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327th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

DATE: March 20, 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
Philip Awashish, CNG
Brian Craik, 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 326TH MEETING

The minutes were adopted as presented, with a clarification regarding the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure.

Action: File the minutes of the 326th meeting

3) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Correspondence received between January 30 and March 6, 2015 is presented in Appendix A.

Since March 6, we have received (March 10, 2015) the updated restoration plan for the Bachelor Lake mine site, which constitutes the proponent's responses to our questions and comments.

We also received (March 10, 2015) additional information on the Whabouchi mining project, in particular regarding the water management plan.

4) PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A WOOD PELLET FACILITY IN CHAPAIS, RENTECH INC.

- a) Request for public hearings
 - *for discussion*

WHEREAS discussions are ongoing with Oujé-Bougoumou, Chapais and Rentech, no new information was sent and COMEX will wait to receive the answers to the questions sent to Rentech, in particular regarding consultations held with the local communities.

5) LANGLOIS MINING PROJECT

- a) Responses to questions and comments – Surface water and sediment monitoring (winter 2014)
 - *for information*

WHEREAS on February 25, 2015 COMEX received the proponent's responses to its six questions and comments and the responses are deemed satisfactory. The next annual monitoring report, to be submitted in 2015, will be adjusted accordingly and include a

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greater number of parameters and data (new sampling sites, organic matter content, particle size, temperature, pH, total alkalinity, conductivity, SS, flow rate, etc.).

The community of Waswanipi does not appear to be actively involved in this project, even though the certificate of authorization issued on November 18, 1994 stipulates the following condition:

[TRANSLATION]

Monitoring Program – Social impact monitoring

The proponent must set up a liaison committee jointly with the Waswanipi Band Council.

The committee must be operational no later than two months following the date of issuance of the certificate of authorization. The minutes of committee meetings must be sent to the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune twice a year. The committee must be a forum for discussion and negotiation on the following matters in particular:

- *access to information on current and future operations, including with respect to site restoration;*
- *discussion of stakeholders' respective concerns;*
- *establishment of mitigation measures to address the needs of the region's inhabitants, especially affected trappers' families, the power transmission line or the mine site as such;*
- *optimization of the project's socioeconomic spinoffs for Aboriginal people in the form of jobs or contracts for Cree businesses;*
- *dissemination of information on the rights and entitlements of each stakeholder group, especially hunting and fishing rights;*
- *development of preventive and safety measures relating to motor vehicle traffic on roads near the job site as well as on access roads;*
- *development of measures to raise workers' awareness about Aboriginal culture.*

A training program for the Aboriginal workforce must be set up and maintained for the duration of the mine's operation. The proponent must send the results of the training program to the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune at the same time as its annual environmental and social impact monitoring report.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2015-0320-01: to send a letter to the Administrator saying that the Committee has taken note of the corrective steps to be taken in the next annual monitoring report. COMEX acknowledges the efforts made and encourages the proponent to continue its initiatives to inform the community of Waswanipi, in accordance with the condition of authorization dealing with the social impact monitoring program.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) EASTMAIN 1A/RUPERT PROJECT, HYDRO-QUÉBEC

- a) Letter from Stéphanie Jacob of Hydro-Québec Production to the Provincial Administrator, dated December 9, 2014, concerning condition 5.1: Terrestrial environment follow-up program: hydrology, hydraulics and thermal regime (2012-2013)
 - *for information*
- b) Terrestrial environment follow-up program: hydrology, hydraulics and thermal regime (2012) – dated June 2013
 - *for information*
- c) Terrestrial environment follow-up program: hydrology, hydraulics and thermal regime (2013) – dated November 2014
 - *for information*

WHEREAS COMEX has read the three above-mentioned documents and has no comments considering that the outcome is as predicted in the impact statement for the project.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2015-0320-02: to inform the Administrator that COMEX has read the two monitoring reports and has no comments.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

7) WHABOUCHI MINING PROJECT

- a) Logistics for public hearings
 - *for discussion*

WHEREAS the members were informed of the conduct and logistics of the public hearings to be held in Nemaska and Chibougamau on March 30 and April 1, 2015, and visits to the Whabouchi, Eleonore and Bachelor mine sites are planned;

WHEREAS an environmental and social analysis report will be produced after the hearings with a view to making a recommendation to the Provincial Administrator.

8) RENARD DIAMOND PROJECT

- a) Request to amend the CA – Compensation program for wetland losses
 - *for recommendation*

WHEREAS COMEX would like additional information on the following matters:

- QC-1** The proponent must document how the project will evolve if the Collaborative Research and Development Grant received from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) is smaller than expected, or if no grant is received.

In this regard, COMEX wishes to emphasize that priority should be given to developing a decision-support tool that is readily employable and less costly.

- QC-2** To make its commitment more concrete, the proponent must put a figure to its minimum financial and service contribution.

- QC-3** Ecosystem-based services and wetland surveys must be identified on the basis of principles and methods established by the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) in the different documents dealing with this subject (e.g. *Les milieux humides et l'autorisation environnementale* and *Guide d'élaboration d'un plan de conservation des milieux humides*). Obviously, since these guides were not designed specifically for Northern Québec, the methodology and criteria used will almost certainly have to be adapted to the region. It would be of value to know what adjustments will be made and why.

- QC-4** The anticipated deliverable, that is, the decision-support tool, should have the essential characteristics needed to be used for sustainable development of the North. In particular, it should enable the production of digital data sets, in shape file format, on the ecological roles studied. The acquisition of knowledge on peatland dynamics in relation to carbon should also culminate in the production of digital data sets enabling rapid assessment of the carbon sequestration potential of the region's wetlands. In short, it would be of considerable value for the deliverable to be in the form of digital data sets that could be used to quickly visualize the extent of the roles played by the different wetlands in the Renard project area.

- QC-5** The decision-support tool must be described in greater detail so as to specify the criteria that will be used to determine the ecosystem value. The proponent must demonstrate the reason for selecting this value to assess northern wetlands and explain how the value will also incorporate criteria related to biodiversity value.

- QC-6** The proponent must say whether it plans to incorporate the data and results from the acquisition of knowledge on peatland dynamics in relation to carbon into the decision-support tool.

- QC-7** The proponent must commit, in its and its partners' names, to making the decision-support tool available on a pre-determined date and authorizing its use by the MDDELCC.

QC-8 The proponent must commit to submitting annual progress reports on research projects to the Provincial Administrator of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. It is also recommended that the proponent consult the MDDELCC on a regular basis to make sure that the decision-support tool meets real needs and can be used for overall planning of wetland conservation and management in this region.

QC-9 COMEX thinks it is important that the wetland compensation project incorporate elements aimed specifically at enhancing wetlands and hydrous environments located on the site.

The proponent must briefly describe one or more wetland compensation projects including enhancement of wetlands and/or hydrous environments. These projects must be carried out during restoration of the mine site and can target, among others, pits, the stream running between Lagopede Lake and pit R-65, etc. A monitoring program for the enhancements carried out must be included and described.

The compensation project(s) selected must be explained in detail in the document submitted in accordance with condition 6.5 of the certificate of authorization issued on December 4, 2012, which states [TRANSLATION] *One year before the end of operating activities, the proponent must send the Administrator, for approval, the detailed plan for dismantling all infrastructure related to the project as well as the planned redevelopment measures under the mine site restoration plan. This plan, to be prepared following consultation with the community of Mistissini, will deal in particular with physical redevelopment of the site, revegetation, cleanup and planned safety measures, as well as possible measures for controlling mine effluent. In addition to forest restoration objectives, the proponent must consider wildlife habitat enhancements. The plan should include the post-closure monitoring program for the receiving environment.*

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2015-0320-03: to inform the Administrator that COMEX has questions and comments for the proponent.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

- b) Request to amend the CA – Atmospheric emissions
 - *for recommendation*

See point c)

- c) Request to amend the CA – Liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage method
 - *for recommendation*

WHEREAS COMEX wishes further clarifications on the following matters:

- QC-1** The proponent must update the additional information sent to the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) on January 6, 2015. It must specify the number and type of LNG tank it intends to install on the mine site, the location of the tanks, and any other information it deems relevant (e.g. the need for a flare system).
- QC-2** If necessary, the proponent must provide an updated or new technological risk analysis for its project.
- QC-3** On page 2-41, the first paragraph of section 2.5.4.1, “Installation d’entreposage de méthane,” states: [TRANSLATION] *Appendix 1 indicates that methane storage facilities over 4.5 tonnes (approximately 4.9 tonnes of LNG) [...].* Explain why the thresholds for natural gas and LNG differ.
- QC-4** On page 3-106, the third paragraph of section 3.12.1.1, “Provenance,” states: [TRANSLATION] *To minimize the risk of accidents caused by human error, two will make the trip between Montréal and the Renard mine site.* Two what?
- QC-5** Most of highway 167, which starts in Saint-Félicien in Lac Saint-Jean, is paved as far as the junction with the road to Mistissini. On page 12-27, a proposed mitigation measure consists in setting the speed limit at 50 km/h for trucks carrying LNG. However, the experts consulted think that the current speed limits should be respected. Lowering the speed limit on this section of the road could cause road accidents rather than prevent them.
- QC-6** After the junction with the road to Mistissini, highway 167 is gravel up to the end of the so-called “numbered” segment, that is, KM 143 of the planned extension (also known as the end of the job sites on lots A and B). After the Ministère des Transports (MTQ) has completed the work, the posted speed limit will be 70 km/h.

On a gravel road, the amount of dust raised behind a truck makes it almost impossible for a person driving behind the truck to see it. The driver knows there is a truck ahead of him, but cannot gauge the distance between his vehicle and the truck. Light vehicles generally travel at a speed of between 90 and 100 km/h, sometimes more, on gravel roads. Every year, light vehicles crash into the back or side of a trailer of a truck slowing down at an intersection.

That is why the experts believe that the preventive measure proposed by the proponent, that is, reducing the speed limit for trucks to 50 km/h, is inadequate for this second segment of the road. Instead, they propose that trucks respect the planned posted speed limit of 70 km/h.

QC-7 The emergency measures plan for LNG transport, presented in Appendix 12.3.2 of the request for amendment, must be enhanced. The area north of Chibougamau is relatively remote and in the event of unforeseen events, the MTQ would have to manage or redirect traffic flows. Therefore, the MTQ should be included in the list of organizations presented on page 7-40 of the preliminary emergency measures plan. To update this part of the plan, we recommend that the proponent call Sylvain Dallaire, head of the MTQ's Centre de service de Chibougamau, at 418-748-7608, ext. 230.

QC-8 To enhance the emergency measures plan and include all those involved in fire safety and protection, the proponent should set up a monitoring committee composed of all potential stakeholders (MTQ, SOPFEU, Ministère de la Sécurité publique, municipal services, etc.).

QC-9 The proponent indicates in its report that modelling was carried out as per the specifications submitted to the MDDELCC. However, the experts consulted at the MDDELCC wish to point out that the specifications were not approved in full. Although the approach proposed in the specifications seemed suitable, certain aspects had to be clarified, in particular some of the intermediate emission rates.

In reading the report, we note that some of the comments made when the specifications were reviewed were clarified in the modelling report. In particular, the rationale for the criteria used for modelling scenarios and the three study years was explained.

However, some clarifications were not provided, especially with regard to certain intermediate emission rates such as those for fuel use by different types of equipment or routing. Since validating emission rates is complicated in this context, we suggest using tables, for example, to present and compile data. The proponent can also refer to the following document:

Email from Isabelle Auger of the MDDELCC to Vital Boulé of Roche ltée, Groupe-conseil, sent on September 12, 2014 at 9:46 a.m., regarding questions and comments on the modelling specifications for the Renard Diamond Project.

QC-10 The proponent informs us that the explosives magazine will be moved to a new location, which constitutes a change to the initial lie of segment 18 provided for in the project description. The modelling takes this change into account. Although the change does not necessarily change the emission rates used in modelling contaminants from transportation (fuel use and emissions from vehicles travelling

on the road segment), some adjustments must be considered in locating emission sources.

QC-11 The metals modelling carried out is not realistic. The report contends that there is no metal content in waste rock, such that several sources were not included in the modelling of metals. In actual fact, the metal content of waste rock can differ from that of ore, but it is not realistic to assume that waste rock has zero metal content. In practice, analysis is generally simplified by considering the highest concentration of a given metal in the different soil types (ore, waste rock, overburden, etc.) and then applying it to the modelled concentration for total suspended particulates (TSP). That way, no further modelling will be necessary, but the metal analyses for the different soil types must be provided.

QC-12 Still with regard to metals, several contaminants are not discussed in the modelling report. Cobalt, manganese, thallium and vanadium must be added to the list of metals covered by the report. Note that ambient air quality criteria and the initial concentrations to be considered for these contaminants were previously set out in the following technical notice:

Letter from Jean-François Brière of MDDELCC to André Boilard of Roche ltée, Groupe-Conseil, dated January 30, 2014, regarding the modelling specifications for Stornoway Diamond Corporation's Renard Diamond Project in Northern Québec (SAVEX-13078), 5 pages.

The proponent must explain the rationale for considering total chromium as chromium III. A more conservative approach is recommended such that total chromium is considered as Chromium VI where composition is not known, given that Chromium VI is subject to more restrictive standards.

QC-13 The emission sources used in the modelling must be clarified. In section 2.5 of the report, it says that pits R-2/R-3 and R-65 are treated as quarries in the study and that the characteristics of emission sources are defined in the modelling specifications. Does this mean that, in the model, pits are considered as "open pit" emission sources? If so, the proponent must specify what activities are included in these sources as well as the characteristics of the sources (lateral dimensions, volume, emission height, etc.). Furthermore, it is mentioned in sections 5.6 and 5.7 of the modelling specifications that emissions from pits R-2/R-3 and R-65, that is, from drilling, blasting and ore loading, were modelled as volume sources. However, just one volume is described in these sections. Are all activities grouped under the same volume source? If so, the proponent must specify what activities are included in these sources and say how the other sources were considered in the model.

QC-14 The proponent says that the modelling assumes blasting once a day for pit R-2/R-3 in 2015, for pit R-65 and the underground mine in 2023 and 2026, rather than once a week as is actually planned. The modelling cannot make a distinction in

this regard, which is of little importance given that modelling has to estimate emissions under all possible conditions. Consequently, we cannot accept the proponent's comment as a justification for any exceedance whatsoever. The proponent must instead compile these exceedances and identify the corresponding conditions in order to propose measures for preventing exceedances.

QC-15 Generally speaking, the height of emissions from surface and volume sources as well as the initial vertical spread (σ_z) of surface sources are not specified in the report. This information must be provided in the modelling report.

QC-16 The modelling results show that standards are exceeded, in particular for nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The proponent must propose mitigation measures to meet air quality standards above the limit of 300 metres from mining facilities. The effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures must be demonstrated through atmospheric modelling.

QC-17 During telephone conversations, the proponent informed the MDDELCC that one or more flames might be used. As needed, the proponent must document this new source and indicate the emission rates for the various contaminants.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2015-0320-04: to inform the Administrator that COMEX has questions and comments for the proponent.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

9) BACHELOR MINING PROJECT

- a) Responses to questions about the restoration plan
 - *for approval*

WHEREAS the members just received the information pertaining to the restoration plan, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

10) COMEX ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

WHEREAS COMEX is required to submit an annual report for fiscal year 2014-2015, a draft report will be sent to the members for comment in the coming weeks.

11) CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

WHEREAS the members discussed COMEX's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, the *Regulation respecting the ethics and professional conduct of public office holders* and the *Déclaration de valeurs de l'administration publique québécoises* and the members unanimously subscribe to these principles;

WHEREAS it is proposed that the following clarification be made in article 6 of Chapter II of the *Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of the Members of the Review Committee (COMEX) Created by Virtue of Section 22.6.1 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*, to bring it in line with the new public participation procedure:

*Committee members are required to exercise discretion with regard to information that comes to their attention in the course of or in connection with the performance of their duties, and shall at all times respect the confidentiality of information thus received. Members must also respect for a 45-period the confidentiality of the documents that are sent to the provincial Administrator or to local environment administrators. **The concerned Administrator can, within this deadline, ask for an extension of the time limit of thirty days.***

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members unanimously decided:

#2015-0320-05: to adopt the new version of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of the Members of COMEX.

Action: Make the necessary changes to the text of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, including on COMEX's website.

12) OTHER BUSINESS

No items were added.

13) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The members agreed to hold the next meeting on April 1, 2015, in Chibougamau. Meetings will also be held on April 15 and May 12.

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up action: January 30 to March 6, 2015

| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| BlackRock Metals mining project
3214-14-050 | André Boisclair
COMEX | Gilbert Charland
MDDELCC | Recommendation on the request to extend deadlines for certain conditions | Sent:
December 17, 2014 | - Acknowledgement of receipt from Julie Bissonnette (January 12, 2015)
- Copy of amendment to CA (February 6, 2015) | - <i>Matter closed</i> |
| Review of COMEX's public participation procedure | André Boisclair
COMEX | Isaac Voyageur
Regional Admin. | Request for authorization to release the public participation procedure | Sent:
February 12, 2015 | - Reply received February 13, 2015 | - <i>For information</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Christyne Tremblay
Provincial Admin. | Request for authorization to release the public participation procedure | Sent:
February 10, 2015 | - Acknowledgement of receipt (February 12, 2015)
- Reply February 27, 2015 | - <i>For information</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Jean Picard
JBACE | Thank-you letter | Sent:
February 16, 2015 | | - <i>For information</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Alain Poirier
AEMQ | Thank-you letter | Sent:
February 16, 2015 | | - <i>For information</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Christian Lessard
Secrétariat à la communication gouvernementale | Thank-you letter | Sent:
February 16, 2015 | | - <i>For information</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Michel Létourneau
SAA | Thank-you letter | Sent:
February 16, 2015 | | - <i>For information</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Gilbert Charland
MERN | Thank-you letter | Sent:
February 16, 2015 | | - <i>For information</i> |

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| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Bachelor Lake mining project
3214-14-027 | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | André Boisclair COMEX | Copy of letter from proponent promising to respond to COMEX's comments in its 2014 annual report | Received:
February 25, 2015 | | - For information |
| | André Boisclair COMEX | Christyne Tremblay Provincial Admin. | Comments on cyanide destruction system | Sent:
January 30, 2015 | - Acknowledgement of receipt (February 4, 2015)
- Copy of questions and comments sent to proponent – February 10, 2015 | - For information |
| | Mireille Paul MDDELCC | André Boisclair COMEX | Responses to questions about restoration plan | Received:
March 10, 2015 | | - For approval |
| Project to develop natural aggregate deposits on Waskaganish Category II lands
3214-03-030 | André Boisclair COMEX | Christyne Tremblay Provincial Admin. | Questions and comments | Sent:
February 12, 2015 | - Acknowledgement of receipt (February 17, 2015)
- Copy of questions and comments sent to proponent (February 27, 2015) | - For information |
| Wood pellet facility in Chapais, Rentech Inc.
3214-23-005 | André Boisclair COMEX | Christyne Tremblay Provincial Admin. | Additional questions | Sent:
February 19, 2015 | - Acknowledgement of receipt from Julie Bissonnette (February 24, 2015)
- Copy of questions sent to proponent (February 27, 2015) | - For recommendation |

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| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | Steve Gamache
Mayor of
Chapais | André Boisclair
COMEX | Request for public hearings | Received:
February 10, 2015 | - Acknowledgement of receipt
(February 11, 2015) | - <i>For information and
discussion</i> |
| Renard Diamond
Project
3214-14-041 | Mireille Paul
MDDELCC | André Boisclair
COMEX | Supplementary information to request
to amend the CA: Report on
dispersion modelling of atmospheric
emissions | Received:
January 12, 2015 | | - <i>For
recommendation</i> |
| | Mireille Paul
MDDELCC | André Boisclair
COMEX | Request to amend the CA:
Compensation program for wetland
losses | Received:
January 20, 2015 | | - <i>For
recommendation</i> |
| | Mireille Paul
MDDELCC | André Boisclair
COMEX | Supplementary information to request
to amend the CA: liquefied natural gas
storage method | Received:
January 23, 2015 | | - <i>For
recommendation</i> |
| Whabouchi mining
project
3214-14-052 | Mireille Paul
MDDELCC | André Boisclair
COMEX | Additional information:
- Summary in English | Received:
February 6, 2015 | | - <i>For
recommendation</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Guy Bourassa
Nemaska Lithium
Inc. | Meeting to plan public hearings –
February 13, 2015 | Sent:
February 9, 2015 | | - <i>For information</i> |
| | André Boisclair
COMEX | Chrystine Tremblay
Provincial Admin. | Information is complete. Hold public
hearings on March 30 and April 1,
2015 | Sent:
February 10, 2015 | - Acknowledgement of receipt
from Julie Bissonnette
(January 17, 2015) | - <i>For information</i> |

Minutes - COMEX
327th Meeting

| PROJECT | FROM | TO | DOCUMENT | DATE | COMMENTS | ACTION |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | Mireille Paul
MDDELCC | André Boisclair
COMEX | Additional information – Water
management plan | Received:
March 10, 2015 | | |
| Langlois mining
project
3214-14-026 | Mireille Paul
MDDELCC | André Boisclair
COMEX | Responses to questions and comments
– Surface water and sediment
monitoring (winter 2014) | Received:
February 25, 2015 | | - <i>For information</i> |
| Eastmain-1-A/
Rupert project
3214-10-017 | André Boisclair
COMEX | Christyne Tremblay
MDDELCC | Environmental follow-up programs
OK:
a. anadromous lake cisco
b. brook trout and spawning
channels
c. integrity and use of multispecies
spawning grounds developed in
Rupert River
d. total organic carbon (TOC) | Sent:
January 13, 2015 | - Acknowledgement of receipt
(February 26, 2015)
- Copy of correspondence
sent to proponent (February
27, 2015) | - <i>For information</i> |