

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

- a. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following item:
 - Eleonore project: Opinagow Environment Committee

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 369th meeting

The minutes of the 369th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 369th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from December 17, 2018 to January 27, 2019 are presented in Appendix A.

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

REF. NO.: 3214-14-050

- a. Update to additional analyses (QC3)
- b. Public hearings – analysis report
 - For discussion

The BlackRock mining project was discussed, in particular the essential information needed in order for COMEX to make a recommendation to the Provincial Administrator. The members wonder why the committee has not yet received the essential information needed to review the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization, considering that most of the information to be provided was stipulated in the conditions set forth in the certificate of authorization issued for this project more than five (5) years ago.

At this point, information relating to ore haulage is critical to completing the review process in order to make a recommendation. COMEX is also waiting to receive the financial details pertaining to transportation, as well as the community of Oujé-Bougoumou's position.

In addition, COMEX is still waiting to receive the proponent's responses to the second set of questions and comments and an overall assessment of the responses. Once the proponent's responses have been received, a third set of questions and comments will be sent to the proponent, including the questions and comments raised during the public hearings held on December 3 and 4, 2018. Depending on the quality of the proponent's responses to the second set of questions, COMEX might be able to make a recommendation even if its review raises more questions. However, the members want to avoid putting off vital requirements incumbent upon the proponent by pushing back the deadline fixed in the conditions stipulated in the certificate of authorization.

COMEX might hold a conference call to discuss the matter before the February 28, 2019 meeting.

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

REF. No.: 3214-05-075

- a.** Second natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6) – Request to amend CA
- b.** Additional information (Condition 9)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on January 7, 2019, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the second natural environment characterization report for forest roads “H, Section west” and “I” and also received, for information purposes, additional information regarding Condition 9 of the certificate of authorization issued on April 28, 2016;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the second natural environment characterization report submitted by the proponent and are generally satisfied with the characterization and the protection measures promised by the proponent, subject to four more conditions the committee will recommend;

WHEREAS the members believe that the protection of woodland caribou remains of vital importance and that the government has yet to take concrete, structuring actions with an overarching view to safeguarding and ensuring recovery of the species;

WHEREAS completion of the government’s Woodland Caribou Habitat Stewardship Plan and, especially, the planned implementation of a long-term strategy for woodland caribou habitat management are still as important today as ever, and considering that if no such strategy is part and parcel of all natural resource development activities in the North, woodland caribou recovery and conservation will be impossible;

WHEREAS the community, and COMEX, still have concerns related to the construction of forest roads “H, Section west” and “I” (protection of woodland caribou, establishment of protected areas, forest management, opening up of the territory), and whereas meetings are to be held in Waswanipi in the coming days to discuss the matter at the local level, the COMEX members prefer to wait to see the outcome of those meetings before making their final recommendations;

It was decided:

#2019-0128-01: Subject to the outcome of the discussions in Waswanipi, which Jean-Paul Murdoch will be attending - to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and recommend that the natural environment characterization reports and the proposed protection measures be approved, subject to certain conditions and comments (detailed in the letter).

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) Eastmain-1A/Rupert hydroelectric project

REF. No.: 3214-10-017

- a. Fish mercury monitoring – 2014 report
- b. Fish mercury monitoring – 2016 report

WHEREAS on July 8, 2016 and September 2, 2018, respectively, COMEX received, for information purposes, the 2014 and 2016 reports on fish mercury monitoring;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and are waiting for the next monitoring campaign to be carried out in 2021, which will make it possible to validate the assumptions and trends observed to date as well as the return to the mercury targets set in the fish monitoring program;

It was decided:

#2019-0128-02: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and are waiting to see the results of the next mercury monitoring campaign in 2021 (detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

- c. Eelgrass monitoring on the northeast coast of James Bay – 2014 report
 - For information

WHEREAS on December 19, 2017, COMEX received, for information purposes, the 2014 report on eelgrass monitoring on the northeast coast of James Bay under the Eastmain 1A/Rupert hydroelectric project. COMEX considers eelgrass monitoring to be long term, as it is tied to the same component of the environmental follow-up program carried out by the proponent since the La Grande-2-A and La Grande 1 hydroelectric projects;

WHEREAS in conjunction with its review of the results contained in the above-mentioned report, COMEX will take advantage of its time in Chisasibi and the discussions with participants at an interdisciplinary symposium on eelgrass, coastal habitats and avifauna in Eeyou Istchee, organized by Niskamoon Corporation;

It was decided:

#2019-0128-03: *to write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and are waiting to see the results of the next monitoring campaign in 2019 (detailed in the letter).*

7) Other business

a. Renard Diamond Project: status

A new person is in charge of this project at the MELCC. An update on the project analysis will be provided at the next meeting.

b. Document transmission in electronic and paper form

In keeping with the goal of reducing paper consumption and also for practical and efficiency purposes, the members each expressed their preferences regarding the transmission and use of PDF documents. Their preferences will be taken into consideration when the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers requests documents from proponents.

#2019-0128-04: The Executive Secretary will make sure that the Direction des évaluations environnementales des projets nordiques et miniers considers the needs expressed by COMEX members with regard to the use of electronic and paper documents.

c. Eleonore mining project: Opinagow Environment Committee

Due to a lack of time, discussion of this item was deferred to COMEX's next meeting.

8) Next meetings

- a.** February 28, 2019, Montréal
- b.** April 3, 2019, Montréal
- c.** May 7, 2019, Montréal
- d.** June 18, 2019, Montréal
- e.** July 17-18, 2019, Eastmain (to be confirmed)

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: December 17, 2018 to January 27, 2019					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamond (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Request to amend the CA Wetland compensation plan: COMEX's recommendation	Sent: December 18, 2018 Acknowledgement of receipt: December 19, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Martin Boucher Stornoway Diamond (Canada) Inc.	Amendment to the CA Wetland compensation plan	Sent: December 21, 2018 Received by COMEX: January 7, 2019	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Martin Boucher Stornoway Diamond (Canada) Inc.	Publication of documents on COMEX website	Sent: January 16, 2019	
Whabouchi 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 Relocation of the temporary construction camp	Sent: December 21, 2018 Received by COMEX: January 7, 2019	
Eastmain-1A/Rupert hydroelectric project Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Mireille Paul MELCC	Benoit Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Monitoring of Rupert River landscape-2015	Sent: December 17, 2018 Received by COMEX: December 17, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Benoit Gagnon Hydro-Québec	Monitoring of juvenile sturgeon and other target species at KP 205 and KP 230 on Rupert River (2016)	Sent: December 17, 2018 Received by COMEX: December 17, 2018	
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Gail Amyot, Denis Couture and Gillian Roy Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.	Thank-you for the project presentation to COMEX	Sent: December 18, 2018	
	Gillian Roy Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Questions regarding possible public hearings	Sent: December 18, 2018	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Gillian Roy Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.	Follow-up on possible public hearings	Sent: December 18, 2018	

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Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	<i>No letter from proponent</i>				
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Consolidated summary of the request to amend the CA (French and English)	Sent: January 7, 2019 Received by COMEX: January 8, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Construction of forest roads “H, Section west” and “I” Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Alexies Deshaies EnviroCri	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Second natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6)	Sent: December 17, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information (Condition 9)	Sent: January 7, 2019 Received by COMEX: January 8, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Alexies Deshaies EnviroCri	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Second natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6)	Sent: January 14, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Additional information (Condition 9) – FR English version in electronic format	Sent: January 15, 2019 Received by COMEX: January 16, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Second natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6) Additional information (Condition 9) - EN	Sent: January 23, 2019 Received by COMEX: January 23, 2019	<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	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Answers to additional questions – Request to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: December 21, 2018	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: January 15, 2019 Received by COMEX: January 15, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>

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Presentation of Stornoway and Whabouchi research projects	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Simon Thibault (Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.) and Martin Boucher (Stornoway Diamond (Canada) Inc.)	Presentation of Stornoway and Whabouchi research projects	Sent: December 18, 2018	
	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Presentation of Stornoway and Whabouchi research projects	Sent: December 18, 2018	