



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
371st MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Adopted)**

DATE: February 28, 2019

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 (by telephone)
Brian Craik, CNG

Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

- a. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following item:
 - Meeting with the Minister of the Environment
 - Meeting with the Deputy Minister and the Associate Deputy Minister of Mines at MERN

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 370th meeting

The minutes of the 370th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 370th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from January 28 to February 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. Proponent's responses to the 2nd set of questions and comments
 - For discussion and recommendation

BlackRock's mining project, particularly ore haulage, was discussed. Two conference calls are scheduled, on March 7 and 14, 2019, to finalize the project review.

WHEREAS on December 15, 2017, COMEX received, for its recommendation, a request to amend the general certificate of authorization issued for BlackRock Metals' project to develop an iron-vanadium deposit;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and COMEX held public hearings in Oujé-Bougoumou and Chibougamau on December 3 and 4, 2018, respectively, COMEX is recommending that the Provincial Administrator authorize the proposed change to the project on the condition that the proponent honour its commitments and comply with the stipulated conditions, which are in addition to those already stipulated in the overall authorization for the project. This recommendation is valid for 5 years as of the date of issuance of the amendment;

#2019-0228-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent as well as the opinions expressed during the public hearings and recommend that he authorize the requested amendment on numerous conditions (Recommendation detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

5) James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-055

- a. Environmental and social impact assessment
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on November 8, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the environmental and social impact assessment report for Galaxy Lithium's James Bay Lithium Mine Project;

The COMEX members took turns expressing their thoughts on the first set of questions and comments. A revised questions and comments document will be sent to all of the members before COMEX's next meeting. The document will be finalized no later than the meeting on April 3, 2019.

6) Wood pellet production plant in Chapais

Ref. No.: 3214-23-005

- a. Follow-up to condition 1 of the general CA
- b. Follow-up to conditions 2 to 8 of the general CA
 - For information and recommendation

WHEREAS on May 31, 2018, COMEX received, for approval and information purposes, the follow-up to conditions 2 to 8 of the general certificate of authorization for the planned wood pellet production plant in Chapais;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and have a number of comments to make regarding the conditions;

#2019-0228-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the information provided by the proponent and wish to make a number of comments regarding the follow-up of conditions (comments detailed in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

7) Other business

a. Renard Diamond Project: status

An update on the project analysis was provided. COMEX was informed that a new person is in charge of the project file and that the analysis follow-ups will be received soon.

b. Eleonore mining project: Opinagow Environment Committee

The Chairperson reported on the Opinagow Environment Committee's meeting in January 2019, which the proponent had invited her to attend. Suzann Méthot noted the dynamic and collaborative relationship between the proponent and the tallyman affected by the project. The meeting provided an opportunity to clarify COMEX's expectations in terms of reporting on the Environment Committee's meetings in the annual reports to be submitted by the proponent.

c. Meeting with the JBACE

The JBACE contacted the Chairperson seeking more information about the request for a meeting that COMEX sent to the Advisory Committee on November 27, 2018. COMEX is waiting to hear back from the JBACE.

d. Energy transition: meeting with Hydro-Québec

The Chairperson, accompanied by Robert Joly, met with representatives from the Direction principale – Expérience client-vente et fidélisation (customer experience, sales and loyalty) at Hydro-Québec to get a better understanding of the issues raised by the energy demands of projects to electrify the utility's operations in the north.

e. Meeting with the Minister of the Environment

The Chairperson reported on the discussions that took place during a meeting with the new Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change at the Montréal office on February 18, 2019. During the meeting, the Chairperson got a chance to explain COMEX's mandate and activities from her perspective, as well as the progress made by COMEX in integrating climate change and energy transition into project reviews.

f. Meeting with the Deputy Minister and the Associate Deputy Minister of Mines at MERN

The Chairperson reported on the discussions that took place during a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Dominique Savoie, and the Associate Deputy Minister of Mines, Nathalie Camden, at MERN on February 20, 2019. Following up on the collaborative initiative with MERN to integrate climate change into COMEX's project reviews, the Chairperson reported on the progress made. MERN is satisfied with how the initiative is going as well as with how COMEX is using some of the department's publications in its project reviews. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss COMEX's recommendations regarding the "energy transition" of projects and issues relating to the quality of impact assessments that can affect how long the review process takes. MERN is aware of the issue and, with a view to optimizing decision making, is currently in discussions with the MELCC.

8) Next meetings

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

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: January 28 to February 27, 2019					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Eastmain-1-A/Rupert hydroelectric project Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Fish mercury monitoring – 2014 and 2016 reports	Sent: February 1, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: February 4, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Benoit Gagnon Hydro-Québec		Sent: February 21, 2019 Received by COMEX: February 22, 2019	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Eelgrass monitoring on the northeast coast of James Bay – 2014 report	Sent: February 14, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: February 14, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Benoit Gagnon Hydro-Québec		Sent: February 21, 2019 Received by COMEX: February 22, 2019	
Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Yves Desrosiers BlackRock Metals Inc.	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Responses to the 2nd set of questions and comments – French and English	Sent: January 22, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: February 1, 2019 Received by COMEX: February 1, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Chief Curtis Bosum Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Ballyhusky agreement (confidential)	Sent: February 28, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: February 11, 2019 Received by COMEX: February 11, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Yves Desrosiers BlackRock Metals Inc.	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Response to QC2-25 (confidential)	Sent: January 22, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: February 11, 2019 Received by COMEX: February 11, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Troilus mining project Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Daniel Bergeron Troilus	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Request to meet with COMEX	Sent: January 30, 2019	
	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Daniel Bergeron Troilus		Sent: February 6, 2019	
Construction of forest roads “H, Section west” and “I” Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Natural environment characterization report (Conditions 5 and 6) COMEX’s recommendation	Sent: February 11, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: February 12, 2019	

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: January 28 to February 27, 2019					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, Critical Elements Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Jean Lavoie WSP	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Responses to questions and comments	Sent: February 11, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: February 21, 2019 Received by COMEX: February 22, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Langlois mining project, Nyrstar Ref. No.: 3214-14-026	Fortunato Coppola Stantec	Patrick Beauchesne Deputy Minister MELCC	Request to amend the certificate of authorization: effluent discharges	Sent: February 6, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Suzann Méthot COMEX		Sent: February 18, 2019 Received by COMEX: February 19, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Congratulations and request to meet	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Congratulations and request to meet	Sent: February 11, 2019	
Symposium on eelgrass	Suzann Méthot COMEX	Marc Dunn Niskamoon Corporation	Thank-you letter Symposium on eelgrass	Sent: February 8, 2019	