



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
367th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(ADOPTED)**

DATE:	October 17, 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 John Paul Murdoch, CNG Brian Craik, CNG (by telephone)
ABSENT:	Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary
GUEST:	Dick McCollough

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. One item was added to "Other business":

- a. Feedback on the presentation given by Dick McCollough.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 366th meeting

The minutes of the 366th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 366th meeting minutes.

3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from September 10 to October 16, 2018 are presented in Appendix A.

4) Renard Diamond Project

REF. No.: 3214-14-041

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

WHEREAS on January 15, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the proponent's responses to the questions and comments sent by COMEX on August 31, 2017 concerning the fish habitat compensation program for the Renard Diamond Project;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and recommend that construction of a temporary pier for the purposes of developing a walleye spawning ground in Lake Mistissini be authorized;

WHEREAS the pier will barely touch the shores of Lake Mistissini, on Category IA land, that is, in the canal connecting the southern part of Lake Mistissini, called Baie du Poste, to the main part of the lake farther north, called Abatagouche Bay, in Mistissini, and the COMEX members wish to inform the Regional Administrator of such;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1017-01: *to write to the Provincial Administrator, with the letter copied to the Regional Administrator, to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and recommend that construction of a temporary pier for the purposes of developing a walleye spawning ground in Lake Mistissini be authorized, subject to the following conditions (detailed in the letter).*

- Condition 1: *The building stone used for the temporary pier must be sourced from a quarry previously authorized by MDDELCC. In addition, the proponent must ensure minimum drifting of fine particulate matter to the pier site, including by removing stones in the top part of the piles at the quarry site, as well as by washing the stones at the quarry site.*
- Condition 2: *The oils/grease used for hydraulic shovels or any other hydraulic equipment operating in or above water must have a 28-day biodegradability of >70%.*
- Condition 3: *The proponent must install a turbidity screen on the site of the temporary pier and spawning ground in Lake Mistissini. Considering how heavily used the area is, the proponent must ensure the safety of boaters by making sure the pier is clearly visible even in low-light conditions.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

5) Project to mine and process 900 000 tonnes of gold ore at the Bachelor Lake mine site, Metanor Resources Ltd.

REF. No.: 3214-14-027

- a. Updated restoration plan (Condition 18)
 - For information

WHEREAS on December 15, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, the updated restoration plan (Condition 18) for Metanor Resources' project to mine and process 900 000 tonnes of gold ore at the Bachelor Lake mine site;

WHEREAS the updated restoration plan submitted by Metanor Resources only partially satisfies condition 18 of the amended certificate of authorization issued in February 2017;

WHEREAS the results of the geochemical characterization of new mineralized zones must be incorporated into the updated restoration plan;

WHEREAS the proponent only briefly touched on the subject of climate change in section 3.7 of the updated restoration plan and COMEX recommends that the proponent explain how it intends to adjust its restoration plan in keeping with climate change issues in order to ensure the integrity and long-term stability of its facilities based on the parameters;

WHEREAS COMEX questions the continuation of current operations considering that the amended CA issued to Metanor Resources on February 10, 2017 allowed for the mining and processing of 600 000 additional tonnes of ore at a nominal rate of 800 tonnes per day, which extended the life of the mine by two and a half years, to September 2018;

WHEREAS COMEX notes that following confirmation of the acquisition of Metanor Resource by Bonterra in August 2017, Metanor's website was taken down, and whereas the website contained general information on the Bachelor mine, in particular certain documents that Metanor was required to make available to the public by virtue of one of the conditions set out in the certificate of authorization (Condition 19, amended CA February 10, 2017);

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1017-02: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have a number of comments to make (detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) Eleonore mining project, Opinaca Mines Ltd.

REF. No.: 3214-14-042

- a. Annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report for 2017
 - For information

WHEREAS on August 10, 2018, COMEX received, for information purposes, the 2017 annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report for the Eleonore mining project;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and note that the follow-up conducted in 2017 is generally compliant and well-documented;

WHEREAS COMEX would like more details on the current compensation measures for wetland loss, particularly details on the type and final surface areas of lost wetland areas, as well as the planned methodological approach for calculating the ecological value of lost wetland areas;

WHEREAS the COMEX members wish to be kept informed of the long-term effectiveness/efficiency of the biological treatment system in reducing final effluent toxicity to trout and daphnids;

WHEREAS COMEX would like to be brought up to speed on the steps being taken to address the problems with the water-oil separator for the underground ramp;

WHEREAS the 2017 annual report shows no improvement in dust emissions from the tailings area since 2016 and the proponent provided little information on the justification and control and mitigation measures, the proponent must show the measures taken in this regard in 2017 and explain the planned dust emission control and mitigation measures as well as the justification so as to determine the reasons for the dust emissions;

WHEREAS social impact monitoring was assured by the Opinagow Environment Committee (OEC) in a letter addressed to Mireille Paul, the COMEX members take note of such and wish to inform the proponent and the OEC of the framework established for handling confidential and sensitive information required to review a given project;

WHEREAS COMEX is still waiting on possible requests for amendments related to condition 6.1 of the global CA issued on November 10, 2011 and conditions 2, 4, 5 and 11 of the amendment to the global CA dated September 8, 2014;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1017-03: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have a number of comments to make (detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

7) Construction of forest roads “H, Section west” and “I”

REF. No.: 3214-05-075

- a.** Natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6) – Request to amend the CA
- b.** Additional information (Conditions 3 and 9)
 - For discussion

WHEREAS on October 2, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the natural environment characterization report for the first 5 km of forest road H west. COMEX also received, on October 2, 2018, for information purposes, additional information regarding conditions 3 and 9 of the certificate of authorization issued on April 28, 2018;

WHEREAS the COMEX members wish to inform the proponent that they prefer to wait until the second characterization report is received before making a recommendation on the entire alignment of roads “H, Section west” and “I”;

WHEREAS the COMEX members are satisfied with the information received in respect of its contribution to woodland caribou monitoring and the minutes of the meetings held with the monitoring committee;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1017-04: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have a number of comments to make (detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

8) Project to develop an iron-vanadium deposit, BlackRock Metals Inc.

REF. No.: 3214-14-050

- a. Request to amend the CA
- b. Supplementary information to the request to amend the global CA and follow-up to condition 16 of the global CA issued on December 6, 2013
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on December 15, 2017, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the global certificate of authorization for this BlackRock project, and a revised version of the request was received on September 4, 2018;

WHEREAS many questions still need to be addressed by the proponent and a number of analyses still need to be completed by specialists consulted on the requested amendment, but the COMEX members feel they have the main information needed to hold public hearings in Chibougamau and Oujé-Bougoumou between December 3 and 4, 2018;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1017-05: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent, that public hearings on the requested changes to the project will be held in Chibougamau and Oujé-Bougoumou on December 3 and 4, 2018, and that the members have a number of questions and comments they would like the proponent to address (detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

9) Other business

a. Presentation and discussion with Dick McCollough at 9:00 a.m.

Feedback on the presentation

- At COMEX's request, Dick McCollough, an economist at the Direction des évaluations environnementales et stratégiques, explained the notions of cost-benefit analysis to the members. This type of analysis can be used to evaluate the social and economic opportunity or profitability of projects submitted to COMEX for review.
- The preliminary version of a handbook on simplified cost-benefit analysis was given to COMEX for its information and use.
- Feedback on the presentation: the members greatly appreciated the presentation, as it gave them a grasp of concepts not fully understood by COMEX and enabled them to see the advantages of such a decision-support system for evaluating the economic aspects of projects submitted for review by COMEX. It was suggested that COMEX pursue this initiative further, starting by reading the handbook and then continuing the discussion among the members with a view to including cost-benefit analysis in the project review process.

b. Galaxy Lithium project: discussion on the stages to come

An impact study for the Galaxy Lithium project is expected in the coming weeks.

c. Short course to be given at the Québec Mines congress

The Chairperson brought the members up to speed on the short course on the integration of climate change considerations into mining projects to be given on October 19, 2018. MERN has confirmed that the course will be given.

10) Next meetings

- a.** November 19, 2018, Québec

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: September 10 to October 16, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion project Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Carlo Gagliardi Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Monitoring of mercury levels in fish (2016)	Sent: September 4, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Monitoring of mercury levels in fish (2016)	Sent: September 12, 2018 Received by COMEX: September 12, 2018	<i>For information</i>
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert diversion project Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Benoit Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Monitoring by the proponent – Monitoring of the Rupert River landscape-2015	Sent: September 10, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Monitoring by the proponent – Monitoring of the Rupert River landscape-2015	Sent: September 18, 2018 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2018	<i>For information</i>
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: September 14, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 17, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Pascal Tremblay Chapais Énergie inc.	Request to amend the certificate of authorization Questions and comments	Sent: September 19, 2018 Received by COMEX: September 19, 2018	
Project to operate the Langlois Mine Ref. No.: 3214-14-026	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Luc Laforge Nyrstar Langlois	Request to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: September 18, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 18, 2018	

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: September 10 to October 16, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Connecting the Rose Lithium – Tantalum Mine and Relocating a Segment of the 315-kV Line, Hydro-Québec TransÉnergie Ref. No.: 3214-09-028	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Environmental and social impact statement Questions and comments	Sent: September 27, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 28, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Guy Côté Hydro-Québec	Environmental and social impact statement Questions and comments	Sent: October 10, 2018 Received by COMEX: October 11, 2018	
Project to mine and process 900 000 tonnes of gold ore at the Bachelor Lake mine site, Metanor Resources Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-027	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Environmental monitoring report for 2017	Sent: September 27, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: September 28, 2018	
Solid waste disposal site in Waswanipi, Cree First Nation of Waswanipi Ref. No.: 3214-16-068	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Jonathan Sutherland Waswanipi Cree First Nation	Update to the conditions of the certificate of authorization	Sent: September 11, 2018 Received by COMEX: September 12, 2018	<i>For information</i>
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamond (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Martin Boucher Stornoway Diamond (Canada) Inc.	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Environmental and social monitoring report for 2017	Sent: September 26, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Environmental and social monitoring report for 2017	Sent: October 3, 2018 Received by COMEX: October 5, 2018	<i>For information</i>
Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: September 10 to October 16, 2018					

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Construction of forest roads “H, Section west” and “I” Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Alexis Deshaies EnviroCri	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6)	Sent: September 21, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6)	Sent: October 2, 2018 Received by COMEX: October 2, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Alexis Deshaies EnviroCri	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Additional information (Conditions 3 and 9)	Sent: September 26, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information (Conditions 3 and 9)	Sent: September 26, 2018 Received by COMEX: October 2, 2018	<i>For information</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Michel Sigouin Eacom Timber Corporation	Publication of documents on the COMEX website	Sent: October 4, 2018	
	Michel Sigouin Eacom Timber Corporation	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Publication of documents on the COMEX website	Sent: October 11, 2018 (by email) - refusal	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Michel Sigouin Eacom Timber Corporation	Publication of documents on the COMEX website and sensitive or confidential nature of certain information	Sent: October 11, 2018 (by email)	
	Michel Sigouin Eacom Timber Corporation	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Publication of documents on the COMEX website and sensitive or confidential nature of certain information	Sent: October 11, 2018 (by email) – Waiting for reply from the monitoring committee	
Annual Report 2017-2018, Cree-Québec Forestry Board	Hervé Deschênes Chairperson	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Annual Report 2017-2018	Sent: September 25, 2018 (by email)	<i>For information</i>

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: September 10 to October 16, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
COMEX Annual Report 2017-2018	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	COMEX Annual Report 2017-2018	Sent: September 14, 2018	
		Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator			
		Jean-Yves Savaria Chairperson - JBACE			
		Mireille Paul MDDELCC			
		Yves Rochon MDDELCC			
		Caroline Girard Chairperson – HFTCC	COMEX Annual Report 2017-2018	Sent: September 17, 2018	
		Hervé Deschênes Chairperson - CQFB			
		Fred Tomatuk Cree Trappers Association			
		Grand Chief Abel Bosum Cree Nation Government			
		Chiefs and deputy chiefs of all Cree communities			

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: September 10 to October 16, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Jacqueline Leroux BlackRock Metals	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Supplementary information to the request to amend the global CA and follow-up to condition 16 of the global CA issued on December 6, 2013	Sent: August 30, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: September 13, 2018 Received by COMEX: September 13, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Jacqueline Leroux BlackRock Metals	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Mine feasibility study	Sent: September 28, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: October 12, 2018 Received by COMEX: October 15, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Jacqueline Leroux BlackRock Metals	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	Air quality modelling for the mine site and answers to MDDELCC questions 129 to 143	Sent: September 28, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: October 12, 2018 Received by COMEX: October 15, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Jacqueline Leroux BlackRock Metals	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MDDELCC	English summary of the requested amendment and translation of the summary of MDDELCC's questions	Sent: October 3, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: October 12, 2018 Received by COMEX: October 15, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Chief Curtis Bosum Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation	Public hearings	Sent: October 1, 2018	
	Chief Curtis Bosum Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Public hearings	Sent: October 17, 2018	