



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

324th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

(adopted)

DATE: December 12, 2014

PLACE: 201 Président Kennedy Ave., Suite PK-2840
Montréal (Québec) H2X 3Y7

PRESENT: André Boisclair, Chairman, Québec
Daniel Berrouard, Québec
Robert Joly, Québec
Brian Craik, Grand Council of the Crees
Philip Awashish, Grand Council of the Crees

Executive Secretary: Stéphane Cossette

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was amended to add the following:

- Documents regarding the woodland caribou

2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 323rd MEETING

Some amendments were made to the minutes (see underlined sections):

- p.8, item d): WHEREAS COMEX received, for information, the 2013 follow-up report on fish populations between KP 193 and KP 217 in the increased-flow section of Eastmain River;
WHEREAS, the members note that the fish pass at KP 207 is effective for lake sturgeon and other species;
WHEREAS, COMEX also received for information purposes the 2012-2013 follow-up report on anadromous cisco in Rupert River;

All follow-ups were completed except for the letter to be sent to the MERN requesting a digital map(s) of all past and current mining sites in the James Bay Territory. It will be sent next week.

Action: File the minutes of the 323rd meeting

3) Correspondence

Correspondence received between November 8 and December 5, is attached as Annex A.

4) Renard Diamond Project

- a) Request to amend the CA (part three)
 - *for discussion*

WHEREAS, the Review Committee is still waiting for the air quality modeling;

WHEREAS, the proponent wishes to file another request for modifications to the layout of the reservoir site;

WHEREAS, the Review Committee has not been sent all the documentation needed to analyze this request to amend the certificate of authorization.

THEREFORE, members agreed to postpone this item until the next meeting and to continue with the analysis.

Action: Postpone this item on the agenda until the next meeting

5) Eastmain-1-A Rupert project by Hydro-Québec

- *Suivi environnemental du cisco anadrome* (Environmental monitoring of anadromous cisco) – 2012-2013 Research Report
 - *for information*

WHEREAS, the Review Committee has examined the 2012-2013 report (3rd year of monitoring) on the environmental monitoring of the anadromous cisco, which was forwarded for information, and the report shows that in general, since 2010 the distribution of ciscos has become more diffuse;

THEREFORE, the members of the Review Committee consider the information provided by the proponent to be satisfactory and will pay special attention to the report on 2014-2015 monitoring, which is the final year for monitoring anadromous cisco in the Rupert River planned for in the 2007-2023 environmental monitoring program.

- *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'utilisation des frayères multispécifiques aménagées dans la rivière Rupert* (Monitoring the integrity and use of developed multispecies spawning grounds in the Rupert River) – 2013 Research Report
 - *for information*

WHEREAS, the development of multispecies spawning grounds was intended to compensate for habitat loss resulting from the partial diversion of the Rupert River. The 2013 report indicates that the development of the Rupert spawning grounds has been an effective compensatory measure.

THEREFORE, the Review Committee members consider the information submitted by the proponent to be satisfactory and note that the final year for monitoring is scheduled for 2015.

WHEREAS, the members of the COMEX have also read the report *Suivi des aménagements pour l'omble de fontaine et des chenaux de montaison dans la rivière Rupert* (Monitoring of development for brook trout and fish passes in the Rupert River) – 2013 Monitoring – year 2 of monitoring;

WHEREAS, the report indicates that while the only brook trout spawning ground is at KP 41 and that some sections of the fish pass at KP 223 are still problematic, the conditions for passage of the fish have been improved. Remedial work carried out at KP 223 in 2011 and 2013 seems to allow better passage for fish through the pass than was observed after the initial development work.

THEREFORE, the members of the Review Committee consider the information submitted by the proponent to be satisfactory and note that a final year of monitoring is planned for 2015.

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WHEREAS, the Review Committee also examined the monitoring report on total carbon emissions in the Rupert River estuary (*Suivi du carbone organique total (COT) dans l'estuaire et la baie de la rivière Rupert*). Given the results, the proponent concluded that there has been a reduction in TOC coming into Rupert Bay from the Rupert River but that it is a small-scale reduction given the larger inputs coming from other major rivers feeding into Rupert Bay;

WHEREAS, the environmental monitoring program provides for two more years of monitoring to be carried out in 2015 and 2017. However, the proponent has informed us that in the coming months, it may file a request to amend the certificate of authorization so as to end the monitoring.

THEREFORE, the Review Committee considers the information submitted by the proponent to be satisfactory and will wait for further information regarding the request to amend the certificate of authorization before deciding whether to comply with this request.

THEREFORE, the members of the Review Committee agreed
#2014-1205-01: to inform the Administrator that the Review Committee has examined these four monitoring reports and has no comments to make on them.

Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator.

6) Bachelor Lake Mining Project

- Responses to questions on the 2013 annual report
 - *for recommendation*

WHEREAS, members received an analysis of the responses to questions concerning the 2013 annual report;

WHEREAS, the Review Committee members are satisfied with most of the proponent's responses and consider the 2013 annual report to meet the requirements;

WHEREAS, the members nonetheless would like to receive answers from the proponent to the following:

QCII - 1. The Review Committee notes that the proponent's proposal on consulting the community differs from what was requested in Condition 12 of the

certificate of authorization of July 4, 2012. The proponent should explain how these proposed meetings meet the objectives of the committee referred to in this condition in the CA. In addition, the proponent must submit, for our information, the minutes of the meetings of this committee.

QCII - 2. The Review Committee recommends that the sediment sampling stations be combined with the stations used for studying benthic communities and that the samplings be coordinated.

QCII - 3. In the next annual report (2014) the proponent will need to explain the results from the monitoring of groundwater quality. Directive 019 (Section 2.3.2.4) requires that the groundwater quality monitoring results be compared.

THEREFORE, the members of the Review Committee agreed:

#2014-1205-02: to recommend to the Administrator that the proponent respond to the QCII-1 and address these comments in the document to be submitted for the completion of the 2014 annual report.

7) BlackRock Mining Project

- Request to amend the certificate of authorization (timetable)
 - *for recommendation*

WHEREAS, the proponent wants to modify the timetable for carrying out work and beginning operations due to delays in finalizing the financing plan for the project;

WHEREAS, the proponent also proposes changes to the certificate of authorization to make the schedule consistent with the proposed timetable for the project in order to fulfill Conditions 1, 2, 5, 7, 17, 18, 25, 26, 27 and 28.

THEREFORE, the members of the Review Committee agreed:

#20141205-03: to recommend to the Administrator that the deadline for Conditions 2, 5, 25 et 26 be extended and that no changes be made to Conditions 1, 7, 17, 18, 27 and 28.

Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator.

8) Whabouchi Mining Project

- a) Public hearing (timetable)
 - *for discussion*

WHEREAS, the Review Committee has informed the Administrator of its intention to hold public hearings on the Whabouchi mining project during the week of February 9, 2015;

WHEREAS, the proponent has not yet provided all the documents required for the project analysis, including the English summary which will be submitted in January 2015;

WHEREAS, the Review Committee intends to preserve a period of at least 30 days between the date when it determines that the information is complete and the date of the hearings.

THEREFORE, the members of the Review Committee agreed:

#2014-1205-04: to inform the Administrator that it will not be possible to hold the public hearings the week of February 9, 2015 and a new scenario will be presented once the Review Committee has all the necessary information.

Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator.

9) Project - Extraction of natural deposits of aggregates on Category II lands of Waskaganish

- Impact study
 - *for discussion*

WHEREAS the preliminary information on the project was received on October 28, 2014 and the analysis is now underway.

THEREFORE, the members agreed to postpone this item until the next meeting.

Postpone this agenda item until the next meeting

10) Update of the directive on public participation

- Comments received
 - *for discussion*

Various stakeholders have been informed of the consultation process, which concludes on January 29, 2015. The Review Committee will hold a meeting in early February to discuss comments received and proceed with the update of its public participation procedure.

11) Agreement regarding Access to Information requests

- *for information*

The Commission d'accès à l'information has rendered a favourable opinion on the agreement between the MDDELCC and the Review Committee regarding requests for access to documents that the COMEX receives. The agreement was forwarded to the members.

12) Documents regarding the woodland caribou

- *For information*

Two documents relating to woodland caribou were sent to Review Committee members recently: a letter from Isaac Voyageur addressed to Nathalie Camden, and a document prepared by the Forest Stewardship Council.

13) Varia

WHEREAS, Mélanie Chabot has completed her mandate as Executive Secretary to the Review Committee;

WHEREAS, the members wished to convey to Mélanie Chabot their appreciation for the work she performed over the last year.

THEREFORE, the members of the Review Committee agreed:

#2014-1205-05: to thank Mélanie Chabot for her contribution to the smooth functioning of the Review Committee in 2014 and congratulate her for her excellent work.

Action: Send a thank you letter to Mélanie Chabot.

14) Date and place of next meeting

The members will convene for their next meeting on Thursday, January 15, at 9 a.m. in Montreal in the COMEX office.

Annex A
Correspondence and follow-up action – November 8 to December 5, 2014

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Project: Wood pellet facility in Chapais 3214-23-005	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Impact study	Received: December 5, 2014		
Public participation	Michel Létourneau	André Boisclair	Text for consultation	Received: November 14, 2014		-
Project: 161 kV powerline to BlackRock by Hydro-Québec 3214-09-027	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Project suspension notice	Received: November 12, 2014	-	<i>For information</i>
Access to information	Jean-Sébastien Desmeules CAI	André Boisclair COMEX	Comments on the draft agreement between the MDDELCC and the COMEX	Received: December 2, 2014		<i>For information</i>