

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**319th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(Adopted)**

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**DATE:** July 9, 2014

**PLACE:** Cree Nation Government office  
277 Duke St., room 100  
Montréal, Québec H3C 2M2

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

Cree analysts: Jessica Labrecque, CNG  
Allan Penn, CNG

Executive Secretary: Mélanie Chabot

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

The start-up water supply strategy for the Eleonore mining project (Item 4 c)) was added to the agenda at the last minute after receiving correspondence on the matter.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 318th meeting**

The minutes were adopted as presented.

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

Four pieces of correspondence on mining projects received at the last minute were added to the table in Appendix A: three concerning the Eleonore project and one concerning the Bachelor Lake project.

**Action: Send the Cree analysts COMEX's letter to the Regional Administrator regarding the Eastmain water supply project.**

**4) Eleonore mining project**

- a) Comprehensive environmental follow-up program
  - *for recommendation*

The Cree party commented on the recommendation proposed by the Québec party after the last meeting. The objectives of the fish sampling are not clear to the Cree party. It was suggested that the environmental committee could be involved and serve as a forum for discussion. The members agreed to write to the Administrator recommending that the comprehensive environmental follow-up program be approved on the proposed conditions. Special mention will be made of the need to clearly define the fish sampling objectives at the environmental committee.

**Action: Write to the Administrator: conditional approval**  
**\*\*\* The letter must be approved by the Cree members before being sent.**

A number of methodological concerns regarding environmental discharge objectives (EDOs) were also discussed, especially the use of data near the detection limit. The Cree party thinks it would be worthwhile including social feedback in the process. It was suggested that a technical roundtable discussion on the EDO concept be organized, bringing together Cree analysts and experts from the Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale. The departmental authorities will be contacted to see if it would be possible to organize such a roundtable.

**Action: Organize the roundtable on EDOs.**

- b) Final effluent from the waste rock pile runoff treatment plant
  - *for information*

The proponent withdrew this request (see table of correspondence in Appendix A)

- c) Start-up water supply strategy

A clear start-up water supply strategy for the mill was a requirement of Condition 2.13 of the certificate of authorization for the overall Eleonore mining project. According to the proponent, no freshwater will be pumped. All of the water needed will be drawn from mine water. This answer closes the discussion of this condition.

**Action: Write to the Administrator: no comments**

#### **5) BlackRock mining project**

- a) Proponent's response to conditions 6, 8 and 9 of the certificate of authorization
  - *for discussion*

The Committee discussed the proponent's responses to conditions 6, 8 and 9 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 6, 2014.

The response to Condition 6 dealt with the chemical products used. Since the proponent answered the question only partially, the COMEX members decided to ask for the missing information.

The response to Condition 8 concerned the final effluent management method. Again, the proponent provided only a partial answer that did not address the question directly. The members decided to send new questions with a view to obtaining the missing information.

The response to Condition 9 addressed optimization of water management on the mine site. However, information recently received by the members could affect the response to this condition: it appears that, as a result of the federal public hearings held, Lac Denis will be drained rather than turned into a reservoir. In the opinion of the COMEX members, this requires an amendment to the certificate of authorization issued for the project and must be the object of a review.

**Action: Send the Québec party's assessment to the Cree analysts. A Cree analyst who attended the federal hearings will provide an explanatory note. Send the explanatory note to the members. Send the Administrator a letter containing COMEX's questions and comments regarding conditions 6 and 8 and informing him of the situation regarding Condition 9.**

**6) Bachelor Lake mining project**

- a) Intervention and action plan to achieve EDOs
  - *for recommendation*

At the outset, the members noted that the proponent is having trouble achieving its EDOs. The Québec party has not completed its assessment yet, but will submit it to all of the members soon. The Cree members said they would be sending comments to the secretariat.

**Action: Send the Québec party's assessment and Cree members' comments to all of the members.**

**7) Extension of Route 167 North (MTQ): response to questions and comments sent in April 2014**

- a) Protocol for monitoring unimpeded fish passage
  - *for discussion*
- b) Environmental monitoring program
  - *for discussion*
- c) Environmental monitoring: operation of borrow pits less than 75 m from lakes and watercourses
  - *for discussion*

Items 7a), b) and c) on the agenda were discussed together. After going over the documents received, the members noted that the proponent had addressed most of the questions adequately. However, certain aspects are worth putting into perspective to ensure that the monitoring programs respect the proponent's commitments and the conditions of authorization, especially as regards monitoring of borrow pits and false mountain willow. The members would like to remind the proponent that the conditions of authorization are not optional and that it must conduct and submit the results of the stipulated monitoring.

The Cree members said that they would be submitting their assessment soon as well and that they perceive a lack of consultation of the community of Mistissini by the proponent.

**Action: Send the Cree party's assessment to all of the members as soon as it is available.**

**8) Troilus mining project**

- a) 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
  - *pour information*

Troilus is in the midst of the closure process. In 2010, COMEX made a positive recommendation on the mine closure plan. As requested, the 2013 post-closure annual report was sent to COMEX for information purposes. The members noted that the work to close the mine site is continuing and that the proponent seems to be encountering problems with revegetation of the tailings site due to wind erosion. The members also noted that the proponent still has to treat effluent in order to meet the Directive 019 standards.

**Action: Send the Québec party's assessment to the Cree members. Send the members' the Cree party's comments when they are available. Write to the Administrator giving him COMEX's overall assessment of the report.**

**9) Whabouchi**

- a) **Responses to questions**
  - *being assessed*

The responses are still being assessed. The members discussed the primary issues related to this project. As it stands, the Québec party's assessment does not seem to show any problems with groundwater, noise or wetlands. However, the data on surface water, collected using the trace method, will not be available until the end of October. As a result of project optimization, there is only one effluent now. However, leaching of certain metals and the achievement of EDOs could become issues. The opinion on air quality modelling should be available in late September. The opinion on noise modelling should be available soon. Other potential issues, such as threatened or vulnerable species and technological risks, are also being assessed. The Crees' comments on social aspects would be greatly appreciated.

The Cree analysts also raised some potential issues for them, such as waste hauling and preservation of fish stocks in Deux-Montagnes lake to make sure the lake remains good for fishing. Questions were also raised with respect to the hydrological model, control of industrial dust and the occupational health and safety policy. Radioactivity does not seem to be an issue at the moment, since 1) it's very low, and 2) it seems to be adequately managed.

One of the Cree party's current concerns is the fact that the project has changed and undergone major re-engineering and the community of Nemaska does not seem to have been informed about these changes. This particular mining project is special in that it is located near the village of Nemaska and could create long-term jobs without people

having to leave the village for long periods of time. In the same vein, however, the Crees would like more details on how the needs of the work camp (which will be built to lodge workers from outside the village) and basic services in the village, especially waste management, will be aligned. Finally, the Cree party informed the other members that the agreement between the proponent and the community of Nemaska is almost finalized.

The target for the public consultations is still the end of October. The members should be able to set the exact date of the consultations at the meeting at the beginning of September. The COMEX website could be used to foster transparency and public participation. The Cree members said they could send their recommendations on the consultation process to the secretariat.

**Action: Get the Cree party's recommendations on the public consultation process.**

#### **10) Access to information agreement**

COMEX is a public body within the meaning of the *Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*. As such, it must have expert resources so it can handle access to information requests properly. The executive secretary cannot fulfil this role, as the person in charge of requests must be a member of the management staff. An agreement between COMEX and the MDDELCC was therefore drafted and sent to the members yesterday. After it has been approved by the members, it has to be approved by the Commission d'accès à l'information (CAI). The Cree members will send their comments on the draft agreement to the secretariat.

**Action: Send the Crees' comments to the other members.**

#### **11) COMEX website**

Three bids were solicited for construction of the website. In addition, a summary fact sheet for a decision will have to be signed by the Deputy Minister in order to authorize the project. The members will be contacted by email during the summer to get their comments on the website design and texts. The goal is for the website to be online in early September so that it can be used for the public consultations in Whabouchi.

#### **12) Other business**

No issues were discussed.

#### **13) Date and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on September 3, in Montréal.

**Action: Confirm date with Brian.**

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up action: May 26 to July 9, 2014**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
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
Extraction and processing of 900 000 tonnes of gold ore from the Bachelor mine site, Metanor Resources Inc. 3214-14-027	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>Questions and comments</b>	Sent: June 17, 2014	-	<i>Secretariat: put the side document to the 2013 annual report in 2014 planning process</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Intervention and action plan to achieve EDOs</b>	Received: June 19, 2014	Complement to the annual report (The bulk of the information addressed Question 2 of the document containing COMEX's questions and comments)	For recommendation
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> questions and comments about the 2013 annual report	Received: June 23, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources	<b>Questions</b>	Received: (cc) June 26, 2014	-	-

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Extension of Route 167 North, MTQ 3214-05-077	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Responses to questions and comments</b> (sent April 8, 2014)	Received: June 5, 2014	-	For information: 1. Environmental follow-up: operation of borrow pits less than 75 m from lakes and watercourses  For recommendation: 2. Protocol for monitoring unimpeded fish passage 3. Environmental monitoring program
	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX recommendation:</b> decommissioning and restoration program for sites affected by work on Lot B	Sent: June 17, 2014	-	<i>Secretariat:</i> <i>Add conditions to 2014 planning process</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> COMEX recommendation	Received: June 23, 2014	-	-
Project to increase the capacity of Eastmain's water supply system, Eastmain Cree Nation 3214-11-99B	André Boisclair COMEX	Isaac Voyageur Regional Admin.	<b>COMEX recommendation to authorize</b> a requested amendment to the CA: withdrawal site and storage capacity	Sent: June 17, 2014	-	-
Eastmain/Matagami-Radisson intersection redevelopment	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX recommendation to authorize project</b>	Sent: June 17, 2014	-	-



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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
project, MTQ 3214-05-77	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> COMEX recommendation	Received: June 25, 2014	-	-
Renard diamond mine 3214-14-041	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Boucher Stornoway	<b>Amended CA</b>	Received: (cc) June 19, 2014	-	<i>Secretariat: Add conditions to 2014 planning process</i>
Eleonore gold project in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd.	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>Question</b> regarding the final design of the tailings pond	Sent: June 17, 2014	-	<i>Waiting for the proponent's response to the question</i>
	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>Request for additional information:</b> maintenance of a 2nd final effluent	Sent: June 17, 2014	-	<i>Waiting for additional information</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> request for additional information	Received: June 23, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> question regarding the final design of the tailings pond	Received: June 25, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	France Trépanier Goldcorp	<b>Request for additional information from the proponent</b>	Received: (cc) July 7, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Notice of withdrawal of the request for amendment</b> (maintenance of a 2nd final effluent)	Received: July 4, 2014	-	-

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Water supply strategy</b>	Received: July 4, 2014	Requirement of Condition 2.13 of the CA	For information
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project 3214-10-017	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Philippe Mora SEBJ	<b>Amended CA:</b> 2014 master plan	Received: (cc) June 3, 2014	-	-
	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX recommendation to approve</b> 2014 master plan: 2014 planning of access roads	Sent: June 17, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Philippe Mora SEBJ	<b>Amended CA:</b> updated environmental follow-up program for 2007-2023	Received: June 19, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt:</b> recommendation for 2014 planning of access roads	Received: June 23, 2014	-	-