



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

363rd MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE (ADOPTED)

DATE: May 9, 2018

PLACE: COMEX office
800, rue Square-Victoria, suite 25.30
Montréal (Québec) H4Z 1J2

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

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 362nd meeting

The minutes of the 362nd meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 362nd meeting minutes

3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from April 7 to May 8, 2018 are presented in Appendix A.

4) Project to increase untreated peels storage capacity for the Chapais Énergie cogeneration plant

REF. No.: 3214-14-012

a. Request to amend the certificate of authorization

➤ For recommendation

WHEREAS on March 27, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the certificate of authorization for the project to increase the untreated peels storage capacity of the Chapais Énergie cogeneration plant;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and find that additional information is needed in order to complete the project review;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-0509-01: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the proponent's request to amend the certificate of authorization and would like the proponent to address the committee's questions and comments (detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

5) Eleonore Mine in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd.

Enlargement of ore transfer pad

REF. No.: 3214-14-042

- a. Request to amend the certificate of authorization
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on March 28, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the certificate of authorization for enlargement of the ore transfer pad on the Eleonore mine site;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and find the project, as proposed, acceptable for the following reasons:

- the enlargement is in a part of the mine site that has already been affected and is adjacent to the ore pad previously authorized
- the footprint of the industrial zone remains unchanged
- the foundations of the ore pad enlargement will be built in a similar manner to those of the current ore pad and runoff management will stay the same;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-0509-02: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the proponent's request to amend the certificate of authorization and find the proposed project acceptable.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) Project to mine and process 600 000 additional tonnes of ore at the Bachelor Lake property, Metanor Resources

Processing of Barry ore at the Bachelor Lake mill

REF. No.: 3214-14-027

- a. Request to amend the certificate of authorization
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on April 11, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the certificate of authorization to mill ore from the Barry property at the Bachelor Lake mill;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and find that additional information is needed in order to complete the project review. Questions and comments covering, without being limited to, justification for the project, hauling of ore, geochemical characterization and management of tailings, water management and the project schedule, are being prepared. The proponent must address the questions and comments in a satisfactory manner so as to enable COMEX to continue studying the request;

WHEREAS in light of the information contained in the request to amend the certificate of authorization, COMEX nevertheless has some reservations about the justification for the requested amendment and wants to point out that one of the conditions of the amended certificate of authorization dated February 10, 2017 has not yet been met;

Generally speaking, COMEX questions the justification for the requested amendment as well as the relevance of the request, given that the preliminary information for the project to process Barry ore at the Bachelor Lake mill, for which a directive was issued in August 2017 and the impact assessment statement has not been completed, covers certain aspects that are also covered by the present request to amend the certificate of authorization;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-0509-03: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the proponent's request to amend the certificate of authorization and have some reservations about the justification for the request.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

7) Renard Diamond Project

REF. No.: 3214-14-041

- a. Fish habitat compensation program – Proponent's responses to COMEX's questions and comments
 - For recommendation

The members discussed the fish habitat compensation program for the Renard Diamond Project and decided that verifications were needed in order for COMEX to be able to make a recommendation on the project. The item was thus deferred to the meeting slated for June 13, 2018.

8) Other business

a. Progress report: Whabouchi project

Suzann Méthot had asked the project manager for a progress report on this project. COMEX understands from the information received that the project is running into delays on the proponent's part; otherwise, all is in order.

b. Annual Report 2017-2018

The annual report for 2017-2018 needs a few minor adjustments. Vanessa Chalifour will finalize the report and send it to the chairperson, who will oversee the report's graphic design.

The Annual Report 2017-2018 was adopted.

Action: Linguistic revision and translation. Send the report to the administrators, the JBACE, COMEV and relevant bodies such as the Cree-Québec Forestry Board, the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee and the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers. Post on the website.

c. Assessment of Action Plan 2017-2018 and action plan for 2018-2019

Vanessa Chalifour will revise the assessment of Action Plan 2017-2018 and then send it out for translation, after which it will be posted on COMEX's website.

The chairperson will draft the action plan for 2018-2019.

Action: Linguistic revision and translation. Post on the website.

d. MDDELCC public register/Delays in posting documents on COMEX's website

Vanessa Chalifour filled the members in on the environmental assessment register for projects in Northern Québec (James Bay, Nunavik and Moinier).

The register is currently online, but contains only a few projects. A number of project files have been created, but there is no information in them as yet. Some things need to be checked before the northern register is fully operational.

At the moment, and for the weeks to come, COMEX should continue writing to proponents to get their permission to post project-related documents on COMEX's website. In the foreseeable future, the MDDELCC will be sending proponents of northern projects an official letter informing them of the new online register and that their documents will be made public and, consequently, posted online. The MDDELCC is waiting for this to happen, which will probably be once the final verifications related to the register have been completed.

The register for northern projects will be identical in every way to the register for projects in southern Québec, except for expert opinions, which will not be posted in the register. Also, a letter will be sent to the proponents of northern projects requesting their permission to post follow-up report in the online register. This will not be necessary for southern Québec.

The issue of delays in posting documents on COMEX's website was not discussed. The item was therefore deferred to the meeting slated for June 13, 2018.

e. Translation policy for COMEX documents

The COMEX members discussed the fact that documents related to project reviews and follow-up/monitoring sometimes need to be translated into English. However, rather than establishing a policy that might end up being counter-productive, the members decided to continue with the current approach, that is, assess translation needs on a case-by-case basis.

f. BlackRock Metals' mining project: presentation by the proponent at 9:30 a.m.

The committee met with the proponent for the purpose of ensuring proper and mutual understanding of the review procedure for the BlackRock mining project between the COMEX members and Jean Rainville, President and CEO of BlackRock Metals Inc., Richard Saint-Jean, general manager of the mine, Jacqueline Leroux, Regional Vice-President, Environment, and Dominique Amyot-Bilodeau from McCarthy Tétrault.

The meeting provided COMEX with an opportunity to state its expectations with regard to the public consultations to be held by the proponent, as well as with regard to completion of the environmental and social impact assessment statement.

9) Next meetings

- a.** June 13, 2018, Montréal
- b.** July 18, 2018, Montréal
- c.** September 5, 2018, Montréal

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: April 7 to May 8, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Benoît Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Monitoring of the integrity and use of multispecies spawning grounds developed in Rupert River – 2015 and results for 2011-2015	Sent: April 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 11, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Benoît Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Monitoring of the integrity and use of lake sturgeon spawning grounds developed in diversion bays – Environmental monitoring during operation phase, 2015	Sent: April 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 11, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Benoît Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Waterfowl monitoring 2014 – Responses to Cree questionnaire	Sent: April 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 11, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Benoît Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Niskamoon Corporation annual reports (2012 to 2017)	Sent: April 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 11, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Benoît Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Monitoring of navigation conditions – Rupert River sector – Lots 2 to 5 and 7 – 2014 – Final Report and Monitoring of navigation conditions – Rupert River sector – 2014 – Lot 6: Consultation of non-Cree users – Final Report	Sent: April 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 11, 2018	
	Noureddine Mouncef Société d'énergie de la Baie-James	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Request to amend the certificate of authorization 2018 redevelopment master plan for affected sites	Sent: April 13, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Request to amend the certificate of authorization 2018 redevelopment master plan for affected sites	Sent: April 26, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 27, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Noureddine Mouncef Société d'énergie de la Baie James	Documents posted on COMEX website	Sent: May 2, 2018	
Project to increase untreated peels storage capacity for the Chapais Énergie cogeneration plant Ref. No.: 3214-10-012	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Pascal Tremblay Chapais Énergie	Documents posted on COMEX website	Sent: April 9, 2018	
	Pascal Tremblay Chapais Énergie	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Documents posted on COMEX website	Received by COMEX: April 16, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Pascal Tremblay Chapais Énergie	Documents posted on COMEX website	Acknowledgement of receipt sent April 16, 2018	
Project to mine and process 600 000 additional tonnes of ore from the Bachelor Lake property, Metanor Resources Ref. No.: 3214-14-027	Julie Raiche Metanor Resources Inc.	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Request to amend the certificate of authorization Milling of Barry ore at the Bachelor Lake mill	Sent: March 15, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Request to amend the certificate of authorization Milling of Barry ore at the Bachelor Lake mill	Sent: April 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 11, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Documents posted on COMEX website	Sent: April 18, 2018	
	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Documents posted on COMEX website	Received by COMEX: April 18, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Documents posted on COMEX website	Acknowledgement of receipt sent April 18, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	2017 environmental monitoring report	Sent: April 25, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 27, 2018	<i>For information</i>

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: April 7 to May 8, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Rose Lithium – Tantalum mining project, Critical Elements Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Updated environmental impact study Questions and comments	Sent: April 17, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt sent April 18, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Jean-Sébastien Lavallée Critical Elements Corporation	Updated environmental impact study Questions and comments	Sent: April 25, 2018 Received by COMEX: May 1, 2018	
Construction of forest roads “H, Section west” and “I” Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Michel Sigouin Eacom Timber Corporation	Amendment of the certificate of authorization Characterization program for the natural environment and archeological potential study	Sent: April 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 13, 2018	
Eleonore Mine in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-042	Suzann Méthot COMEX	France Trépanier Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Documents posted on COMEX website	Sent: April 18, 2018	
	France Trépanier Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Documents posted on COMEX website	Sent: May 2, 2018	
Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Jacqueline Leroux BlackRock Metals Inc.	Request for public hearings	Sent: April 18, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Manon Cyr Ville de Chibougamau	Request for public hearings	Sent: April 18, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Request to amend the general CA Questions and comments	Sent: April 23, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: April 23, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Jacqueline Leroux BlackRock Metals	Request to amend the general CA Questions and comments	Sent: May 4, 2018 Received by COMEX: May 4, 2018	

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: April 7 to May 8, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Whabouchi project, Nemaska Lithium Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Inc.	Amended certificate of authorization Location of final effluent discharge point and extended deadlines for conditions 12, 14, 17 and 18	Sent: April 27, 2018 Received by COMEX: May 1, 2018	
Troilus mining project, First Quantum Minerals Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Annual post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection report	Sent: April 25, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 27, 2018	<i>For information</i>
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	2017 sustainable development report	Sent: April 25, 2018 Received by COMEX: April 27, 2018	<i>For information</i>
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Gail Amyot Galaxy Lithium Inc.	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Request to submit the project to COMEX	Sent: April 25, 2018	
JBACE comments on the <i>Regulation respecting ministerial authorizations and declarations of compliance in environmental matters under the new EQA</i>	Graeme Morin JBACE	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	JBACE comments on the <i>Regulation respecting ministerial authorizations and declarations of compliance in environmental matters</i> under the new EQA	Sent: April 16, 2018 Received by COMEV: April 16, 2018	<i>For information</i>