



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

354th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE (COMEX)

(ADOPTED)

DATE: June 22, 2017

PLACE: Cree Nation Government office
2 Lakeshore Road
Nemaska (Québec) J0Y 3B0

PRESENT: Suzann Méthot, Chairperson, Québec
Daniel Berrouard, Québec
Robert Joly, Québec
Brian Craik, CNG
Paul John Murdoch, CNG

Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Suzann Méthot welcomed COMEX's new executive secretary, Vanessa Chalifour.
- Suzann Méthot officially informed the COMEX members that Lina Lachapelle, project manager at SNC Lavalin GEM Québec inc., is a close friend of hers but that, immediately following Suzann's appointment, they both agreed not to discuss any issues that may be of common concern. If Suzann Méthot or another COMEX member notices any appearance of conflict of interest in a project being reviewed by COMEX, Suzann would recuse herself from any discussion related to the project.

2) CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

3) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 353RD MEETING

The minutes of the 353rd meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 353rd meeting minutes. Post on COMEX website

4) CORRESPONDENCE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Correspondence and follow-up from May 9 to June 20, 2017 are presented in Appendix A.

The members discussed the issues COMEX will be turning to next in relation to the following projects:

- Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds
- Whabouchi Mining Project, Nemaska Lithium
- Planned forest roads "H, Section West" and "I," Matériaux Blanchet
- Project to mine and process 900 000 tonnes of gold ore from the Bachelor Lake property and mining and processing of an additional 600 000 tonnes, Metanor Resources
- Planned construction of a wood pellet facility in Chapais

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator to request an update on the planned construction of a wood pellet facility in Chapais

5) EASTMAIN-1-A AND RUPERT DIVERSION PROJECT, HYDRO-QUÉBEC – Ref. No.: 3214-10-017

- a. Monitoring of hydrology, hydraulics and continental thermal regime, 2014 and 2015 reports
 - For information

WHEREAS on February 26, 2016, COMEX received, for information purposes, the monitoring report *Suivi de l'hydrologie, de l'hydraulique et du régime thermique en milieu continental – 2014*, dated November 2015;

WHEREAS on November 16, 2016, COMEX received, for information purposes, the monitoring report *Suivi de l'hydrologie, de l'hydraulique et du régime thermique en milieu continental – 2015*, dated September 2016;

WHEREAS the 2014 report falls under the environmental follow-up and monitoring program for the Eastmain 1A and Sarcelle Powerhouses and Rupert Diversion Project, it reports on water temperatures, levels and flow rates measured in the project area as a whole between January 1 and December 31, 2014. The monitoring period thus represents the fifth full year since commissioning of the diversion bays. This is the third year of operation of the Eastmain 1A powerhouse and the first full year of operation of the three generating units of the Sarcelle powerhouse;

WHEREAS the 2015 report falls under the environmental follow-up and monitoring program for the Eastmain/Sarcelle/Rupert hydroelectric complex, it reports on water temperatures, levels and flow rates measured in the project area as a whole between January 1 and December 31, 2015. The monitoring period thus represents the sixth full year since commissioning of the diversion bays. This is the fourth year of operation of the Eastmain 1A powerhouse and the second full year of operation of the three generating units of the Sarcelle powerhouse;

WHEREAS the members reviewed the document on the in-house analysis and are satisfied on the whole, only two comments will be made to the proponent;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2017-0622-01: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members reviewed the 2014 and 2015 reports on monitoring of hydrology, hydraulics and continental thermal regime by the proponent and submit the following comments:*

- *Considering that the reports contained no data for the period April 15 to June 10, 2014, as well as for January 1 to June 15, 2015 and July 21 to September 30, 2015, for the water level monitoring station at KP 85 on Rupert River (RUPE0793, from 2008 to 2019), but that the landscape monitoring report indicates possible recurrent flooding in this sector since 2011, it would be advisable to inform the proponent that it must make sure that this station functions properly.*

- *Considering that the 2007-2023 follow-up program provided for the termination of measurements at several stations starting in 2011, it would be appropriate to ask the proponent to provide a list of the water temperature, flow and level measuring stations in operation in 2014 and 2015, even if data collected from the stations were not used as a monitoring input those years.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) ELEONORE MINE IN JAMES BAY, OPINACA MINES LTD.

REF. NO.: 3214-14-042

- a. Request to amend the comprehensive certificate of authorization (enlargement of waste rock dump – Phase V)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on May 9, 2017, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the request to amend the comprehensive certificate of authorization to allow for enlargement of the waste rock dump (Phase V);

WHEREAS on June 14, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, the additional information relating to the request to amend the comprehensive certificate of authorization to allow for enlargement of the waste rock dump (Phase V);

WHEREAS the members reviewed the document on the in-house analysis and are satisfied on the whole;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2017-0622-02: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members went over the request to enlarge the waste rock dump (Phase V) and recommend that she authorize the project.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

7) KAKABAT GRANULAR MATERIAL DEPOSIT PROJECT, COMMUNITY OF WEMINDJI

REF NO.: 3214-03-034

- For recommendation

WHEREAS on April 21, 2017, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the environmental impact statement for the community of Wemindji's Kakabat granular material deposit project;

WHEREAS COMEX is satisfied on the whole with the information provided in the environmental impact statement;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2017-0622-03: *to write to the Regional Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the environmental and social impact assessment and recommend that he authorize the project with the following conditions:*

- *Condition 1: The proponent must submit to the administrator, for information, the results of the additional analysis of Pike Creek and the selected crossing installation.*
- *Condition 2: If the variant location of the Jibaud River crossing must be selected, the proponent must submit to the administrator, for information, the justification of this decision including any necessary technical reports.*
- *Condition 3: Prior to the beginning of construction, the proponent must complete the recommended works by the CNG Archaeology unit. A report on the findings and any necessary modifications to the project design based on the findings must be submitted to the administrator for information. Such surveys should also be conducted well in advance of any future construction or exploitation of other cells in the future.*
- *Condition 4: The proponent shall develop a means of monitoring road activity throughout the life of the project. This must be done in collaboration with the local experts, notably the Tallyman and the participation of any other individuals the Tallyman deems appropriate. Results should be included as part of the annual monitoring report.*
- *Condition 5: The proponent must submit to the administrator, annually for information, the monitoring report that includes the monitoring program described in the ESIA. The monitoring should be done in collaboration with the local experts, notably the Tallyman. The report should include the monitoring of impacts mentioned in the impact statement and information on the annual progressive restoration measures implemented.*
- *Condition 6: The action plan mentioned in point 3.4 of the environmental and social impact assessment must be submitted to the administrator for information purposes prior to the construction.*

Action: Write to the Regional Administrator

8) WHABOUCHE MINING PROJECT, NEMASKA LITHIUM INC.
REF. No. : 3214-14-052

- a. Follow-up on conditions 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the general certificate of authorization and Condition 2 of the amendment dated July 27, 2016
 - For information

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WHEREAS on June 14, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, a copy of the letter from Nemaska Lithium, dated May 29, 2017, following up on conditions 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the certificate of authorization (CA) and Condition 2 of the amendment to the CA dated July 27, 2016;

Based on the proponent's responses, COMEX notes that the proponent has met conditions 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 satisfactorily. As regards Condition 2 of the CA amendment dated July 27, 2016, COMEX takes note of the information provided and is still waiting to receive additional information from the proponent in follow-up to conditions 17, 18 and 19 of the CA;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2017-0622-04: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform her that the COMEX members take note of the follow-up given to conditions 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the general certificate of authorization and deem that the proponent has met those conditions satisfactorily.*

As regards Condition 2, COMEX reviewed the information provided and is still waiting to receive additional information from the proponent in follow-up to conditions 17, 18 and 19.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator regarding conditions 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and Condition 2 of the amendment dated July 27, 2016

- b. Application to amend conditions 12, 14, 17 and 18 of the certificate of authorization and the final effluent discharge site
 - For approval

The COMEX members feel that the MDDELCC analyst's input is needed before they can make any kind of recommendation.

Action: Plan a discussion meeting as soon as possible between the COMEX members and the MDDELCC analyst assigned to the file

9) ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

- For adoption

The Annual Report 2016-2017 was adopted with a few minor additions.

Action: Linguistic revision and translation. Send the report to the administrators, the JBACE, COMEV and the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers of the MDDELCC. Post on COMEX website

10) 2017-2018 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN AND ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UP

WHEREAS COMEX rendered an account of its 2016-2017 Action Plan adopted on October 26, 2016;

WHEREAS some of the actions will be renewed under the 2017-2018 action plan;

WHEREAS the new strategic action plan will have two central themes: “better integration of climate change” and “demystifying the environmental and social impact review procedure”;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2017-0622-05: *to adopt the 2017-2018 Strategic Action Plan and action plan follow-up.*

Action (action plan): Linguistic revision and translation. Send the report to the administrators, the JBACE, COMEV and the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers of the MDDELCC. Post on COMEX website

Action (action plan follow-up): Suzann Méthot will ensure the necessary follow-up so that an exploratory meeting can be held in September between COMEX, COMEV, the JBACE, and experts from the MDDELCC and the Ouranos consortium to identify steps to ensure better integration of climate change into the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure for the James Bay Territory (Action 1.1 of the Action Plan).

11) OTHER BUSINESS

a. EM1A/Rupert: Use of Tommy Neeposh tunnel for controlling flow in Rupert River – Proposal by Brian Craik: Ref. – email of May 26, 2017

Currently, the maximum flow through the Tommy Neeposh tunnel is 800 m³. The Rupert River Water Management Board wants to increase the flow by 150 m³ at certain times of the year; however, Brian Craik proposed that the increase be smaller, around 80 m³. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed by the monitoring committees set up for that purpose. Further to the meeting of the Water Management Board, the Board members apparently agreed that Brian Craik, as a member of the Water Management Board, should organize a meeting to discuss the matter with the communities concerned as well as trappers.

A request might be sent to the Provincial Administrator to amend the CA to increase the maximum flow in the Tommy Neeposh transfer tunnel.

b. JBACE best practices guide

Suzann Méthot and Robert Joly reviewed the draft *Best Practice Public Participation Guide for Proponents – Territory subject to Section 22 of the JBNQA*.

In its current form, the proposed guide is highly interesting. Comments have been incorporated into the draft guide. A revised edition of the guide should be proposed soon. A meeting could eventually be organized to discuss the document. COMEX could make the final version of the Guide available on its website and promote it to stakeholder parties.

c. Passage of Bill 132: *Act respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water*

A meeting with the MDDELCC could be organized to discuss the Bill 132 and its implications for the review of northern projects.

d. H&I: questions regarding procedure for letters of recommendation to the Provincial Administrator and state of the situation in Waswanipi

COMEX is still waiting to receive certain follow-up information on this project. It was also mentioned that the time period for receiving project-related documents is unusually long and that it would be good to try and shorten it.

12) NEXT MEETINGS

- a. July 18, 2017, Québec
- b. August 30, 2017, Montréal
- c. September 27-28, 2017: A visit to the Bachelor Mine was suggested.

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: May 9 to June 20, 2017					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action – Comments
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion 3214-10-017	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information for a request to amend the CA, correction of erosion at KP-170 on Rupert River	Received: May 9, 2017	<i>Amendment to certificate of authorization</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC (Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul)	Claude Major Hydro-Québec	Amendment to CA, correction of erosion at KP-170 on Rupert River	Sent: May 30, 2017 Received COMEX: May 31, 2017	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Landscape monitoring of Rupert River 2015	Sent: May 29, 2017	
			Water quality monitoring in Rupert and Nemiscau rivers 2015	Sent: May 29, 2017	
			Monitoring of integrity of multispecies spawning grounds developed in the Rupert River diversion bays, 2015 study report and monitoring results 2010-2015	Sent: May 29, 2017	
			Monitoring of fish communities and population dynamics in the Rupert diversion bays – 2014 study report dated July 2015 along with the communication plan	Sent: May 29, 2017	

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action – Comments
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion 3214-10-017	Julie Bissonnette Deputy Minister's Office	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Landscape monitoring of Rupert River 2015 Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: May 31, 2017	
			Water quality monitoring in Rupert and Nemiscau rivers 2015 Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: May 31, 2017	
			Monitoring of integrity of multispecies spawning grounds developed in the Rupert River diversion bays, 2015 study report and monitoring results 2010-2015 Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: May 31, 2017	
			Monitoring of fish communities and population dynamics in the Rupert diversion bays – 2014 study report dated July 2015 along with the communication plan Acknowledgement of receipt	Received: May 31, 2017	

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action – Comments
Kakabat Granular Material Deposit Project and Jibaud River crossing	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX secretariat	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	Environmental and social impact assessment	Acknowledgement of receipt sent by email on May 10, 2017	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX secretariat	Lucas Del Vecchio CNG	Request for information concerning receipt of the Cree analysis	Sent: May 30, 2017	
Bill 132 (conservation of wetlands and bodies of water)	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Pascale Labbé JBACE Mélicca Saganash JBACE	Letter proposing JBACE participation in the parliamentary committee hearings on Bill 132	Sent: May 11, 2017	
Forest roads “H, Section West” and “I”, Matériaux Blanchet 3214-05-075	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Roch Plusquellec Matériaux Blanchet inc.	Follow-up on conditions 1, 2, 7 and 8	Copy, received: May 16, 2017	<i>For comments and recommendations</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC (Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul)	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Follow-up on conditions 4 and 9	Received: June 2, 2017	<i>Condition 4: For recommendation Condition 9: For information</i>

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: May 9 to June 20, 2017					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action – Comments
Eleonore Mine, Opinaca Mines Ltd. 3214-14-042	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Request to amend comprehensive certificate of authorization to enlarge the waste rock dump (Phase V)	Received: May 9, 2017	<i>Amendment of certificate of authorization</i>
	France Trépanier GOLDCORP	Marie-Renée Roy Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Additional information – Request to amend comprehensive certificate of authorization to enlarge the waste rock dump (Phase V)	Sent: June 7, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot	Additional information – Request to amend comprehensive certificate of authorization to enlarge the waste rock dump (Phase V)	Received: June 14, 2017	
Solid waste disposal site in Waswanipi 3214-16-068	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Samuel C. Gull Waswanipi Cree First Nation	Certificate of authorization	Copy, received: March 16, 2017	<i>File terminated</i>
Troilus mining project 3214-14-025	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Tracy Anderson First Quantum Minerals Ltd.	2015 report: request for additional information	Sent: April 19, 2017	<i>Waiting for studies</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	2016 annual report on post- closure environmental monitoring and inspection	Received: May 26, 2017	<i>For information</i>

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: May 9 to June 20, 2017					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action – Comments
Whabouchi Mining Project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. 3214-14-052	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium	Alexandra Roio MDDELCC	Environmental and social follow-up program	Received: March 9, 2017	
			Update to fish habitat compensation program – preliminary version	Received: March 9, 2017	
			Emergency measures plan – preliminary version	Received: March 21, 2017	
	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium	Marie-Renée Roy Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Follow-up on Condition 5	Received: March 17, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC (Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul)	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Environmental and social follow-up program	Received: May 30, 2017	<i>For approval</i>
			Update to fish habitat compensation program – preliminary version		<i>For information</i>
			Emergency measures plan – preliminary version		<i>For information</i>
			Follow-up on conditions 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17 and 18 of general CA and Condition 2 of amendment dated July 27, 2016		<i>For information</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC (Maud Ablain for Mireille Paul)	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium	Amendment to CA – Updated atmospheric modelling	Sent: May 26, 2017 Received COMEX: May 31, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC (Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul)	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium	Amendment to CA – Operation of three borrow pits under 3 hectares	Sent: June 5, 2017 Received COMEX: June 5, 2017	

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Planned construction of forest access roads L-209 North and “E, Section West”, Barrette Chapais 3214-05-072 and 3214-05-074	Michel Deshaies Barrette	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Postponement of construction project	Sent: May 26, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Postponement of construction project	Received: June 14, 2017	
Project to mine and process 900 000 tonnes of gold ore from the Bachelor Lake property in Desmaraisville 3214-14-027	Mireille Paul MDDELCC (Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul)	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Amendment to CA – Review of tailings management plan	Sent: May 31, 2017 Received COMEX: May 31, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Responses to conditions of the amendment to CA dated February 10, 2017	Sent: June 13, 2017 Received: June 15, 2017	<i>For information</i>
Renard Diamond Project 3214-14-041	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Request to amend CA, processed kimberlite stockpile modified	Received: June 6, 2017	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot	Request to amend CA, processed kimberlite stockpile modified, Receipt of an addendum	Received: June 19, 2017	<i>For recommendation</i>

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Public nature of monitoring reports in relation to northern projects	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Public nature of monitoring reports in relation to northern projects	Sent: May 29, 2017	<i>Waiting for opinion on the scope of the amended EQA</i>
JBACE	Pascale Labbé JBACE chairperson	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Guide concerning information exchange program to help proponents in the self-assessment process under the 2012 <i>Fisheries Act</i>	Received: April 12, 2017	<i>For information</i>



Documents received since transmission of the notice of meeting