



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'examen
Review Committee

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MINUTES OF THE

**285th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(COMEX)**

(APPROVED)

DATE: December 2, 2011

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

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, Executive Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted:

- 1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda**
- 2) Adoption of the minutes of the 282nd, 283rd and 284th meetings**
- 3) Business arising from the 283rd and 284th meetings and correspondence**
- 4) Troilus mine**
 - 4.1 Presentation by an MRNF representative (Alexandre Couturier-Dubé)
 - 4.2 Finalization of the recommendation regarding the remediation plan
- 5) Feedback on the meeting with Hydro-Québec (Dec. 1, 2011)**
- 6) Mistissini bridge project to access a borrow pit**
- 7) Opinaca Mines – Eleonore mining project**
 - 7.1 Request to amend the certificate of authorization to work quarries C-04, C-07 and C-11
- 8) Langlois Mine**
 - 8.1 Request to amend the certificate of authorization to increase the total volume of tailings pond effluent
- 9) Other business**
 - 9.1 Study of bids to build a website for COMEX
- 10) Date and place of the next meeting**

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 282nd, 283rd AND 284th MEETINGS

Deferred to the next meeting.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 283rd AND 284th MEETINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received:

Received October 18, 2011, an information document addressing Condition 6.7 concerning monitoring to ensure the integrity of Waskaganish's water intake (2010) in the context of the **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project**.

Received October 18, 2011, an information document addressing Condition 6.11 concerning the mitigation measures agreed upon with the tallymen affected by the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project and taken in 2009.

Received October 18, 2011, two documents addressing Condition 6.7, namely three photographs and the inspection report prepared by Qualitas inc. entitled Ouvrage de protection au site de la prise d'eau de Waskaganish – Inspection visuelle – compte rendu sommaire, dated August 9, 2010, for the **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project**.

Received October 18, 2011, an information document addressing Condition 6.11 entitled Land use – Mitigating measures. Summary at the end of 2009, submitted in the context of the **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project**.

Received October 27, 2011, for information purposes, a copy of the cover letter sent with the amended certificate of authorization (complete planning of road decommissioning and complete program for closure of various components of the job site in 2011, planning of restoration of areas disturbed by construction activities, including operation of quarries and sandpits) for the **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project**.

Received November 2, 2011, for information purposes, a copy of the cover letter sent with the amended certificate of authorization for the construction of a 3-km-long road to bypass Dike OA-2 located east of the La Sarcelle control structure for **Opinaca Mines' Eleonore mining project**.

Received November 2, 2011, for information purposes, a copy of the cover letter sent with the amended certificate of authorization for operation of Quarry C-05 located at Km 16+500 on the temporary winter road, on the north side of the road, for **Opinaca Mines' Eleonore mining project**.

Received November 3, 2011, for information purposes, copy of a document, dated October 2011, containing Transports Québec's responses to COMEX's questions of September 22, 2011 concerning the **project to extend Route 167 North**.

Received November 4, 2011, for information purposes, a copy of a follow-up report, dated August 2011, on the monitoring of juveniles of target species in Rupert River (reduced-flow sector) under the **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project**.

Received November 9, 2011, for information purposes, a copy of the amended certificate of authorization for the **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project** permitting construction of an ATV trail from the access road to the weir at KP 290 to KP 279.5.

Received November 11, letter from the office of the Deputy Minister of the MDDEP acknowledging receipt of COMEX's letter of November 9 regarding Opinaca Mines' **Eleonore mining project** – Request for a certificate of authorization.

Received November 22, letter from the office of the Deputy Minister of the MDDEP acknowledging receipt of COMEX's letter of November 14 regarding Transports Québec's **project to extend Route 167 North** – Request for a certificate of authorization.

Received November 22, 2011, for authorization, the request to amend the certificate of authorization (to increase total effluent volume per year) for Breakwater Resources' **Langlois Mine**.

Received November 24, 2011, for authorization, the request to amend the certificate of authorization for **Opinaca Mines'** project to work quarries C-04, C-07, C-11.

4. TROILUS MINE

4.1 Presentation by an MRNF representative (Alexandre Couturier-Dubé)

After explaining COMEX's mandate to Mr. Couturier-Dubé, D.B. told him that the COMEX members visited the mine site the past summer and that the Troilus project is the first project that COMEX has been following since it started, around 15 years ago. The purpose of the present meeting is to discuss an element of Condition 7 of the certification of authorization for the mine with an MRNF representative, that is, the possibility of developing the tailings pond for use by wildlife following the mine's closure. Inmet Mining Corp. (Troilus) has made a number of proposals since last summer and there have been several exchanges since then. COMEX wants to take the MRNF's opinion into account in its recommendation; hence the importance of the meeting with Mr. Couturier-Dubé.

Mr. Couturier-Dubé met with representatives of the mine yesterday. The MRNF is mostly worried about leaving water in the tailings pond.

The MRNF wanted assurance from an expert that the current pit cannot effectively drain and divert water from the tailings pond without being treated first. For its part, Inmet is trying to find a way to maintain a certain amount of water in the tailings pond in order to satisfy Condition 7 of its certificate of authorization. It has proposed several solutions, but the MRNF was not satisfied with any of them. The MRNF has to ensure there will be no contamination problems in the future, since it will be responsible for the land once it has been transferred back to the State. If the decision is made to keep water on the site, the MRNF would prefer a pond to an impoundment because, in its opinion, a pond would be easier to manage down the road. However, Inmet still wants to build an impoundment (over 3 m deep). If this option is selected, the MRNF will need enough time (several years) to study the potential impacts of an impoundment before agreeing to the retrocession.

D.B. explained that, as far as COMEX is concerned, both a pond and an impoundment would meet the requirements of a wildlife development. B.C. said that Cree hunters had requested a wildlife development so as to attract wildfowl. It doesn't

matter whether the development is an impoundment or a pond as long as it attracts wildfowl and Cree hunters are happy.

The MRNF is currently waiting to receive a document showing that if an impoundment is built, there will be no sediment re-suspension and if a canal is built, the infrastructures will be safe.

Mr. Couturier-Dubé thinks it would take up to 10 years of monitoring following construction of an impoundment or other infrastructures in the tailings pond before the MRNF is sure it can safely accept the retrocession.

It was agreed that the MRNF will forward the information it receives from Inmet regarding this matter to Daniel Berrouard as soon as it is received.

4.2 Finalization of the recommendation regarding the remediation plan

The members decided to wait for the MRNF's response to the new documents to be submitted before they make their final recommendation.

5. FEEDBACK ON THE MEETING WITH HYDRO-QUÉBEC (DEC. 1, 2011)

R.L. said a meeting with the executive secretary is needed to work on the logistics of the consultation tour in 2012. Ms. Girard will call the six communities to obtain confirmation of the dates.

The members discussed various logistical aspects of the consultation tour, including the planned means of communication, COMEX's position in relation to Hydro-Québec, etc. For COMEX, it is vital that people fully understand the purpose of the consultations as well as COMEX's and Hydro-Québec's respective roles. P.A. offered to do an interview on CBC North to clarify the situation. B.C. said he would be willing to do interviews as well, if necessary.

D.B. said he was satisfied with Hydro-Québec's environmental and social protection initiatives under the Eastmain 1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project. He reminded everyone that the condition to hold post-project consultations is a first in Québec. B.C. is satisfied with Hydro-Québec's initiatives too, but is worried about how the results will be communicated to the communities. In his opinion, the results need to be explained more clearly so as to simplify the presentation and make sure the public fully comprehends the information. Also, the presentation should be adapted to the Cree reality. P.A. was of the same opinion.

6. MISTISSINI BRIDGE PROJECT TO ACCESS A BORROW PIT

D.B. briefly explained the project to build a bridge across a bay in Lake Mistissini in order to provide access to borrow pits on the north shore of the lake. The project will be dealt with by the provincial and regional administrators. The MDDEP has begun reviewing the project. According to D.B., the analyst has already determined information

gaps. B.C. said that the federal government has already initiated steps to ensure compensation measures for affected or disturbed fish habitat if the project goes ahead. P.A. said that the project has raised some controversy in Mistissini over who will build the bridge and where exactly it will be built. According to P.A., the community of Mistissini is in favour of the project and a public consultation might not be necessary. B.C. will ask the Cree analysts to give their opinion on the project by mid-January. R.L. said that the submitted report was interesting in terms of the historical information it contains. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

7. OPINACA MINES - ELEONORE MINING PROJECT

7.1 Request to amend the certificate of authorization to work quarries C-04, C-07 and C-11

D.B. began the discussion by explaining that COMEX received a new application for authorization of quarries. However, the proponent did not provide the basic information (impacts and planned mitigation measures) requested by COMEX when Opinaca submitted its last application for authorization of Quarry C-05, which was just a few weeks ago. The application is thus incomplete and D.B. moved that the Committee ask the company to submit a complete file before it will study the application.

R.L. seconded the motion. B.C. wondered if the tallymen concerned have been informed of these quarry projects and, if so, if they approve of them. D.B. will call the person in charge of the project at Opinaca soon to find out. R.L. asked him to inform the proponent that COMEX's review is delayed when information is missing.

8. LANGLOIS MINE

8.1 Request to amend the certificate of authorization to modify the distribution of tailings pond effluent

Apparently, the proponent can now distribute effluent differently while still meeting mining effluent standards, so has submitted a new request for authorization, which COMEX will study between now and the next meeting. The analysts should finish their work by the next COMEX meeting, which is scheduled for the end of January 2012.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Study of bids to build a website for COMEX

P.M. explained the project. According to the checking he did, it appears that the MDDEP is open to funding the project. Ms. Girard went over the two bids received, as well as the specifics requested. The executive secretary will send the two complete bids to the members so they can render a decision. B.C. added that the website should contain a link to the MDDEP website as well as the impact statements for projects submitted to COMEX.

10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next COMEX meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2012, at the JBACE office.