



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

### 357<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE (COMEX)

(ADOPTED)

<b>DATE:</b>	September 28, 2017
<b>PLACE:</b>	Conference call
<b>PRESENT:</b>	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**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 356<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The minutes of the 356<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted with a few changes.

**Action: Translate and file the 356<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes**

**3) Correspondence and follow-up action**

Correspondence and follow-up from August 30 to September 27, 2017 are presented in Appendix A.

**4) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project**

**Ref. No.: 3214-10-017**

- a. Lake sturgeon larvae drift in Rupert River (reduced-flow section) – 2010-2014 monitoring report (12/15)
- b. Monitoring of spawning by walleye, suckers and lake whitefish in the spawning grounds at KP 216 and 281 in Rupert River – 2014 and 2010-2014 monitoring reports (12/15)
- c. Effectiveness monitoring of instream flow for spawning habitat in Rupert River – juveniles of target species (12/15)
- d. Use of natural lake sturgeon spawning grounds in Rupert River, 2015, and 2010-2014 monitoring report
  - For information

WHEREAS on December 10, 2015, COMEX received the above-mentioned reports for information purposes;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the MDDELCC's in-house analysis documents and consider that, given the 2014 monitoring results for juveniles of target species in Rupert River, COMEX should wait to receive the 2016 monitoring results for such juveniles before commenting on all of the above-mentioned reports. To that end, COMEX will ask that the proponent send the final monitoring report as soon as possible;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2017-0928-01:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the four monitoring reports submitted by the proponent and decided to wait to receive the 2016 monitoring results for juveniles of target species before commenting on all of the above-mentioned reports. To that end, COMEX will ask that the proponent send the final monitoring report as soon as possible.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**5) Project to mine and process 900 000 tonnes of gold ore from the Bachelor Lake property, Metanor Resources**

**Ref. No.: 3214-14-027**

- a. Mining and processing of an additional 600 000 tonnes of ore – Conditions 10 and 20
  - For information

WHEREAS on August 14, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, the proponent's responses to conditions 10 and 20 of the amended certificate of authorization issued on February 10, 2017 for the project to mine and process an additional 600 000 tonnes of ore from the Bachelor property;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the MDDELCC's in-house analysis document and think that the proponent must take note of the following comments and recommendations;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2017-0928-02:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document pertaining to conditions 10 and 20 and would like the proponent to respond to the following comments and recommendations:*

**Condition 10:**

For further clarification regarding the measures put in place to improve explosives management and reduce ammonia nitrogen, nitrite and nitrate levels in mine water and final effluent, the proponent must:

1. Indicate the estimated percentage of encapsulated explosives used relative to bulk explosives (AMEX<sup>TM</sup>).
2. Indicate the estimated decrease in the amount of bulk AMEX<sup>TM</sup> since the beginning (2012).
3. Specify and justify the type of explosive used in blasting areas where there is water.

4. In point 6 of procedure PRO-000-3, indicate the manufacturers' recommended methods for destroying deteriorated explosives.
5. Establish a control system (inspection and audit) enabling assessment of operational control of the procedure for managing empty explosive packaging or explosive scraps and describe the existing mechanisms and the main observations/findings identified.
6. Confirm that the conditions for application of polynomial regression are met and provide the coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ ) and standard deviation for concluding that the decrease is significant.
7. Explain how the mitigation measures put in place will reduce the magnitude and frequency of EDO exceedances and propose additional steps to make the mitigation measures more effective.

**Condition 20**

The proponent and COMEX have different interpretations of "compliance" with the following conditions: 16 and 17 of the amended certificate of authorization dated July 19, 2013, and conditions 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 18 of the amended certificate of authorization dated February 10, 2017.

1. The proponent should not conclude that the condition has been met until COMEX has confirmed that the submitted documents are satisfactory. The proponent should also indicate whether COMEX requested additional information after reviewing compliance with conditions.

It is recommended that the proponent take all of the preceding comments into consideration and address the questions raised herein in its 2017 annual report.

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**6) Other business**

**a. Short course during the Québec-Mines conference**

The course will be given on November 20, 2017 from 1:30 pm. - 4:30 pm. It is intended for newcomers to the field, as well as people already familiar with the environmental impact review procedure for Northern Québec. Participants will get a chance to talk informally with COMEX members and learn more about the procedure. COMEX will take the opportunity to inform participants about aspects relating to climate change and cumulative effects that will be subject to specific review. The impact of Bill 132, the new legislation respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water will also be addressed. Suzann Méthot will send all of the members a proposal for the presentation. A meeting could be held by phone if necessary.

**b. Election of John Paul Murdoch to the Wemindji Band Council**

John Paul Murdoch has been elected to the Wemindji Band Council. It is understood that John Paul must recuse himself whenever a project of which Wemindji is the proponent is being discussed by COMEX.

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

COMEX will make its comments in writing regarding the new legislation respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water in terms of Northern Québec and send them to Jean-Pierre Laniel at the MDDELCC. The JBACE has been advised of such and has no objection: it sent COMEX the brief submitted to the parliamentary committee examining the bill. Suzann Méthot will draft a preliminary version of the Review Committee's comments and send it to all of the members for their comments. The Chairperson asked Brian Craik and John Paul Murdoch to send her any opinions the Crees may have on the matter.

**d. Directive 019**

COMEX will send the MDDELCC its comments on Directive 019, which will soon become a regulation. The JBACE has been informed of such.

**e. Memo on the Whabouchi project**

Suzann Méthot told the members that COMEX received a memo on the updated fish habitat compensation plan for the Whabouchi project.

**f. COMEX website**

The text proposed by Robert Joly and Brian Craik was discussed and a few corrections were made. Suzann Méthot will send the final English version to Vanessa Chalifour, who will have it translated.

Once the translation has been received, both versions will be sent to all of the COMEX members for their approval, after which Vanessa Chalifour will incorporate them into the corresponding website page.

**g. *The Nation* and *Le Jamésien***

The contract for *The Nation* has ended.

Following publication of the ¼ page in the October issue of *Le Jamésien*, a ½ page will remain. The contract ends on March 31, 2018.

The members discussed the relevance of continuing the current form of publishing in *The Nation* and *Le Jamésien*. Suzann Méthot proposed publishing articles on issues closer to the communities (once or twice a year) in the context of its project reviews.

**h. Meeting on climate change (COMEX, COMEV, OURANOS, MDDELCC)**

The meeting will be held on October 12, 2017, in the morning, at COMEX's Montréal office. COMEX, COMEV and OURANOS will be attending the meeting to explore how climate change could be given greater consideration in COMEX's and COMEV's impact assessments and reviews. Suzann Méthot is waiting for confirmation of MDDELCC's participation. She will send the proposed agenda to all of the members at least one week ahead of the meeting.

**7) Next meetings**

- a. October 23-24 - Mistissini
- b. December 8 - Montréal
- c. February 2, 2018 - Montréal

<b>Appendix A</b> <b>Correspondence and follow-up: August 30 to September 27, 2017</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Beaver monitoring, 2014	Sent: August 31, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Steve Shooner Hydro-Québec	Beaver monitoring, 2014	Sent: September 19, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2017	
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Raptor monitoring, 2015	Sent: August 31, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 5, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Steve Shooner Hydro-Québec	Raptor monitoring, 2015	Sent: September 22, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 26, 2017	
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Moose monitoring, 2014	Sent: August 31, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Steve Shooner Hydro-Québec	Moose monitoring, 2014	Sent: September 19, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2017	
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Monitoring of integrity and use of natural spawning grounds developed for lake trout – 2015	Sent: August 31, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Steve Shooner Hydro-Québec	Monitoring of integrity and use of natural spawning grounds developed for lake trout – 2015	Sent: September 19, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2017	
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Waterfowl monitoring, 2014	Sent: August 31, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1, 2017	

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Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Simon Marcotte Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Monitoring of the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the Sarcelle generating station	Sent: August 11, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Monitoring of the multispecies spawning ground developed downstream of the Sarcelle generating station	Sent: September 13, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 15, 2017	<i>For information</i>
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Simon Marcotte Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Monitoring of the developments for brook trout and fish passes in Rupert River – 3rd year of monitoring	Sent: August 7, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Monitoring of the developments for brook trout and fish passes in Rupert River – 3rd year of monitoring	Sent: September 13, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 15, 2017	<i>For information</i>
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Simon Marcotte Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Monitoring of integrity and use of spawning grounds developed for lake sturgeon in the diversion bays	Sent: August 4, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Monitoring of integrity and use of spawning grounds developed for lake sturgeon in the diversion bays	Sent: September 13, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 15, 2017	<i>For information</i>
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Simon Marcotte Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Longnose sucker monitoring in the Rupert Bay estuary	Sent: August 25, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Longnose sucker monitoring in the Rupert Bay estuary	Sent: September 13, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 15, 2017	<i>For information</i>



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Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec 3214-10-017	Simon Marcotte Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Monitoring of fish populations between KP 193 and 217 in Eastmain River – Increased-flow section	Sent: August 17, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Monitoring of fish populations between KP 193 and 217 in Eastmain River – Increased-flow section	Sent: September 13, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 15, 2017	<i>For information</i>
Whabouchi Mining Project, Nemaska Lithium Inc. 3214-14-052	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Request to modify conditions 12, 14, 17 and 18 of the certificate of authorization and the final effluent discharge site	Sent: September 1, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 5, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium	Request to modify conditions 12, 14, 17 and 18 of the certificate of authorization and the final effluent discharge site	Sent: September 19, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2017	
	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Environmental and social monitoring program	Sent: August 3, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Environmental and social monitoring program	Sent: September 5, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 6, 2017	<i>For approval</i>
Renard Diamond Project 3214-14-041	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Fish habitat compensation program	Sent: August 31, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Martin Boucher Les Diamants Stornoway (Canada) inc.	Fish habitat compensation program	Sent: September 19, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2017	

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Project to mine and process 900 000 tonnes of gold ore from the Bachelor Lake property, Metanor Resources Inc. 3214-14-027	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Environmental monitoring report 2016 and Progress report – Condition 11 of the certificate of authorization dated February 10, 2017	Sent: September 7, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 8, 2017	<i>Amendment made to the letter of September 12, 2017</i>
Troilus Mine, First Quantum Minerals Ltd. 3214-14-025	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister, MDDELCC	Reply to the request for additional information	Sent: August 31, 2017 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Tracy Anderson First Quantum Minerals Ltd.	Reply to the request for additional information	Sent: September 19, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2017	
Public nature of monitoring reports in the context of the northern procedures	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Public nature of monitoring reports in the context of the northern procedures	Sent: September 22, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 22, 2017	
2016-2017 annual report of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board	Hervé Deschênes Cree-Québec Forestry Board	Suzann Méthot COMEX	2016-2017 annual report of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board	Sent: September 11, 2017 Received by COMEX: September 26, 2017	