



Final Cree Nations Consultation Period: Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project

Background

The Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project is in its final stages of the environmental assessment process. In the coming months, a federal decision will be made about if the project can move forward and if so, under what conditions. Before that decision is made, members of Cree Nations and the public will have a final opportunity to consult on the project. This document describes the project and outlines ways to get involved in consultations.

Project Overview

Critical Lithium Elements Corporation (the proponent) is proposing to construct, operate and decommission an open pit lithium and tantalum mine. The mine would be located 38 km north of Nemaska, along the Eastmain-1 route on the RE01 Eastmain trapline. This involves an open pit, an area to store waste and tailings, and an industrial facility to process ore (ore concentrate would be transformed off-site). The project's life span would be 26 years.

Main elements of the project

- The mining of 25+ megatons of lithium and tantalum reserves
- Expected production of 4,500 tons of ore per day over 17 years
- Two lakes would be pumped dry because of the location of the deposit
- Water pumped from and around the pit would be redirected to nearby lakes and streams
- Three stockpile types on site: overburden (37 ha), waste with dry tailings (204 ha), and ore (10 ha)
- Final effluent would be directed to a single waterbody
- A fly-in fly-out workers' camp would be situated 25 km north of the project (old EM-1 camp)
- Hunting, trapping and fishing would be prohibited within a 1 km perimeter around the project area
- Increased road traffic on EM-1 road, Route du Nord and Billy Diamond highway (22 trucks/day)

Main issues

- Loss of waterbodies, affecting fish and their habitat
- Changes in waterways and waterbodies, affecting navigation
- Habitat loss (including wetlands) and habitat fragmentation, affecting land animals, birds, and species at risk
- Changes in air and water quality that may affect traditional food and human health
- Disruption of traditional activities around the mine and the roads used to transport the ore concentrate. This could modify current uses of land—traplines RE01 (Eastmain), R16 and R19 (Nemaska).



Environmental Assessment

The **Joint Assessment Committee** (the Committee) was created in 2019 to complete an environmental assessment of this project. Committee members were appointed by the Cree Nation Government and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. The Committee has completed its assessment and has consolidated findings in a draft report.

The purpose of the Report is to summarize the information gathered by the proponent, and present the Committee's analysis of that information. Importantly, the Report considers the project's potential to cause significant adverse environmental effects (as defined in the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*). The Report is based on the opinions of federal experts as well as consultations with Cree communities (conducted in 2019 and 2020). After analyzing various components, the Committee reached conclusions about the project's potential effects and the proponent's mitigation measures (methods to avoid or reduce negative effects). A draft of this report was published on February 23, 2021, and it now requires the review of Cree Nations and the public.

Objectives of the consultation sessions

- Present the conclusions of the Report
- Explain the potential conditions that the proponent will have to respect if the project is authorized
- Enable members of Cree Nations to ask the Committee and federal experts questions about the Report and potential conditions
- Collect community feedback on these documents

Community feedback will be used to adjust and finalize the Report and potential conditions before they go to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for decision-making on the project.

How to participate

You can submit **written comments** on the Report and potential conditions. Deadline: May 28, 2021

- Use the "Submit a comment" feature on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at www.canada.ca/ciar (Project Reference Number: 80005).
- Send an e-mail to the Agency at iaac.minerose-rosemine.aeic@canada.ca.
- Submit your comments by mail: 901-1550 d'Estimauville Ave, Québec, QC, G1J 0C1

You can also provide feedback at one of the upcoming **virtual information sessions** (details to come). During an information session, you can express your comments orally or type comments in the chat box.

This is the fourth and final public comment period for the environmental assessment of this project.

Guiding topics

The Committee would like to know your thoughts on the Report. In particular, we would like to know if you consider that the effects are properly detailed, and the mitigation measures are sufficient for these components:

- Fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, and species at risk (see chapters 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3)
- Cree land use (see chapter 6.1)
- Cree health (see chapter 6.2)
- Cree cultural and natural heritage (see chapter 6.3)
- Socio-economic effects related to a change in the environment (see chapter 6.4)
- Cree rights as per the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (see chapter 8)

Your comments and suggestions about ways to avoid or reduce the negative effects of the project are welcome. They will assist us in drafting the final report.

Next steps: Following the comment period, the Committee will use the feedback of Cree Nations and the public to prepare the final report and potential conditions. The Minister will use these documents to inform his decision on whether the project can proceed.