

Comment Form – Information to Inform the Summary of Issues

Project: Shaakichiuwaanaan Mining Project

Proponent: Patriot Battery Metals Inc.

CIAR No.: 89271

End of comment period: **March 16th, 2025**

Indigenous Group Name: <personal information removed>	
Contact Name: <personal information removed>	Telephone <personal information removed>
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The Joint Assessment Committee invites your community to provide information it has available at this time on the Project and its potential effects or impacts (both positive and negative) to the environment and to your community and your Indigenous and/or Treaty Rights. We also welcome your input on how you would like to be engaged throughout the potential assessment process. Your comments will inform the Summary of Issues¹ with respect to the Project and will be provided to the Proponent to address. You may use this form or use another format of your choice.

All comments should be submitted via the **Submit a Comment** feature available on the Project’s Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference **89271** at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/89271?&culture=en-CA>). Letters and forms can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency Shaakichiuwaanaan@iaac-aeic.gc.ca for assistance.

1. General environmental effects

Please identify any environmental effects of the Project that are of concern to your community, including any that you think of that were not identified in the Initial Project Description.

The realities of draining a part of a lake are deeply concerning, maybe disturbing, even if it is not the whole lake that would become drained, once the project were to begin. With so much water to be diverted, is it realistic to think that the fish will adapt and be okay in becoming displaced? And will the water quality be okay? Would the regeneration of the species in the lake be likely? What are the protocols in saving the fish? What are measures that will be taken to make sure that they are still in a state to regenerate? What about the fauna and vegetation that the animals and fish rely on, what can be done to lessen the damage to the local environment in that area? What about the caribou migration, will it be altered by the noise and disturbance of the area, and their food sources? Patriot have already constructed a temporary 20 km access road to the exploration site. One of the family members to trapline VC-07/CH-39 expressed their thoughts on their first impression of this site; “I didn’t recognize my own trapline, there was a lot of devastation and it is only an exploration site... after seeing this, I choose land over money. I was lost and was disoriented...”. There have been a lot of questions and concerns on the possible effects a mine and/or exploration activities will have on drinking water, fur bearing animals, fish, birds, berries and plants that are used for traditional medicine.

2. Effects to physical and cultural heritage

Please describe how the potential change, resulting from project effects to the environment, could result in changes to your community’s physical and cultural heritage (e.g. ceremonial sites, burial sites, cultural landscapes).

¹ The Summary of Issues is a list of issues raised in the Planning Phase prepared by the Committee, as per section 14(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*. This document provides the proponent with an understanding of issues and allows participants to see how their comments and concerns have been characterized.

Has there been a comprehensive study that relates to archaeological sites and maybe burial sites done in the immediate area of the Lithium Deposit, and yes, surroundings? Is there an alternative region where our local hunters and trappers will be able to secure, where they won't be disturbed by explosions, garbage dumping areas, and tailings, of the intended mining area? Is there enough land that is between the camps that can shelter the noise pollution that will be created by the Mining Project? Will the blueberries and other edible vegetation be affected by the residues of the Mining Processes and wind-borne agents that will obviously go where the winds will carry them. Water, will it be good to drink, in that lake, or in the nearby lakes? There needs to be more gathering of information in the traditional uses and significance of this area.

3. Effects to current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes

Please describe how any potential change, resulting from a project effect to the environment, could result in changes to your community's current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping).

Overall, any more damages done to our territories is cumulative to what was done by hydro development, where more productive land for harvesting purposes will obviously be altered for our present and future generations. The lands in question were traditionally used to hunt and trap, so what will happen to the animals there? What are if any alternatives, that the hunter can go, in exchange of the losses to be incurred by the mining of their traditional hunting and gathering territories? What will be the other psychological effects that will be affecting the people who have seen that land in its virgin state, and what will they do about the plans if they had some for that area? The effects are cumulative, so what is the reality of altering this land for the Ratt Family, and those who occasionally use it for traditional purposes, and if caribou were there in the past, to feed and migrate through. How long will this area not be suitable for traditional use? There are many other exploration companies in Eeyou Istchee Lands and this has a cumulative effect on the overall available land use for the Eeyou Way of Life.

4. Effects to structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance.

Please add any further detail, and please describe how the potential change, resulting from a project effect to the environment, could result in changes to your community's structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance (e.g. artifacts, important historic buildings or symbols).

Any change to our environment is cumulative, because a lot of land was flooded, and won't be the same, even if the dams get dismantled at some time in the distant future. If there are sacred sites in that area, maybe they will be destroyed permanently, and that cultural heritage may never become discovered, if it exists. The tracks of the ancestors are there, and any contact with them via historical means is sacred. It is the way of the Eeyou, where any land that has been inhabited by Our Nation's Peoples is sacred, how will that be addressed by the review committees?

5a. Effects to social conditions

Please describe how the Project could potentially affect social conditions that are important to your community.

Any changes will only compound what we see daily in our community, where people are not conscious of what they are going through, in their daily lives. It has been 50 years since the start of the Hydro Development, and anything more to come, will only pile on to the damage that was done to the People of Chisasibi, because they are some walking wounded each day. Even if a person has healed and is functional, the internal spirit is wounded, and this affects the realities of each day, where some lose hope, and don't know what is wrong with them. It is not far fetched to see someone hurt themselves or others, because their internal spirit is so far gone, that they don't really know why they do the things they do, so comes many social ills, drugs, alcohol, abuses of many kinds, suicide, murder, conjugal violence, lateral violence, family breakup, and so on and so on. Not everybody is for or against mining exploration, there are a lot of questions and concerns that still need to be

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answered. There is division on the pros and cons of exploration activities within the Ratt Family of trapline VC-07 (CH-39).

5b. Effects to health conditions

Please describe how the Project could potentially affect health conditions that are important to your community.

The real health conditions are already here, diabetes, mental illness, cancers, heart disease, obesity, rage, ADHD and other mental conditions, complications of diabetes, childhood conditions, Alzheimers/dementia, malnutrition, homelessness, and the list goes on and on. This is already here, and what may come because of the coming development? That we will find out, because human trafficking and illicit drug trafficking may also become more prevalent. Is there any arsenic stemming from the extraction of the spodumene? (question recently raised at a community meeting). Will this change the quality of the wild meat, berries, and drinking water? Will the potential mine have its own eco-system?

5c. Effects to economic conditions

Please describe how the Project could potentially affect economic conditions that are important to your community.

If our community were to accept this project, we would need to plan the economics of it all, and get on with a comprehensive Impact Benefit Agreement, where our people can become a part of this development. This does not happen overnight, so there is time to get our youth educated for the coming jobs, especially with the professionals needed, i.e. engineers, biologists, chemical engineers, etc.... We must be a part of any real estate development at the site, where we can become landlords and collectors of rents. Any stores, services, we can be a part of it all. We have inherent rights to the lands; it must be accounted for in any negotiation to how it will be used for economic benefits for all. How can we prepare for the potential economic spinoffs? Will there be training opportunities? How does the potential mine view economic reconciliation?

6. Impact to exercise of rights

Please describe if you expect the Project may impact your community's exercise of rights as protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, please describe how.

It is our inherent rights that will always be there, and our right to self government. If we were to have that in the true reality, the only way that it can happen is, if we can have our share of the taxes that will be collected from our lands resources. The JBNQA was signed "Under Duress," meaning, it was not given that justice for it to be reviewed in its entirety. Where it was obvious to some scholars, lawyers and most likely, the governments, that it was better to sign it, in order for the project to go ahead. But in reality, it was not really the intention of the governments to fulfill their obligations anyways, which was what happened. And pursuant to that, came the New Relationship Agreement, and the Paix des Braves, which ultimately, to some degree, fulfilled some of the obligations, in the original JBNQA. If the proponents want to follow the constitutional rights of the Eeyou, the laws of the land need to be adhered too without question. We need the real share of the past revenues that were had by hydro, the governments and others, when our lands were developed. We need economic justice.

7-8. Consultation and Engagement

Assuming a federal assessment is required for the Project; please provide information on the how you would like to be consulted by the Committee.

It is imperative that the committee comes to our community to hear in person, those who wish to become heard relating to this assessment, if it were to happen. Most are not comfortable with virtual sessions, zoom, and/or teams, in whichever way you would look into receiving our community's thoughts, concerns, and or comments, related to the said project. We are not against mining, we just need to have a fuller a picture of what this project would entail, and what could be the potential benefits, along with the effects on our environment, and those who depend on it, including our people of Chisasibi. It is therefore suggested that, there maybe be an in person consultation, with the group here, or maybe, both, in person, with some people virtual. We need to engage the Youth and Elders of the community. Arrange meetings at the school and send out invitations.

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If a federal assessment is required for the Project, please provide information on the how you would like the proponent to engage your community.

Engage as much as possible with our people via the existing mediums, such as radio, newspaper journal, meetings, and consultations, at the auditorium, the school and or at the youth centre. It is hard to communicate with our people, because, they are all different, but nevertheless, a lot of effort has to be made to communicate with them, to tell them what the project is about. Work with the youth, who are creative, to pass messages via the internet, tic toc, or whatever would be their choosing. As for the adults, it is radio and more radio, even the bush radio too, yes. Use every means at our disposal, we also need more time for proper consultation.

9. Additional considerations under the impact assessment process

Are there any additional issues, such as issues considered under the impact assessment process (i.e. gender based analysis, sustainability, Indigenous knowledge or Indigenous cultures) that you wish to note for the Committee's consideration?²

The realities of a growing vibrant community like Chisasibi is daunting. Because the cumulative effects and impacts of the Hydro Developments that have now existed for about 50 years are still very much felt, probably every single day in our community. The social issues, the housing shortage, the depressions, the hurting, intergenerational trauma, and the realities of our health in general, are hard to comprehend in what it is that is happening, and why. We are not a very healthy people, but people nevertheless have survived to be here, even with all the abuses that we had to go through since contact. We are a strong people, but we are also a vulnerable people, and I believe, that what you hear from our people, as it relates to the social fabric, healing, and ongoing survival, of us, the Eeyou, has to be heard, invested into, and really discovered. As it is how it is, we are still being put in a position, where we are not being listened too, or understood, in why we are so resistant to more development, since we haven't even recovered that much from past hydro and other developments. The governments and encroaching companies and corporations, just want our lands to develop and expropriate. We can just say yes and think it will be okay. NO NO NO, we need to become more healed and educated, where investments have to be made into our social safety nets. Our youth are lost, some of our elders are mistreated because of cultural loss, and erosion. We need help, and the developers have to invest into us too. Not just in jobs, but with programs to help us regain our Pride as Eeyou. We need to be real equal business partners. Mining and exploration is relatively new to Chisasibi but there has been a lot of environmental and social impacts from Hydro Development, Residential School and the move from Fort-George Island to our current community of Chisasibi. This community consultation process cannot be rushed and needs more time for careful thought. There are a lot of questions, concerns and comments that need to be considered and assessed.

Please provide your comments on the Summary of the Initial Project Description using the **Submit a Comment** button on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry **by March 16, 2025**. Thank you.

² The text of the *Impact Assessment Act* is available online: <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-69/royal-assent>
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