess.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

 It's awfully small. Yes, but we still don't know...

1650 **Ms. ANNE GABOR:**

 Yes, it's very small.

Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:

1655

We still don't know where the creek right here or the river right here or the watershed right here is.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1660

Okay. But you have a map. Okay, so, maybe we'll find those.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1665

Maybe Elsa can help on that one in terms of watershed.

Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:

1670

Yes, sure. I can try to share a map, too. The scale maybe is a bit more appropriate, although they may not be the latest version. We don't have names for those streams. So, we just, we gave them random names. So, maybe it's a bit complicated to identify. Do you see my screen?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1675

Yes, we do.

Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:

1680

Okay, do you see the red dot? This is going to be where the water is released. So, that's the stream that we call stream A, that flows alongside. I'm trying to flow, like if you follow my pointer.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1685

Yes.

Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:

1690 So, that's the stream where it's going to be released. So, the mining site is the part that is in black, okay. The red dot is a point just after the treatment, where the water is going to be released in that stream that flows on the left side. I don't have a more in-zoom map, unfortunately, but eventually, it would flow to the James Bay farther, farther away.

1695 Does it answer the question of where is the stream?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Maybe we can just add that we are in the Pontax watershed.

1700 **Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:**

1705 Yes, sure. So, we are at the limit of the Eastmain reservoir and Pontax watershed in natural condition. Here I have a map like in natural condition. You see that the mining site is like in the middle of this map.

So, part of the waters that flow in the territory right now go to the Eastmain reservoir, in part in the Pontax watershed, and here you can see where is going to be the footprint of the mine.

1710 And all the waters that rain onto that footprint are going to be collected with ditches and ponds and treated and released all in the red dot in that stream that goes to the Pontax watershed. It mostly goes in natural condition.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1715 Okay.

Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:

Does it answer your question?

1720 **Mr. DANIEL BERROUARD, MEMBER:**

Yes.

1725 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Oui. Mr. Berrouard. Mr. Murdoch, yes?

1730 **Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:**

Yes. ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... Pontax watershed.

THE CHAIRMAN:

John Paul, sorry, I didn't hear you.

1735 **Mr. JOHN PAUL MURDOCH, MEMBER:**

No, I said we got ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... going into the Pontax watershed.

1740 **Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:**

Yes.

1745 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, that's what it is, Elsa, yes?

1750 **Ms. ELSA SORMAIN:**

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1755 Okay, thank you. Anne, I don't know, were you done with your presentation, because I think we interrupted you or...

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

1760 I think that Elsa answered with a less zoomed-out map than what I had.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1765 Okay, and thank you. Also, I'll check in the chat. I think there was another issue. There was another question regarding water. So, I would like to address it, while we are on this subject. It comes from Mr. J. P. Trapper. It says: Does any of the water released end up in trapline R16? I don't know, Anne or Elsa or Jean-Sébastien, if you can address this one?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1770 I don't have the answer now. Maybe, Anne, on the map you had the trapline on, I don't know if you can identify it, but...

Ms. ANNE GABOR:

1775 So, essentially, any of the water that's going down to the watershed will probably end up on these traplines, but extremely diluted. And as we mentioned, all the water is treated. So, the water that's released into the effluent is going to be of at least, but probably better quality than the water that's already there because of the different criteria that we have to meet for the water treatment
1780 plant.

 So, any water that's released is going to be a better quality and, yes, will work its way down the watershed probably to trapline R16.

1785

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Anne. Mr. Trapper, does it answer your question? I didn't hear you, Mr. Trapper.

1790 **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:**

He said yes.

1795 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Il a répondu oui? O.K., merci.

1800

Mr. JOHN HENRY WAPACHEE

THE CHAIRMAN:

1805 So, I ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... more interveners, and then after I will suggest that we take a 10-minute break. So, thank you to bear with us, and I would like to call upon, you know, Mr. Wapachee, J. H. Wapachee, please.

Mr. JOHN HENRY WAPACHEE:

1810 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll just make it very brief.

1815 First of all, I'd like to thank J. P. for that question, because I was going to ask that same question. I think that's one of the prime concerns. It's the water flow, you know, within the territory as certainly a concern for, you know, the environmental impacts that will entail, and that's relatively very important for it to be highlighted, especially in the territory of Nemaska. So, I just wanted to bring that up.

The other part very short is that, you know, with respect to the agreements and many other processes within the project, I think it's important for the community of Nemaska not just to sit back and watch the activity as it evolves

1820

And, you know, especially I think one of the things that really becomes a prime subject here in that sense is the inclusion for the community. I think that should be part of the main point, as Robert Kitchen had mentioned, and I just wanted to, you know, encourage that this would be noted.

1825

And if I may say just a bit in Cree... *You know here in Nemaska that it can't be like we're just observing what's going on with the mine development near our community, when it shows how it's going to affect us, the water, the effects of the water and the water flows. We want to look at the jobs. It's very important for us to be present and not just be observers. So, it's one of the things I really think about.*

1830

I just wanted to really address to Nemaska. You know, I think it's important for us to have that inclusion as well and be able to participate throughout the process.

1835

It's like Robert said, I hope that we will listen to you, too, you the hunter, the youth, the women, young women. We hope to hear from you. We expect to hear from you. Do not be shy. If there's anything that you want to... I think it will be nice if we all put our statements together or our thoughts together.

1840

I just wanted to encourage people to participate in the discussion. Alright, let's go for a break. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1845

Thanks a lot, Mr. Wapachee. And, also, at the end, we will explain that it will still be possible after today to provide COMEX with any comments or questions, and I like your suggestion to gather together and maybe to write a brief or something to COMEX that we will be taking care of.

So, I think we all deserve a good 10-minute break. I hope to see you back here in 10 minutes. Thank you.

1850

SHORT RECESS

1855

**RESUMPTION
QUESTION PERIOD**

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, I would like to welcome everybody back. We will resume the hearing. Mrs. Chalifour, have we received any brief?

1860

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

No, I haven't received anything on my side.

1865

THE CHAIRMAN:

Very well, we can continue with questions. At one point, you know, actually, when we receive briefs, you know, we read the briefs. We invite the people to share the brief with the COMEX. We haven't received any briefs, but we would like to reopen the floor and to welcome any questions, comments, on your part.

1870

I understand that a few people need to leave. I would like to say thank you to the people who took the time to be with us today. And as we said, this is a project in your community, close to your community. So, this is also, as participants, this is your responsibility to be part of it. So, thank you again.

1875

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I believe Brian has something to share.

1880

Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER

1885 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Brian, please go ahead.

1890 **Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:**

Can you hear me?

THE CHAIRMAN:

1895 Yes, we do.

Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:

Oh, good.

1900

THE CHAIRMAN:

Take it away.

1905 **Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:**

In the beginning, when first I noticed that, at the end of the project, that something was going to be filled up, what's going to be filled up? What's going to be that? And the other question is: Are you going to plant things, trees, vegetation, around the area? I know that that's probably something you'll be looking at in the future, but you know, I just wonder what's your idea in that case.

1910

THE CHAIRMAN:

Good questions, who would like to address it?

1915

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I think I can address it.

1920

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

1925

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

There's a plan to do revegetation of the site at the end, but it's an ongoing process as we're progressing with the project.

1930

Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:

So, when you have finished the project...

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

1935

Yes.

Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:

1940

... are you going to – you're going to have a big hole in the ground, right?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

There will be a lake.

1945

Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:

A lake, okay, that's what I wanted, and are you going to have trees planted in there?

1950 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes, there will be revegetation.

1955 **Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:**

Okay, and there's only one other thing I wanted to point out. This is tantalum. This is a piece of tantalum, and tantalum is extremely expensive to buy, but it has many uses. So, the other thing about tantalum is it doesn't react with very much.

1960 So, it's kind of a thing which doesn't cause its surroundings to be poisonous or anything like that. It's so hard that it – tantalum is so hard that it doesn't combine with much in nature. It's very difficult to separate it. Anyway, that's my contribution.

1965 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, Mr. Craik. Mr. Lavallée, would you like to add any comments to Mr. Craik's remarks?

1970 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

1975 Well, mainly, like I explained, there's a rehabilitation plan that will be in place, and we'll revegetate the whole area, and there will be a lake created with the pit of the mine, and I endorse what Mr. Brian said about tantalum. It's a very hard and stable mineral that is not *lexivable*. And it's very important minerals to technology and actual technology and future technology in our life, day life, every day.

1980 Maybe I can explain just a bit, just in brackets, what tantalum does in the electronics, because it's very important in every electronic, and I didn't mention all the details in the presentation, but tantalum is used to build capacitors, and the capacitors are used in the electronics. And what it does, as we progress with the technology, all the technology needs a lot of energy to be functional like cell phones and all that, need more and more power, and the batteries are more and more powerful.

1985 That capacitor is able to take the energy from the batteries and condense the energy to avoid that your phone is taking in fire or to avoid that – you know, this is what controls the power of every electronic device, you know, without affecting the electronics in your device. So, it is needed to avoid heating of the device.

Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:

1990 Okay, very good.

THE CHAIRMAN:

1995 Thank you, Mr. Lavallée. Mr. Craik, do you have any other comments, questions?

Mr. BRIAN CRAIK, MEMBER:

No, not now, thank you.

2000 _____

Mr. ROBERT KITCHEN

THE CHAIRMAN:

2005 Thank you. I guess we have another speaker.

Mr. ROBERT KITCHEN:

2010 Yes, I wanted some clarification on some of the comments, I guess, or questions I put forth, but I just wanted to make myself clear that, yes, COMEX is a recommending body, not an approval body. That was my mistake. I was getting too excited there, that's why.

2015

I want to come back to the transportation. You're talking about 9,000 trips in a year, 8,000 trips at least in a year, which is going to go through the heart of Nemaska territory. Now, we're talking about extracting the wastewater into Pontax watershed, which, again, is in Nemaska territory.

2020

So, all the big impacts that is going to be faced is Nemaska people. The wildlife in the area, the moose that are going to be there, the bear. They live along these streams. [*Cree words*] we call them.

2025

So, that water, the water issue, it can never be treated to the way it was before. The pH level will be too low. It would be impossible to drink. So, I guess we will no longer be able to eat the fish along the Pontax watershed. It sounds like this is where they're going to be depositing the water, but that is a great, great impact, I think.

So, COMEX has got to really look at that issue, I think, when it comes up to your review.

2030

Yes, so, the transportation, I need some more clarification on that, because we're going to be faced with Nemaska Lithium, and we're going to be faced with Critical Elements. That's two traffics that we're going to have to be faced with, and they are going to be running on the same road.

2035

I have a hard time just trying to pass Keepa [phonet.] when I go down south during the wintertime, even when it's raining. I imagine you're going to be having 22 trucks, plus Nemaska's trucks and whatever other trucks that will be occupying the James Bay Highway or Nemaska here, Route du Nord.

2040

And this road is not safe. We got really, really sharp curves a few places, very dangerous curves, no passing lanes, nothing. The resurfacing is done every what, 10, 20 years? It's not a great road. It has to be relined.

2045

Yes, so those are some of the points. I'd like to get a clarification on the road and also on the acidity of the water. It cannot be treated back to the way it was before, and you're going to be dumping that into the – I think it's going to be going into a ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... Pontax, I think. Maybe Charles can clear that up with us. The tallyman is here. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2050 Thank you, thank you. Just before maybe inviting the other speaker, I'd like to ask Critical Elements if they have anything to offer regarding the water acidity, you know, and also about transportation. I don't know if you have thought about something to minimize the impacts.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2055 Yes, but like we explained before for the water quality, there is very strict regulation and control that are applied, you know, with the governmental authorities that we need to respect, and there are several other mines being built, and there is real control, and its planned to Critical to respect these rules, ad there will be water-treatment system that will treat the water to release quality water that will respect the quality needed to be followed. So, that's for the water. Then, for the...

2060

THE CHAIRMAN:

2065 Mr. Lavallée, just for my own instructions, can you tell me, you know, the speaker, the previous speaker, said that, according to him, it will not be possible, you know, to remove all those particles or I don't know what in the water to bring good quality water, you know. So, do you agree with this comment or do you have...

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2070 No, we... well, we don't agree with this comment. We have experts in water that provide water treatment system particles and that confirms, and it's in the report, that it's feasible. This is what is the plan, and it's feasible.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2075

And the water that will be released is good quality water, no acidity or whatever.

2080 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

No acidity. There's mainly nothing that creates acidity in the project, anyway, so...

2085 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, it's good to know and to be clear on it. So, you wanted to talk about the transportation?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2090 Yes, for the transportation, there's, like we said, mitigation measures. So, there will be, like Anne explained in the presentation, GPS trackers in the truck to manage the speed, to manage the position.

2095 There will be also additional ads that will be put on the road, and there will be also security staff that will have a look to the driver also to make sure the rules are respected.

2100 And there will be, as we said before, committees in place where if someone identifies some issue or something that's going wrong, to make sure that it's reported to the company, but also that this will be discussed in the committee where there will be representatives from the Cree.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2105 Okay, thank you. I think, I'm not sure about the name of the previous speaker. I guess it's Mr. Kitchen. Do you have any other comments, questions?

Mr. ROBERT KITCHEN:

No, I'm okay.

2110

THE CHAIRMAN:

2115 You are satisfied with the answers? Okay, thank you; yes, another speaker, yes, I recognize you. go ahead.

Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:

2120 You told me to come back. So, I'm back.

THE CHAIRMAN:

I'm proud of you.

2125 **Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:**

2130 As I mentioned before, my name is Sean Coonishish. I'm a community member of Nemaska, and I'm also ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... R19 section. It's a trapline of the Wapachee family. My mother is a Wapachee, and that's where I do my hunting practices.

2135 I just wanted to ask a quick, quick question, you know, with respect to the IBA's that were signed with the Eastmain territory. I'm just wondering if what is the possibility of having a supplemental agreement for Nemaska community, if we are also environmentally impacted like surrounding the area. I just wanted to put that on record and see what kind of response I'll have that on that question. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2140 Thank you. I will ask Mr. Lavallée to complete my response, but what I understood is the company itself is open and flexible to reopen this IBA and to include Nemaska, but I think the first step, according to me, if I can make a suggestion, is to speak to your own Chief and Council and to express your concern and also your request to either have – to be included in this IBA, you know, with clear provisions regarding Nemaska.

2145 So, I don't know, Mr. Lavallée, if I am summarizing properly the situation or...?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2150 Yes, I think it's a discussion that needs to be done between the different levels of Government, the Cree, the process, with the different councils and the Cree Government and the Cree Grand Council.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2155 Okay, with all the parties.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2160 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you; so, I hope it answers your question.

2165 **Mr. SEAN COONISHISH:**

Yes, okay, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2170 You're welcome. Yes, another speaker.

Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:

2175 My name is Jeremy Diamond. I think it should be clear that the community, as an impacted community, has no IBA, and that should be clear to COMEX. And we will, you know, we will discuss it as a community to see what that means and what we need to do to further this position for

Nemaska, but I think the record should show that, as an impacted community, we have not given consent to this project. We have not signed an IBA.

2180

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, yes, we heard you clear and loud, and again, we will keep it in mind. You know, we haven't made our recommendations yet. So, of course, we will keep it in our own records, and this will be taken care of, but you also understand the COMEX's point of view. This is beyond our control, and this is your community, you know, that needs to take the lead on it.

2185

Vanessa, again, do we have any briefs? Have we received any? No?

2190

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

No, nothing on my side.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2195

No, okay. There is a comment in the chat. I'd like to read it. It's from Mr. Delisio. It says:

"It was stated that this agreement includes Eastmain and Nemaska First Nations".

2200

So, and also you know that we gave you the addresses where you can get a copy of the agreement.

Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:

2205

Are you referring to the agreement that Eastmain signed?

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, that's what we call the IBA. I would like to say it in Cree...

2210

Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:

We should also be clear...

2215 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

I'm sorry?

2220 **Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:**

Sorry, we should also be clear that Nemaska is not a signatory to that agreement. [Inaudible - sound problems] ... that Nemaska is also in the agreement, you know, I don't think that gives sufficient consent coming from the community. I think we should be very clear on that.

2225 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, you have a good point. I agree with you. And, again, I'm sorry, I would like so much to pronounce the name of the agreement, but I'm afraid that I may offend some people. So, I will just say "the agreement".

2230

So, it's almost 4:00 o'clock. You know, if there are more speakers, you know, we will be more than happy to listen to them. If not, you know, maybe we can in a few minutes. I would like - I don't know if Chief Clarence Jolly, Senior, would like to say, to address or to make some closing remarks?

2235 **CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:**

Yes, thank you very much.

2240 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2245

I just have a question. I understand Hydro is in the meeting. There's...

THE CHAIRMAN:

2250

Excuse me, would you mind to introduce yourself, please?

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2255

Okay, sorry, yes, my name is Chief Clarence Jolly, Senior.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Oh, now I see you. Before I couldn't see you, sorry, Chief.

2260

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

Okay, I'm 50 now.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2265

This is your birthday.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2270

It's my birthday. I'll be old today.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2275

One day I will be 50, too.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2280 That's good. Yes, before I say my closing remarks, I just want, I just have a question.
I understand the transmission line will be moved, one section of the transmission line, to give way
for the mining, the mine, the open-pit mine. How will that be – do we have a video or a picture of
how it would be – or a simulation how and where will it move to?

THE CHAIRMAN:

2285 It's a good question. Mr. Lavallée, please.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2290 Yes, I will just open the map in the presentation. Give me just one second, please.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2295 Okay.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2300 I want to ask for a new agreement ... [inaudible - sound problems] ... impact our traditional
territories.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

So, you can see it here.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2305 Can you see the map, Chief? Yes?

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2310

Yes, yes, we can see it. Is that the transmission line, the proposed?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2315

Yes.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2320

Where's the current line? Okay, sure.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Right here.

2325

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

Does that affect your sensitive hunting areas? (Addressing someone in the room in Nemaska).

2330

THE CHAIRMAN:

Chief, we have a Hydro Quebec representative with us. I don't if, Mr. Potvin, you would like to address this question?

2335

Mr. PIERRE POTVIN:

Sure, for sure. I'll share my screen to show you another map, just a second.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2340

So, yes, Mr. Potvin is with Hydro Quebec.

Mr. PIERRE POTVIN:

Okay, share, so, do you see a map?

2345

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

I see a picture of you.

2350

Mr. PIERRE POTVIN:

Oh, sorry, you're not sharing. You are sharing. It says I'm sharing.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2355

Yes, okay. Now, we see the map.

Mr. PIERRE POTVIN:

2360

Yes. So, the actual line, you know, the 315-kilovolt line, is right here right now. And with the mine, we had to displace it 500 metres away from the pit. So, it will go from here and go the red line here and go up here, and then it will continue with the existing line. So, there's a stretch of 4.2 km of new line. Is that enough information?

2365

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

Yes, but I have another suggestion for this new proposed stretch of transmission line. When we talk about opportunities for impacted people, perhaps this project, clear-cutting and other works related to this, the new line, the new location for the line be, you know, a consideration for the impacted land users. I just wanted to put that on record. Did you hear me?

2370

Mr. PIERRE POTVIN:

I hear you, but Mr. Lainé, what is the question, sorry?

2375 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Chief, my understanding, you have a proposal to make, because you are the most impacted First Nation? That's what I heard.

2380 **CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:**

I'm suggesting that, for the new proposed location for the line...

2385 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2390 ... that a consideration for this, you know, the opportunities, the works, the slashing, whatever needs to be done, not the technical part, but the consideration be for the impacted land users.

Mr. PIERRE POTVIN:

2395 Okay. So, Mr. Lainé, if I understand well, Chief Jolly wants to know if there will be slashing that can be done by Cree companies? Yes, it's an opportunity we'd like to... we will look for in the project to give the contract to a Cree company.

2400 **CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:**

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2405 So, Chief...

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2410 Okay, yes, that answers my question. So, we have another question from a tallyman.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2415 Okay. But, for the first one, are you satisfied with the answer of Mr. Potvin? Does it answer your question?

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2420 No, I wanted to raise that question in case, you know, I don't know if the tallymen's consideration was put in place here, where the new line was to be allocated. That might be a sensitive area, the new proposed area for the transmission line, for hunting grounds for the land users. So, I just wanted to raise that question if tallymen were involved with the realignment of the transmission line. So, maybe perhaps...

2425 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

 Mr. Potvin...

Mr. PIERRE POTVIN:

2430 *I would like to invite my colleague, Alexandre Beauchemin, to answer that question.*

THE CHAIRMAN:

2435 Mr. Beauchemin, please.

Mr. ALEXANDRE BEAUCHEMIN:

2440 Yes, the quick answer is yes. It's on the trapline of Ernie Moses, and he has been met for the project. So, we will take measures to share the calendar for the work, so that we mitigate the impacts on his hunting on his ground.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2445 Okay, thank you.

CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

2450 We have a tallyman. Charles Cheezo wants to ask a question.

Mr. CHARLES CHEEZO

2455 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Yes, go ahead, please.

Mr. CHARLES CHEEZO:

2460 My name is Charles Cheezo. I'm the tallyman of R60, and I'm going to do this in Cree. First of all, thank you very much, all of you, especially Brian Craik. I know that guy.

2465 *I want to discuss the water. I want to discuss the water, that there's going to be... the water that will be distributed into the rivers. I understand that it will be towards the Nemaska River, as it's called, not just during the process of the project, but in the future, when I look to my grandchildren, that water, when we look at how much water is going to be changed.*

2470

I was thinking about the animals, too: the moose, bears, beaver, all the animals that are in the area, lynx, etc. They use that land the most, since they've been here since forever. So, what are the effects going to be on those animals?

2475

We know that – we see that the fish are affected, too. We were close to Matagami once. I went with somebody who was hunting, and I saw fish that looked that they were from elsewhere. They weren't from our area, from the inland, as we say. They had bigger heads, and they were very small bodies, and they looked kind of pathetic, and I felt bad for them, and I'm talking about the Harricana River. I know that there are mines around that area, those rivers.

2480

At the mouth of the river towards Moosonee, it's called Hannah Bay, I was there for a little while, and the fish were different there, too. They were very nice fish. I don't know. They're not like the ones near Matagami when you're in Amos.

2485

I thought about when we were discussing today, I'm worried about the animals going through that in the future that they will change. Their health will be affected just from the water. And if that water is not as it should be when it's released, we know that the beaver – beaver lives in the water. They cannot be on dry land. They can only be on dry land temporarily. Its environment is mostly in the water.

2490

For beaver to be healthy, it needs good water. And the beaver will look for rivers that they can dam to create their habitat to be healthy, where there's an abundance for them. And so, those beavers, it's one of the busiest creatures to survive. Even in the winter, we know that they work. They know when the winter is coming. So, it's very important that we take that into consideration, how the animals will be affected.

2495

For us, water, if we're told it's no good, we're told to boil it. Beaver cannot boil water to purify for themselves. We get our water from the store now, distilled water. The Nemaska River, since they [inaudible] Nemaska or Caniapiscau, it affects that. We can't drink the water when we're there. That's where one of my camps is. We don't drink that water. We have to get our water from a separate water source, where we believe that it's better water, but from our camp is near the river. We can't drink that river water.

2500 *So, today, we might not be as affected as in its current state. It might have been affected by the diversions, recent diversions. So, what provisions are in place for the future? What will be the state of our water in the near future, when we're mining, and there's more development in our area? We need to think about that.*

2505 *We know that, and I've heard these... when it comes to this mine, I think he means this mineral, in particular, lithium. I've heard it's one of the worst, and we're talking about another mine. So, the more they find in the deposits, maybe we'll – it will affect us. It will affect us and everything and everyone and the way it used to be. It won't be the same way as it used to be, where we could drink from any source from anywhere, and if we're not careful.*

2510 *So, I want to observe that, and I want to discuss it, bring it to the table, when we talk about the water, the water release, that the animals will be affected greatly, even if they are not nearby; and those that are nearby will be affected even more, especially near or surrounding the mine.*

2515 So, that's all I want to – I just want to discuss it. My vehicle is ready to go and lay a fishnet, and that's all I have to say, thank you. Greetings.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2520 These are very excellent points you are raising. By the way, I wanted you to reintroduce yourself, please, just for the records. Would you mind to reintroduce yourself?

Mr. CHARLES CHEEZO:

2525 Yes, my name is Charles Cheezo.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2530 Charles, okay, I didn't get your first name, okay, thank you, Charles.

Mr. CHARLES CHEEZO:

Charles Cheezo.

2535 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Charles Cheezo, okay. Thank you, Charles. Charles, you are raising very interesting questions. Of course, you know, this isn't part of the mandate of the COMEX. I have Mr. Lavallée. Before I recognize the next speaker, I would like to invite Mr. Lavallée, if you can provide us with some responses.

2540

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I think I will refer to some of the answers we provided before in terms of water. All the water that will be used or that will touch material will be treated and released at a better quality, at least the same quality or better.

2545

I can mention that the lithium ore or, let's say, the spodumene and, say, silicate, lithium silicate, and as we were talking about tantalum as a lithium like oxide silicate, it's inert. It's not toxic. So, maybe this is what I can add to the discussion.

2550

THE CHAIRMAN:

And if we need more information, I guess it will be possible to get more information or...?

2555

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

But the information is already provided, I think, in the study. I can validate with my team, but the information is there.

2560

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH

2565

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, thank you. I think we have another speaker.

2570

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

May I go ahead?

THE CHAIRMAN:

2575

Yes, please introduce yourself.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2580

Okay, my name is Claude Coonishish, and I'm a community member of Nemaska. I'm also a land user of R19 and also an owner of a company called [inaudible] Distribution. [Inaudible] Distribution is involved in petroleum.

2585

With that said, I have a concern not only would benefit the people that will be involved in the project, but my concern is in the IBA. We all know that this is a mine, and a mine can close any time, if it lacks money, but I found, my business, we came to an area where we supplied for the mine, you know. I'm very happy. I'm one of those who benefited from the IBA in Nemaska.

2590

So, but the amount that was owed and the moment that it was declared for bankruptcy, is there anyhow that we can help those that have started businesses that have gotten involved in the mines to somehow pay what's owed to them rather than going through the whole process of [inaudible - sound problems] ... because we are already affected by the land, and it seems you're affected twice when you're not paid.

2595

As a Cree business, I felt that I wasn't included that much in the IBA. It was more of my band and the Cree Nation Government, but for the businesses, the Cree businesses that will start, I'm

not sure if they can be included as a prioritized business to be excluded from the whole, because there are costs of construction, you know, you have to have the funding to go ahead with the work, but it seems that these businesses are penalized. I'm not sure if that could be – am I clear?

2600

THE CHAIRMAN:

I'm not sure if I understand, if I get you right. Are you telling us that some businesses have not been paid or you're afraid that you will not be paid by the company, and you have rendered services or provided goods or...?

2605

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

If the mine declares bankruptcy.

2610

THE CHAIRMAN:

Ah, okay. If, okay, you want some guarantee that the mine will not declare bankruptcy and run away.

2615

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

Yes, I think I speak for those that will be involved in the future if the project is to go ahead.

2620

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, for the time being, there is no such situation that nobody has not been paid, but just if I got you right, in the future, you don't want this to happen that the mine runs away, and people are not paid. Is it what you are telling us?

2625

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

Yes, it seems that we're losing twice. There's the land that's being occupied...

2630 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

2635 **Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:**

... and also the people that have started the businesses are also going to be affected, if the bankruptcy does take place, you know. It was just...

2640 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2645 ... my experience. I felt that I wasn't protected in the IBA. I wasn't included or any Cree business to be included in the IBA.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2650 So, yourself, do you have any suggestions that you would like to see, some provisions you would like to see in the IBA? Is there something in particular?

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2655 Yes. Maybe just to pay out the Cree businesses, like to have like a priority, to prioritize...

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes.

2660

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2665 ... the Cree businesses that have started to work for the development of such mine.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2670 And, again, if there is a bankruptcy that you want to be taken care of.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

Yes.

2675 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2680 As like placed first, I guess...

THE CHAIRMAN:

2685 Yes.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2690 ... to be [inaudible - sound problems] ... you know, because we are – that is our land, you know, and that's how I see it.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2695 Okay.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

That's what I experienced.

2700

THE CHAIRMAN:

I see a comment in the chat, you know. It says:

"You are referring to Nemaska Lithium, not Critical Elements".

2705

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

No, no, no, what I'm saying is if the mine does go through...

2710

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2715

... and if the businesses that you start, developed, worked with, let's say, Eastmain, if the IBA is with Eastmain, those companies, if the mine goes bankrupt, those companies will be owed a certain amount, and that amount I want a security for them. That's what I'm referring to, if Cree businesses can be included in the IBA.

2720

THE CHAIRMAN:

Okay, that's a question I would like to ask Mr. Lavallée.

2725

So, if the Nemaska entrepreneurs, you know, can get kind of a status of a secured creditor to make sure that they will be paid, if there is a bankruptcy on your part.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2730

Because a lot of investments will - people will invest in, you know, to get a contract to pursue work in general.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2735

Yes, okay. Mr. Lavallée?

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2740

The first thing I can say, there is a provision in the IBA for Cree enterprises in the sense that there's priority, and Nemaska is part of the priority in the IBA for the Cree enterprises, as the same for the Cree workers. In terms of bankruptcy, of course, it's not the goal of the company to go bankruptcy. Not only there's, you know, for large contracts, there will be contracts with deposits or things like that.

2745

So, I don't have more answers to it in terms of warranties. Our goal is to be profitable, and it will be beneficial for everyone, all the community, too. And as a large project, we think there's room for more than one community. There will be 250 jobs, but there will be a lot of contracts also that will be awarded. So, there's room for Nemaska, for sure.

2750

THE CHAIRMAN:

2755

Yes, and I guess, Mr. Lavallée, if I got his point, he would like to get some security for the entrepreneurs, because he said, you know, they will invest in the business, and if - there is always that if, and I agree with you this is not your goal to go bankruptcy, but if there is something, is there a possibility to, I don't know, to have a kind of arrangement to protect them, you know, that they will be the first ones to be paid, if there is - again, nobody wants it, but if there is a bankruptcy on your part.

2760

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I don't have the answer for that today, you know. I need to talk to legal for that, how it works exactly in a bankruptcy, because bankruptcy, you know, is controlled by the debt holder, so...

2765

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, yes, I agree, yes. Then, it comes to a point where it's beyond your own authority, yes.

2770

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2775

So, I thank you, Mr. Lavallée. I don't know if it answers your question?

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2780

Well, I hope I was clear. I hope, you know, to – like the Eastmain, Nemaska, I hope there could be an IBA for Nemaska as well. Other than that, that's my only concern I have for the Cree companies that are going to be involved.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2785

Okay, yes, and we spoke about the IBA before, and we'll do also some research on it. Thank you.

Mr. CLAUDE COONISHISH:

2790

Thank you.

Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:

2795

I have a suggestion. It's Jeremy Diamond again.

2800

Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes.

2805

Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:

2810

This relates to Claude's comments and concerns. Perhaps a section, whether if it's a renewed IBA or future IBA's or an IBA with Nemaska, we should have a section on there that says that should Critical Elements go bankrupt that all Cree enterprises would automatically be listed as secured creditors.

2815

There's a process where you have to take – once a company declares bankrupt, you have to file your claim to the courts. If we already had an agreement in place, should Critical Elements declare bankruptcy, that such and such Cree companies or what would be identified as a Cree company, become an automated secured creditor.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2820

Yes, it's an interesting suggestion. I think, Mr. Lavallée, you have some reactions or comments about this suggestion.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

2825

Well, normally, on a project of that size, there will be debt financing, and debt financing, the bank that loaned the money to build the project will be the... they're always the first creditor on the project.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2830 Okay, thank you. So, one thing seems to be clear, you know, in what we have heard a lot today is, Nemaska, you know, would like to make sure that they are not forgotten in any IBA, you know. If they have to share the one with Eastmain, but they really want to be... they want to make sure that they are not forgotten. So, I think we heard the message pretty loud and clear.

2835 **Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:**

2840 I think the issue there, too, is the definition of what is an impacted community, because hearing from the community members at the moment and hearing the presentation and the maps and everything on what's related to the project, we feel we are an impacted community. And whether you're looking at environmental laws – it is section 22 of the JBNQA – that puts us as an impacted community, that would need to be defined, obviously.

2845 And by such, if we are clearly identified as an impacted community, then we have to have that opportunity to give consent to a development project. I think that's something that needs to be clarified. And, obviously, we've heard from quite a few members today mentioning that we don't have an IBA, and we have never given consent. So, those should be clear and on record.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2850 Thank you. Yes, I heard people asking about the IBA. My understanding is Nemaska is part of the IBA that was signed with Eastmain and also the Grand Council of the Crees. We will double-check this.

2855 The question of consent, it's another concept, you know, but one thing is sure, you need to be consulted, and that's the reason why the COMEX is here today, and we will keep asking questions and to investigate.

Mr. JEREMY DIAMOND:

2860 Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

So, I don't know if we have any other speakers. Yes, I see... Mr. Tanoush, I guess.

2865

Mr. TANOUSH

Mr. TANOUSH:

2870

Hello.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2875

Hello.

Mr. TANOUSH:

2880

I am Mr. Tanoush as well. Yes, I helped out coordinate this meeting. And as I'm sitting down, people want to ask questions, some people who are not able to be here. There's a lady from Nemaska has asked a question if this consultation will continue, and that's because there's a lot of issues not mentioned, and the consultation process is very short, and not everything will be covered in one afternoon. So, is there going to be another consultation for Nemaska? *Migwetch*.

2885

THE CHAIRMAN:

2890

Thank you. Yes, that's a good point. We knew, you know, that half a day or a day would probably be not enough. So, yes, there will be a possibility to keep in touch with the COMEX, and Mrs. Chalifour, you know, will explain that – I don't know for how many days. I think it's minimum 30 days starting today, it will be possible to write an email or to contact the COMEX and to share your concerns or your questions.

2895 So, in the closing remarks or maybe now, Vanessa, we can probably take advantage to address this point that it will be possible to provide us with any concerns or questions.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

2900 Yes, and you're right. So, it's 30 days starting today. So, it's until March 18. So, you can send me an email to transmit your comments or brief, and COMEX will take care of it. So, I'll let my email address in the zoom, and also it's on COMEX's website. So, if you want to reach to me, it's okay.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2905 And I can assure you all that Vanessa is very, very efficient. She will make sure that COMEX members are full aware of your comments. So, we heard from the first Mr. Tanoush. I guess the second speaker is also Mr. Tanoush or... I think there is another speaker who would like to address the floor, okay.

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Mr. MATTHEW TANOUSH

THE CHAIRMAN:

2915 Hi, we hear you. Would you please introduce yourself?

Mr. MATTHEW TANOUSH:

2920 Yes, yes, sir. My name is Matthew Tanoush. I work for Cree Nation of Nemaska. My question is addressed to Mr. Lavallée: Why are you, guys, called provincial junior exploration companies?

THE CHAIRMAN:

2925 Mr. Lavallée, please...

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I'm not sure, but we're Critical Elements Corporation. So, we're an exploration company in development.

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Mr. MATTHEW TANOUSH:

Okay, alright, thank you. I guess you have gained experience that you have not fallen in the same situation as Nemaska Lithium, whereas they were issued two certificates of authorizations, but fall short where they have not secured funding to come into full operation. Is your company ready to meet that challenge?

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THE CHAIRMAN:

Mr. Lavallée...

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Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Yes, yes, we're ready to meet that challenge. This is why the approach of the project is split in two phases, where we built a phase 1 to manage the financial risk and the execution risk, and we have a very strong team also and people that build projects before, lithium projects.

2945

Mr. MATTHEW TANOUSH:

That's all I have, thank you, good luck.

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THE CHAIRMAN:

Thanks a lot.

2955

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

Thank you.

Ms. TANYA LAMOUREAUX

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THE CHAIRMAN:

I have Mrs. Tanya Lamoureaux of the Cree Nation of Nemaska, who would like to ask a question. Mrs. Lamoureaux, please.

2965

Ms. TANYA LAMOUREAUX:

Hi, it's more of a comment. So, I'm Tanya Lamoureaux. I work for the Cree Nation of Nemaska, and I just wanted to let the members know that if they do want to submit briefs or comments to COMEX, but they're not sure how to go about it or how to write them on paper, that I will be available to help anybody that wishes to do so, either to contact me directly, the Chief, or Lawrence Gagnon, our corporate secretary. We will make sure that their comments, concerns, questions are submitted to COMEX for review. That's all, thank you.

2975

Mr. TOMMY TRAPPER

THE CHAIRMAN:

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Ah, very nice, we never refuse help. Mr. Trapper, would you like to ask a question?

Mr. TOMMY TRAPPER:

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Yes, thank you, Mr. Lainé. I have a question for Critical Elements in regards to their mitigation process. I'll say this in Cree.

THE CHAIRMAN:

2990

Okay.

Mr. TOMMY TRAPPER:

2995 *Tommy Trapper is my name. I moved to Nemaska it has been 20 years now. I've been here about 20 years. When Charles spoke earlier, Charles Cheezo, it's my in-law. I had married his sister, younger sister. So, I was given a privilege, as they say, that I can use this trapping territory, R16. That's where I hunt. I can say that I take that privilege very seriously.*

3000 *So, in the past, in 2012, while OUR people were goose hunting in the spring, we lost my brother-in-law, Sam. He was a tallyman also. He was the first tallyman when I got here. One year after his passing, they distributed his belongings. One of the things I had received from his wife was the four-wheeler. In Cree, they're known as the fat thigh, fat thighs. It was used as a snow remover, and it had a wagon.*

3005 *So, if the mine Nemaska Lithium currently – the construction phase of said mine, and it was anybody from anywhere that could come and work here from abroad, and there was a camp in Nemaska, and I met people from various areas. Some I knew, and they were killing moose in the fall, and they were hunting. It seems that people can give themselves the right to do so, to hunt as they please, if there's a road that leads to that area.*

3010 *So, I really thought highly. There was a sentimental value to the belongings that were transferred to me, and I lost it, what my late brother-in-law had – I had inherited from him, and I think it was because there was more people, and people that are hunting or coming in working.*

3015 *And we know how important a trapline is to a hunter. It's like their own house. It's the same level of reverence, and I know what my house looks like. I know what the cupboards look like. I know where to go, which cupboard or fridge I can go to to get the food that I need, and that's exactly how a trapper sees his trapline. They know exactly where to go for the appropriate harvests.*

3020 *So, I want to ask Critical Elements. They say that they're flying people in, and they will land here in Nemaska, and they will be driven to the camp. So, how are they going to regulate that there will not be disrespect to people's territories?*

3025 I heard Jean or Sean Coonishish. He's on R19. That's where that mine is going to be, nearby, neighbouring. It will be neighbouring his trapline, and he's at kilometre 37 on the M1 road. When we look at the stuff that we use, the things that we use to survive and go hunting, how is Critical Elements going to guarantee or secure that hunters', trappers' territories will not be disrespected? That's what I wanted to ask.

3030 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thanks a lot, *migwetch* for your question. [Inaudible - sound problems] ... beginning, but I would like Mr. Lavallée to explain or to reiterate the company's position regarding hunting, fishing [inaudible - sound problems]. So, Mr. Lavallée, please.

3035 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

3040 Yes, like we explained at the beginning, the hunting and fishing [inaudible - sound problems] ... at the camp. And so, no firearms [inaudible - sound problems] ... fly in and fly out. [Inaudible - sound problems] ... the bus. [inaudible - sound problems] ... to do it.

Mr. TOMMY TRAPPER:

3045 Which phases are you referring to? Is it [inaudible - sound problems] ... Because there is a lot of vehicular traffic when it comes [inaudible - sound problems] ... lithium [inaudible - sound problem].

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

3050 [Inaudible - sound problems] ... to Critical operation phase. [Inaudible - sound problems] ... Nemaska Lithium. So, I don't [inaudible - sound problems] ... phase [inaudible - sound problems] ... track with the supplier and the different contractors that will be clauses, and we'll be really strict in [inaudible - sound problems] ... to make sure that there is [inaudible - sound problems] contract opportunity for the Cree.

3055 **Mr. TOMMY TRAPPER:**

[inaudible - sound problems].

3060 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

[Inaudible - sound problems] ... policies, and it will [Inaudible - sound problems].

THE CHAIRMAN:

3065 Thank you, Mr. Lavallée; and also there will be – you know, we have said this mixed committee, you know, and this committee will meet on a regular basis to discuss about the implementation of the projects and also with all the activities around the mine. So, if [inaudible - sound problems] ... wrong, you know, it will be the place, you know, to report it.

3070 I have another person who would like to address the floor. I don't have the name of the person, though.

Mr. ÉTIENNE PILON CHOQUETTE:

3075 Is it me?

THE CHAIRMAN:

Did you raise your hand?

3080

Mr. ÉTIENNE PILON CHOQUETTE:

Yes, exactly.

3085

Mr. ÉTIENNE PILON CHOQUETTE

3090 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Okay, okay, so, are you Mr. Pilon?

3095 **Mr. ÉTIENNE PILON CHOQUETTE:**

Yes, exactly, hi, my name is Étienne Pilon Choquette. I am the entrepreneurship development agent for [inaudible - sound problems] ... homeowners in Nemaska. [inaudible - sound problems] ... Mr. Lavallée, but also to the COMEX [inaudible - sound problems], maybe also CNG.

3100 My concern is on the cumulative impact. We know that resource development is accelerating in the region, and I want to know what are the measures, monetary measures, that exist to measure those cumulative impacts, and what are the mitigation strategies that can be put in place or already exist concerning resource development.

3105 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Interesting. Mr. Lavallée, you want to go first?

3110 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes, I can start, but all the impacts that have been measured are being measured over the Rose Project. The cumulative over the different mines, they don't have been measured, but I think WSP did some of it. So, I can turn it to Jean, if he's having some answer for it.

3115 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Jean, please...

Mr. JEAN LAVOIE:

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Yes, okay, I'll speak in French. It will be easier. As for the cumulative effects, those are the ones we've looked at. The difficulty, when assessing them, is for existing projects and for future products, the probability that they will occur. So, there's always a certain margin of uncertainty.

3125

So, the first thing we look at are the potential impacts for which there could be cumulative effects. In this regard, we've looked at loss in the environment, to the environment, or water quality, and traffic has also been looked at, but of course, we have to limit.

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That means the methods we use make it so that sometimes the area in which we work doesn't cover a vast territory, but rather a mere dozen kilometres maybe. So, you understand that we could get – extend up to Matagami.

3135

And so, as for traffic, we've looked at it and considering the transportation that was made, we found that the impacts were considered as not significant, not meaning it's not insignificant for the people in Eastmain, but that these impacts are deemed as being low or average.

3140

But this being said, in spite of it all, Critical Elements is quite aware of the use of the territory and that of the – of what can happen, so that our committee is there to make sure that the expected cumulative effect can be extenuated in the future. I don't know if this answers the question.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Does it provide you with enough information on the part of Critical Elements?

3145

Mr. ÉTIENNE PILON CHOQUETTE:

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Yes, on the part of Critical Elements, I'm satisfied with their answer. I mean this problematic is not specific to [inaudible - sound problems]. So, I'd like to, you know, that's why maybe I'm addressing the COMEX [inaudible - sound problems] ... globalized strategy for monitoring those [inaudible - sound problems] ... mitigation measures for them.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3155 Yes, and on the part of COMEX, I can probably give you some response, and I may ask my
colleagues who are also on the hearing, you know, to complete, but yes, this is something that we
are discussing when we have meetings and especially transportation. It's becoming more and more
an issue. And so, we are really sensitive to cumulative effects on the territory. So, I don't know. I
would like to invite my colleagues if they would like to say something else.

3160 **Mr. ROBERT JOLY, MEMBER:**

No, I may complete what you started to explain. I'm Robert Joly from COMEX. Of course,
COMEX is looking at the project on a one-on-one basis. Each project is different, but for each
project, we're asking to proponent to have a discussion on their cumulative impact.

3165 In the case of mining projects that we've been looking at over the last years, the transportation
and use of roads is really one that came on the top. We don't have exact solutions, because it
involves so much intervenants to have an answer to that question, but we are looking at this each
time we are looking at these projects.

3170 But if you were speaking about on a general matter of the cumulative impact on the territory,
I have to refer you to the CCEBJ, Comité consultatif sur l'environnement de la Baie-James, the
James Bay Advisory Committee, who has paid much attention of that subject, and they hired some
consultants to look at that, and they made some reports. So, it's available on their website.

3175 COMEX has been working with them on this topic, and it's part of our concern each time we're
looking at a project. We don't have very specific answers for all project basis, on every project basis,
but there are some answers that can be looked at in other regulatory means. That is using the land
management tools is one way to try to alleviate impacts from a cumulative impact, but it involves
3180 other intervenants, so local governments, municipalities. It's a concern for everyone who has a say
on the development of the land.

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So that, well, it's just information on what's going on at the COMEX, but yes, we are concerned with that. Solutions are not easy. And as has been said before, methodology to really describe cumulative impacts is not that much strong.

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There's problems with the way we can come to conclusions on what should have to be done, but it's an ongoing concern. We are looking at that at every project, and we are trying to come up with a solution when it's appropriate for in the individual project.

THE CHAIRMAN:

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Merci beaucoup, Robert. Thanks a lot, Robert; and again, Mr. Pilon Choquette, yes, cumulative effect, you know, I'd like to say it's a very popular subject when we have our meetings, you know. So, it's really in our mind. And as Robert explained, at this point, you know, we are following it, but it's not easy, you know, to really talk about it or to develop a position, but we are paying attention to cumulative effects, by all means.

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Mr. ÉTIENNE PILON CHOQUETTE:

Okay, well, thank you very much for your answers, and I'm happy that you guys are taking this concern seriously, *migwetch*.

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THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you; do we have more speakers?

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Mr. JOHN PAUL WAPACHEE:

Hi.

3215

Mr. JOHN PAUL WAPACHEE

THE CHAIRMAN:

3220 Oh, sorry.

Mr. JOHN PAUL WAPACHEE:

3225 My name is John Paul Wapachee, and I work as a coordinator of culture. My question is, I'm
a user on R19. My late father, Matthew Wapachee, was the tallyman, and my concern is the cabins
along that road on the M1 road. We have about, I don't know, like eight to ten cabins. And for 17
years, 22 trucks will be using that road, right?

THE CHAIRMAN:

3230 Yes, every day, yes.

Mr. JOHN PAUL WAPACHEE:

3235 And all that traffic and the dust, it's going to be getting annoying years after. I was thinking if
they can relocate those cabins further into the bush. That means we won't be able to hunt on the
road. We're going to have to hunt further to the east in the bush where there's no traffic, and I was
just thinking if they can relocate the cabins further to the bush, wherever they wanted. Do you
understand my question?

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THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, yes; Mr. Lavallée.

3245 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Yes, I understood the question, and I will suggest that we have a discussion for that as part of, you know, the different committees and different concerns that can be brought to us and that we can look, but yes, it's a possibility to relocate your cabin, yes.

3250 **Mr. JOHN PAUL WAPACHEE:**

Alright, that was my concern.

3255 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

And maybe I think it's something we - I can add that it's probably we already discussed with Matthew in the past.

3260 **Mr. JOHN PAUL WAPACHEE:**

Okay, alright, that's my question.

3265 **Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:**

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3270 Thank you, thank you for your question.

Mr. JOHN PAUL WAPACHEE:

Thank you, sir.

3275

THE CHAIRMAN:

Yes, please.

3280 **Mr. ROBERT KITCHEN:**

Just one last comment. Yes, the impacts, I guess it's cumulative impacts is one big concern for everybody. I think it's a big concern at the CNG level, too.

3285 You know, with the grand alliance, they're trying to find a way to streamline resource development. I think one of the recommendations COMEX and CNG are really going to have to look at is a consolidation process of these lithium assets or these lithium projects, because we can't have four lithium projects right around our Nemaska territory. You're going to really hit us hard, if, you know, recommendations are made to approve all the different projects around our community.

3290

So, I think that's one thing that the governments, the Cree Nation Government, the Provincial Government, are going to have sit down and look at consolidating these projects. We have no choice. I think that will lessen the cumulative impacts; I think.

3295 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you for your comment, yes.

3300

Mr. KENNETH TANOUSH

Mr. KENNETH TANOUSH:

3305 I'm back again. So, my name is Kenneth Tanoush. I am the local environment officer for Cree Nation of Nemaska. I guess I have concerns regarding the project for the Rose lithium mine. My concern is the increase waste, how the mine will accumulate waste throughout the years. The concern I have is where Rose lithium mine will store their waste. You know, when there's a human

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activity within a regime within the area, there's going to be a waste accumulation. So, that's my concern as an environmental officer. Humans can waste – one person in Nemaska could waste 2,000 pounds, so, for one year. So, where is your waste going to go?

3315

Because I know Nemaska Lithium was using our landfill here in Nemaska, and I don't think we want to accumulate more waste within our landfill, because, you know, this is going out of control now, the waste accumulation within our area, and that's my question and a concern.

THE CHAIRMAN:

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Thank you; Mr. Lavallée, please.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

I will leave Anne to answer that question.

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THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Anne, please.

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Ms. ANNE GABOR:

Yes, so essentially, the waste will be stored in small quantities on the mine site with fences around to keep the animals out. And then, on a regular basis, the waste will be collected and brought to Chibougamau. We've also had conversations with a company who does a lot of recycling. So, the waste won't stay in the area. I hope that answers.

3335

THE CHAIRMAN:

Does it answer your concern?

3340 **Mr. KENNETH TANOUSH:**

Well, that's based on paper, but actions will speak louder than words. We shall see within ten years span. That's where I believe where I will see a dramatic change in waste management, so, yes.

3345 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you, thank you.

3350 **PARTICIPANT LIVE IN NEMASKA:**

We don't have an IBA. We can't use our land to [inaudible].

3355 **THE CHAIRMAN:**

Thank you; so, I see no other speakers. Oh, yes, I see you there, hey, finally, a woman.

Ms. LINDA ORR:

3360 I have a concern.

THE CHAIRMAN:

I'm sorry, could you - would you please introduce yourself?

3365 **Ms. LINDA ORR:**

3370 Sorry, my name is Linda Orr. I'm a community member from here, and I just have a question concerning the dam. Like it's so close to where the mine will be. Is there any - will there be any disruptions due to blasting, and it's like just have a concern about the dam, like the vibrations during the blasting.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3375 Good point; Mr. Lavallée, please.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

3380 Yes, we made the verification with Hydro Quebec, and no, there's no impact. Maybe, Paul, you can add a bit on it, but verification has been done, and no, there's no impact on the dam.

Mr. PAUL BONNEVILLE:

3385 Yes, it was a concern of Hydro Quebec as well. And so, we gave them all the blasting pattern information, and they did their own simulation, and they were satisfied that there would not be any concerns to the stability of the dam, but we also agreed to monitor the vibrations on a continual basis, and we'll make adjustments, if there's anything that comes that is of concern. So, that's where we stand with Hydro Quebec on that point.

3390 **Ms. LINDA ORR:**

Okay, thank you.

Mr. JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LAVALLÉE:

3395 Thank you, Paul.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3400 Thank you; does it answer your question?

Ms. LINDA ORR:

3405 Yes, it does, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

3410 Okay, thank you. I'd like to know if Chief Clarence Jolly, Senior, is still with us. Yes, I see you. So, Chief, I think, at this point, unless if there is another speaker, I would like to invite you to offer some closing remarks.

CLOSING COMMENTS FROM CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR

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CHIEF CLARENCE JOLLY, SENIOR:

3420 Thank you very much; I guess my last comment will be that we hear our members' issues and concerns, and rest assured to Critical Elements and Mr. Lavallée that we will be knocking on his door regarding the IBA, perhaps have an addendum to the IBA, as, you know, it is the most asked question in today's consultations. So with that, we will be, you know, approaching Critical Elements to start discussions with that.

3425 And I want to thank you all for this consultation, providing information to the project and its impacts and listening and hearing our members' concerns, environmental concerns. I had questions related to social impacts, but I'll wait for the federal consultations to make my comments and concerns related to social impacts. We've had some experience with past projects, more specifically, to the EM-1 Rupert River Diversion Project relating to social impacts.

3430 *I would like to thank everybody who provided their questions and their perspectives this afternoon, and I hope that you all will be well. And for those who are listening and those that still have questions, you can ask them, you can depose them.*

3435 *And I'm hoping and expecting that there will be another consultation, and once the pandemic is over, so that we can be numerous in person, speaking and providing our questions and concerns, and I know that we are respecting the protocols of the COVID pandemic. Once we're able to have another consultation in person, so, when this pandemic is over. Migwetch, thank you.*

CLOSING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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THE CHAIRMAN:

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Migwetch, Chief Jolly, and one more time, happy birthday, and us, too, we would have loved to be in Nemaska. I hope that we will have a chance in the near future. And also, I would like to echo your remarks. You know, I think we have had a very excellent hearing, public hearing, today, and I would like to congratulate your people for their participation and also their passion about their community. It was, for us, you know, we have learned a lot.

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And on this note, I would like to thank my colleagues of the COMEX and also Vanessa, who has been working very hard with John Paul to organize this public hearing.

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I would like also to thank Critical Elements representatives, Hydro Quebec representatives, WSP, and also people of the Ministère de l'Environnement de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, and, of course, the representatives of the Cree Nation Government, and I would like to say a special thanks to the interpreters for your excellent work and also for the people who helped us with the logistics.

3460

So, thank you, have a nice evening, and us, the COMEX, we will do our work now. We have a lot of work to do, thank you, and have a great evening.

ADJOURNMENT.

3465

Je soussignée, YOLANDE TEASDALE, sténographe officielle bilingue, certifie 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.

3470

ET J'AI SIGNÉ :

3475



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