



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 271ST MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV)**

(Adopted)

DATE: January 17, 2017

PLACE: Édifice Marie-Guyart,
675 René-Levesque Blvd. E., Quebec City
Meeting room 9B

PRESENT: Daniel Berrouard, Chairman, Québec
Kambale Katahwa, vice-chairman, Canada
Louis Breton, Canada (by telephone)
Stéphane Cossette, Québec
Brian Craik, Cree Nation Government
John Paul Murdoch, Cree Nation Government
(by telephone)

Marie-Michèle Tessier, Executive Secretary

1) MEETING DECLARED OPEN AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as written.

2) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 270TH MEETING

The minutes of the 270th meeting were adopted as written and the correspondence sent and received between August 26, 2016 and January 17, 2017 is presented in Appendix 1.

3) FENELON MINE PROJECT BY WALLBRIDGE MINING COMPANY LIMITED

a) Preliminary information

- *For recommendation on the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

The COMEVA received the preliminary information on the project on December 14, 2016. The committee was also informed that a request for exemption for the dewatering of the mining facilities will be submitted shortly.

After analysis and discussions, the COMEVA decided that the two applications from the proponent (mining operations and dewatering of the pit) will have to be treated as a single project by the proponent.

Action: Submit a draft directive to the members for their approval during the February 15th conference call.

4) MINERAL EXPLORATION (STRIPPING AND TRENCHING WORK)

BY OPINACA MINES LTD

a) Preliminary information

- *For recommendation on whether the project can be exempted from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment*

COMEVA received the preliminary information on the above project which was transmitted to it on December 13, 2016.

With this project, the proponent wishes to continue its exploration activities of the Eléonore gold deposit in order to determine the extent and nature of the deposit on the property owned by Opinaca Mines Ltd., particularly in the areas known as Vieux-Camp and East. These two sectors are located on the edge of the Opinaca reservoir.

Upon completion of the review of the information in this file and before recommending whether or not to subject this project to the environmental and social impact assessment and review process, the COMEVA would like the proponent to provide clarification on the following:

- The proponent must define the actual surface area to be covered in its exploration project, including the potential destruction of wetlands. It will have to propose

mitigation measures in the latter case. The proponent must also detail and map the roads to be constructed, including stream crossings where appropriate, and describe the potential associated impacts.

- Regarding the management of the water to be taken from the Opinaca reservoir for washing the stripped areas, the proponent indicates that it will be captured, if necessary, along the edge of the outcrop and then directed to a vegetation zone sufficiently distant from any wetland or water environment to allow for the settling of the suspended matter. How will this measure be implemented to ensure the protection of sensitive areas, particularly the Opinaca reservoir?
- Notwithstanding the wash water, will the construction of trenches promote erosion and runoff towards the Opinaca reservoir? The proponent should expand on this matter.
- Based on information obtained by the COMEV, the consultation carried out by the proponent should be extended to include the presence of burial sites in the sectors slated for exploration. If necessary, the families concerned should be interviewed.
- The proponent will specify the duration of the exploration work.
- The proponent will describe the proposed restoration measures.

Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator requesting the above-mentioned clarifications.

ROSE LITHIUM – TANTALUM MINING PROJECT BY Critical Elements Corporation

5)

a) Preliminary information

- *For recommendation on the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

The COMEV received the preliminary information on the Rose Lithium mine project on December 14, 2016. This mining project is automatically subject to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Review process under Section 1 of Schedule 1 of Chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

This project involves the mining of a lithium and tantalum deposit located on Category III lands approximately 40 kilometers north of the Cree village of Nemaska in the territory of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government. As it is a near-surface deposit, open-pit mining is recommended. An underground operation could follow a little later for the deeper mineralized zones. Drilling and blasting will allow the ore and barren rock to be extracted from the operating area. The mined ore will be transported and processed at the project's planned ore processing plant to produce a concentrate of spodumene (Li₂O) and a tantalum concentrate. A plant for converting spodumene to lithium carbonate (Li₂O₃) is also planned. Several installations will be required to make up the core of the industrial complex.

After reviewing the information submitted by the proponent, the COMEV will forward to the Provincial Administrator its recommendation on the scope of the environmental and social impact assessment to be conducted by the proponent.

Action: Send the impact assessment directive for the Rose Lithium-Tantalum project to the Provincial Administrator.

6) OPERATION OF A QUARRY/GRAVEL PIT/SANDPIT FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE IN THE MATAGAMI AREA BY BLAIS & LANGLOIS INC.

a) Preliminary information

- *For recommendation on whether the project can be exempted from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment*

The COMEV received the preliminary information on November 18, 2016.

With this project, the proponent intends to access granular materials at km 69 on the James Bay Highway near the maintenance work zone, thereby reducing the transport distance and negative impacts such as wear and tear on infrastructure, road safety issues and greenhouse gas emissions. Operation of the quarry would reduce heavy transport over a distance of approximately 33 km for each return trip compared to using the gravel pit one at km 85.5.

Having reviewed the information in the file and before making its recommendation on whether or not this project must undergo the environmental and social impact assessment and review process, the COMEV would like to obtain clarification from the proponent on the following:

- The proponent must clearly define the area of each proposed activity (extraction, storage, areas already redeveloped or to be developed, etc.) as part of its quarry project at km 69 on the James Bay Highway.
- The proponent will provide a map showing the areas already in use and those that it intends to add in this project.
- The proponent will report on the consultations with the relevant tallyman.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator asking for clarification from the proponent on the expected area of the quarry and its consultations with the tallyman.

7) PILOT WEBSITE FOR THE COMEV

The design and development of the COMEV website is progressing nicely. Every member of the Committee can be involved in the development of the various texts that will appear on the website, which could eventually be online in the spring of 2017.

8) VARIA

None.

9) DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

A conference call will be organized for February 15, 2017.

**Appendix I
Correspondence and follow-up to January 17, 2017**

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Erosion Protection of the Gee-Man Shiiipiish Creek by the Cree First Nation of Waskaganish 3214-01-099	Daniel Berrouard COMEV	Isaac Voyageur Regional Admin.	Recommendation of exemption	Sent: August 31 2016	-	-
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Admin.	Roy Weistche Waskaganish	Attestation of exemption	Rec'd: September 7 2016	-	-
Operation of a quarry of less than 3 hectares for repair of the airstrip at Nemiscau by Hydro-Québec 3214-03-032	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEV	Withdrawal of application	Rec'd: November 24 2016	-	-
Operation of a gravel/sandpit for maintenance and repair Hydro-Québec infrastructures and facilities 3214-03-035	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Richard Perron Hydro-Québec	Attestation of exemption	Rec'd: August 31 2016	-	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Operation of a quarry/gravel pit/sandpit for road maintenance in the Matagami area by Blais & Langlois Inc. 3214-03-036	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEV	Preliminary information	Rec'd: November 18 2016	-	<i>for recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or to decide on the scope of the impact assessment</i>
Resort and marina near Chibougamau at James Bay 3214-04-033	Daniel Berrouard COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Recommendation of exemption	Sent: August 31 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Carl Lemieux Marina Chibougamau inc.	Attestation of exemption	Rec'd: September 15 2016	-	-
Installation and operation of mobile asphalt plant and crushing and screening unit at Matagami 3214-08-013	Daniel Berrouard COMEX	Marie-Renée Roy Provincial Admin.	Recommendation of exemption	Sent: August 31 2016	Acknowledgement of receipt: September 1 2016	-
	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Hugues Marchand Blais & Langlois Inc.	Attestation of exemption	Rec'd: September 15 2016	-	-

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Installation and operation of mobile asphalt plant at Waswanipi 3214-08-099	Isaac Voyageur Regional Admin.	Charles Delisle Ressources Environnement	Attestation of exemption	Rec'd: August 31 2016	-	-
Fenelon mine project by Wallbridge Mining Company Limited 3214-14-038	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEV	Preliminary information	Rec'd: December 16 2016	-	<i>for recommendation on the scope of the impact assessment</i>
Mineral exploration (stripping and trenching) by Opinaca Mines Ltd 3214-14-042	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEV	Preliminary information	Rec'd: December 14 2016	-	<i>for recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or to decide on the scope of the impact assessment</i>
Rose Lithium – Tantalum mine by Critical Elements Corporation 3214-14-053	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEV	Preliminary information	Rec'd: December 16 2016	-	<i>for recommendation on the scope of the impact assessment</i>

PROJECT	FROM	TO	DOCUMENT	DATE	COMMENTS	ACTION
Operation of a quarry of less than 3 hectares at km 298 on Route du Nord by the SEBJ 3214-03-032	Mireille Paul MDDELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEX	Transmittal of preliminary information – application for exemption	Rec'd: December 21 2016		<i>for recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or to decide on the scope of the impact assessment</i>