

[illegible]

**(ADOPTED)**

Executive Secretary Marie-Michèle Tessier

## ***Minutes of the 351st meeting of the COMEX***

### **1) MEETING DECLARED OPEN AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as written.

### **2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 350<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

The minutes of the 350<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted with slight amendments.

### **3) CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence and follow-up from February 10 to March 15, 2017 are presented in Appendix A.

### **4) FURTHER TO THE MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MFFP AND THE HFTCC**

- *For information*

WHEREAS the COMEX met for discussions with MFFP representatives Hugo Jacqmain (Director or relations with Aboriginal Nations), and Francis Forcier (Strategic mandates), regarding an action plan on woodland caribou, in Wendake on March 1, 2017.

WHEREAS the COMEX also met with members of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) for the purpose of discussing their respective roles and mandates.

ACCORDINGLY, COMEX members agreed:

*#2017-0315-01: to send letters to the HFTCC and the MFFP thanking them for making time for these discussions on March 1, 2017.*

**Action: Send thank you letters to the two organizations.**

### **5) EXTENSION OF ROUTE 167-NORD BY STORNOWAY DIAMONDS INC.**

- a) Environmental monitoring report – responses to the questions and comments from the COMEX on the certificate of completion

- *For information*

WHEREAS on September 14, 2015, the COMEX received a preliminary version of the above-mentioned report, and on December 20, 2016, received the responses to its questions;

WHEREAS this report indicates that the compensation measures for culverts are appropriate and the follow-up indicates that the installations held up well during the first year of road use. Nonetheless, there appear to be significant accumulations of sediment near some culverts, in particular at chainages 208+494, 226+628, 229+256;

## **Minutes of the 351st meeting of the COMEX**

WHEREAS given that these sediment accumulations occurred within a single year, it would be appropriate to have the proponent validate that, in the long term, this accumulation of sediment is unlikely to affect the passage of fish. The proponent plans follow-up in 2017, but nothing seems to be planned thereafter.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

*#2017-0315-02: to send a letter to the Provincial Administrator advising her that the COMEX has reviewed the expert report concerning the certificate of completion of the project by Stornoway Diamonds to construct a mining road and that the proponent should be asked to pay particular attention to sediment accumulation in its next monitoring report, in order to validate how the situation is trending. The COMEX recommends that the proponent be asked to continue monitoring at these locations to ensure that there is no escalation of the problem and to carry out corrective work where necessary to ensure that these culverts permit flow over the long term.*

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

### **6) WHABOUCHI PROJECT BY NEMASKA LITHIUM INC.**

- a) Atmospheric modeling
  - For approval

WHEREAS the COMEX received the atmospheric modeling for the above project on September 20, 2016;

WHEREAS after reviewing the document sent, the COMEX notes that it represents an improvement over the initial modeling. There are no longer any exceedances in the scenario for year 16 (TSP and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), the exceedances of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in year 7 have been eliminated and the remaining TSP exceedances are smaller and less frequent. In addition, there were no exceedances predicted for sensitive receptors identified in the modeling domain, with standards for all scenarios and all contaminants being met even with some margin for error. However, the proponent must propose additional mitigation measures to address persistent exceedances and thus comply with the requirements of the Certificate of Authorization.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

*#2017-0315-03: that a letter be sent to the Provincial Administrator recommending approval of the atmospheric modeling submitted by Nemaska Lithium Inc, because the measures currently proposed by the proponent are acceptable (frequent road watering, effective dust suppressants,) however the proponent must implement an air quality monitoring program to verify that standards are met. If the monitoring and follow-up program identifies possible exceedances, additional measures must be identified and implemented.*

*In addition, as mentioned by the COMEX in its letter of January 10, the Committee notes that the proponent is behind schedule on the majority of the conditions for which monitoring is to be conducted. The terms of the environmental and social monitoring and follow-up program, as*

## **Minutes of the 351st meeting of the COMEX**

*well as certain other documents, must still be filed with the Administrator for information and approval in accordance with the certificate of authorization issued on September 8, 2015.*

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

### **7) EASTMAIN-1-A AND RUPERT DIVERSION PROJECT BY HYDRO-QUÉBEC**

- a) 2015 monitoring of Short-eared owl, Great grey owl and Bonaparte's gull – Environmental Monitoring in operational phase – Study Report, dated June 2016
  - *For information*
- b) Application to amend the monitoring program – short-eared owl, great grey owl and Bonaparte's gull
  - *For recommendation (amendment to the CA)*

WHEREAS the COMEX has taken note of the above-mentioned documentation as well as the request to amend the CA, received January 5, 2017;

WHEREAS the COMEX has taken due note of and has no comment to make on monitoring of the Bonaparte's gull;

WHEREAS with respect to the Short-eared owl, COMEX has reviewed the documentation submitted and notes that this owl is a species of concern and the subject of a federal management plan and is also on the list of species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable and whose status is currently under review at the provincial level;

WHEREAS the Short-eared owl is a status species that is subject to a federal management plan and will benefit in the future from a provincial recovery plan. It is very difficult to judge the state of a local population since the short-eared owl is a nomadic species that is not true to its breeding site and whose population dynamics are strongly influenced by the abundance of micro mammals;

WHEREAS the Great grey owl is not a species with special status and is generally rare in the area.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

*#2017-0315-04: to send a letter to the Provincial Administrator informing her that the COMEX has reviewed the 2015 Monitoring Report of the Short-eared owl, Great grey owl and Bonaparte's gull. With respect to the short-eared owl, it would be appropriate to remind the proponent that all observations made during monitoring or other field work must be reported to the Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (Quebec Natural Heritage Data Center.) Concerning the request to amend the CA regarding the cancellation of the last year of monitoring of the nesting platforms of the great grey owl, the COMEX recommends that the proponent's request be met.*

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

**8) TROILUS MINE BY FIRST QUANTUM MINERALS LTD.**

- a) 2015 post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection report
  - For information
- b) Project to construct a retention basin at discharge point PR-5 and 6 and to relocate PR-7 at the former Troilus mine site
  - For recommendation (amendment to the CA)

**a)**

The 2015 Monitoring Report mentions in point 6.2 some concerns about the basis of studies that COMEX did not receive regarding the problem of contamination by airborne dust coming from the ore chute and on which the proponent's consultant sent a technical note to the MDDELCC (SNC-Lavalin to Jean-François Deshaies of the MDDELCC: Note Technique Méthodologie d'évaluation des risques toxicologiques Zone de déposition aéroportée - Ancien site minier Troilus 31-01-17) and the COMEX would like to obtain further information.

**Action Daniel Berrouard will seek clarification from the Regional Directorate**

**b)**

WHEREAS after its review of the documents submitted, the COMEX notes that there are limited treatment options for reducing the iron concentrations in the ex-filtration water. Ponds appear to be the best long-term solution for reducing iron concentrations in the exfiltration water from the tailings facility, and will allow the proponent to stop pumping these waters. These basins would allow the iron to precipitate over several hundred years, without requiring maintenance. The areas that would be affected by the project are located on the industrial site;

WHEREAS the COMEX is aware of the fact that this basin will encroach on part of a peat bog, but is of the opinion that the expected benefits of constructing a pond so as to reduce iron concentrations are more important.

ACCORDINGLY, the members of the COMEX agreed:

*#2017-0315-05: to send a letter to the Provincial Administrator recommending that the CA be amended to allow for the construction of a retention pond at discharge point PR-5 and 6 and the relocation of PR-7, while reminding the proponent that it must make every effort to reduce the impact on the peat bog to a minimum. Monitoring the effectiveness of the new retention pond must therefore be included in the environmental monitoring of the mine site in 2017.*

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

## ***Minutes of the 351st meeting of the COMEX***

### **9) VARIA**

- Bachelor Mine: there needs to be rapid follow-up regarding compliance with Condition 3 of the amendment to the CA;
- Forest roads 'H section West' and 'I': The proponent must be reminded that they are required to comply with condition 4 of the CA. The COMEX has also been informed that forest harvesting has been carried out in the sector and questions the relevance of proceeding with construction of a forest road.
- Québec mines – November 2017: The COMEX has an opportunity to give a half-day or full-day workshop on the social and environmental assessment review process and on the expectations of the COMEX. The presentation that will be given to the QMA Environment Committee on March 23 will be used to evaluate the needs for this potential workshop for next November.

### **10) NEXT MEETINGS**

The next COMEX meetings are scheduled for April 19, May 18 and June 21. The June meeting might be held in Nemaska.

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up -- February 10 to March 8 2017**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	ACTION
<b>Forest roads « H section West » and « I » 3214-05-075</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Transmittal of information on the monitoring of conditions	Rec'd: February 15 2017	<i>-For decision (condition 8) and for information (conditions 1, 2 and 7)</i>
<b>Bachelor mine project 3214-14-027</b>	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Recommendation to authorize with conditions on mining and processing of ore	Sent: January 10 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: January 11 2017 Copy of amendment to CA sent to proponent: February 28 2017	<i>- Application processed</i>
<b>Éléonore mine site 3214-14-042</b>	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Comments on the 2015 environmental monitoring and follow-up report	Sent: February 16 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: February 17 2017 Copy of correspondence sent to proponent	-
<b>Waswanipi domestic waste landfill 3214-16-068</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Recommendation for authorization with conditions	Sent: February 16 2017. Acknowledgement of receipt: February 17 2017 Waiting for copy of CA sent to proponent.	<i>- File processed</i>
<b>Eastmain 1A- Rupert Diversion 3214-10-017</b>	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Application for amendment to the monitoring program – monitoring of short-eared owl, great grey owl and Bonaparte gull	Sent: February 15 2017	<i>- For recommendation</i>