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DATE: March 24, 2016

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

PRESENT: André Boisclair, Chairperson, Québec
Daniel Berrouard, Québec
Brian Craik, CNG (conference call)
Robert Joly, Québec
Paul John Murdoch, CNG (conference call)

Executive Secretary: Mélanie Chabot

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

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

a) Report and recommendation

- *For recommendation*

WHEREAS all of the members are comfortable with the latest version of the review report;

WHEREAS the COMEX members agreed on nine conditions to guide development of forest access roads “H-West” and “I”:

Condition 1: The alignment of road “H-Section West” must end at the northern limit of the 2013-2018 timber harvesting areas adjacent to the roads, that is, at the site of watercourse crossing 3 as shown on plan B-0936 in the impact statement. The alignment of forest access road “I” must end at the intersection with the southern limit of Trapline W05C. Any project to extend roads “H-West” and “I” would require prior authorization from the Administrator.

Condition 2: To help woodland caribou recovery, construction work on roads “H-Section West” and “I” as well as timber hauling on those roads are prohibited during calving period, that is, from May 20 to June 10.

Condition 3: The proponent will work collaboratively with the MFFP to monitor woodland caribou, in particular the Nottaway and Assinica herds. The proponent must notify COMEX, for information purposes, of the caribou monitoring arrangements made with the MFFP.

Condition 4: The proponent must submit to the Administrator, for approval and before commencing any work, an environmental characterization program, including watercourses to be crossed by the planned roads and borrow pits to be used for granular material. Special attention must be given to the characterization methods employed as well as the personnel in charge of characterization. The program must also explain how land users’ traditional knowledge will be taken into account.

Condition 5: The proponent must submit to the Administrator, for approval, the characterization studies conducted for each watercourse crossing and borrow pit. No work related to watercourse crossings or borrow pit operation may begin until the Administrator has given her approval. The study reports must indicate the exact location of watercourse crossings and borrow pits.

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Condition 6: Should the characterization studies reveal the presence of threatened or vulnerable wildlife species in the limited study area, the proponent must submit to the Administrator, for approval, the planned measures to protect those species.

Condition 7: Forest access roads “H-Section West” and “T” must be more than 700 m away from bald-headed eagle nests.

Condition 8: The proponent must submit to the Administrator, for approval within three months following authorization of the project, a study report on archaeological potential. The study must be based on a cartographic analysis of environmental, cultural and historical factors, as well as interviews with elders and land users.

Condition 9: The proponent must set up a monitoring committee in cooperation with the community of Waswanipi, including tallymen, to report on the progress of work, the anticipated impacts, the mitigation measures implemented and the results of woodland caribou monitoring. The proponent must submit a copy of the minutes of the monitoring committee’s meetings to COMEX for information purposes.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2016-0324-01: to write to the Provincial Administrator recommending that the road project be authorized with the above nine conditions.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator.

3) OTHER BUSINESS

No item was added.

4) DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To be determined once the new chairperson has taken up office.