



## Questions and answers regarding the expression of interest or RFI process, exempt resolution No. 907/2024, of the Mining Ministry

This document contains all the questions posed under the framework of the request for information (RFI) and their corresponding answers. The document is divided into different categories, based on the main topic of each question. The questions are in bold.

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### I. Participation in the RFI

- 1. I am writing to request information in relation to today’s announcement, through which foreign investors have been invited to participate in the National Lithium Strategy. I have not been able to find very much information in the media. Is this correct? Will you receive communications officially via this email address?**

The official portal for sending the information required to express interest is <https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>. Exempt Resolution No. 907/2024, of the Mining Ministry, which approves the RFI, contains the rules for this process and can be downloaded at: <https://tools.investchile.gob.cl/es/request-for-information-litio>. The email address [rfi@minmineria.cl](mailto:rfi@minmineria.cl) has been established to receive questions under the framework of this process. The deadline for sending questions ended on May 17, 2024. All questions and answers will be published.

- 2. In relation to articles 2.4.(d) and 2.5.(f) of the RFI, the results of the RFI will be published on July 9. Will this announcement be limited to indicating the number of interested parties and the areas that were subject to their expression of interest? Or can we expect additional information to be announced, in relation to which areas, salt flats, and/or projects will be prioritized?**

Section 2.4, on “RFI deadlines” indicates in point (d) that the results of the RFI process will be published on July 9, 2024. Meanwhile, section 4.2, on “Confidentiality”, indicates that the Mining Ministry will freely disseminate, and without limitations of any kind, the data related to expressions of interest in a statistical manner, without mentioning or identifying the participant or the project. The information that will be published will refer to the



number of expressions of interest received and the salt flats or other lithium deposits to which they are related. The prioritization of salt flats and other lithium deposits will be announced subsequently.

**3. Please could you provide the link that will direct me to the website where I can apply to the process and send the requested information?**

The link to the official portal for sending the required information for the expression of interest is <https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>.

**4. What is the maximum number of salt flats that can be requested by a company?**

In section 2.2.4 of the RFI, on “Other complementary information that the interested party wishes to include”, it is indicated that interested parties that wish to present two or more projects must submit an expression of interest for each project, which must be contained in separate forms. Similarly, it states that if more than one expression of interest is submitted, the interested party must indicate the order of priority of their projects. Consequently, there is no limit on the number of salt flats or other lithium deposits for which expressions of interest can be submitted.

**5. Could you indicate precisely where we can download the “Appendix 2” form in order to complete it?**

The information required in Appendix 2 for the expression of interest must be entered directly in the platform <https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>.

**6. The RFI guidance document states that Expressions of Interest must be entered into the electronic system, and the form of Appendix 2 will be available on your homepage. However, we have not yet found such an electronic form or system at [www.minmineria.cl](http://www.minmineria.cl). Is it under preparation or did I find the wrong link?**

See the answer to question No. 5.

**7. The RFI application should be submitted through the electronic system at <https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>. Prior to submission, should we create an account for registration and then submit the application documents after logging in?**

For the expression of interest, each interested party must register on the website <https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>, stating whether they are a company or a consortium, and entering the necessary information for each type of participation, as indicated by the portal. Once they have registered, the corresponding expressions of interest must be entered.

**8. On Wednesday was held the webinar for the RFI, in which we participated. I would like to know the way of getting the video and presentation.**

The presentation was sent to the email addresses provided by the individuals who participated in the webinar.

**9. What information must be submitted to justify a project?**



The interested party is expected to indicate the reasons that justify their interest, such as: geological potential, working hypothesis, existence of rights over mining concessions, among other variables.

**10. In the same section 2.2.2 a) it is stated that a project may contain 2 or more salt flats, it is understood that they must be in adjacent areas, right?**

In general, it is understood that a project composed of more than one salt flat must be justified by some type of advantage. For example, savings generated by the proximity of the two salt flats, an increase in mining resources or reserves that make a project feasible, etc. The interested party must explain the working hypothesis that justifies their project being composed of one or more salt flats.

**11. In section 2.2.2, paragraph b) requires an estimate of the time required and the estimated budget, given the uncertainty, could these data be expressed in an approximate range?**

The company, based on its mining experience, must do its best to characterize and quantify the project that it wishes to develop in the salt flat/deposit of interest. To do this, it may make assumptions and approximations, as it deems appropriate.

**12. If at this time the above expression of interest is not submitted by the June 17 deadline, is there a possibility of being able to participate in any future process?**

If a company does not participate in the RFI process, there is no restriction on participating in the processes of awarding special lithium operation contracts CEOL (Contrato Especial de Operación in Spanish) that are designed based on the information collected in the RFI process. However, it should be kept in mind that areas in which interest has been expressed will be prioritized based on this information for the awarding of future CEOLs.

**13. What kind of extra relevant information could be included to enhance the expression of interest?**

Any information that allows to better characterize the project will be valuable to understand the interest expressed. To identify those elements that are of interest for the development of the lithium industry in Chile, you can consult the text of the National Lithium Strategy [here](#).

**14. What is the rationale for prioritizing projects if more than one expression of interest is submitted?**

Based on their own criteria, each interested party must define the order of priority of their expressions of interest. Justification is not required.

**15. In the case of foreign exploration companies, are their financial statements or balance sheets presented in the country of origin or in Chile? How are they supported if they are presented from overseas?**

It is advisable for financial statements to be presented in accordance with Chilean regulations. For international companies that prepare financial statements in their country of origin, this information will be sufficient to substantiate their financial position. The documents must be in English or Spanish.



**16. What type of supporting information must be submitted in the expression of interest for an exploration project?**

See the answer to question No. 9.

**17. What basic geological information must be submitted for the specific area?**

The interested party must submit the basic information that it deems sufficient to justify its interest in the salt flat or deposit in which it is expressing interest.

**18. Which is the mechanism to upload the questions, before May 17th, 2024. It is by the website? Or to this e mail?**

The official channel for questions, which could be sent until May 17, 2024, is the email address [rfi@minmineria.cl](mailto:rfi@minmineria.cl).

**19. Can a consortium be composed of a company that is the owner of a mining property, a management company, and a company that designs and implements the exploration.**

For the purposes of expressing interest, consortiums can be structured according to your preferences. There are no specific requirements in this stage.

**20. Is it possible to express interest in developing projects in areas that are close to but outside the limits of the salt flats belonging to the Network of Protected Salt Flats established in Resolution No. 907?**

It is possible to express interest in any area of a salt flat or other lithium deposit that is not expressly excluded in the lists provided in Appendix No. 1 of Exempt Resolution No. 907/2024, of April 2024, of the Mining Ministry

**21. Indicate if after this RFI process more expression of interest processes may be opened. Indicate the deadlines and whether the characteristics or conditions will change.**

For the timebeing, no new RFIs are being considered.

**22. Clarify the scope of the term “other deposits”, which is included throughout Resolution No. 907.**

This expression of interest is not confined solely to salt flats or salt lakes. The interested parties may express interest in any area of Chilean territory (except for the areas specified in Appendix No. 1), in accordance with their working hypothesis.

**23. Specify which information must be submitted to justify the project.**

See the answer to question No. 9.

**24. Specify the level of detail that is expected to be included in the “general description of the potential project to be developed”.**



See the answer to question No. 9.

- 25. Clarify how to participate in the expression of interest process with regard to areas for which there is not sufficient information as of the present date to determine and declare the duration of a future project, or the necessary investments for the project.**

See the answers to questions No. 85 and No. 11.

- 26. What type of information must be incorporated and submitted in the expression of interest process for conceptual projects for which there are still not clear indications of the presence of lithium, and therefore there isn't any information regarding for example extraction methods or sub-products, etc.? This is due to the fact that such projects are in a very early conceptual phase.**

See the answers to questions No. 85 and No. 11.

- 27. Explain the criteria on which the order of priority of the projects submitted by the same company in the expression of interest process should be based.**

See the answer to question No. 14.

- 28. Indicate the protection measures that will be implemented by the State, both for confidential information and to ensure the protection of the intellectual property of the companies that participate in the expression of interest process (for example, ideas for the operation, possible areas, and new exploration concepts, among others, etc.). And especially with regard to point 2.2.2 on the information about the deposit of interest, the “justification of extraction or exploration projects and technologies to be used”, in addition to the information such as “background information which justifies” the expression of interest in a specific area or deposit.**

In accordance with the information provided in section 4.2 of the RFI, on “Confidentiality”, the Mining Ministry will disclose the information collected upon finalizing the process in a statistical manner only, without identify any participants or projects. Additionally, access to the information collected will be duly safeguarded through secure platforms. These platforms can only be accessed by a small number of State officials, who have the duty to maintain the confidentiality of all information provided to them or to which they have access in order to carry out their work. Non-compliance will entail the corresponding administrative and civil liabilities.

Likewise, in the event that a third party requires access to information provided by RFI participants, such request for access to information shall be notified to the person expressing interest, in accordance with the procedure established in Article 20 of Law No. 20,285. This party may object to the delivery of the aforementioned information, considering the potential effects that delivering such information may have on its rights. In this case, the Mining Ministry will be prohibited from providing the requested documentation or information.

The Mining Ministry will only be obligated to deliver information when this is ordered by and agency empowered to do so, its oversight bodies or the courts.



**29. How could I submit the letter of intent? At present, we have not been able to find it through public channels.**

See the answer to question No. 1.

**30. What penalties are applicable for disclosure of the information contained in the RFI?**

See the answer to question No. 28.

**31. In relation to point 1 above and point 4.1 of the “General aspects” section, it is stated that the fact that interested parties participate in the RFI process does not commit the Mining Ministry with the interested party in any area, and that the information provided does not guarantee any preferential right for interested parties or third parties for the awarding of a CEOL. Why is it indicated in point 2.5(d) of the “Communications” section that the ministry may make clarifications to the RFI to clarify the scope and interpretation to ensure that they don’t cause difficulties in the application? What application is being referred to if it is stated that this is only a process for receiving information to express interest in lithium deposits that may be subject to a CEOL?**

The term “application” should be understood to refer to an “expression of interest”. Additionally, please see the answer to question No. 114.

**32. Can you please explain the process of submitting information by e-mail and give us appropriate instructions on how to proceed?**

See the answer to question No. 1. It is emphasized that, in accordance with section 2.3 of the RFI, the channel for submitting the expression of interest will be the portal <https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>.

**33. What legal and contractual information on the relationship between Chilean and international companies must be included in the RFI?**

The information on the company and/or association of companies (whether this is a consortium, joint venture, or another form of association) is that indicated in section 2.2.1 of Exempt Resolution No. 907/2024, of the Mining Ministry, which approves the RFI.

**34. What are the criteria you that you will use to determine seriousness of the participants in the RFI? What criteria will you use to determine the CEOL mechanism allocation? E.g. Financing, technology, proposed work program, subsurface expertise, project development experience are all key criteria, do you have a defined way of ranking each of these aspects?**

In accordance with the rules of the RFI contained in Exempt Resolution No. 907, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In that regard, this question does not refer to such conditions.



**35. What is the reasoning behind providing a preference for each salt flat? Would the ranking of salt flats impact the potential award of a CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 14. It is emphasized that the RFI process is not a CEOL tender and awarding process.

**36. Proposals with new extraction technologies will ranking higher than conventional technology (evaporation ponds)?**

Given that the RFI process is not a CEOL tender and awarding process, there are no evaluation criteria regarding the type of extraction technology proposed.

**37. How will confidential information submitted in the RFI be protected? Are confidentiality agreements expected to be signed at any stage in the process?**

See the answer to question No. 28.

**38. In the case of companies with a foreign parent company, should the financial statements of both companies be presented or only the company in Chile?**

See the answer to question No. 15.

**39. How is the confidentiality of the information provided by each proponent ensured, considering that this process is not binding?**

See the answer to question No. 28.

**40. Are there any metrics for assessing each topic required in the RFI in order to rate the projects?**

The information submitted will not be assessed. Nevertheless, the information will be used to prioritize the salt flats that will be subject to future CEOL granting processes.

**41. How will you handle the information? How will you ensure the confidentiality of the data that is provided?**

See the answer to question No. 28.

**42. For the case of a consortium that is still in the process of being formed, is it possible to submit the information for one of the companies that is participating in the consortium together with a letter of intent from the remaining companies that will participate in the consortium?**

In the case of a consortium or potential consortium, the information on the companies that will form said consortium must be uploaded to the portal. In the case of a consortium in process of formation, a document must be attached that shows the will or intention to be part of such consortium



- 43. In the event that the participant is a subsidiary of a company and that subsidiary is in the process of being formed, is it possible to submit information on the parent company of the subsidiary being formed?**

Yes, it is possible.

- 44. To specify areas of interest, is it possible to consider an irregular polygon with several sides/vertices?**

Yes, it is possible.

- 45. In the event that a project is in the initial stage of development, is it possible to submit detailed information on the first stage of prospecting and exploration and general information on the subsequent stages?**

Yes, it is possible.

- 46. What is the parameter for selecting and distinguishing between different projects that respond to the RFI within the same salt flat?**

The RFI is not a process of tender nor awarding rights to carry out a lithium exploration, exploitation or beneficiation project, but a process of expression of interest. Therefore, in this process there will not be a selection among the different projects presented.

- 47. With regard to the balance sheet that must be submitted by the applicant company, and specifically the INVESTMENT that must support the project, is it possible to specify via an MOU or other binding agreement the company that will act as partner and investor in the project in the event that a CEOL is awarded, taking into account that the company responding to the RFI meets all other requirements indicated in the form?**

See the answer to question No. 42. The RFI is not a process of tender nor awarding rights to carry out a lithium exploration, exploitation or beneficiation project, but a process of expression of interest.

- 48. In the event that direct extraction technology is used, can a binding document with a company that will provide this service, committing to apply the agreed technology once the RFI is approved, be attached.**

See the answer to question No. 42. It is clarified that the RFI is not a process of tender nor awarding rights to carry out a lithium exploration, exploitation or beneficiation project, but a process of expression of interest.

- 49. What does the item “Identify the conditions needed to feasibly execute the project in Chile” refer to exactly?**

The interested party is expected to identify the conditions that are most convenient for the development of their project in the deposit that they are interested in, which increases the probability of the project being successful.

- 50. List, by way of example only, three or more feasibility variables that are expected to be addressed in the answer to the question on the form “Identify the conditions needed to feasibly execute the project in Chile”.**





Some variables could be: infrastructure required to the project implementation; access to relevant resources (such as energy or water), maximum costs that could be borne by the project, among others.

**51. When registering as a consortium, what is the modality for entering one or several projects? Creating companies separately and associating them with the consortium?**

If participating as a consortium, the interested party must register on the portal provided for the expression of interest (<https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>), indicating its status as a consortium. Once it has registered on the portal, it must enter the consortium's details, as well as the details of the companies that form part of it and their respective information. The portal will also enable one or more projects to be entered per consortium, and an order of priority to be established between them.

**52. On the platform, how is a project associated with a consortium or company?**

If the interested party registered as a consortium, on the portal provided for the expression of interest (<https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>), the projects that are entered will be automatically linked to said consortium.

**53. What mechanisms are in place to ensure the confidentiality of the information that is provided as part of this RFI process?**

See the answer to question No. 28.

**54. What type of administrative processes are necessary throughout the project's value chain? Indigenous consultation, signing of agreements, etc.**

Such aspects are referred to in subsequent stages following this RFI process, which could be consulted in Appendix No. 4. Nevertheless, subsequently to the CEOL obtention, and for the execution of the respective project, the corresponding permits must be obtained.

**55. When you mention added value in the lithium industry, are you referring solely to lithium products for the EV industry, or is the production of other added-value minerals that form part of the same process (magnesium, strontium, vanadium, etc.) also considered to be added value?**

In this context, added value is related to the upstream and downstream supply chain, not being restricted to EV industry.

**56. For projects developed by private companies, what participation model is the State considering?**

Notwithstanding the fact that the question refers to aspects that are not related to the conditions for participation in this RFI process, it is clarified that for the CEOL granting it won't be mandatory to partner with a State company.

**57. Exactly what information must be included in the item "Identify the conditions needed to feasibly execute the project in Chile"?**



See questions No. 49 and No. 50.

- 58. List, by way of example only, three or more feasibility variables that are expected to be addressed in the answer to the question on the form “Identify the conditions needed to feasibly execute the project in Chile”.**

See questions No. 49 and No. 50.

- 59. Can companies express interest in a deposit that is not on the list of salt flats published by the Government?**

Companies can express interest in all salt flats, salt lakes, or other lithium deposits that are not expressly excluded from the RFI process, according to the information contained in Appendix 1 of the RFI.

- 60. For projects developed by private companies, what participation model is the State considering?**

See the answer to question No. 56.

- 61. Can a CEOL be awarded in areas of the Atacama, Maricunga, or high Andean salt flats that are not included in the areas where CODELCO and ENAMI operate?**

As indicated in Appendix 1 of the RFI, the areas covered by the Atacama, Maricunga, and high Andean salt flats are fully excluded from the processes of awarding CEOLs to private companies.

- 62. When registering as a consortium, what is the modality for entering one or several projects? Creating companies separately and associating them with the consortium?**

If participating as a consortium, the interested party must register on the portal established for the expression of interest (<https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>), indicating its status as a consortium. After registering as a consortium, you must register the companies associated to that consortium, in the “companies” tab, and link those companies to the corresponding consortium. The latter will be indicated in the drop-down tabs. Finally, you must enter the project(s) to express interest in the project tab and prioritize each one of them.

- 63. On the platform, how is a project associated with a consortium or company?**

If the interested party registers as a consortium on the portal established for the expression of interest (<https://rfilitio.minmineria.cl/>), the projects that it enters will be automatically linked to said consortium. If the interested party registers as a company, the projects that it enters will be automatically linked to said company.

- 64. What parts of the RFI are confidential?**

See the answer to question No. 28.

- 65. How will the confidential information included in this RFI process be protected?**

See the answer to question No. 28.



**66. Is it necessary to submit a KMZ file or indicate the coordinates within the salt flats if does not cover the whole salt flat? What level of precision is required to define the limits of interest in that location**It is expected that

It is expected that KMZ files or coordinates containing the area of interest will be entered, particularly when the deposit does not coincide exactly with a salt flat or salt lake. If these are not available, it is sufficient to indicate the salt flat or salt lake of interest.

**67. In regards of number 2.1. of the list of required documents, related to the background information that justifies the deposit(s)-salt flat(s) or other type of deposit(s)- and area(s) of interest for exploration and extraction; how is it possible to submit such information if those salt flats are in public property and there are not any agreement or title under which those studies were carried (besides mining concessions located precisely over such area)?**

To know what information must be provided to justify the choice of the salt flat or lithium deposit in which the interest is expressed, see the answer to question No. 9.

**68. In regards of number 2.2 of the list of required documents, related to the potential project to be developed requesting estimated timeframes, investments, extractions methods and products and by-products expected, among others; how is it possible to submit such information if the RIF precisely calls for exploration or early-stage development, therefore, difficult to foresee if studies have not been carried out? Even though, once submitted, is it possible to amend them due to the course of such prospections and explorations results?**

See the answer to question No. 11.

**69. Concerning the salt flat “Llamará (No. 12)”, it is stated that it is partially protected, as it is in the national reserve “Pampa del Tamargual”, and the protection corresponds to 67%, so it is partially excluded from the RFI. Is there a public lay-out, KMZ or coordinates that evidences such protection? Are there environmental predefined repairing, compensation or mitigation measures established?**

The polygon of the referred partially protected area can be found in the following link:  
<https://patrimonio.bienes.cl/patrimonio/pampa-del-tamarugal/>.

**70. What is the scope of the term “other deposits” mentioned in Resolution No. 907?**

See the answer to question No. 22.

**71. In section 2.2.2 "Information about the deposits of interest" in paragraph a) it mentions the choice of the deposit of interest and the existing information that justifies the choice. At what level of detail is the required information required.**

Although there is not a predetermined standard on the level of detail of the information requested, all the information that allows to better characterize the project would be valuable to understand the expressed interest.



**72. What level of detail is expected in the “general description of the potential project to be developed”?**

See answer to question No. 71.

**73. What type of information must be submitted for conceptual projects where there are still not clear indications of the presence of lithium?**

See answer to question No. 71.

**74. How will the order of priority of the projects submitted by a single company in the expression of interest process be determined?**

See the answer to question No. 14.

**75. What results will be published upon concluding the RFI? Does this only involve identifying areas of interest or also awarding areas to participants in the process?**

See the answer to question No. 2. It is clarified that the RFI is not a process of tender nor awarding rights to carry out a lithium exploration, exploitation or beneficiation project, but a process of expression of interest.

**76. What measures will the State take to protect the confidential information and intellectual property of the companies that participate in the expression of interest process?**

See the answer to question No. 28.

**77. What does it mean that participation in the RFI does not commit the Mining Ministry with the interested party?**

It means that the information provided by the expressions of interest does not guarantee any preferential right to interested parties or third parties for the awarding of future special operation contracts. Nevertheless, the information gathered in the process will be used to define those salt flat or other lithium deposits that will be prioritized for the signing of CEOL's on them and to design the appropriate procedures for the awarding of these types of contracts to private parties.

**78. Can interest be expressed in any area outside of the total and partial exclusions of the saline systems defined in Appendix 1 of Resolution No. 907?**

Yes, interest can be expressed in all areas that have not been excluded, in accordance with the list provided in Appendix 1.

**79. Is it possible to express interest in developing projects in areas adjacent to but outside of the protect salt flats established in Resolution No. 907? Please confirm.**



See the answer to question No. 78.

- 80. Is sampling or mapping permitted in protected areas in order to collect information related to projects in non-protected areas? Please confirm and specify if there are any areas that are prohibited for this type of activities.**

Each interested party is responsible for analyzing and adhering to the rules that govern such areas for the purposes of assessing the feasibility of conducting sampling, research, or information collection activities in them.

- 81. Will there be future opportunities to express interest after this RFI process? Please indicate deadlines and possible changes in conditions.**

For the timebeing, no new RFI processes are being considered. See the answer to question 21.

- 82. After approving the RFIs, will the results be published on the Mining Ministry's website, and will the reasons why those that were NOT approved and were not selected be given? To have clarity regarding what was missing in the RFI submission.**

It is emphasized that the RFI process is not a CEOL tender and awarding process. With the information collected in said process, appropriate mechanisms will be designed for awarding CEOLs, and the areas that will be prioritized for the awarding of such contracts will be determined. The results will consist of the number of expressions of interest and the areas that were subject to these expressions of interest.

- 83. Will there be preference for the company that expressed interest in a deposit when defining the special lithium operation contracts (CEOL)?**

See the answer to question No. 114.

- 84. What is the situation for salt flats with protected areas? Can an RFI be issued, taking into account that the Mining Ministry did not publish the exact polygons of the protected areas and it is not certain which areas are not protected within those salt flats?**

Interest can be expressed in any salt flat or other lithium deposit outside of those that are excluded from this process. This is in accordance with Appendix 1 of Exempt Resolution No. 907, of April 2024, of the Mining Ministry, which approved the RFI. It is clarified that the objective of the RFI is not to tender and award CEOLs.

## **II. Information on salt flats or other lithium deposits**

- 85. Will the ministry, InvestChile, and/or the Lithium and Salt Flats Committee provide a data room or source of information for the interested parties in relation to the salt flats, salt lakes, or other areas of interest for lithium?**



You can visit the website <https://www.chileavanzaconlitio.cl>, where you will find the dropdown menu “Information available on saline systems in Chile”, with links to the National Catalog of Geological and Mining Information, the study of salt flats in the north of Chile and their lithium potential, the study of Andean and Pre-Andean salt flats in the Antofagasta and Atacama regions, studies on lithium by the National Geology and Mining Service SERNAGEOMIN (by its acronym in Spanish), and the SERNAGEOMIN library.

**86. What criteria will be used to select the salt flat or salt flats that the ministry will prioritize for CEOL processes?**

In accordance with the rules of the RFI contained in Exempt Resolution No. 907, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In that regard, this question does not refer to such conditions.

**87. Please could you to inform me about the limits and the area covered by the Atacama Salt Flat and Maricunga Salt Flat.**

The Atacama and Maricunga salt flats are not included among the salt flats for which interest can be expressed. For information that is available about salt flats, see the answer to question No. 85.

**88. In some areas we lack information and don't know how to find such information. For example, basic geologic information, national mining database, a qualified Chilean testing organization. The question I'd like to inquire about is, whether there are some published documented documentation that contain historical mining exploration works in the last 10-30 years? And where would be the best place to find?**

See the answer to question No. 85.

**89. Is the area of the Atacama Salt Flat which is defined as strategic specified and delimited, together with the total surface area of the salt flat?**

See the answer to question No. 87.

**90. Will the salt flats that contain a portion of their area designated as a park or reserve be subject to exploitation, or will they be designated as protected areas?**

It is clarified that the RFI is not a process of tender nor awarding rights to carry out a lithium exploration, exploitation or beneficiation project, but a process of expression of interest. Nevertheless, in accordance with Appendix 1 of the RFI, the surface area of the respective salt flat that is included within a protected area is excluded from the RFI process. Consequently, interest can be expressed regarding the surface area of the respective salt flat that is not contained within a protected area.

**91. Is the Carcote Salt Flat included within the Ascotán Salt Flat? If so, could we submit an application for the Ascotán Salt Flat?**



According to the information provided by the National Geology and Mining Service (SERNAGEOMIN), the Carcote and Ascotán salt flats are distinct units. Interest can be expressed in all salt flats, salt lakes, and other lithium deposits that are not expressly excluded from the RFI process, as indicated in Appendix 1 of the RFI.

- 92. Will all the salt flats that have been specified as areas of interest in the RFI process (provided that they are not excluded in accordance with section 1 of the RFI, obviously) be eligible to proceed for future tender, negotiation, or other processes that may culminate in the awarding of a CEOL?**

In accordance with the rules of the RFI contained in Exempt Resolution No. 907, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In that regard, this question does not refer to such conditions.

- 93. We understood that some salt flats will be excluded from this RFI process, as listed in Appendix 1. However, we cannot find any information regarding the salt flats that are INCLUDED in this RFI process. Do you have any plans to provide the list of salt flats subject to this RFI, along with information regarding their location, altitude, area, and chemical composition of the brine?**

In accordance with Appendix 1 of the RFI, the salt flats identified are fully or partially excluded from the RFI process. Consequently, you can express interest in all salt flats or other lithium deposits that are not excluded. However, for more information on the salt flats, you can consult the sources indicated in the answer to question No. 85.

- 94. If you do not provide any information, where could we obtain such necessary information to determine our interested salt flats?**

See the answer to question No. 85.

- 95. We have found a total of 69 salt systems and 41 excluded salt flats listed on <https://www.gob.cl/chileavanzaconlitio/>. Does this imply that the remaining 28 salt flats are subject to this RFI? And do you have information on the chemical composition of these 28 brines? If not, does it mean that applicants must personally inspect their interested salt flats and gather the necessary information, such as the chemical composition of brine?**

In accordance with Appendix 1 of the RFI, the salt flats identified are fully or partially excluded from the RFI process. Consequently, you can express interest in all salt flats or other lithium deposits that are not excluded. However, for more information on the salt flats, you can consult the sources indicated in the answer to question No. 85.

- 96. We need the list of Salt flats offered towards the process of RFI for Lithium projects for exploration, extraction and processing.**

In accordance with Appendix 1 of the RFI, the salt flats identified are fully or partially excluded from the RFI process. Consequently, you can express interest in all salt flats or other lithium deposits that are not excluded. However, for more information on the salt flats, you can consult the sources indicated in the answer to question No. 85.



- 97. According to the content of the RFI, it is mentioned that 63% of the area of the Surire Salt Flat is protected. Can we make an application for the remaining 27% [sic] of the area that is not protected?**

See the answer to question No. 90.

- 98. What is the official base, shape, or KMZ that will be taken as a reference to determine the limits of the salt flats, parks, aquifers, etc.?**

For information regarding salt systems, see the answer to question No. 85.

- 99. If the Network of Protected Salt Flats has not yet been created and the studies to create it have not been initiated, can an expression of interest be submitted if mining properties are owned in these areas?**

In accordance with section 1 of the RFI, on “Background”, the high Andean salt flats and salt lakes or geographic spaces within them are excluded from the RFI process, as the Council of Ministers for Sustainability and Climate Change has commissioned a study from the Ministry of the Environment in order to collect the necessary information to determine their protection. In Appendix 1 of the RFI, a list of said salt flats or salt lakes is provided. Consequently, these areas cannot be subject to an expression of interest under the framework of this RFI process.

- 100. Can sampling or mapping be carried out in protected areas, protected sites, salt flats or areas located within “protected percentages” in order to take samples to collect necessary information to conduct works in non-protected areas? Please confirm and specify if there are areas where conducting this type of information collection is expressly prohibited (to clarify, we are not referring to developing a project in a protected area, but rather to obtaining scientific information through harmless activities for better knowledge and development of the project authorized in a permitted area).**

See the answer to question No. 80.

- 101. Please clarify the scope of the term “other deposits”, which is included throughout Resolution No. 907.**

See the answer to question No. 22.

- 102. Please specify the level of demarcation and surface areas of the deposits of interest to be explored and extracted.**

The interested party must define the polygon of interest for its project.

- 103. Is there a schedule or deadlines provided by the Mining Ministry to define the lithium deposits for which the State will initiate the process of entering into special lithium operation contracts (CEOLs)? Please could you provide this information.**

See the answer to question No. 116.





- 104. Confirm if interest can be expressed in any area that is not within the total and partial exclusion areas for saline systems, defined in the two tables included in Appendix 1 of Resolution No. 907, which indicate, among other parameters, the name of the saline system and the corresponding size of the protected area for the effects of this process (in hectares) in the “Area SNGM ” column.**

Interest can indeed be expressed in all salt flats or other lithium deposits that are not excluded from the RFI process.

- 105. Could you please provide me with the list of Salt flats offered towards the process of RFI for Lithium projects for exploration, extraction and processing as the last date of consultation period ends tomorrow i.e. 17th May 2024.**

See the answer to question No. 85.

- 106. Could the geological information on new territorial areas provided in the RFI potentially be incorporated in the list of strategic territories to be excluded?**

The exclusion areas for this process are defined in Appendix 1. It is not contemplated to include more exclusion areas.

- 107. Will you make a data room available with the results of the RFI process?**

See the answer to question No. 2. Please take into consideration the information provided in section 4.2 on “Confidentiality” of Exempt Resolution No. 907/2024, of the Mining Ministry, which approves the RFI.

- 108. Can you provide the polygons for protected areas so we can be fully confident of the protected areas?**

See the answer to question No. 85.

- 109. Do you have geological maps and associated shapefiles at 1:100,000 scale across the Antofagasta, Atacama, Arica y Parinacota and Tarapaca provinces?**

For information on salt flats, see the answer to question No. 85.

- 110. The information about salt flats in Chile that we can access is very limited, we would like to know how we can obtain more information on projects of interest for more comprehensive research?**

See the answer to question No. 85.

- 111. When mentioning “...the areas that were subject to expressions of interest”, does this mean that the areas of specific interest will be indicated by name and/or location coordinates, or only that statistics will be published on total areas, and areas per region, province, or municipality?**

See the answer to question No. 2.



- 112. In relation to the exclusion of projects from this RFI, will there be a protection buffer area around them? Could projects border each other at a surface and underground level?**

See the answer to question No. 78.

- 113. Could you specify the level of demarcation and surface areas of the deposits of interest for exploration and extraction?**

For information on salt flats, see the answer to question No. 85.

### **III. Linkage of the RFI with future stages**

- 114. Will the call for applications to develop a CEOL be limited exclusively to investors who express an interest in this RFI process?**

To participate or not in the RFI does not restrict interested parties future participation in possible CEOL granting processes. To express interest does not guarantee to interested parties nor third parties any preferential right for the award of future special operation contracts. Nevertheless, the information collected in the process will be used to define those salt flats or other lithium deposits that will be prioritized for the conclusion of a CEOL that relates to them and to design the appropriate procedures to award this type of contract to private parties.

- 115. Could you specify the date on which the Mining Ministry intends to announce the lithium deposits selected to advance the process of awarding CEOLs? Will this announcement coincide with the results published on July 9? If not, could you provide a tentative date for this announcement?**

See the answer to question No. 2.

- 116. After completing the RFI process, and as detailed in Appendix 4, there will be subsequent stages that culminate in the conclusion of the CEOL with the selected party. Could you provide tentative dates for these stages?**

In accordance with the rules of the call to present expressions of interest, or RFI, contained in exempt resolution No. 907, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In this sense, the query does not refer to such conditions. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the authorities have publicly provided estimates for the conclusion of the CEOL to take place in late 2024 or early 2025. However, these estimates may change.

- 117. Are any additional stages beyond those described in Appendix 4 anticipated that would lead to the completion of the CEOL signing process? If so, could you detail these stages along with any relevant information and tentative dates?**



No additional general stages are expected to be added to those mentioned in Annex No. 4. Additionally, see the answer to question No. 116.

- 118. Could you describe the appraisal process for expressions of interest made as part of the RFI? Specifically, what criteria will have the most weight in determining which salt flats are prioritized for awarding CEOLs?**

See the answer to question No. 40.

- 119. Appendix 4 outlines that the Mining Ministry will select lithium deposits for special lithium operation contracts (CEOLs), with processes such as indigenous consultation to follow. Does an applicant who has applied for the selected deposits in this RFI have a guaranteed or privileged position in the subsequent CEOL negotiations? Alternatively, will the Mining Ministry use this RFI process solely for the selection of lithium deposits, and will the CEOL process be open to the public, such as through tender?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

- 120. If a company or natural person does not present an expression of interest while holding mining property constituted in a salt flat or part of a salt flat, will they lose their right to explore as established by the Mining Code?**

Rights granted by mining concessions, established in the Organic Constitutional Law on Mining Concessions and in the Mining Code, will not be affected by the RFI process.

- 121. How much time or what deadlines are estimated for awarding a CEOL after publication of the results of the RFI process?**

See the answer to question No. 116.

- 122. In the event that new areas of interest are discovered in the future that were not known at the time of the RFI, could you clarify what process or methodology must be followed to obtain a CEOL?**

In accordance with the rules of the call to present expressions of interest, or RFI, contained in exempt resolution No. 907, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In this sense, the query does not refer to such conditions.

- 123. Please state what happens if an expression of interest is submitted in a given area by only one interested party. Will the CEOL be processed for that single applicant?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

- 124. Indicate whether the Mining Ministry may not initiate the process of awarding a CEOL in areas where interest has been expressed during this process.**

See the answer to question No. 114.



- 125. Explain what results you intend to publish. Do they consist only of identifying areas of interest, or are the results considered to be the awarding of an area of interest to one of the participants in the RFI process, before proceeding to the CEOL process with said interested party?**

See the answer to question No. 2. The results will in no way refer to the awarding or tendering of a CEOL, as that is not the goal of the RFI process.

- 126. Clarify the meaning of the phrase “The fact that the interested parties participate in the RFI process does not commit the Mining Ministry with the interested party in any way”, established in Resolved First Content 4.1 Responsibilities of the participants in the RFI process.**

See the answer to question No. 114.

- 127. The process to conclude special lithium operation contracts (CEOLs) includes any preference regarding the interested party who has expressed interest in some area within this process or within the specific area on which the CEOL falls. What would happen if there was only one interested party, and if there were two or more interested parties?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

- 128. Indicate the mechanisms that are considered for identifying contractors who could qualify for a CEOL. In the event that there is no direct selection, will you consider inviting only those who expressed interest in the area during this process to participate in said process, or will it be open to third parties (for example, through an open tender)?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

- 129. Clarify what the ministry refers to with the phrase “This information does not guarantee any preferential right to the interested parties or third parties for the awarding of the aforementioned special operation contracts”, established in Resolved First Content 4.1 Responsibilities of the participants in the RFI process.**

See the answer to question No. 114.

- 130. Clarify whether, in the definition of lithium deposits for which special lithium operation contracts (CEOLs) will be concluded, there will be any preference for the company that expressed interest in said deposit.**

See the answer to question No. 114.

- 131. When determining the CEOL contractor, will the fact of having expressed interest in the area covered by the CEOL be taken into consideration, or will there be an open tender?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.



- 132. In Objectives 2.1, regarding the post-RFI stages in the CEOL allocation process, will there be a public tender or direct negotiations? What criteria concerning the information provided in the RFI will be taken into consideration and how, when defining whether the allocation is carried out one way or another?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

- 133. In the event that a tender is held, what aspects of the RFI would be considered when selecting the proponents of a potential tender?**

See the answer to question No. 114.

- 134. Given that the terms and conditions say that the RFI is not binding, and if direct negotiations are carried out, what is the position of a company that i) decides not to participate in the RFI, or ii) provides information that is insufficient in the eyes of the authorities?**

Although the RFI process is not binding, as stated in its terms and conditions, the information obtained will be used both to prioritize those fields for which CEOLs will be granted, as well as to design and choose the allocation mechanisms. .

- 135. How will a company that does not participate in the RFI be able to be selected for direct negotiations?**

In accordance with the rules of the call to present expressions of interest, or RFI, contained in exempt resolution No. 907, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In this sense, the query does not refer to such conditions.

- 136. Similarly, if a company does not provide information, or it is insufficient, will that company automatically be excluded from the successive processes indicated in Annex No. 4?**

See answer to question No. 114.

- 137. How does previous exploration work (geophysics and drilling) impact the chances of a company being awarded a CEOL? For instance, would you advise us to express interest in a salt flat if another company has already carried out a drilling program?**

To express interest, it is not required to have carried out a drilling or mine survey program. Regarding to CEOL conditions, see the answer to question No. 146.

- 138. Will having participated in this process be a prerequisite to participate in a future tender, or to enter into direct negotiations for a CEOL?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.



- 139. Is participation in the RFI mandatory to apply for a CEOL? What happens if the salt flat requested is not included in the salt flats that are selected? If there is more than one company interested in the same area, what will the criteria be for choosing the company that is awarded the CEOL in that area?**

We emphasize that the goal of the RFI process is not the tendering or awarding of a CEOL. See the answer to question No. 114.

- 140. How can you participate in the expression of interest process if you do not have enough information to determine the duration of investments in the project?**

See the answer to question No. 11.

- 141. Will there be any preference for interested parties who express interest in specific areas in the process of concluding special operation contracts? What happens if there is a single interested party or several interested parties?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

- 142. How long is it estimated that it will take to award a CEOL after the results of the RFI process are published?**

See the answer to question No. 116.

- 143. If new areas of interest are discovered after the RFI process, what procedure must be followed to obtain a CEOL?**

We clarify that the implementation of new RFI processes is not considered at this time.

- 144. Can the Mining Ministry decide not to start the process of awarding a CEOL in areas in which interest has been expressed?**

See the answer to question No. 114.

- 145. What will happen to the substances that are not lithium in the salt flat for which a company holds mining concessions but does not meet the requirements for this RFI? Will the company be compensated if they exploit the minerals subject to concession?**

In accordance with the rules of the call to present expressions of interest, or RFI, contained in exempt resolution No. 907, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In this sense, the query does not refer to such conditions.

Characteristics of future special lithium operation contracts (CEOLs)



## IV. Characteristics of future special Lithium Operation Contracts (CEOL)

- 146. Is it possible to know, in a general or detailed manner, the conditions of future special lithium operation contracts in economic terms, such as the payment of royalties, contributions to local communities, municipalities and the regional government, contributions to research and development and/or minimum percentage of shares in state companies, etc.?**

In accordance with the rules of the call to present expressions of interest, or RFI, contained in exempt resolution No. 907/2024, of the Mining Ministry, those interested in participating “may make inquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process”. In this sense, the query does not refer to such conditions. Nevertheless, we report that, at this stage, it is not possible to know the content of future CEOLs, nor the mechanisms, criteria, requirements and other specific aspects that will be used in each case for future contractor selection processes. The definitions of these aspects will be reported in due course.

- 147. Is it possible to know, in a general or detailed manner, the conditions of future special lithium operation contracts in operational terms, such as the establishment of lithium quotas, the duration of said contracts, etc.?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 148. Is it possible to know, in a general or detailed manner, whether future special lithium operation contracts will consider production volumes reserved for the State or value-added projects?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 149. It is possible to specify what type of development/product the ministry is seeking to promote in each of the salt flats? In other words, will investors be allowed to commercialize brine?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 150. Will the awarding of surface soil, in some form, in favour of the holder of a special operation contract or some other state support be part of the CEOLs?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Mining is currently working with the Ministry of National Assets on this issue.

- 151. How long will the CEOL effective period be for private investors?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 152. What is the royalty policy for new salt flat projects?**



See the answer to question No. 146.

**153. Is there any difference in terms of policy, government support, tax, etc. with the strategic salt flats run by CODELCO and ENAMI?**

See the answer to question No. 146. It should be noted that the interested party must inform of the feasibility conditions of the project in Chile, in accordance with paragraph 2.2.2 letter c) of the call for interest or RFI, which may include requirements related to the consultation.

**154. Is there any requirement for technology to be utilized to operate the proposed salt flats? For example, DLE technology, evaporation ponds, etc.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**155. Will the government assist in building infrastructure for projects located in remote areas that require it, such as paved roads, electricity, fresh water, etc.?**

Although the consultation is not the subject of this RFI process, it is clarified that the owner of each project must decide how to access the necessary supplies for the execution of the project. Nevertheless, according to paragraph 2.2.2 letter c) of the call for interest or RFI, the interested party must inform of the feasibility conditions of the project in Chile, which may include requirements related to the consultation.

**156. Excluding the strategic projects (Atacama and Maricunga), and the Pedernales and Altoandinos projects, can private capital independently take the lead in the exploitation of these 26 projects, without cooperating with the government or state-owned enterprises?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we clarify that private companies awarded future CEOLs will be able to lead their respective lithium projects, without being obliged to associate with a state company.

**157. During this RFI phase, is the CEOL that a private capital company can obtain for exploration or extraction? Additionally, does a private capital company that is authorized to receive a CEOL for exploration automatically receive a CEOL for extraction upon completion of exploration, or does the company need to reapply for an exploitation contract?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, the RFI process does not consist of the tendering or awarding of a CEOL, but rather provides the opportunity for private companies to express their interest in developing lithium projects in certain salt flats or other lithium deposits, areas that will be prioritized for awarding future CEOLs. Furthermore, the CEOL that is awarded to the respective contractor, according to processes designed for this purpose, will authorize the exploration and extraction of lithium.

**158. Is mineral extraction mandatory after the private capital company acquires a CEOL for extraction? Are there any restrictions or development conditions imposed after obtaining a CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 146.





- 159. Will the government establish the brine and lithium processing methodologies (evaporation, DLE or mixed) to be used in the selected salt flats, or will the companies themselves be in charge of proposing them?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 160. Clarify how the exploration and extraction stages will be regulated in the CEOLs that are awarded?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 161. In the case of a project in the exploration stage under a CEOL, how will extraction in said project proceed once the exploration results have been obtained?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, it is clarified that the awarded CEOL will give the right to explore and exploit lithium.

- 162. Do the CEOLs granted to a contractor also include the respective mining easement necessary for the development of the project?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Mining is working with the Ministry of National Assets on this point.

- 163. How will the duration of the CEOLs be defined?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 164. Is there a value that has been preestablished with the Ministry of National Assets for the purposes of compensation for the easements that will be required for the development of a project covered by a CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Mining is working with the Ministry of National Assets on this point.

- 165. Please indicate whether association between holders of different CEOLs will be allowed in order to develop projects more efficiently? For example, by using only one processing plant.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 166. Please indicate what the procedure will be for granting the quotas established by the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission (CCHEN) to be able to commercialize the products covered by the CEOL. What will be the opportunity to request it?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, it is informed that the Ministry of Mining is working with the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission on this point.



**167. Do you plan to grant more than one CEOL for a single salt flat?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**168. Will there be the opportunity to collect subsurface data ahead of the awarding of a CEOL? For example, surface samples, outcrop mapping, geophysical surveys, etc.**

It is the responsibility of each interested party to analyse the opportunity to carry out such activities, in compliance with the applicable rules.

**169. We realize that Chile's minerals basically have current mineral rights holders. Therefore, when we come to cooperate in the development of lithium resources, how will we distribute the benefits, including between ENAMI, the mineral rights holders and our company?**

The salt flats associated with ENAMI's Altoandinos project (Infieles, Aguilar, Grande and La Isla) are excluded from this RFI process. Nevertheless, regarding the salt flats that are not excluded, see the answer to question No. 146.

**170. For how long can a CEOL be signed for each mining company? How much capital should ENAMI have? Should the mining rights holder participate in the capital? Can our company's decision-making rights be protected?**

See the answer to question No. 169.

**171. Have regulations been developed for the obligations and rights of CEOL ownership?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we inform you that both the supreme decree that establishes the requirements and conditions of the respective CEOL, as well as the CEOL itself, will regulate the rights and obligations of the CEOL holder.

**172. Will a new company be formed with joint public and private shareholding for the ownership of a CEOL? What will be the shareholding of the public entity? Could a corporate structure be replaced by royalty payments to the State?**

See the answer to question No. 56.

**173. Will companies have time to carry out legal and technical due diligence on the target areas prior to the CEOL bidding process?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**174. Does the government plan to award more than one CEOL in the same salt flat to different companies that present projects in said salt flat?**



See the answer to question No. 146.

- 175. In the Llamara Salt Flat, located in the municipalities of María Elena and Pozo Almonte, according to geochemical analyses carried out, lithium occurs in clay. These clays contain substances subject to concession that are governed by the Mining Code. Regarding the above, does the RFI authorize the exploration and extraction of lithium for which the owner company must report the extraction of other pastes, or will these extracted pastes be governed by the Mining Code?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we clarify that the RFI process does not consist of the tendering and awarding of a CEOL. Furthermore, we clarify that the regime for the exploration and extraction of substances subject to concession is governed by the Constitutional Organic Law on Mining Concessions and the current Mining Code.

- 176. In the event that the RFI for a project that covers more than two salt flats is approved, how will the extraction quota be granted?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we clarify that the RFI process does not consist of the tendering and awarding of a CEOL.

- 177. Will the CEOL process be approved by the General Comptroller of the Republic?**

Yes, it has to be submitted to approval by the General Comptroller of the Republic.

- 178. In the context of the National Lithium Strategy announced by the president last year, special mention was made that exploration and extraction CEOLs would be awarded, and that those who have had an exploration CEOL would be given preference to request an extraction CEOL. Will this structure be maintained? The expression of interest by individuals involves the development of exploration work within a specific project, in order to determine its geological potential. The basis for this question also points to the greater speed in awarding an exploration CEOL, given that it has less impact on a given saline system.**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we inform you that it is expected that the CEOL will grant both the right to exploration and extraction of lithium substances.

- 179. What link exists between the awarding of a CEOL (exploration or extraction) and access to the surface soil where a specific project is located? Expressly indicate whether it will be the exclusive responsibility of the CEOL holder to obtain permits to access the project's surface soil.**

See the answer to question No. 146. Although the holder of the CEOL is responsible for obtaining the permits needed for the execution of his project, the Ministry of Mining is working with the Ministry of National Assets on this point.

- 180. When awarding an exploration CEOL, will an association with the State be required?**



See the answer to question No. 56. Nevertheless, we inform that it is estimated that the CEOL will grant both the right to explore and to exploit lithium substances.

- 181. What will be the maximum duration of an exploration CEOL? Can the absolute impossibility of having access to the surface soil of the lands where mining is intended to be carried out be attributed as an event of force majeure, despite the efforts of the CEOL holder?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we inform that it is estimated that the CEOL will grant both the right to explore and to exploit lithium substances.

- 182. Will there be direct payment obligations and minimum exploration expenses in the context of an exploration CEOL? Can these expenses, if there are any, be attributed to those costs incurred for permits and compensation to guarantee access to the project's surface soil?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we inform that it is estimated that the CEOL will grant the right both to explore and to exploit lithium substances.

- 183. Will there be any limitations on the use or publicity of the information collected as a result of exploration work in the context of a CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 184. Do pre-1979 concessions fall under the rules of the national lithium strategy?**

In accordance with the rules of the RFI, contained in the exempt resolution No. 907/2024 of the Mining Ministry, the interested parties may make enquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process. In this sense, the query does not refer to such conditions

- 185. In the event that alliances are generated with third parties for the production of lithium batteries in Chilean territory, will the State grant tax benefits, royalties or support to this type of initiatives?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 186. Will you be required to establish a company in Chile in order to apply to the process of awarding CEOLs or extraction permits?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 187. Will points be given for the community relations already established in the territory as part of the process for applying for and awarding CEOLs? If so, what criteria will be considered in this respect?**

See the answer to question No. 146.



**188. Please indicate the estimated dates for the process of awarding CEOLs.**

See the answer to question No. 116.

**189. What is the estimated time for the project to come into operation from the date that a CEOL is awarded?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**190. In the event that alliances are generated with third parties for the production of lithium batteries in Chilean territory, will the State grant tax benefits, royalties or support to this type of initiative?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**191. How many CEOLs or extraction permits can the same company apply for?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Additionally, it should be noted that the RFI process does not consist of the tendering and awarding of a CEOL. Nevertheless, for the purposes of expressing interest as part of the RFI process, there are no limits to the number of expressions of interest that can be made. However, and as indicated in section 2.2.4 of the call, in the event that an interested party makes more than one expression of interest, they must establish an order of priority between them.

**192. How many CEOLs or extraction permits can the same association or joint venture apply for?**

See the answer to question No. 191.

**193. How many CEOLs or extraction permits can be awarded to the same company?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**194. How many CEOLs or extraction permits can be awarded to the same association or joint venture?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**195. Can a company that owns mining concessions in different areas of the same salt flat be awarded more than one CEOL or lithium extraction permit in different areas of the same salt flat?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**196. Can a company that owns mining concessions in different areas of the same salt flat be awarded more than one CEOL or lithium extraction permit in different areas, and with different partners, investors or business partners?**

See the answer to question No. 146.



**197. Can a company be “awarded” a CEOL or extraction permit without being the owner of or having rights to the mining property?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, for the purposes of expressing interest as part of the RFI process, it is not necessary to have ownership or any other right over mining concessions.

**198. Do pre-1979 concessions fall under the rules of the national lithium strategy?**

See the answer to question No. 184.

**199. What incentives or support will the government provide to facilitate the investment and operation of the projects? Are there any tax benefits, subsidies or infrastructure supports planned?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**200. Is there a pre-established compensation value for the easements necessary for projects with CEOLs?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Mining is working with the Ministry of National Assets on this point.

**201. Will association be allowed between holders of different CEOLs to develop their projects more efficiently, such as sharing a processing plant?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**202. What will be the procedure for granting CCHEN quotas to commercialize products covered by the CEOL, and when can they be requested?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**203. Could you explain how the exploration and extraction stages will be regulated in the CEOLs?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**204. For a project in the exploration stage under a CEOL, what will be the procedure to start extraction once exploration has been completed?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, those aspects will be determined in the CEOL itself, which is going to give right to explore and exploit lithium substances.

**205. Will the CEOL awarded include the mining easement necessary for the development of the project?**

See the answer to question No. 146.



**206. How will the duration of CEOLs be determined?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**207. In the event of obtaining a CEOL, can the owner of the property be changed?**

See answer to question No. 146.

## **V. Eventual overlap of mining concessions with CEOL target area**

**208. Will each project be prioritized for awarding a CEOL on its own merit, or will mining rights holders be prioritized?**

The RFI process does not consist of the tendering and awarding of a CEOL, but rather an expression of interest process, according to the rules established in the exempt resolution N°907, of April 2024, of the Mining Ministry. Therefore, the query, because it is not referred to aspects needed to be solved to participate in this phase of the process, does not correspond to be solved in this instance.

Notwithstanding the above, it is informed that the mentioned aspects in the query are being considered for the definition of the CEOL clauses and allocation mechanisms. Such definitions are going to be opportunely communicated.

**209. Should companies be owners of the mining properties in the salt flat that is being applied for?**

It is not required to own any right over the mining concessions in the area to express interest. The RFI process is not a CEOL application and award process, but rather an expression of interest, in accordance with the rules established in exempt resolution No. 907, of April 2024, of the Ministry of Mining.

**210. What will be the procedure for, or how will the project be related to those lands that have a specific use or have been provided for a specific activity under decree?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**211. Can our client express interest in exploring only where they hold mining concessions?**

See the answer to question No. 209.

**212. It is entirely convenient for the Ministry of Mining to clarify and specify their criteria regarding possible collusion that could arise between mining-concession-holder rights (pre-1979 concessions), duly constituted in salt flats – and with activities fully in force –, and the possible claims of third parties that may express interest in executing a lithium production project in all or part of said areas. This being the case, and although, in our opinion, it is extremely evident that no company and/or consortium will want to invest and**



run the risk of entering into the legal contingency of affecting the rights of a current mining concession holder in the same territory, it seems to us that the following questions should be clarified as soon as possible by the State via your ministry. In the Ascotán and Surire salt flats (the latter, in the non-excluded area), considering our status as mining concession holders in practically the entire surface area, and, even more so, given that we maintain current mining and productive operations that are in full force there, will our company be given the priority to request a CEOL and to present, and eventually execute, a lithium production project?

See the answer to question No. 208.

**213. If this priority is not established as a guiding criterion, what is the mechanism that the State has established – or will establish – to avoid possible legal contingencies that may arise between our company and potential third parties interested in executing a lithium project there? (Question regarding the Ascotán and Surire salt flats).**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**214. Clarify the situation of areas of interest that overlap with third-party mining concessions for the exploration and extraction of other minerals, in the event that a CEOL is signed. (The above is relevant since brines usually contain not only lithium but also other concessional elements that may already be covered by a mining concession right).**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**215. What state guarantees would exist for the contractor who is awarded a CEOL in the face of oppositions that third parties with mining properties established after 1979 may raise?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**216. Can a company express an interest in a salt flat or other type of deposit that is covered by mining concessions, either totally or partially, constituted in accordance with the Mining Codes of 1932 and 1983, and that is the domain of third parties outside of the RFI? What criteria and regulations will be taken into account?**

See the answer to question No. 209.

**217. How do pre-existing exploration and exploitation (non-lithium) licenses impact the chances of gaining a CEOL? Is this something that we should take into account?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**218. If the CEOL is taken to a private negotiation with an interested party, would that interested party be the existing exploration and extraction license owner? Could it be a company without the mining concessions?**





See the answer to question No. 208.

**219. Do you need to have existing exploration and extraction licenses to be awarded a CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**220. If the salt flat is within an environmental protection zone and the mining rights holder now produces other minerals, how can we solve the problem of environmental protection in the extraction process?**

See the answer to question No. 90.

**221. How will the existence of mining concessions be harmonized in an area in which an expression of interest is presented? Will it be necessary to reach agreements with the concession holder during the tender phase?**

See the answers to questions No. 208 and 209.

**222. Will a CEOL provide exclusivity to the development in each salt flat? This would mean that CEOL owners and mining concession owners will be forced to negotiate with each other.**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**223. What is the treatment that will be given to the holders of mining property when there is an overlap of proposed areas in the same salt flat?**

See the answers to questions No. 208 and 209.

**224. What is the importance of the ownership of mining property in a certain area in considerations to advance in negotiations or tenders that lead towards the awarding of a potential CEOL, and in the actual awarding of it?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**225. Will the awarding of a CEOL be prioritized for a company that already has a geothermal extraction concession, previous to any other type of rights in the area, including mining rights?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**226. Will the State ensure the rights of lithium investors before the overlap of mining property rights, special operation contracts and surface property?**

See answer to question No. 207.

**227. Will a company that is interested in an area be eligible for a CEOL grant, even if it has no pre-existing rights in the same area of interest?**



See the answers to questions No. 208 and 209.

**228. When applying for an RFI, does being the owner of mining concessions provide a benefit at the time the government chooses an RFI?**

See the answer to question No. 209.

**229. If a CEOL is awarded to a company that is not a mining concession holder, what solution will the ministry provide by virtue of the right that the mining concession holder has to extract the other minerals found in the deposit?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**230. How will the coexistence of an exploration CEOL be resolved, where third-party mining concession holders coexist within the same perimeter of the CEOL? Will the perimeter of a CEOL be determined according to UTM or SIRGAS coordinates?**

See the answers to questions No. 146 and 208.

**231. What happens if a company holds exploration concessions but is not awarded the CEOL? What happens to those concessions, and what if a competitor is awarded them?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**232. How are protected the rights and interests of the owners of mining concessions located in those area? Are they going to be only ruled by article 16° of Law No. 18,097 and articles 7°, 8°, 9°, 11° and 12° of the Mining Code, or by other current applicable rules or is the State willing to acquire such mining concessions, or execute any kind of alliance or collaboration agreement with the owner of the tenements?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**233. Does the existence of mining concessions over the salt flats, strengthens the position of a bidder if it is the owner of the tenements (or has executed an option agreement over such mining concessions, in accordance with article 169° of the Mining Code)?**

Véase respuesta a pregunta N°208.

**234. What guarantees does the State offer to the contractor of a CEOL in case of opposition from third parties with post – 1979 mining rights?**

Véase respuesta a pregunta N°208.



**235. How will be managed the overlapping of interest areas and third-party mining concessions when a CEOL is awarded?**

See answer to question No. 208.

**236. Is the Ministry of Mining aware about what could happen if it makes the same mistake as Sernageomin, that is, if it authorizes companies or interested parties that do not have mining rights in salt flats with mining property? Does the Mining Code protect who first applied with mining property for land?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

**237. In clay salt flats where lithium is found, what will be the criteria of the Ministry of Mining, if lithium is just one of several minerals found in the salt flat?**

See the answer to question No. 208.

## **VI. Indigenous Consultation Process**

**238. Will CEOL authorization go through all process required, such as indigenous group consultation, etc.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**239. Is it necessary to carry out an indigenous consultation if a CEOL is to be obtained, in which cases is this process required and what are the steps to follow in order to carry it out effectively?**

Although the query refers to aspects that will be resolved in later stages of the CEOL granting process, it is reported that the need of indigenous consultation shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. This, according to the information collected for this purpose, in coordination with other State agencies, such as the National Corporation for Indigenous Development (Corporación Nacional de Desarrollo Indígena or CONADI). In this regard, the need of indigenous consultation will depend on the existence of indigenous communities likely to be directly affected by the measures contained in the supreme decree that sets the requirements and conditions of the respective CEOL, according to the rules of ILO Convention No. 169 and Decree No. 66, of November 2013, of the Ministry of Social Development that approves the regulations governing the procedure for indigenous consultation. When an indigenous consultation needs to be carried out, it must be done prior to the issuance of the supreme decree that sets the requirements and conditions of the respective CEOL. The process will be carried out by the Ministry of Mining.

**240. Will the State support the indigenous consultations in salt flats where there is public-private participation?**

See the answer to question No. 239. It is State responsibility to carry out the indigenous consultation.



- 241. Explain in which cases a CEOL will be subject to indigenous consultation. What administrative act will be subject to such process?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

- 242. Is indigenous consultation considered to take place prior to the execution of the CEOL? Is indigenous consultation considered once the supreme decree establishing the requirements and conditions of the respective special operating contract for the exploration, exploitation and benefit of lithium deposits has been issued? The results of the indigenous consultation and the commitments acquired in said consultation will be imposed to the holders that participate in a bidding or negotiation of the consulted CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 239. Additionally, it is noted that it is not mandatory to reach agreements in the indigenous consultation process. Notwithstanding, if agreements are reached in the framework of the aforementioned process, they are binding.

- 243. According to you records, could you say which salars would not require previous indigenous consultation?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

- 244. What are the specific restrictions imposed by the local community on the use of land, electricity and water for mining?**

See the answer to question No. 242.

- 245. When will the community participation begin? Can an agreement be reached to communicate with the community at the same time as ENAMI's exploration is taking place, and is it necessary to charge the community extra for the privilege of development?**

Regarding community participation and indigenous consultation, see the answer to question No. 239. The salt flats associated with ENAMI's Altoandinos project (Infieles, Grande, La Isla and Aguilar) are excluded from this RFI process.

- 246. Once the RFI is completed, the State is going to advance in the indigenous consultation in each area to award the CEOL? This will be carried out before or after the tender for the CEOL awarding?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

- 247. It says in the RFI that in some cases there could be an indigenous consultation, what is going to be the criteria to define which areas will require this process? What defines that the indigenous consultation is not required (distance, indigenous communities in the area, etc.)?**

See the answer to question No. 239.



**248. In the understanding that obtaining the RFI implies an indigenous consultation, will this replace or complement the indigenous consultation that will be carried out in the SEIA? What is the purpose of the indigenous consultation for the CEOL obtention? It is required indigenous consultation for the exploration CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 239. This is a consultation prior to the one that could be carried out within the Environmental Impact Assessment System (SEIA). Additionally, the RFI process is not a CEOL tendering and awarding process, however, it is clarified that the CEOLs awarded will give the right to explore and exploit lithium substances.

**249. If an agreement has already been reached with the communities, it will be required to make new agreements in this process?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**250. How many km are considered "influence area" to conduct indigenous consultation?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

**251. What are the parameters that define the susceptibility of being affected by a CEOL in order to determine the need to carry out an indigenous consultation?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

**252. In the development of the project there will be two indigenous consultations? One for the CEOL and another one within the SEIA? If so, what is the difference between them?**

See the answers to questions No. 239 and 248.

**253. What are the formal elements that you expect in relation to the communities in the lithium exploitation project?**

See the answer to question No 242.

**254. What specific weight will the government give to community relations, heritage and environmental care?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**255. What are the formal elements that you expect in relation to the communities in the lithium exploitation project?**

See the answer to question No. 242.



**256. What specific weight will be given by the State to the community relations, heritage and environmental care?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**257. What kind of administrative processes are required in the project's chain-value? Indigenous consultation, agreements, etc.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**258. How many km are considered "influence area" to conduct indigenous consultation?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

**259. What are the parameters that define the susceptibility of being affected by a CEOL in order to determine the need to carry out an indigenous consultation?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

**260. In the development of the project there will be two indigenous consultations? One for the CEOL and another one in the SEIA? If so, what is the difference between them?**

See the answer to question No. 239 and 248.

**261. In which cases will a CEOL be subject to indigenous consultation? Which administrative act or acts will be subject to this process?**

See the answer to question No. 239.

**262. How will the indigenous consultation be managed? It will be carried out before or after the supreme decree for the CEOL? The results of this process will be imposed to the participants in the CEOL tendering or negotiation?**

See the answers to questions No. 239 and 242.

## **VII. Design and characteristics of future CEOL allocation mechanisms**

**263. Do you have a file in which you can provide us with more extensive data on the mining properties that are currently included in the RFI?**

See answer to question No. 85.



**264. What are the main criteria and factors to evaluate bidders and how Mining ministry distribute these factors?**

See answer to question No. 146.

**265. What is the cost for bidders to win the deposit?**

See answer to question No. 146.

**266. What process will company go through after being selected as the winning bidder?**

See the answer to question N°146. See Appendix No. 4 for the steps following the RFI process.

**267. How long does aforementioned process take for company?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**268. In order to develop the new salares as proposed, what assistance will Chile government provide, such as CEOL authorization as mentioned in the press letter.**

See the answer to question No. 155.

**269. Does the Government of Chile have a time schedule for the lithium project? For example, how many CEOL contracts be issued within a few years, or the lithium project must be exploited from at least 20XX?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, regarding estimated time frames, see the answer to question No. 116.

**270. How does the Government of Chile define a project as having completed the exploration phase and proceeding to the resource extraction phase? At what level of exploration can be proceed to exploitation? Or is it up to the CEOL recipient to decide on their own?**

See the answer to question N°146. Nevertheless, it is noted that the determination of the activities to be carried out during each phase of the project, as well as their duration, will be defined in the respective CEOL.

**271. Will the Special Lithium Operating and Exploitation Contracts (CEOL) in a salar be awarded to a single company, or will multiple companies be able to participate in their joint exploitation?**

See answer to question N°146. Nevertheless, in principle there are no obstacles for a single company, consortium or joint venture to be part of the respective CEOL. This will be determined in the respective contractor selection process.



- 272. Considering that our mining concessions have concessionable resources of cobalt, potassium, copper and potentially commercial rare lands, besides of exploitable lithium, we make the following questions: I.- What process should we follow to obtain a CEOL that allows us to process this mineral?**

See the answer to question No. 146. We emphasize that the RFI process is not a CEOL tendering and awarding process.

- 273. Must the State be informed of the presence of non-concessionable substances found during exploration?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, see Article 9 of the Mining Code.

- 274. How will the process work in areas other than salt flats?**

Expression of interest can be made for all salt flats or other lithium deposits that are not excluded from the RFI process, according to Appendix No. 1. Nevertheless, for the purposes of this RFI, the expression of interest procedure is the same for salt flats as for other lithium deposits.

- 275. Concerning the Appendix N° 4, letter d) that outlines the following stages after the RFI, how is the contractor determined? Through public tender or direct negotiation? In case of direct negotiation, could it be carried out with any company or consortium, national or international, having or not participated in the RFI process? Or it will be required to have participated in the RFI with questions and interest manifestation?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

- 276. What will be the evaluation criteria of the extraction technology chosen for the RFI?**

See the answer to question No. 36.

- 277. How does the RFI process relates to the national lithium strategy in regard of the use of direct extraction and reinjection technologies? It is an imposition for the RFI?**

See the answer to question No. 36. Nevertheless, for the expression of interest it is not required to contemplate a particular type of technology.

- 278. In case of public tender of CEOLs, are you planning to charge an upfront fee as in the 2018 public tender?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 279. If we are awarded a CEOL, do we know what the commitment is? Will we need to execute a proposed development programme for example, to keep the CEOL?**





See the answer to question No. 146.

**280. When the RFI process is completed, it is required to wait for ENAMI to explore the relevant minerals mentioned in the project? How much time does the exploration process take?**

See the answers to questions No. 56, 146 and 169.

**281. Each CEOL will be tied to a particular Project / Salar? How will the LCE production and sales tonnages of the CEOL be determined or is unlimited?**

See the answer to question No. 46.

**282. What are the procedures if several investors bid on same salars? What are the criteria to select a winner?**

See the answer to question No. 146. We clarify that the RFI process is not a CEOL tendering and awarding process.

**283. How many salars will finally be awarded to investors? Is there a limit for quantity of salars to be exploited in Chile, or limit for quantity of lithium companies moving into exploitation stage?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**284. Once the initial RFI has been completed and the results are published by July 9. What is the timeframe for the CEOL licitation process?**

See the answer to question No. 116.

**285. Is the Ministry going to start direct and particular negotiations with each of the companies for the Salars? Or will a bidding process start in case one deposit is desired by more than one company?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

**286. If a project consists of two or more salt flats that are more than 500 kilometers apart, will the CEOL granted be for the exploitation of those salt flats, although they form a single project, or will the government select or divide the project by salt flats or areas?**

See the answer to question No. 10.

**287. Concerning the signing of the CEOL, indicate if there will be a specific mechanism/procedure of public contracting as, for instance, a public tender.**

See answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we clarify that based in the information gathered in the RFI process CEOL granting processes will be designed.



**288. CEOL's or permits will be granted through current government administrative mechanisms or is a legislative instance being considered?**

See the answer to question No 146.

**289. To apply for the CEOL awarding process, it will be required to prove assets through a Chilean bank?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**290. To apply for the CEOL or lithium exploitation permits award process, will it be required to establish a company in Chile?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**291. In the CEOL application and awarding process, will points be given for community relations already carried out in the territory? If so, what criteria will be considered in this score?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**292. What variables will be considered for the CEOL or lithium exploitation permit granting evaluation?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**293. What are the estimated dates of CEOL's or lithium exploitation permits granting process?**

See the answer to question No. 116.

**294. How many CEOL's or exploitation permits could be requested by a single company?**

See the answer to question No. 191.

**295. How many CEOL's or exploitation permits can be requested through an association or Joint Venture?**

See the answer to question No. 191.

**296. How many CEOL's or exploitation permits could be granted to one company?**

See the answer to question No 146.

**297. How many CEOL's or exploitation permits could be granted to one association or Joint Venture?**

See the answer to question No. 146.



**298. Can a company owner of mining concessions in different areas of the same salt flat be awarded with more than a CEOL or lithium exploitation permit in different areas of the same salt flat?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**299. Can a company owner of mining concessions in different areas of the same salt flat be awarded with more than a CEOL or lithium exploitation permit in different areas and with different partners, investors or commercial allies?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**300. Can a company be “awarded” a CEOL or extraction permit without being the owner of or having rights to the mining property?**

See the answer to question No. 197.

**301. Will there be any restrictions to economic groups for the monopolistic exploitation of one or more salt flats? If so, mention some examples.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**302. Mention some antitrust rules that will be applied in the CEOL or lithium exploitation permits awarding process in Chile.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**303. Mention the rules that will be applied to guarantee the proper geopolitical balances of the national and international actors, partners or not of Chile, to participate and award a CEOL or lithium exploitation permit in the Chilean lithium industry.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**304. Will lithium extraction/exploitation quotas be established in the same lithium deposit?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**305. Have you considered to establish special deadlines for the granting of exploration, exploitation, environmental, etc, permits to CEOL awardees? If so, indicate which ones.**

See the answers to questions No. 116 and 146.

**306. How many CEOL are expected to be awarded to private companies or associations or joint ventures between 2024 and 2025?**



See the answer to question No. 146.

- 307. What happens if I have a polymetallic project and I want to mine big quantities of potassium or magnesium, and the result leads to lithium production? Do I have any restriction on the amount of lithium I could produce, understanding that I do not have any volume extraction restriction for the rest of the minerals?**

Véase respuesta a pregunta N°146.

- 308. It is possible to apply for a CEOL that contemplates a mining operation with two kinds of processes, such as transformation through acid solutions on lithium clays contained in a polymetallic evaporitic sequence, and direct extraction of lithium in brines associated with a paleo-aquifer?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 309. CEOL's or permits will be granted through current government administrative mechanisms or is a legislative instance being considered?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 310. For the application to the CEOL granting process, ¿it will be required to prove assets through a Chilean bank?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 311. What variables will the CEOL granting evaluation consider?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 312. Will lithium extraction/exploitation quotas be established in the same lithium deposit?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 313. Will there be any restrictions to economic groups for the monopolistic exploitation of one or more salt flats? If so, mention some examples.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 314. Mention at least three antitrust rules that will apply in the CEOL awarding process in Chile.**

See the answer to question No. 146.

- 315. For awarding criteria, are competition and antitrust (national and international) to be considered (encouraging new market players) in such granting? Will prior experience in similar mining projects in Chile**



**(other than lithium) be prioritized? If two bidders aimed for the same salt flat, is it possible to create an instance of negotiation between the interested parties mediated by the State before the granting?**

See the answer to question No.146.

**316. When will the lithium deposits prioritization process for CEOL begin and end?**

See the answer to question No. 2.

**317. Is there a schedule to define the lithium deposits for the CEOL? If it's possible, provide details.**

See the answers to questions No. 2 and 116.

**318. Will the RFI be considered in the CEOL contractor selection, or will a public tender be held?**

See the answer to question No. 114 and 134.

**319. What will happen if there is only one interested party in a specific area? Will the CEOL be granted to that interested party?**

See the answers to questions No. 114 and 134.

## **VIII. Other Issues**

**320. We understand that Codelco aims to land partner for Maricunga lithium by next year, and we would like to know how to participate in this process to discuss with Codelco or their agent about the potential partnership.**

The Maricunga salt flat is excluded from this expression of interest process. In accordance with the rules of the RFI, contained in the exempt resolution No. 907/2024 of the Mining Ministry, the interested parties may make enquiries regarding the conditions of participation in this process. In this regard, the query does not refer to such conditions.

**321. How to express co-investment interest to Codelco and Enami? Should investor express interest in RFI?**

See the answers to questions No. 42, 134 and 320.

**322. How is water supplied? It is taken from water reservoirs or rivers? Have pipes been laid in each mine?**

Although the question is not matter of this RFI process, we clarify that the owner of each project must solve how to access the necessary supplies for the execution of the project. Nevertheless, in accordance with number 2.2.2 letter c) of the RFI, the interested party must inform the conditions needed to feasibly execute the project in Chile, which may include requirements related to the consultation.



**323. It is possible to use nearby communities electric resources? Will the access to medium voltage power lines along the route be allowed? What is the cost of the electricity for the mine?**

See the answer to question No. 322.

**324. If is not possible to access to electrical resources in the mine site, are there any place near the salt flat that would allow to invest in a solar or wind power plant?**

See the answer to question No. 322.

**325. Are there environmental conditions near the protected area that would allow the construction of a new a solar energy plant? What are the restrictions and safeguards regarding the environmental assessment, the community, land use, labor, etc.?**

See the answer to question No. 322.

**326. If we build a new power plant, the energy will be supplied to the community? It will be subject to community resources allocation?**

See the answer to question No. 322.

**327. Due railway restrictions in Chile, how do you ensure transportation? How do you coordinate with transportation unions and hire truck drivers? Is the labor relationship protected by law, and can you ensure compliance?**

See the answer to question No. 322.

**328. If investment in a power plant is required, will there be an integrated EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) process or will it have to be evaluated separately?**

Although the question is not subject of the RFI process, we clarify that it will be the responsibility of the respective CEOL holder to comply with Chilean current regulation regarding the environmental assessment of projects.

**329. Are there regulations developed that govern and describe the private-public structure and functioning?**

See the answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we clarify that future CEOL's granted to private companies will be for them to lead their respective lithium projects, without being forced to partner with a state-owned company.

**330. Are there regulations / procedures developed for the mechanism of awarding a CEOL?**

See the answer to question No. 146.



**331. Which public (state) entity (Codelco, Enami, ENAP or other) will become the partner in these projects?**

See answer to question No. 146. Nevertheless, we clarify that future CEOL's granted to private companies will be for them to lead their respective lithium projects, without being forced to partner with a state-owned company.

**332. What is the purpose of COCHILCO report? What recommendations are obtained from it? What aspects will be considered when issuing a favorable or unfavorable resolution?**

See the answer to question No. 146.

**333. Could a CEOL be granted in the area between Altoandinos salt flats?**

The area between the salt flats associated with ENAMI's Altonadinos project (Aguilar, Infieles, Grande and La Isla) will be part of the CEOL's polygon, whose subscription with ENAMI is currently being processed. Thus, they are excluded in their entirety from CEOL's granting processes to private companies.

**334. Concerning the salt flat "Infieles (No. 64)", it corresponds to a strategic salt flat within the framework of "Salares Alto Andinos" project, and consequently, it shall be led by ENAMI. In this regard, noting that it is a Public Resource Company:**

- This regime is frequently used in other countries where a joint venture ("JV") is required with the Public Resource Company with a non concessionable resource (as it occurs in other jurisdictions such as Pertronas in Malasya, Pertamina in Indonesia, or other Latin American jurisdictions such as Bolivia or Brazil, or African jurisdictions such as Egypt, Angolia, Lybia, among others)? Will be any of those jurisdictions used as a role model for these cases?
- If such is the case, is it possible to execute a production sharing contract (PSC)?
- If not, shall that JV be a non-incorporated or an incorporated structure?
- By led, this means that ENAMI will be the operator of the JV?
- May the host country by means of ENAMI directly oversee the management and control over the operations? Or it shall be the bidder? Or it shall be overseen by a committee or board with the representatives of both parties? If such is the case, are there restrictions or prohibitions to be appointed a member of such committee or board? Shall such board have a veto right over the work programs and/or budgets? Is there a predefined number, or determination of who will be the Chairman?
- Which are the pre-defined economic and political rights of the investor?
- Are there any predefined rules for cost recovery, production split, and obligations regarding the host country's share of production?
- Is there a minimum share of lithium revenue to be ensured to the host country?
- Are financing costs recoverable by the bidder?
- Who will be the owner of the facilities already built at the end of the contract,?
- In case of dispute resolution, they will be ruled by Chilean tribunals, local arbitration, or international dispute resolutions mechanisms? (Usually, private parties are unlikely to be able to challenge the government's action, nor the company's subsequent actions under the JV agreement). Which mechanism is offered to protect the investor?



We clarify that the salt flats associated with ENAMI's Altoandinos project (Aguilar, Infieles, Grande and La Isla) are excluded from this RFI process, in accordance with Appendix No. 1 of the exempt resolution No. 907, which approves the call for RFI. Likewise, we clarify that the execution of the CEOLs granted to private companies in those salt flats not excluded from the RFI process, according to the mechanisms to be defined in later stages, will be led by the respective CEOL holder or contractor, without being forced to associate with a State company. Finally, regarding the content of future CEOLs, see the answer to question No. 146.

**335. Concerning the salt flats “Incahuasi (No.30)”, “Laguna Verde (No. 52)”, “Lagunas bravas (No. 53)”, although they are not a strategic salt flats, please refer to the mentioned questions, if applicable.**

See the answers to questions No. 146 and 334.