



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

**Comité d'examen
Review Committee**

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**MINUTES OF THE
294th MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
(COMEX)**

(ADOPTED)

DATE:	July 9, 2012
PLACE:	Hôtel-Môtel Nordic, Chibougamau
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
Guests:	Raymond Houle, MDDEP Kelly Leblanc, CRA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA;

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. The agenda was amended to include an item on the report on the status of woodland caribou, and was adopted:

- 1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda**
- 2) Adoption of the minutes from the 289th and 290th meetings**
- 3) Business arising from the 293rd meeting and correspondence**
- 4) Site visit planning**
- 5) BlackRock mining project**
- 6) Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project**
 - a) Rehabilitation plan for affected sites**
 - b) Plan for tallymen access**
 - c) Proposed timetable for consultations**
 - d) Presentation on the agreement between Hydro-Québec and the GCC**
- 7) Proposed 315-325 kV power line and substation to Waswanipi**
- 8) Extension of highway 167 Nord**
- 9) Waswanipi wastewater treatment plant**
- 10) Mistissini bridge**
- 11) Request for access to documents from the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay**
- 12) Other business**
- 13) Date and location of next meeting**

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM THE 289th AND 290th MEETINGS

The minutes from the 289th and 290th meetings were adopted with amendments.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 293rd MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence sent and received since the last meeting are attached to the minutes.

3. SITE VISIT PLANNING

Regarding the site visit planned for the following day, July 10, the schedule for this has been arranged for some time, but after recent discussions with people from BlackRock Metals, a visit to their site would be possible with the presence of a representative from the town of Mistissini. For reasons of logistics and availability, it was decided that the planned schedule would not be changed. For reasons of confidentiality, only people connected with these projects are able to participate. A meeting with BlackRock representatives was scheduled for the evening.

On July 10, helicopters will fly over highway 167 and the sites of the Matoush and Stornoway mine projects. The flight back towards Chibougamau will fly over the Témiscamie River inside the planned Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish national park, as well as the BlackRock mining project.

With regards to the Stornoway mine visit, the areas of interest are the two pit locations, the discharge point in Caribou Lake and the tailings storage site. The project seems to be well designed and given that no chemical treatment of the ore will occur, impacts should be reduced.

4. BLACKROCK MINE PROJECT

A draft document with questions and comments was sent recently to members. The objective was to finalize the document within a week. With regard to the public consultations, it would be premature to tell the company that we are planning public consultations at the end of October given that we don't know if we will receive all the additional information in September.

As for the questions to ask the proponents, Kelly Leblanc of the CRA noted that it is difficult to determine from the impact study how the consultations on land use were carried out. BlackRock Metals never consulted some of the tallymen. It would be useful to have some clarification on this, as well as on the dealings between BlackRock and the Band Councils of Oujé-Bougoumou and Mistissini. Raymond Houle of the MDDEP agreed with this proposal. He added that questions also should be asked about major infrastructure. The impact study did not address this aspect in much detail. In addition, the sampling done was so limited that it will be difficult to compare future results with the guide samples.

5. EASTMAIN-1-A/SARCELLE/ AND RUPERT PROJECT

a Rehabilitation plan for affected sites

We received the 2012 restoration plan that requires our approval. The document focuses in particular on access roads, which will either become permanent or be restored. The analysis that was done on this is standard. Access roads that are not maintained are no longer the responsibility of Hydro-Québec. All the tallymen were consulted. COMEX noted that a decision has not yet been made about the three access roads to the dams. This information will need to be supplied in the plan sent for the 2013 year. Members agreed to recommend the project.

b Plan for tallyman access

Hydro-Québec sent us a series of maps showing minor modifications to the access roads for tallymen. Members agreed to recommend the plan.

c Proposed timetable for consultations

It was proposed that the public consultations be scheduled beginning the week of November 5, 2012. Only one evening for each community is planned. The consultations will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays. This proposal will be sent to John Paul Murdoch of the Grand Council of the Cree for his comments, and then to the chiefs of the communities.

d Presentation on the agreement between Hydro-Québec and the GCC

Hydro-Québec has offered to give us a presentation on the agreement concerning land appropriation and use. This could take place at the next regular COMEX meeting in late August or early September.

6. PROPOSED 315 – 325 KV POWER LINE AND SUBSTATION FOR WASWANIPÍ

COMEX received a new proposal for the construction of a substation and power line for Waswanipi. This is a simple project to increase capacity so as to fill the needs of the town of Waswanipi. It was noted that extensive consultations have been carried out. Members agreed to recommend that this work be authorized, with the condition that the tallymen are advised of the dates the work will be done.

7. EXTENSION OF HIGHWAY 167 NORD

Three elements of this file were up for discussion. First, COMEX was sent additional information several weeks ago and we need to formulate a recommendation in this regard. Second, an application for a modification to the certificate of authorization was sent in April. This application contained various items, including the river crossing, borrow pit access, waste areas and the plan to use borrow pits within 75 metres of a waterway. It was proposed that in order to speed things up, we make separate recommendations regarding each item. Finally, information only recently arrived about the plan to use borrow pit D-22B within 75 metres of a waterway.

The items in the application for a modification sent in April have gone for review to Raymond Houle at the MDDEP. However, work needs to be done before the next meeting to determine which items can be authorized and which ones require more information.

8. WASWANIPI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

COMEX is still waiting for comments from the CRA before it can finish its analysis of this file.

9. MISTISSINI BRIDGE

COMEX has received a response to our questions to the proponent. There are two aspects to our analysis: technical and socio-economic-political, especially given the cost of the project. There are many risks of cost over-runs and members questioned whether it was up to COMEX to decide the cost-benefit analysis of the project. Members still had concerns about the project, especially in connection to its justification and its acceptance by the population of Mistissini. It was proposed that a technical meeting be held with representatives from the Mistissini Band Council.

10. REQUEST FROM THE CREE BOARD OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OF JAMES BAY FOR ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay made a request for access to certain documents concerning projects that were approved in the past, including transcripts of hearings, certificates of authorization and COMEX analysis reports. A decision on this request was deferred until the next meeting.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

The report on the status of the woodland caribou was sent to the MRNF and the Cree. This report contained a series of recommendations for the recovery of the woodland caribou. Members discussed the report, and basically agreed that the choice to be made is between protecting the caribou and developing the North. The creation of parks and protected areas could be part of the solution. The Administrator has already indicated that he expects the MRNF and the Cree to take a common position on the construction of logging roads versus caribou protection. Amendments to be made to the Forest Act are going to change things, and the MRNF will thus become the proponent for logging roads. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

12. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next COMEX is scheduled for July 24 in Quebec City.

COMEX correspondence - June 5 to July 9, 2012

Correspondence received

Date	Received from	Subject
June 5, 2012	Mireille Paul	Copy of modification to the CA concerning the power line between the Eastmain-1-A powerhouse and the Eleonore mining property
June 12, 2012	Isaac Voyageur	Request for more information on the water supply system at the village of Eastmain.
June 14, 2012	Mireille Paul	Replies to questions sent February 20 about operation of D-R167A and D-22 borrow pits (A and B) - Extension of highway 167 Nord
June 14, 2012	Mireille Paul	Transmittal of monitoring report on suspended solids in sections of the Rupert, Lemarre and Nemiscau rivers downstream from the Rupert diversion bays and the Eastmain-1 reservoir inlet - Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion Project, condition 5.1
June 14, 2012	Mireille Paul	Transmittal of maps re the agreement between Hydro-Québec/SEBJ and tallymen on access road planning - Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion Project, condition 2.6
June 14, 2012	Mireille Paul	Transmittal of monitoring report on birds of prey, Rupert River diversion bay sector - Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion Project, condition 1
June 14, 2012	Mireille Paul	Copy of modification to the CA for the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion Project, concerning condition 5.22 (Smokey Hill)
June 19, 2012	Mireille Paul	Transmittal of Réaménagement des sites affectés (plantation et ensemencement et maintien des accès) [Rehabilitation of affected sites – planting, seeding and access maintenance] , 2012 Master Plan - Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion Project, conditions 2.7 and 2.8

Date	Received from	Subject
June 19, 2012	Paul Letendre	Acknowledgement of receipt re modification to the CA for construction of the M25 access road and ATV trail.
June 21, 2012	Réal Lavigne	Transmittal of a resolution by the town of Lebel-sur-Quévillon supporting the submission from the CRÉBJ concerning the Bachelor mine project
June 22, 2012	Mireille Paul	Transmittal of replies to questions and comments about the proposed Mistissini bridge, borrow pit and permanent access road
June 26, 2012	Brian Craik	Transmittal of report on the Status of Woodland Caribou in the James Bay Region
June 28, 2012	Paul Letendre	Acknowledgement of receipt re recommendation to authorize the Bachelor mine project

Correspondence sent

Date	Sent to	Subject
June 11, 2012	Paul John Murdoch	Reply to request for postponement of public consultations on Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project
June 15, 2012	Diane Jean	Recommendation for approval of construction of the M25 access road and ATV trail
June 22, 2012	Diane Jean	Transmittal of questions and comments from COMEX about the Stornoway mine project
June 26, 2012	Diane Jean	Recommendation for approval of the Bachelor mine project