

## ASSESSMENT OF THE 2017-2018 ACTION PLAN:

### FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEMYSTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT REVIEW PROCEDURE

#### 1) Ensure better integration of climate change into the review process

<p><b>Action 1.1:</b> Initiate an exploratory meeting between COMEX, COMEV, the JBACE and experts from the MDDELCC and Ouranos for the purpose of determining the steps in ensuring better integration of climate change into the environmental and social impact review of projects in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory.</p>	<p>Meeting held on May 9, 2017, between the chairperson of COMEX and Geneviève Moisan, the assistant deputy minister for the fight against climate change. Follow-up with Étienne Chabot, director of climate change programs at the climate change branch.</p> <p>Discussion with Robert Siron of Ouranos. Ouranos is interested in participating in COMEX's initiative. Follow-up is being carried out with his team.</p> <p>August 14, 2017: Preparatory meeting with the Ouranos team (RS, Stéphanie Bleau and Caroline Larrivée) and Suzann Méthot.</p> <p>October 12, 2017: Exploratory meeting between COMEX, COMEV and Ouranos. Further to the meeting, a work plan will be developed to follow up on issues.</p> <p>December 4, 2017: Meeting with Éric Thérooux, assistant deputy minister, MDDELCC, to inform him of COMEX's initiative and establish a working collaboration with the climate change branch. COMEX will keep him abreast of developments.</p>	<p>Action completed.</p>
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<p><b>Action 1.2:</b> Develop and adopt a systematic approach for considering climate change issues in the environmental and social impact review of projects in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory.</p>	<p>In support of COMEX’s initiative to ensure better integration of climate change into the project review process, COMEV issued the first-ever directives containing a paragraph dealing specifically with climate change. The directives were for the impact statement to be prepared by the proponent of the Windfall Lake Mine project.</p> <p>October 19, 2017: Meeting with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB). The CBHSSJB is interested in working more closely with COMEX to give consideration to the health impacts of projects and climate change.</p> <p>January 23, 2018: Meeting between Suzann Méthot and the deputy minister of energy and natural resources (MERN), Robert Keatings, accompanied by the associate deputy minister of energy and mines, Luce Asselin, and director general (mine management) Renée Garon. COMEX initiated a collaborative relationship with the Direction générale du développement de l’industrie minière with a view to incorporating MERN’s recent advancements on mining issues into COMEX’s project reviews.</p> <p>March 7, 2018: Suzann Méthot contacted Bruno Bussières (UQAT), the lead researcher for the report on climate change risks and vulnerabilities in the mining sector. Mr. Bussières agreed to work with COMEX on giving greater consideration to climate change in COMEX’s project reviews.</p> <p>March 27, 2018: COMEX organized a working meeting that brought together representatives of MERN, MDDELCC, COMEX and COMEV. Bruno Bussières and his colleagues were on hand to present the report on climate change risks and vulnerabilities in the mining sector commissioned by MERN.</p>	<p>Action completed.</p> <p>Work plan completed in December and shared with the JBACE.</p> <p>The work plan is being implemented.</p> <p><u>Results as at March 30, 2018:</u></p> <p>The work carried out in cooperation with MERN, UQAT, MDDELCC and Ouranos enabled COMEX to formulate specific questions on the consideration given to climate change in the design of two projects submitted to COMEX for review. Mindful of the fact that COMEX is raising the bar above the regulatory standards, that its questions will require businesses to develop new data and ways of doing things, that methods still need to be developed and data still need to be generated:</p>
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	<p>March 31, 2018: COMEX is already incorporating key elements from the report on climate change risks and vulnerabilities in the mining sector into its review of two mining projects: the Rose Lithium—Tantalum project and the BlackRock project. COMEX’s approach was validated by Bruno Bussières and his team as well as by Philippe Roy at Ouranos, and shared with MERN. COMEX proposed clear scenarios to be developed and used by proponents in designing their projects. The approach was debated within COMEX and pointed out by MERN as going beyond the current regulatory standards. COMEX believes that the proponents’ responses to its questions will help identify aspects that need to be worked on more in order to effectively integrate climate change into COMEX’s project reviews. This action will continue in 2018-2019, beginning with the finalization of a specific question providing a framework for integration of climate change, to be validated by researchers and other contributors and recommended in the context of the two mining projects the review of which will continue in 2018-2019.</p>	<p>Action to be continued in 2018-2019 by identifying new actions informed by the responses to the questions relating to climate change raised by COMEX during its current review of two mining projects.</p>
<p><b>Action 1.3:</b> Communicate, to all stakeholders, the measures to ensure better integration of climate change into the environmental and social impact review of projects in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory.</p>	<p>COMEX will begin informing others of its new approach when it reviews the first projects in respect of which specific recommendations for integrating climate change issues will be made public (as of May 2018). The recommendations will be formulated with input from MDDELCC, MERN, UQAT and Ouranos.</p>	<p>Action to be continued in 2018.</p>

**2) Demystify the environmental and social impact review procedure**

<p><b>Action 2.1:</b> Render an account of the timeframes for reviews over a period to be determined and, based on the results, identify and implement possible solutions that will make the overall review process more effective.</p>	<p>Documenting the time taken to review projects was generally helpful to COMEX as well as to the Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets nordiques et miniers et de l'évaluation environnementale stratégique, as it highlights steps in the review process that are long so that solutions can be found to undue delays at the different levels (Administrator, Direction, COMEX, proponent).</p>	<p>Action partially completed. The steps have been documented, but final conclusions have not yet been drawn.  To be completed in 2018-2019.</p>
<p><b>Action 2.2:</b> <b>Action initiated in 2016:</b> Identify outside communication channels that reach a large audience, including stakeholders, to spread news or important information about project reviews.</p>	<p>The matter was raised during a meeting of the JBACE committee charged with preparing a guide for proponents.  On November 20, 2017, COMEX gave a 4-hour workshop at the 2017 Québec Mines Congress, focusing on COMEX's expectations related to public consultations held by proponents and the committee's initiative to ensure better integration of climate change into the project review process. Roughly 30 experts and newcomers to the field participated in the workshop. They appreciated the workshop and the latter enabled COMEX to explain its specific expectations of proponents and answer the audience's questions on a wide range of interests. There were numerous questions about the procedure and organizational structure of the northern environmental and social protection regime. The congress provided the first-ever opportunity for participants to openly discuss issues with all of the COMEX members. The interest garnered during the congress shows that this kind of activity should be repeated and COMEX is forever on the lookout for new opportunities.</p>	<p>In progress.  Considering the successful outcomes of this action, it will be continued in 2018-2019.</p>

<p><b>Action 2.3: Action initiated in 2016:</b> Hold at least three COMEX meetings in the Cree territory each year, and initiate meetings with local interveners.</p>	<p>June 21-22, 2017: COMEX held its 354th meeting in Nemaska. The members visited the Eleonore Mine and KP-170.</p> <p>October 23-24, 2017: COMEX held its 358th meeting in Mistissini. The members visited the Renard Mine and met with the Mistissini Band Council.</p> <p>Although the goal was to hold three meetings in the territory, the funds available, the members' respective workloads, and the varying availability and opportunities for meeting with key interveners in the communities were such that COMEX could only hold two meetings in the territory this year, in Nemaska and Mistissini. The meetings nonetheless allowed COMEX to see first-hand the progress in two major mining projects operating in the territory, Goldcorp's Eleonore Mine and Stornoway's Renard Mine, as well as visit a Hydro-Québec structure in respect of which a significant amendment to the certificate of authorization was requested. The visits were also a public relations success in that, among other things, they enlightened the band councils regarding COMEX's mandate and the scope of its reviews and allowed COMEX to discuss problems encountered in project monitoring with the local communities and businesses and seek solutions together.</p> <p>The respective importance, role and mandate of the committees established pursuant to the JBNQA and the Paix des Braves agreement were also discussed with the local authorities that COMEX met with while in Mistissini in October 2017.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Action to be continued in 2018-2019.</p>
<p><b>Action 2.4: Action initiated in 2016:</b> Place advertising about COMEX in <i>The Nation</i> and <i>Le Jamésien</i>.</p>	<p>Ads in <i>The Nation</i> – June 2016 to May 2017  6 X ¼ page every 2 months  4 X ½ page over 12 months</p> <p>Ads in <i>Le Jamesien</i> – December 1, 2016 to September 15, 2017  4 X ¼ page  3 X ½ page</p> <p>No ads will be published in summer 2017. They will begin again in September 2017.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p><u>Planned for 2018:</u> Article on COMEX's achievements, particularly in relation to climate change.</p>

**3) Other actions provided for in the 2016-2017 Action Plan renewed and continued in 2017-2018**

<p><b>Action 3.1:</b> Continue working with the JBACE on its plan to prepare a framework document for proponents.</p>	<p>The first draft was reviewed for comments. Robert Joly sent COMEX's comments to the JBACE on June 19, 2017, as agreed between all of the contributors.</p>	<p>In progress. To be continued in 2018-2019.</p>
<p><b>Action 3.2:</b> Initiate meetings with the various bodies and committees created under Section 22 of the JBNQA and related agreements with the goal of developing a better understanding of the roles and mandates of all levels involved in the review process.</p>	<p>This action initiated in 2016 turned into a regular occurrence and is now part of the daily routine. The primary channels of communication are the JBACE and CQFB. Communication with the other committees, including COFEX, is on an as-needs basis.</p>	<p>Action completed. Relations with the other bodies and committees will continue on a regular basis.</p>
<p><b>Action 3.3:</b> With the JBACE and during sectoral meetings, raise the issue and consequences related to Cree terminology used during consultations, where the interpretation sometimes muddles the original meaning. Identify ways to develop or refine Cree terms used in the review process.</p>	<p>The JBACE has included this issue in the consultation guide being prepared for proponents. The CNG, in cooperation with COMEX, is enhancing a mining glossary (French-English-Cree). MERN sent COMEX the terms it has already translated (French-English).</p>	<p>In progress. To be continued in 2018-2019, beginning with a mining glossary being prepared by the CNG team.</p>
<p><b>Action 3.4:</b> Develop a protocol for the translation of COMEX documents.</p>	<p>COMEX's executive secretary drafted a description of the current in-house procedure. COMEX would consider developing a translation policy to ensure meaningful Cree participation in consultations and project monitoring.</p>	<p>Action to be continued in 2018-2019.</p>