

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

#### MINUTES OF THE

## 376<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

(ADOPTED)

**DATE:** August 27, 2019

**PLACE:** Cree Nation Government office

700, rue de la Gauchetière, suite 1600

Montréal (Québec) H3B 5M2

PRESENT: Luc Lainé, Chairperson, Québec

Robert Joly, Québec John Paul Murdoch, CNG

Brian Craik, CNG

Tina Petawabano, Cree Nation Government Director of

Federal and Indigenous Relations

Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary

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

The agenda was adopted as presented.

## 2) Adoption of the minutes of the 375th meeting

The minutes of the 375<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted as presented.

## Action: Translate and file the 375th meeting minutes

### 3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from July 16 to August 27, 2019 are presented in Appendix A.

## 4) Whabouchi Mine Project, Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-052

**a.** Wetland compensation plan (amendment to CA) – *for discussion* 

> For recommendation

WHEREAS on November 13, 2018, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the application to amend the certificate of authorization for the wetland compensation plan for the Whabouchi project;

Once COMEX has studied the answers to its questions and comments regarding the requested amendment for optimization of mining operations during the operation phase of the project, which could change the surface area of wetlands, and has made its recommendation, it will be able to make a recommendation regarding the present application for amendment.

### 5) Troilus Mine Project, Troilus Gold Corp.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-025

a. Annual report on post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection, 2018
 ▶ For information

WHEREAS on April 11, 2019, COMEX received, for information purposes, the 2018 annual report on post-closure environmental monitoring and inspection for the Troilus mine;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and note that the site restoration only partially meets the final objectives of the mine closure plan. Although many steps in the restoration process have been completed, a number of elements need to be improved and completed. In addition, the 2018 annual report mentions several times that, owing to ongoing exploration activities, implementation of the restoration plan has been suspended;

Notwithstanding the mineral exploration under way on the former Troilus mine site and the possible reopening of the mine, it is crucial that the restoration work continue in order to improve the quality of mine wastewater. Consequently, the restoration work must continue as stipulated in the certificate of authorization. Accordingly, the proponent must rethink its position and describe the restoration work to be carried out in 2019 and subsequent years.

**#2019-0827-01:** write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and would like additional information on various aspects of the project that they believe need to be clarified.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator Send questions and comments

## 6) Renard Diamond Project

Ref. No.: 3214-14-041

a. Increase in ore extraction and processing rate (amendment to CA)

> For recommendation

WHEREAS on June 10, 2019, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the application to amend the certificate of authorization to increase the ore extraction and processing rate for the Renard Diamond Mine;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and would like additional information on various aspects of the project that they believe need to be clarified;

**#2019-0827-02:** write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and would like additional information on various aspects of the project that they believe need to be clarified.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator Send questions and comments

## 7) Wood pellet production plant in Chapais, Barrette-Chapais Ltée

Ref. No.: 3214-23-005

- a. Conditions 9 and 11 (amendment to CA)
  - > For recommendation

WHEREAS on August 12, 2019, COMEX received, for its recommendation, an application to amend conditions 9 and 11 of the certificate of authorization for the wood pellet production plant project in Chapais;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization;

**#2019-0827-03:** write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization, subject to three conditions (recommendation in the letter).

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator Send recommendation

8) Eleonore Mine Project, Opinaca Mines Ltd.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-042

- a. Overall follow-up program and condition 6.1 (amendment to CA)
  - > For recommendation

WHEREAS on March 7, 2019, COMEX received, for its recommendation, the application to amend the certificate of authorization for the overall follow-up program and condition 6.1 for the Eleonore Mine Project and whereas the answers to the questions and comments sent in May 2019 were received on August 1, 2019;

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and, on the whole, deem the adjustments made to the global follow-up program to be acceptable or to update the program further to the amendments already authorized, and whereas the proponent's answers to the questions and comments sent in May 2019 shed greater light on certain elements of the program, COMEX therefore recommends that the wording of conditions 2, 5, 6.1 and 11 be amended;

**#2019-0827-04:** write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and recommend that the wording of conditions 2, 5, 6.1 and 11 be amended.

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

Send recommendation

## 9) Other business

## a. Cree-Québec Mining Table

The planned amendments to the *Mining Act* as well as the status of current mining projects were discussed by the Cree-Québec Mining Table.

## b. Galaxy Lithium and Rose Lithium-Tantalum projects

The Québec members of COMEX were informed that an agreement had been reached between the Government of Canada and the Cree Nation Government regarding consultations in the communities affected by the James Bay Lithium and Rose Lithium-Tantalum mining projects. Moreover, consultations on the James Bay Lithium Mine project are planned for September 24, 2019.

## 10) Next meetings

- a. October 2, 2019, Québec
- b. October 31, 2019, Montréal (COMEX office)
- c. December 4, 2019, Québec

# Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: July 16 to August 26, 2019

Project	From	То	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Whabouchi Mine Project, Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Environmental and social monitoring program Air quality monitoring	Sent: July 24, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 24, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.		Sent: July 31, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 5, 2019	
Whabouchi Mine Project, Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-052	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization Optimization of planned mining operations during the operation phase Questions and comments	Sent: July 24, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 24, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Simon Thibault Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.		Sent: July 31, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 5, 2019	
Eleonore Mine Project, Opinaca Mines Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-042	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization Expansion of Quarry C-02	Sent: July 24, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 24, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	France Trépanier Opinaca Mines Ltd.		Sent: August 13, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 13, 2019	
	Marjorie Bujold Newmont GoldCorp	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Environmental monitoring and follow-up report 2018	Sent: August 16, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: August 22, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 22, 2019	For information
Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the global certificate of authorization Monitoring of conditions 2 and 2.1	Sent: July 24, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 24, 2019	
	Yves Desrosiers BlackRock Metals Inc.	Marie-Lou Coulombe MELCC	Responses to conditions 2.2 (update), 25 and 33 (for information) and condition 9 (for approval)	Sent: August 7, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: August 13, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 13, 2019	For information For recommendation
Moblan Lithium Project, Lithium Guo Ao Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-062	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report Questions and comments	Sent: July 24, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: July 24, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Jun Gao Lithium Guo Ao Ltd.		Sent: August 5, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 5, 2019	

# Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: July 16 to August 26, 2019

Project	From	То	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Nibiischii national park project, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs Ref. No.: 3214-15-003	Alain Thibault MFFP	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: July 22, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: July 30, 2019 Received by COMEX: July 30, 2019	For recommendation
	Luc Lainé COMEX	Isabelle Tessier MFFP	Publication on COMEX's website	Sent: July 31, 2019	
Eleonore Mine Project, Opinaca Mines Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-042	France Trépanier Newmont Goldcorp	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Application to amend the global certificate of authorization Environmental monitoring program and condition 6.1 Answers to questions and comments	Sent: July 24, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: August 1, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 1, 2019	For recommendation
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Supplementary information to the environmental impact assessment	Sent: July 24, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX	Answers to questions and comments	Sent: July 31, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 5, 2019	For recommendation
Wood pellet production plant, Barrette-Chapais Ltée Ref. No.: 3214-23-005	Benoit Barrette Barrette-Chapais Ltée	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization Conditions 9 and 11	Sent: August 2, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: August 12, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 13, 2019	For recommendation
	Luc Lainé COMEX	Benoit Barrette Barrette-Chapais Ltée	Publication on COMEX's website	Sent: August 15, 2019	
	Benoit Barrette Barrette-Chapais Ltée	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Authorization to publish on COMEX's website	Sent: August 16, 2019	
Mining of an iron deposit located in the Lac Doré geological complex, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Yves Desrosiers BlackRock Metals Inc.	Amendment to the certificate of authorization – Change of holder	Sent: July 30, 2019 Received by COMEX: August 2, 2019	

#### Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: July 16 to August 26, 2019 To **Project** From Date **Action - Comments Document** Request for a meeting Marc Croteau Luc Lainé Request for a meeting with with COMEX's Sent: July 24, 2019 Deputy Minister COMEX COMEX's chairperson chairperson MELCC Best-practice guidance Best-Practice Guidance for for project proponents: Michèle Leduc-Project Proponents: Projectproject-related public Vanessa Chalifour Sent: August 6, 2019 Related Public Participation Lapierre Received by COMEX: August 6, 2019 participation and **COMEX** JBACE and Engagement in the James engagement in the James Bay Territory

Bay territory