

1) Meeting 369A – held on December 4, 2018: Considering the urgency of two amendment requests in respect of which the COMEX members felt they had all the information needed to make a recommendation, it was agreed to hold a conference call for that purpose.

a. Whabouchi mining project, Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.

REF. No.: 3214-14-052

- Relocation of the temporary construction camp (amendment to CA) – for recommendation

WHEREAS on November 29, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the certificate of authorization for the relocation of the temporary construction camp for the Whabouchi mining project;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that the requested amendment be authorized;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1217-01A: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that he approve the relocation of the temporary construction camp, subject to certain conditions (detailed in the letter).*

- Condition 1: *For information purposes, the proponent's annual report must include a follow-up on the installation and performance of the wastewater treatment system for the construction camp as well as details on the effluent discharge site.*
- Condition 2: *In the event that the proponent contemplates extending the period of use of the temporary camp or dismantling the camp after April 1, 2020, it must submit to the Administrator, for approval, a request to amend the certificate of authorization.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

b. Project to increase untreated peels storage capacity for the Chapais Énergie cogeneration plant

REF. No.: 3214-10-012

- Additional information on the temporary diversion of stormwater (amendment to CA) – for recommendation

WHEREAS on November 28, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the certificate of authorization for temporary diversion of stormwater for the project to increase the untreated peels storage capacity for the Chapais Énergie cogeneration plant;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that the requested amendment be authorized;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1217-01B: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that he approve the temporary diversion of stormwater, subject to certain conditions (detailed in the letter).*

- Condition 1: *No later than ten (10) months following approval of the requested amendment, the proponent must submit to the Administrator, for approval, the planned wastewater management system for its project site. It must demonstrate how the system will ensure compliance with the applicable discharge standards. The system must come on line no later than December 31, 2019. The request must include a description of the potential restoration work on previous discharge sites.*
- Condition 2: *Wastewater monitoring must be carried out and in such a way as to collect all the data required to design a wastewater management system, such as quality parameters and flow measurements. A wastewater management program must be submitted to the Administrator, for information purposes, no later than one (1) month following approval of the request.*
- Condition 3: *No later than ten (10) months following authorization of the request, the proponent must submit to the Administrator, for information purposes, the results of monitoring carried out for the purpose of designing a wastewater management system.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

2) Meeting 369B – held on December 17, 2018: Call to order and adoption of the agenda

- a. The agenda was adopted with the following item added to "Other business":
 - Power transmission line for the BlackRock project: update

3) Adoption of the minutes of the 368th meeting

The minutes of the 368th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 368th meeting minutes

4) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from November 19 to December 16, 2018 are presented in Appendix A.

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

REF. No.: 3214-14-050

- a. Update to additional analyses
- b. Public hearings
 - For discussion

The BlackRock mining project was discussed, in particular the public hearings to be held in Chibougamau and Oujé-Bougoumou on December 3 and 4, 2018.

COMEX is still waiting to receive the expert opinions on the supplementary documents submitted by the proponent. Once all of the opinions have been received, along with the proponent's responses to the second series of questions and comments, a third series of questions and comments will be sent to the proponent based on the opinions and responses as well as on all the questions raised during the public hearings.

6) Renard Diamond Project

REF. No.: 3214-14-041

- a. Supplementary information – Wetland compensation plan (amendment to CA)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on January 20, 2015, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the certificate of authorization for the wetland compensation plan for the Renard Diamond Project and subsequently received additional information on October 28, 2016;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and consider that the research projects, as proposed by the proponent, are highly relevant and are what all of the experts consulted during COMEX's review wanted to see;

WHEREAS, in addition, COMEX thinks that it is imperative to make a recommendation on the environmental and social monitoring plan as well as the related monitoring reports already submitted by the proponent, but it has not yet received the necessary analyses to make such recommendations;

CONSEQUENTLY, the COMEX members decided:

#2018-1217-02: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that he approve the wetland compensation plan, subject to certain conditions (detailed in the letter).*

- Condition 1: *No later than one year before the scheduled end of operations, the proponent must submit, for approval, one or more wetland and/or body of water compensation projects. The proposed developments/enhancements must be designed so as to, among other things, create a diversity of functional ecosystems on the mine site during its restoration and compensate for lost wetland and bodies of water. The proponent must also submit a development/enhancement and monitoring schedule.*
- Condition 2: *The proponent must submit to the Administrator, for information purposes, the results, analyses, shapefiles, selected elements of ecological value (elements related to ecohydrological dynamics, biogeochemical dynamics, biodiversity, carbon capture, etc.), arguments, decision support tools and any other relevant element as soon as they are available.*
- Condition 3: *The proponent must provide more details, including its contribution, on the second research project proposed to enable a more in-depth assessment of the ecohydrological and biogeochemical dynamics of boreal peatlands.*
- Condition 4: *Considering wetlands' contribution to carbon sequestration, and in order to give greater consideration to the cumulative effects of wetland disturbance caused by the compensation projects under condition 1, the proponent must determine the total amount of GHG emissions from peatland disturbance. In determining the GHG emissions from terrestrial carbon release, it is recommended that the proponent refer to the document entitled "Synthèse de la valeur et la répartition de carbone terrestre au Québec" published by the MELCC.¹*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

#2018-1217-03: Contact the MELCC to follow up on the matter.

¹ http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/changementsclimatiques/Rapport_final.PDF. By Professor Michelle Garneau and postdoctoral trainee Simon Van Bellen.

Action: Vanessa Chalifour will ensure the follow up with the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers et de l'évaluation environnementale stratégique at the MELCC. A file update will be put on the agenda of the next COMEX meeting.

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 **(waiting to receive the 2nd characterization report)**
- b.** Measures to protect threatened or vulnerable species (Condition 6)
 - For information

The COMEX members are still waiting to receive the second characterization report before making a recommendation. As specified in its letter of October 22, 2018 to the Administrator, once the report has been received and reviewed, COMEX will send its recommendation on the whole project to the Provincial Administrator.

8) Other business

- a. Consideration of climate change: interdepartmental working meeting with COMEX (1st quarter 2019)**

Mireille Paul, director of environmental assessment of northern and mining projects and strategic environmental assessment at the MELCC, proposed that a meeting be held between COMEX, the MERN and MELCC to share knowledge and ways to consider climate change in project reviews. A half-day meeting could be held in the first quarter of 2019. The chairperson will follow up on the matter.

- b. Presentation of Whabouchi and Renard research projects (beginning of April)**

Given the importance COMEX gives to the research projects carried out for the wetland compensation plans for the Renard and Whabouchi mining projects, Suzann Méthot suggested holding a meeting so that the researchers and proponents of each of these projects can give a presentation and discuss the results of current research and the prospects for applying the data and tools generated by the projects. The meeting could possibly be held on April 4, 2019. Ms. Méthot will follow up on the matter.

c. BlackRock power transmission line: update

The chairperson asked the COMEX members to go over the original certificate of authorization for the BlackRock power line to see if the conditions are still relevant and consistent with COMEX's recent recommendations for similar projects.

d. James Bay Lithium Mine Project (Galaxy): presentation by proponent at 9:00 a.m.

A meeting was held between COMEX members and Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. to make sure that everyone clearly understood the review process for Galaxy's James Bay Lithium Mine Project. Denis Couture, General Manager Canada, Gail Amyot, Health, Safety and Environment Director, and Gillian Roy, Communications and Community Relations Manager, represented Galaxy.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the proponent to present its project to the members of COMEX and for the members to voice their expectations in respect of the project and explain the next steps in the review process.

9) Next meetings

- a.** January 28-30, 2019, Chisasibi
- b.** February 28, 2019, Montréal
- c.** April 3, 2019, Montréal

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: November 19 to December 16, 2018					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Whabouchi mining project, Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Mireille Paul MELCC	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.	Amendment to the CA Residual materials management during the operation phase Condition 17	Sent: November 21, 2018 Received by COMEX: November 21, 2018	
	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Request to amend the global CA Relocation of the temporary construction camp	Sent: November 23, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: November 29, 2018 Received by COMEX: November 29, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Request to amend the global CA Relocation of the temporary construction camp: COMEX's recommendation	Sent: December 10, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: December 11, 2018	
Renard Diamond Project Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Mireille Paul MELCC	Martin Boucher Stornoway Diamond (Canada) Inc.	Amendment to the CA Second development related to the fish habitat compensation program	Sent: November 21, 2018 Received by COMEX: November 21, 2018	
Eleonore mine site in James Bay, Opinaca Mines Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-042	Mireille Paul MELCC	France Trépanier Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Annual environmental monitoring and follow-up report, 2017	Sent: November 21, 2018 Received by COMEX: November 22, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	France Trépanier Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Publication of documents on COMEX's website	Sent: November 30, 2018	
Troilus mining project, First Quantum Minerals Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Brianna Davies Troilus Gold Corp.	Publication of documents on COMEX's website	Sent: November 30, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Annual reports on post-closure environmental monitoring and follow-up, 2015, 2016 and 2017	Sent: November 26, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: November 27, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Brianna Davies Troilus Gold Corp.		Sent: December 4, 2018 Received by COMEX: December 4, 2018	

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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 MELCC	Measures to protect threatened or vulnerable wildlife species (Condition 6)	Sent: November 16, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Measures to protect threatened or vulnerable wildlife species (Condition 6)	Sent: November 27, 2018 Received by COMEX: November 27, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
Project to increase untreated peels storage capacity for the Chapais Énergie cogeneration plant Ref. No.: 3214-10-012	Pascal Tremblay Chapais Énergie SEC	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information on the temporary diversion of stormwater	Sent: November 27, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: November 28, 2018 Received by COMEX: November 29, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information on the temporary diversion of stormwater: COMEX’s recommendation	Sent: December 10, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: December 11, 2018	
Project to develop an iron-vanadium deposit, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Audrey Lachance BlackRock Metals Inc.	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information: Physicochemical characterization prior to implementation of an industrial project and Rehabilitation and Restoration Plan	Sent: November 23, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: November 30, 2018 Received by COMEX: November 30, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Audrey Lachance BlackRock Metals Inc.	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information: Hauling of concentrate	Sent: November 26, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: December 6, 2018 Received by COMEX: December 4, 2018	<i>For recommendation</i>

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Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Eastmain 1-A/Rupert hydroelectric project, Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Monitoring of juvenile sturgeon and other target species at KP 205 and KP 230 on Rupert River (2016)	Sent: November 28, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: November 29, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Monitoring of Rupert River landscape-2015	Sent: December 11, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: December 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	Mireille Paul MELCC	Pascal Hamelin Metanor Resources Inc.	Follow-up to condition 18: Updated restoration plan	Sent: December 3, 2018 Received by COMEX: December 4, 2018	
Meeting between COMEX and the JBACE	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Jean-Yves Savaria JBACE	Meeting between COMEX and the JBACE	Sent: November 27, 2018	
	Michèle Leduc-Lapierre JBACE	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Follow-up to the meeting between COMEX and the JBACE	Sent: November 30, 2018	
Publication of brief on BlackRock's mining project	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Norman Wapachee	Publication of brief on COMEX's website	Sent: December 12, 2018	
	Norman Wapachee	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: December 12, 2018	<i>The map provided with the brief is to remain confidential and must not be posted on COMEX's website.</i>

