



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
379th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(ADOPTED)**

DATE: December 4, 2019

PLACE: Édifice Marie-Guyart
675, boul. René-Lévesque Est
Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7

PRESENT: Luc Lainé, Chairperson
Daniel Berrouard, 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) Meeting with MELCC project managers

A meeting was held between COMEX members and MELCC project managers. Dominique Lavoie, director of environmental assessment of northern and mining projects and strategic environmental assessment (Direction de l'évaluation environnementale des projets nordiques et miniers et de l'évaluation environnementale stratégique) was also present. Everyone briefly introduced themselves and then discussed various matters related to COMEX's mandate and the work of project managers. By all appearances, it was a good experience, appreciated by both the COMEX and MELCC participants.

2) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3) Adoption of the minutes of the 378th meeting

The minutes of the 378th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 378th meeting minutes

4) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from October 31 to December 3 are presented in Appendix A.

5) Whabouchi Mine Project, Nemaska Lithium Whabouchi Mine Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-052

- a. Follow-up on condition 17 (residual materials management)
 - For information

WHEREAS on September 19, 2019, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, additional information regarding the management of residual materials during the operation phase (condition 17) of the Whabouchi Mine Project. The proponent had also sent information related to this condition in August 2018, discussing the steps taken to form a partnership for the purposes of integrated management of residual and recyclable materials at the regional level.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and find that the proponent provided the requested information regarding management of residual materials generated on site during mining operations. COMEX therefore deems that the requirements of condition 17 have been met, subject to approval of the new in-trench disposal site planned by the First Nation of Nemaska.

#2019-0412-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and find that the requirements of condition 17 have been met, subject to approval of the new in-trench disposal site planned by the First Nation of Nemaska.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

- b.** Follow-up on condition 18 (emergency response plan)
 - For information

WHEREAS on September 19, 2019, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, answers to the questions sent in September 2017 regarding the emergency response plan (condition 18) as well as the updated plan for the Whabouchi Mine project.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and find that the proponent provided the requested information regarding the emergency response plan. COMEX therefore deems that the requirements of condition 18 have been met. However, supplementary information in respect of certain elements must be provided by the proponent in the next update to its emergency response plan.

#2019-0412-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and find that the proponent provided the requested information regarding the emergency response plan. COMEX therefore deems that the requirements of condition 18 have been met. However, supplementary information in respect of certain elements must be provided by the proponent in the next update to its emergency response plan (comments in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

6) Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-050

- a.** Update to conditions 2.1 and 2.2 and response to condition 30 of the CA dated April 11, 2019
 - For information

WHEREAS on October 1, 2019, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, an update regarding conditions 2.1 and 2.2 and a follow-up on condition 30 of the certificate of authorization issued on April 11, 2019 for BlackRock Metal's project to mine an iron-vanadium deposit.

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.

#2019-0412-03: *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 (questions and comments in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Send questions and comments

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

Ref. No.: 3214-14-055

- a. Environmental and social impact assessment
- b. Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on July 31, 2019, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for its recommendation, the answers to the questions and comments sent in April 2019 in regards to Galaxy Lithium's James Bay Lithium Mine project.

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.

#2019-0412-04: *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 (questions and comments appended to the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Send questions and comments

8) Eleonore Mine Project, Opinaca Mines Ltd.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-042

- a. Environmental monitoring and surveillance annual report, 2018
 - For information

WHEREAS on August 22, 2019, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, Opinaca Mines' 2018 Annual Report – Environmental Monitoring and Surveillance at the Eleonore Mine Site.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and wish to send questions and comments on various aspects of the project that they believe need to be clarified.

#2019-0412-05: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and wish to send questions and comments on various aspects of the project that they believe need to be clarified (questions and comments in the letter).*

Action: **Write to the Provincial Administrator**
 Send questions and comments

9) Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-041

- a.** Environmental and social monitoring report, 2015-2016
- b.** Environmental and social monitoring report, 2017
- c.** Follow-up on the global CA conditions and 2017 and 2018 annual declarations for the Québec air emissions inventory
 - For information
- d.** Environmental and Social Monitoring Program – 2019 update
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS the Review Committee (COMEX) received the following documents for Stornoway Diamonds' Renard Diamond Project:

- 2015-2016 environmental and social monitoring report, received on October 18, 2017 (for information);
- Environmental and social monitoring report, received on October 3, 2018 (for information);
- Environmental and Social Monitoring Program – 2019 update, received on May 9, 2019 (for recommendation);
- Follow-up on conditions and global certificate of authorization and 2017 and 2018 annual declarations for the Québec air emissions inventory (for information).

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish to send questions and comments on various aspects of the project that they believe need to be clarified.

#2019-0412-06: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish to send questions and comments on various aspects of the project that they believe need to be clarified (questions and comments in the letter).*

Action: **Write to the Provincial Administrator**
 Send questions and comments

10) Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-14-041

- a. Application to amend the CA: Increase in ore extraction and processing rate
 - For recommendation

WHEREAS on June 10, 2019, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for its recommendation, an application to amend the certificate of authorization to increase the ore extraction and processing rate for Stornoway Diamonds' Renard mine. It also received, on November 11, 2019, the answers to the questions and comments sent in September 2019 in respect of the application. Additional information was received on December 6, 2019.

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

#2019-0412-07: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and recommend that the Provincial Administrator authorize the requested amendment to the certificate of authorization (recommendation in the letter).*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Send the recommendation

11) Other business

- a. **Request from Moblan Lithium Guo Ao Ltd to present its mining project to COMEX**

Vanessa Chalifour mentioned that she received a request from Lithium Guo Ao Ltd to meet with COMEX to give a progress report on its project. Considering that the project is still under review and that COMEX is waiting for the answers to the questions and comments it sent to the proponent in August 2019, it was decided to decline the request for a meeting. Vanessa Chalifour will follow up with the proponent to explain the decision.

- b. **Discussion between COMEX's executive secretary and the JBACE's executive secretary, Graeme Morin, on cumulative effects in the James Bay territory**

Vanessa Chalifour mentioned that she had a short telephone meeting with Graeme Morin of the JBACE to discuss cumulative effects in the James Bay territory. Further details regarding the work carried out by the JBACE will be sent to COMEX within the next few months.

The COMEX members also wish to reiterate its request to meet with the JBACE, initially sent in November 2018. Vanessa Chalifour will write a letter and send it to the JBACE.

Action: Write to the JBACE

c. Request for a meeting between the executive secretary and Tian Qi Che, a student at McGill University, regarding cumulative effects in the James Bay territory

Vanessa Chalifour mentioned that she received a request from a student at McGill University to meet with COMEX's executive secretary to discuss cumulative effects in the James Bay territory. Considering that much of the information sought by the student is public and that the issue of cumulative effects relates more to the regional level than the project level COMEX deals with, it was decided to decline the request for a meeting and instead refer the student to the JBACE. Vanessa Chalifour will follow up with the student to explain the decision.

d. Federal consultations on the Rose Lithium-Tantalum and James Bay Lithium mining projects

John Paul Murdoch informed the COMEX members that, further to the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Cree Nation Government in respect of the public consultations on the Rose Lithium-Tantalum and James Bay Lithium mining projects, a meeting could be organized between the Government of Canada and COMEX to discuss the possibility of coordinating the two consultation processes so as to avoid duplication.

After discussing the matter, the Committee decided to recommend that the federal government contact the Québec government in regards to this matter. John Paul Murdoch will pass the message along to the federal government.

12) Next meetings

- a.** January 15, 2020 – Montréal
- b.** February 19, 2020 – Québec
- c.** March 26, 2020 – Montréal
- d.** April 29, 2020 – Québec

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: October 31 to December 3, 2019					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Iron-vanadium mining project, BlackRock Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-050	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Follow-up on conditions – November 2019	Sent: November 5, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt: November 5, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Yves Desrosiers BlackRock Mines Inc.	Amended certificate of authorization Hydrogeological modelling study	Sent: November 12, 2019 Received by COMEX: November 13, 2019	
Development of a new landfill in Whapmagoostui, Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui Ref. No.: 3214-16-099	Luc Lainé COMEX	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	Recommendation	Sent: November 5, 2019	
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	George E. Pachano Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui	Certificate of authorization	Sent: November 13, 2019 Received by COMEX: November 13, 2019	
Renard Diamond Project Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Martin Boucher Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization Increase in ore extraction and processing rate Answers to questions and comments	Sent: October 28, 2019	
	Maud Ablain for Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: November 11, 2019 Received by COMEX: November 12, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Construction of forest roads “H, Section west” and “I”, Matériaux Blanchet Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Michel Sigouin EACOM Timber Corporation	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization	Sent: September 3, 2019	
	Michel Sigouin EACOM Timber Corporation	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Application to amend the certificate of authorization – Additional information	Sent: September 14, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX	Application to amend the certificate of authorization plus additional information	Sent: November 18, 2019 Received by COMEX: November 19, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Luc Lainé COMEX	Michel Sigouin EACOM Timber Corporation	Authorization of publication on COMEX’s website	Sent: November 19, 2019	

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: October 31 to December 3, 2019					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Research project on cumulative effects in the James Bay territory	Tian Qi Che Master's student at McGill University	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Request to meet with COMEX's executive secretary	Sent: November 14, 2019	
Moblan Lithium Project, Lithium Guo Ao Ltd Ref. No.: 3214-14-062	Nick Yao Neotec Lithium Ltd.	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Request to present the project to COMEX	Sent: November 19, 2019	
	Vanessa Chalifour COMEX	Nick Yao Neotec Lithium Ltd.	Request to present the project to COMEX	Sent: November 20, 2019	
Project to restore the Principale Mine, Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles Ref. No.: 3214-14-058	Renée Garon MERN	Luc Lainé COMEX	Authorization of publication on COMEX's website	Sent: November 26, 2019	