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DATE:	August 26, 2016
PLACE:	277 Duke St., Suite 100, Montréal
PRESENT:	Suzann Méthot, Chairperson, Québec Daniel Berrouard, Québec Robert Joly, Québec Brian Craik, CNG Paul John Murdoch, CNG
GUESTS:	Jessica Labrecque, CNG (for Item 2 only) Graeme Morin, JBACE (for Item 2 only)
Executive Secretary:	Mélanie Chabot

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

2) PRESENTATION BY JESSICA LABRECQUE (CREES' PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS)

COMEX had invited Jessica Labrecque, Land Use Researcher at the Cree Nation Government (CNG), to give a presentation on the CNG Department of Environment and Remedial Works' study of the Crees' perceptions of public consultations. Ms. Labrecque will send a copy of the report and PowerPoint presentation to the COMEX secretariat.

Action: Make sure COMEX receives the report and PowerPoint presentation and give Ms. Labrecque feedback on the presentation

Some of the information in the presentation pertains directly to COMEX:

- the importance of exploring different ways of consulting (e.g. how the room is set up, consulting sub-groups);
- the importance of clearly defining the matter on which people are being consulted;
- given the high number of consultations conducted in James Bay, the importance of clearly identifying the key issues targeted by the consultations;
- the lack of coordination between the various consultations is sometimes problematic;
- the importance of giving the people consulted feedback after consultations are over;
- the importance of specifying when individuals and organizations can participate;
- the importance of preparing translators properly, especially Cree translators because the specific terminology sometimes doesn't exist in the Cree language or is inadequate;
- the value of using oral rather than written Cree;
- the importance of clarifying the respective roles of the proponent, COMEV and COMEX in the public participation process;
- the importance of defining public consultation best practices for proponents as well as the content of the consultation report submitted to the committee (e.g. methodology).

The presentation was followed by a discussion. The members raised the point that, while the public participation process may not be perfect, it generally functions well in the James Bay Territory. In addition, the members think that a consultation guide for proponents could be overly prescriptive and potentially restrict or even minimize the scope of proponents' consultations. COMEX thinks it would be more effective to:

1. Clarify COMEX's expectations of proponents in their consultations.

2. Make COMEV aware of the need to enhance its directives by including indicators of the quality of relations between the communities and the proponent.
3. Encourage proponents to use visual material (videos, mock-ups, etc.) to help illustrate and better understand projects submitted to public consultations.

3) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 344TH MEETING

The minutes of the 344th meeting were adopted.

4) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Correspondence received and sent between July 16 and August 24, 2016 is listed in Appendix A.

5) BLACKROCK MINING PROJECT

- a. Withdrawal of the request to amend the certificate of authorization
 - i. *For information*

The COMEX members took note of the withdrawal of the request to amend the CA.

Action: Write to the Administrator

6) CUMULATIVE EFFECTS WORKSHOP

COMEX has not yet received the agenda and program for the cumulative effects workshop.

However, in preparation for the workshop, which is on September 21, the members read the report entitled *A review of the application of cumulative effects assessment in the context of project environmental assessments: the James Bay Territory* (French version: *Étude de l'évaluation des effets cumulatifs appliquée dans le cadre de l'évaluation environnementale de projets : le territoire de la Baie-James*).

The members find the initiative worthwhile. However, COMEX is currently unable to assess cumulative effects adequately, particularly owing to a lack of tools such as an integrated regional land use plan. This type of plan could provide COMEX with a more appropriate framework for assessing cumulative effects.

Consequently, COMEX would like to know how the JBACE sees its work on cumulative effects in relation to the other initiatives related to strategic environmental assessment and regional

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planning. Note that regional planning is currently taking place at three levels (region, villages and coast) by three different authorities (Eeyou Istchee James Bay Government, Cree Nation Government and the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission). (The Québec government is also expected to prepare a regional land use plan for James Bay.) The question will be put to the JBACE during the workshop.

7) JBACE PROPOSAL REGARDING THE DRAFTING OF A GUIDE FOR PROPONENTS

The members read the JBACE's proposal *Drafting of a Best Practice Public Participation Guide for Proponents – Territory subject to Section 22 of the JBNQA* (French version: *Rédaction d'un guide de bonnes pratiques en matière de participation publique pour les promoteurs – Territoire du chapitre 22 de la CBJNQ*).

The JBACE's work on public participation in the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure, among other work, revealed that the public consultation process could be improved and that steps could be taken by all of the parties involved in the regime. Moreover, the JBACE made recommendations to that effect in its report dated February 2016. In the COMEX members' opinion, a consultation guide for proponents drafted by the JBACE could create even more confusion among the general population as to the mandate and roles of each committee. The members think it would be more appropriate for COMEX to produce such a guide setting out, among other things, its expectations with respect to proponents' consultations. Moreover, a decision to that effect was made at the COMEX's 342nd meeting. It was agreed that COMEX would share its thoughts with the JBACE.

Action: The COMEX chairperson will contact her counterpart at the JBACE to share COMEX's thoughts on the proposal to draft a public participation guide for proponents

8) OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

9) PLANNING OF NEXT MEETING IN WASKAGANISH

COMEX decided at its 341st meeting to hold some of its meetings in the Territory. The next meeting will therefore be held in Waskaganish, on September 29.

Action: John Paul Murdoch will contact Waskaganish Cree Chief Darlene Cheechoo to plan a meeting with the band council

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up action: July 16 to August 24, 2016

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Route 167 North Extension Project, 3214-05-077	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Fish habitat compensation program – responses to COMEX’s questions and comments	Sent: July 27, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 29, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Philippe Lemire MTQ	COMEX’s comments on the fish habitat compensation program	Received: August 3, 2016	-	-
Planned construction of forest road L-209 North 3214-05-072	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Document containing COMEX’s questions and comments	Sent: July 27, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 29, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Michel Deshaies Barrette-Chapais Itée	Transmission of questions and comments to the proponent	cc: August 11, 2016	-	-
Eastmain-1-A/ Rupert Hydroelectric Development Project, 3214-10-17	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Request to amend the CA concerning management of spring flow release structures in the Lemare and Nemiscau rivers	Received: July 18, 2016	-	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Construction of a spur dike and stabilization of a slope at the weir at KP 170 on Rupert River - Recommendation: amend CA with conditions	Sent: July 27, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 29, 2016	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Transmission to proponent: no comments on health determinants or follow-up program on Cree land use	cc: August 10, 2016	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Ghislain Lévesque SEBJ	Transmission of the amended CA: 2016 master plan	cc: August 9, 2016	-	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Claude Major Hydro-Québec	Transmission of the amended CA: construction of a spur dike and stabilization of a slope at the weir at KP 170 on Rupert River	cc: August 9, 2016	-	-
Troilus Mine 3214-14-025	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information - establishment of a holding pond at discharge point PR-5&6 and relocation of PR-7	Received: July 22, 2016	-	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Request to amend CA- establishment of a holding pond at discharge point PR-5&6 and relocation of PR-7 – transmission of QC document	Sent: July 27, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: July 29, 2016	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Request to reword several conditions	Sent: July 27, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: August 4, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Tracy Anderson First Quantum Minerals Ltd.	Transmission to the proponent of QC for PR 5, 6 and 7 and rewording of several conditions	cc: August 16, 2016	-	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Langlois Mine 3214-14-026	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Yves Desrosiers Nyrstar	Amendment to CA in respect of mine life	Received: July 19, 2019		
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Yves Desrosiers Nyrstar	Environmental monitoring, 2015 – no comments	Received: July 26, 2016	-	-
Bachelor Mining Project 3214-14-027	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Responses to COMEX's questions and comments – Request to amend the certificate of authorization to mine and process gold ore	Received: August 11, 2016	-	<i>For recommendation</i>
Renard Diamond Project 3114-14-041	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information – Environmental and social monitoring program (CA amendment)	Received: August 10, 2016	-	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Boucher Stornoway	Transmission to the proponent of COMEX's comments regarding the April 8, 2016 letter concerning condition 2.1	Received: August 18, 2016	-	-
Eleonore Mining Project 3214-14-042	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Duclos Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Transmission of the amended certificate of authorization – lake sturgeon monitoring program	Received: August 3, 2016	-	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Operational summary and results of the contracting system – no comments	Sent: August 4, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: August 4, 2016	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Duclos Opinaca Mines Ltd.	COMEX has no comments on the summary	cc: August 11, 2016	-	-
BlackRock Mining Project 3214-14-050	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Withdrawal of the request to amend the CA	Received: July 22, 2016	-	-
Whabouchi Project 3214-14-052	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Inc.	Transmission of the amended CA – Phase I – drilling and blasting training	Received: August 2, 2016	-	-
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Follow-up to condition 3 of the comprehensive CA, no comments	Sent: August 4, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: August 4, 2016	-
Solid waste disposal site in Waswanipi 3214-16-068	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Second series of questions and comments	Sent: July 27, 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: August 4, 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Samuel C. Gull Cree First Nation	Transmission of second series of questions and comments	Received: August 3, 2016	-	<i>Waiting for proponent's responses</i>
JBACE	Marc Jetten JBACE	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Annual Report 2015-2016	Received: August 23, 2016	-	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
	Graeme Morin JBACE	Mélanie Chabot COMEX	JBACE proposal regarding the drafting of a guide for proponents	Received: August 22, 2016	-	-
HFTCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Ivon Boilard HFTCC	Reply to HFTCC's letter concerning fish habitat compensation for 167N	Sent: August 24, 2016	-	-