



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

### 325th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

(adopted)

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**DATE:** January 15, 2015

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

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

Executive Secretary: Marie-Michèle Tessier

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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 324TH MEETING**

The minutes were adopted as presented.

**Action: File the minutes of the 324th meeting**

**3) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION**

Correspondence received between December 6, 2014 and January 12, 2015 is presented in Appendix A.

**4) RENARD DIAMOND PROJECT**

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

WHEREAS COMEX has still not received all of the documentation needed to review the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization.

THEREFORE, the members agreed to defer this item to the next meeting and continue with its analysis.

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

**5) EASTMAIN-1-A/RUPERT PROJECT, HYDRO-QUÉBEC**

- a) Follow-up of saltwater intrusion in Rupert Bay – Report for 2013
  - *for information*

WHEREAS the results of the 2010 and 2013 follow-up campaigns confirm the trend in the changes predicted in the 2004 impact statement. The maximum saltwater intrusion observed is not as far upstream as anticipated. The changes in water levels in Rupert Bay and the Rupert River estuary are as expected. There has been no noticeable change in water levels in Rupert Bay since the river's partial diversion.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members deem the information provided by the proponent to be satisfactory and will monitor the results of the final follow-up campaign, to be conducted in 2017.

- a) Follow-up on navigation conditions in Rupert River diversion bays – Consultation of Cree users – Environmental follow-up in the operation phase (2013)
  - *for information*

WHEREAS in 2013 very few major obstacles to navigation were reported by the users interviewed. However, all of the users mentioned seeing floating debris along the navigation corridors.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members deem the information provided by the proponent to be satisfactory and will pay special attention to the follow-up program that is to continue in 2014. In addition, the proponent informed COMEX that it is considering conducting another year of interviews with Cree users of the Rupert diversion bays, one more than the number of years initially planned in the follow-up program.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

*#2015-0115-01: to inform the Administrator that COMEX has read these two monitoring reports and has no comments.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator**

WHEREAS COMEX was informed of Hydro-Québec's request to amend the certificate of authorization in order to cancel the final two years of total organic carbon monitoring in the Rupert River estuary, i.e. 2015 and 2017. COMEX is in favour of the request.

THEREFORE, the members decided:

*#2015-0115-02: to recommend that the Administrator approve the request to cancel the final two years of monitoring, while reminding the proponent that it must monitor longnose sucker in Rupert Bay and estuary in 2018.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator**

## **6) BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT**

- a) Response to questions and comments about the cyanide destruction testing
  - *for information*

WHEREAS COMEX went over Metanor Resources' responses to its questions received on November 10, 2014. The proponent makes minimum use of its cyanide destruction system to treat effluent. It merely complies with Directive 019 without meeting the environmental discharge objectives (EDOs). COMEX is concerned about this situation

and is not satisfied with the results. It expects the proponent to change its practices as soon as possible and to inform COMEX of the steps it intends to take to reduce concentrations discharged to the receiving environment. The proponent must strive to meet the established EDOs in order to honour its initial commitment.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

*#2015-0115-03: to inform the Administrator that the performance of Metanor Resources' cyanide destruction system is not satisfactory and that the company must submit an analysis report in this regard.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator**

**7) WHABOUCHI MINING PROJECT**

- a) Supplementary information relating to the impact statement:
  - Overview and compensation for serious harm to fish
  - Determination of background levels in groundwater
  - Surface water and sediment quality
    - *for discussion*

WHEREAS the supplementary information on the Whabouchi project was received on December 19, 2014 and whereas other documents are still to come, particularly the English summary of the impact statement.

WHEREAS an impact and benefit agreement (Chinuchi agreement) for the Whabouchi project was signed on November 7, 2014. The content of the agreement remains confidential between the signatory parties (the Grand Council of the Crees, the Cree Nation Government, the Cree Nation of Nemaska and Nemaska Lithium Inc.), but indicates that the Crees' concerns, particularly with regard to business opportunities, training and jobs, will be taken into consideration.

WHEREAS the elections for the Nemaska Cree Nation Chief will be in mid-March.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members agreed to set the public consultation dates at the next meeting, when they know more about the election campaign, so that the two events do not conflict.

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

**8) PROJECT TO DEVELOP NATURAL AGGREGATE DEPOSITS ON WASKAGANISH CATEGORY II LANDS**

- a) Impact statement
  - *for discussion*

WHEREAS the members would like to obtain clarifications from the proponent on a number of matters and whereas the Cree and Québec members have submitted their analyses;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided to study the matters raised and submit, at the next meeting, a new analysis report incorporating all of the comments.

**Action: Defer this item to the next meeting.**

**9) OTHER BUSINESS**

The “Details on location” section of the project descriptions posted on the COMEX website should mention the traplines on which the given project is located.

**10) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The members agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, February 5, at 9:00 a.m., at COMEX’s Montréal office.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up action: December 6, 2014 to January 12, 2015**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Bachelor Lake mining project 3214-14-027	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland MDDELCC	Questions and comments regarding 2013 annual report	Sent: December 17, 2014		
BlackRock Metals mining project 3214-14-050	Lynda Roy MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt of follow-up of condition 16	Received: December 15, 2014	- Copy of questions and comments sent to proponent received December 18, 2014	
	Lynda Roy MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: December 15, 2014		
	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland MDDELCC	Recommendation regarding request to change the deadlines for certain conditions	Received: December 17, 2014		
Abandoned mine sites	André Boisclair COMEX	Sophie Trudel MERN	Request to obtain map showing former and existing mine sites in the James Bay Territory	Sent: December 19, 2014		

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Whabouchi mining project 3214-14-052	André Boisclair COMEX	Gilbert Charland MDDELCC	Deferral of public hearings	Sent: December 17, 2014		
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Additional information: a. Overview and compensation for serious harm to fish b. Determination of background levels in groundwater c. Surface water and sediment quality	Received: December 19, 2014		- For recommendation
Wood pellet facility in Chapais, Rentech inc. 3214-23-005	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Impact statement	Received: December 5, 2014		- For recommendation
Eastmain-1-A/ Rupert project 3214-10-017	Lynda Roy MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: December 15, 2014		
	Lynda Roy MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: December 15, 2014		
Route 167 North - MTQ 3214-05-077	Lynda Roy MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: December 15, 2014		

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PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Eleonore mining project 3214-14-042	Lynda Roy MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: December 15, 2014		
	Lynda Roy MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: December 15, 2014		
Troilus mining project 3214-14-025	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX	Copy of comments sent to proponent concerning the 2013 post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection report	Received: December 17, 2014		
161-kV power transmission line for BlackRock, Hydro-Québec 3214-09-027	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX	Copy of response to condition 8 of the certificate of authorization	Received: December 22, 2014		