



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

ᑭᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦ ᑭᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦ ᑭᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦ
ᑭᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦ ᑭᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦ ᑭᑦᑎᑦᑭᑦ

**MINUTES OF THE 306TH MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE**

(Adopted)

DATE: February 2, 2022

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: John Paul Murdoch, CNG, Chairman
Daniel Berrouard, Québec
Isabelle Auger, Québec
Louis Breton, Canada
Geneviève Bélanger, Canada

Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary

1) Meeting declared open and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 305th meeting

The minutes of the 305th meeting were adopted as written.

Action: Translate and post the minutes of the 305th meeting.

3) Correspondence and follow-up

Correspondence for the period December 18, 2021 to February 2, 2022 is summarized in Appendix A.

4) Bulk sampling project at the James Bay Mine site by Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc., Ref. No.: 3214-14-055

- Preliminary information
- Additional information (responses to QC01)
 - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

On March 24, 2021, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the above project. Additional information was received January 7, 2022.

This project is being carried out as part of the feasibility study for the James Bay lithium mine project, for which an impact study was submitted to the Review Committee (COMEX) in October 2018. To better understand the behavior of the ore, choose the best equipment and to optimize processes, Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Ltd wishes to extract samples of ore and waste rock and process them through a circuit similar to the one proposed for the mining project.

Initially, the bulk sampling project involved blasting two zones of 500 m³ each, transporting part of the blasted rock and storage on-site of the rest of the blasted material on watertight platforms with water recovery.

Since the application for exemption was filed, the project has been optimized to reduce the tonnage sampled to less than 500 tons, and all the blasted material will be recovered and transported off site. After reviewing the documents sent by the proponent, the members of the COMEV agreed to recommend that this project be exempted from the assessment process.

**Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator
Recommendation of exemption**

5) Construction and operation of a trench landfill (LEET), now a LETI, at the Eastmain Mine by Benz Mining Corporation, Ref. No.: 3214-16-081

- Preliminary information
- Additional information (responses to QC01)
- For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

On June 11, 2021, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the above project. Additional information arrived November 9, 2021.

The exploration camp for the Eastmain Mine project is located on the site of the former Eastmain mine, which was in operation in 1994 and 1995. Benz Mining Corporation has been carrying out exploration work there since July 2020, and according to the proponent, this exploration work will continue until at least the end of 2022. The proponent wanted to build and operate a trench landfill (LEET) for the management of residual materials generated by exploration activities, including activities at the camp, which can accommodate up to 45 people. Subsequent to questions and comments sent by the COMEV, the proponent decided to redefine the project and now wishes to build and operate a landfill in a remote territory (LETI).

After reviewing the documents sent by the proponent, the COMEV decided that it will need additional information to continue its analysis. Thus, the proponent will have to answer various questions and comments that will be forwarded with the letter of transmittal.

Action: **Send letter to the Provincial Administrator**
 Include questions and comments

6) Varia

a) Projects pending

- Expansion of the GD-17 borrow pit at Nemaska by the Cree Nation of Nemaska. Ref. No.: 3214-03-046 (*Waiting for responses from the proponent*)
- Bulk sampling of the Caribou and Lynx 4 sectors – Windfall project by Osisko Mining Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-059 (*Waiting for responses from the proponent*)
- Champion Lake shoreline protection project by the Cree Nation of Yamaska Ref. No.: 3219-10-001 (*Waiting for responses from the proponent*)
- • Expansion of an existing quarry and reopening of an old sand pit at km 58 of route 19900 (formerly R-1005) by the Ministère des Transports du Québec. Ref. No.: 3214-03-022 (*under analysis*)
- • Coniagas tailings site restoration project by Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-054 (*under analysis*)

7) Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up – December 18, 2021 to February 2, 2022					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Expansion of an existing quarry and reopening of an old sand pit at km 58 of the 19900 Road (formerly R-1005) by the Ministère des Transports du Québec. Ref. No.: 3214-03-022.	Philippe Lemire MTQ	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent December 1, 2021	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent December 16, 2021 Rec'd COMEV December 17, 2021	
Bulk sampling project at the James Bay Mine by Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information (Responses to question and comments)	Sent November 9, 2021	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent January 7, 2022 Rec'd COMEV January 7, 2022	
Site development and excavation of an access ramp – Gladiator project by Bonterra Resources Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-065	Pascal Hamelin Bonterra Resources	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information (Characterization of wetlands and water bodies)	Sent December 15, 2021	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent January 14, 2022 Rec'd COMEV January 18, 2022	
Restoration of the Coniagas tailings site by Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-054	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent November 22, 2021	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent January 21, 2022 Rec'd COMEV January 21, 2022	
Site development and excavation of an access ramp – Gladiator project by Bonterra Resources Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-065	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent January 26, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt January 26, 2022	