



la Convention  
de la Baie-James  
et du Nord québécois

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**Comité d'examen**  
**Review Committee**

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**MINUTES OF THE**  
  
**279th MEETING OF COMEX**

**(APPROVED)**

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**DATE:** June 23, 2011

**PLACE:** James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment  
(JBACE) office  
383, rue Saint-Jacques  
Bureau C-220  
Montréal

**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

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## **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 277th meeting**
- 3. Business arising from the 278th meeting and correspondence**
- 4. Opinaca Mines Ltd. – Eleonore mining project**
  - 4.1 Public hearings in Wemindji and Chibougamau (retrospective assessment and briefs)
  - 4.2 Technical meeting on 29/06/11 - Québec City
    - a) agenda items
    - b) list of participants
  - 4.3 Projected finalization of the review report and recommendation
  - 4.4 Amendment to the CA, winter road
- 5. Troilus mine – site remediation**
  - 5.1 Retrospective assessment of the June 15 meeting with the shutdown management team
  - 5.2 Condition respecting the tailings pond (planned schedule, recommendation, etc.)
- 6. Matoush uranium exploration project**
  - 6.1 Review report and recommendation regarding the impact statement
    - a) Proposed condition (umbrella)
    - b) Review report
    - c) Recommendation
  - 6.2 Receipt of answers to questions pertaining to borrow pits (D7, D18, D19 and D20)
- 7. Route 167 Nord project**
  - 7.1 Things to be done in preparation for the public hearings on August 30 and 31, Mistissini and Chibougamau.
  - 7.2 Information session: Decision by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

**8. Albanel-Temiscamie-Otish park project**

- 8.1 Information meeting - Mistissini, 28/06/11
- 8.2 Additional information on the proposed park boundaries
- 8.3 Completion of report

**9. Forest roads**

- 9.1 Draft letter to the administrator
- 9.2 Future action

**10. Eastmain 1-A/Rupert project**

- 10.1 Visits on August 23 and 24 –Nemaska/Hydro-Québec  
(file updates)
- 10.2 Additional information on the road to KP 280  
(for recommendation)
- 10.3 Water quality monitoring report  
(for information)

**11. Eastmain**

- 11.1 Treatment lagoons in Eastmain – technical meeting and recommendations

**12. Actions to be taken in July and August – and coming files**

**13. Other business**

**14. Date and place of the next meeting**

## 2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 277TH MEETING

To be adopted at the next meeting.

## 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 278TH MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

To facilitate the integration of the new executive secretary into the Committee, the business arising from the previous meeting has been condensed into the following section, exceptionally for this meeting.

Correspondence:

- Received June 2: Additional information relating to re-assessment of the **Eleonore** mining project's environmental and social impacts on air quality.
- Received June 13: Information for discussions on Condition 7 of the certificate of authorization for the **Troilus** mine shutdown program.
- Received June 15: Letter transmitting a technical note and a copy of the water quality monitoring report for Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Rupert** diversion hydroelectric project.
- Received June 17: 2010 monitoring report on the measurement of suspended matter for Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Rupert** diversion project.
- Received June 17: Answers to the additional questions regarding the project to operate borrow pits on the **Matoush** property.
- Received June 20: Request to amend the certificate of authorization for construction of the winter road for the **Eleonore** mining project.
- Received June 20: Monitoring of waterfowl use of managed wildlife habitats - Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Rupert** diversion project.
- Sent June 21: Request for additional information from the proponent of the project to extend **Route 167 Nord**.
- Received June 21: Details on the proposed boundaries of the **ATO park**.
- Received June 22: Project to **restart operations at the Bachelor Lake gold mill** – Installation of an ozonation system for cyanide destruction – amended certificate of authorization.

## 4 OPINACA MINES LTD. – ELEONORE MINING PROJECT

### 4.1 Public hearings in Wemindji and Chibougamau (retrospective, assessment and briefs)

The members summed up the important points to emerge from the public hearings in Wemindji and Chibougamau. P.A. pointed out that most of the concerns expressed by participants pertained to the economic aspect of the project. B.C. enumerated the concerns expressed by the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay with regard to social impacts on workers and their families. He said he'd like the proponent to monitor social impacts to make sure that, among

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other things, it fulfils the social commitments it made in agreements entered into with the communities and workers. R.L. and P.A. mentioned that few environmental concerns were expressed during the hearings, which implies that people have confidence in the environmental assessment process. B.C. had hoped for greater Cree participation in the hearings. D.B. was surprised that the issues of opening up the territory and possibly decades of development in this part of the territory didn't get more attention. D.B. like the other members, stated that he was satisfied with the degree of public participation in the hearings. For his part, P.M. underlined former Chief Mark of Wemindji's remarks highlighting the initiatives taken to create Cree businesses and their economic contribution to the community. Also, the briefs presented in Chibougamau show the transportation of Cree workers to be of particular concern due to the absence of an air link between the communities.

Generally speaking, the members agreed that there is good community acceptance for the project, both in Wemindji and in Chibougamau.

#### 4.2 Technical meeting on 29/06/11 - Québec City

##### a) Agenda items

The members decided on the items to be put on the agenda. D.B. reminded everyone that the sole purpose of the technical meeting is to share information and that, at this point in time, the position adopted with regard to the project components should still be up to COMEX.

##### b) List of participants

The members drew up a list of people who should be invited to the meeting.

#### 4.3 Projected finalization of the review report and recommendation

The members agreed that the Committee should make its recommendations as soon as possible.

#### 4.4 Amendment to the CA, winter road

The proponent wants to make changes to the winter road already authorized for the exploration phase of its project. The changes concern operation of a new quarry, continued operation of the quarry in winter 2011-2012 if need be, and an increase in the bearing capacity of two sections of the road over a total length of approximately 50 km. The members agreed that the amendment should be authorized on the condition that site restoration be carried out within the time frame stipulated on the original certificate of authorization if the mining project under review is not authorized or if the proponent decides not to proceed with this project. The restoration program, if applicable, must be submitted to COMEX for approval.

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## **5 TROILUS MINE – SITE REMEDIATION**

### **5.1 Retrospective assessment of the June 15 meeting with the shutdown management team**

The members gave their feedback on the June 15 visit to the mine site and discussed a number of concerns. R.L and B.C were concerned about the impact of dust. D.B. and B.C talked about water management and the creation of ponds for waterfowl. The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) does not want any water to stay in the tailings pond following the mine's closure, whereas COMEX indicated in its comments on the remediation plan that it hoped consideration would be given to creating wildfowl ponds. This no longer seems necessary, however, because according to the proponent and a document it sent to COMEX on June 13 last, waterfowl already use the tailings pond without any alterations having been made specifically for that purpose. The members wondered about the safety measures the proponent plans on implementing. It was agreed to invite someone from the MRNF to COMEX's next meeting to get more information on different aspects of the remediation plan.

### **5.2 Condition respecting the tailings pond (planned schedule, recommendation, etc.)**

COMEX should be able to make its recommendations at the end of August.

## **6 MATOUSH URANIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT**

### **6.1 Review report and recommendation regarding the impact statement**

#### **a) Proposed condition (umbrella)**

The members discussed their respective opinions on Condition 1, which was submitted for their comments at the last meeting. P.M. wanted to reformulate the proposed condition to make it clearer that COMEX recommends that no exploration work (sinking of ramp) be undertaken after the project is authorized unless the proponent and the Mistissini Band Council reach an agreement in writing on the project's social acceptability. Condition 1 would stipulate that the agreement signed between the parties must be sent to COMEX and the provincial administrator for information purposes. It was agreed to revise the condition to better reflect these comments.

b) Review report

For all intents and purposes, the review report is finished. The only thing left to do is finalize the content of Condition 1 and make a few minor changes to the rest of the report.

c) Recommendation

COMEX will finalize its recommendation at its next meeting.

6.2 Receipt of answers to questions pertaining to borrow pits (D7, D18, D19 and D20)

Discussion of this item was postponed to the next meeting because some of the members didn't receive the necessary documentation.

## **7 ROUTE 167 NORD PROJECT**

7.1 Things to be done in preparation for the public hearings on August 30 and 31, Mistissini and Chibougamau

Unless otherwise informed, the public hearings will be held on August 30, in Mistissini, and August 31, in Chibougamau. The members went over the schedule and the different things to be done in preparation for the hearings.

The members agreed to improve access to information for participants. P.M. asked that two signs be prepared before the next public hearings informing participants that simultaneous translation devices are available and that those who wish to speak must register at the reception desk.

7.2 Information session: Decision by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

The secretary informed COMEX that owing to a death in Mistissini, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency decided to postpone the information session on Route 167 Nord that was to be held in Mistissini. However, the session in Chibougamau went ahead as planned.

## **8 ALBANEL-TEMISCAMIE-OTISH PARK PROJECT**

8.1 Information meeting – Mistissini, 28/06/11

D.B informed the members that the MDDEP's parks branch will be meeting with the Mistissini Band Council and holding public information sessions in the community on the ATO park project. While in the area, the parks branch

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also hopes to meet with members of the Chibougamau municipal council. Considering that public consultations on this project were already held a few years ago in accordance with the *Parks Act*, the members think it would be possible to avoid holding public hearings under the EQA if the public information sessions show that the population is well informed and in favour of the park project.

#### 8.2 Additional information on the proposed park boundaries

On June 20, 2011, COMEX received additional information on the boundaries of the ATO park, in particular modifications to allow for a power line corridor.

#### 8.3 Completion of report

The review report should be finished by the beginning of September depending if public hearing regarding this project will be held or not. COMEX could make its recommendations in the fall.

### **9 FOREST ROADS**

#### 9.1 Draft letter to the administrator

COMEX will write to the provincial administrator to inform her that the delay in making its recommendations on the projects under review is beyond its control. At the same time, COMEX will ask the provincial administrator to notify the proponents. The letter will also touch on the two protected areas (Chisesaakahiikan and Mishigamish) proposed by Nemaska and Waswanipi that COMEX was informed of. The draft letter will be sent to the CRA-appointed members for their comments before the next meeting.

The major issue in all forest road projects is the protection of woodland caribou. In its letter to the provincial administrator, COMEX will also ask to be informed of the results of the analyses done by the new task force on woodland caribou created by the MRNF.

### **10 EASTMAIN 1-A/RUPERT PROJECT**

#### 10.1 Visits on August 23 and 24 – Nemaska/Hydro-Québec (file updates)

The executive secretary will check to see if the dates still hold and if it's still possible to visit the project site. The members would like to receive the documents (reports) before the meeting.



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10.2 Additional information on the KP 280 road (for recommendation)

COMEX received Hydro-Québec's answers to its questions. However, possible overfishing of lake sturgeon at the spawning site at KP 280 on Rupert River is still an issue. Considering that this species is reserved for the Crees, the species' vulnerability to overfishing, and the principle of conservation, COMEX decided to seek the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee's opinion. COMEX will enclose Hydro-Québec's answers with its letter to the HFTCC and the letter will be copied to the provincial administrator.

10.3 Water quality monitoring report (for information)

To be discussed at the next meeting.

## **11 EASTMAIN**

11.1 Treatment lagoons in Eastmain - technical meeting and recommendations

The impact statement for this project was filed. Consultants answered questions during the technical meeting held on June 21. Information was shared on various issues, including the protection of drinking water wells in relation to basins, and other users in the area. The project is still being reviewed with the assistance of MDDEP, which has reached the final stage. COMEX expects to be able to make its recommendation to the regional administrator before the next meeting.

## **12 ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN JULY AND AUGUST – AND COMING FILES**

- The members expect the impact statement for the Stornoway mining project to be submitted in the fall.
- COMEX will hold a regular meeting before August.
- Finalization of the report on the Matoush project.
- Consultation tour with Hydro-Québec and meeting in Nemaska.
- Public hearings on Route 167 Nord at the end of August.

## **13 OTHER BUSINESS**

## **14 DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held before August, at the JBACE office in Montréal.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Nathalie Girard  
Executive Secretary