



**1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. The agenda was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 316th meeting**

The minutes were adopted as presented. It was agreed that, in future, meeting minutes would state the follow-up action to be taken on agenda items. In addition, special attention will be paid to the wording used in the minutes; for example:

- “COMEX decided” will be used where the members agreed on a recommendation or questions and a letter will be sent to the Administrator; and
- “COMEX agreed” will be used where the members agreed amongst themselves on day-to-day business, such as a work schedule.

**3) Correspondence and follow-up action (Appendix A)**

There were no comments on this item. Two documents received at the last minute were added to the table in Appendix A: 1) the information on MTQ’s planned redevelopment of the intersection of the Eastmain/Matagami-Radisson roads, and 2) the information on Eastmain’s water supply system.

**4) Eleonore gold project in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd.**

- a) Comprehensive environmental monitoring program
  - *for preliminary discussion*

The Québec party expects to finish its assessment by the middle of May. The Cree members were asked to send the results of their assessment as soon as possible so that their comments can be incorporated into the preliminary version of COMEX’s questions and comments. It was agreed to formulate a recommendation at the Committee’s next meeting.

More specifically, with respect to the monitoring of lake sturgeon, the proponent states that “it was not deemed necessary to conduct extensive additional scientific fishing surveys in order to document the use of the habitat by this species.” Instead, it proposes a radio telemetry program in partnership with Hydro-Québec. However, the COMEX members noted that the comprehensive environmental monitoring program is short on details regarding this partnership.

A question was also raised with regard to the study of reservoir stratification at the effluent site. The members agreed to make sure that this aspect is included in the effluent monitoring program.

**Actions: Check to make sure the stratification study is included in effluent monitoring and have the document containing COMEX’s questions and comments ready for the next meeting.**

**5) Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project**

- a) Modification of follow-up schedule for the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the Sarcelle powerhouse
  - *request to amend the CA (for recommendation)*

The follow-up schedule indicated in the August 2013 version of the 2007-2023 environmental follow-up program is being pushed back a year and will start in 2015. Follow-up activities will be conducted again in 2017 and 2019. The schedule had to be modified because turbine-alternator units are being tested and have to be stopped from time to time. As a result, the hydrological conditions in 2014 wouldn't be representative of subsequent years. The COMEX members concluded that the schedule change is minor and so decided to write to the Administrator recommending that the requested amendment be approved.

**Action: Send a letter to the Administrator: positive recommendation.**

- b) Master plan for 2014: restoration of affected sites
  - *for recommendation*
  - *see Québec analysis sent by email on April 1, 2014*

The planned restoration work consists primarily in planting over 138 000 green alder, a species known to grow anywhere, even in very sandy soils. Also, considering that the access roads leading to the structures at KP 33, 49 and 85 are part of the mitigation measures to maintain or improve access to the territory, the proponent concluded that the community of Waskaganish wants to keep them, even if there is no Band Council resolution to that effect. The COMEX members decided to recommend that the Administrator approve the 2014 master plan as submitted, indicating that they also expect to receive the last master plan in 2015.

**Action: Send a letter to the Administrator: positive recommendation.**

- c) 2013 report on the results of mitigation and enhancement measures agreed upon with tallymen affected by the project
  - *for information and comments*

The report discusses the results of the mitigation measures implemented in 2013 (363 out of the 371 measures agreed upon). The measures were submitted to the Monitoring Committee. The Cree members said that trappers appear to be satisfied with the measures. There are eight mitigation measures left to be implemented in 2014. COMEX will write to the Administrator to say that it has no comments on the matter.

**Action: Send a letter to the Administrator: no comments.**

- d) Communications plan for the public consultation report
  - *task planning*

The draft communications plan was discussed. A few names were added to the mailing list. It was agreed that the Cree members would prepare a mailing list of their own for the report and provide the secretariat with the addresses of the people who participated in the consultations in 2012 (list of names in Appendix A of the communications plan). It was also agreed that the draft press release would be sent to the members for comment prior to being officially released. The final press release will be sent to the communications branch of the MDDEFP once Hydro-Québec has received the report on the public consultations. The report will be posted on the MDDEFP website at the same time. The members agreed not to give interviews on the matter because the report is complex and speaks for itself.

Action: Send the revised communications plan to the members, get the Cree members' mailing list, get the addresses of the people mentioned in Appendix A, send the draft press release to the members for comment, then send the press release to the communications branch.

- e) Monitoring of fish passage through brook OA-02
  - *for comments and recommendation*
  - *see Québec analysis*

The proponent doesn't want to continue the monitoring, which was requested following a significant increase in the brook's flow rate. The proponent says that the monitoring conducted in summer 2013 showed that there is no obstruction to fish passage in the brook and, consequently, no remedial action is necessary. Besides, the tallyman said that there are no fish in Lake OA-02 anyways. Therefore, no monitoring is planned in 2014 and 2016.

COMEX agrees with the proponent and will recommend that its request be granted. However, it would like to impress upon the proponent that it should focus its monitoring efforts on the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream to ensure that it is effective and achieving the desired results. The COMEX members therefore decided to write to the Administrator recommending approval of the requested change to the monitoring schedule. A single letter will be sent, containing the recommendations for items 5 a) and 5 e).

Action: Include this item in the letter to the Administrator for item 5 a).

**6) Route 167 Nord (MTQ)**

- a) Decommissioning and restoration program for sites affected by work on Lot B (km 82 to 143)
  - *for preliminary discussion*

The contractor performing work on Lot B (km 82 to 143) expects to do the decommissioning work by the end of June 2014. Consequently, the MTQ has sent the decommissioning and restoration program for sites affected by work on Lot B required under conditions 19 and 28 of the certificate of authorization issued for the project on December 1, 2011. The documents pertaining to Lot A will be sent at a later date.

Québec is in the process of reviewing the program. The regional office will be making its comments known soon, and they are important because employees from the regional office are the ones who visited the sites to assess them first hand. The Cree members were invited to submit their comments within the next few weeks so that the members can make a recommendation at COMEX's next meeting.

**Action: Follow up on the matter with the Cree members.**

**7) Bachelor Lake mining project**

- a) Annual Report 2013
  - *for information and comments*

The members decided on a time frame for reviewing the report. Québec will be completing its review soon. The Cree members agreed to send their comments as soon as possible so they can be incorporated into the preliminary version of COMEX's questions and comments. The goal is to formulate a recommendation at the Committee's next meeting.

- b) Responses to questions and comments concerning the restoration plan for the Bachelor mine site
  - *for additional questions*

COMEX noted that in the document containing the proponent's responses to the Committee's questions and comments, the proponent says that the restoration plan will be reviewed in 2018, i.e. two years after the end of the authorized operating period. That implies that this is not the final restoration plan, as stipulated in Condition 15 of the certificate of authorization issued on July 4, 2012. It would appear that the proponent plans to extend the operating period.

The COMEX members would like to know whether this is the final plan and whether the proponent plans to extend the operating period. In the latter case, is it the mine that will continue operating or just the mill? The members remarked that if the mine continues operating beyond 2016, the proponent will have to request either an amendment to the

certificate of authorization (CA) or a new CA altogether. In addition, there will be questions regarding the tailings pond, which is nearly full.

It was decided that these questions need to be clarified before continuing the review of the restoration plan. A letter containing COMEX's questions will be sent to the Administrator.

**Action: Send the letter to the Administrator: questions, and follow up on the Crees' assessment.**

**N.B. The letter will have to be approved by the Cree members first.**

#### **8) Hydro-Québec power supply for BlackRock mining facilities**

A table setting out clear deadlines for each condition stipulated on the certificate of authorization was distributed to the members. A similar table setting out the deadlines for the commitments made in the proponent's impact statement is being prepared. The same two tables will be prepared for every new project authorized. The tables will be kept in COMEX's file so the Committee can more easily track condition and commitment deadlines.

**Action: Follow up on the table of commitments and then file it away.**

#### **9) Renard diamond project (Stornoway)**

- a) Environmental discharge objectives (EDOs)
  - *for discussion*

The members discussed the fact that it would be worthwhile studying the dynamics of the different forms of phosphorus and the associated impacts of mine effluents. The Cree members suggested seeing if anyone from the academic community would be interested in conducting the studies.

- b) Follow-up to the draft letter to the Administrator
  - *Consultations in Mistissini*

The members decided that the letter prepared following the last meeting is fine and doesn't require any changes. It will be sent to the Administrator.

**Action: Send the letter to the Administrator.**

The consultation in Mistissini provided answers regarding the proponent's possibly inadequate characterization of a small lake, as discussed at the last meeting. The community of Mistissini agrees that this lake will end up disappearing anyways and that the proposed compensation measures are adequate.

**10) Eastmain water supply system – change to proposed design**

- *for preliminary discussion*

The issue of Eastmain's water supply goes back around 30 years, to when Eastmain River was cut off. Supply systems had to be developed because it was no longer possible to draw water directly from the river. For years, the systems were problematic. A new system was installed a few years ago and although it functions well, it doesn't supply enough water, which is why a proposal was made to use surface water. The Regional Administrator, Isaac Voyageur, authorized the project in June 2013. A number of changes are briefly addressed in the document sent to COMEX.

The Regional Administrator sent a letter requesting recommendations from COMEX on the proposed change. The secretariat should be receiving it soon. Because this is somewhat of a unique case, an expert opinion will be sought from the regional office, as it is familiar with this type of authorization.

Considering the tight deadline, a recommendation will have to be ready for the next meeting.

**Action: Give the documents received by the secretariat to the analyst.**

**11) Planning for 2014**

- *documents expected by the end of April 2014 (Stornoway and Whabouchi)*
- *method for monitoring conditions*
- *new project to be submitted: redevelopment of the Eastmain/Matagami-Radisson intersection (MTQ)*

Copies of the updated planning document were distributed to the members. Things that have been received were crossed off and things that are overdue were highlighted in yellow. All changes were in green. The planning document will be updated for every COMEX meeting.

To make it easier to track conditions, a condition could be added to the certificate of authorization requiring the proponent to provide a table indicating the deadlines for meeting each condition on the CA.

**12) Agreement on access to information**

- *for information*

Deferred to the next meeting because the agreement was not ready.

**13) Other business**

The members would like to invite someone from the MRN to come and explain the amendments to the *Mining Act*.

Action: Schedule a presentation on the *Mining Act* with the MRN.

**14) Date and place of the next meeting**

The next COMEX meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in Québec City, at 9:30 a.m. If possible, the Committee will meet with the MRN in the afternoon.

Action: Reserve a room.



**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up action: March 3-April 14, 2014**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Eleonore gold project in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd. 3214-14-042	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	Martin Duclos Opinaca Mines Ltd.	<b>Amendment to CA:</b> Enlargement of Sandpit A-01	Received (cc): March 3, 2014	A condition was added relating to the presence of bald eagles and peregrine falcons in the project area.	<i>Secretariat:</i> <i>Add the condition to the table of condition deadlines</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Comprehensive environmental follow-up program</b>	Received: March 25, 2014	This document is a requirement of the provincial and federal regulations  Condition 5.1: follow-up program  Condition 2.14: EDO (already approved, but incorporated into the comprehensive follow-up program)	For recommendation
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-17	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Request to amend CA:</b> Change to follow-up schedule for the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream from the Sarcelle powerhouse (Condition 5.31)	Received: March 14, 2014	This request relates to the requested amendment regarding environmental follow-up for 2007-2023	For recommendation
	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Master plan for 2014:</b> Redevelopment of affected sites (planting and stocking and maintenance of access roads)	Received: March 19, 2014	This document is a requirement of conditions 2.7 (decommissioning of roads) and 2.8 (closure of various components of the work site)  * Planting is to be carried out between June 25 and August 8, 2014	For recommendation

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project, Hydro-Québec  3214-10-17	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>2013 report</b> on results of mitigation and enhancement measures agreed upon with tallymen affected by the project	Received: March 19, 2014	An annual report is a requirement of Condition 6.11.	For information (and comments, if any)
	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>Letter to the Administrator:</b> no comments regarding Condition 9.1	Sent: March 27, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 316	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> letter regarding Condition 9.1	Received: April 2, 2014	-	-
	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>Report on the public consultations</b> held in November 2012 following Hydro-Québec's completion of the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion	Sent: March 27, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 316	<i>Secretariat: Draft and implement the communications plan</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> report on the public consultations	Received: April 2, 2014	-	-
	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>Recommendation to authorize</b> the requested amendment to the CA: updating of the environmental follow-up program for 2007-2023	Sent: April 4, 2014	-	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Monitoring of fish passage through brook OA-02</b>	Received: April 8, 2014	In accordance with Condition 2 of the amended CA issued on November 24, 2006  * No monitoring will be conducted in 2014 or 2016	<i>For comments</i>
Extension of Route 167 Nord, MTQ 3214-05-77	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>Recommendations concerning authorization of the follow-up programs:</b> transmission of questions and comments	Sent: March 27, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 316	<i>Waiting for MTQ's responses</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> questions and comments	Received: April 7, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	Philippe Lemire MTQ	<b>Questions and comments</b> on MTQ's follow-up program	Received: (cc) April 9, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Decommissioning and restoration program</b> for sites affected by work on Lot B (km 82 to 143)	Received: April 1, 2014	The contractor expects to complete all earthwork and decommissioning work by the end of June 2014.  N.B. The work schedule for Lot A differs significantly and will be submitted later.	For recommendation
MRN's precautionary approach for woodland caribou recovery	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>Letter from Guy Héту (MRN)</b> to the Administrator and request for file update	Sent: March 27, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 316	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> letter from Guy Héту (MRN)	Received: April 2, 2014	-	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Extraction and processing of 900 000 tonnes of gold ore from the Bachelor mine site, Metanor Resources Inc. 3214-14-027	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>Analysis of cyanide destruction test results:</b> transmission of questions and comments	Sent: March 27, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 316	<i>Waiting for Metanor Resources' responses</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> questions and comments on cyanide destruction system	Received: April 2, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Annual Report 2013</b> and <b>Responses to COMEX's questions and comments</b> regarding the restoration plan for the Bachelor mine	Received: April 2, 2014	-	For recommendation
Installation of a 161-kV power transmission line for BlackRock's mining facilities, Hydro-Québec 3214-09-027	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>Recommendation for authorization</b> and transmission of the review report, including conditions.	Sent: March 27, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 316	<i>Secretariat: Prepare a table of follow-up deadlines for each condition</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> recommendation for authorization and review report	Received: April 2, 2014	-	-
Redevelopment of the Eastmain/Matagami-Radiation intersection, MTQ 3214-05-012	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	Nicolas Martel MTQ	Transmission of <b>comments and request for clarifications</b>	Received (cc): April 15, 2014	COMEV thinks that the information provided, plus the responses to the 5 questions in the request for clarifications sent on April 14, 2014, can serve as an environmental and social impact statement.	<i>Secretariat: Add to planning for 2014</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Eastmain water supply system	Yves Dion (BPR) Cree community of Eastmain	Daniel Berrouard COMEX	<b>Proposed changes</b> to Phase 1 work: water supply, increase in capacity	Received (by email): April 22, 2014	The order has not been received from the Regional Administrator.	<i>For preliminary review of the project</i>