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(Adopted)

Executive Secretary: Marie-Michèle Tessier

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted with changes:

- 1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda
- 2) Adoption of the minutes of the 303rd meeting
- 3) Correspondence since the last meeting
- 4) BlackRock mining project
 - a) Additional questions and their approval
 - b) Proposed construction of a 161-kV power transmission line by Hydro-Québec
 - c) Possible dates for the public hearings
- 5) Bachelor Lake mining project
 - a) Approval of the monitoring program
 - b) Restoration plan and information on the dikes
- 6) Route 167 North extension – Stornoway Diamond Corp.
 - a) Request to amend the certificate of authorization
 - b) Request from proponent to hold a technical meeting
 - c) Quarries 106 and 137 (MTQ)
- 7) Eastmain 1-A/Rupert project
 - a) Three reports received on February 26
 - b) Proposed table of contents for the public consultations report
- 8) Other business
- 9) Date and place of the next meeting

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 303rd MEETING

The minutes of the 303rd meeting were adopted with suggested changes.

3. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

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

4. BLACKROCK MINING PROJECT

a. Additional questions and their approval

The members went over the second set of additional questions for the proponent. The document will be finalized and sent to the Administrator in the coming week.

There appears to be some confusion over the boundaries or allocation of traplines between the Metabe family in Mistissini and the Wapachee family in Oujé-Bougoumou. As the individuals concerned are free to meet with the proponent at any time, they need to resolve the matter amongst themselves, with the involvement of the Mistissini and Oujé-Bougoumou band councils.

It was also mentioned that the Innus of Mashteuiatsh have made representations requesting to be consulted on this project. It is therefore possible that they will make submissions during the public hearings.

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

A document containing COMEX's questions will be finalized and sent to the proponent.

c. Possible dates for the public hearings

In its cover letter to the Administrator, COMEX will ask to be informed as to when the proponent plans on responding to the Committee's questions and beginning production at the mine. Once this information is known, the dates of the public hearings can be fixed accordingly.

5. BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT

a. Approval of the monitoring program

Additional questions will be put to the proponent before making a recommendation to approve the monitoring program or not. A draft document containing the questions was submitted to the members and will be discussed during a conference call next week.

b. Restoration plan and information on the dikes

An updated restoration plan for the project was submitted, for approval, in February. A recommendation could be made before this summer.

COMEX also received the updated report on raising of the berms of the Bachelor Mine tailings impoundment (*Rapport sur le rehaussement des ouvrages de rétention du parc à résidus du site minier Bachelor*). The Committee wants to make sure the cyanide destruction process will be triggered safely according to water levels in the reservoir in order to prevent environmental spills. COMEX received the report for information purposes, but can make comments and suggestions to improve oversight of the work.

6. ROUTE 167 NORTH EXTENSION – STORNOWAY DIAMOND CORP.

a. Request to amend the certificate of authorization

Stornoway submitted the impact statement for the planned mining road. Expert opinions are needed, after which COMEX could either make a recommendation or ask additional questions in April. In addition, the MTQ's requested amendments for segments C and D should be compared against the new project submitted by Stornoway.

b. Request from proponent to hold a technical meeting

Martin Boucher of Stornoway has requested a technical meeting with the COMEX members to explain the planned mining road and answer any questions. COMEX will write to Mr. Boucher to set a date for the meeting.

c. Quarries 106 and 137 (MTQ)

COMEX received the MTQ's responses to the additional questions concerning the material supply strategy for Lot B. The members agreed to discuss the matter during the conference call on March 13.

7. EASTMAIN 1-A/RUPERT PROJECT

a. Three reports received on February 26

Suivi de la sédimentologie – Bief Rupert aval. Rapport d'étude, du Suivi du cône sédimentaire à l'entrée du réservoir de l'Eastmain 1 – Rapport d'étude, et du Suivi de la sédimentologie – Rapport d'étude.

Report on the bathymetric surveys conducted in 2009, 2010 and 2011 at the Eastmain 1 reservoir inlet. The report confirms the sediment modelling contained in the impact statement and strike slip zones.

Rapport sur la campagne de navigation avec les maîtres de trappage et suivi des conditions de navigation – Biefs Rupert amont et aval

An aerial photo analysis was done and areas were flown over with tallymen. Navigation corridors were marked. However, some work is needed to maintain the markers and further encourage re-appropriation of the territory by the Crees.

Suivi des retombées économiques 2011

This is the last annual report on the economic spinoffs from the construction phase.

b. Proposed table of contents for the public consultations report

The report should be completed before summer. If the report were released in June, stakeholders would have enough time to read it before the CRA's Annual General Assembly in August.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

On February 22, COMEX received the soil characterization report for the Troilus mine project. Decontamination work was carried out following the accidental spill. The work as well as the decontamination levels achieved appear to be acceptable. Monitoring is ongoing.

Normally, COMEX should establish an action plan in relation to the Sustainable Development Strategy under the *Sustainable Development Act*. The executive secretary will look into it.

As part of the review of the schedules to Section 22, the JBACE has invited the COMEX members to a workshop on May 14 to discuss working assumptions for mineral exploration projects.

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

A teleconference will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on April 11, in Montréal, at 9:30 a.m.

Correspondence: February 2-March 6, 2013

▪ *Route 167 North*

- Progress report
Attention: Diane Jean, February 13, 2013 – Acknowledgement of receipt from Paul Letendre, February 19, 2013
- Copy of the amendment to the certificate of authorization – Material supply strategy, request to operate additional quarries and sandpits for Lot B
Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 12, 2013
- Copy of the amendment to the certificate of authorization – 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
Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 15, 2013
- Copy of the additional questions sent and copy of the amendment to the certificate of authorization – Work on Lot C (km 143 to 195): watercourse crossings, access to sandpits and waste disposal areas
Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 7 – Copy of proponent's responses to questions, Mireille Paul, February 27, 2013
- Copy of proponent's responses to the additional questions sent – Material supply strategy for Lot B
Sent by: Mireille Paul, March 5, 2013

▪ *Bachelor Mine*

- Siting plan for new observation wells for water quality monitoring: sent to COMEX for information purposes
Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 7, 2013
- Updated report on raising of the berms of the Bachelor Mine tailings impoundment (*Rapport sur le rehaussement des ouvrages de rétention du parc à résidus du site minier Bachelor*): sent to COMEX for information purposes
Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 28, 2013
- Updated restoration plan for the Bachelor Mine site (*Plan de restauration du site minier Bachelor*): sent to COMEX for approval
Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 7, 2013

▪ *Eleonore Mine*

- Additional question regarding the request to amend the C.A. for the industrial wastewater discharge point

Attention: Diane Jean, February 13, 2013 – Acknowledgement of receipt from Paul Letendre, February 19, 2013

- Withdrawal of the request to amend the C.A. for conditions 1 and 2

Attention: Diane Jean, February 13, 2013 – Acknowledgement of receipt from Paul Letendre, February 19, 2013 – Copy of the formal letter concerning withdrawal of the request to amend the C.A., Mireille Paul, March 6, 2013

- Copy of the amendment to the certificate of authorization – Capacity of the waste rock dump, access road to the tailings site and addition of an ore transfer area

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 11, 2013

- Copy of the amendment to the certificate of authorization – Operation of Quarry C-02

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 15, 2013

▪ *BlackRock mining project*

- Supplementary information to the impact statement (corrected version for the construction of a new section of railway line)

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 20, 2013

- Supplementary information to the impact statement (kinetic testing of tailings)

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 20, 2013

▪ *Troilus Mine*

- Soil characterization report (*Rapport de caractérisation des sols*), submitted in compliance with condition 11 of the certificate of authorization: sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 22, 2013

▪ *Eastmain 1-A/Rupert hydroelectric project*

- Environmental follow-up program for the operation phase – winter conditions in whitefish spawning grounds in Rupert River (*Suivi environnemental en phase exploitation – Conditions hivernales sur les frayères à grand corégone de la rivière Rupert*): sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 26, 2013

- Sedimentology report, Eastmain 1 reservoir inlet (*Suivi de la sédimentologie – Bief Rupert aval. Rapport d'étude, du Suivi du cône sédimentaire à l'entrée du réservoir de l'Eastmain 1 – Rapport d'étude, et du Suivi de la sédimentologie – Rapport d'étude*): sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 26, 2013

- Report on ice cover monitoring in winter 2011-2012 (*Suivi de la couverture de glace (hiver 2011-2012)*): sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 26, 2013

- Follow-up program for anadromous cisco (*Suivi environnemental du cisco anadrome*): sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 26, 2013

- Report on the navigation-related work conducted with tallymen and monitoring of navigation conditions in the Rupert forebay and tailbay (*Rapport sur la campagne de navigation avec les maîtres de trappage et suivi des conditions de navigation – Biefs Rupert amont et aval*): sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 27, 2013

- 2011 annual report on the economic spinoffs (*Suivi des retombées économiques 2011*), submitted in compliance with condition 6.39 of the certificate of authorization: sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, March 1, 2013

- *Voluntary Lake Sturgeon Catch Registry along Rupert River – Report by The Cree Nation of Nemaska*, submitted in compliance with condition 5.26 of the certificate of authorization: sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, February 20, 2013

- 2012 information program for the maintenance of the cisco fishing site at Smokey Hill (*Programme d'information 2012 du maintien de la pêche au cisco au site Smokey Hill*), submitted in compliance with condition 5.23 of the certificate of authorization: sent to COMEX for information purposes

Sent by: Mireille Paul, March 5, 2013