PN1 - Preliminary information

Project title: Exploitation of the quarry at km 35.5 of the Billy-Diamond Road Proponent's name: Société de développement de la Baie-James

### **FORM**

### **Preliminary information**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA), by its chapters 22 and 23, establishes a system of protection for both the natural and social environment in the James Bay and Northern Quebec region. Depending on the type of project, some aspects of these chapters may report under the responsibility of the Government of Canada, or the Government of Québec or both levels of government. Some projects can also be reported under the responsibility of the Cree Nation Government, notably for projects conducted on Category IA lands. Title II of the <a href="Environment Quality Act (EQA)">Environment Quality Act (EQA)</a> presents the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures applicable in the James Bay region (section 133 of the EQA) and in Northern Quebec (section 168 of the EQA).

The projects mentioned in schedule A of the EQA are subjected to one of the procedures applicable in the Northern environment, contrary to those mentioned in schedule B, which are exempt from the procedures. Projects not outlined in either schedule are considered "grey zone" projects. Anyone who intends to undertake a project in a northern environment covered by schedule A of the EQA must apply for a certificate of authorization. For "grey zone" projects, a proponent must request an attestation of exemption and the Provincial Administrator will confirm to him, after analysis of the project by the northern committee concerned, whether the project is not subject to the <a href="Environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure">Environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure</a> or if it is subject to it. In the first case, an attestation of exemption will be issued to the proponent for the project and, in the second, a directive will be prepared and sent to him, which will indicate the nature, scope and extent of the impact study he must prepare. Thus, except for the projects listed in schedule B, a proponent must file a preliminary information form with the Provincial Administrator of the JBNQA.

If necessary, it is possible to confirm whether your project corresponds to an activity listed in schedules A and B of the EQA or a "grey zone" by sending an e-mail request for verification of exemption, including a short description of your project, its location and the anticipated impacts at the following email address: dgees-assujettissement@environnement.gouv.qc.ca.

The preliminary information form is used to describe the general characteristics of a project. It must be completed in a clear and concise manner and the information must be limited to the elements that are relevant for a proper understanding of the project, its anticipated impacts, and possible ramifications.

In accordance with the EQA, the preliminary information form is either sent to the Evaluating Committee (COMEV), if the project concerns the region south of the 55th parallel (James Bay), or to the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC), if the project concerns the region north of the 55th parallel (Nunavik). These two committees review the preliminary information and, in the case of projects covered by schedule A of the EQA, produce a recommendation on the directive indicating the nature, scope and extent of the study impact that the proponent must prepare. For "grey zone" projects, these committees produce a recommendation (COMEV) or a decision (KEQC) on whether the project is subjected to or exempt from the procedure. These recommendations and decisions are then forwarded to the Provincial Administrator who communicates his decision to the proponent. The proponent may be issued an attestation of exemption for projects that are exempt from the procedure or issued a directive for those subjected to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure.

The Evaluating Committee is a tripartite advisory body composed of representatives appointed by the Cree Nation Government and representatives of the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec. The Kativik Environmental Quality Commission is a bipartite body of Inuit or Naskapi representatives appointed by the Kativik Regional Government and representatives of the Government of Quebec. While performing their duties, both bodies pay particular attention to the following principles, which are outlined in sections 152 and 186 of the EQA:

- a) the protection of the hunting, fishing and trapping rights of the Native people;
- b) the protection of the environment and social milieu;
- c) the protection of the Native people, of their societies, communities and economy;
- d) the protection of the wildlife, of the physical and biological milieu and of the ecological systems of the territory;
- e) the rights and guarantees of the Native people in Category II lands;
- f) the participation of the Crees, Inuit and Naskapis in the application of the environmental and social protection regime provided for in this division;
- g) any rights and interest of non-Native people, and
- h) the right of the persons acting lawfully to carry out projects in the territory.

Also note that the preliminary information form will be published in the <u>Environmental assessment register</u> (French only) as defined in section 118.5 of the EQA but only for projects for which a directive will be issued. The <u>COMEV</u> and <u>KEQC</u> also publish preliminary information form on their websites.

Since May 2022, the applicant for any authorization must produce, as a condition for the issuance of an authorization, the applicant's declaration of background (declaration d'antécédents). This declaration replaces the declaration of the applicant. You will find the form to be completed at the following address: <a href="https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/evaluations/declaration-antecedents.pdf">https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/evaluations/declaration-antecedents.pdf</a> (French only).

The preliminary information form must be accompanied by the payment, charging the proponent for services provided under the environmental authorization system. This payment can be made by check to the ministre des Finances or via bank transfer. Details regarding the applicable rates are available in the <u>Tarification</u> section (French only) of the environmental assessment web page. It should be noted that the MELCCFP will not process the application until payment is received.

Once completed, the proponent must send its preliminary information form together with a letter of transmission, which must be sent to the JBNQA Provincial Administrator:

- Send the electronic copy of the documents (form and letter of transmission) to <a href="mailto:reception.30e@environnement.gouv.qc.ca">reception.30e@environnement.gouv.qc.ca</a> including the Deputy minister (<a href="mailto:marie-josee.lizotte@environnement.gouv.qc.ca">marie-josee.lizotte@environnement.gouv.qc.ca</a>) as well as Vanessa Chalifour, coordinator/team leader for northern projects (<a href="mailto:vanessa.chalifour@environnement.gouv.qc.ca">vanessa.chalifour@environnement.gouv.qc.ca</a>). The letter of transmission must confirm that the hard copies are consistent with the electronic ones. In case of large electronic documents, please consult the last bullet.
- Send a hard copy of the documents (French) to the Deputy minister office at the following address:

James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement Provincial Administrator Deputy minister of the Environment, Fight against Climate change, Wildlife and Parks Édifice Marie-Guyart, 30e étage 675, boul. René-Lévesque Est, boîte 02 Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7

 Send the other hard copies and the USB keys (including the French and English versions) to the Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets industriels, miniers, énergétiques et nordiques at the following address:

Mélissa Gagnon, director
Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets
industriels, miniers, énergétiques et nordiques
Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques , de la
Faune et des Parcs
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 6e étage, boîte 83
675, boul. René-Lévesque Est
Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7

Projects located south of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel (James Bay)
Nine (9) hard copies, including six (6) in French and three (3) in English
Three (3) PDF copies in electronic format
Additional copies may be requested depending on the scope of the project.

Projects located north of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel (Northern Quebec/Nunavik)
Fourteen (14) hard copies, including seven (7) in French and seven (7) in English
Three (3) PDF copies in electronic format
Additional copies may be requested depending on the scope of the project.

- If the electronic documents are very large: Inform the Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets industriels, miniers, énergétiques et nordiques (vanessa.chalifour@environnement.gouv.qc.ca) and a secure link allowing you to send your documents on the ShareFile platform will be shared with you. This link will be valid for a period of 7 days. Attach the letter of transmission to the email, indicating that the electronic version will be transmitted via the ShareFile platform of the DGÉES.

#### 1. IDENTIFICATION AND COORDINATES OF THE PROPONENT

### 1.1 Identification of the proponent

Name : Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ)

Civic address: 110 boulevard Matagami, Porte 5, C.P. 610. Matagami, Qc, Canada, J0Y 2A0

Postal address (if different from civic address):

Name and function of the signatory(s) authorized to submit the application: Angelin Dossou, Director

Telephone: 819 739-4717 #1244 | Telephone (other): 873 995-7276

Email: adossou@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca

### 1.2 Company number

Québec enterprise number (NEQ): 1141021965

### 1.3 Resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village, or responsible body

If the proponent is a municipality, the preliminary information form is accompanied by the resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village, or the responsible body duly certified authorizing the signatory(s) of the application to present it. Add a copy of the resolution to appendix I.

### 1.4 Identification of the consultant mandated by the proponent (if applicable)

Name: Catherine Dumais, M. Sc., biologist

Civic address: 5500 boulevard des Galeries, Quebec, Qc. Canada, G2K 2E2

Postal address (if different from civic address):

Telephone: 418 564-8443 Telephone (other):

Email: catherine.dumais@snclavalin.com

Description of mandate: Request an new attestation of exemption

### 2 GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

### 2.1 Project title

Project of ... (construction/extension/development/ etc.) of ... (installation/equipment/factory/etc.) in the territory of ... (municipality/village/community)

Project to operate a quarry at km 35 of the Billy-Diamond Road on the territory of Eeyou Istchee Baie-James.

### 2.2 Article of accordance

To verify the accordance of your project, indicate which paragraph of schedule A of the Environment Quality Act your project is subjected to, in your opinion, and why (threshold, for example). Indicate if your project is considered a "grey zone" project, if applicable.

The project is considered a grey zone project since it is not listed in Appendices A and B of the *Environment Quality Act* (EQA). Indeed, the area to be discovered covers less than 3 hectares, which does not correspond to a project listed in Appendix A of the EQA. Thus, a request for preliminary information is required.

### 2.3 Objectives and justification of the project

Indicate the main objectives and highlight the reasons for implementing the project.

The purpose of this request is to obtain a notice of exemption under section 154 of the *Environment Quality Act* (EQA) for the following activities:

- The exploitation of an existing quarry, the area of which to be discovered is less than 3 ha, located at km 35.5 of the Billy-Diamond Road.

The Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change (MELCC) has already issued a notice of exemption on March 30, 2020 for a project to operate a quarry and a mobile asphalt concrete

plant in km 35.5 of Billy-Diamond Road (formerly Baie-James Road) planned as part of road repair work (see ref.: 3214-05-081).

This notice of exemption allowed this:

- The operation of a quarry located at km 35.5 of the James Bay Road to support road repair work until 2021 and for road maintenance work until 2024;
- Operation of a mobile asphalt concrete plant on the quarry site located at km 35.5 of the James Bay Road.

However, the periods of validity of this certificate will have expired, because the repair work is planned until 2026. For this reason, a new request for exemption is therefore submitted in order to allow the repair work until December 2026.

### 2.4 Brief description of the project and alternatives

Briefly describe the project (length, width, quantity, voltage, surface, etc.) and for each of its phases (development, construction, and operation and, when appropriate, closure and restoration), briefly describe the main characteristics associated with each of the project alternatives, including planned activities, developments, and construction (deforestation, expropriation, blasting, backfilling, etc.).

This request for exemption concerns the operation of an existing quarry, the area of which currently authorized to excavate is 11,415 m<sup>2</sup> (1.14 ha).

According to the authorization modification obtained on April 21, 2020 (No: 7610-10-01-84043-00/401898933), the surface area of the quarry is 82,817  $m^2$  (8.28 ha). This area makes it possible to respect a protective strip of 30 m from water and wetlands. No changes are made to this area. The authorized annual production volume is 80,000  $m^3$ .

In addition, no deforestation is planned as part of the operation. The site is accessible by an existing access road and no additional development is necessary.

Currently, the site is punctuated by piles of materials in reserve and heaps of blocks with diameters greater than 1 m. An evaluation of reserves and operations was carried out in February 2023 and is summarized as follows:

- MG  $20 \pm 8750 \text{ m}^3$
- Asphalt mix ± 170 m<sup>3</sup>
- Concrete ± 900 m<sup>3</sup>
- RPP 300-500 ± 500 m<sup>3</sup> (RPP : revêtement de protection en pierre)
- RPP  $0-600 \pm 4000 \text{ m}^3$
- RPP 100-200 ± 750 m<sup>3</sup>
- RPP 0-300  $\pm$  3900 m<sup>3</sup>

For the purposes of the repair work, the quantity of materials to be taken out is estimated at 24,195 m3.

The sequence of activities planned on the site are as follows:

### Preparatory phase

- Delimitation of the zone to be exploited by surveying;
- Pumping of water accumulated in the quarry for dry work (respecting the criteria of the Regulation respecting quarries and sandpits);

### Operation phase

- Drilling and blasting for the exploitation of materials in the area to be excavated;
- Recovery of certain blocks for crushing or storage as protective coatings;
- Crushing, sifting and stacking of material supply;
- Loading materials into trucks for transportation to road repair sites;

### Restoration stage

- Leveling of the slopes of the exploited areas;
- Leveling with organic soils in supply;
- Revegetation with species adapted to the environment.

If relevant, add to appendix II all the documents allowing to better understand the characteristics of the project (diagram, sketch, cross-section, etc.).

### 2.5 Related activities

Summarize, if applicable, related planned activities (ex: road access, crushing or milling, installation of a cofferdam, stream diversion) and any other projects that may influence the project design.

No related activity.

### 3. PROJECT LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

### 3.1 Identification and location of the project and its activities

Name of the municipality, village, or community where the project is located (indicate if several municipalities, villages, or communities are affected by the project):

The quarry covered by the request is located at kilometer 35.5 of the Billy-Diamond road, in the MRC Jamésie, on the territory of the regional government of Eeyou Istchee Baie-James, in the Harricana-North and in the administrative region of Nord-du-Québec.

Land categories (I, II and III): Category III

Geographical coordinates in decimal degrees of the central point of the project (for linear projects, provide the coordinates of the project start and end point):

Central point or start of the project: Latitude: 49,870761 Longitude: -77,255996

Project end point (if applicable): Latitude: Longitude:

### 3.2 Description of the project site

Describe the main components of the physical, biological, and human environments likely to be affected by the project by focusing on the description on elements considered to be of scientific, social, cultural, economic, historical, archaeological, or aesthetic importance (environmental valued components). Indicate, if applicable, the ownership status of the lands where the project is planned, as well as the main features of the site: zoning, available space, sensitive environments, wetlands and bodies of water, compatibility with current uses, availability services, topography, presence of buildings, aboriginal land use and occupation, etc.

The site targeted by the project is located in an environment already disturbed by the exploitation of the quarry. The surrounding area is made up of a mixed stand with the presence of trembling aspen (Populus tremuloides), white birch (Betula papyrifera), jack pine (Pinus banksiana), balsam fir (Abies balsamea), tamarack (Larix laricina) and spruce (Picea).

The interactive map of the Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (CDPNQ) indicates that there is no mention of species (floristics and fauna) threatened, vulnerable or likely to be so designated at the quarry site or within a radius of 8 km. However, bank swallow nests were observed on a pile of materials. It is therefore recommended to maintain a distance of 50 meters between the work and the colony during the bank swallow nesting period, from the end of May to August 1. These dates come from the Bank Swallow nesting calendar for the Matagami Depression Ecodistrict according to Birds Canada.

The exploitation of the quarry does not touch any wetland, water or groundwater. The water present in the blasted area is an accumulation of stagnant water from surface water runoff and snowmelt. Two surface water samples were taken to ensure compliance with the water quality criteria in section 26 of the Regulation respecting quarries and sandpits. These criteria relate to petroleum hydrocarbons ( $\leq$ 2 mg/l), suspended solids ( $\leq$  50 mg/l) and pH (between 6 and 9.5). The results show that the quarry water meets the water quality criteria. The concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons is below the detection limit, i.e., <100 µg/l. The suspended solids are between 2 and 5 mg/l while the pH is between 7.19 and 7.37.

The quarry is near the Billy-Diamond Road which is in operation throughout the year. It is used for travel by local people, vacationers and workers. This road is also used to transport industrial resources (forestry, mining, Hydro-Québec installation, etc.).

### 3.3 Project schedule

Provide the implementation schedule (estimated period and estimated duration of each step of the project) considering the time required for the preparation of the impact study, if applicable, and the progress of the procedure.

Rehabilitation work on the Billy-Diamond Road is scheduled from June 2023 until December 2026.

### 3.4 Location plan

Add to appendix III a topographic or cadastral map showing the location of the project and, if applicable, a plan for the location of development or activities on an appropriate scale indicating any existing infrastructure and its relation to the proposed work site.

### 4. INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES OF THE PUBLIC, ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND USERS OF THE TERRITORY

### 4.1 Information and consultation activities carried out

If applicable, indicate the terms and conditions relating to the public information and consultation activities carried out as part of the project design (methods used, number of participants and represented areas), including those carried out with the local populations, among others the Crees, Inuit and Naskapi, as well as the users of the territory, and indicate, if needed, the concerns raised by the public and whether these concerns were taking into consideration in the design of the project.

The repair work on the Billy-Diamond Road has been part of a program of consultations with local populations for several years. The operation of the quarry does not represent a nuisance with respect to the traditional use of the territory by the Cree communities concerned.

### 4.2 Information and consultation activities planned during the environmental and social impact assessment procedure

If applicable, indicate the terms and conditions for public information and consultation activities during the environmental and social impact assessment procedure, including those planned for aboriginal communities and users of the territory impacted by the project.

Not applicable.

### 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN ISSUES AND IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT ON THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 Description of the main issues of the project

Briefly describe the main issues regarding the development, construction, and operation phases and, when applicable, closure and restoration phases of the project.

The main issues of the project are similar to those raised in the last application for exemption, namely:

- Protection of wetlands and bodies of water;
- The potential presence of woodland caribou;
- The risks of accidental leaks or spills of petroleum products;
- Management of site materials;
- The safety of road users;
- The occupation of the territory and the use of resources by the natives;
- Noise management from the quarry;
- Discharge of water accumulated in the quarry.

### 5.2 Description of the main anticipated impacts of the project on the receiving environment

For the development, construction, and operation phases and, when appropriate, closure and restoration phases of the project, briefly describe what are the anticipated impacts of the project on the receiving environment (physical, biological, and human). Briefly outline the planned mitigation or remediation measures, if applicable.

- The exploitation of the quarry at km 35.5 will respect the already established limits of the site and will in no case affect other sensitive natural environments such as wetlands or water bodies.
- The sector is not used by woodland caribou, which means that the noise caused by the operation of the quarry will have no impact on this species with protected status.
- A special estimate "185 Protection of the environment" will be provided to the contractor who is required to comply with it for all the work. In addition to the mitigating measures for the quarry authorization request, Specification 185 contains the following elements to address the main issues: the production of an environmental protection plan prepared by the contractor; control of erosion and sediment transport by runoff; the measures to be taken to reduce the likelihood of leaks or spills of petroleum products and the measures to be taken in the event of an accidental spill; the management of excavated materials and hazardous residual materials; an emergency measures plan.
- The noise pollution of the quarry operation is considered low since no residence is located near the quarry.
- Finally, the water that will be discharged from the quarry must meet the criteria listed in section 26 of the *Regulation respecting quarries and sandpits* concerning the quantity of petroleum hydrocarbons (C10-C50), suspended solids and pH.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Issue: A major concern for the government, the scientific community, or the population, including the impacted indigenous communities, and whose analysis could influence the recommendations or decisions of the northern committees regarding the authorization or refusal of a project.

For a "grey zone" project, provide sufficient information to assess its environmental and social impacts to determine whether it should be subjected to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure. Provide mitigation or remediation measures, if applicable.

#### 6. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION

### 6.1 Greenhouse gas emission

Indicate if the project is likely to lead to the emission of greenhouse gases and, if so, which ones. Briefly describe the main sources of projected emissions at the various phases of the project.

The exploitation of the quarry is likely to lead to the emission of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O). However, the location of the quarry is beneficial since it will reduce the need for transport to the work sites, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### 7. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

### 7.1 Other relevant information

Enter any other information deemed necessary for a better understanding of the project.

It is relevant to point out that the quarry at km 35.5 has already been the subject of several notices of attestation of non-subjection to the reference number: 3214-05-081. The most recent is the 2020 notice, which allowed the quarry to be operated until 2021 for rehabilitation work and until 2024 for maintenance work. This notice also included the operation of a mobile asphalt concrete plant.

The SDBJ already has a valid ministerial authorization which was issued on November 29, 2002 under article 22 of the EQA for the exploitation of this quarry (No: 7610-10-01-84043-00/200041569). Subsequently, two variation requests were issued. The most recent modification request dates from April 21, 2020 (No: 7610-10-01-84043-00/401898933).

The mining lease for surface mineral substances (BEX 1552) is still active. The BEX expires on June 25, 2025.

### 8. DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

### 8.1 Declaration and signature

### I certify that :

1° the documents and information provided in this preliminary information form are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Any misrepresentation may result in sanctions under the EQA. All information provided will form an integral part of the application and will be published on the website of the Evaluating Committee

(COMEV) or the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) and the Environmental assessment register.
First and last name
Catherine Dumais
Signature
Catherine Tunais
Date
2023-05-26

Appendix I
Resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village, or responsible body

If applicable, insert below the resolution of the municipal council, band council, northern village or responsible body duly certified authorizing the signatory(s) of the application to present it.



N° de résolution ou annotation

## SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA BAIE-JAMES

CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

Extrait du procès-verbal de la six cent vingt-troisième (623°) séance extraordinaire du conseil d'administration de la Société de développement de la Baie-James tenue le 29 septembre 2021, à 13 h, par vidéoconférence

### Désignation de représentants de la SDBJ auprès de certains ministères

Après étude et considération de ladite recommandation, il est unanimement résolu :

### Résolution nº 623.06

D'AUTORISER madame Catherine Vallières ou monsieur Stéphane Hallé du consortium Norda Stelo / Stantec ou monsieur Gino Beauchamp de WSP Canada inc. ou madame Catherine Dumais de SNC-Lavalin Stavibel inc. ou madame Karine Gagnon de Stantec Experts-conseils Itée ou monsieur Emil Tagho ou madame Josée Roy ou monsieur Angelin Dossou ou monsieur Gérard Djakou de la SDBJ à signer au nom de cette dernière toute demande d'autorisation ou de certificat d'autorisation au ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques en vertu de la Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement ainsi que toute autre demande qui pourrait être requise par toute autre loi ou tout autre règlement gouvernemental ou municipal, notamment en vertu de la Loi sur la conservation et la mise en valeur de la faune et de la Loi sur l'aménagement durable en territoire forestier;

**D'ABROGER** la résolution nº 615.02.

COPIE CONFORME,

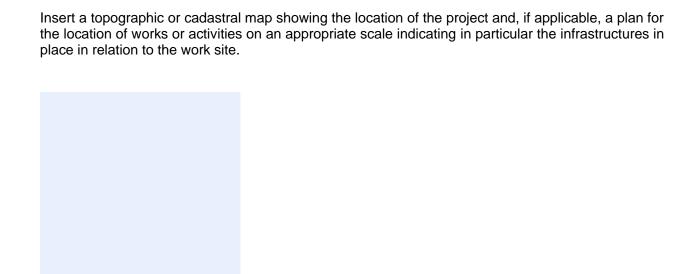
ce 25 février 2022

Serge Manguele, CPA, CGA Secrétaire-trésorier

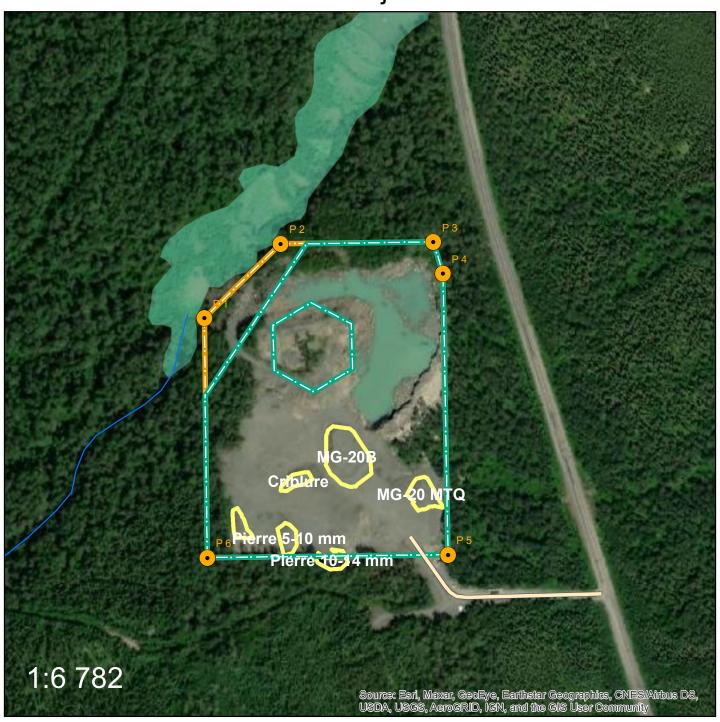
## Appendix II Project characteristics

If relevant, insert below documents to better understand the characteristics of the project (diagram, sketch, cross-section, etc.).

### Appendix III Location plan



### Carrière Route Billy Diamond - km 35,5 Mise à jour



### Légende



# Société de développement de la Baie-James

Évaluation des réserves et de l'exploitation

Cartographie préparée par Martin Filion, ing. f. le 17 février 2023