



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'examen

Review Committee

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MINUTES OF THE

289th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

(APPROVED)

DATE: April 26, 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

Executive Secretary: Stéphane Cossette

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. and the following agenda was adopted after being amended to add an item concerning visits to the sites of the Stornoway and Matoush mining projects and the Route 167 North extension:

- 1) Adoption of the minutes of the 286th, 287th and 288th meetings**
- 2) Business arising from the 288th meeting and correspondence**
- 3) Waswanipi wastewater treatment system**
 - a) technical meeting**
- 4) Bachelor Lake mining project**
 - a) public hearing**
 - b) meeting in Desmaraisville**
 - c) visit to the mine site**
- 5) Eleonore mine**
 - a) Power transmission line – Amendment to the CA**
 - b) Amendment to the CA – Conditions 2.3 and 6.5**
- 6) Eastmain-1-A/Rupert**
 - a) Request to amend the CA – Condition 5.22**
 - b) Logistics update**
 - c) Comments in preparation for the April 27 meeting**
 - d) Possible visit from the assistant deputy minister and the administrator of the JBNQA procedure**
- 7) BlackRock mining project**
 - a) Update of the impact statement**
 - b) Visit to the mine site in July**
- 8) Stornoway mining project**
 - a) Update of the impact statement**
 - b) Proposed joint public consultation with the federal review panel**
- 9) Other business**
- 10) Date and place of the next meeting**

1. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Adoption of the minutes of the 286th and 287th meetings was deferred.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 288th MEETING

S.C. went over the correspondence received and sent since the last meeting. The list is appended to these minutes.

Bachelor Lake mining project

Following the last meeting, discussions were held to finalize the document containing COMEX's questions and comments for the proponent. B.C. commented on groundwater quality. It was agreed not to discuss the matter further. If necessary, conditions could be attached to the certificate of authorization.

Eleonore mining project

Following the last meeting, new information was transmitted regarding the request to amend the CA to permit the operation of borrow pits for the permanent road's construction. Once the work has been completed, the proponent wants to keep 1 or 2 borrow pits for road maintenance purposes. In response to a query from B.C. at the last meeting, D.B. mentioned that the proponent visited the sites of the future borrow pits and performed tests. Borrow pit A1 will be gradually restored starting in 2013. D.B. presented the regional office's inspection report. Based on this new information, the Committee is recommending that the requested amendment to the CA be authorized on two conditions:

- a) That, with the exception of Sandpit A-01-A, which is actually an expansion of Sandpit A-01, material may be extracted from the quarries and sandpits covered by the requested amendment for the sole purpose of building the mine access road, and all of the quarries and sandpits must be restored at the end of the project, starting in 2013.
- b) That the proponent submit a progress report in 2014 discussing Sandpit A-01-A and the gradual restoration of the entire Borrow pit A-01.

Following the last meeting, a request to amend the CA was sent to the Administrator. The amendment concerns development of the tailings pond below spot elevation 220 m, near the Opinaca reservoir.

3. WASWANIPI WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

a) Technical meeting

The wastewater treatment project in Waswanipi was submitted to the procedure because it uses new technology (biological disk). The MDDEP considers the biological disk treatment system a demonstration project. A technical meeting could help avoid a lot of questions and comments. The meeting would be organized by COMEX and the regional office. The CRA and its consultant would also attend. D.B. will see if it would be possible to hold the meeting in Chibougamau on May 23 or in Québec City on May 24.

4. BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT

a) Public hearing

S.C. reminded the members that May 22 has been confirmed for the hearing in Waswanipi. A public notice was published in The Nation on April 20 and more will be published in Le Jamésien and Le Citoyen de l'Harricana. Copies of the impact statement will be sent to the Waswanipi Band Council office and S.C. will contact Julie Raiche of Metanor Resources to ask if the proponent could give a short presentation (around 20 minutes) on the project at the start of the session.

b) Meeting in Desmaraisville

S.C. said he called the Municipality of James Bay office and there are no administrators in Desmaraisville. It would be better to write to the Municipality of James Bay to solicit comments. A draft letter to that effect was prepared.

c) Visit to the mine site

S.C. said he spoke to Julie Raiche and that it would be possible to visit the facilities. We should be able to arrive at the site around 1:30 p.m. The tour of the site will take approximately 2 hours.

5. ELEONORE MINE

a) Power transmission line – amendment to the CA

The Committee received a request from Hydro-Québec, which wants to increase the operating voltage of the power transmission line between the Eastmain-1 substation and the Eleonore mine site from 69 kV to 120 kV. This will require replacing 6 transformers and 3 lightning arresters at the Eastmain-1 substation. No additional structures will be required to connect the future substation to the last pylon of the existing power line. In theory, there will be no new impact, since the power line already exists. The members agreed that the project can be authorized.

b) Amendment to the CA – Conditions 2.3 and 6.5

Opinaca Mines has requested that conditions 2.3 and 6.5 of the CA be amended with respect to the location of the tailings pond below spot elevation 220 m and the signing of an agreement to that effect with Hydro-Québec. Enclosed with the request was a letter from Claude Major, Regional Director of Société Hydro-Québec Production, to Guy Belleau, General Manager of Opinaca Mines Ltd. Société Hydro-Québec was informing Opinaca Mines that if an agreement between the two parties is not signed by June 28, 2012, Opinaca must cease all use of Hydro-Québec infrastructures, pay for the repair of the infrastructures and restore all land used below spot elevation 220 m to the condition it was in before the project. In addition, Hydro-Québec

confirmed in the letter that it has no objection to Opinaca Mines's building facilities for its mining operations below spot elevation 220 m, but it will do so at its own risk and must respect the five (5) conditions stipulated by the utility.

Considering the information provided by the proponent, the members approved the amendment of conditions 2.3 and 6.5 to take into account the new timeframes for signing the agreement.

6. EASTMAIN-1-A/RUPERT

a) Request to amend the CA — Condition 5.22

Condition 5.22 of the certificate of authorization stipulates that the proponent must submit for authorization any development of a dip net fishing site at Smokey Hill and that this development must be prepared in collaboration with the community of Waskaganish and the tallymen concerned. The proposed developments, which were agreed upon during meetings of the Smokey Hill Liaison Committee, consist of two, quasi-circular pools built of rock located downstream of Smokey Hill rapids. Tallymen built the pools in 2011 for experimental fishing purposes and, based on the results, it was proposed that they be maintained and that reinforcement work be carried out.

Based on the information provided, the members agreed to recommend authorizing the proposed developments at the dip net fishing site at Smokey Hill.

b) Logistics update

S.C. said that the firm SOCAM had been awarded the sound and recording contract for the consultations. These services will cost around \$27 000.

P.M. mentioned that Jacques Dupont and maybe Diane Jean would be attending one of the sessions. Lise Pinsonnault of Hydro-Québec should be contacted to see if there are vacant seats on the plane. P.M. wondered if an unofficial meeting with Matthew Coon Come would be possible.

c) Comments in preparation for the April 27 meeting

The purpose of tomorrow's meeting is to explain Eastmain's, Wemindji's and Chisasibi's primary concerns with regard to work on the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle powerhouses and diversion of Rupert River, as well as the effectiveness of the mitigation measures put in place for these communities. The principal mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures put in place for the community of Chisasibi and the agreements signed with Chisasibi in relation to the La Grande complex will also be discussed.

B.C. told the Committee about issues that were raised during a meeting of the Monitoring Committee and risk being raised during the consultations. P.M. asked him to present them during the meeting with Hydro-Québec/SEBJ.

7. BLACKROCK MINING PROJECT

a) Update of the impact statement

D.B. said that the MDDEP is still studying the impact statement, but there has been a delay. Mid-May is still the target for sending questions to the proponent. Additional information on access to the mine site was sent. The proponent proposes to build a 23-km-long rail line to transport ore. We should receive additional information on this project in September.

Two major issues are emerging, i.e. the significant direct impact on the site, particularly due to the size of the pit, and the impacts along the site's periphery. The questions and comments we receive are likely to deal with these issues. The CRA sent its comments on the BlackRock mining project and they will be taken into account in both the final analysis report and the questions sent to the proponent. If the report is ready, a meeting devoted specifically to this project could be held in the week of May 14.

Public hearings are scheduled for late August, but there could be changes depending on changes in the proposed rail line.

b) Visit to the mine site in July

P.M. asked the members if they were interested in visiting the BlackRock mine site in early July. The visit could be combined with a 2-day tour of the Matoush, Stornoway and Route 167 North project sites. The members agreed that it would be worthwhile to visit the BlackRock mine site as well. The visits will take place on July 10 and 11. Considering the number of people who will be going, two helicopters will be needed. The members will visit the BlackRock mine site on July 10, in the afternoon, and the other sites on July 11.

8. STORNOWAY MINING PROJECT

a) Update of the impact statement

Mid-May is still the target for sending questions to the proponent. The proponent is pressuring to obtain the necessary authorizations as soon as possible. The main issue with this project will be the release of effluent into Lake Lagopède. According to the proponent, this will have a minor impact thanks to effluent treatment and dilution. P.M. asked if we'd received comments from the CRA on this project. D.B. said we hadn't, but that it would be worthwhile. They could be considered in the project review, the same as for the BlackRock project.

b) Proposed joint consultations with the federal review panel

It won't be possible to hold joint consultations with the federal review panel. D.B. reminded the members that the MDDEP had contacted the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to say that COMEX will be holding public consultations on the Stornoway mining project in the first week of September. The Agency has decided to hold its consultations in the first week of June and doesn't think a compromise is possible.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

Correspondence received and sent between March 15 and April 24, 2012

Correspondence received

Date	From	Subject
March 19, 2012	Brian Craik	Email from Brian Craik regarding transmission of CRA's analysis of the impact statement for the BlackRock project
March 23, 2012	Jean-François Coulombe	Letter to Pascal Hamelin regarding the questions and comments on the Bachelor Lake mining project
March 26, 2012	Paul Letendre	Acknowledgement of receipt of the questions and comments on the Bachelor Lake mining project
March 20, 2012	Jean-François Coulombe	Request to amend the CA for the power transmission line into the Eleonore mine site
March 29, 2012	Paul Letendre	Acknowledgement of receipt of the Troilus mine remediation plan
March 29, 2012	Paul Letendre	Acknowledgement of receipt of authorization to operate the sandpits on the Eleonore mine site
March 20, 2012	Jean-François Coulombe	Transmission of enlarged maps for figures 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 of the impact statement
April 10, 2012	Guy Héту	Planned workshop on impact assessment and review of mineral exploration projects
April 10, 2012	Jean-François Coulombe	Transmission of an updated impact statement for the BlackRock mining project
April 12, 2012	Jean-François Coulombe	Request to amend Condition 5.22 of the CA for the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert hydroelectric development project
April 17, 2012	Jean-François Coulombe	Request to amend the CA (conditions 2.3 and 6.5) for the Eleonore mining project
April 19, 2012	Nicole Gougeon	Transmission to HFTCC members of the Administrator's response to the concerns regarding consultation of the HFTCC.

Date	From	Subject
April 19, 2012	Jean-François Coulombe	Transmission of additional information to the impact statement for the Bachelor Lake mining project.
April 23, 2012	Alan Penn	Transmission of documents relating to the proposed wastewater treatment technology for Waswanipi

Correspondence sent

Date	To	Subject
March 15, 2012	Rodney Mark	Confirmation of dates of the public consultations in Wemindji on the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project
March 22, 2012	Diane Jean	Transmission of COMEX's questions and comments on the impact statement for the Bachelor Lake mining project
March 23, 2012	Diane Jean	Recommendation regarding amendment of Condition 7 of the certificate of authorization for the Troilus mine
March 26, 2012	Gordon J. Blackned	Confirmation of dates of the public consultations in Waskaganish on the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project
March 26, 2012	Diane Jean	Recommendation regarding amendment of the certificate of authorization for the Eleonore mining project to permit operation of sandpits R-30-B, R-36-B and R-44 and Quarry C-02 as well as expansion of Sandpit A-01
March 26, 2012	Davey Bobbish	Confirmation of dates of the public consultations in Chisasibi on the Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project