Question 1:

The proponent wishes to open a new borrow pit to extract 14,000 m^3 of till. In its previous application for borrow pit 2 (PK 0.5), the volume required was 12,000 m^3. If so, the proponent must specify whether any material was extracted from borrow pit 2 (PK 0.5) to carry out the Coniagas restoration work. It must specify the volume extracted and the areas affected. The proponent must specify whether mining of this borrow pit has been completed and the timetable for restoration work.

Answer 1:

Indeed, the initial till requirement for the Coniagas restoration project was estimated at around 12,000 m^3. This quantity was estimated during the January 2020 feasibility study. However, the need for till was revised upwards during the preparation of plans and specifications for the Coniagas tailings facility reclamation work.

To meet the initial till requirement, an application to open a first till borrow pit (PK 0.5) was submitted and accepted. The PK 0.5 area initially authorized, as requested in the feasibility study, is 0.9 ha. Subsequently, and to meet the till requirements estimated during the engineering work, an extension to PK 0.5 was requested, which would increase the total area of PK 0.5 to 2.9 ha. Final approval was obtained in August 2022.

Development and operation of the PK 0.5 borrow pit began in spring 2023 and continued until late summer 2023.

In August 2023, during mining of the PK 0.5 borrow pit, it was discovered that part of the PK 0.5 pit could not be used due to the presence of a rock outcrop and high-water levels. As a result, the volume of till would not be sufficient to complete the remediation work at the Coniagas tailings facility.

Following mining of the PK 0.5 borrow pit, material (till) was extracted for Coniagas restoration work, and approximately 10,600 m^3 of till was used for this work. The 10,600 m^3 of till represents the total volume that could be used due to the presence of a rock outcrop at PK 0.5. An area of 2.9 ha was affected by mining at PK 0.5.

Finally, the operation of PK 0.5 lasted until late summer 2023 and is now complete. Restoration of the PK 0.5 borrow pit has already begun with the reclamation of 2.9 ha. Seeding of the PK 0.5 borrow pit is scheduled for late summer 2024, during the same period as seeding of the Coniagas tailings facility.

Question 2:

The proponent must indicate whether the PK 0.6 borrow pit contains the quantity and quality of material required for the reclamation of the Coniagas tailings impoundment area (TIA). If so, the proponent must provide and present the results of the drilling carried out in the PK 0.6 borrow pit, as mentioned in section 3.1 of Appendix III of the preliminary information form. If the equipment available in borrow pit PK0.6 is not sufficient to carry out the work, the proponent must specify whether it plans to open another borrow pit. The proponent must also specify what is meant by "the area required for the year".

Answer 2:

Yes, PK 0.6 contains the quantity and quality of material required to complete the remediation of the Coniagas tailings facility.

The quantity of material required to complete construction of the impervious core of the dike and to complete the remediation of the Coniagas tailings facility is estimated at approximately 5,000 m³. The PK 0.6 borrow pit contains an estimated 14,000 m³ or 22,400 tonnes of material (average density 1.6 tonnes/m³).

Appendix Q 2-A shows the results of boreholes drilled in the area of the PK 0.6 borrow pit during the summary geomorphological investigation campaign from July 29 to August 2, 2019. A map with the latest sampling carried out on May 30, 2023, and November 10, 2023 in PK 0.6 is also added to this appendix. The hydraulic conductivity analysis report for the November 10, 2023, samples is presented at the end of Appendix Q 2-A. In this report, the test results indicate a hydraulic conductivity of 6.6 x 10-7 cm/s (the target permeability of the materials sought is 2.8 x 10-5 to 6.6 x 10-9 cm/s).

Based on estimates of material requirements and given the qualitative and quantitative results of the PK 0.6 boreholes, in addition to the progress of the work, GLOI does not envisage opening any further borrow pits. However, potential terrain constraints may cause GLOI to reconsider this decision.

In section 3.2 of Appendix II of the PK 0.6 application, the expression "the area required for the year" corresponds to 7,000 m² which is the total area of the PK 0.6 borrow pit.

Question 3:

The current application states that work on the PK 0.6 borrow pit was scheduled to begin in fall 2023. If so, the proponent must provide an updated schedule, specifying the start and end dates of planned activities, as well as the restoration period for PAR Coniagas and the borrow pit for completed and future activities.

Answer 3:

The summary table below shows the main periods of preparation, operation and restoration of the PK 0.6 borrow pit, as well as the start and end of restoration work on the Coniagas PAR.

Table 1: Revised timetable for operation and restoration of the PK 0.6 borrow pit and start and end of restoration of the Coniagas PAR

Stage of completion*	Start	End
Preparing the borrow pit PK 0.6	Spring 2024	Late summer 2024
Borrow pit operation PK 0.6 up to 14,000 m^3	Spring 2024	Late summer 2024
Restoration of the PK 0.6 borrow pit, covering an area of around 7,000 m^2 (reprofiling and backfilling)	Late summer 2024	Autumn 2024
Restoration of PAR Coniagas	Autumn 2022	Autumn 2024

*The execution of the work is subject to variation according to the progress of the restoration work on the Coniagas site.

Question 4:

In section 2.5 of the preliminary information form, the proponent mentions the possibility of clearing and carrying out work around the access road. The proponent must specify the work to be carried out, locate the work zones on a map and document the type of environment that will be impacted by the work.

Answer 4:

Section 2.5 of the preliminary information form states: "...The permanent logging road (Bachelor Road) linking Desmaraisville to the Coniagas site will be used to transport construction materials to the site to be restored. The base of the logging road is solid but may require minimal clearing and reprofiling with the addition of a layer of granular material in places to ensure safe access for equipment. The selected site has been cleared recently, and no further clearing is planned. However, the site and the base of the forest road may require minimal clearing.

However, the latest field observations by the contractor and design firm indicate that clearing and work around the access road do not appear to be necessary. Instead, a layer of granular material will be laid in places. A map documenting the environments and stands in the Pk 0.6 area, as well as the existing access road, is presented in Appendix Q 4 - A.

Question 5:

In sections 3.2 and 4.1 of the preliminary information form, the proponent mentions having communicated with the Cree Aanischaaukamikw community and cultural institute in 2018, 2019 and 2021. In its recommendation that borrow pit 2 (PK 0.5) not be subject to the project, COMEV encouraged the proponent to maintain channels of communication with the Waswanipi Cree First Nation and tallyman W-24A in order to keep them informed of the work schedule in a timely manner, both for the tailings facility remediation work and for the operation of the borrow pits. Where applicable, the proponent must specify the communication methods used to inform the community and obtain their comments. The proponent must also provide a review of communication dates and issues raised by the community. Finally, the proponent must describe the measures put in place to address any comments or concerns received from the community.

Answer 5:

GLOI established regular follow-up meetings with the Waswanipi Cree First Nation's mining coordinator, Joshua Blacksmith, who was mandated to oversee our project. As a member of the Tallyman's family, Joshua was a crucial link in keeping his family informed of the project's progress. We provided him with regular written updates on the progress of our project as well as the challenges we faced, such as forest fires and the presence of beavers on our site. Remote and on-site meetings were organized to keep him informed and seek his advice on various aspects of our project.

On April 21, 2022, we consulted Joshua about the need to present our project to the wider community. He indicated that he would prefer to be kept informed of our progress, so that he could inform his fellow citizens about the project himself.

When we expressed concerns about the presence of beavers, Joshua was able to offer his assistance by guiding us through the situation.

At his suggestion, we hired a Community Liaison Officer (CLO), John Jolly, based in Waswanipi. John works one day a week and has been available to answer questions from community members since work began. Although we have received few questions so far, John is an active participant in our weekly meetings and is in contact with our Cree sub-contractor who is supplying the labor for our project.

We have also hired a community relations coordinator, Catherine Lagacé, based in Matagami, who travels to Waswanipi once every 2 months to meet with our liaison officer and Waswanipi authorities.

In response to a request from Joshua, we organized a site visit on May 30, 2023, in the presence of John Jolly, Joshua B., Catherine Lagacé and Gilles Tremblay and informed Joshua of the ministerial visits in October 2023, stressing the importance of the Tallyman family's presence during future visits.

It should be noted that some members of the Tallyman family affected by our project are working on our project. Between 40% and 60% of our workforce comes from the Cree community of Waswanipi, demonstrating our commitment to actively involving and supporting the local population in our business.

A register of the various communications and evidence of our exchanges with Joshua Blacksmith, the community and John Jolly to keep them informed of the project's progress is presented in Appendix Q 5 - A.

Question 6:

Given the observations of invasive exotic species at a distance of approximately 21 km near Route 113, the proponent must specify the measures that will be implemented to limit the introduction of invasive exotic species.

Answer 6:

The work area is located approximately 1 km from Route 113. Based on field observations, no invasive exotic species have been observed in this area.

However, the following measures have been added to the contractor's environmental protection plan and will be implemented to limit the introduction of invasive exotic species:

- ✓ Inspection and cleaning of machinery and tools to remove mud, plants and exotic invasive species, prior to the start of work.
- ✓ Clean equipment on non-fertile ground, away from bodies of water or wetlands, and dispose of all residues in the trash.
- ✓ If there is an occurrence of invasive exotic species and work must be done in these colonies, clean up machinery and tools to limit their spread after interventions.
- ✓ Disposal of spoil affected by invasive species in a landfill site.
- ✓ Ensure that backfill materials or topsoil are free of invasive alien plant stems or roots.

Question 7:

The bank swallow is a designated threatened species under the *Species at Risk Act*. Slopes of more than 70 degrees composed of loose substrates (e.g. sand) are preferred nesting sites for this species. The proponent must specify the measures it intends to put in place to protect this species. Should bank swallows be observed in the study area during the nesting period, the proponent must inform the "Direction de la gestion de la faune du Nord-du-Québec" (DGFa-10) of the "Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs" at the following e-mail address Nord-du-Quebec.faune.information@mffp.gouv.qc.ca.

Answer 7:

For the requested new bench PK 0.6, exploitation will be limited to slopes of 1 to 3 meters only. However, the following measures are in place to protect the bank swallow in all work areas:

- **Before mid-April:**
- ✓ Profiling of slopes with a gradient of less than 70 degrees
- ✓ An additional check will be carried out between April 1 and 15 for slopes, which will be smoothed if necessary.

- **Mid-April to end of August:**
- ✓ Inform the "Direction de la gestion de la faune du Nord-du-Québec" (DGFa-10) of the MELCCFP of any sightings of bank swallows in the study area.
- ✓ Stop intensive activities in the vicinity of the swallow colony and establish a protection zone around the colony.
- ✓ Establish a protection zone of at least 50 metres between the colony and noisy or vibrating activities. To minimize the risk of disturbance, the protection zone will be increased if operating activities are intense.
- ✓ All excavation activities will be halted if Bank Swallows colonize an embankment in a quarried area, until the swallows leave at the end of the nesting period.
- ✓ No scaring devices will be used if a colony is already established.

Question 8: For information purposes, the proponent is invited to consult the updated list of threatened or vulnerable wildlife species in Québec: https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/faune/gestion-faune-habitats-fauniques/especes-fauniques-menacees-vulnerables/liste#c159706. The proponent must ensure that the information is up to date.
Answer 8: The list of threatened or vulnerable wildlife species in Quebec is consulted periodically to keep all information up to date. In addition, GLOI conducts a regulatory and legal watch to ensure that its operations comply with new applicable laws and regulations, including the list of threatened or vulnerable wildlife species in Quebec.