



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

326th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Adopted)

DATE: February 5, 2015

PLACE: COMEX office
201 President-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

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 325TH MEETING

The minutes were adopted as presented.

Action: File the minutes of the 325th meeting

3) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Correspondence received between January 12 and 30, 2015 is presented in Appendix A.

On January 30, 2015, COMEX received the digital map of mine sites in the James Bay Territory, by email, from **Sophie Trudel**, director of mine site restoration at the MERN.

Also on January 30, COMEX wrote to the Provincial Administrator regarding the results of validation testing of the cyanide destruction system for the Bachelor Lake mining project.

On February 2, 2015, COMEX received Provincial Administrator Christyne Tremblay's comments regarding COMEX's public participation procedure.

4) Procedure for public participation in the work of the Review Committee

- a) Comments received**
 - *for discussion*

WHEREAS comments on the draft text were submitted by Isaac Voyageur (Regional Administrator), Christyne Tremblay (Provincial Administrator), the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) and the Quebec Mineral Exploration Association (QMEA);

WHEREAS the members revised, commented on and corrected the draft text based on the suggestions received;

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#2015-0205-01: to adopt the text on the procedure for public participation in the work of the Review Committee.

Action: Write to both administrators to say that, with their consent, COMEX would like to make the updated procedure available to the public as quickly as possible.

5) Whabouchi mining project

- a) Admissibility of the impact study
• *for recommendation*

WHEREAS COMEX received the following documents in the context of the environmental and social impact assessment of the Whabouchi mining project:

- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Avis de projet – Version finale*, July 2011, 19 pages and 3 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Étude du potentiel archéologique – Nemaska Exploration, Projet Whabouchi*, Archeo 08, December 2011, 28 pages;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Étude hydrologique – Projet Whabouchi – Nemaska Lithium – rapport final*, WESA inc., April 2012, 31 pages and 5 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Inventaire archéologique – Projet Whabouchi*, Archeo 08, September 2012, 59 pages and 1 appendix;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Développement et exploitation d'un gisement de spodumène sur le territoire de la Baie-James – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social*, March 2013, various pagings and 2 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Whabouchi Project – Development and Operation of a Spodumene Deposit in the James Bay Territory – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment* – March 2013, various pagings and 2 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Geochemical Characterisation of Waste Rock, Ore and Tailings – Whabouchi Project – James Bay Area, Quebec, Canada*, Lamont inc., March 2013, 45 pages and 5 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Développement et exploitation d'un gisement de spodumène sur le territoire de la Baie-James – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Résumé*, May 2013, 65 pages;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Résultats de la qualité de l'eau et de la modélisation pour la mine de lithium Whabouchi*, Golder Associates, June 2013, 47 pages and 5 appendices;

- Letter from Guy Bourassa of Nemaska Lithium to Clément D'Astous, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks, dated July 31, 2013, concerning an addendum – *Projet Whabouchi, Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social (bilan hydrique et modélisation de la qualité des effluents)*, 1 page and 4 attachments;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Réponses aux questions et commentaires du COMEX*, Roche Itée, Groupe-conseil, April 2014, various pagings and 12 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Mise à jour de l'étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Étude d'impacts sonores*, June 2014, Yockell Associés inc., 31 pages and 2 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Validation des sites potentiels de fraie du doré jaune dans le lac des Montagnes – Rapport d'activités*, Roche Itée, Groupe-conseil, October 2014, 13 pages and 2 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Bilan et compensation des dommages sérieux aux poissons – Rapport d'activités*, Roche Itée, Groupe-conseil, December 2014, 45 pages and 2 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Modélisation de la dispersion des émissions atmosphériques – Rapport d'activités*, Roche Itée, Groupe-conseil, December 2014, 131 pages and 1 appendix;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Résumé (Mise à jour)*, Roche Itée, Groupe-conseil, December 2014, 44 pages;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet Whabouchi – Étude des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social – Prédiction de la qualité de l'effluent minier – Rapport d'activités*, Roche Itée, Groupe-conseil, December 2014, 42 pages and 2 appendices;
- NEMASKA LITHIUM INC. *Projet de mine de spodumène Whabouchi – Modélisation de l'effluent minier*, WSP Canada Inc., December 2014, 39 pages and 2 appendices;

WHEREAS the Administrator issued the following documents further to COMEX's recommendations:

- MDDELCC *Directive pour le projet minier Whabouchi*, Direction de l'évaluation environnementale, January 2012, 19 pages;
- MDDELCC Questions and comments on Nemaska Lithium's Whabouchi Project: Development and Operation of a Spodumene Deposit in the Territory of the Municipalité de la Baie-James, Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets nordiques et miniers, October 2013, 43 pages;

WHEREAS the analysis conducted by COMEX, in consultation with various government departments and organizations, showed that the impact statement and supplementary documents, including the English and French versions of the summary project updates, satisfy the requirements of the directives for the impact statement issued on February 2, 2012.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#2015-0205-02: that all of the documents submitted by Nemaska Lithium in the context of the environmental and social impact assessment of the Whabouchi mining project satisfy the requirements of the ministerial directives and give the public a clear idea of the project as submitted. The public hearings can be held in 30 days.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator to say that the information submitted in relation to the Whabouchi mining project is complete and that the public hearings can be held in 30 days.

- b) Public consultations
 - *for discussion*

WHEREAS the election for the chief of Nemaska will take place on March 11 and whereas a run-off election may have to be held in the week of March 16;

WHEREAS COMEX and Nemaska Lithium inc. are to meet on February 13, 2015 to discuss the conduct of the public hearings, and minutes of the meeting will be prepared.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

#2015-0205-03: that the public hearings on the Whabouchi mining project will be held on Monday, March 30, 2015, in Nemaska, and April 1, 2015, in Chibougamau.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her of the scheduled dates of the public hearings on the Whabouchi mining project.

6) Project to develop natural aggregate deposits on Waskaganish Category II lands

- a) Impact study
 - for recommendation

WHEREAS the members would like to obtain clarifications on the following aspects:

QC-1: Given the large extraction surface area and the very long operation period, the proponent must discuss whether extraction cells will likely be developed on the identified sites. In addition, based on the information obtained, some of the leases applied for have already been granted to other users, in particular for Quarry CA-27, for which the lease holder has exclusive rights. Has the proponent considered sharing with other potential users of the same sites to extract borrow material?

QC-2: The proponent must clarify the operation phase for each site, as there are inconsistencies between the planning schedule contained in section 4.5 of its document and the description of each operation phase contained in Appendix 1.

QC-3: The proponent must provide a detailed description of the planned work and anticipated impacts related to the construction of, and changes to, the access roads. The description must include all watercourse crossings and the type and source of all granular material to be used. In addition, given the abundance of wetlands in the project area, the proponent must indicate the approximate surface area of the wetlands that will be affected by the project and describe the alternatives considered, if any.

QC-4: The proponent must describe how it informed the tallymen affected by the project and their reactions to the proposed activities?

QC-5: In describing the planned mitigation measures, the proponent mentions that although a few areas surrounding archeological sites have already been disturbed, areas that have not been disturbed and that are considered to have archeological potential will be regularly inspected, and that approved archeological excavations may be carried out (at frequent intervals) before preparatory and extraction work is performed, especially on site CA-27, located near Sander's Pond, a site with archeological potential. In this regard, the proponent must confirm whether or not undisturbed areas with archeological potential will be regularly inspected and whether or not approved archeological excavations will be carried out (at frequent intervals) before preparatory and extraction work is performed, especially on site CA-27, located near Sander's Pond, a site with archeological potential. It must also indicate if regular inspections will be conducted during the preparatory and operation phases in order to control the targeted boundaries of extraction operations and verify the presence of artifacts.

THEREFORE, the COMEX members decided:

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#2015-0205-04: to write to the Provincial Administrator to request additional information on the above aspects of the project. Clarifications are needed before a recommendation can be made.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator.

7) OTHER BUSINESS

No items were added.

8) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The members agreed to hold the next meeting on Friday, March 20, at 9:00 a.m., at COMEX's Montréal office.

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up action: January 12 to January 30, 2015

| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--------|
| Abandoned mine sites | Sophie Trudel MERN | André Boisclair COMEX | Digital map of mine sites in the James Bay Territory | Received: January 30, 2015 (by email) | Acknowledgement of receipt: January 30, 2015 | |
| Revisions to COMEX's public participation procedure | Christyne Tremblay MDDELCC | André Boisclair COMEX | Provincial Administrator's comments on COMEX's public participation procedure | Received: February 2, 2015 | | |
| | Jean Picard CCEBJ | André Boisclair COMEX | Comments on the updated document on public participation | Received: January 26, 2015 | Acknowledgement of receipt: January 30, 2015 | |
| | Alain Poirier AEMQ | André Boisclair COMEX | Comments on the updated public participation document | Received: January 27, 2015 | Acknowledgement of receipt: January 30, 2015 | |
| Bachelor Lake mining project 3214-14-027 | André Boisclair COMEX | Gilbert Charland MDDELCC | Questions and comments on the 2013 Annual Report. | Sent: December 17, 2014 | - Acknowledgement of receipt from Julie Bissonnette (January 12, 2015) - Copy of questions sent to proponent (January 20, 2015) | |
| | André Boisclair COMEX | Christyne Tremblay MDDELCC | Comments on the results of validation testing of the cyanide destruction system | Sent: January 30, 2015 | | |
| BlackRock Metal mining project 3214-14-050 | André Boisclair COMEX | Gilbert Charland MDDELCC | Recommendation regarding the request to amend the timetable for certain conditions | Sent: December 17, 2014 | - Acknowledgement of receipt from Julie Bissonnette (January 12, 2015) | |

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| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Renard Diamond Project 3214-14-041 | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | André Boisclair COMEX | Additional information relating to the request to amend the CA: Report on dispersion modelling of atmospheric emissions | Received: January 12, 2015 | | - for recommendation |
| | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | André Boisclair COMEX | Request to amend the CA: Compensation program for wetland losses | Received: January 20, 2015 | | - for recommendation |
| | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | André Boisclair COMEX | Additional information relating to the request to amend the CA: storage method for liquefied natural gas at the tank farm | Received: January 23, 2015 | | - for recommendation |
| Route 167 Nord - MTQ 3214-05-077 | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX | Copy of amendment to the CA: Decommissioning and restoration program for sites affected by work at Lot A | Received: January 16, 2015 | | |
| Eleonore mining project 3214-14-042 | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX | Copy of questions and comments on changes to the follow-up program for lake sturgeon | Received: January 9, 2015 | | |
| | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX | Copy of amendment to the CA: Final design plan for the tailings site | Received: January 16, 2015 | | |

| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Whabouchi mining project 3214-14-052 | André Boisclair COMEX | Gilbert Charland MDDELCC | Delay of public hearings | Sent: December 17, 2014 | - Acknowledgement of receipt from Julie Bissonnette (January 12, 2015) | |
| | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | André Boisclair COMEX | Additional information: a. Summary (updated), French version b. Prediction of mine effluent quality c. Dispersion modelling of atmospheric emissions d. Validation of potential walleye spawning sites in Lac des Montagnes | Received: January 9, 2015 | | - for recommendation |

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| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--------|
| Eastmain-1-A/Rupert project 3214-10-017 | André Boisclair COMEX | Christyne Tremblay MDDELCC | Environmental monitoring of project OK: e. Anadromous lake cisco f. Brook trout and fish passes g. Integrity and use of multispecies spawning grounds in the Rupert River h. Total organic carbon | Sent: January 13, 2015 | | |
| | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX | Copy of amendment to the CA: Monitoring of special-status plant species | Received: January 16, 2015 | | |
| | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX | Copy of amendment to the CA: Postponement of interviews with Cree users of the Rupert River regarding navigation conditions | Received: January 16, 2015 | | |
| | André Boisclair COMEX | Christyne Tremblay MDDELCC | Recommendation regarding the request to amend the CA: cancellation of the final two years of total organic carbon monitoring | Sent: January 27, 2015 | - Request to amend the CA received from Mireille Paul on January 20, 2015 | |
| | André Boisclair COMEX | Christyne Tremblay MDDELCC | 2013 environmental monitoring of project OK: i. saltwater intrusion into Rupert Bay j. navigation conditions in Rupert diversion bays – Consultation with Cree users | Sent: January 27, 2015 | | |