



Review Committee

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(APPROVED)

Michael O'Neill (M.O.), Executive Secretary, COMEX

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted:

- 1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda
- 2) Adoption of the minutes of the 276th meeting
- 3) Business arising from the 276th meeting and correspondence:

Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project

- 3.1 Condition 9.2: Follow-up to the March 31 meeting with Hydro-Québec (planning of the consultation tour in 2012)
 - Visit to Mistissini and area (E-1-A/Sarcelle facilities and Rupert diversion) with Hydro-Québec on June 2 and 3
- 3.2 Condition 2.6: Planning 2010 and 2011: access roads, ATV and snowmobile trails to Cree traplines and camps – minor changes to some previously authorized alignments and new accesses
- 3.3 Condition 2.2: May 12, 2011 memo from B.C.

Other projects

- 3.4 Matoush uranium exploration project, Strateco Resources:
 - Advanced exploration: progress on the review report
 - Correspondence:
 - Additional information on the Health Canada advisory
 - Resolution passed by the Mistissini Band Council
 - Resolution passed by the Grand Council of the Crees
 - Article published in *Northern Miner*
 - Document from the Regional Conference of Elected Officers
 - Otish Mountains all-season road: letter to the proponent
- 3.5 Eleonore mining project:
 - Public hearings in Wemindji and Chibougamau: steps taken

- Review of the document containing the proponent's responses (received on March 31, 2011)

3.6 Underground exploration on the Discovery property, Cadiscor Resources

3.7 Route 167-N: questions document (RH) for the provincial administrator

3.8 Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park project, Direction des Parcs du MDDEP: review of proponent's responses

3.9 Forest roads:

- Forest road "J." Filing of revised impact statement, Eacom Timber Corporation (formerly Domtar Inc.): progress in the review process
- Request from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to hold joint public consultations for forest road N-822 (H-East), Eacom Timber Corporation
- Forest roads L-209 N and E-West, Barrette-Chapais
- Forest road I and H-western section, Matériaux Blanchet
- Follow-up on COMEX's April 4 meeting with Guy Héту and Sonia Légaré:
 - Filing of data on woodland caribou and habitat
 - B.C.'s memo regarding departmental directive 2003-16B (MRNF)

4) Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project:

-Condition 6.3: Follow-up program on the Cree social and cultural environment, general survey of the Cree population 2010 (for information)

-Condition 6.1: Results of 2008 follow-up program on determinants affecting Cree health, December 2010 (for information)

-Condition 6.3: Follow-up program on the Cree social and cultural environment, general survey of Cree workers 2010 (for information)

-Conditions 5.3, 6.12 and 6.14: Monitoring of the ice cover (pour information)

-Condition 6.42: Monitoring of the results of training programs, 2009 (for information)

-Condition 5.28: Follow-up program on special-status plant species (for information)

5) Bachelor Lake, Metanor Resources Inc.

-Project to increase the nominal milling rate, Certificate of authorization for planned restarting of operations at the Bachelor Lake gold mill: Condition 7, Follow-up report (for information)

-Addendum to the request to amend the certificate of authorization for the installation of an ozonation system for cyanide destruction

6) Eleonore mining project:

- Addendum No. 1 to the updated project design
- Additional information regarding re-assessment of environmental and social impacts following the updating of the project design

7) Troilus mine, Inmet Mining Corp.: Environmental monitoring and inspection program, Annual Report 2010 (for information)

8) Project to use aerated lagoons for wastewater treatment in Eastmain: filing of impact statement, Cree Nation of Eastmain

9) Date and place of the next meeting

2) **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 276th MEETING**

The minutes of the 276th meeting were adopted as prepared.

3) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 276th MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project

3.1 Condition 9.2: Follow-up to the March 31 meeting with Hydro-Québec (planning of the consultation tour in 2012)

The members were informed of the changes in the itinerary and the arrangements made with regard to charters.

3.2 Condition 2.6: Planning 2010 and 2011: access roads, ATV and snowmobile trails to Cree traplines and camps – minor changes to some previously authorized alignments and new accesses: letter to the provincial administrator

The letter was sent on March 18 and Diane Jean's office, under the signature of Paul Letendre, acknowledged receipt of COMEX's letter on March 28.

On May 11, 2011, COMEX received a copy of the amended certificate of authorization issued to Hydro-Québec by the MDDEP on May 9.

3.3 Condition 2.2: May 12, 2011 memo from B.C.

The secretary refreshed everyone's memory with regard to B.C.'s memo. D.B. pointed out that Hydro-Québec still hasn't replied to COMEX's request for clarifications sent on January 14. The issue of data collection was discussed. Although COMEX is not responsible for management of the lake sturgeon fishery, it must ensure that there is a willingness to take responsibility for the fishery's management. B.C. will pass this message on to the people at Niskamoon.

Other projects

3.4 Matoush uranium exploration project, Strateco Resources

Advanced exploration:

D.B. updated the members on the drafting of the report and told them that COMEX needs to make a final decision on the direction it intends to take in its recommendation to the provincial administrator.

P.A. filled the members in on COFEX's work on its own report and said that the report will be discussed on May 25 and then sent to the federal administrator.

The members shared views on the position COMEX could adopt with regard to this project as well as on various elements that would help the Crees, particularly the Crees of Mistissini, approve the project (impact and benefit agreement (IBA) with Mistissini, flow of information, agreement similar to the one for Troilus). D.B. said it would be difficult to advocate an IBA at this stage because such agreements are more for development projects. He went on to say that the project must be acceptable from both the technical and social perspectives, which is nowhere near the case at this point in time. B.C. and D.B. reminded everyone that even though exploration can continue without the exploration ramp, it is imperative that the proponent get the community's approval. R.L. stressed that COMEX not recommending authorization of the project could result in financial constraints for the proponent and COMEX must avoid becoming a negotiator in this matter. Rather, the position adopted by the Committee should encourage the pursuit of solutions that would foster a successful outcome of the project. In reply to a question about possible negotiations between the proponent and the community, P.A. said that negotiations are indeed a possibility given that not everyone in the community is against the project and that it is crucial that people have as much information as possible in order to make an informed decision on the acceptability of the project. The members agreed

that the proponent needs to finish conducting its biophysical characterization of the potential impact area of the project as soon as possible. D.B. said that follow-up programs may be required, but that it's still difficult to determine whether or not this would allay the fears some people might have regarding the project. B.C. said that because Jamesian communities are located farther away from this project and other mining projects located in other watersheds, they have fewer reservations than the communities located downstream of the project.

D.B. wondered whether it would be possible, if the Committee ends up recommending that the project be authorized, to stipulate the condition that the proponent must sign an impact and benefit agreement with Mistissini if it decides to proceed with mining operations. It was also underlined that it is important that people understand that just because advanced exploration goes ahead, it doesn't automatically mean that it will lead to mining operations. The mining stage would be considered a new project altogether and would be automatically subject to environmental and social impact assessment and review. P.A. shared his concerns regarding the taking into account by COMEX of the GCC's position and Mistissini's worries regarding potential impacts on lakes and rivers, and that future approval of the project must reflect informed consent.

The report will be finalized in the next two or three weeks and the Committee hopes to have its recommendation ready for the next meeting.

Correspondence:

The secretary went over the correspondence received in relation to this project since the last meeting. The members shared their views on the document received from the JBACE.

Otish Mountains all-season road: letter to the proponent

The missive received from Strateco Resources on April 27, 2011, informing COMEX that the company is abandoning its plans to repair the winter road leading to the Matoush workcamp, puts an end to the Committee's review of this project.

3.5 Eleonore mining project:

- Public hearings in Wemindji and Chibougamau: steps taken
- Review of the document containing the proponent's responses (received on March 31, 2011)

-Public hearings

The secretary informed the members of the steps taken to organize public hearings in Wemindji and Chibougamau. Final arrangements will also be made for COMEX's visit to the Troilus mine site on June 15.

-Review of the document containing the proponent's responses

The various opinions should be received from the CRA and the government departments concerned and will be taken into account in the examination of the proponent's responses.

3.6 Underground exploration on the Discovery property, Cadiscor Resources

COMEX sent its recommendation to the provincial administrator on May 2, 2011, stipulating the conditions the proponent must meet when carrying out its project.

COMEX received an acknowledgement of receipt from the deputy minister's office, under the signature of Paul Letendre, on May 5.

3.7 Route 167-N; questions document (RH) for the provincial administrator

COMEX hopes to send its additional questions to the provincial administrator soon, once the clarifications requested by the CRA team have been incorporated. The Committee will inform Ms. Jean of its intention to hold public consultations on the project on August 30 and 31, 2011.

3.8 Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park project, Direction des Parcs du MDDEP: review of proponent's responses

The Committee is still studying the proponent's responses. The members discussed the advisability of holding public hearings. COMEX could hold hearings (in the fall) if the community of Mistissini still has questions following an information session on the changes the proponent wants to make to the project. B.C. underlined his concerns regarding the coexistence of ore hauling through the park and potential pollution caused by the release of mine effluent into watercourses running through the park. Discussions regarding joint management of the park following its creation are ongoing between the various regional players.

3.9 Forest roads

At the start of the discussion, it was pointed out that forest roads are closely related to the issue of woodland caribou. B.C. said he disagreed with the Chairperson's statement that the Committee has reached the stage where it must make choices. Furthermore, B.C. decried the MRNF's poor leadership and inconsistency in this matter. In addition, he has trouble understanding why MRNF Directive 2003-16B was not enforced. D.B. will contact Dominique Boisjoli to get an update on the discussions of the task force on woodland caribou recovery (and the establishment of protected areas for this species). Mr. Boisjoli, representing MDDEP into this committee, would apparently be willing to give a presentation to COMEX. The future boundaries of the protected area could result

in the moving of certain roads and new delimitation of harvesting areas. Everyone agreed that COMEX needs to have all of the most recent information in hand before making its recommendation.

4) EASTMAIN-1-A/SARCELLE/RUPERT PROJEct

-Condition 6.3: Follow-up program on the Cree social and cultural environment, general survey of the Cree population 2010 (for information)

-Condition 6.1: Results of 2008 follow-up program on determinants affecting Cree health, December 2010 (for information)

-Condition 6.3: Follow-up program on the Cree social and cultural environment, general survey of Cree workers 2010 (for information)

-Conditions 5.3, 6.12 and 6.14: Monitoring of the ice cover (pour information)

-Condition 6.42: Monitoring of the results of training programs, 2009 (for information)

-Condition 5.28: Follow-up program on special-status plant species (for information)

These documents were sent to COMEX for information purposes. D.B. said they are a requirement of the certificate of authorization issued to the proponent in November 2006 and are submitted to the Monitoring Committee before being sent to the provincial administrator. Copies are also sent to the communities concerned. B.C. pointed out that the report required under conditions 5.3, 6.12 and 6.14 highlights the problems regarding boating at low tide in certain parts of Rupert River near Waskaganish. He also said that a website would allow for better dissemination of and greater access to documents.

5) BACHELOR LAKE, METANOR RESOURCES INC.

- Project to increase the nominal milling rate, Certificate of authorization for planned restarting of operations at the Bachelor Lake gold mill: Condition 7, Follow-up report (for information)

No follow-up is required on COMEX's part.

- Addendum to the request to amend the certificate of authorization for the installation of an ozonation system for cyanide destruction

In light of the opinion obtained from the regional office, it was agreed that COMEX would write to the provincial administrator recommending that the certificate of authorization be amended to permit installation of the cyanide destruction system.

6) ELEONORE MINING PROJECT:

- Addendum No. 1 to the updated project design
- Additional information regarding re-assessment of environmental and social impacts following the updating of the project design

These two documents are in addition to the response documents received to date. B.C. shared some of the concerns expressed by the CRA analysts, most of which will be incorporated into COMEX's review report.

7) TROILUS MINE, INMET MINING CORP.: ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND INSPECTION PROGRAM, ANNUAL REPORT 2010 (FOR INFORMATION)

D.B. said that the report briefly touches on COMEX's comments regarding the possibility of adding a pond to the tailing area in order to create a goose pond. This matter will be discussed with the proponent when the Committee visits the project site on June 15.

8) PROJECT TO USE AERATED LAGOONS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN EASTMAIN: FILING OF IMPACT STATEMENT, CREE NATION OF EASTMAIN

The Committee is still reviewing the project and has asked the regional office for a technical opinion. One of the issues raised pertains to the protection of drinking water sources.

9) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 23.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael O'Neill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael O'Neill, Executive Secretary (outgoing)