



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

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

(ADOPTED)

<b>DATE:</b>	December 8, 2017
<b>PLACE:</b>	COMEX office 800, rue Square-Victoria, suite 25.30 Montréal (Québec) H4Z 1J2
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Suzann Méthot, Chairperson, Québec Daniel Berrouard, Québec Robert Joly, Québec Brian Craik, CNG John Paul 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 358<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The minutes of the 358<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 358<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes**

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

Correspondence and follow-up action from October 14 to December 7, 2017 are presented in Appendix A.

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

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

- a. List of flow, water level and temperature measuring stations in operation in 2014 and 2015
  - For information

WHEREAS on October 20, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, the list of flow, water level and temperature measuring stations in operation in 2014 and 2015 for the Eastmain 1A and Rupert Diversion Project;

WHEREAS this additional information was received further to a request made by COMEX on July 5, 2017;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent as well as the MDDELCC's in-house analysis, COMEX deems that the proponent has satisfied COMEX's request dated July 5, 2017;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2017-1208-01:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the list of flow, water level and temperature measuring stations in operation in 2014 and 2015 and deem that the proponent provided the additional information requested by the Committee.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**5) ELEONORE MINE, OPINACA MINES LTD.**

**REF. NO.: 3214-14-042**

- a. Annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report, 2016
  - For information

WHEREAS on August 8, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, the 2016 annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report for the Eleonore Mine;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent as well as the MDDELCC's in-house analysis, COMEX deems that, overall, the report satisfies the conditions of the certificate of authorization (CA) issued on November 10, 2011, as well as the amendments made to the CA on June 11, 2013, January 9, 2014, July 26, 2014 and September 8, 2014. COMEX has comments to make;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2017-1208-02:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the 2016 annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report. While the report satisfies the conditions of authorization, COMEX would nevertheless like to make the following comments:*

- *The COMEX members reviewed the report and deem that the monitoring conducted in 2016 complies with the conditions and is well documented. However, special attention must be given to the monitoring results to be submitted in 2017. The members also took note of the efforts made by the proponent to correct situations where limits were exceeded.*
- *More specifically, the 2016 environmental monitoring and follow-up report shows that the proponent was able to partly resolve the problem of toxicity of final effluent for trout and daphnia, a recurring problem since 2014. Based on the pilot tests conducted on the mine site in 2016, the corrective measures implemented by the proponent should reduce the concentration of pathogens in final effluent to compliance limits. The performance of the oil-water separator in the underground ramp is not as good as expected for this type of equipment. In fact, the results of annual sampling of mine drainage water indicate abnormally high C10-C50 concentrations. It is thus recommended that the proponent take corrective action and discuss the appropriate monitoring measures in its next annual report. The air quality monitoring results show the need for more effective control of dust emissions from the tailings area and industrial zone in order to prevent soil contamination around these areas. The proponent should implement the appropriate mitigation measures rapidly. Monitoring of all these elements must continue in the coming year.*

- COMEX is still waiting to receive the biodiversity management plan referred to in paragraph 19.2 of the annual report and expects the proponent to take the necessary steps to submit the requests to modify the monitoring frequency for the Ell pit (condition 4), install additional underground water observation wells (conditions 5 and 8) and correct the EDO flow calculation, which was for household wastewater effluent instead of mine effluent (condition 11).
- COMEX would also like the next annual report to contain information on discussions by the environment committee, including by incorporating the minutes of the committee's meetings. Furthermore, COMEX wants to be able to see that the environment committee takes due note of the annual reports and is able to make comments before the final version of the annual report is submitted.

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**6) Project to build a wood pellet facility in Chapais, Les Entreprises Barrette ltée**

**REF. No.: 3214-23-005**

- a. Supplementary information to the impact study
  - For approval

WHEREAS on November 15, 2017, COMEX received, for approval, supplementary information to the impact study for the project to build a wood pellet facility in Chapais;

At the request of the Ville de Chapais, a public hearing on the project might be held in February 2018. The Administration régionale Baie-James endorsed the Ville de Chapais's request. The COMEX members agreed to hold a meeting in early January to discuss the advisability of holding a public hearing on this project. In the meantime, COMEX will verify a few things.

**7) Extension of Route 167-Nord, MTMDET**

**REF. No.: 3214-05-077**

- a. Summary of the 29 conditions of the initial certificate of authorization
  - For information

WHEREAS on August 9, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, a summary of the 29 conditions of the comprehensive certificate of authorization for the MTMDET's planned extension of Route 167 Nord;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and decided to submit comments to the proponent;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2017-1208-03:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and request that he transmit the following comments to the proponent:*

**Condition 4**

Le Ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de l'Électrification des transports (MTMDET) says that the required signs were designed in fall 2016 and were to be installed in summer 2017. The proponent must confirm whether or not the signs have indeed been installed.

**Condition 5**

The MTMDET made arrangements with the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) and the Cree community of Mistissini for the design, translation and installation of the required signs. At the MFFP's request, it was agreed that the MFFP, rather than the MTMDET, would be responsible for installing signs with the official name of the wildlife sanctuary on them. The MFFP's parks branch was contacted and it appears that no steps have been taken to install the signs. There seems to have been a misunderstanding and the situation needs to be clarified.

**Condition 6**

Several steps were taken and meetings held between the MFFP, the Cree community of Mistissini, the Cree Nation Government and the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee. Following a meeting in March 2017, the various stakeholders submitted that creating a new hunting and fishing area might not be the best means of harmonizing hunting and fishing in the project area. A meeting with the Cree community of Mistissini was to be held in June 2017 to continue discussing the matter, but it did not take place because the matter is still under discussion at the Cree Nation Government. The MTMDET is waiting for them to get back to it. It would be appropriate for the proponent to inform the Provincial Administrator of the remaining work to be done.

**Condition 7**

According to the MTMDET, watercourse crossings with <20% encroachment were built south of km 82. This information should have been submitted to the MDDELCC for authorization purposes, but the proponent did not have enough time to do so. However, a similar request was made in writing for the watercourse crossings north of km 82 and the proponent provided the information necessary to authorize the watercourse crossings as an encroachment. It was on the basis of that authorization that the proponent built the watercourse crossings south of km 82. That being said, the proponent should at least forward the information relating to this condition of authorization in order to adequately satisfy the condition while bearing in mind that the work has already been performed.

**Condition 20**

The compensation measures have been completed for all of the sites. The initial monitoring results for fish passage have been submitted to the MDDELCC. COMEX is waiting to receive the second monitoring report, which is due in 2017.

**Condition 23**

Given that it was impossible to conclude from the last report that the transplanted seedlings will be viable in the long term, the MDDELCC was waiting to receive the most recent monitoring report to see if the proponent needs to propagate using cuttings. That report was submitted to the MDDELCC on September 8, 2017. The most recent surveys were to have been conducted in fall 2017, but the proponent notified the MDDELCC that, owing to administrative constraints, they would be conducted in fall 2018 instead. As mentioned in its letter of December 11, 2017, COMEX expects to receive the monitoring results for 2018.

**Condition 24**

Although it never officially approved the woodland caribou monitoring program, COMEX considers that the program meets its expectations and wants to receive the monitoring results.

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

- b.** Information on false willow monitoring
  - For information

WHEREAS on October 20, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, the false willow monitoring report for the MTMDET's project to extend Route 167 Nord;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and do not have any comments, but expect to receive the 2018 monitoring report;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2017-1208-04:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the report on monitoring of the false willow population and do not have any comments, but still expect to receive the 2018 monitoring report.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**8) Other business**

**a. Integration of climate change: work plan**

Suzann presented the updated work plan. John Paul Murdoch proposed that COMEX contact Melissa Saganash, chairperson of the JBACE, to explain COMEX's initiative to incorporate climate change into its project reviews. Since the initiatives being taken in this regard by COMEX and the JBACE are complementary, it is important that the two committees continue talking about the issue. Suzann Méthot will contact Melissa Saganash.

**b. E1AR follow-ups**

COMEX will be receiving several analyses for discussion at its next meeting. A meeting between COMEX and Hydro-Québec might be organized (to be determined).

**c. Québec Mines 2017**

All of the members liked their experience with Québec Mines 2017 and think it would be worth giving the same type of presentation at other events. Both experts and newcomers to the field appreciated the presentation, which enabled COMEX to explain its specific expectations of proponents and answer the audience's questions on a wide range of interests.

**d. Le Jamésien**

The remaining ¼ page in *Le Jamésien* must be used by March 31, 2018. The space will be used to announce the Rose Lithium – Tantalum mining project as soon as the impact study for the project has been received.

**e. Project to restore the Principale Mine, REF. No.: 3214-14-058**

On December 6, 2017, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the updated site remediation project for the Principale mine.

The COMEX members went over the document submitted by the proponent and are still waiting to receive a possible request to amend the certificate of authorization, as mentioned in the proponent's letter to the Administrator dated November 13, 2017. It is also waiting to receive follow-up information on conditions 1 and 2 once the remediation work has begun.

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**f. Permanent housing complex on the temporary job site for Eastmain-1, REF. No.: 3214-10-017**

A number of questions remained unanswered. Daniel Berrouard will contact the MDDELCC analyst for this project to find out where things are at.

**9) Next meetings**

- a.** February 2, 2018, Montréal
- b.** March 1, 2018, Montréal

<b>Appendix A</b> <b>Correspondence and follow-up: October 14 to December 7, 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 REF. NO.: 3214-10-017	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	2015 monitoring of shoreline and riparian habitat dynamics upstream of the hydraulic structures built on Rupert River – final report	Sent: October 23, 2017 Received by COMEX: October 24, 2017	
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec REF. NO.: 3214-10-017	Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	List of flow, water level and temperature measuring stations in operation in 2014 and 2015	Sent: October 20, 2017 Received by COMEX: October 20, 2017	
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec REF. NO.: 3214-10-017	Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Steve Shooner Hydro-Québec	4 monitoring reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Larvae drift</li> <li>- Walleye, sucker and whitefish spawning</li> <li>- Juveniles</li> <li>- Sturgeon spawning grounds</li> </ul>	Sent: October 20, 2017 Received by COMEX: October 20, 2017	
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec REF. NO.: 3214-10-017	Simon Marcotte Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Ice cover monitoring: winter 2014-2015 and winter 2015-2016	Sent: November 9, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Ice cover monitoring: winter 2014-2015 and winter 2015-2016	Sent: November 30, 2017 Received by COMEX: December 1, 2017	For information

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<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 REF. NO.: 3214-10-017	Claude Major Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Permanent housing complex on temporary job site for Eastmain-1	Sent: November 17, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Permanent housing complex on temporary job site for Eastmain-1	Sent: November 30, 2017 Received by COMEX: December 1, 2017	For recommendation
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion, Hydro-Québec REF. NO.: 3214-10-017	Pierre Laneuville Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Waterfowl monitoring 2014 – Responses to Cree questionnaire	Sent: October 26, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Waterfowl monitoring 2014 – Responses to Cree questionnaire	Sent: November 9, 2017 Received by COMEX: December 6, 2017	For information
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) REF. NO.: 3214-14-041	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Environmental and social monitoring report 2015-2016	Sent: October 18, 2017 Received by COMEX: October 18, 2017	
Project to mine and process additional ore from Bachelor Lake property, Metanor Resources Inc. REF. NO.: 3214-14-027	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Conditions 10 and 20	Sent: October 18, 2017 Received by COMEX: October 18, 2017	

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<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Extension of Route 167 Nord, MTMDET REF. NO.: 3214-05-077	Alexandra Roio for Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Follow-up information on the false mountain willow	Sent: October 20, 2017 Received by COMEX: October 20, 2017	
Wood pellet facility project in Chapais, Les Entreprises Barrette ltée REF. NO.: 3214-23-005	Benoit Barrette Les Entreprises Barrette ltée	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Supplementary information to the impact study	Sent: October 30, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Supplementary information to the impact study	Sent: November 13, 2017 Received by COMEX: November 15, 2017	
<i>Project to restore the Principale mine site in Chibougamau</i> REF. NO.: 3214-14-058	Josée Morency MERN	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Follow-up on conditions 1 and 2 of the certificate of authorization	Sent: November 13, 2017	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Follow-up on conditions 1 and 2 of the certificate of authorization	Sent: December 6, 2017 Received by COMEX: December 6, 2017	For information