



la Convention  
de la Baie-James  
et du Nord québécois

**Comité d'examen  
Review Committee**

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**MINUTES OF THE**

**287th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
(COMEX)**

**(APPROVED)**

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**DATE:** February 15, 2012

**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

Executive Secretary: Stéphane Cossette

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**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) Adoption of the minutes of the 286th meeting**
- 2) Business arising from the 286th meeting and correspondence**
- 3) Extension of Route 167 North**  
Request for amendment
- 4) Woodland caribou – Meeting organized by the Cree-Québec Forestry Board**
- 5) Blackrock**
- 6) Bachelor Lake**
- 7) Stornoway**
- 8) Matoush**  
Letter from Chief Shecapio
- 9) Eastmain-1-A/Rupert**  
Follow-up to Condition 9.2  
Update on the logistics of the 2012 consultations
- 10) Other business**
- 11) Date and place of the next meeting**

**1. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 286th MEETING**

Deferred.

**2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 286th MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The recommendation regarding the requested amendment to the CA for the Langlois mining project was transmitted to the provincial administrator, as was the recommendation regarding the three quarries for the Eleonore mining project. The document containing COMEX's additional questions regarding the Mistissini bridge project is ready, but waiting to be translated.

The estimated cost of the bridge's construction is \$20 million. The proponent will modify the project to cut the cost. The members agreed that public hearings aren't necessary.

**3. EXTENSION OF ROUTE 167 NORTH**

The MTQ asked to amend the CA to allow it to operate three borrow pits located less than 75 m from water bodies. This request relates to Condition 12 of the CA, which stipulates that requests to amend the CA must be submitted to the Administrator. The *Regulation respecting pits and quarries* allows the operation of a new pit or quarry located less than 75 m from a water body on the condition that an application in this regard be submitted to the MDDEP regional office and be accompanied by an environmental impact study. The information provided by the proponent is not specific enough, making clarifications necessary. We don't know if the MTQ has the required information. Because it's winter, it may not be possible to go into the field to collect data. Very little sand and gravel is available in the area, which is why the amendment to the CA was requested. The members agreed that Condition 12 must be respected and that questions need to be asked. Draft questions will be prepared soon, including a request for more-detailed maps.

The second element of the request to amend the CA entails increasing the size of a quarry (CA 55A) by 1.5 ha, from the originally planned 5 ha. Because this increase will not have a significant impact and complies with the regulation, COMEX can recommend that it be authorized.

The third element of the request pertains to disposal areas for surplus fill material. The proponent plans on dumping it on the right-of-way of the old winter road. Materials will be stockpiled on 40 sites, 32 of which are located in the future Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish national park. The parks people are in favour of this, because the material will enable the old winter road to be restored more quickly. The members agreed, however, that this amendment should be authorized on the condition that the sites not be located too near a water body and that the final sites be selected in consultation with the future manager of the ATO park and other land users, including trappers.

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**4. WOODLAND CARIBOU – MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE CREE-QUÉBEC FORESTRY BOARD (CQFB)**

An information meeting organized by the CQFB will be held in the afternoon of February 15 to discuss the status of woodland caribou. During the meeting, PM will thank the CQFB for keeping COMEX abreast of the work being conducted and inform it that we'd like to receive a copy of the final report.

**5. BLACKROCK AND STORNOWAY MINING PROJECTS**

The review of both these projects is under way. The aim of the discussion is to establish a timetable for the projects' authorization. Given the size and complex nature of the documents, COMEX is targeting the end of April for sending its questions and comments. Public hearings could be held in late August/early September. The members agreed that the communities of Mistissini and Chibougamau will be consulted on the Stornoway project. The communities of Oujé-Bougoumou and Chibougamau will be consulted on the Blackrock project.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency) triggered its environmental assessment procedure for both of the projects. It was mentioned during the meeting that there is no agreement between the governments of Canada and Québec for harmonizing the two procedures. However, there is an agreement between the Agency and the MDDEP regarding information-sharing between the federal and Québec governments, which provides for pilot projects, such as the Stornoway project. Steps will be taken to see if joint consultations could be held.

The Agency and the CRA held talks on the holding of public information sessions on the Blackrock and Stornoway projects, as well as a possible agreement on the involvement of CRA analysts in the federal environmental assessment procedure.

Since no discussions were held between the MDDEP and the Agency regarding the Blackrock project, the MDDEP authorities will be informed about the possibility of joint information sessions. It should be possible to give a progress report on this matter at the next meeting.

**6. BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT**

A written analysis of this project was sent to the members. It's a preliminary document, though, as more opinions still have to be received. Another document will be sent in the form of questions and comments. The major issue with this project concerns management of the tailings pond. Considering that consultations relating to Condition 9.2 of the CA for the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project will be held in June, the members agreed to give priority to this file so that the questions and comments can be sent off in mid-March. Public hearings are not ruled out. The decision to hold hearings or not will be based on the proponent's responses to the questions and on the progress of discussions between the proponent and the First Nation of Waswanipi regarding the signing of an agreement. There are two windows of time for the public hearings: mid-May or early July.

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## **7. MATOUSH URANIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT**

On February 7, 2012, COMEX learned that the chief of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, Richard Shecapio, wrote to Federal Administrator Elaine Feldman requesting that the impact assessment procedure be paused until the Cree Nation of Mistissini indicates its satisfaction with the project. Strateco Resources Inc. signed a communication and information agreement with the Cree Nation of Mistissini stipulating that Strateco Resources would communicate information regarding the Matoush project to the community of Mistissini, through various means, for a period of six months. However, the agreement states that this is not tantamount to the Cree Nation of Mistissini's approval of the project. It's not clear that this agreement meets the condition proposed in COMEX's recommendation.

During the meeting, it was mentioned that the federal environment minister had announced that the Matoush project could be authorized, giving effect to the Federal Administrator's decision. However, the proponent cannot proceed with its project, because the project hasn't been authorized by either the Provincial Administrator or the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) yet. Furthermore, the CNSC may still hold public hearings on this project.

## **8. EASTMAIN-1-A/RUPERT**

In accordance with Condition 9.2 of the certificate of authorization, consultations will be held in the following communities:

Mistissini: May 28-29

Nemaska: May 30-31

Waskaganish: June 4-5 (to be confirmed by the community)

Eastmain: June 6-7

Wemindji: June 12-13

Chisasibi: June 18-19

The dates for the consultations in Waskaganish and Wemindji might be switched. The community will be contacted to see if it can receive COMEX on June 11 and 12. Hydro-Québec will look after the COMEX members' transportation and lodging. COMEX will look after finding companies that can provide audiovisual equipment, record the sessions and provide interpreters. Bids for these services have already been received.

Delegates will travel to the communities March 5 to 8 to see the rooms and accommodation infrastructure.

Hydro-Québec and COMEX will meet on March 22, 2012 to discuss the consultations.

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

The next COMEX meeting will be held on March 21, 2012, in Montréal.