



la Convention  
de la Baie-James  
et du Nord québécois

**Comité d'évaluation**  
**Evaluating Committee**

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**MINUTES OF THE 274<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV)**

**(Adopted)**

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**DATE:** May 16, 2017

**PLACE:** COMEX Office  
201 Président Kennedy Ave., Suite PK-2840  
Montréal (Québec) H2X 3Y7

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

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**1) NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

The new executive secretary Vanessa Chalifour took office on May 8, 2017.

**2) NEW CHAIR OF THE COMEV**

Members were informed that the CNG resolution concerning the new chairman of the COMEV for the 2017-2018 has not yet been adopted. This should occur in May.

John Paul Murdoch took the opportunity to inform the members of his resignation from the Board of Directors of the Société de développement de la Baie James so as to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest in his position.

**3) MEETING DECLARED OPEN AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Two subjects were added under Varia:

- Chibougamau intermodal logistic centre by the Ville de Chibougamau
  
- Maintenance and paving of the Waskaganish access road
- Maintenance and paving of the Wemindji access road
- Maintenance and paving of the Nemaska access road

**4) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 273<sup>RD</sup> MEETING**

The adoption of the minutes of the 273<sup>rd</sup> meeting was postponed as they are not yet available.

**5) 2017 ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE JAMES BAY HIGHWAY AND CHISASIBI ROAD BY THE SDBJ**

a) Preliminary information

- *For recommendation on whether the project can be exempted from the environmental and social impacts review process*

The COMEV was sent the preliminary information on the above project on March 23, 2017.

The members discussed the information. The project involves a seven-year program that will ensure the road lasts and is maintained at a safe level for the various users. Work began in 2015 and is expected to be completed in 2021. In 2017, the work will consist mainly of the mechanical milling of the Chisasibi Road between km 4.5 and km 90 paving of the James Bay highway between km 144 and km 200, the reopening of an old quarry located near km 168 on the James Bay highway, expansion of existing quarries, replacement of 47 culverts, and rebuilding three bridges.

Members questioned the information provided to communities by the proponent. The COMEV would like the proponent to inform the affected communities on the project's work schedule and the potential impact on traffic.

Based on its review of the preliminary information, the COMEV decided to recommend that the project be exempted from the assessment process, but to include their comments regarding information to communities in the letter to the Provincial Administrator.

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator: exemption.**

**6) MINE EXPLORATIONS (STRIPPING AND TRENCHING) BY OPINACA MINES LTD**

a) Responses to questions

- *For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

On January 17, 2017, the COMEV sent the Provincial Administrator seven questions requiring clarification from the proponent. The Committee received the responses and comments from the proponent on March 30, 2017.

The members of the COMEV found the responses satisfactory.

The COMEV is of the opinion that this project can be exempted from the assessment procedure. However, members noted that the proponent should ensure that there are no burial sites, archaeological sites or artefacts on its exploration site. In the event that sites of this nature are discovered, the proponent should inform the community.

In addition, members would like to draw attention to the proponent's communication efforts on this project. The COMEV appreciates the quality of the information provided.

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator: exemption with comments.**

**7) QUARRY AT KM 85.7 ON THE TRANSTAÏGA ROAD (HYDRO-QUÉBEC)**

b) Preliminary information

- *For recommendation on the scope of the impacts assessment*

The COMEV received the preliminary information on the above project on May 2, 2017.

The proponent wants to access granular materials at km. 85.7 of the Trans-Taiga Road for rehabilitation work at the LG-3 airport.

After reviewing the preliminary information and prior to its recommendation on whether or not this project should be subject to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure, the COMEV would like the proponent to provide clarifications on the following:

1. The proponent will specify the period of quarry operation and the estimated total quantity of stone to be crushed in the operations area.
2. The proponent indicates that a field visit was carried out in the fall of 2016 and that there was no accumulation of water at the site. The Proponent also states that: "If required, drilling and construction of a groundwater observation well will be conducted prior to commencement of operation." The proponent must specify how it will ensure that operations will remain above groundwater level at all times.
3. The proponent states that it will reseed or reforest the site to re-establish the vegetation cover (with the species appropriate to the site). The proponent must explain how it will select these species. Note that key indigenous species present in the reference ecosystem are recommended.
4. The proponent must specify whether the restoration will be carried out throughout the quarry or in the operations area only. In addition, as the deposit is much larger, the proponent must specify if it will undertake gradual restoration if it plans to exploit other sections of the deposit.
5. It is indicated that Hydro-Québec will ensure that the new vegetation is still growing two years after completion of work. The proponent must indicate whether any long-term monitoring is planned and define the indicators to be monitored. Short-term monitoring should make it possible to determine whether a groundcover has established, whether the ecological succession process has begun and whether erosion is reduced. In the medium and long term, monitoring should validate that a plant community similar to the reference ecosystem in terms of composition and structure has been established and is maintaining.
6. The proponent states: "The number (1 or 2) of access roads to the operations area and their width shall be limited as much as possible." The proponent must specify the number of roads and locate them on a map.

7. The proponent states:

- “The necessary measures will be taken to limit erosion from runoff and prevent runoff sediments from reaching lakes, streams or wetlands.
- Appropriate environmental protection measures will be implemented where needed, especially related to noise and dust from roadways, work areas, and blasting, crushing and screening.”

The proponent must explain what kind of monitoring will be used to determine whether these measures are needed.

8. The proponent states that it will ensure access for all land users. The proponent must specify who the other users of the territory are. It must also indicate whether they have been informed or consulted about the proposed work and submit the results of any such consultation. In addition, the proponent will clarify the role of MERN in the consultation process.

9. The proponent must specify whether the quarry is officially located at km 85.7 as described in these documents or at km 85.4 as described in its consultant’s documents.

A letter containing these questions from the COMEV will be sent to the Provincial Administrator.

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator.**

**8) FENELON MINING EXPLORATIONS PROJECT (WALLBRIDGE LTD)**

c) Preliminary information

- *For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

The COMEV was sent the preliminary information on this project on May 5, 2017.

After reviewing this information, the COMEV needs additional information before continuing its analysis. The proponent must respond to the following questions:

1. The proponent must specify the duration of its development project.
2. The proponent must explain how this development work fits into the context of eventual mining operations.

A letter containing these questions from the COMEV will be sent to the Provincial Administrator.

**Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator.**

**9) PROCESSING OF ORE FROM THE BARRY MINE AT THE BACHELOR PLAN (MÉTANOR)**

a) Preliminary information

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

The COMEV was sent the preliminary information on this project on April 20, 2017.

This project involves the processing of least 5,000,000 metric tonnes of gold ore from the Barry Mine at the Bachelor Mine processing plant.

Since this is a project that is automatically subject to the environmental and social impacts assessment procedure, the COMEV will prepare a draft directive in the coming weeks.

**Action: Prepare a directive.**

**10) VARIA**

a) Chibougamau intermodal logistics centre by the ville de Chibougamau

- Responses to questions
- *For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

On March 24, 2017, the COMEV sent the Provincial Administrator nine questions seeking clarification on this project. The COMEV received the relevant responses from the proponent on May 10, 2017.

The members of the COMEV consider the responses to be satisfactory.

The COMEV is of the opinion that this project can be exempted from the assessment procedure. As John Paul Murdoch expects to be holding discussions on this subject in the coming days with the regional authorities, members will review the file via conference call if necessary before sending this recommendation.

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator: exemption.**

b) Maintenance and paving work on the access road to Waskaganish

- Responses to questions
- *For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

The COMEV was sent the preliminary information on this project on March 8, 2017 and additional information on May 15, 2017.

After reviewing the preliminary information, the COMEV has decided that this project can be exempted from the assessment process. However, the COMEV wishes to remind the proponent

that if it wishes to operate its mobile hot mix asphalt plant outside Category I lands, it must specify the location and obtain an attestation of exemption from the assessment procedure from the Provincial Administrator.

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator: exemption with comments.**

- c) Maintenance and paving work on the access road to Wemindji
  - Responses to questions
  - *For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

The COMEV was sent the preliminary information on this project on March 8, 2017 and additional information on May 15, 2017.

After reviewing the preliminary information, the COMEV has decided that this project can be exempted from the assessment process. However, the COMEV wishes to remind the proponent that if it wishes to operate its mobile hot mix asphalt plant outside Category I lands, it must specify the location and obtain an attestation of exemption from the assessment procedure from the Provincial Administrator.

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator: exemption with comments.**

- d) Maintenance and paving work on the access road to Nemaska
  - Responses to questions
  - *For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process, or the scope of the impact assessment to be conducted*

The COMEV was sent the preliminary information on this project on March 8, 2017 and additional information on May 15, 2017.

After reviewing the preliminary information, the COMEV has decided that this project can be exempted from the assessment process. However, the COMEV wishes to remind the proponent that if it wishes to operate its mobile hot mix asphalt plant outside Category I lands, it must specify the location and obtain an attestation of exemption from the assessment procedure from the Provincial Administrator.

**Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator: exemption with comments.**

**11) DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8 at the office of John Paul Murdoch, 407 rue McGill St., Suite 410, Montréal.