



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

349TH MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE (ADOPTED)

DATE:	January 20, 2017
PLACE:	Édifice Marie-Guyart, 675 boul. René-Levesque Blvd. E., Québec Salle de travail 8B
PRESENT:	Suzann Méthot, Chairman, Québec Daniel Berrouard, Québec Brian Craik, CNG Robert Joly, Québec Paul John Murdoch, CNG
Executive Secretary:	Marie-Michèle Tessier

1) MEETING DECLARED OPEN AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with two items added: MERN guidelines, and environmental assessment registry.

2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 348TH MEETING

The minutes of the 348th meeting were adopted as written.

3) CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence sent and received between November 30, 2016 and January 20, 2017 is listed in Appendix A.

4) EXTENSION OF ROUTE 167-NORD BY THE MTQ

- a) Monitoring report following completion of work at sites C2 and C3 – fish habitat compensation program
 - *Current status*

WHEREAS on October 20, 2016 the COMEX received from the Administrator with the the monitoring report following work at sites C2 and C3 as part of the fish habitat compensation program for the MTQ's Route 167-Nord project.

WHEREAS there is no longer a road or culvert at site C-3, which is some distance from Route 167 towards the Otish Mountains. Therefore the MTQ is no longer required to monitor the streambed at this location.

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transport, through its Chibougamau service center, regularly monitors all other watercourse crossings along the road to prevent infrastructure damage caused by woody debris (transported by floods or beavers). Where necessary, authorizations will be sought from local authorities in order to take the necessary corrective measures (eg, the gradual dismantling of a beaver dam).

WHEREAS the COMEX is satisfied with the responses of the MTQ to the its requests for clarification after its analysis of the MTQ report.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

#2017-0120-01: to send a letter to the Provincial Administrator informing her that the members of the COMEX had studied the monitoring report following work carried out at sites C2 and C3 and, after receiving some clarifications from the proponent, have no comments to make on this matter.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator

- b) Environmental Monitoring Report - Report of the program for the decommissioning and restoration of sites affected by work on lots A and B
 - For information

WHEREAS on September 15, 2016 the COMEX received a report on the decommissioning and restoration of sites affected by work on lots A and B.

WHEREAS in its monitoring report, the MTQ mentioned that an accidental spill had occurred and that no action had been taken. However, the MTQ specified that this spill was off site and that it was the responsibility of the Cree Nation of Mistissini. Since then, a specialized firm has sampled the site and excavation and removal of contaminated soil was carried out in the fall of 2016 at the community treatment site.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

#2017-0120-02: to send a letter to the Provincial Administrator informing her that the members of the COMEX had studied the environmental monitoring report - Report on the program for the decommissioning and restoration of sites affected by work on lots A and B, and have no comments.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator.

5) MEETING WITH THE CCQF

WHEREAS in its action plan, the COMEX stated a desire to initiate meetings to better understand the roles and mandates of various organizations created under Chapter 22 of the JBNQA or the agreements resulting from it.

WHEREAS the members of the COMEX met with Hervé Deschênes, President of the Conseil Cri-Québec sur la foresterie (CCQF), and Marie Gosselin, its Director General.

WHEREAS the discussion focused on the roles and mandates of each, the issues related to major forest roads, the impacts of forest management on large mammals, the CCQF's process for community consultation, the new Adapted Forestry Management Regime, etc.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

#2017-0120-03: to send a letter of thanks to the CCQF for their presence and from now on organize statutory meetings between the COMEX and the CCQF in order to discuss their respective mandates more regularly, or when files are under review that would require the opinion of the CCQF.

Action: Send a letter to the CCQF.

WHEREAS COMEX wishes to make further efforts to integrate the latest scientific advances into its reviews, particularly with respect to climate change and woodland caribou, which will enhance its action plan. Presentations on various subjects may be organized for COMEX members and analysts, including the results of the ongoing research projects that are part of the compensation plans for various mining projects in the James Bay territory.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

#2017-0120-04: that presentations on the mandate of COMEX and the environmental and social review process under the James Bay northern regime should be organized for different platforms such as upcoming congresses and meetings.

6) Follow-up on the MERN guides

WHEREAS the JBACE, through its subcommittee on Public Participation, issued an invitation to a workshop on the development of a guide for proponents. Robert Joly and Suzann Méthot will attend the meeting, scheduled for February 2;

WHEREAS COMEX members commented on two documents produced by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MERN): the *Guide sur l'organisation d'une consultation publique par le promoteur d'un projet minier* and the *Guide pour l'organisation d'un comité de suivi*, and find that they could cause some confusion in the application of the social and environmental impact assessment and review process;

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

#2017-0120-05: To consult with members, and then to forward a letter to the Chairman of the JBACE relaying the concerns of the COMEX. Given the involvement of the JBACE in the development of modes of public participation in the James Bay territory, the COMEX would like to bring these documents to the attention of the JBACE and ask it to intervene, if necessary, with the MERN.

Action: Consult with members, and then send a letter to the Chair of the JBACE, with a copy to the regional and provincial administrators.

7) PUBLIC REGISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS in the fall of 2014, the COMEX developed a website to inform the public about its governance, its work in progress, and each of the projects under review or reviewed in the past.

WHEREAS the COMEX was informed that the MDDELCC was at the same time working on the development of a public registry of environmental assessments, so that all documents produced in the course of environmental assessments in Quebec are available online.

WHEREAS given the number of files submitted for its review and the technical complexity associated with such an operation, the COMEX is not in a position to make all the documents it has analyzed accessible.

WHEREAS the COMEX wants to make every possible effort to promote better public participation in its reviews and greater transparency in the review procedures.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

#2017-0120-06: to send a letter requesting that a public registry of environmental assessments , including documents related to projects situated north of the 55th parallel in the territory governed by the JBNQA, be made available online as quickly as possible, given the expected benefits for stakeholders throughout Quebec.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator.

8) VARIA

- A Table is currently being prepared showing the progress on the conditions contained in the various certificates of authorization issued. This table should be available at one of the next COMEX meetings.
- A meeting between the analysts from the MDDELCC and the CNG analysts may be organized in the near future to take stock of all the projects currently under review or entering the review process, with the aim of understanding training needs and to encourage the inclusion of recent scientific advances in the analyses conducted by the COMEX.
- The COMEX will look into the progress on the Bachelor mine file with respect to the certificate of noncompliance issued to Ressources Métanor by the Direction régionale de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et du Nord-du-Québec.
- Given that the MDDELCC is preparing a draft regulation to replace Directive 019, and given the importance of Directive 019 in the approval of mining projects under review, the COMEX intends to ask its analysts for suggestions that could be helpful in ensuring that the new regulation takes sufficient account of the Northern context. If necessary, the COMEX will communicate these proposals to Félix-Antoine Blanchard, attaché on the file at the MDDELCC.
- A meeting between the chairs of the COMEX, the COMEV, the COFEX and the JBACE will be held once the chairmanship of the COFEX is announced.

9) NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings are scheduled for February 15, March 15 mars in Nemaska, April 19 and May 18.

Appendix A
Correspondence – November 30, 2018 to January 23, 2017

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Construction of a mining road between Route 167 and the Renard diamond mine 3214-05-080	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Responses to questions and comments from the COMEX on the certificate of completion of Route 167 Nord	Rec'd: December 20, 2016	-	<i>-For information</i>
Troilus mine project (3214-14-025)	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information for the application to modify the retention pond	Rec'd: January 16, 2017		<i>- For recommendation</i>
Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Comments from the COMEX on the information letter clarifying upcoming work at PK 170	Sent: December 22, 2016 Acknowledgement of receipt: January 5, 2017 Copy of correspondence to proponent: January 18.,2017	- Awaiting application to amend the CA	<i>-For information</i>
Whabouchi mine project 3214-14-052	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Comments by the COMEX on the follow-up of conditions 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17 to 19, 24 and 25	Sent: January 10, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: January 11, 2017	- Awaiting the filing of plans and preliminary reports	<i>- For information</i>
BlackRock mine project 3214-14-050	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Comments by COMEX on the application to extend the validity of the CA	Sent: January 10, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: January 11, 2017 Copy of correspondence to proponent: January 16,2017	- Awaiting application to amend the CA	<i>- For information</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Bachelor mine project 3214-14-027	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Recommendation to approve the mining and processing of gold ore, with conditions	Sent: January 10, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: January 11, 2017		- <i>For information</i>
Extension of Route 167-N (3214-05-080) and Renard diamond mine project (3214- 14-041)	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin.	Comments by the COMEX on the 2015 monitoring of large mammals	Sent: January 11, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: January 12, 2017		- <i>For information</i>
Monitoring of conditions in CAs	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Prov. Admin. Isaac Voyageur Regional Admin.	Information about the follow-up of conditions in future certificates of authorizations	Sent: January 19, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: January 23, 2017		- <i>For information</i>