

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**303rd MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**(Adopted)**

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**DATE:** Thursday, February 7, 2013

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

**PRESENT:** Pierre Mercier, Chairperson, Québec  
Daniel Berrouard, Québec  
Robert Lemieux, Québec  
Brian Craik, CRA  
Philip Awashish, CRA

Executive Secretary: Marie-Michèle Tessier

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted after making changes:

- 1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda
- 2) Adoption of the minutes of the 301st and 302nd meetings
- 3) Correspondence since the last meeting
- 4) Writing of the report on the public consultations on the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert project
- 5) Follow-up on the studies and reports received in 2012 in relation to the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert project
- 6) Eleonore mining project
  - a) Recommendation regarding the new location of the industrial wastewater discharge point
- 7) BlackRock mining project
  - a) Application for a certificate of authorization
  - b) Proposed construction of a 161-kV power transmission line
- 8) Bachelor Lake mining project
  - a) Approval of the monitoring program
- 9) Route 167 North extension
  - a) Request to amend the certificate of authorization
- 10) COMEX work plan for the coming weeks
- 11) Other business
- 12) Date and place of the next meeting

## **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE 301st AND 302nd MEETINGS**

The minutes of the 301st meeting were adopted as presented. The minutes of the 302nd meeting were adopted with minor changes.

## **3. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

All correspondence received and sent since the last two meetings is appended to these minutes.

## **4. WRITING OF THE REPORT ON THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE EASTMAIN 1-A/RUPERT PROJECT**

All of the transcripts of the public consultation sessions are now available. COMEX also received additional information from Hydro-Québec. COMEX sent its guidelines and comments to the subcommittee tasked with examining the transcripts in depth.

There was a reminder that the report needs to mention the agreement with Niskamoon Corporation and the existence of funds to support Cree initiatives. However, Hydro-Québec continues to be responsible for finalizing the work on this major jobsite and for continuing its monitoring program. The report should also mention that people who have not been directly affected by the project should nevertheless be able to benefit from the services offered by Hydro-Québec and from its agreement. Other matters, such as testimonials from users about the new flow rates in Rupert River, could also be addressed taking into consideration that they might change as more experience is gained and according to needs.

A detailed table of contents will be submitted at the next meeting. COMEX is looking at May for the submission of the final report.

## **5. FOLLOW-UP ON THE STUDIES AND REPORTS RECEIVED IN 2012 IN RELATION TO THE EASTMAIN 1-A/RUPERT PROJECT**

COMEX is thinking about what to do with all of the reports received. Hydro-Québec is supposed to have updated the environmental follow-up program (2007-2023), but COMEX has not received it yet. The reports produced should be mentioned in a chapter of the public consultations report as well as followed up on. In future, a summary of the studies received must be produced as the studies are received.

## **6. ELEONORE MINING PROJECT**

### **a. Recommendation regarding the new location of the industrial wastewater discharge point**

Owing to the likely presence of a thermocline in the pit at the new discharge point B, COMEX questions the proponent's choice of sites. Based on the data COMEX has in hand, at this time, the proponent must commit to complying with environmental discharge objectives according to stricter water quality criteria than those applicable to site A. COMEX will send questions

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pertaining to the selected industrial wastewater discharge point and the proponent will have to either provide stronger justification for the selected site or envisage another site. A draft letter will be prepared to this effect.

On February 4, COMEX received notice of withdrawal of the request to amend conditions 1 and 2 of the certificate of authorization of May 16, 2012. Hydro-Québec and the proponent reached an agreement that meets the conditions of the comprehensive certificate of authorization. COMEX will inform the Administrator that the request dated September 24, 2012 has been withdrawn and that the agreement reached satisfies the overall conditions of the certificate of authorization.

## **7. BLACKROCK METALS' MINING PROJECT**

### **a. Application for a certificate of authorization**

Owing to the changes the proponent made to the project, additional questions will be submitted to COMEX for the members' comments. The CRA also has a few questions. COMEX will compile all the questions and send them to the proponent by the end of February. We could receive the proponent's responses in mid-April, at which time public hearings could be held in Oujé-Bougoumou and Chibougamau. COMEX will ask the proponent to present the proposed route of the power line during the hearings.

### **b. Proposed construction of a 161-kV power transmission line by Hydro-Québec**

COMEX has begun reviewing the proposed power transmission line, but authorization of the mine is the priority. The members discussed whether public hearings need to be held on the power line. COMEX could use the opportunity of the public hearings on the BlackRock mining project to gauge the communities' interest in holding public hearings on the proposed power line.

## **8. BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT**

### **a. Approval of the monitoring program**

COMEX could ask the proponent for clarifications on such aspects as the methodology used, the frequency of monitoring, communication of the results and the cyanide destruction process. Clarifications will be requested before the Review Committee can approve the monitoring program.

## **9. ROUTE 167 NORTH EXTENSION**

### **a. Request to amend the certificate of authorization**

The certificate of authorization for segments C and D has been transferred from MTQ to Stornoway. Stornoway must request an amendment very soon to replace the road with a mining road and must submit its impact statement. The MTQ will continue submitting requests to amend the certificate of authorization for a while, even if they must be submitted in Stornoway's

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name. A note could be sent to the Administrator to bring her up to speed on the matter, the new timeline and the fact that the MTQ will continue to make requests on Stornoway's behalf.

There has been no agreement with the Crees for construction of the mining road.

A technical meeting could be held with the proponent once the ways and means of the project are known and the impact statement has been submitted.

The proponent should be asked to what extent its road project will have a long-term structuring effect compared with the road initially planned.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Nemaska Lithium will have to submit the impact statement for the Whabouchi project again at the end of February. This project will require close monitoring, as it will be the first lithium mine in Québec.

## **11. COMEX WORK PLAN FOR THE COMING WEEKS**

Apart from the Whabouchi project, COMEX does not expect to receive other projects for review in the short term.

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

The next meeting will be held on March 7, in Montréal, at 9:00 a.m.

**Correspondence and follow-up action: December 21, 2012-February 7, 2013**

- *Bridge, permanent access road and operation of two borrows pits in Mistissini*
  - Copy of the certificate of authorization  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, January 10, 2013
- *Eleonore mining project*
  - Recommendation regarding the request to amend the certificate of authorization for Quarry C-02  
Attention: Diane Jean, January 7, 2013 – Acknowledgement of receipt from Paul Letendre, January 15, 2013
  - Acknowledgement of receipt of the request to amend the certificate of authorization for the capacity of the waste rock dump, access road to the tailings sites and ore transfer area  
Sent by: Paul Letendre, January 11, 2013
  - Copy of the withdrawal of the request to amend the C.A. for conditions 1 and 2 (agreement with Hydro-Québec)  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 4, 2013
- *Bachelor Lake mining project*
  - Monitoring program, for approval  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, January 17, 2013
- *Langlois Mine*
  - Annual Report 2010 and report on water and sediment characterization – area of the mine – winter 2011, for information purposes  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, January 14, 2013
- *BlackRock mining project*
  - Supplementary information to the impact statement (atmospheric dispersion modelling of particulates and gaseous emissions)  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, January 17, 2013
- *Route 167 North*
  - Recommendation regarding the request to amend the certificate of authorization for characterization of granular deposits on Lot C where an oversized operation is required / borrow pits D-150 (cells A and B), D-160, D-175, D-176 and D-186  
Att.: Diane Jean, January 7, 2013 – Acknowledgement of receipt from Paul Letendre, January 15, 2013

- Recommendation regarding the request to amend the certificate of authorization for the material supply strategy for Lot B  
Att.: Diane Jean, January 10, 2013 – Acknowledgement of receipt from Paul Letendre, January 15, 2013
- Recommendation regarding the request to amend the certificate of authorization for the work on Lot C (watercourse crossings, access to sandpits and waste disposal areas)  
Att.: Diane Jean, January 10, 2013 – Acknowledgement of receipt from Paul Letendre, January 15, 2013
- Copy of the amendment to the certificate of authorization – Transfer of responsibility for construction of sections C and D (km 143 to 240)  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, January 10, 2013
- Copy of the request to amend the CA – Work on Lot D (km 195 to 240): watercourse crossings, access to sandpits and waste disposal areas  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, January 15, 2013
- Copy of the request to amend the CA – characterization of granular deposits on Lot C where an oversized operation is required / borrow pits D-207, D-228, D-229, D-232, D-233 and D-23  
Sent by: Mireille Paul, January 22, 2013