



la Convention  
de la Baie James  
et du Nord québécois

**Comité d'examen des répercussions  
sur l'environnement et le milieu social**

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**MINUTES OF THE**

**321st MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**(Adopted)**

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**DATE:** September 3, 2014

**PLACE:** COMEX office  
201, avenue du Président-Kennedy, bureau PK-2840  
Montréal QC H2X 3Y7

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

Executive Secretary: Mélanie Chabot

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

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 320th meeting**

The minutes of the 320th meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: File the minutes of the 320th meeting**

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

Two things were received after the “Notice of Meeting” had been sent to the members: additional information on the environmental monitoring program for the Eleonore mining project, and the certificate of authorization for the Principale Mine project. Both were added to the table of correspondence in Appendix A.

**Action: Put “Additional information on the environmental monitoring program for the Eleonore project” on the agenda of the next meeting**

**4) Meeting on EDOs**

WHEREAS the meeting on EDOs between Québec government project managers for northern developments, analysts from the Cree Nation Government and two representatives from the Service des avis et des expertises of the Direction du suivi de l'état de l'environnement will be held before COMEX next meets;

THEREFORE, it was agreed to make a decision on the action plan for achieving EDOs for the Bachelor Lake mining project at the next meeting.

**5) BlackRock mining project**

- a. Follow-up on conditions 3, 4, 10, 16, 29
  - *for discussion*

WHEREAS the Québec party has not completed its review;

THEREFORE, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**Action: Put this item on the agenda of the next meeting**

**6) Renard Diamond Project**

a. Fish habitat compensation program

WHEREAS on May 2, 2014, COMEX sent the Provincial Administrator two questions concerning Stornoway's fish habitat compensation program;

WHEREAS the proponent was asked to verify whether one of the selected sites in the area of the old Sullivan mine is contaminated with hydrocarbons and to state its intentions with regard to that site;

WHEREAS COMEX received the proponent's response on July 30, 2014;

WHEREAS specialists from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and two wildlife experts from the Québec government were consulted after the proponent's response was received;

WHEREAS according to DFO, the walleye spawning ground located near the foundation of the old bridge in the Icon-Sullivan Mine area is contaminated with various metals, including a high level of copper;

WHEREAS the wildlife experts said that copper is highly toxic for young fish and that the copper contamination could adversely affect productivity;

THEREFORE, in the opinion of the COMEX members, it would not be wise to authorize expansion of an existing spawning ground with high metal contamination levels. They decided to make the following recommendations:

*#20140903-01: That the Administrator not include this spawning ground in the authorization of the fish habitat compensation program and that the proponent offset the losses thus incurred by increasing the surface area of the two other proposed sites.*

*#20140903-02: That the Administrator authorize the rest of the compensation program with the following conditions:*

***Condition 1:*** *The proponent shall submit for approval any change to the fish habitat compensation program, including abandonment of certain developments or the addition of another compensatory development.*

***Condition 2:*** *The proponent shall submit for approval any related development required to carry out the fish habitat compensation program and monitor compensatory developments, including but not limited to the opening and operation of roads and borrow pits as well as the extraction of gravel from aquatic environments.*

**Condition 3:** *The proponent shall verify the physical integrity of developed spawning grounds and ensure that they are used by checking for eggs, nests or fry the first, third and fifth years after construction.*

**Condition 4:** *The proponent shall transmit, for information purposes, a report on monitoring results not later than March 15 following each assessment.*

**Action: Write to the Administrator**

WHEREAS the COMEX members are concerned about contamination of the old Icon-Sullivan mine site and would like the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (MERN) to look into the matter;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

*#20140903-03: to mention to the Administrator that MERN should pay special attention to the old Icon-Sullivan mine site.*

WHEREAS, the members think that a state of knowledge report on all orphan mine sites in the James Bay region would help them understand the cumulative impacts and overall context of projects under review;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

*#2014-0903-04: to contact MERN to enquire about the state of existing data on orphan mine sites in the James Bay region.*

**Action: Contact MERN to enquire about existing data**

b. Request to amend the CA:

On August 6, COMEX received a request to amend the CA for the Renard project to enable environmental and economic optimization. The request includes several elements, some of which will be discussed today and the rest, at future meetings.

- Submission of the environmental and social monitoring program

WHEREAS the proponent is seeking to postpone submission of the program so it can consult the Environmental Committee;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided to make the following recommendation:

*#20140903-05: That the Administrator grant the proponent an extension until October 31, 2014 for submission of the environmental and social monitoring program.*

- Location of the ecocentre:

The COMEX members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

- Expansion of the borrow pit previously authorized in the CA and addition of a new borrow pit:

The COMEX members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

- Construction of a temporary camp for mine workers

WHEREAS the following elements included in the request to amend the certificate of authorization are a priority because they are vital to enabling the proponent to continue the work:

- increase in the capacity of the accommodation complex in order to lodge another 800 or so workers, including changes to the Lake Lagopede drinking water supply;
- use of a membrane bioreactor system for domestic wastewater treatment;
- construction of a temporary camp to lodge around 80 workers, including an artesian well to supply drinking water and a septic facility to treat wastewater;

WHEREAS information was checked with the Direction régionale de l'analyse et de l'expertise de l'Abitibi et du Nord-du-Québec (MDDELCC) and an assessment showed that the environmental and social impacts of the above changes are acceptable;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided to recommend:

*#20140903-06: That the Administrator authorize the expansion of the accommodation complex, including the changes to the drinking water intake and domestic wastewater treatment system on the condition that the proponent consult the band council and tallymen concerned when it comes time to dismantle the temporary camp to see if they would like to keep anything.*

**Action: Write to the Administrator**

WHEREAS the request to amend the certificate of authorization to permit the use of liquefied natural gas-fueled generators provides no information on air emissions modelling or the GHG emissions budget and whereas this information must be provided as soon as possible to enable COMEX to continue studying the request;

WHEREAS in accordance with condition 2.21 of the global certificate of authorization issued on December 4, 2012, the proponent must submit for approval the final design of the tailings site and the calculated seepage rates compared with Directive 019 groundwater protection criteria;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

*#20140903-07: to remind the Administrator of the strategic importance of these matters.*

**7) Bachelor Lake mining project**

- a. Intervention and action plan to achieve EDOs

The COMEX members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

- b. Response to question on the restoration plan

WHEREAS the proponent said that its restoration plan is final but that exploration activities are ongoing;

WHEREAS the Cree party's questions and comments were accounted for in the document containing all of the Committee's questions and comments;

THEREFORE, the members said they were satisfied with the document and decided:

*#20140903-08: to send the document containing the questions and comments to the Administrator.*

**Action: Write to the Administrator**

**8) Langlois Mine in James Bay (Nyrstar)**

- a. Transmission of final report on surface water and sediment monitoring for winter 2014

The COMEX members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**9) COMEX consultation process**

WHEREAS the COMEX document *Public Information and Consultation Process* was last revised in 2004;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

**10) COMEX website**

The COMEX members agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

**11) Other business**

a. Forest roads

WHEREAS COMEX's Chairman received a letter from the Quebec Forest Industry Council asking to meet with him;

WHEREAS the Administrator has suspended review of planned forest roads;

THEREFORE, the members agreed to inform the QFIC that COMEX is still waiting to receive instructions from the Administrator.

**Action: Write to the QFIC**

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

The COMEX members agreed to hold the next meeting on October 1, 2014, in Montréal, at 9:00 a.m.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up action: August 5 to 25, 2014**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Eleonore gold project in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd. 3214-14-042	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of the recommendation to authorize the comprehensive environmental monitoring program	Received: August 5, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of COMEX's letter concerning the start-up water supply strategy	Received: August 5, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Additional information</b> on the environmental monitoring program	Received: August 26, 2014	-	For recommendation
BlackRock Metals mining project 3214-14-050	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of the questions and comments relating to the responses to conditions 6, 8 and 9 of the CA	Received: August 5, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Jacqueline Leroux BlackRock	<b>Questions and comments</b> relating to the responses to conditions 6, 8 and 9	Received: (cc) August 8, 2014	-	<i>Waiting for responses</i>
Principale mine site restoration project in Chibougamau, MERN 3214-14-058	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Impact statement</b>	Received: August 13, 2014	-	For recommendation (see 320th meeting)
	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>Recommendation for authorization</b>	Sent: August 13, 2014	-	-



PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of the recommendation	Received: August 15, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Sophie Trudel MERN	<b>Certificate of authorization</b>	Received: (cc)	-	-
Extension of Route 167 North	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX's comments</b> on the responses to questions regarding environmental monitoring	Sent: August 13, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of COMEX's comments	Received: August 15, 2014	-	-
Troilus mining project, FQM (Akubra) inc. 3214-14-25	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>COMEX's comments</b> on the annual post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection program	Sent: August 13, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of COMEX's comments	Received: August 15, 2014	-	-
Bachelor Lake mining project, Metanor Resources Inc. 3214-14-027	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>Recommendation to authorize</b> extension of the deadline for submitting the report on cyanide destruction testing	Sent: August 13, 2014	-	<i>Update planning</i>
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of the recommendation	Received: August 15, 2014	-	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	<b>Approval</b> to extend the deadline	Received: (cc) August 20, 2014	-	-
Whabouchi project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. 3214-14052	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>Comments</b> on the updated noise study and information regarding the <b>public consultations</b>	Sent: August 13, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of COMEX's comments	Received: August 15, 2014	-	-
Eastmain-1- A/Rupert project, Hydro-Québec	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of the two monitoring reports	Sent: August 13, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	<b>Acknowledgement of receipt</b> of COMEX's letter	Received: August 15, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Philippe Mora SEBJ	<b>Letter</b> informing the proponent that no comments will be made	Received: (cc) August 18, 2014	-	-