



## Review Committee

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## 286th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**(ADOPTED)**

**DATE:** January 25, 2012

**PLACE:** Conference room at the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment office  
383, rue Saint-Jacques, Bureau 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 9:25 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, 284th and 285th meetings**
- 3) Business arising from the 283rd and 284th meetings and correspondence**
  - 3.1 Letter from the HFTCC regarding its role
  - 3.2 Invitation from the Cree-Québec Forestry Board
  - 3.3 Letter regarding New Millennium's mining project
- 4) Troilus mine**
  - 4.1 Finalization of the recommendation regarding the remediation plan
- 5) Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project**
  - 5.1 Consultation tour with Hydro-Québec: logistics update
- 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 operate 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) BlackRock mine**
  - 9.1 Report by Kelly Leblanc, CRA
- 10) Cree training program (presentation by Marc Dunn)**
- 11) Bachelor**
- 12) Stornoway**
- 13) Other business**
  - 13.1 Review of bids for construction of the COMEX website
  - 13.2 Statement by the President and CEO of Strateco regarding an agreement with the Mistissini Band Council
- 14) Date and place of the next meeting**

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## 2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 282nd, 283rd, 284th AND 285th MEETINGS

The minutes of the 282nd, 283rd, 284th and 285th meetings were all adopted with minor changes.

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

### 3.1 Letter from the HFTCC regarding its role

COMEX received a letter from the HFTCC, which was addressed to several committees involved in the JBNQA assessment and review procedure. The members agreed that opinions from the HFTCC are always welcome; however, since there is currently no mechanism providing for its systematic involvement in project reviews, the members will continue to seek its opinion where deemed necessary. The situation might improve in a few months if, for example, projects (and related documents) are posted online as soon as they are submitted to COMEX for review. The public, including the HFTCC, would thus have access to documents and could learn about projects being reviewed by COMEX. It was also proposed that COMEV be asked to include a note in its directives notifying the proponent that the impact statements and studies submitted in relation to a project are considered public documents and will eventually be available online.

### 3.2 Invitation from the Cree-Québec Forestry Board

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board invited COMEX to attend a meeting in Montréal on February 15, in the afternoon. The preliminary findings of the woodland caribou management report will be discussed. All of the members are supposed to attend.

### 3.3 Letter regarding New Millennium's mining project

A letter from Paul F. Wilkinson, consultant for New Millennium's mining project in Nunavik, was copied to COMEX. The letter mentions that the project will likely necessitate the construction of a power line into the area covered by the environmental assessment procedure applicable south of the 55th parallel. COMEX should receive the information on the power-line project from Hydro-Québec, the proponent, between now and 2013.

Correspondence received since COMEX's 285th meeting:

- Received December 5, 2011, for information purposes, a copy of the certificate of authorization for the **extension of Route 167 North** to the Otish Mountains.
- Received December 7, 2011, for information purposes, an e-mail from Brian Craik forwarding a letter from Paul F. Wilkinson (on behalf of New Millennium Iron Corp.) to Matthew Coon-Come, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, regarding responsibility for the construction of a power line for New Millennium Iron Corp.'s mining project.

- Received December 12, 2011, for information purposes, a copy of the certificate of authorization for the **Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish National Park Project**.
- Received December 13, 2011, for information purposes, a letter from Ashley Iserhoff, of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee, regarding an opinion on development of the territory covered by the JBNQA and the role of the HFTCC.
- Received December 13, 2011, for a recommendation, the impact statement for the extraction and milling of 900 000 tonnes of gold ore from the underground mine on the **Bachelor Lake** property.
- Received December 15, 2011, for information purposes, a report entitled Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'utilisation des frayères à touladi aménagées dans les lacs RP062, RP030 et Cabot du bief Rupert amont - rapport d'activités 2010, dated September 2011. The report was produced as part of the environmental follow-up program for the operating phase of the **Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project**.
- Received December 29, 2011, for a recommendation, the directives and impact statement for the **BlackRock mining project**.
- Received January 4, 2012, for information purposes, a letter from Michael Binder, of the federal government, to Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio regarding correspondence relating to the **Matoush** uranium exploration project.
- Received January 16, 2012, for information purposes, an e-mail from Daniel Berrouard forwarding a missive from France Trépanier, of Gold Corp., to Diane Jean (MDDEP). Addenda to the request to amend the CA for the operation of three additional quarries –**Eleonore mining project**.

#### 4. TROILUS MINE

##### 4.1 Finalization of the recommendation regarding the remediation plan

Golder should be sending COMEX its opinion on developing the tailings pond for use by wildfowl. Golder has apparently rejected the idea of excavating a diversion ditch because it would be too costly and complicated. Consequently, the members anticipate a delay in the MRNF's agreement to retrocede land. However, the proposal to develop the tailings pond for use by wildfowl satisfies the condition stipulated in the CA.

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The proponent, MRNF and MDDEP plan to meet on February 8 to discuss the matter. COMEX will be informed of each party's position, after which it will be able to make recommendations.

## **5. EASTMAIN-1-A/SARCELLE/RUPERT PROJECT**

### **5.1 Consultation tour with Hydro-Québec: logistics update**

R.L. and the executive secretary briefly went over the steps taken in preparation for the consultation tour in June 2012. During a meeting with the Hydro-Québec representatives held in Montréal on January 17, 2012, it was agreed to share the organizing tasks. COMEX will be responsible for organizing consultations with the communities concerned, reserving halls and sound equipment, and hiring translators and stenographers. It will also be in charge of preparing a schematic diagram of the room layout. So far, four communities have confirmed the date of the consultations.

The members asked the executive secretary to send them an update on the dates and places of each consultation.

COMEX would like a second day of consultations in Mistissini and Nemaska. It also wants to assess, with Hydro-Québec and the communities concerned, the possibility of holding consultations in Mistissini on May 28 and 29, and in Nemaska on May 31 and June 1.

Hydro-Québec is adamant that a preparatory visit should be made a few weeks ahead of the consultations.

Given the high bids received for sound and translation services, the members asked that more firms be asked to bid. The members stressed again to the executive secretary the importance of hiring competent translators, especially from Cree to French.

## **6. MISTISSINI BRIDGE PROJECT TO ACCESS A BORROW PIT**

A few remaining questions are included in the report prepared by the MDDEP analyst. A CRA-appointed member shared additional information that will necessitate changes to the questions in the MDDEP analyst's report. It was asked that the report, which will be sent to the provincial and regional administrators, be translated into English.

## **7. OPINACA MINES – ELEONORE MINING PROJECT**

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

In December, COMEX received an application for authorization to operate three quarries (C-04, C-07 and C-11). The application did not include enough information for COMEX

to make a recommendation. After receiving the missing information, the MDDEP studied the application. There was no objection to recommending that all three quarries be authorized for the purposes of this project. The COMEX members therefore recommend their authorization.

In another vein, the members were reminded that Opinaca Mines is supposed to send COMEX the agreement entered into with Hydro-Québec.

The executive secretary informed the Committee that it received a request from a Goldcorp employee for a copy of a brief submitted during the public hearings held in Chibougamau on Opinaca Mines' Eleonore mining project. The person would also like a copy of COMEX's review report on the Eleonore mining project. The brief can be sent. The review report has already been sent. However, the members asked to verify that the person is indeed an employee of Goldcorp or if there might have been some confusion and the person is actually an employee of Golder.

## **8. LANGLOIS MINE**

### **8.1 Request to amend the certificate of authorization to increase the total volume of tailings pond effluent**

A condition in the certificate of authorization (CA) issued for the Langlois mine stipulates when mining effluent is discharged into the river. However, it turns out that the flow of the river in question is greater than estimated, which means it will take longer to attain the EDOs than initially stated in the CA. Consequently, the Langlois mine has requested that COMEX amend the CA to extend the period of effluent discharges while respecting the standards in effect.

According to MDDEP analysts, there's no problem in granting the request because the data used when the CA was issued were conservative estimates, as few data on the river were available at the time.

The members recommended that the request to amend the CA be granted.

## **9. BLACKROCK MINE**

### **9.1 Report by Kelly Leblanc, CRA**

BC sent COMEX the report prepared by Kelly Leblanc, according to which the proposed area of the mining project is not of special interest for the Crees. The area is apparently already disturbed. The MDDEP analysts have also begun reviewing the project.

## **10. CREE TRAINING PROGRAM (presentation by Marc Dunn)**

Presentation by Marc Dunn, Regional Coordinator for the Environment, and Kathy Shecapio, Director General of Niskamoon Corporation.

Mr. Dunn and Ms. Shecapio offered to give COMEX a presentation on the program they drew up to facilitate the diversity of jobs held by the Crees, part of Condition 6.42 of the certificate of authorization for the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project. It seems that since the start of the program five years ago, it hasn't been easy to attain the initial goals of the program. Consequently, Niskamoon Corporation has developed its own program, which offers environmental internships to Cree youth. Since its inception, 33 young Crees have participated in the program.

Interns gain hands-on experience that is officially recognized by institutional organizations. This will fill a gap observed among Cree workers who cannot always get their experience working on contracts with Hydro-Québec recognized by institutional organizations.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the program takes place outside the classroom. The program is offered in collaboration with the Cégep de Chibougamau, which is affiliated with the Cégep de St-Félicien. Internships are supported by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et des Sports du Québec.

## **11. BACHELOR**

The impact statement was submitted only recently, so the project review is still in the preliminary stages. One of the members briefly explained this four-year project to work the old Bachelor Lake mine and use the original tailings pond. A more-thorough analysis should be available by the next meeting. A CRA-appointed member shared his list of questions with the other members. Both parties agreed to discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

## **12. STORNOWAY**

The proponent e-mailed his application for authorization to the MDDEP on December 28, 2011, claiming that printing problems are causing a delay in the transmission of print copies of the documents. The Cree Regional Authority hasn't received the file yet and if it doesn't receive it in the next few days, the MDDEP will send it a copy.

### **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **13.1 Review of bids for construction of the COMEX website**

The members agreed on the principle of the project, but the website cannot be built until it is sure that the necessary human and financial resources are available.

#### **13.2 Statement by the President and CEO of Strateco regarding an agreement with the Mistissini Band Council**

An MDDEP-appointed member told everyone about an article stating that Strateco Resources and Mistissini had signed an agreement.

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

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2012, in Montréal.