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DATE:	405A: June 14, 2022 405B: June 21, 2022
PLACE:	Video conference (Teams)
PRESENT:	Luc Lainé, Chairman Daniel Berrouard, Québec Robert Joly, Québec John Paul Murdoch, CNG Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary

1) Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 404th meeting

The minutes of the 404th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and file the 404th meeting minutes

3) Correspondence and follow-up action

Correspondence and follow-up action from May 26 to June 14, 2022 are presented in Appendix A.

4) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project

Ref. No.: 3214-10-017

- a) Overview of the restoration program for areas disturbed by the construction activities – Phase 1(2008) to 10 (2018)
 - For information

WHEREAS on January 14, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, a status report on the restoration of areas affected by the Eastmain-1-A powerhouse and Rupert River diversion project. The report was produced by Hydro-Québec in compliance with conditions 2.7 and 2.8 of the certificate of authorization dated November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorized dated July 28, 2008.

Restoration of disturbed areas was part of the planned mitigation measures for the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project. The restoration program describes quarries, borrow pits, sandpits, access roads, work camps and service areas used by contractors, as well as any storage and disposal areas in use during the project. The report represents an assessment of the restoration work carried out between 2008 and 2018. The restoration work included, among other things, revegetation, development of goose hunting ponds, the preservation of access roads, and the closure and decommissioning of work camps.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent. The COMEX would like the proponent to provide an assessment of the restoration results, regarding the effectiveness of the new methods used (wildlife enhancements, plant species used in revegetation), attainment of the objectives, and site rehabilitation. COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator to share these comments and ask that Hydro-Québec address COMEX's request.

#2022-0614-01: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and would like additional information from the proponent.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator
Request additional information

- b) Environmental follow-up of anadromous lake cisco – 2014-2015 study report and monitoring results (2008-2015)

WHEREAS on June 28, 2017, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the study report and monitoring results for cisco (whitefish) in Rupert River. The report was produced by Hydro-Québec in compliance with conditions 5.18 and 5.20 of the certificate of authorization dated November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization dated July 28, 2008.

The report describes the activities carried out in fall 2014 and spring 2015 as part of the follow-up program for anadromous cisco in Rupert River. The objective of the program was to characterize anadromous cisco and lake whitefish spawners in Rupert River, estimate the abundance of cisco larvae in the Rupert and Broadback rivers and, lastly, take stock of the follow-up program since its inception.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and COMEX would like to underscore the contribution and participation of the Waskaganish Cree community in the development and implementation of the follow-up program.

#2022-0614-02: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the documents submitted by the proponent and wish to underscore the contribution of the Waskaganish Cree community in the development and implementation of the lake cisco follow-up program.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

- c) Monitoring of fish communities and population dynamics in Rupert River – Environmental follow-up during the operation phase – 2016 study report

WHEREAS on January 14, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the study report on fish community monitoring in Rupert River. The report was produced by Hydro-Québec in compliance with condition 5.19 of the certificate of authorization dated November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization dated July 28, 2008.

Following the partial diversion of Rupert River in November 2009, Hydro-Québec began monitoring fish communities as well as their use of aquatic grass beds in Rupert River. The monitoring objective was to assess, post-diversion, the biological characteristics and dynamics of fish communities in the river, in particular five target species: walleye, lake sturgeon, lake whitefish, white sucker and longnose sucker. Monitoring also aimed to assess the use of aquatic grass beds in Rupert River by northern pike and prey species, track fishing yields and compare the 2016 monitoring results against the results for baseline conditions (2005 and 2009) and for Year 1 of post-diversion monitoring (2011).

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time. COMEX is waiting to receive the 2021 monitoring report before completing the review process.

#2022-0614-03: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

- d) Monitoring the multispecies spawning ground at KP 170 on Rupert River – 2018 study report

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the monitoring report on the multispecies spawning ground at KP 170 on Rupert River. The report was produced by Hydro-Québec in compliance with condition 2 of the amended certificate of authorization dated May 18, 2017 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorized dated July 28, 2008.

Between 2013 and 2015, high water levels in Nemiscau Lake caused the breach in the weir at KP 170 on the left bank of Rupert River to widen, resulting in bank erosion. In 2017, Hydro-Québec carried out remedial work to counter erosion in this stretch of the river, including construction of a spur dike upstream of the breach and bank stabilization as well as an upstream/downstream channel for fish passage. An additional two years of monitoring were a requirement of authorization for the remedial work in order to assess the physical integrity and use of the five spawning areas downstream of the KP170 weir on Rupert River by walleye, suckers (white and longnose) and lake whitefish. The 2018 monitoring report presents the results of the first additional year of monitoring.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments at this time. COMEX is waiting to receive the 2020 monitoring report before completing the review process.

#2022-0614-04: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

- e) Monitoring of the lake sturgeon spawning grounds developed in the Rupert river and forebay – Environmental follow-up during the operation phase, 2017

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the monitoring report on use of the spawning grounds developed for lake sturgeon in Rupert River. The report was produced by Hydro-Québec in compliance with conditions 5.1 and 5.24 of the certificate of authorization dated November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization dated July 28, 2008.

The spawning grounds developed for lake sturgeon have been monitored since 2010 to follow their physical integrity and their use by lake sturgeon. The year 2017 was the fifth year of spawning ground monitoring, which consisted in verifying use of the spawning grounds developed in the Rupert forebay section at KP 333 and Misticawissich River at KP 30.5, as well as the use of the spawning ground developed downstream of the weir at KP 290 on Rupert River. Potential lake sturgeon spawning sites located near the spawning grounds at KP 333 on Rupert River and KP 30.5 on Misticawissich River were also included in the monitoring program.

Even though most of the enhancements display adequate physical conditions and are used by other fish species, it would appear that the two spawning grounds developed at KP 333 on Rupert River and KP 30.5 on Misticawissich River were not used by lake sturgeon. The species did not even use the potential spawning sites identified in these two sectors.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and, considering that the enhancements carried out by Hydro-Québec appear to satisfy condition 5.24 of the certificate of authorization dated November 24, 2006 despite the absence of spawning at KP 333 on Rupert River and KP 30.5 on Misticawissich River. COMEX will write to the Provincial Administrator to say that it has taken note of the report and has no comments to submit at this time.

#2022-0614-05: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members have taken note of the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

- f) Monitoring of juvenile sturgeon and other target species at KP 205 and KP 230 on Rupert River – 2018 monitoring report

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Review Committee (COMEX) received, for information purposes, the environmental follow-up report on the presence of juvenile lake sturgeon and other target species in Rupert River. The report was produced by Hydro-Québec in compliance with conditions 2.25 and 5.18 of the certificate of authorization dated November 24, 2006 and condition 1 of the amended certificate of authorization dated July 28, 2008.

Following the partial diversion of Rupert River in November 2009, Hydro-Québec was to monitor juvenile sturgeon and other target species (walleye, suckers and lake whitefish) in the KP 230 and KP 205 sections of Rupert River. The monitoring program was slated to end in 2016, but another year of monitoring was added to confirm the existence of strong sturgeon cohorts post-diversion. The year 2018 represented the sixth year of monitoring under operating conditions.

The monitoring results point to slower growth of the target species since 2014 in the two fishing areas, but more significantly at KP 205. However, there is no difference in the physical condition of sturgeon collected for reference conditions and those collected post-diversion. According to the opinion of tallymen familiar with the area, lake sturgeon occur in these sectors.

WHEREAS the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time.

#2022-0614-05: *write to the Provincial Administrator to inform him that the COMEX members reviewed the document submitted by the proponent and have no comments to submit at this time.*

Action: Write to the Provincial Administrator

5) Other business

a. Extension of access roads “H, Section west” and “I” (Phase 2)
REF. No.: 3214-05-075

COMEX is waiting to receive more documents, particularly the woodland caribou report by Martin Hughes Saint-Laurent (UQAR), before continuing the review process. It expects to receive the documents within the next few weeks, at which time COMEX will establish a timeframe for the review process. The committee will contact the community of Waswanipi to request permission to publish the letter from Chief Marcel Happyjack, received on May 25, 2022, on COMEX’s website.

Action: Write to Chief Marcel Happyjack
Request permission to publish the chief’s letter on COMEX’s website

b. James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc.
REF. No.: 3214-14-055

The next steps in the project review process were discussed.

c. Annual Report 2021-2022

COMEX’s 2021-2022 annual report will be sent for translation.

d. Office québécois de la langue française: Appointment of a person in charge of francization

On May 11, 2022, COMEX received a request from the Office de la langue française to appoint someone (a mandatary) to be in charge of francization at COMEX to ensure that all of the committee’s activities comply with the *Charter of the French language*. COMEX Chairman Luc Lainé was appointed for this purpose.

e. Preliminary review report: Project to connect the Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mine and Relocate a Segment of the 315-kV Line

The review report is being drafted and will be reviewed by COMEX soon.

f. Cumulative impacts: Possible meeting between COMEX and Graeme Morin from the JBACE

Graeme Morin (James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment – JBACE) would like to meet with the COMEX members to discuss the cumulative impacts of transportation in Eeyou Istchee. COMEX will invite Mr. Morin to its 406th meeting, scheduled for July 26, 2022.

g. Projects on the agenda for the meetings in July and September:

- Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, CELC
- James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium Inc.
- Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project, Hydro-Québec

- Extension of Route 167 to the Otish Mountains, MTQ
- Bachelor Mine Project, Bonterra Resources

6) 405B meeting: June 21, 2022

Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, CELC

REF. No.: 3214-14-053

- a)** Environmental and social impact assessment
- b)** Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- c)** Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- d)** Follow-up on public hearings - Questions and comments
- e)** Additional information (answers to questions and comments)
- f)** Preliminary review report
 - i)** For recommendation

A preliminary version of the review report for this mining project was submitted to COMEX for its consideration and comments. COMEX discussed the comments made by the MELCC and CNG analysts. A final version of the report will be submitted for approval at COMEX's next meeting.

7) Next meetings

COMEX will hold its next meeting by video conference on July 26, 2022. A meeting is also scheduled for September 20, 2022 and will be held by video conference.

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up: May 26 to June 14, 2022					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
James Bay Lithium Mine Project, Galaxy Lithium (Canada) Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-055	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Additional information (updated impact assessment)	Sent: May 24, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: May 27, 2022 Received by COMEX: May 27, 2022	
Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaapik Hybrid Power Plant Project, Kuujuaapik-Whapmagoostui Renewable Energy Corporation Ref. No.: 3219-10-001	Luc Lainé COMEX	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	Recommendation and review report	Sent: June 1, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: June 2, 2022	
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	Matthew Mukash KWREC	Certificate of authorization	Sent: June 3, 2022 Received by COMEX: June 3, 2022	
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	2018, 2019 and 2020 environmental follow-up and monitoring reports – Questions and comments	Sent: June 7, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: June 7, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Renard Diamond Project, Stornoway Diamonds (Canada) Ref. No.: 3214-14-041	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Surface water and sediment quality monitoring report 2017-2019 – Question and comments	Sent: June 7, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: June 7, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Extension of access roads “H, Section west” and “I” (Phase II) Ref. No.: 3214-05-075	Luc Lainé COMEX	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information (documents from the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi)	Sent: June 8, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt: June 8, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Rose Lithium-Tantalum Mining Project, Critical Elements Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-14-053	Jean-Sébastien Lavallée CEC	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information (surface water management on the mine site – Clarification of figures provided by the proponent)	Sent: June 3, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Luc Lainé COMEX		Sent: June 10, 2022 Received by COMEX: June 13, 2022	

Appendix A					
Correspondence and follow-up: May 26 to June 14, 2022					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - Comments
Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaraapik Hybrid Power Plant Project, Kuujuaraapik-Whapmagoostui Renewable Energy Corporation Ref. No.: 3219-10-001	Matthieu Mukash KWREC	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	Acknowledgement of receipt of the certificate of authorization issued for the project	Sent: June13, 2022 Received by COMEX: June 14, 2022	<i>For information</i>