

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**318th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(Adopted)**

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**DATE:** June 4, 2014

**PLACE:** Édifice Marie-Guyart, room 6B  
675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est  
Québec, Québec G1R 5V7

**PRESENT:** Philip Awashish, CNG  
Daniel Berrouard, Québec  
Brian Craik, CNG  
Robert Joly, Québec  
André Boisclair, Chairman, Québec

Executive Secretary: Mélanie Chabot

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

The agenda was adopted after adding “COMEX website” to “Other business.”

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 317th meeting**

The minutes were adopted as presented.

**Action: File the 317th meeting minutes**

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

BlackRock Metal’s responses to conditions 6, 8 and 9 of the certificate of authorization were received at the last minute and added to the table of correspondence in Appendix A.

**Action: Defer this subject to the next meeting**

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

- a) Comprehensive environmental monitoring program
  - *further discussion*

A preliminary assessment prepared by the Québec party was emailed to the members yesterday. The members noted that the comprehensive environmental monitoring program has numerous elements to it. Québec’s preliminary assessment identifies elements that are conclusive, others that are acceptable under certain conditions, and others that should be clarified. In addition, a number of expert opinions are still needed to complete the assessment. It was agreed that a consolidated assessment would be submitted to the members soon.

A few questions were raised by the Cree members.

- They would like to make sure that the comprehensive monitoring program includes a study of reservoir stratification at the effluent discharge point during winter. Steps will be taken to verify the commitments made by the proponent when the certificate of authorization was amended.
- The Cree members suggested that the proponent inform the environment committee about the monitoring program’s application, rather than the tallyman and the community.
- The Cree members asked that the hyperlinks to the documents concerned be indicated in the assessment document where the trace-sampling protocols and analysis under clean conditions are discussed (Question 8).

**Action: Send the consolidated document to the members**

- b) Request to amend the certificate of authorization: maintenance of final effluent from the waste rock pile runoff treatment plant
  - *for recommendation*
  - *see Québec assessment*

The proponent asked to maintain this second effluent (initially authorized on a temporary basis), while ensuring water quality. Water quality is generally good, but there has been a toxicity problem for the past year. The proponent is currently trying to identify the cause of the toxicity. The COMEX members are concerned about this toxicity and want more information from the proponent before continuing their review of the requested amendment. A letter to this effect will be sent to the Administrator.

**Action: Write to the Administrator**

- c) Final design of the tailings pond
  - *for recommendation*

The certificate of authorization for the project contained a condition requiring the proponent to specify the final design of the tailings pond. The members noted that, on the whole, the proposed design concept meets the MDDELCC's objectives. The only negative issue raised is the potential transport of wind-borne dust over the medium and long terms. The members wondered about this aspect because stockpiled tailings are relatively dry and the prevailing winds blow in the direction of the reservoir. The document sent by the proponent models wind-borne transport and dispersal, but does not plan for any mitigation measure. COMEX therefore decided to put the question to the Administrator.

**Action: Send a question to the Administrator**

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

- a) Dissemination of report on public consultations
  - *progress report*

The communications plan submitted at the last COMEX meeting has been completed. The members were informed that several copies are still available for anyone who is interested. It was proposed to send a few copies to the Cree Nation Government offices in Montréal, Ottawa and Québec City.

**Action: Send copies of the report to the Cree Nation Government offices in Montréal, Ottawa and Québec City**

- b) Planning 2014: access roads to traplines and Cree camps:
  - *for recommendation*

The members did not have any comments about the planning for 2014 and therefore decided to make a positive recommendation.

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

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

- a) Decommissioning and restoration program for sites affected by work on Lot B (km 82 to 143)
  - *for recommendation*
  - *see Québec assessment*

An assessment prepared by the Québec party was emailed to the members yesterday. In light of the proponent's proposal and the information received mostly from the MDDELCC regional office, which visited the site, the assessment recommends authorizing the restoration work under certain conditions.

The matter of the recent flooding was raised. The information received from the proponent following the flooding indicates that no changes will be made to the decommissioning and restoration program.

The members therefore decided to make a positive recommendation on the program, with certain conditions. A letter will be sent to the Administrator.

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

**7) Bachelor Lake mining project**

- a) Annual Report 2013
  - *for comment*

A consolidated, reworked assessment document discussing the annual follow-up activities carried out by the proponent was emailed to the members yesterday. All of the members are satisfied with the document and decided to send questions and comments to the Administrator.

**Action: Send the document containing the questions and comments to the Administrator**

- b) Responses to questions and comments concerning the restoration plan for the Bachelor mine site
  - *for preliminary discussion while waiting for the proponent's response to the first question*

COMEX is waiting for the proponent's reply as to whether or not the restoration plan it submitted is final. Comments were received from the Cree members and will be considered in the rest of the review process, which will continue once a reply has been received from the proponent.

**8) Eastmain drinking water supply**

- a) Request to amend the certificate of authorization: Phase 1 – Change to Beaver Creek withdrawal site and increase in capacity
  - *for recommendation*

Following its assessment, the regional office concluded that the proposed changes to the location of the reservoir and the water withdrawal method are acceptable. There was only one reservation regarding the volume of water withdrawn, which should never exceed 15% of the creek's flow rate at the withdrawal site. The members decided to make a positive recommendation to the Regional Administrator, stipulating this condition. The condition should also specify that the proponent must, upon request, make public and provide access to the flow data it collects so as to demonstrate that the pumped flow ensures maintenance of the requested ecological flow.

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

**9) Troilus mining project**

- a) Change of company name
  - *for information*

The change in company name was mentioned for information purposes only.

- b) Annual report of activities under the post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection program for 2013; 2013 annual report on characterization of water quality, sediment and benthic communities; integrated analysis of tests to determine acid generation potential
  - *for preliminary discussion*

The Québec party has begun its assessment, but the regional office's comments have not yet been received. At first glance, the report appears to meet COMEX's expectations. The members noted that the mill continues to treat effluent because effluent from the tailings pond does not meet the Directive 019 standards otherwise. This item will be discussed again at the next meeting.

**10) Whabouchi**

- a) Responses to COMEX's questions
  - *for preliminary discussion*

The members noted that the project has changed considerably over time. The Québec party has begun reviewing the proponent's responses. The opinions of experts consulted for the party's review should be submitted to the project manager in late June. However, three important modellings are missing: air quality, noise and effluent plume. The proponent expects to finish the first two by the end of summer, but the effluent plume dispersion modelling will not be completed until late fall. The members agreed to get as far ahead as possible in the review of the admissibility of the impact statement before the next meeting.

- b) Planning of public hearings

The members decided that public hearings on this project will be held in Nemaska and Chibougamau. The best time to hold the hearings would be at the end of October. This date should fit in with the proponent's calendar given that it's looking to begin operations in spring 2015. The Administrator will be informed of the date of the hearings once COMEX is certain that the impact statement is admissible and that the Committee doesn't have any more questions.

The impact statement submitted by the proponent is voluminous. To facilitate public participation, it would be worthwhile asking the proponent to submit a summary of all the changes made to the project and explaining the major issues. The idea of asking the proponent to present a video was raised. The video could be similar to the one made by Stornoway for the Renard project.

The Cree members raised an issue, mentioning that the local communities would like to see the ore processed on site, especially in light of the fact that two more lithium mines could open in the area.

**Action: Send the hyperlink to the Renard video to the members**

**11) Redevelopment of the Eastmain/Matagami-Radisson intersection**

- a) Responses to COMEV's questions
  - *for preliminary discussion*

This project was submitted to COMEV because it includes use of a borrow pit over 3 hectares in size. Based on a review of the impact statement, which contains the preliminary information for the project as well as the proponent's responses to COMEV's questions, the work is acceptable. The only reservation pertains to the existence of a wetland near the borrow pit. To protect the wetland, a minimum distance must be maintained between the wetland and borrow pit extraction. It was mentioned that for

Route 167 a distance of 30 metres was requested in some cases (note: the RNI generally requires a distance of 60 metres). The members decided to make a positive recommendation to the Administrator with this one condition.

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

**12) Precautionary approach for woodland caribou recovery**

- *response from the Deputy Minister*

COMEX received a letter from the Administrator on May 20, 2014, saying that discussions are still under way with the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles and have been de facto initiated with the new Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. The Administrator also says that he will inform COMEX when the time comes to resume the review of planned forest roads. The Cree members said they are not happy about this situation and are worried that the woodland caribou will become extinct in the region.

**Action: Email the letter to the Cree members.**

**13) Planning for 2014**

There were no comments on the updated document.

**14) Access to information agreement**

- *for preliminary discussion*

Deferred to the next meeting.

**15) Request for information**

- a) Josiane K. Pouliot, candidate for a Master's of Environment at the Université de Sherbrooke

Further to the request Ms. Pouliot sent to the COMEX secretariat, Daniel Berrouard said he would be speaking with her by phone next Friday and will answer her questions regarding the incorporation of Aboriginal knowledge. Brian Craik said that he might contact Ms. Pouliot as well.

**16) Other business**

- a) COMEX website

It was suggested that COMEX use the public consultations on Whabouchi to launch its website. Information relating to the project could be posted online to foster public participation and transparency.

**Action: Call for new bids. Discuss the budget with Mireille.**

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

The next COMEX meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, in Montréal, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

**Action: Inform project managers and reserve a room.**

**18) Presentation by Roch Gaudreau, mining branch of MERN, on the new mining regime in force since December 2013**

- *presentation at 1:30 p.m. in room 111 C*

The presentation ran from 1:30 to 3:15 p.m. and was attended by the COMEX members, seven project managers for Québec and a Cree analyst.

**Action: File Mr. Gaudreau's PowerPoint presentation.**



**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up action: April 23-June 4, 2014**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Troilus mining project in James Bay, FQM (Akubra) inc. 3214-14-025	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Three reports:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual report of activities under the post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection program for 2013</li> <li>2013 annual report on characterization of water quality, sediment and benthic communities</li> <li>Integrated analysis of tests to determine acid generation potential</li> </ul>	Received: April 25, 2014	The company's name was changed following a merger. (formerly: Inmet Mining Corporation, now: FQM (Akubra) Inc.)	Reports sent for information purposes
Eleonore gold project in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd. 3214-14-042	Mireille Paul MDDEFP	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Request to amend the certificate of authorization:</b> maintenance of final effluent from the waste rock pile runoff treatment plant	Received: April 25, 2014	-	For recommendation
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Final design of tailings ponds</b>	Received: May 21, 2014	As required by Condition 2.9 of the C.A.	For recommendation

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Eastmain water supply system using Beaver Creek, Phase 1 3214-11-99B	Issac Voyageur Regional Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Request to amend the certificate of authorization:</b> increase in capacity	Received: April 23, 2014	Construction planned for summer and fall 2014	For recommendation
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX recommendation regarding the 2014 master plan:</b> authorization as proposed	Sent: May 2, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 317	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> recommendation regarding the 2014 master plan	Received: May 7, 2014	-	-
	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX recommendations regarding the changes to the follow-up schedule for the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the Sarcelle powerhouse and monitoring of fish passage through brook OA-02</b>	Sent: May 2, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 317	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> recommendations regarding the follow-up schedule for the spawning ground and monitoring of fish passage through brook OA-02	Received: May 7, 2014	-	-

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D'Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>2013 report on the results of mitigation and enhancement measures</b> agreed upon with tallymen affected by the project: no comments	Sent: May 2, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 317	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> no comments on the 2013 report	Received: May 7, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Planning for 2014: access roads to traplines and Cree camps:</b> submitted for authorization	Received: May 6, 2014	In response to Condition 2.6 of the C.A.  Just one change to the snowmobile trail on Trapline R12	For recommendation
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>Questions on updating of the restoration plan</b>	Sent: May 2, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 317	<i>Waiting to receive Metanor's responses before continuing project review</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> questions on updating of the restoration plan	Received: May 7, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	<b>Questions</b> for the proponent	Received (cc): May 13, 2014	-	-

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Renard mining project – Mining of diamond deposit, Stornoway Diamond Corp. (Canada) Inc. 3214-14-041	André Boisclair COMEX	Clément D’Astous Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX recommendations on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report on ecological characterization of <b>wetlands</b>: change in wording of Condition 2.1</li> <li><b>fish habitat</b> compensation program: one question asked</li> <li>review of <b>EDOs</b>: authorization for 3 years with 3 conditions</li> <li><b>follow-up schedule</b>: deadline deferred to August 31, 2014</li> </ul> <b>Archaeological survey</b> : no comments	Sent: May 2, 2014	As agreed at COMEX 317	Waiting for responses regarding fish habitat  <i>Secretariat: adjust planning for 2014</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> monitoring of conditions 2.1, 2.12, 2.4 and 2.11 and change to follow-up schedule	Received: May 7, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Boucher Stornoway	<b>Question</b> to the proponent concerning hydrocarbon-contaminated site (fish habitat)	Received: (cc) May 21, 2014	-	-
Precautionary approach for woodland caribou recovery	Gilbert Charland Deputy Minister MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Reply</b> to COMEX’s letter of March 27, 2014	Received: May 20, 2014	-	-

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Eastmain/Matagami-Radiation intersection redevelopment project, MTQ 3214-05-012	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Impact study</b> (preliminary information submitted to COMEV plus another document with clarifications)	Received: May 21, 2014	-	For recommendation
Whabouchi – Development and mining of a spodumene deposit 3214-14-052	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Proponent's responses to the Committee's questions and comments</b>	Received: May 26, 2014	-	For recommendation
BlackRock Metals project to mine the iron deposit in the Lac Doré geological complex 3214-14-050	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Proponent's responses to conditions 6, 8 and 9 of the CA</b>	Received: May 26, 2014	In response to conditions 6, 8 and 9 of the CA	For recommendation