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**DATE:** November 5 and 6, 2013

**PLACE:** Édifice Marie-Guyart  
675, boul. René-Lévesque Est  
Rooms 5A and 4B

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

Executive Secretary: Marie-Michèle Tessier

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and the following agenda was adopted:

- 1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda**
- 2) Adoption of the minutes of the 311th meeting**
- 3) BlackRock Metals mining project**
  - a) Request for a certificate of authorization**
- 4) Bachelor Lake mining project**
  - a) Request for approval of the mine site remediation plan**
- 5) Eastmain 1-A/Rupert project**
  - a) Request to amend the C.A.: Bank stabilization on the left bank of the La Grande River**
  - b) Information on reports:**
    - *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'utilisation des frayères multispécifiques aménagées dans les biefs. Rapport d'étude 2012*, in accordance with condition 5.6 of the C.A.
    - *Suivi de la dynamique des rives et des îles de l'estuaire de la Grande Rivière*, in accordance with condition 5.1 of the C.A.
    - *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'utilisation des frayères aménagées pour l'esturgeon jaune – Travaux 2012*, in accordance with condition 5.24 of the C.A.
    - *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'efficacité des tapis granulaires le long des berges de la Grande Rivière en aval de la centrale de La Grande-1*, in accordance with condition 5.1 of the C.A.
  - c) Public consultation report**
- 6) Woodland caribou**
- 7) Hydro-Québec power supply for BlackRock mining facilities**
  - a) Request for a certificate of authorization**
- 8) Whabouchi mining project**
  - a) Request for a certificate of authorization**
- 9) Eleonore mining project**
  - a) Request for an amendment: residual materials management**
- 10) Route 167 Nord Extension (MTQ)**
  - a) Request to amend the certificate of authorization: Construction in a riverbed at km 141+735**

- 11) Operation of a quarry over 3 ha in size – high ground park at Chisasibi**
  - a) Request for a certificate of authorization**
- 12) Follow-up on correspondence**
- 13) JBACE questionnaire on public participation**
- 14) Other business**
- 15) Date and place of the next meeting**

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 311th MEETING**

The minutes of the 311th meeting were adopted without changes.

## **3. BLACKROCK METALS MINING PROJECT**

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

Further to the receipt of the proponent's responses, the expert opinion on the imperviousness of waste rock piles and tailings characterization was summarized for the members' benefit. The opinion confirms that the proponent did not provide sufficient data (not enough samples taken to be representative) to establish that groundwater protection will be ensured during mining operations.

Dilution of mine wastewater is generally not permitted (p. 16 of Directive 019). In addition, section 20 of the EQA stipulates that "No one may emit, deposit, issue or discharge or allow the emission, deposit, issuance or discharge into the environment of a contaminant in a greater quantity or concentration than that provided for by regulation of the Government." In the interest of fairness, it is important that the proponent be encouraged to make the same effort as other mining companies to comply with Direction 019 and the EQA.

A technical meeting with BlackRock Metals will be planned for November 13, 2013 to discuss the fact that the project cannot be authorized on the basis of the information provided to date. Also, the proponent must propose alternatives and solutions to ensure that any contaminants discharged from the waste rock pile do not enter the water table and that minimum measures are taken to ensure that disposal areas for fine and course tailings are impervious. COMEX cannot make a recommendation until this is done.

## **4. BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT**

### **a. Request for approval of the mine site remediation plan**

Another series of additional questions to obtain clarifications on such things as site safety, surface infrastructure and buildings, support infrastructure, storage areas, the tailings site, environmental follow-up, nearby communities, etc. were submitted to the members. The draft questions were discussed and clarified where necessary. They will be sent to the Provincial Administrator in order to obtain clarifications from the proponent before COMEX can recommend approving the remediation plan.

## **5. EASTMAIN 1-A/RUPERT PROJECT**

COMEX's recommendation to approve the master plan of restoration work in 2013 was sent to the Provincial Administrator on October 25, 2013, in accordance with conditions 2.7 and 2.8 of

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the certificate of authorization. An acknowledgement of receipt was received from Lynda Roy on October 29.

**a. Request to amend the C.A.: Bank stabilization on the left bank of the La Grande River**

The request for amendment was received on October 23, 2013.

This project arises from obligations under the certificate of authorization to stabilize 500 metres of riverbank near Chisasibi. COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator to recommend that the certificate of authorization be amended and confirm to him that the work initially planned cannot be carried out for safety reasons and that the proponent's solution to develop a new site further upriver is acceptable. In conjunction with this project, COMEX will review the plan to operate a quarry over 3 ha in size on Category I land (Item 11 below).

**b. Follow-up reports received for information purposes:**

Mireille Paul of the MDDEFP sent COMEX the following reports on October 21, 2013, for information purposes.

- *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'utilisation des frayères aménagées pour l'esturgeon jaune – Travaux 2012*, in accordance with condition 5.24 of the C.A.

Sent by: Mireille Paul, October 21, 2013

- *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'efficacité des tapis granulaires le long des berges de la Grande Rivière en aval de la centrale de La Grande-1*, in accordance with condition 5.1 of the C.A.

Sent by: Mireille Paul, October 21, 2013

Mme Paul sent COMEX the following reports on October 23, 2013, also for information purposes.

- *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'utilisation des frayères multispécifiques aménagées dans les biefs. Rapport d'étude 2012*, in accordance with condition 5.6 of the C.A.

- *Suivi de la dynamique des rives et des îles de l'estuaire de la Grande Rivière*, in accordance with condition 5.1 of the C.A.

The members agreed to read the reports in the coming weeks and submit any comments they may have.

**c. Public consultation report**

The report is almost finished.

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**6. WOODLAND CARIBOU**

On October 17, 2013, COMEX received a missive from Guy Hétu, Director General of the Nord-du-Québec office of the Ministère des Ressources Naturelles, regarding the proposed precautionary approach to woodland caribou recovery in the territory covered by Chapter 3 of the *Paix des Braves*. Mr. Hétu suggested meeting with COMEX to explain the approach. Brian Craik said that such a meeting would be premature given that, in the Cree party's opinion, the work being carried out by the various authorities concerned is not finished yet.

**7. HYDRO-QUÉBEC POWER SUPPLY FOR BLACKROCK MINING FACILITIES**

**a. Request for a certificate of authorization**

Mireille Paul of the MDDEFP will send COMEX the additional information it requested on April 30, 2013 in the coming days (November 8). The Committee will therefore resume the review process and finalize its recommendation.

**8. WHABOUCHI MINING PROJECT**

**a. Request for a certificate of authorization**

On October 16, 2013, COMEX sent the Provincial Administrator around 200 questions relating to the environmental impact statement in order to get more information about this project. An acknowledgement of receipt was received from Lynda Roy on October 18. A copy of the questions and comments was received from Mireille Paul on October 30.

**9. ELEONORE MINING PROJECT**

**a. Request for an amendment: residual materials management**

On October 24, 2013, COMEX received the additional information in response to the questions it sent last July. The proposed site for managing residual materials from the mine would be acceptable, although the Committee is concerned that other mining companies might open more residual materials management sites in the same area. A condition will be drafted and sent to the members with a view to making a recommendation regarding the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization.

**10. ROUTE 167 NORD EXTENSION (MTQ)**

**a. Request to amend the certificate of authorization: Construction in a riverbed at km 141+735**

In August 2012, COMEX requested additional information relating to this request from MTQ. The proponent's responses were received on October 1, 2013. COMEX will not be making a

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recommendation given that the work has already been carried out and did not interrupt the flow of the river. COMEX will write to the Administrator to inform him of such.

**11. OPERATION OF A QUARRY OVER 3 HA IN SIZE – HIGH GROUND PARK AT CHISASIBI**

**a. Request for a certificate of authorization**

The Regional Administrator sent COMEX the information pertaining this new project, by email, on October 29, 2013. The print document was received on November 4, 2013. COMEV has requested additional information. The information sent by SEBJ along with the information contained in the file sent to COMEV will serve as an impact statement. COMEX will wait to receive this information before reviewing the project.

**12. FOLLOW-UP ON CORRESPONDENCE**

Considering the type of material involved, past experience with the road and the results of the follow-up program under way, COMEX wrote to the Provincial Administrator on October 16, 2013, recommending approval of the request to amend the certificate of authorization for Stornoway's project to extend Route 167 Nord, to permit use of borrow pits D-228 and D-229, which are located less than 75 m from a watercourse. An acknowledgement of receipt was received from Lynda Roy on October 18 and a copy of the amendment to the certificate of authorization was received on October 24.

**13. JBACE QUESTIONNAIRE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

JBACE asked to meet with the members to discuss the issue of public participation. The members agreed that the JBACE could meet with all the COMEX members at once, rather than individually, when the Committee meets in Montréal.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

The minutes of the November 23, 2012 meeting with Deputy Minister Diane Jean on the Matoush project (Strateco Resources Inc.) were distributed to the members for their information.

**15. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on December 3 and 4, 2013, in Québec City.