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(APPROVED)

DATE: June 16, 2011

PLACE: Hotel-Motel le Nordic
Chibougamau

PRESENT: Pierre Mercier (P.M), Chairperson, Québec
Daniel Berrouard (D.B.), Québec
Robert Lemieux (R.L.), Québec
Brian Craik (B.C.), CRA
Philip Awashish (P.A.), CRA

Nathalie Girard (N.G.), Executive Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted:

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Eleonore gold mining project, Opinaca Mines Ltd.
3. Post-mortem on the visit to the Troilus mine site, Inmet Mining Corp.
4. Matoush uranium exploration project, Strateco Resources
5. Forest roads
6. Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park project
7. Project to use aerated lagoons for wastewater treatment in Eastmain
8. Date and place of the next meeting

2. ELEONORE GOLD MINING PROJECT, OPINACA MINES LTD.

The members each shared their views on the public hearings held in Wemindji on June 14, from 7:00-10:30 p.m. They said they got the impression from the hearings that the public is generally in favour of the project. In fact, a number of Wemindji residents and Cree organizations explicitly expressed their support for the project. The agreement between the proponent, Wemindji Band Council and the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Regional Authority apparently played a major role in garnering support for the project in the community.

The members commented in particular on the Cree Health Board's presentation. According to P.A. and B.C., the presentation would have been better if it had been more focused on the specific issues stemming from this project and involving the plans, concrete actions and challenges faced by the concerned parties: the band council, the local and regional health facilities and others. B.C. would have liked to know exactly how the Board will be involved in the project. D.B. mentioned that not everyone approves of the tailings management method and selected tailings site. The members continue to be concerned about certain aspects of the project, in particular management of lake sturgeon and the impact of the specific backfilling method on groundwater. P.M. closed the discussion by saying that the proponent showed transparency by explaining the project's negative impacts and planned mitigation measures. The members agreed to hold a technical information session in Québec City on June 29 to address some of the issues and questions arising from the project review.

In order to guide COMEX in making its recommendation, R.L. and P.A. said that the members should reiterate their desire to know the content of the cooperation agreement between Wemindji, the Grand Council of the Crees, the Cree Regional Authority and Opinaca Mines Ltd.

The members made a few changes to improve the format of the hearings in Chibougamau, by in particular, allotting less time to the proponent. They asked the executive secretary to obtain copies of all the submissions, briefs and letters from hearing participants.

3. POST-MORTEM ON THE VISIT TO THE TROILUS MINE SITE, INMET MINING CORP.

During the morning on June 15, the members got a chance to fly over the Troilus mine site, which is in the process of being shut down. They visited the mine site in the afternoon. Tracy Anderson, the senior shutdown manager, gave a presentation on the progress in site remediation and then took the members on a tour of the site. The members were happy with the tour, first because it allowed them to appreciate the extent of the work carried out and that COMEX had to comment on and, second, because it helped them to better understand the issues that need to be addressed to mitigate any residual negative impacts arising from the mine.

The Troilus team is planning site remediation in consultation with land users. At the users' request, the waste rock and tailing piles, have been shaped to enable the planting of herbaceous species rather than trees, so as to facilitate goose hunting. Land users also asked the company to leave certain roads in their present state.

Management of public safety, dust and water was also discussed at greater length. Among other things, the members asked for more details regarding the water level in the main trench. This information will be sent to the secretariat soon. The proponent also mentioned that he is considering to improve the stability of the tailing area by adding shrubs and possibly by adding a pond in order to promote its utilisation by fauna.

4. MATOUSH URANIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT, STRATECO RESOURCES

The members briefly discussed a proposal to include the following special condition in the certificate of authorization in order to facilitate an agreement between the proponent and the Cree Nation of Mistissini:

*The proponent shall continue taking steps to inform and reassure the local population, particularly the Cree Nation of Mistissini, regarding its uranium **exploration** project and the consequences of future **mining** of the uranium deposit under study. Taking into account the very special nature, risks and issues of a*

*uranium **exploration** project and the need for the project to be socially acceptable and receive community approval, the proponent must undertake to ensure that an agreement to that effect is entered into between the Mistissini Band Council or a body designated by it and the project proponent or the holder of operating rights.*

B.C. asked to continue discussing this issue at the next meeting.

5. FOREST ROADS

B.C. informed the members that various organizations, including Cree bodies, are supposed to be meeting in July to discuss the woodland caribou issue. One of the purposes of the meeting is to ensure that protected species are taken into consideration in the planning of forest road development.. The outcome of these meetings should be available for consultation at the end of the summer.

In the meantime, the members agreed to write to Deputy Minister Diane Jean to inform her of the reasons for the delay in COMEX's recommendation regarding forest road development, reasons that are beyond the Committee's control.

6. ALBANEL-TÉMISCAMIE-OTISH PARK PROJECT

The parks branch of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs is holding a public information session in Mistissini on June 28 on the Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park project. The COMEX members hope that some among them will be able to attend the information session so as to determine whether or not public hearings are necessary, whether the public is well informed and whether the project has gained community acceptance.

7. PROJECT TO USE AERATED LAGOONS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN EASTMAIN

D.B. informed the members that a technical information meeting on the use of aerated lagoons for wastewater treatment in Eastmain will be held on June 21.

8. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on June 23, at the JBACE office in Montréal, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Nathalie Girard
Executive Secretary