WHABOUCHI LITHIUM MINE AND HYDROMETALLURGY PLANT PROJECTS
NEMASKA LITHIUM INC.

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

April 13, 2017

Ministère de l’Énergie et des Ressources naturelles
# Table of Contents

1. Background.............................................................................................................. - 2 -
2. General Information..................................................................................................3
3. Project Description......................................................................................................3
4. Highlights ..................................................................................................................4
5. Mine Operations .........................................................................................................6
7. Potential Economic Spinoffs.......................................................................................8
8. Local Community Participation ...................................................................................10
9. Plans and Rights Granted in the Host Area.................................................................11
10. Information on Rehabilitation and Restoration .......................................................12
11. General Information on Use and Market .................................................................12
12. Documentation ..........................................................................................................13
13. Glossary ....................................................................................................................15
1. Background

One of the measures proposed in the *Guidelines of the Ministère de l’Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (MERN) in the area of social acceptability*, in response to the general public’s concerns, was to circulate information on major projects. The MERN has implemented this measure by preparing a series of summary documents presenting information on major public land, energy and mineral resource development projects. The information is provided with the aim of:

- making available details of major projects, drawn from public sources, to ensure that local actors have a better understanding of and more knowledge on which to base their participation in the project preparation, consultation and monitoring process;
- gathering together all relevant ministerial information on major projects in a single place, so that it is easy to consult.

The public documents do not contain confidential information. The information presented in the summary document in no way constitutes an opinion or recommendation on the part of the MERN.

Some specialized terms, shown in blue in the text, are defined in a glossary in section 13. Unless otherwise indicated, all amounts shown in this document are in Canadian dollars.

For further information on the project, please contact a MERN representative, as follows:

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

📞 1 866 248-6936
📞 1 866 CITOYEN

*(toll-free in Canada and the United States)*

✉️ reseignements@mern.gouv.qc.ca

Fax: 418 644-6513

Office hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
2. General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoter</td>
<td>Nemaska Lithium Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of project</td>
<td>Open-pit and subsequent underground spodumene (lithium) mine and a hydrometallurgy plant (processing) projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project name</td>
<td>Whabouchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoter’s website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nemaskalithium.com">www.nemaskalithium.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative region</td>
<td>Mine: Nord-du-Québec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Processing plant: Mauricie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land category</td>
<td>Category III land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Project Description

Description

Nemaska Lithium Inc.’s Whabouchi project involves the construction and operation of an open-pit mine and ore processing plant to produce spodumene concentrate. The project also involves the construction of a processing plant (hydrometallurgy) in Shawinigan.

The promoter plans to transport spodumene concentrate from the mine site via the Route du Nord (roughly 280 km) and via forest road R-1008 for a few kilometres near Chibougamau. The concentrate will then be transferred to Canadian National (CN) wagons and shipped by rail to the hydrometallurgy plant in Shawinigan.

The plant will process the spodumene concentrate into extremely pure lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate. These products are used to manufacture lithium batteries, for which the market is growing steadily, among other things due to the increasing demand for electric vehicles and energy storage.

The promoter plans to begin operating the mine in early 2018. Activities are expected to last 26 years and will start with an open-pit mine (20 years), followed by six years of underground mining. The project as proposed includes an open-pit mine, a waste rock and mine tailings stack, an ore processing plant and various administrative and maintenance buildings on the Whabouchi site. Construction of the hydrometallurgy plant will take place in two phases, at the former Resolute Forest Products Laurentide plant. Commissioning of the demonstrator plant (phase 1) will begin in the spring of 2017, at the same time as construction of the commercial plant.

The mine and hydrometallurgy plant projects require separate environmental authorizations. In accordance with the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) and the Environment Quality Act (EQA), the environmental and social impact assessment and review for the Whabouchi project (mine) was filed with the Provincial Administrator of the JBNQA in April 2013, and then forwarded to the Examination Committee (COMEX), which is the bipartite Cree-Québec body responsible for reviewing projects located south of the 55th parallel.
The COMEX held public hearings in the Cree Community of Nemaska on March 30 and 31, 2015, and in Chibougamau on April 1, 2015. It then filed its recommendation with the JBNQA Administrator. On September 8, 2015, the Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) issued a certificate of authorization under section 164 of the EQA for the proposed spodumene (lithium) mine at the Whabouchi site.

The certificate of authorization was amended in July 27, 2016, to allow the company to remove a bulk sample of 60,000 tons of ore to fuel its modular concentrator and produce a concentrate that would be used by the demonstrator plant (phase 1) in Shawinigan to produce lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate samples. The MERN issued an authorization to remove the bulk sample on December 2, 2016, and approved the restoration plan for the work on December 7, 2016.

At the same time, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) also examined the mine project as part of the federal environmental impact assessment procedure. The CEAA held public hearings in November 2013 and published its environmental review report, along with the Minister of the Environment’s Positive Decision Statement, in July 2015.

### 4. Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine Operations</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of operation</strong></td>
<td>Open-pit mine, followed by underground mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated yearly production</strong></td>
<td>Production of 213,000 tons per year (T/year) of spodumene concentrate at the mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Processing of the spodumene concentrate into 27,500 T/year of lithium hydroxide and 3,245 T/year of lithium carbonate (both battery quality) at the Shawinigan plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start and duration of mining operations</strong></td>
<td>The promoter plans to start mining in early 2018 and to continue for 26 years (20 years open-pit and 6 years underground).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Territory</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land category (land under agreement)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Category III lands</strong>, constituted pursuant to the Act respecting the land regime in the James Bay and New Québec territories (chapter R-13.1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public or private land (domain²)</strong></td>
<td>Public land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rights issued by government departments and agencies</strong></td>
<td>Mine exploration rights (claims)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Right of access in favour of Hydro-Québec for a 735 kV electricity transmission line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The Minister decided that the project is not likely to generate significant environmental impacts.
² Formerly tenure. See the glossary.
## Local Community Participation (Mine Project)

### Environmental assessment mechanism stipulated in the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement

In accordance with the JBNQA and the EQA, the COMEX held public hearings in the Cree Community of Nemaska on March 30 and 31, 2015, and in Chibougamau on April 1, 2015.

### Agreement signed by the promoter and one or more Aboriginal communities

Nemaska Lithium Inc., Cree Community of Nemaska, the Cree Nation Government and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) signed the Chinuchi agreement on the development and operation of the Whabouchi project in November 2014.

### Information activities organized by the promoter

The promoter has provided information for the Cree Community of Nemaska, the Grand Council of the Crees, the Cree Nation Government and the Town of Chibougamau since 2009, and has also held discussions with them to hear and take their concerns into account during the project development phase.

Discussions have been held with representatives from the Town of Shawinigan since October 2014. Meetings have also been held with companies and socio-economic organizations from Shawinigan and La Mauricie.

### Monitoring committee(s) set up by the promoter

Environmental Committee and Implementation Committee set up under the Chinuchi Agreement.

## Economic Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Information</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment value</td>
<td>$549 million ($239 million for the mine and concentrator, and $310 million for the processing plant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated number of employees during construction</td>
<td>Variable, according to need, with a maximum of 400 employees. Between 200 and 250 jobs at the Shawinigan hydrometallurgy plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated number of employees during operation</td>
<td>Roughly 150 direct jobs at the mine. Roughly 85 direct jobs at the hydrometallurgy plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government participation or financial assistance</td>
<td>$13 million from Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) for the demonstrator plant (phase 1) (February 2, 2016). $10 million invested in the form of a minority shareholding in the company by Ressources Québec for the demonstrator plant (phase 1) (March 11, 2016). $3 million from Technoclimat via the MERN’s Bureau de l'efficacité et de l'innovation énergétiques for the demonstrator plant (phase 1) (April 5, 2016).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **Mine Operations**

### Description

#### Type of operation, ore, location and main infrastructures

The Whabouchi project involves the construction and operation of an open-pit (and subsequent underground) mine and an ore processing plant to produce spodumene concentrate in the James Bay area. The project also involves the construction of a hydrometallurgy (processing) plant in Shawinigan.

The proposed mine is located 30 km east of the Cree Community of Nemaska and 280 km north-northwest of Chibougamau. It includes an initial borrow measuring 1.3 km long by 300 m wide and 190 m deep, plus a concentrator, a waste rock and mine tailings stack, a workers’ camp which already exists (12 km west of the site) as well as auxiliary facilities and related infrastructures. The Nemiscau airport is located 19 km west of the site via the Route du Nord. The mine will receive its electricity supply from Hydro-Québec’s distribution network.

Mining activities will begin with open-pit mine operations (20 years) and will end with underground operations (six years).

The processing plant will be built on the site of the former Resolute Forest Products Laurentide pulp and paper mill in the Town of Shawinigan. Construction will take place in two phases. Phase 1 will consist in construction of the demonstrator plant, which will produce samples that future purchasers can use to test the product. Process improvements will then be made to the design of the commercial production plant (Phase 2), which will open at the end of 2018.

#### Annual production and length of operations

Annual production at the Whabouchi mine is estimated at 213,000 tons of spodumene concentrate, for an extraction ratio of slightly over 2,700 tons of ore per day. The concentrate will be processed at the Shawinigan plant into 27,500 tons/year of lithium hydroxide and 3,245 tons/year of lithium carbonate, both of battery quality.

The promoter plans to begin mine operations in early 2018, for an anticipated term of 26 years. The demonstrator plant (Phase 1), with a capacity of roughly 500 tons/year, should begin its activities in the spring of 2017, before start-up of the production plant.

#### Type of process

Mechanical diggers in the mine will load the ore into 50-ton trucks, which will transport it to the crushing site. The crushed ore will then be transported to the processing plant at the mine site. Standard techniques will be used to process the ore (milling, dense-media separation, flotation, pressure filtering).

The processing plant will produce spodumene concentrate with a lithium content of roughly 6%. The concentrate will then be transported to the hydrometallurgy plant in Shawinigan, where it will be used to produce battery quality lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate. The innovative process developed by Nemaska Lithium Inc., for which the company holds a number of patents, uses mainly membrane electrolysis technology. This technology, currently under demonstration, was chosen for economic reasons (low hydro-electricity cost) and environmental reasons (reduction of the number of chemical products required and fewer greenhouse gas emissions). The process is divided into roughly ten steps, ending with drying and packaging of the products.

#### Transportation and trans-shipment of the concentrate

The concentrate will be transported from the mine to Chibougamau via the Route du Nord (roughly 280 km), and then via forest road R-1008 over a distance of a few kilometres. It will then be loaded
Description

into CN wagons at a site close to the town of Chibougamau, for transportation by rail to the hydrometallurgy plant in Shawinigan.

Trucks with a capacity of 100 tons have been chosen to transport the concentrate from the mine to Chibougamau (six loads per day), so that they will merge into the average daily flow of heavy vehicles on the Route du Nord without altering it significantly.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filing of preliminary information</td>
<td>September 22, 2011 (for the mine), with the JBNQA Administrator, then forwarded to the COMEV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact assessment</td>
<td>The environmental and social impact assessment review for the Whabouchi project was filed with the JBNQA Administrator and sent to the COMEX in April 2013. The COMEX held public hearings in March and April 2015. The CEAA received the impact assessment in April 2013. It held public hearings in November 2013 and completed its analysis of the file after submission of additional documents in January 2015. The CEAA published its environmental impact assessment report in July 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMEX public hearings</td>
<td>March 30 and 31 and April 1 in Nemaska and Chibougamau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMEX recommendation forwarded to the JBNQA Provincial Administrator</td>
<td>July 3, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of ministerial certificate of authorization</td>
<td>Certificate of authorization (s. 164 of the EQA) for the mine: September 8, 2015. The processing plant, located in Shawinigan, is not subject to the provincial or federal environmental impact assessment procedures. The demonstrator plant (Phase 1) was authorized under s. 22 of the EQA on January 30, 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights to be obtained from the MERN</td>
<td>The promoter must obtain a mining lease to operate the mine, and this requires a pre-approved rehabilitation plan for the mining site. The promoter must also obtain authorization to use public lands for construction of the site’s various infrastructures (processing plant, waste rock and mine tailings site, miscellaneous buildings, etc.). These leases, which are accessory or in addition to the mining lease, are subject to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Autorisations délivrées par les autorités gouvernementales.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>compliance with all federal and provincial legislation and the ensuing regulations, and with municipal by-laws, for all activities on the leased land. Some of the leases have already been issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining lease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of application</td>
<td>June 15, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date granted</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expiry date</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Potential Economic Spinoffs**

The details presented in this section are estimates produced by the MERN for the mining component of Nemaska Lithium Inc.’s project. The estimates were generated using an economic spinoff calculation model adjusted to the mining industry, which uses some data provided by the promoter (jobs at the site, investment value, construction time, operating time).

It is important to note that the processing plant located in Shawinigan, for which construction costs are estimated at roughly $310 million and which should generate 85 jobs, were not considered in the analysis of economic repercussions.

**Jobs**

The mine construction phase (including the concentrator) will last two years and will create nearly 500 direct and indirect jobs throughout Québec. The mine operation phase is expected to last 26 years and will support an average of 340 direct and indirect jobs per year. Most of these jobs will be located within the administrative region, and the others will be indirect.
Breakdown of the 485 direct and indirect jobs supported by mine construction (average per year for two years)

- IN THE REGION (DIRECT JOBS): 50%
- IN THE REGION (INDIRECT EFFECTS): 40%
- OUTSIDE THE REGION (INDIRECT EFFECTS): 10%

Source: Data from promoter and MERN estimates, February 2017.

Breakdown of the 340 direct and indirect jobs supported by mine operation (average per year for 26 years)

- IN THE REGION (DIRECT JOBS): 33%
- IN THE REGION (INDIRECT EFFECTS): 19%
- OUTSIDE THE REGION (INDIRECT EFFECTS): 48%

Source: Data from promoter and MERN estimates, February 2017.

**Investments**

Investments associated with the mine complex construction phase are estimated at nearly $240 million in all, spread over a two-year period. They include highly specialized equipment and machinery that would normally be acquired outside Québec. Expenses for the operating phase are estimated at roughly $50 million per year for the 26 years of the mine's life.

Breakdown of investments associated with the mine construction phase (total, in millions of dollars, over two years)

- IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: 193
- OUTSIDE THE REGION

Source: Data from promoter and MERN estimates, February 2017.

Breakdown of operating expenses associated with the mine operation phase (millions of dollars, per year for 26 years)

- IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: 26
- OUTSIDE THE REGION: 27

Source: Data from promoter and MERN estimates, February 2017.
Government Income

The main income for the different levels of government totals roughly $18 million for the construction phase and roughly $16 million for the operating phase, as follows:

- **Federal**: Tax on company profits, income tax on employees’ salaries, sales tax (GST).
- **Provincial**: Tax on company profits, income tax on employees’ salaries, sales tax (QST), excluding mining tax, which is listed separately.
- **Provincial**: Minimum mining tax (see note at the bottom of the diagram for the calculation).
- **Municipal**: Property tax and school tax.

In addition to the above, the project will also generate other income, such as fees payable for various permits and the annual rent payable for leases.

Breakdown of government income associated with the mine construction and operating phases (in millions of dollars)

N.B. The Mining Tax Act provides that every mining company must pay mining tax equal to the higher of the minimum tax calculated on the mine-mouth output value (of 1% for the first $80 million and 4% for the remainder) or a tax on profits (of 16% to 28%, depending on the profit margin). The value shown in this diagram is an estimate of minimum mining tax and therefore does not consider profits.


8. Local Community Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental impact assessment mechanism provided for in the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement</td>
<td>In accordance with the JBNQA and the EQA, the COMEX, which is the bipartite Québec-Cree body responsible for assessing projects located south of the 55th parallel, held public hearings in the Cree Community of Nemaska on March 30 and 31, 2015, and in Chibougamau on April 1, 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information activities organized by the promoter</td>
<td>Information sessions for the Cree Community of Nemaska, starting with the preliminary phases of the project. Conferences at Chibougamau and Shawinigan, starting with the preliminary phases, to present the project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Type of Information | Description
---|---
Activities organized by the promoter to hear the communities’ concerns and expectations | 2009: Discussions with the Cree Community of Nemaska with a view to negotiating and signing a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU.
2013: Negotiations with the Cree Community of Nemaska, the Cree Nation Government and the Grand Council of the Crees for an impact and benefit agreement (IBA).

Agreement between the promoter and one or more Aboriginal communities | In November 2014, the company signed the Chinuchi Agreement on the development and operation of the Whabouchi project, with the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Cree Nation Government and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee).

Monitoring committee set up by the promoter | Community advisory committee, which is a platform for dialogue between the promoter and representatives of various interests in the Nemaska community (from 2011 to 2014).
Environment Committee and Implementation Committee set up under the Chinuchi Agreement (since 2014).

### 9. Plans and Rights Granted in the Host Area

| Type of information | Description |
---|---|
**Land category** (land under agreement) | **Category III lands** constituted pursuant to the Act respecting the land regime in the James Bay and New Québec territories (chapter R-13.1).

**Public or private land** (domain) | The mining site is located entirely on public land.

Any applicable land use plans | There is no land use plan in force in the Eeyou Istchee-James Bay territory.

Rights issued by government departments and agencies | The rights issued in the host area are as follows: mine exploration rights (claims), industrial leases, right of access in favour of Hydro-Québec for a 735 kV hydroelectricity transmission line and rights obtained from the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs for deforestation activities.
In addition to the certificate of authorization (s. 164 of the EQA), several other certificates of authorization will be issued by the MDDELCC throughout the mine’s life cycle. They can be consulted on the MDDELCC website. (in French only).
Authorizations must also be obtained from the MDDELCC for the construction and operation of the processing plant.
10. Information on Rehabilitation and Restoration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of information</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filing of the first restoration plan (for the public consultation, where applicable)</td>
<td>June 29, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filing of the amended restoration plan following the public consultation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval of the restoration plan</td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next plan review</td>
<td>No later than 5 years after approval⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount of the required financial guarantee</td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule of financial guarantee instalments:</td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Date and amount of 1st instalment</td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Date and amount of 2nd instalment</td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Date and amount of 3rd instalment</td>
<td>Under consideration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The rehabilitation and restoration plan must have been approved before the mining lease is granted. Information on rehabilitation and restoration plans is confidential if it predates December 10, 2013 (Mining Act, chapter M-13.1, s. 215).

² The date stipulated for the next restoration plan review is subject to the obligations set out in section 232.6 of the Mining Act (chapter M-13.1).

11. General Information on Use and Market

**Description of the substance**

Because of the low cost of extracting lithium ore, the main locations currently exploited throughout the world are partly dried salt flats from lakes (brine). Deposits of this type are found mainly in the Andes Cordillera (Bolivia, Chile, Argentina).

The second most common source of lithium is spodumene pegmatite, and its use has increased in the last decade. In the Nord-du-Québec region, the Superior Province is rich in spodumene pegmatite. Since this substance is a rock, not a brine, extraction costs are generally greater, but on the other hand, the lithium can be purified to a higher level. The lithium ore is usually processed to form a spodumene concentrate (lithium), which is then sold or processed into lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate.

There are no lithium mines in Québec at the present time. However, four promoters are currently in the process of developing mining projects: North American Lithium Inc. (Abitibi-Témiscamingue), Whabouchi (Nord-du-Québec), Rose Lithium-Tantalum (Nord-du-Québec) and Authier (Abitibi-Témiscamingue). These projects follow on from geological discoveries in the period from 1940 to 1960.
Lithium is a soft, silver-grey metal that tarnishes and oxidizes very quickly upon contact with air and water, taking on a dark grey colour that quickly turns to anthracite and black. At room temperature, lithium is the lightest solid chemical element. Like other alkaline metals, lithium reacts easily with air and water, and is therefore stored in mineral oil.

**Use**

Spodumene concentrate is used to produce lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate, which, when highly pure (tiny percentage of contaminants), are used for the booming lithium battery market, driven mainly by the growing demand for electric vehicles and energy storage.

Lithium composites are also used to make heat-resistant glass, heat-resistant ceramic and special lubricants, and for treatment of CO$_2$-contaminated air. They are also used in metallurgy, in the rubber and thermoplastic industries, in the pharmaceutical industry and to produce alloys (aerospace and automobile industries).

**World production**

In 2015, the world production of lithium was 32,500 tons. Currently, the lithium supply is controlled by four large companies that produce 89% of the world’s lithium. The two largest producing countries (75% of world production) are Chile (brines) and Australia (pegmatite). Although it has not yet exploited its significant resources, Bolivia (brine) is the country with the largest lithium reserves. There are no lithium mines in Canada at the present time.

**Current price and trends**

Lithium composite prices peaked in 2016, after practically doubling in the space of a year. The current price for lithium hydroxide is between US$15,000 and $20,500 per ton, and for lithium carbonate, between US$10,000 and 15,000 per ton. The prospects of high prices are good for the next few years.

The main reason for this economic situation is the fact that demand currently exceeds supply. The increased demand is due mainly to the use of lithium in electric vehicle batteries and for energy storage.

12. **Documentation**

Environmental impact assessment and related documents (COMEX)

http://comexqc.ca/fiches-de-projet/projet-whabouchi-developpement-exploitation-dun-gisement-spodumene-territoire-baie-james/

Documents registered in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAA)


Analysis report - COMEX


MDDELCC information sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rehabilitation and restoration plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To come</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinuchi Agreement for development and operation of the Whabouchi project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
13. Glossary

Bureau d’audiences publiques sur l’environnement (BAPE): The BAPE is a neutral public agency reporting to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change. Its mission is to provide information for government decisions with a view to achieving sustainable development that encompasses the ecological, social and economic aspects. To fulfill this basic mission, the BAPE provides information, carries out inquiries and consults the population on issues and questions relating to environmental quality, submitted to it by the Minister. It then produces inquiry reports, which it makes public. The BAPE is therefore an advisory body and has no decision-making power.

Direct jobs: Jobs created for the company’s operations.

Domain: Ownership of land within a territory. Domain refers to the private or public nature of land ownership (formerly known as tenure). More specifically and more commonly, the term “domain” is used to refer exclusively to the regime of property in the domain of the State.

Environment and Social Impact Review Committee (Review Committee or COMEX): The COMEX is an independent body composed of members appointed by the governments of Québec and the Cree nation. It is responsible for assessing and reviewing the social and environmental impacts of projects located south of the 55th parallel in the territory covered by Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement.

Evaluating Committee (COMEV): The COMEV is a tripartite Québec-Canada-Cree organization composed of members appointed by the Québec and Canadian governments and the Cree nation, charged with the task of preliminary assessment. The COMEV prepares directives for projects subject to assessments and situated south of the 55th parallel in the area covered by Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement.

Indirect jobs: Jobs created at a supplier of the company, as part of its activities.

James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA): The JBNQA is a land claim agreement signed in 1975 by the Cree and Inuit Aboriginal nations in Northern Québec, the Québec and Canadian governments and certain provincial State corporations. Among other things, it contains special environmental assessment provisions applicable to James Bay and Northern Québec, which are repeated in Chapter II of the Environment Quality Act (EQA). Among other things, these provisions state that the Aboriginal people living in these regions (Cree, Inuit and Naskapi) must be involved in the environmental assessment procedure. Additional information on environmental assessments of Northern projects can be found at:


Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC): The KEQC is composed of nine members, including its President, and is responsible for assessing and reviewing development projects under provincial jurisdiction that are subject to assessment and are located in the area covered by Section 23 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, north of the 55th parallel.

Land categories: The James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) establishes a land regime that is implemented in the Act respecting the land regime in the James Bay and New Québec territories (chapter R-13.1). Under the regime, the area to which the JBNQA applies is divided into three categories of land:

- Category I: Lands transferred for exclusive use and/or exclusive ownership by Aboriginal beneficiaries. This land is managed by local entities (band councils or land corporations). Aboriginal beneficiaries of the JBNQA have exclusive hunting, fishing and trapping rights on Category I lands.

---

6 The definitions of the BAPE, the COMEX and the KEQC are adapted from texts found on their respective websites.
- Category II: Public lands on which Aboriginal beneficiaries of the JBNQA have exclusive hunting, fishing and trapping rights. Special measures apply to all development projects on Category II lands.
- Category III: All lands in the area covered by the JBNQA that are not Category I or Category II lands are Category III lands. The vast majority of land in this category is land in the domain of the State, and Aboriginal beneficiaries of the JBNQA have non-exclusive wildlife harvesting rights.

**Local community:** A group of people who live as a community in a given territory, such as a local municipality, an Indian reserve, an Indian settlement, an locality or Category I land under agreement in Northern areas.

**Mine tailings site:** The place at which rejected mineral substances (mine tailings) are stored, along with the water from extraction and ore processing operations.

**Northeastern Québec Agreement (NQA):** The NQA is a land claim agreement signed in 1978 by the Naskapi nation, the Québec and Canadian governments and certain provincial State corporations. The NQA includes the Naskapis in the JBNQA and also contains special environmental assessment provisions applicable to the Moinier region, which are repeated in Chapter II of the Environment Quality Act (EQA).

**Promoter:** A private, public or community organization that wishes to carry out a land, energy or mineral resource development project in a given territory.

**Provincial Administrator of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA):** Under the terms of the JBNQA, the Administrator is the person called upon to make final decisions on development project assessments and reviews, based among other things on the recommendations or opinions of the committees (COMEV and COMEX) and the commission (KEQC). This person is the Minister (Deputy Minister) of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change.

**Public consultation:** An open consultation carried out so as to allow all citizens to take part, with a view to obtaining their opinion on a given subject.

**Public participation:** A set of processes and activities involving information, consultation and active participation by members of the public to ensure that their concerns, needs and values are taken into account in the decision.

**Unorganized territory:** Any territory that is not included in the territory of a local municipality, an Indian reserve or Category I lands.

**Waste rock pile:** Pile of rocks produced by the mine’s operations and not containing enough ore to justify processing.