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<b>DATE:</b>	June 2, 2016
<b>PLACE:</b>	Édifce Marie-Guyart Room 8B Québec
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Suzann Méthot, Chairperson, Québec Daniel Berrouard, Québec Robert Joly, Québec Brian Craik, CNG Paul John Murdoch, CNG
Executive Secretary:	Mélanie Chabot

**1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

One item was added to the agenda:

- COMEX article in *The Nation*

**2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 338TH TO 341ST MEETINGS**

The minutes of the 338th, 339th and 340th meetings were adopted as presented. The minutes of the 341st meeting were adopted with minor changes.

**3) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION (APPENDIX A)**

The secretariat just received a new file: a request to amend the certificate of authorization to allow construction of a spur dike and stabilization of a slope at the weir at KP 170 on Rupert River. The request will be included in the list of correspondence for the next meeting.

**4) FOREST ROAD L-209 PROJECT, BARRETTE-CHAPAIS**

- a) Document containing questions and comments
  - *For discussion*

WHEREAS the members are satisfied with the questions and comments as formulated in the document;

WHEREAS another question was raised about the road's long-term impacts on caribou and the members wondered whether it would be possible to model the long-term impacts, it would be worthwhile asking the researchers to model the following scenarios to determine their respective impacts on caribou:

1. continuation of forestry operations without L-209;
2. construction of L-209.

The modelling should take into account current habitat disturbances and the planned mitigation measures;

CONSEQUENTLY, it was agreed that the Cree members would consider the possibility of asking the proponent to conduct the modelling and will submit a draft question at the next COMEX meeting.

**Action:** After discussing the matter and if the members so decide, include the question on modelling in the document containing the Committee's questions and comments

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WHEREAS the Québec government released its action plan for woodland caribou habitat management on April 5;

WHEREAS the members would like information on the substance of short-term measures because it could guide their review of L-209;

CONSEQUENTLY, it was agreed to mention in the cover letter for the questions and comments that COMEX must have more details regarding the measures to be taken in the short term.

**Action:** Mention this in the cover letter to the Provincial Administrator

b) Discussion about carbon stocks

WHEREAS the wording of the question about carbon stocks was validated by the researcher, Michelle Garneau;

CONSEQUENTLY, it was agreed to go ahead with Question 49:

« Selon Garneau et van Bellen (2016), la masse de carbone accumulée dans les tourbières est neuf fois plus élevée que celle qu'on trouve dans les sols des forêts. Cette étude démontre l'importance des tourbières pour la séquestration du carbone et l'atténuation des émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Le changement d'utilisation du sol, s'il n'est pas planifié judicieusement, pourrait entraîner un relâchement de ce carbone vers l'atmosphère.

**QC 49.** À partir de l'étude de Garneau et van Bellen (2016), le promoteur évaluera la quantité de carbone actuellement stockée dans les tourbières identifiées au point QC 48 et indiquera ce que ce stock représente en termes d'émission annuelle en équivalent de CO<sub>2</sub>. Le promoteur devra préciser le volume de carbone stocké qui sera affecté par le projet et le cas échéant, il devra proposer des méthodes de gestion de la tourbe pour éviter ou minimiser la perte du carbone stocké dans ces sols. »

[TRANSLATION]

"According to Garneau and van Bellen (2016), carbon accumulation in peatlands is nine times higher than in forest soil. This study shows the importance of peatlands for carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission mitigation. If not planned wisely, a change in land use could result in the release of carbon into the atmosphere.

**QC 49.** Based on the study by Garneau and van Bellen (2016), the proponent must estimate the amount of carbon currently stored in the peatlands identified in QC 48 and what it represents in annual CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions. The proponent must indicate the amount of stored carbon that will be affected by the project and, if applicable, propose management methods to prevent or minimize the release of carbon from peatlands."

**5) SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE IN WASWANAPI**

a) The answers to the Committee's questions were received on April 18, 2016

- *For recommendation*

Deferred to the next meeting.

**6) ELEONORE MINING PROJECT**

- a) Proponent's responses to questions and comments on the lake sturgeon monitoring program
  - *For recommendation*

WHEREAS due to logistical problems, the proponent decided not to track lake sturgeon using telemetry, as initially planned;

WHEREAS in place of telemetry tracking of lake sturgeon, an ecotoxicological monitoring study of metal concentrations in the gonads of lake sturgeon will be conducted in addition to the fish flesh and liver monitoring already planned in the comprehensive monitoring program;

WHEREAS given the value of lake sturgeon and the fact that this is the northern limit of the species' range, it is crucial that a minimum of monitoring be maintained in order to ensure the population is healthy;

WHEREAS the Cree family that will be participating in the study has already participated in a very similar study with Hydro-Québec;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

*#2016-0602-01: to recommend that the Administrator approve the requested change to the lake sturgeon monitoring program.*

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: recommendation to approve the change

**7) ROUTE 167 NORTH EXTENSION PROJECT, MTQ**

- a) Letter from the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC)
  - *For discussion*

WHEREAS the HFTCC's letter got the members thinking about COMEX's need be clearer with the proponent about its expectations regarding the principles that should underpin its consultations and the information to be included in the consultation report.

CONSEQUENTLY, it was agreed to draft a preliminary document on COMEX's expectations with regard to the proponent's consultations.

**Action:** Draft the document concerning COMEX's expectations with regard to consultations

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N.B. COMEX knows that the JBACE debates this type of issue. Perhaps the two committees could share their ideas with each other.

WHEREAS COMEX has not finished going over the proponent's responses to its questions and comments on the fish habitat compensation program;

WHEREAS COMEX sent an email to HFTCC on May 30, 2016 informing it that COMEX would be discussing this project at one of its coming meetings and that it would take the HFTCC's concerns into consideration during its review;

CONSEQUENTLY, it was agreed to finish reviewing the file before sending the HFTCC an official reply.

**8) EASTMAIN-1-A/RUPERT PROJECT, HYDRO-QUÉBEC**

- a) Letter providing an update on management of spring flow release structures in the Lemare and Nemiscau rivers
  - *For information*

WHEREAS the spring flow release structures in the Lemare and Nemiscau rivers were opened around May 6, 2016 and the technical document setting a date for opening them in spring is supposed to be finalized soon with a view to amending the certificate of authorization;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX takes note of the information sent to it.

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: COMEX takes note and is waiting to receive the technical document setting a date for opening the release structures

- b) 2015 master plan for redevelopment of affected sites
  - *For recommendation*

WHEREAS Hydro-Québec asked that the review of the planned construction of a permanent residence on part of the Eastmain camp be put on hold;

WHEREAS, generally speaking, the planned redevelopment work in 2016 corresponds to what was authorized in previous years and adequately meets conditions 2.7 and 2.8 of the certificate of authorization;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX decided:

*#2015-0602-02: to recommend that the certificate of authorization be amended to allow the redevelopment work on affected sites in 2016, except for construction of the permanent residence.*

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: amend the CA

- c) Monitoring of Cree health determinants
  - *For information*

WHEREAS COMEX has no comments to make;

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: no comments

- d) Follow-up program on Cree land use, 2012-2013
  - *For information*

WHEREAS COMEX has no comments to make other than to highlight the extent of the work carried out by the proponent;

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: no comments

**9) LANGLOIS MINE PROJECT, NYRSTAR**

- a) Environmental monitoring of surface water, sediment and fish population status, 2015
  - *For information*

WHEREAS the COMEX members would like the monitoring to continue so as to have an indicator of environment quality over the long term;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX has no comments on this monitoring.

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: no comments

**10) RENARD DIAMOND PROJECT, STORNOWAY DIAMONDS**

- a) Additional information – wetland compensation plan
  - *For information*

WHEREAS COMEX is waiting to receive the proponent's responses to the questions and comments it sent over a year ago concerning the wetland compensation plan;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX takes note of the information brought to its attention and is still waiting for the proponent to officially submit its responses.

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: COMEX takes note and is waiting for the proponent to officially submit its responses

**11) WHABOUCHI PROJECT, NEMASKA LITHIUM INC.**

a) Additional information – wetland compensation plan

- *For information*

WHEREAS Nemaska Lithium will be preparing a proper compensation plan in accordance with condition 12 of the CA issued for the Whabouchi project and the plan should be submitted on September 8, 2016;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX takes note of the information brought to its attention and is still waiting for the official compensation plan to be submitted before taking a position on it.

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: COMEX takes note and is waiting to receive the official compensation plan

b) Conditions 14 and 16

- *For information*

Condition 14:

WHEREAS COMEX is aware of the steps being taken by Nemaska Lithium in respect of the fish habitat compensation plan and it is unlikely that the company would be able to submit a complete and proper plan at this time, because it will likely need to conduct field surveys and validate information in order to plan enhancements that meet both federal and Québec requirements;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX decided:

*#2015-0602-03: to recommend that the wording of condition 14 be changed to read as follows:*

*"The proponent must submit an updated fish habitat compensation plan to the Administrator on October 1, 2016, for approval. The plan must take into account all fish habitat losses and be developed in consultation with experts at the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. The compensation plan must also take into account the needs and concerns of Cree land users."*

Condition 16:

WHEREAS the proponent demonstrated that, in this case, composting was not a suitable waste management method;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX decided that:

*#2015-0602-04: Condition 16 of the certificate of authorization is met.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator:**

- Condition 14: amend the CA with a condition
- Condition 16: met

- c) Request to amend the CA to allow training in drilling, blasting and milling
- For recommendation

WHEREAS the request seeks an amendment to the comprehensive certificate of authorization to allow training in drilling, blasting and milling. For the purposes of the training, Nemaska Lithium plans to conduct bulk sampling of 60 000 tonnes (t) of ore solely in the pit already authorized in the current CA. In addition, it purchased a portable, modular mill to enable preliminary milling of the extracted ore on the planned mine site, again within areas already authorized and at significantly lower rates than those authorized;

WHEREAS the first cohort for drilling and blasting training is expected in fall 2016 and spring 2017. A second cohort may be necessary in spring 2017 if either the Crees or training centres express the need;

WHEREAS there are no major issues or additional impacts involved, but the local population will begin to feel some impacts from the project during Phase I, COMEX would like to remind Nemaska Lithium that the commitments it made during the review of the Whabouchi project as well as all of the mining conditions set out in the comprehensive CA apply to Phase I of the project;

WHEREAS in COMEX's view, the proponent needs to take stock of conditions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 19 of the comprehensive CA because it will have to adopt transitional measures for Phase 1 activities until mining operations officially begin;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX decided:

#2015-0602-05: to recommend that the amendment to the certificate of authorization be approved on the following condition:

**CONDITION 1.**

*« Le promoteur déposera à l'Administrateur, pour information, 1 mois avant le début de la phase I, un document faisant état de l'avancement des actions, des documents ou toutes autres étapes contenues dans sa démarche pour répondre aux conditions 7 à 11 et 17 à 19 du certificat d'autorisation global. Si des suivis étaient prévus à ces conditions, il devra décrire les mesures de suivi transitoire prévues à la phase I du projet et ce, jusqu'au démarrage officiel de l'exploitation. »*

**[TRANSLATION]**

*"One month before Phase 1 begins, the proponent must submit to the Administrator, for information purposes, a progress report on actions, documents or any other stages in the process to satisfy conditions 7 to 11 and 17 to 19 of the comprehensive certificate of authorization. Should those conditions require follow-up/monitoring, the proponent must*



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*describe the planned transitional follow-up/monitoring measures in Phase I of the project, until mining operations officially begin.”*

N.B. Under no circumstances does this transitional condition replace the conditions set out in the CA; rather, it is a request for a progress report to ensure an adequate framework for Phase 1 activities. Nemaska Lithium must satisfy conditions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 19 in a timely manner.

**Action:** Write to the Provincial Administrator: authorize the amendment to the CA with a condition

**12) LETTER FROM CHIEF HAPPYJACK**

WHEREAS on April 21 last, COMEX received a letter from Chief Marcel Happyjack of the Waswanipi Cree First Nation requesting to meet with Suzann Méthot to discuss COMEX’s review report on forest roads “H - Section West” and “I”;

WHEREAS COMEX’s review report was released on May 4, 2016 and is being translated into English;

CONSEQUENTLY, as soon as the English version of the report is available, Ms. Méthot will send a copy to Chief Happyjack.

**Action:** Write to Chief Happyjack: send him the report in English

**13) CUMULATIVE IMPACTS MAPPING**

A summary table of all past and current mining projects in the James Bay region is being prepared.

**14) ANNUAL REPORT**

The annual report was adopted with a few minor changes.

**Action:** Send the final annual report to the provincial and regional administrators

**15) OTHER BUSINESS**

From now on, COMEX will have a quarter-page in *The Nation* every two months, plus four half-pages during the year so that it can inform the James Bay communities about its work, promote its website, public participation, hearings, etc.

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**16) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on June 22, in the afternoon, in the conference room at John Paul Murdoch's office.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up action: April 28 to May 25, 2016**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
<b>Project to continue upgrading and maintaining the Eastmain road, MTQ 3214-05-012</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Philippe Lemire MTQ	Certificate of authorization	cc: May 9, 2016	-	-
<b>Construction of forest access roads “H - Section West” and “I”, Matériaux Blanchet 3214-05-075</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Roch Plusquellec Matériaux Blanchet	Certificate of authorization	cc: May 2, 2016	-	-
<b>Route 167 North Extension Project, MTQ 3214-05-77</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Responses to COMEX’s questions and comments – fish habitat compensation program	Received: April 28, 2016	Transmission error : document should have been transmitted on September 30, 2015	<i>for information</i>
<b>Eastmain-1-A/ Rupert hydroelectric development project, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-17</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Letter providing an update on management of spring flow release structures in the Lemare and Nemiscau rivers	Received: May 16, 2016	Opening scheduled for May 6, 2016	<i>for information</i>
<b>Troilus Mine, First Quantum Minerals Ltd. 3214-14-025</b>	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Request to amend conditions of the certificate of authorization – planned establishment of a holding pond at discharge point PR-5 and 6 and relocation of PR-7	Received: May 25, 2016	-	<i>for recommendation</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Request to amend conditions of the certificate of authorization	Received: May 25, 2016	-	<i>for recommendation</i>
<b>Langlois mining project, Nyrstar 3214-14-026</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Environmental monitoring of surface water, sediment and fish population status, 2015	Received: April 28, 2016	-	<i>for information</i>
<b>Renard Diamond Project, Diamants Stornoway 3214-14-041</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Boucher Stornoway	Amendment of the CA – development of processed kimberlite containment area	Received: April 27, 2016	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information – wetland compensation plan	Received: May 11, 2016	Same additional information as for Whabouchi  In response to condition 2.1 of the CA and the amendment of June 9, 2014	<i>for recommendation regarding the amendment to the CA</i>
<b>Whabouchi Project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. 3214-14-052</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information – wetland compensation plan	Received: May 11, 2016	Same additional information as for Whabouchi  In response to condition 12 of the CA	<i>For a recommendation on the amendment to the CA</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Follow-up on conditions 14 and 16 of the comprehensive CA	Received: May 24, 2016	-	<i>for approval</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Amendment of the CA - Phase I of the project: training in drilling, blasting and milling in Nemaska, Nemaska Lithium	Received: May 24, 2016	-	<i>for recommendation</i>