



la Convention  
de la Baie James  
et du Nord québécois

---

**Comité d'examen des répercussions  
sur l'environnement et le milieu social**

ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ ᑲᑲ ᑲᑲᑲ  
ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ  
ᑲᑲᑲ

**MINUTES OF THE**

**364th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
(ADOPTED)**

<b>DATE:</b>	June 13, 2018
<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 Brian Craik, CNG John Paul Murdoch, CNG (by phone)  Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary (by phone)
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Robert Joly, Québec

**1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 363<sup>rd</sup> meeting**

The minutes of the 363<sup>rd</sup> meeting were adopted as presented.

**Action: Translate and file the 363<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes**

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

Correspondence and follow-up action from May 9 to June 12, 2018 are presented in Appendix A.

**4) Rose Lithium–Tantalum mining project, Critical Elements Corporation**

**REF. No.: 3214-14-053**

- a. Updated environmental impact study – missing sections
  - For recommendation

WHEREAS on March 28, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the sections missing from the updated environmental impact study for Critical Elements' Rose Lithium–Tantalum mining project;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like to obtain additional information to be incorporated into a single document containing the proponent's answers to the two sets of questions sent to it, that is, the present questions and the questions sent on April 25, 2018;

WHEREAS the missing sections received on March 28, 2018 did not take into account the first set of questions and comments submitted to the proponent;

WHEREAS the COMEX members received an opinion from the archeology unit of the Social and Cultural Development Department in relation to section 8.5 of the impact study on April 6, 2018, that is, after COMEX had reviewed the impact study;

COMEX will review the information related to estimated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Technical Note 2) and community participation and concerns (Chapter 4) in the light of the responses received from the proponent further to this change.

Although COMEX did not receive the opinion of the archeology unit of the Cree Nation Government's Social and Cultural Development Department until after it had sent the first set of questions to the proponent in April, the committee recommends that the proponent seek the unit's assistance for the purpose of enhancing section 8.5 (historical, cultural and archeological heritage).

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2018-0613-01:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and would like more information on nine questions relating to ore processing, air quality and the environmental management plan for the construction, operation and maintenance phases. The proponent must contact the CNG's archeology unit for the purpose of rounding out the information in section 8.5 of its environmental impact study.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**5) Renard Diamond Project**

**REF. No.: 3214-14-041**

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

WHEREAS on January 15, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the responses to the questions and comments it sent on August 31, 2017 in relation to the fish habitat compensation program for the Renard Diamond Project;

WHEREAS the COMEX members went over the proponent's responses to the committee's questions and comments and recommend that the administrator authorize one of the three developments required to implement the fish habitat compensation program and monitor the compensation measures, that is, construction of a temporary all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail for the purpose of developing brook trout habitat in a tributary of Lake Mistissini;

WHEREAS the COMEX members have been informed of upcoming meetings between the proponent and representatives of the community of Mistissini to discuss, among other things, the two other proposed developments, namely, development of a fish habitat near the old Icon-Sullivan mine site and development of a walleye spawning site in Lake Mistissini;

The COMEX members prefer to await the outcome of those meetings before making a recommendation in respect of the other developments.

COMEX would also like to remind the proponent of condition 2.12.2 of the amended certificate of authorization issued on October 7, 2014.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2018-0613-02:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and recommend that he authorize the construction of a temporary all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail for the purpose of developing brook trout habitat in a tributary of Lake Mistissini, but that they will not be making a recommendation in respect of the two other developments proposed by the proponent until after the proponent has met with the community.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

**6) Eastmain 1-A/Rupert diversion hydroelectric project**

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

- a. Request to amend the certificate of authorization – 2018 master plan for restoration of disturbed sites
  - For recommendation

WHEREAS on April 27, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the certificate of authorization in relation to the 2018 master plan for restoration of sites disturbed by the Eastmain 1A/Rupert diversion hydroelectric project;

WHEREAS the master plan is a requirement of conditions 2.7 and 2.8 of the certificate of authorization issued on November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization issued on August 27, 2008;

COMEX recommends that the 2018 master plan be approved as submitted by the proponent and thinks it would be beneficial to ask the proponent for an assessment of its redevelopment program implemented nearly 10 years ago so as to take stock of the restoration of sites disturbed by the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle powerhouses and the Rupert diversion project.

Lastly, COMEX is waiting to receive the proponent's responses to its questions and comments concerning the permanent housing complex on the site of the temporary workcamp for Eastmain-1.

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2018-0613-03:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and recommend that he approve the 2018 master plan as submitted by the proponent.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

- b.** Erosion correction at KP 170 on Rupert River  
Planting and seeding in 2018
  - For information

WHEREAS on March 28, 2018, COMEX received, for information purposes, a document concerning planting and seeding work in 2018 to correct erosion problems at KP 170 on Rupert River related to the Eastmain-1A/Rupert diversion project;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and note that the proposed tree planting and seeding is in line with expectations and, in keeping with COMEX's recommendation in 2015, they are in favour of removing reed canary grass from the hydro-seeding mixture;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2018-0613-04:** *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and find that the proposed work meets the set objectives.*

**Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator**

## **7) Other business**

### **a. Progress report on the wood pellet production plant in Chapais**

The project proponent sent documents to the MDDELCC in keeping with conditions of the certificate of authorization issued on February 26, 2018.

In addition, the proponent will soon submit a request to amend the certificate of authorization to the MDDELCC because it wants to change the site of its wood pellet production plant.

COMEX is waiting to receive the documents relating to the desired amendment.

### **b. Action Plan 2018-2019**

WHEREAS COMEX rendered an account of its Action Plan 2017-2018 adopted on June 22, 2017;

WHEREAS a number of actions initiated in 2017-2018 have been renewed in the Action Plan 2018-2019, which aims primarily to continue the initiative to ensure better integration of climate change into the project review process and communicate COMEX's achievements;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

**#2018-0613-05:** *to adopt Action Plan 2018-2019.*

**Action: Linguistic revision and translation. Send the action plan to the administrators, the JBACE, COMEV, the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers and all other relevant bodies. Post on COMEX's website.**

**c. Annual Report 2017-2018: clarification**

The members discussed Section 3.1 ("Human and material resources") of the annual report. Suzann Méthot will rework the section and send it to Vanessa Chalifour for incorporation into Annual Report 2017-2018.

**d. Documents for COMEX / Documents to be made public**

COMEX has noted that the potential confidentiality of some of the essential information needed to review projects (e.g. data related to sites of interest for subsistence wildlife harvesting or to impact and benefits agreement) often raises issues among local communities and proponents, particularly whether or not the information should be made public. More in-depth discussions will be held as needed, within both COMEV and COMEX, but for now they will be on a case-by-case basis. It was suggested that Brian Craik and Daniel Berrouard raise the issue with COMEV (of which they are also members) to see how it could be taken into account when drafting directives where necessary. In the meantime, COMEX will draft a text to be posted on its website and possibly incorporated into the document on the committee's expectations in relation to consultations held by proponents. Possible solutions include greater involvement of the Cree Nation Government analysts in the handling of potentially confidential information, as well as measures allowing COMEX to be informed without necessarily posting the information on its website. The COMEX members will give more systematic consideration to the matter when reviewing projects. The committee will also draw up a list of potentially confidential information.

**Action: Suzann Méthot will follow-up on the matter**

**e. MDDELCC public register**

The information to be contained in the environmental assessment register for projects in Northern Québec is still not official, especially as regards project-related documents and follow-up/monitoring reports. Until the content of the register is official, COMEX will continue getting proponents' permission, in writing, to post their documents on COMEX's website (or access to the documents on the proponents' websites).

**f. Timeline for posting documents on COMEX's website**

No further discussion was needed, as the specific procedure is already set out on COMEX's website.

**g. Windfall Lake Mine Project: health impact assessment pilot project**

A meeting was held with the Direction de la santé publique of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux (MSSS) to get a better grasp of what its health impact assessment pilot project associated with the Windfall Lake Mine project will be. The pilot project will form an integral part of the impact study for the project.

The COMEX members emphasized the importance they attach to the CBHSSJB's collaboration and the integration of data already produced by the Cree Nation Government. They suggested that the MSSS inform the CBHSSJB and the CNG about the pilot project.

Once the pilot project is authorized, further meetings may be held to discuss the progress of the project.

**8) Next meetings**

- a.** July 25, 2018, Québec
- b.** September 5, 2018, James Bay

<b>Appendix A</b> <b>Correspondence and follow-up: May 9 to June 12, 2018</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Eleonore Mine in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-042	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Enlargement of ore transfer pad Request to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: May 10, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: May 11, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	France Trépanier Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Enlargement of ore transfer pad Amended certificate of authorization	Sent: May 29, 2018 Received by COMEX: May 29, 2018	
Project to increase untreated peels storage capacity for the Chapais Énergie cogeneration plant Ref. No.: 3214-10-012	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Request to amend the certificate of authorization Questions and comments	Sent: May 10, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: May 11, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Tremblay Chapais Énergie inc.	Request to amend the certificate of authorization Questions and comments	Sent: May 24, 2018 Received by COMEX: May 24, 2018	
Project to mine and process 600 000 additional tonnes of ore from the Bachelor Lake property, Metanor Resources Ref. No.: 3214-14-027	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Milling of Barry ore at the Bachelor Lake mill Request to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: May 10, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: May 11, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Milling of Barry ore at the Bachelor Lake mill Request to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: May 25, 2018 Received by COMEX: May 25, 2018	
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 31, 2018 Received by COMEX: June 1, 2018	
	Noureddine Mouncef Société d'énergie de la Baie James	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Documents posted on COMEX website	Electronic version received June 1, 2018 Print version received June 12, 2018	



<b>Appendix A</b> <b>Correspondence and follow-up: May 9 to June 12, 2018</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Rose Lithium – Tantalum mining project, Critical Elements Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Pernilla Talec Cree Nation Government	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Confidential maps – <i>Environmental Impact Study</i>	Sent: June 1, 2018	
Connecting the Rose Lithium – Tantalum Mine and Relocating a Segment of the 315-kV Line Ref. No.: 3214-09-028	Guy Côté Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	<i>Étude d'impact sur l'environnement</i>	Sent: April 11, 2018	
	Guy Côté Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	<i>Environmental Impact Statement</i>	Sent: May 24, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Environmental impact statement – French and English	Sent: June 1, 2018 Received by COMEX: June 5, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Guy Côté Hydro-Québec	Documents posted on COMEX website	Sent: June 6, 2018	
Wood pellet production plant in Chapais, Barrette-Chapais ltée Ref. No.: 3214-23-005	Yann Sellin Barrette-Chapais ltée	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Follow-up to condition 1 of the general CA Study of atmospheric emissions dispersal	Sent: May 17, 2018	
	Yann Sellin Barrette-Chapais ltée	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Follow-up to conditions 2 to 8 of the general CA	Sent: May 24, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Follow-up to conditions 1 to 9 of the general CA	Sent: May 31, 2018 Received by COMEX: June 1, 2018	
Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Marie-Lou Coulombe MDDELCC	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Questions from the proponent	Sent: May 29, 2018	
	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Marie-Lou Coulombe MDDELCC	COMEX's answers to the proponent's questions	Sent: May 30, 2018	

<b>Appendix A</b> <b>Correspondence and follow-up: May 9 to June 12, 2018</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - Comments</b>
Troilus mining project Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Brianna Davies Troilus Gold Corp.	Change of holder	Sent: May 31, 2018 Received by COMEX: June 1, 2018	
Whabouchi project Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.	Change of holder	Sent: May 29, 2018 Received by COMEX: May 29, 2018	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Gail Amyot Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.	Request to meet with COMEX	Sent: May 10, 2018	