

Via email only

10 October 2023

Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister and Administrator of Chapter 23 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques de la Faune et des Parcs Marie-Guyart Building, 30th floor 675 René-Lévesque Blvd. E. Québec City, QC G1R 5V7

Re: Strange Lake Rare Earths Mining Project by Torngat Metals Ltd. Directive for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment N/Ref: 3215-14-020

Dear Ms. Lizotte:

As part of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure set out in Title II of the *Environment Quality Act*, the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) has analyzed the preliminary information sent by Maud Ablain of your department on May 23, 2023, concerning the project under consideration.

The Strange Lake Rare Earths Mine Project is located near Brisson Lake in Nunavik, some 235 km northeast of Schefferville, 325 km southeast of Kuujjuaq and 285 km southeast of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

The project mainly consists of an open pit, a tailings facility, a low-grade ore stockpile, a waste rock stockpile, a basin, an industrial area housing the ore concentrator plant and camp, an airstrip and a landfill. The proponent also plans to build a 160-km access road linking the mine to port facilities to the east, on the Labrador coast. An 18-km stretch of this route would be located in Quebec.

The deposit would be open-pit mined for 30 years. Between 160 and 200 million tonnes of ore would be extracted, an average of 5.7 to 6.7 million tonnes per year. Between 125,000 and 300,000 tonnes of concentrated rare earths oxides would be produced each year by the on-site concentrator facilities, which would have a processing capacity of between 16,000 and 20,000 tonnes of ore per day.

In accordance with Appendix 1 of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* and Appendix A of Title II of the *Environment Quality Act*, the Strange Lake Rare Earths Mining Project is subject to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure.

In accordance with Section 195 of the *Environment Quality Act*, you will find, enclosed, the KEQC's opinion on the scope and content of the environmental and social impact study to be prepared by the proponent.

Lastly, we are also informing the Naspaki Nation of the KEQC's decision, given that the project is located in its area of interest.

Cordially,

Pierre Philie Chairman

c.c.: Chief Theresa Chemaganish, Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach