

Frequently Asked Questions: Rose Mine consultation sessions

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions during the consultations on the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project.

Cree land use

1. *What specific measures will be put in place during moose and goose hunting periods to mitigate the impacts of road traffic on land users?*

The proponent has committed to reduce the frequency of blasting activities and the frequency of truck convoys transporting ore concentrate during the annual goose hunting season in the spring and the moose hunting season in the fall.

During these periods, the proponent may only authorize a maximum of one blast per five days and 100 heavy truck trips per week during these two annual hunting periods (regular heavy truck transport is planned for 24 return trips per day during construction, and 68 return trips per day during operations).

Blasting should be done between 10 AM and 4 PM and would be avoided during public holidays.

A follow-up program on land use is recommended to make sure mitigation measures planned for both annual hunting periods are effective to reduce the effects. This program would be based on annual interviews with RE01, R16 and R19 tallymen.

2. *How will the risk of conflicts between the land users and non-Cree mine workers be mitigated?*

The main measures planned by the proponent:

- Prohibition of hunting weapons, trapping and fishing equipment on the mine site and at the workers' camp.
- Signature of clauses in employee contracts.
- Inclusion of disciplinary measures in the contract.
- However, employees who hold moose hunting or fishing licenses may practice these activities during their days off.
- A conflict resolution protocol in the event of problems related to the reconciliation of land and resource uses between mine workers and Cree land users.

Water quality and management, fish and fish habitat

3. *What measures will be put in place to ensure that the impacts to waterbodies and fish remain minimal?*

The proponent will hire members of the RE01 family to do the environmental monitoring to increase the credibility of the monitoring. The proponent will also have to comply with the Metal and Diamond Mine Effluent Regulations (federal) and the Directive 019 (provincial). In this federal regulation, fish studies,

assessing notably the condition of the fish, must be conducted every 3 years and all this information must be made public.

Other important measures:

- There should be no water discharge that does not meet the federal and provincial standards. If it does not meet standards, it will be returned to the sedimentation basin and treated again if necessary.
- The Province will also determine effluent discharge objectives (EDOs), specific to each contamination source, based on surface water quality criteria, hydrodynamic conditions and the uses supported by the aquatic environment, to better protect the environment.
- There will be a communication plan to inform land users if there are any risks or if there is an accident.
- The proponent will create an information mechanism for any accident or malfunction to the environment.
- They will also have to give the results of the environmental monitoring to the Cree land users and Cree communities.

The measures in place should reduce the risk of accidents from the project. They will have to comply with emergency procedures in case of a spill.

4. Has the proponent done any water modeling?

Yes, it was required for each phase of the project. The proponent's modeling was assessed with the experts of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Natural Resources Canada. The water modeling was judged to be complete. ECCC recommends that the proponent submit a follow-up program for water levels and flows during all phases of the project, including water levels and flows in each of the identified watersheds, in order to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and judge the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.

5. Would the water pumped out to the effluents be contaminated? How will this be assessed?

Water coming out from the pumping of the lakes would be released in three different discharges (3 lakes) instead of discharging within one of the four final mining effluents to limit the effects on water table level. The proponent did not assess the effects of the mining effluents on fish habitat of these three lakes, but experts do not foresee significant effects to fish. The proponent would have a sedimentation basin before discharge to ensure the discharge effluent has the same oxygen levels as receiving water body. The Agency has asked the proponent to monitor the water temperature in these basins. The proponent would have to monitor water quality at the mine effluent to meet provincial and federal standards. If the water does not meet the standards, it would be returned to the ponds, and there should be no water discharge that does not meet the standards. Water quality monitoring stations (compliant with provincial and federal standards) are planned in the three lakes that would receive water pumped from the mine.

Should the water in the lakes become contaminated during monitoring, the proponent would install a water treatment plant for these effluents released in these lakes. According to the information provided,

the pumped water would not be contaminated. The proponent would have to do follow-up studies, write reports, and make sure that the different substances would be well documented to respect regulations. A water level and flow rate monitoring program for lakes and streams is recommended as a condition if the project goes on.

6. *Is the project likely to contaminate the water and the soil, and could it cause health effects to the Crees?*

According to the proponent, the dispersion of contaminants (such as suspended solids) could affect the water quality of various watercourses and water bodies containing fish. According to the proponent, given the geological context of the sector and based on geochemical studies it has conducted, the mining materials composing the waste rock, tailings, ore and overburden piles would have a low risk of potential metal leaching and acid mine drainage. It would therefore be unlikely that inorganic elements, such as metals, would leach out and lead to contamination of surface and ground water.

During the construction phase, the proponent anticipates that the installation and presence of the construction site, site preparation, installation of infrastructures and work in an aquatic environment would increase suspended solids in the water. During the operational phase, water accumulating in the pit and runoff from the mine site would contain suspended solids, metals and nitrates.

There are also risks of accidental spills that can contaminate the soil.

Mitigation Measures Planned and Proposed:

- Implementation of a mine effluent management program to specifically comply with Metal and Diamond Mine Effluent Regulations standards, the *Fisheries Act* and the requirements of the Government of Quebec (Directive 019).
- Monitoring and tracking of water quality from the final mine effluent and in other water bodies and streams near the mine site.
- Monitor the water quality of the final effluent from the main treatment plant and exposed water bodies and streams by measuring total metals in the effluent. Once the mine is in operation, verify the need to reduce the amount of suspended solids discharged to the receiving environment by modifying the treatment system to ensure that the recommended metal concentrations, including total and dissolved tantalum, are not exceeded;
- Consideration in the water quality management plan of environmental effects that could result from accidents or malfunctions.
- Implementation of an emergency plan in case of accidental spills that could contaminate the soil.

Air quality

7. How will the Rose project affect air quality?

According to the proponent, the project could affect air quality by emitting dust during road transportation and other mining activities or infrastructure, such as the operation of the ore processing

plant, drilling, blasting, loading and unloading of mining materials and mining material storage sites. The transportation of mining materials on the unpaved roads of the future mine site would be the main source of dust. Dust could have a negative effect on air quality near the site and along the Route du Nord and Nemiscau-Eastmain-1 road. These activities could emit particulate matter, crystalline silica, metals and metalloids into the atmosphere.

Mitigation measures include:

- The establishment of a dust management plan and an air quality monitoring program.
- The implementation of a communication plan in order to respond to the concerns of the Cree Nations and to obtain their traditional knowledge on the changes perceived in the territory.

According to the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, the dust management plan is necessary to reduce the effects on air quality and the mitigation measures would reduce the effects on the health of the Crees.

Traffic and road safety

8. What are the effects of road transport on the use of land and resources for traditional purposes?

The increase in road traffic would make access to the traplines more difficult, especially during the annual goose and moose hunting periods.

The increase in road traffic could increase the usual travel time and make access to certain hunting grounds temporarily more difficult for short periods of time.

These effects would be felt to a limited extent along the Nemiscau - Eastmain-1 road, Route du Nord and Billy Diamond highway corridors, but changes in access to the territory would be limited to the roads' zone of influence.

Some of the Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- Implementation of a communication plan, in consultation with the Mine Implementation Committee, to inform Cree users of traplines RE01, R16, R19, R10, A52, A54, W01, W03, W07, W13, W53 of the schedule of construction, operation, maintenance and closure activities of the mine;
- Modification of the frequency of truck convoys transporting ore concentrate during the annual goose hunting season in the spring and the moose hunting season in the fall. Authorization of a maximum of 100 heavy truck passes per week during these two annual hunting periods.

It will be recommended to the proponent to monitor the effects of the mine's transportation activities on Cree users' access to the territory.

9. Can the increase in road traffic have a negative impact on the experience at the hunting camps located on the Route du Nord and the Nemiscau-Eastmain-1 road?

The disruption of the peace and quiet conducive to traditional activities around the Cree workcamps located along the Nemiscau - Eastmain-1 road would be felt less than 68 metres from the roads. Currently, no Cree workcamp is located within 80 metres of the roads near the mine site.

The proponent will have to reduce the number of blasting and heavy truck crossings on the road during goose and moose hunting periods.

However, the project would have residual effects on the quality of the experience of certain Cree users in the territory whose camps are located closest to the mine and the targeted roads.

- It will be recommended to the proponent to put in place a follow-up program to assess the quality of the experience of traplines RE01, R16 and R19 as well as the effectiveness of mitigation measures if the project is approved.

Traditional knowledge

10. Was traditional knowledge considered during the wildlife studies on the territory?

The proponent had to consider traditional knowledge in preparing the impact assessment. The review Committees are considering traditional knowledge in the environmental assessment reports and asked questions on certain topics, including wildlife. The proponent also hired a third party to do the environmental studies.

Additional information throughout the environmental assessment process is welcome to improve the quality of the environmental assessment. Together, the traditional and local knowledge, mixed with the scientific knowledge, would help to better understand the environment where the project would take place and its importance for Crees, as well as to better assess the project's potential effects.

Employment and training

11. When will the training programs begin?

The proponent is in discussion with different actors with regards to the training programs. They are planning to hold training programs specific for the Cree communities, but the details of these have not yet been announced. The proponent has indicated they will finalize the details of these programs if they receive their permits from the federal government and the COMEX.

12. Will the proponent prioritize hiring Cree workers?

Yes, it is planned that the Crees will be given hiring priority.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Processes

13. What is the difference between the COMEX (provincial) and the Joint Assessment Committee/Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (federal)?

The Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee (COMEX) is a joint environmental assessment committee established under the JBNQA and comprised of members appointed by the Cree Nation Government and the Government of Quebec, with a mandate to review the environmental assessment of the project and to recommend to the regional or provincial Administrator whether or not to authorize the development projects and, as applicable, under what conditions.

The Joint Assessment Committee (JAC) was established through an Agreement signed in 2019 between the Cree Nation Government, the Minister of Environment and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada to review the Rose and James Bay Lithium Mining Projects under federal jurisdiction in the environmental assessment process. The JAC is comprised of members appointed by the CNG and the Agency.

The mine project must undergo the federal environmental assessment with the Joint Assessment Committee because it is on the list of activities designated by the federal regulations and must also undergo the provincial assessment process established in the JBNQA. The two processes are running in parallel but are different, and the steps required for each of the processes do not necessarily coincide, including the need to consult with impacted Nations.

For more information on the two processes for the Rose project, please consult this [document](#).