



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 OF THE**  
**339th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**(Adopted)**

<b>DATE:</b>	March 21, 2016
<b>PLACE:</b>	COMEX office 201 President-Kennedy Ave, Suite PK-2840 Montréal (Québec) H2X 3Y7
<b>PRESENT:</b>	André Boisclair, Chairperson, Québec Daniel Berrouard, Québec Brian Craik, CNG Robert Joly, Québec Paul John Murdoch, CNG
Executive Secretary:	Mélanie Chabot

**1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**2) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION (APPENDIX A)**

Correspondence received and sent between December 18, 2015 and February 26, 2016 is listed in Appendix A.

**3) PROJECT TO BUILD FOREST ACCESS ROADS “H – SECTION WEST” AND “I,”  
MATÉRIAUX BLANCHET**

a) Report and recommendation

- *For discussion*

The members commented on the revised version of the review report and a number of minor corrections were made. There was a discussion about the best criterion for fixing the limit of the road section that could be authorized. It was agreed that road “I” could end at its intersection with trapline W05-C. Road “H-West” could end at the northern limit of the 2013-2018 timber harvesting areas adjacent to the roads. Any project to extend roads “H-West” and “I” would require prior authorization from the Administrator.

It was agreed to incorporate the comments made at today’s meeting into the review report as soon as possible and submit the new version to the members at the next meeting.

**4) PROJECT TO BUILD A WOOD PELLET FACILITY IN CHAPAIS**

a) Planning of public hearings

- *For discussion*

This project will be handled by the new chairperson once in office. Mr. Boisclair will be stepping down on April 28, 2016.

**5) BACHELOR LAKE MINING PROJECT**

a) Request for an amendment: extraction and processing of 600 000 additional tonnes of ore versus the report concerning the questions and comments on cyanide destruction validation tests (August 2015-3rd set)

- *For recommendation*

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2016, COMEX received a request to amend the certificate of authorization to allow for extraction and processing of an additional 600 000 tonnes of ore on the Bachelor Lake property;

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2016, COMEX received the proponent's responses to the third set of questions and comments regarding cyanide destruction validation tests;

WHEREAS the proponent has not yet conducted tests to validate the effectiveness of the cyanide destruction system and validation is a prerequisite for extending mining operations on the Bachelor Lake property;

WHEREAS the request to amend the certificate of authorization in order to extend mining operations is incomplete;

WHEREAS COMEX wants to send the proponent the 44 questions/comments contained in the Committee's March 2016 review report before continuing the review process;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

*#2016-0321-01: to write to the Provincial Administrator to obtain additional information on the requested clarifications.*

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

**6) EASTMAIN-1-A/ RUPERT HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

- a) *Suivi de l'intégrité et de l'utilisation des frayères aménagées pour l'esturgeon jaune – Suivi environnemental en phase exploitation – travaux 2012* (2012 monitoring of the integrity and use of spawning grounds developed for lake sturgeon – Environmental monitoring during the project's operation phase)
- b) *Suivi environnemental en phase exploitation – Utilisation des frayères naturelles d'esturgeon jaune dans la rivière Rupert – Bilan du suivi 2010-2014* (Environmental monitoring during the project's operation phase – use of natural spawning grounds by lake sturgeon in Rupert River – 2010-2014 monitoring results)
- c) *Suivi environnemental en phase exploitation – Dérive larvaire de l'esturgeon jaune dans la rivière Rupert (secteur à débit réduit) – Rapport d'étude 2012* (Environmental monitoring during the project's operation phase – Lake sturgeon larvae drift in Rupert River (reduced-flow sector) – 2012 study report)
- d) *Suivi environnemental en phase exploitation – Dérive larvaire de l'esturgeon jaune dans la rivière Rupert (secteur à débit réduit) – Bilan du suivi 2010 - 2014* (Environmental monitoring during the project's operation phase – Lake sturgeon larvae drift in Rupert River (reduced-flow sector) – 2010-2014 monitoring)

WHEREAS 2014 was the last year of monitoring of lake sturgeon natural spawning grounds in Rupert River under the 2007-2023 environmental follow-up program;

WHEREAS the members went over the documents and had no comments;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

*#2016-0321-02: to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the four documents referred to above and have no comments.*

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

**7) CONTINUATION OF UPGRADING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE EASTMAIN ROAD**

**a) Sandpit D-80**

- *For discussion*

WHEREAS COMEX received the impact statement for this project on December 3;

WHEREAS the members are satisfied with the information provided by the proponent;

WHEREAS the map in Appendix 3 of the document containing the proponent's responses shows the existence of a wetland close to the east side of the deposit and less than 75 m from the boundary of the extraction area, there could be a problem with erosion and transport of fine particles. The proponent will have to take precautions to minimize the impact of such occurrences and avoid altering natural drainage patterns. Work near wetlands and watercourses must be performed with the utmost care. The proponent must also implement measures to minimize erosion and the transport of sediment in the peat bog.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

*#2016-0321-03: to write to the Provincial Administrator to recommend that the project be authorized with the above stipulation regarding wetlands.*

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

**8) ROUTE 167 NORTH EXTENSION PROJECT, MTQ**

**a) 2013-2015 monitoring of *Salix pseudomonticola***

**b) Environmental monitoring: operation of borrow pits less than 75 m from lakes and watercourses – km 0-142**

- *For discussion*

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2016, COMEX received a report on the monitoring of borrow pits operated less than 75 m from lakes or watercourses as well as false mountain willow colonies;

WHEREAS COMEX took cognizance of the submitted documents on borrow pits operated less than 75 m from lakes or watercourses and has no comments;

WHEREAS the COMEX members noted that the document on false willow is the second monitoring report on this species and that the proponent has until September 2017 to demonstrate whether propagation will be necessary during the final monitoring required, the members have the following questions and comments for the proponent:

**QC 1.** The proponent must report on the status of “Colony 20,” the main colony (junction with the ramp to Albanel Lake).

**QC 2.** The next monitoring report must contain a more detailed assessment of individual trees based on their condition (moribund, weak, average or good) and other characteristics.

**QC 3.** Going forward, the proponent must implement recovery measures and install markers and signs indicating rare plants and prohibited activities along the road.

**QC 4.** The proponent must specify the type of maintenance work to be carried out on road shoulders with a view to future changes if necessary.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

*#2016-0321-04: to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members took cognizance of the documents on borrow pits less than 75 m from lakes or watercourses and have no comments.*

*#2016-0321-05: to write to the Provincial Administrator to request additional clarifications regarding false willow colonies.*

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator transmitting decisions 04 and 05**

**9) RENARD DIAMOND PROJECT**

- a) Amendment to the certificate of authorization: Condition 2.2 (tailings site – processed kimberlite containment area)
  - *For recommendation*

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2016, COMEX received a request to amend the certificate of authorization for this project;

WHEREAS processed kimberlite is non-acid generating, but is potentially leachable within the meaning of MDDELCC’s Directive 019 on the mining industry;

WHEREAS geochemical characterization data for processed kimberlite suggest that metal leaching will occur primarily in the short term, and considering that most of the water

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seepage from the processed kimberlite containment area will be collected by foundation drains and drainage blankets and conveyed to the mine water treatment plant, COMEX considers that measures are in place to protect the environment, including groundwater;

WHEREAS COMEX notes that the proposed environmental monitoring program for the processed kimberlite containment area does not address the questions and comments previously sent to the proponent during the review of the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization for the environmental and social monitoring program, COMEX cannot recommend that the monitoring program be authorized as currently proposed. COMEX will continue reviewing this component as part of the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization for the environmental and social monitoring program.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

*#2016-0321-06: to write to the Provincial Administrator to recommend that construction, operation and closure of the processed kimberlite containment area be authorized, except for the proposed environmental monitoring program.*

**10) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, JBACE**

- a) Implementation of the recommendations regarding public participation
  - *For discussion*

This matter will be handled by the new chairperson once in office.

**11) OTHER BUSINESS**

No item was added.

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

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2015, either in Montréal or by conference call.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up action: December 18, 2015 to February 26, 2016**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
<b>Bachelor Lake mining project, Metanor Resources Inc. 3214-14-027</b>	André Boisclair COMEX	Christyne Tremblay Admin.	Review of updated restoration plan for the Bachelor Lake mine site	Sent: December 18, 2015	Review of updated restoration plan put on hold for the moment  Acknowledgement of receipt received on January 11, 2016	-
	André Boisclair COMEX	Christyne Tremblay Admin.	Final review of the request to amend the monitoring program	Sent: December 18, 2015	Acknowledgement of receipt received on January 11, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Report related to the questions and comments on validation of cyanide destruction test results (August 2015-3rd set)	Received: January 7, 2016	Comments will be incorporated into the questions and comments on the amendment to the CA	<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Questions and comments on the updated restoration plan for the Bachelor mine	Sent: January 13, 2016		-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Amendment to the CA – monitoring program  Final review – requested change to the monitoring program	Sent: January 20, 2016	Requested change was authorized in part	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
<b>Eastmain-1-A/ Rupert hydroelectric development project 3214-10-017</b>	André Boisclair COMEX	Christyne Tremblay Admin.	COMEX's comments on monitoring of spawning grounds and small animals	Sent: December 18, 2015	Acknowledgement of receipt received on January 11, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Stéphanie Jacob Hydro-Québec Production	Letter regarding COMEX's comments on spawning ground and small-animal monitoring	Sent: January 13, 2016		-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Moose monitoring 2014	Received: January 20, 2016	In response to Condition 5.13 of the CA and Condition 1 of the amended CA dated 28/07/2008  Final year of monitoring  Submitted to the Monitoring Committee	<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Lake sturgeon monitoring at KP 207 on Eastmain River in 2013 and 2014	Received: January 20, 2016	In response to Condition 5.3 of the CA and Condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008  Submitted to the Monitoring Committee	<i>For information</i>



PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Monitoring of fish communities and population dynamics in Rupert diversion bays – 2014 study report  Revised communication plan	Received: January 20, 2016	In response to conditions 5.4 and 5.5 of the CA and Condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008  Submitted to the Monitoring Committee	<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	2012 monitoring of Cree health determinants	Received: January 20, 2016	In response to Condition 6.1 of the CA and Condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008  Final year of monitoring  Conducted in cooperation with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB)  Submitted to the Monitoring Committee	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Monitoring of Cree land use 2012-2013  Letter from Weh-Sees Indohoun Corporation	Received: February 19, 2016	In response to conditions 6.10, 6.13 and 6.28 of the CA and Condition 1 of the amendment dated 28/07/2008	<i>For information</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Environmental monitoring of anadromous cisco, spring 2014	Received: February 26, 2016		<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Monitoring of hydrology, hydraulics and continental thermal regime - 2014	Received: February 26, 2016		<i>For information</i>
<b>Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc. 3214-14-041</b>	André Boisclair COMEX	Christyne Tremblay Admin.	Questions and comments regarding the environmental and social monitoring program	Sent: December 18, 2015	Acknowledgement of receipt received on January 11, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Boucher Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc.	Questions and comments regarding the environmental and social monitoring program	Sent: January 5, 2016	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Development of the processed kimberlite containment area (final design of the tailings site)	Received: February 19, 2016	English version received on February 26	<i>For recommendation</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
<b>Route 167 North Extension Project, Ministère des Transport du Québec 3214-05-077</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Monitoring of maintenance of <i>Salix pseudomonticola</i> 2013-2015  Environmental monitoring: operation of borrow pits less than 75 m from lakes and watercourses– km 0-142	Received: January 13, 2016	In response to conditions 23 and 29 of the comprehensive CA  In response to Condition 12 of the comprehensive CA, Condition 4 of the amendment dated 27/09/2012 and conditions 1 and 2 of the amendment dated 26/10/2016	<i>For information</i>
<b>Eleonore mining project, Opinaca Mines Ltd. 3214-14-042</b>	André Boisclair COMEX	Christyne Tremblay Admin.	COMEX's comments regarding the 2014 annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report	Sent: December 18, 2015	Acknowledgement of receipt received on January 11, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Duclos Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Letter concerning COMEX's comments regarding the 2014 annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report	Sent: January 13, 2016		-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Responses to questions and comments on the lake sturgeon monitoring program	Received: January 19, 2016		<i>For information</i>
<b>Project to build a wood pellet facility in Chapais, Rentech inc.</b>	André Boisclair COMEX	Steve Gamache Ville de Chapais	Letter asking if the Ville de Chapais still wants public hearings	Sent: December 18, 2015		-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
<b>3214-23-005</b>	Kathy Tremblay Ville de Chapais	André Boisclair COMEX	Resolution 16-01-02 passed by the Chapais municipal council: request for public hearings on Rentech's project	Received: January 15, 2016		<i>For decision</i>
	Pierre Masson Administration régionale Baie-James	Marie-Michèle Tessier	Letter in support of Chapais's request for public hearings	Received: February 4, 2016		-
<b>Langlois mine project, Nyrstar 3214-14-026</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	André Boisclair COMEX	Additional information on the life of the mine	Received: February 4, 2016	ARBJ Resolution ARBJCA-2016-01-14-15	<i>For decision</i>
<b>Whabouchi mining project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. 3214-14-052</b>	André Boisclair COMEX	Christyne Tremblay Prov. Admin.	No comments on the follow-up to Condition 6 of the CA – List of job opportunities and required qualifications	Sent: December 18, 2015	Acknowledgement of receipt received on January 11, 2016	-
<b>Public participation, JBACE</b>	Marc Jetten JBACE	Marie-Michèle Tessier COMEX	Implementation of the recommendations regarding public participation	Received: December 18, 2015	Comments to be submitted by January 22	<i>For comment</i>