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DATE:	July 20, 2016
PLACE:	407 McGill St. Suite 410 Montréal
PRESENT:	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

Two items were added to the agenda under “Other business”:

- JBACE workshop on cumulative effects
- Directives follow-up structure

2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 343RD MEETING

The minutes of the 343rd meeting were adopted as presented.

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

Correspondence received and sent between June 15 and July 13, 2016 is listed in Appendix A.

4) FOREST ROAD L-209, BARRETTE-CHAPAIS

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

WHEREAS the members went over and are satisfied with the revised questions and comments document incorporating elements of the report;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX decided:

#2016-0720-01: to send the questions and comments document to the Provincial Administrator and have the document translated into English. The French and English versions will be posted on the COMEX website.

N.B. It was also decided to have the questions on forest road E – West translated into English and post them on the COMEX website to make them available to the communities concerned.

Action: Send the questions and comments to the Provincial Administrator

5) SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SITE IN WASWANIPI

- a) Answers to questions
 - *For recommendation*

WHEREAS the members went over the revised questions and comments document, are satisfied with it and have two more questions for the proponent:

QC2-1. The proponent must answer anew questions 6, 7, 12, 13 and 17 in the first questions and comments document dated June 30, 2015 because the answers it provided were not satisfactory.

With regard to question 6, the proponent did not provide the requested information concerning wetlands or watercourses that might be crossed by the access road, nor the description of the culverts to be installed. For question 7, the proponent did not indicate the estimated quantities of borrow material to be extracted, provide maps showing the location of borrow pits or provide a description of their restoration. For questions 12 and 13, the proponent did not provide the requested information regarding monitoring and did not explain how the groundwater observation wells would operate after the old trench landfill has been closed. Lastly, for question 17, the proponent did not indicate the location of temporary CRD stockpile areas on the site plan.

QC2-2. In the hydrogeological profile, the data contained on the water-table map is not consistent with that on the topographic map and the measured water-table depths. The proponent must correct the profile accordingly. In addition, the proponent must reassess the location of groundwater quality monitoring wells based on the corrected hydrogeological profile.

WHEREAS some members are still concerned about whether or not the future landfill will be located in the same watershed as Waswanipi's drinking water wells, it was agreed that the proponent's answers to COMEX's questions will help determine the degree of contamination risk. The distance between the two facilities is around 20 km;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX decided:

#2016-0720-02: to send these two questions to the Provincial Administrator.

Action: Send the questions to the Provincial Administrator

6) ROUTE 167 NORTH EXTENSION PROJECT, MTQ

- a) Proponent's responses to questions and comments – fish habitat compensation program
 - *For information*

WHEREAS the members are satisfied with the compensatory habitat monitoring program, but the proponent must quickly perform all of the remedial work that was identified by the consultant and is necessary to ensure that habitat enhancements fully function so as to minimize potential harm to fish habitat;

WHEREAS the proponent failed to explicitly show that there are no brook trout spawning grounds downstream (500 m) of site C-3, a precautionary approach must be taken in order to minimize the potential impacts of significant fine sediment suspension

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in this sensitive habitat during the incubation period. It is recommended that compensation enhancements at site C-3 be carried out between June 15 and August 31;

WHEREAS the members wish to be kept abreast of the timetable for the work and receive photos of the completed work;

CONSEQUENTLY, the members decided:

#2016-0720-03: to send these comments to the Provincial Administrator.

Action: Send the comments to the Provincial Administrator

WHEREAS the COMEX secretariat emailed the HFTCC secretariat on May 30 informing it that COMEX would take the HFTCC's concerns into account during the review process and would send the HFTCC an official reply;

WHEREAS, as previously mentioned, the members are satisfied with the compensatory habitat monitoring program, but the HFTCC's letter prompted the members to clarify COMEX's expectations with regard to the proponent's consultation procedures and the results and information to be included in the consultation report, COMEX agreed at the 342nd meeting to prepare a document for proponents setting out COMEX's expectations in respect of consultations and post it on the Committee's website;

CONSEQUENTLY, COMEX decided:

#2016-0720-04: to send an official reply to the HFTCC explaining that, on the whole, COMEX is satisfied with the compensatory habitat monitoring program, but that it has taken note of the HFTCC's comments regarding the need to be clearer with the proponent about COMEX's expectations with respect to the principles that should underpin its consultations and the information to be included in the consultation report.

Action: Write to the HFTCC

7) TROILUS MINING PROJECT, FIRST QUANTUM MINERALS LTD.

- a) Planned establishment of a holding pond at discharge point PR-5 and 6 and relocation of PR-7 on the old mine site
 - *For recommendation*

WHEREAS the members went over the internal review document in respect of the proponent's request to modify certain conditions relating to ongoing site reclamation;

WHEREAS, for a number of years, First Quantum Minerals (FQM) has been pumping tailings pond seepage from ditches downstream of the dike and conveying it to the

tailings pond, and whereas the seepage contains high iron concentrations, exceeding the Directive 019 requirement in several cases;

WHEREAS FQM's consultant suggested addressing the iron problem by building a holding pond to collect water from ditches PR-5 and 6 and treat the water to remove iron. The consultant also suggested relocating a monitoring point downstream of a pond, again to treat the water for iron. Ultimately, water from ditches PR-5, 6 and 7 would no longer be pumped into the tailings pond;

WHEREAS the members note that the proponent does not explain the research it conducted to determine the source of the iron or mention if alternatives to the holding pond and relocation of monitoring point PR-7 were considered;

WHEREAS the holding pond for water from ditches PR-5 and 6 would encroach 1 350 m² into a peatland, representing 43.2% of the surface area of the peatland, which is located on an industrial site, between the tailings pond dike and the access road;

WHEREAS there are no environmental benefits to moving monitoring point PR-7. By moving the monitoring point, water would no longer have to be pumped from the ditch to the tailings pond and iron concentrations in effluent from the pond would be at an acceptable level, although a higher volume of water containing iron would be conveyed to pond PR-7;

Consequently, the members recommend putting the following questions to the proponent:

QC - 1. The proponent must explain the research it conducted to determine the source of the iron contained in tailings pond seepage. It must assess the possibility of controlling seepage contamination at the source.

QC - 2. The proponent must discuss all of the alternatives considered for reducing iron concentrations in tailings pond seepage before it is released into the environment and demonstrate that the solutions chosen are the best environmentally, technically and economically.

QC - 3. The proponent must ensure and demonstrate that the holding pond will have zero impact on the geotechnical stability of the dike located upstream.

QC - 4. The proponent must explain the monitoring and maintenance programs for the new installations (emptying of ponds, water flow inspections, etc.).

QC - 5. The proponent must demonstrate that the construction of the holding pond as designed will enabled iron precipitation over the long term.

QC - 6. More information is needed on the biophysical environment downstream of the new PR-7 site, as that is where treated effluent will be discharged. The proponent must conduct surveys to identify existing fish species and potentially sensitive habitats

(spawning grounds, nursery areas, migration corridors, barriers to the free passage of fish, etc.) in outlet CE3 and the unnamed stream located downstream of CE3.

QC - 7. Given the known presence of a burbot population in the pond, the proponent must document the potential long-term effects of seepage from the southeast dike on fish populations in the pond and its outlet.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2016-0720-05: to send the document containing the seven questions and comments to the Provincial Administrator.

Action: Send the document containing the seven questions and comments to the Provincial Administrator

- b) Request to amend CA conditions 2, 3, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
 - *For recommendation*

WHEREAS the members went over the review document and, on the whole, are satisfied;

WHEREAS the members agree to change the wording of conditions 2, 3, 7, 14, 15 and 18 of the comprehensive certificate of authorization dated November 3, 2010, as per the review document;

WHEREAS the members also agree to remove condition 9;

WHEREAS the members deem the request to amend condition 17 unacceptable;

WHEREAS, with regard to condition 16, it is advisable to continue monitoring sediment in the receiving environment to determine whether contamination increases over time, but the frequency of monitoring could be changed from once a year to once every three years given that contaminant settling is generally measurable in the medium or long term. Therefore, the next sediment sampling will be conducted in 2018. In addition, the members wish to send the following comments to the proponent:

QC - 1. The proponent must modify its sampling protocol. For more information on sediment characterization, the proponent should consult the *Guide de caractérisation physicochimique de l'état initial du milieu aquatique avant l'implantation d'un projet industriel*. Although the guide deals primarily with pre-project physicochemical characterization of aquatic ecosystems, it may also be helpful in structuring post-project monitoring. In addition, the proponent must employ analytical methods with lower detection limits than the lowest threshold value for sediment quality criteria, that is, the rare effect level (REL). This new information must be included in the 2018 annual

monitoring report, in the discussion of sediment quality monitoring results. If necessary, the sampling protocol can be validated by the MDDELCC.

QC - 2. Consequently, those two parameters must be included in sediment quality monitoring. PAHs and PCBs may be removed from the list of parameters to be monitored, as they are not associated with metal mining.

QC - 3. In discussing the results of sediment quality monitoring in its 2018 report, the proponent must include a long-term analysis of attempts to identify medium-to-long-term trends, compare contaminant levels before and after mining operations, analyze changes in the situation post-closure, etc.

Based on those results, the proponent must identify sources of contamination still existing on the site, as the case may be, and propose remedial measures.

WHEREAS, with regard to condition 20, the members understand the proponent's arguments regarding the difficulty organizing the implementation committee, but are of the opinion that the committee is key to informing the band council of what is happening on the site now and what the future plans for it are. In addition, the members would like to add electric power facilities, that is, what will happen to the substation and power transmission line, to the matters dealt with by the committee;

CONSEQUENTLY, the members decided:

#2016-0720-06: to send the Provincial Administrator the review document containing COMEX's recommendation regarding the new wording of conditions 2, 3, 7, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 20 as well as the Committee's comments regarding condition 16.

Action: Send the review document to the Provincial Administrator

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

- a) Construction of a spur dike and stabilization of a slope at the weir at KP 170 on Rupert River
 - *For recommendation*

WHEREAS the weir at KP 170 on Rupert River is located immediately above the rapids, connecting to an island and includes two sections: one in the river's main branch on the left bank and the other in the secondary branch on the right bank. The weir maintains water levels in Nemiscau Lake in accordance with the Boumhounan Agreement;

WHEREAS, since 2010, part of the water has been eroding the bank, concentrated in a preferred channel on the left bank. Between 2013 and 2014, the channel cut back significantly as a result of headward erosion;

WHEREAS the project has three major components:

1. a spur dike to sustainably maintain water levels in the lake;
2. reshaping of the eroded slope and installation of riprap to ensure stabilization of the slope over the long term;
3. enhancement of the site to facilitate draining to the preferred channel;

WHEREAS remedial work must be performed as soon as possible, but the proponent's application and the accompanying documents contain some contradictory information;

WHEREAS erosion of the slope might have adversely affected the physical integrity and use of the spawning ground located downstream from the weir at KP 170;

WHEREAS the community of Nemaska was consulted;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2016-0720-06: to recommend that this change to the project be authorized with the following three conditions:

Condition 1: The material used to build the temporary jetties in the left and right branches of Rupert River connecting to KP 170 must be devoid of fine particles (<5 mm).

Condition 2: The pit-run material used to build the spur must be sieved first to remove fines (< 5 mm).

Condition 3: The 2007-2023 environmental follow-up program must be enhanced by adding two more years (2017 and 2019) to the follow-up program on the physical integrity and utilization of the multispecies spawning grounds developed near the hydraulic structure at KP 170 on Rupert River.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator recommending that the project be authorized with three conditions

9) ELEONORE MINING PROJECT, OPINACA MINES LTD.

- a) Operational summary and results of the contracting system
 - *For information*

The COMEX members read the proponent's operational summary. It is succinct, but contains the essential information sought by COMEX. In addition, the Cree party says it is well informed on the matter through the agreement entered into between the Crees and the mining company.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

10) WHABOUCHI PROJECT, NEMASKA LITHIUM INC.

- a) Follow-up on condition 3 of the comprehensive CA – late submission of updated atmospheric modelling
 - *For information*

The COMEX members took note of the information received and have no comments.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

11) OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Meeting with Chief Happyjack and visit to the James Bay

Suzann Méthot and John Paul Murdoch met with Chief Happyjack and four other counsellors in Waswanipi on July 12, 2016. They discussed a number of issues with a view to making the entire COMEX review process as effective as possible and fostering greater participation of the Cree population; for example, having documents translated into English faster. The meeting revealed the need to raise greater awareness about COMEX's mandate and responsibilities.

- b) Forthcoming meeting with the new Provincial Administrator

A meeting between COMEX chairperson Suzann Méthot and the new Provincial Administrator, Marie-Renée Roy, will be organized soon. The members agreed that it would be good to inform Ms. Roy of the major issues being faced, in particular woodland caribou and regional land use plans in the context of cumulative effects assessment. These are key issues that, while they don't fall under the purview of COMEX, are an integral part of reviewing a project and require a more holistic approach.

- c) Analysis of Crees' perceptions of public consultations

Jessica Labrecque of the CNG recently completed a report on the Crees' perceptions of public consultations. The members would like to hear a presentation on the report.

Action: Organize a presentation on the report

- d) JBACE workshop on cumulative effects

The JBACE will send us the French version of the report as well as a document in preparation for the workshop on September 21. We should get them next week.

e) Directives follow-up structure

It is sometimes hard to make the connection between the directives and the impact statement for a given project. It was agreed to make COMEV aware that concordance tables might be helpful.

12) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT FOUR MEETINGS

- August 26, 2016, in Montréal
- September 27, in Waskaganish
- October 26, in Montréal
- November 30, in Montréal

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up action: June 15 to July 15, 2016

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Route 167 North Extension Project, 3214-05-077	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Big game monitoring report, 2015	Received: July 12, 2016	-	<i>For information</i>
Eastmain-1-A/ Rupert Hydroelectric Development Project, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-17	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Request to suspend review of the permanent residence on part of the Eastmain camp site	Received: June 15, 2016	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Voluntary Anadromous Cisco Catch Registry (2013 and 2014 program)	Received: June 29, 2016	In response to condition 5.21 of the comprehensive CA and condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008	<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	2014 follow-up program for waterfowl: - Breeding pair and clutch surveys - Canada goose surveys	Received: June 29, 2016	In response to conditions 5.10 and 5.11 of the comprehensive CA and condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008	<i>For information</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Integrity of Waskaganish water intake, 2013 follow-up program	Received: July 6, 2016	In response to condition 6.7 of the comprehensive CA and condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008 Supplementary report to the report on the integrity of the protective structure and embankments adjacent to the Waskaganish water intake – 2013 follow-up program	<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Beaver monitoring, 2014 (operation phase)	Received: July 11, 2016	In response to condition 5.1 of the comprehensive CA and condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008 Final report for the environmental follow-up program 2007-2023	<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Mercury monitoring in fish flesh, 2014	Received: July 11, 2016	In response to conditions 5.3, 5.9, 5.27, 5.34 of comprehensive CA and condition 1 of amendment dated 28/07/2008	<i>For information</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Recommendation: amend CA – 2016 master plan	Sent: July 14, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	No comments on health determinants and land use monitoring	Sent: July 14, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	No comments on the letter providing an update on management of spring flow release structures	Sent: July 14, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
Langlois Mine, Nyrstar 3214-14-026	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	No comments on environmental follow- up in 2015	Sent: July 15, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway 3214-14-041	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Big game monitoring report, 2015	Received: July 12, 2016	-	<i>For information</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	No comments on the additional information regarding the wetland compensation plan	Sent: July 15, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
Eleonore Mining Project, Opinaca Mines Ltd. 3214-14-042	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Operational summary and results of the contracting system	Received: July 11, 2016	-	<i>For information</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Recommendation: authorize change to the lake sturgeon monitoring program	Sent: July 14, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
Whabouchi Project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. 3214-14-052	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Follow-up to condition 3 of the comprehensive CA	Received: June 30, 2016	Late submission of atmospheric modelling: supposed to be submitted at the end of July 2016	<i>For information</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Recommendation: amend the CA with a condition	Sent: July 15, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Recommendations: - Condition 14: amend wording of condition - Condition 16: met	Sent: July 15, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	No comment on the additional information regarding wetland compensation	Sent: July 15, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-
New Provincial Administrator	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Congratulations and request to meet	Sent: July 13, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 15, 2016	-