



Review Committee

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280th MEETING OF COMEX

(Approved)

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

Nathalie Girard (N.G.), Executive Secretary

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, 278th and 279th meetings**
- 3. Business arising from the 279th meeting and correspondence**
 - 3.1 Certificate of authorization for the mineral exploration project on the Discovery property, Mine Nap Québec Ltée (formerly Ressources Cadiscor Inc.)
- 4. Opinaca Mines – Eleonore mining project**
 - 4.1 Updating of P.V.'s report
 - 4.2 Request to amend the CA for the winter road (winter road, receipt of additional information regarding the application to expand the borrow pit)
 - 4.3 Summary of the cooperation agreement
 - 4.4 Documents received from Gold Corp.
- 5. Shutdown of Troilus mine**
 - 5.1 Developments regarding the MRNF's position
 - 5.2 Information meeting
- 6. Matoush uranium exploration project**
 - 6.1 Correspondence from COFEX-South to the federal administrator & Strateco
 - 6.2 COMEX's final report + adoption
 - 6.3 Borrow pits
- 7. Route 167 Nord project**
 - 7.1 Arrangements for the public hearings
 - 7.2 Participants from the MTQ
 - 7.3 Participating analysts
 - 7.4 Exchange of information with the MTQ coordinator on how the hearings will proceed
- 8. Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park project**
 - 8.1 Summary report on the information meeting in Mistissini
 - 8.2 Draft agreement on the park's creation
 - 8.3 Letter from the Mistissini Band Council
 - 8.4 Representations to the band council and others if hearings are held
- 9. Forest roads**
 - 9.1 Letter to the administrator

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- 9.2 Task force on woodland caribou
 - 9.3 Brian Craik's e-mail of June 28

10. Eastmain-1-A/Rupert

- 10.1 Visits in August
- 10.2 Letter to the HFTCC on the road running between KP 280 and KP 290
- 10.3 Receipt of several documents on the follow-up program, for information purposes
- 10.4 Authorization of the restoration master plan for 2011

11. Treatment lagoons in Eastmain

- 11.1 Final recommendation and adoption

12. Lac Rocher project - Victory Nickel

- 12.1 Information on the Copper Rand tailings facility

13. Bridge in Mistissini

- 13.1 Receipt of the impact statement

14. Other business

15. Date and place of the next meeting

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 277TH, 278TH AND 279TH MEETINGS

The minutes of the 277th, 278th and 279th meetings were discussed and approved as amended.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 279th MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 Certificate of authorization for the mineral exploration project on the Discovery property, Mine Nap Québec Ltée (formerly Ressources Cadiscor Inc.)

The secretary informed the members that the certificate of authorization for the mineral exploration project on the Discovery property, Mine Nap Québec Ltée (formerly Ressources Cadiscor Inc.), had been received. She then went over the correspondence received since the last meeting.

- Received on June 22, 2011, copy of the amended CA for the installation of an ozonation system for cyanide destruction on the Bachelor Lake mine site for Metanor Resources' project to **restart operations at the Bachelor Lake gold mill**.
- Received on July 5, 2011, a study report dated April 2011 on the use of natural sturgeon spawning grounds in Rupert River. The report was sent to COMEX for information purposes as part of the

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- environmental follow-up program for the operating phase of Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert Diversion** project.
- Received on July 5, 2011, a study report dated June 14, 2011 on restoration of disturbed areas (planting, seeding and access maintenance). The report was sent to COMEX for authorization pursuant to conditions 2.7 and 2.8 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006 for Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert** project.
 - Received on July 5, 2011, a study report dated January 2011 on sturgeon larval drift in Rupert River (reduced-flow section). The report was sent to COMEX for information purposes as part of the environmental follow-up program for the operating phase of Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert** project.
 - Received on July 6, 2011, a copy of the CA for the **mineral exploration project on the Discovery property**, Mine Nap Québec Ltée (formerly Ressources Cadiscor Inc.).
 - Received on July 12, 2011, a report dated June 14, 2011 on restoration of disturbed areas. The report, which was sent to COMEX for information purposes, was prepared by the proponent to meet conditions 2.7 and 2.8 of the CA for Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert** project.
 - Received on July 12, 2011, a report dated April 2011 on monitoring of fish access to Rupert River tributaries. The report was sent to COMEX for information purposes as part of Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert** project.
 - Received on July 13, 2011, a draft agreement between the Cree Village of Mistissini and the Québec government on operation of the **Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish National Park**. The agreement was sent exclusively for COMEX's information.
 - Received on July 19, 2011, a summary of the cooperation agreement signed between Opinaca, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), the Cree Regional Authority and the Cree Nation of Wemindji on February 21, 2011, for Opinaca Mines' **Eleonore** project.
 - Received on July 20, 2011, additional information on the request to amend the certificate of authorization issued to Opinaca for construction of a temporary winter road and, more specifically, operation of Quarry C-5 under the **Eleonore** project.
 - Received on July 20, 2011, a letter from the Mistissini Band Council regarding the **Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park** project.
 - Received on July 21, 2011, additional documents from Opinaca on the **Eleonore mining** project.
 - Received on July 25, 2011, for information purposes, the agreements entered into with Nemaska and Waskaganish on the facilities monitoring and communication programs for Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert** project.
 - Received on July 25, 2011, for information purposes, the 2010 follow-up report on saltwater intrusion in Rupert Bay and Pontax River for Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert Diversion** project.
 - Received on July 25, 2011, for information purposes, the 2009 follow-up report on the compliance of wastewater treatment using a peat bog – Rupert workcamp, for Hydro-Québec's **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert** project.

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- Received on July 25, 2011, the impact statement for the proposed **construction of a permanent access road, a bridge and a borrow pit in Mistissini**. This project is partially located on Category II and III lands.
 - Received on July 27, 2011, a letter from COFEX-South to Strateco Resources requesting additional information, and Strateco's answers to COFEX's questions. Document received for information purposes under the **Matoush** project.

4. OPINACA MINES – ELEONORE PROJECT

4.1 Updating of P.V.'s report

D.B. told the members that, following the technical meeting on June 29, the proponent provided the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) with the additional information necessary to review the project. The department expects to have its report ready in September.

D.B. went on to say that the primary issue is still the impermeability of the tailings site and that the expert opinion of analysts from the Abitibi-Témiscamingue regional office of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) is very important. Currently, the proponent thinks that using a membrane will ensure the impermeability of the site, whereas the MRNF wants the selected tailings site to be naturally impermeable (even without a membrane) to better control permeability over the long term. D.B. stressed that there is no easy solution to this problem, because the final site must not only be naturally impermeable, but it must also be close to the mining facilities (ramps, mill, etc.) and not in the Opinaca Lake watershed.

This item will be placed on the agenda of COMEX's next meeting. In the meantime, P.M. said he would appreciate receiving a progress report on MDDEP's review.

4.2 Request to amend the CA for the winter road (winter road, receipt of additional information regarding the application to expand the borrow pit)

The members were informed of a letter from Opinaca transmitting the additional information regarding the request to amend the certificate of authorization. D.B. gave a background to the project. In the context of its exploration work this summer, the proponent, Opinaca Mines Ltd., wants to continue building the Opinaca and Pikaaschiu bridges as well as three other, smaller bridges (#9, #10, #11) planned under the winter road project authorized on October 28, 2008. The requested change thus involves:

- working Quarry C-5;
- possibly extending the winter road's use until summer 2012;
- improving the soil bearing capacity in the winter road alignment between km 0 to 26 and 48 to 51.

As regards the request to work Quarry C-5, COMEX took note of the change the proponent wants to make and the additional information it subsequently provided with regard to increasing the surface area of the quarry from 2.9 ha to a maximum of 11.6 ha. Given the extent of the change involved, COMEX decided to write to the provincial

administrator to request that she ask the proponent for details and additional information on the proposed expansion in surface area of Quarry C-5. The letter will also mention that the COMEX members agreed to recommend that the administrator approve the other two aspects of the requested amendment to the CA, on the following condition:

In the event that Opinaca Mines Ltd. decides not to undertake the mining phase or that the Provincial Administrator refuses to authorize the mining project currently under review, the proponent must, no later than one (1) year following either of these outcomes, submit a decommissioning and remediation program for the sites contemplated in this authorization, for authorization under Chapter II of the Environment Quality Act.

4.3 Summary of the cooperation agreement

D.B., backed by R.L. and P.M., said he was disappointed with the content of the summary of the agreement between Opinaca Mines and the Wemindji Band Council on the Eleonore mining project. The summary contains very few details. P.M. said he would have liked to see more details on environmental measures, among other things. For his part, P.A. would have liked to see more details on the life, use and permissions related to buildings in the workcamp.

The members find this situation unfortunate, because they would have preferred that the proponent not have to redefine its actions in order to meet the conditions of the CA. Also, the agreement could have encouraged COMEX to recommend future partnerships in other projects. In this regard, B.C. reminded the members that the Troilus mining project pioneered agreements with the Crees for mining development in James Bay.

4.4 Documents received from Gold Corp.

In follow-up to the technical meeting, and at COMEX's request, Goldcorp sent the Committee a series of documents. Not all of the members had access to the documents, which were sent by e-mail. The executive secretary will make sure that every member can get the documents.

5. SHUTDOWN OF TROILUS MINE

5.1 Developments regarding the MRNF's position

D.B. The MRNF has apparently changed its mind about keeping water in the tailings site. The department was initially against the idea but, according to Jean Dionne (MRNF), it changed its position because a new alternative requires a stream diversion, which would enable the creation of a pond. The water management plan should be submitted to the MDDEP very shortly. Normally, the plan would then be transmitted to COMEX.

5.2 Information meeting

Given that the MRNF is considering creating a pond on the tailings site, COMEX no longer needs to schedule a meeting with the MRNF to find out why it refused this proposal. However, a meeting could still be held with the proponent if COMEX deems it necessary after studying the report it receives.

6. MATOUSH URANIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT

6.1 Correspondence from COFEX-South to the federal administrator & Strateco

D.B. informed the members that some documents are currently available on the Government of Canada website. Also, Strateco sent its answers to COFEX-South's questions directly to COMEX.

P.A. mentioned that COFEX-South hasn't studied the answers to its questions yet.

Given that this information only recently became available, B.C. thinks that COMEX would be better off reading it over before submitting its own report. R.L. said that he was reassured by COFEX-South's position, because it expresses the same concerns that COMEX has with regard to the project.

6.2 COMEX's final report + adoption

P.M. asked B.C. to specify the changes he wants to make to the draft letter transmitting the Committee's recommendations. The members reformulated Condition 1 in particular, to everyone's approval. The new version of Condition 1 was unanimously adopted. The members then went over the proposed changes to the review report, which will be sent to the Provincial Administrator along with the letter containing the Committee's recommendations. Following the report's adoption, the executive secretary was asked to transmit the final report and the cover letter to all of the members.

6.3 Borrow pits

D.B. gave a brief review of the situation. The impact statement submitted in 2010 discussed the construction of five borrow pits. COMEX commented on the impact study and asked for clarifications. The proponent answered COMEX's questions. The MDDEP is currently reviewing the project and, according to D.B., the only concern that remains is the distance between borrow pits and water bodies. D.B. reminded everyone that COMEX must make a recommendation regarding the ramp before making one regarding the borrow pits. B.C. will ask the analysts for the Grand Council of the Crees if they could give an opinion on the matter by the end of August 2011. The Committee will wait until the next meeting to decide on the recommendation it will make regarding operation of the borrow pits.

7. ROUTE 167 NORD PROJECT

7.1 Arrangements for the public hearings

The executive secretary brought the members up to speed on the arrangements made for the public hearings in Mistissini and Chibougamau on August 30 and 31, 2011.

7.2 Participants from the MTQ

The members went over the list of expected participants in the public hearings.

7.3 Participating analysts

B.C. thinks that only one analyst from the CRA will be present at the public consultations. Raymond Houle, the person reviewing this project for the MDDEP, will unfortunately not be available to join COMEX at the public hearings.

7.4 Exchange of information with the MTQ coordinator on how the hearings will proceed

The project proponent, the MTQ, was informed about how the public hearings will proceed. The members asked the executive secretary to find out when the MTQ will be submitting its answers to COMEX's additional questions.

8. ALBANEL-TÉMISCAMIE-OTISH PARK PROJECT

8.1 Summary report on the information meeting in Mistissini

The members had no comments. R.L. asked to receive a copy of the final report.

8.2 Draft agreement on the park's creation

According to B.C., management of the park as proposed in the agreement between Mistissini and the Québec government will be a first in Cree territory. The agreement appears to be satisfactory.

8.3 Letter from the Mistissini Band Council

John S. Matoush, Deputy Chief of the Mistissini Band Council, contacted the COMEX secretariat to make sure that the letter Chief Richard Shecapio sent by e-mail would be discussed at the next COMEX meeting. The letter asks that the government consider reopening the boundaries of the proposed ATO park to enable operation of an iron mine. Because the letter is addressed to Deputy Minister Diane Jean, the Committee cannot reply to it. Based on the information meeting attended by COMEX members, the

population seems to be happy with and well-informed about the proposed park. Nevertheless, there appears to be renewed interest in the proposed iron mine. P.A. said he was surprised to see this renewed interest in the mining project, because the park project has been on the table for a long time.

The members agreed to wait until the MRNF takes an official stand on the development of an iron mine within the current boundaries of the proposed Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish park before they decide whether or not public hearings should be held on the project.

8.4 Representations to the band council and others if hearings are held

The members agreed not to take any action in relation to Mr. Shecapio's letter, as the Committee believes it is up to Diane Jean's office, in consultation with the Service des parcs (MDDEP), to make a decision.

9. FOREST ROADS

9.1 Letter to the administrator

P.M. gave the members a progress report on this issue. The secretary will send the members a copy of the letter addressed to Diane Jean explaining COMEX's position and the consequences of more delays in processing files under review. The letter also discusses the steps COMEX would like taken in respect of forest companies with applications/requests pending review by COMEX.

9.2 Task force on woodland caribou

B.C. said that the task force on woodland caribou held a meeting and should be submitting the results of its work this fall. COMEX should be informed of these results as soon as possible.

9.3 Brian Craik's e-mail of June 28

B.C. clarified and explained the reason for his e-mail that was sent to COMEX members sharing his views on the boundaries of communities and their development.

10. EASTMAIN-1-A/RUPERT

10.1 Visits in August

The COMEX members are supposed to travel to Nemaska on August 23 and 24 to meet with the Hydro-Québec team, which will report on the work carried out in this sector, and fly over the work carried out, in preparation for the 2012 consultation tour of Aboriginal communities affected by the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project; Condition 9.2.

10.2 Letter to the HFTCC on the road running between KP 280 and KP 290

The letter requesting the HFTCC's opinion on the planned construction of an ATV trail between KP 280 and KP 290 was sent to and received by the HFTCC. The latter will reply to the letter as soon as possible, but doesn't think it'll be able to give an opinion before the end of August 2011.

10.3 Receipt of several documents on the follow-up program, for information purposes

The executive secretary went over the documents received by Hydro-Québec in relation to this project.

10.4 Authorization of the restoration master plan for 2011

D.B. reminded the members of the reason for this request for authorization. R.L. and D.B. gave a brief assessment of the follow-up document. COMEX decided to write to the provincial administrator recommending that the master plan be authorized.

11. TREATMENT LAGOONS IN EASTMAIN

11.1 Final recommendation and adoption

D.B. summarized the recent actions taken in respect of this matter, including the technical meeting held in Québec City on June 29, 2011. D.B. tabled and explained the draft letter to the administrator transmitting the Committee's recommendation and related conditions. The draft letter was approved and will have to be translated into English.

12. LAC ROCHER PROJECT - VICTORY NICKEL

12.1 Information on the Copper Rand tailings facility

D.B. gave a brief progress report on this project. Currently, the Abitibi-Témiscamingue regional office of the MDDEP is still waiting for the permit to operate the mill.

13. BRIDGE IN MISTISSINI

13.1 Receipt of the impact statement

The executive secretary distributed copies of the recently received impact statement for the bridge project in Mistissini. P.A. explained the two primary reasons for building the bridge. First, the bridge would provide access to an area of the village slated for more residential development. Second, the bridge is needed in order to get to a quarry that is

currently accessible only in winter. The members asked to defer discussion of this item to a future meeting in the fall.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

15. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on August 31, 2011, in Chibougamau.

Nathalie Girard
Executive Secretary