

MINUTES OF THE
322nd MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Adopted)

DATE: October 1, 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

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 321ST MEETING

The minutes were adopted as presented. In future, COMEX decisions will be clearly identified, numbered and justified by indicating “whereas.”

3) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION (APPENDIX A)

The following three items were added to the table of correspondence included in the notice of the meeting:

- Eleonore mining project: Additional information representing the proponent’s response to the question concerning the final design of the tailings site;
- Renard Diamond Project: Request to amend the CA in relation to the temporary camp and location of the ecocentre;
- Whabouchi project: Letter from the proponent indicating the schedule for submitting the final documents.

The additional information concerning the Eleonore project will be discussed at the next meeting. The request to amend the CA for the Renard project and the response regarding Whabouchi will be discussed at today’s meeting.

4) WHABOUCHI PROJECT

- *presentation of the preliminary review*

WHEREAS the Québec party’s preliminary review was submitted to all of the members on September 24, 2014;

WHEREAS the Cree party made comments during the meeting to enhance the text;

THEREFORE, COMEX agreed to continue its review.

- *possible window for holding hearings*

WHEREAS public hearings will be held in Nemaska and Chibougamau;

WHEREAS the proponent informed COMEX that it would submit a non-technical summary on October 3, 2014, the results of air quality modelling on October 31, 2014, and the results of effluent plume modelling on November 14, 2014;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#20141001-01: to set aside the week of February 9 as the first possible window for holding public hearings if the above-mentioned documents are submitted on the planned dates and deemed satisfactory.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

5) BLACKROCK METALS MINING PROJECT

- *update*

WHEREAS COMEX received a follow-up document relating to conditions 3, 4, 10, 16 and 29 of the certificate of authorization issued in December 2013;

WHEREAS the COMEX members were informed that the proponent expects to thoroughly review the BlackRock mining project with a view to ore extraction, including titanium;

WHEREAS the resulting changes will have a major impact on numerous components of the project;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided, in response to the above-mentioned document:

#20141001-02: that the proponent must submit an update of its project before proceeding any further with the review process, with the exception of condition 16.

N.B. The Crees tabled a review of the follow-up of conditions 3, 4, 10, 16, 29. The document will be kept on file and used to review the updated project if it is still relevant.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) RENARD DIAMOND PROJECT

a) Request to amend the CA

- *for partial recommendation*

WHEREAS it was decided to divide into three parts the request to amend the CA for the Renard project to enable environmental and economic optimization and whereas the first part was reviewed at COMEX's last meeting;

WHEREAS the second part of the Québec party's review was submitted to all of the members on September 30, 2014;

WHEREAS said second part consists of the following elements:

- *increase in capacity of the temporary camp to 120 workers;*
- *location of the ecocentre (condition 6.6 of the CA);*
- *expansion of a previously authorized borrow pit and addition of a new borrow pit;*
- *trench landfill;*
- *contaminated soil treatment platform;*
- *addition of a Cree cultural centre;*
- *change in various building sites, except for the fuel tank farm.*

WHEREAS the proposed changes are deemed acceptable because they are minor, will have few negative impacts and will be effectively governed by existing regulations, which will be enforced by the regional office of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC);

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

<i>#20141001-03: to recommend that the Administrator authorize the changes listed above.</i>
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Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

7) MEETING ON EDOs

The meeting on EDOs took place on September 19, 2014, and was well received by all of the participants from the Cree Nation Government and MDDELCC.

The COMEX members said they hope the Committee can ask that more technical sessions be held around twice a year on themes requiring technical expertise so that Cree analysts and MDDELCC project managers can better understand the issues involved in reviewing projects.

8) BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT

a) Intervention and action plan to achieve EDOs

- *for recommendation*

WHEREAS the Québec party's preliminary review was submitted to all of the members on September 24, 2014;

WHEREAS the COMEX members would like the proponent to respond to the following questions and comments:

- QC - 1.** The proponent must explain the reasons for the higher discharge rates, including by indicating the flow rates for each source of contaminated effluent (middle effluents such as mine drainage, cooling water, runoff, etc.) as well as the planned control measures.
- QC - 2.** The proponent must explain the sampling and analysis methods used so that COMEX can understand the results better.
- QC - 3.** If the proponent wants the EDOs to be recalculated, COMEX recommends that it first consider conducting more frequent sampling in control zones and analyzing the following parameters: hardness, pH, dissolved organic carbon, chloride and suspended solids.
- QC - 4.** COMEX would like to remind the proponent that the EDOs for its project were calculated without factoring in dilution. Thus, no upstream concentrations were considered in calculating the EDOs. The proponent can conduct more sampling, but the results will not be used to recalculate EDOs. However, COMEX encourages the proponent to conduct this research, as it will provide a clearer picture of the reference state.
- QC - 5.** When submitting new monitoring results, the proponent must discuss the potential impact on the receiving environment of the concentration of each parameter in the final effluent.
- QC - 6.** The proponent must identify likely sources of contaminants in the control zones. For that purpose, it can verify whether the presence of contaminants in the control zone might also come from past activities (e.g. the Coniagas mine or former activities at the Bachelor Mine, forestry, etc.). Historical data from past impact monitoring of the Bachelor Mine could be used to support conclusions.

- QC - 7.** Why isn't more frequent monitoring of lead, zinc and mercury planned given that all three parameters sometimes exceed the maximum levels fixed by the MDDELCC and CCME in control zones? Monitoring these high concentrations in the receiving environment might also be worthwhile.
- QC - 8.** The method normally used to compare water quality results against the MDDELCC criteria consists in using a median hardness value calculated from full-year monitoring results. In addition, results of receiving-water quality monitoring must be compared against all the applicable surface-water quality criteria, not just the criteria for protecting aquatic life (chronic effect).
- QC - 9.** The proponent could present the average and maximum monthly concentrations for all criteria monitored in accordance with Directive 019 pertaining to the mining industry.
- QC - 10.** The proponent must explain the potential environmental impact of ammonia nitrogen, nitrite and nitrate concentrations that exceed the EDOs.
- QC - 11.** The proponent should also monitor the quality of mine discharge water as well as determine whether other types of explosives carry less risk of contamination from nitrogen compounds and hydrocarbons.
- QC - 12.** The proponent could also verify the presence of fluorides in discharge water and final effluent, since this parameter was not analyzed during the initial groundwater characterization study.
- QC - 13.** The document the proponent will be submitting to the Administrator in December 2014 should discuss the potential environmental impact of Weak Acid Dissociable (WAD) cyanide in the receiving environment. The proponent could draw on the new cyanide measurements planned for summer 2014. The document could also propose solutions for improving the situation, such as more frequent operation of the cyanide destruction system.
- QC - 14.** The proponent must identify the reasons for the high total and available cyanide concentrations found in both the receiving environment and the control zones.
- QC - 15.** Considering that land users are directly concerned by monitoring activities, in particular to ensure adequate water quality, COMEX believes that the proponent would benefit from using traditional knowledge to gain a better understanding of the land and involve the Cree community of Waswanipi in

future field work. The proponent could also present the follow-up results to the community.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#20141001-04: to recommend that the Administrator forward the above 15 questions and comments to the proponent.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

9) LANGLOIS MINE IN JAMES BAY (NYRSTAR)

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

- *discussion on questions to be asked*

WHEREAS the Québec party's preliminary review was submitted to all of the members on September 24, 2014;

WHEREAS the members are satisfied with said review, which includes the following six questions/comments for the proponent:

- QC - 1.** Two monitoring parameters are missing, i.e. organic matter content and average particle size of sediment (granulometry): the condition stipulated on the CA issued in 1994 referred to section 3.5 of the 1989 Directive 019. The proponent must ensure that these two parameters are measured in the next sampling campaign.
- QC - 2.** The proponent must explain the reasons for establishing sampling points in the places illustrated on the maps and why they are located only in the southern portion of the two lakes?
- QC - 3.** Several monitoring parameters are missing (temperature, pH, total alkalinity, conductivity, SS, flow, etc.). The proponent must include all of these parameters in the next sampling campaign, as well as indicate the depth of the water and the depth at which the sample was taken.
- QC - 4.** To enable a better assessment of results, the proponent must add two sampling points in Wedding River, one upriver of the final effluent discharge point and one farther downriver.
- QC - 5.** Because the final effluent flow varies considerably during the year, the proponent must indicate the flow rate at the time of surface water sampling.

QC - 6. Why did the proponent provide only the results of the winter sampling campaign? Was summer sampling conducted after the report was written? If so, the proponent must send the MDDELCC the results, as sampling should have been conducted during the summer low-water period.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#20141001-05: to recommend that the Administrator send the six questions/recommendations listed above to the proponent.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

10) PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 161-kV POWER TRANSMISSION LINE BY HYDRO-QUÉBEC

a) Change to project schedule and deferral of the submission of the forest study results

- *for recommendation*

WHEREAS the delays in building the 161-kV power transmission line for the BlackRock project are related to the fact that the project is behind schedule;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#20141001-06: to recommend that the Administrator authorize the change to the project schedule and extend the deadline for submitting the results of the forest study.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

11) TEXT ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- *for consultation by the JBACE and the regional and provincial administrators*

WHEREAS the text on public participation was submitted to the members on September 16, 2014;

WHEREAS the text draws on the document adopted in 2014, but is intended to be more up to date, more foreseeable and easier to understand and takes into consideration the JBACE's preliminary report on public participation;

WHEREAS the Cree party's comments were received on September 25, 2014;

WHEREAS the members agree to add the following elements to the text:

- a satisfaction survey will be sent to participants in the week following the public hearings;
- a note to the effect that the directive drafted by the COMEV requires the proponent to consult the population;

WHEREAS COMEX will consult the other stakeholders via its website;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#20141001-07: to consult the JBACE, the Provincial Administrator and the Regional Administrator on the content of the text on public participation updated by COMEX.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator, the Regional Administrator and the JBACE

12) ORPHAN MINE SITES AND ABANDONED EXPLORATION SITES
• *for discussion*

Deferred to the next meeting.

13) COMEX WEBSITE

The COMEX members agreed to develop a communications plan. They will work with Joshua Iserhoff.

Action: Develop a communications plan for the website

14) OTHER BUSINESS

The members agreed to hold a special meeting in early 2015 to devise a plan for producing the annual report and a strategic plan.

15) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 3-4 and 5, in Chibougamau and Nemaska. A meeting will be scheduled with the mayor of Chibougamau and the Nemaska Band Council, and the members will visit the Stornoway and Eleonore project sites.

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up action: August 27 to September 23, 2014

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Construction of a 161-kV power transmission line, Hydro-Québec 3214-09-027	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Letter regarding a change to the project schedule and deferral of the submission of the forest study results	Received on: September 4, 2014	-	<i>For recommendation</i>
Troilus mining project 3214-14-25	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Dany Jacob FQM (Akubra) inc.	Comments on the annual report	Received on: September 2, 2014	-	-
Eleonore mining project, Opinaca Mines Ltd. 2314-14-042	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Annual environmental follow-up and monitoring report (2013)	Received on: September 2, 2014	-	<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Annual report 2013 - erratum	Received on: September 12, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Duclos Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Amendment to the CA – comprehensive environmental monitoring program	Received on: September 17, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Additional information: response to the question about the final design of the tailings site	Received on: September 25, 2014	<i>For recommendation</i>	

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Renard Diamond Project (Stornoway Diamond Corp.) 3214-14-041	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	COMEX's partial recommendation regarding the request to amend the CA	Sent on: September 11, 2014	-	-
	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	COMEX's recommendation regarding the fish habitat compensation program	Sent on: September 11, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt of COMEX's partial recommendation regarding the request to amend the CA	Received on: September 17, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt of COMEX's recommendation regarding the fish habitat compensation program	Received on: September 17, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Patrick Godin Stornoway	Amendment to the CA	Received on: September 22, 2014	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Request to amend the CA: temporary camp and location of the ecocentre	Received on: September 26, 2014	-	-
Bachelor Lake mining project, Metanor Resources Inc. 3214-14-027	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland Provincial Admin.	Questions and comments on the restoration plan	Sent on: September 11, 2014	-	-
	Lynda Roy Provincial Admin.	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt of the questions and comments on the restoration plan	Received on: September 17, 2014	-	<i>Waiting for a reply</i>

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Forest roads	André Boisclair COMEX	André Tremblay QFIC	Reply to the QFIC's letter	Sent on: September 11, 2014	-	-
Extension of Route 167 North, MTQ 3214-05-077	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Decommissioning and restoration plan for sites affected by work on Segment A (km 0-82)	Received on: September 17, 2014	Work planned for this fall	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Philippe Lemire MTQ	Authorization of environmental monitoring programs	Received on: September 22, 2014	-	-
La Grande complex	François Bilodeau Hydro- Québec	COMEX	Summary report 1978-2012: Changes in mercury levels in fish from La Grande complex			
Eastmain-1- A/Rupert project, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-17	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Follow-up on special-status plant species in 2013 (final report)	Received on: September 22, 2014	In compliance with condition 5.28 of the CA	<i>For information</i>
Whabouchi project 3214-14-052	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Deadlines for the submission of documents and public hearings	Received on: September 26, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-technical summary: October 3, 2014 Air modelling: October 31, 2014 Effluent plume modelling: November 14, 2014 	<i>To determine a window of time for the public hearings</i>