



la Convention  
de la Baie-James  
et du Nord québécois

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

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**MINUTES OF THE 286<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE**

**(Adopted)**

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**DATE:** April 11, 2019

**PLACE:** COMEX Office  
800 rue Square-Victoria, Suite 25.30  
Montréal (Québec) H4Z 1J2

**PRESENT:** Louis Breton, chairman, Canada  
Geneviève Bélanger, Canada  
Brian Craik, CNG  
Alexandra Roio, Québec  
Daniel Berrouard, Québec

Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary

**ABSENT:** John Paul Murdoch, CNG

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**1) Meeting declared open and adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**2) Adoption of the minutes of the 285<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

The minutes of the 285<sup>th</sup> meeting were adopted as written.

**Action: Translate and file the minutes of the 285<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**3) Correspondence**

Correspondence sent and received between February 27 and April 10, 2019 is listed in Appendix A.

**4) Development of a permanent camp (Fenelon project) by Balmoral Resources Ltd.**

**Ref. No.: 3214-06-030**

- Preliminary information
- Additional information
  - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the above project on February 11, 2019 and additional information on March 13, 2019.

Balmoral Resources Ltd. wants to build a permanent camp with a capacity for 162 people. The work is planned in two phases: 1) an upgrade to standards of the sanitary wastewater treatment facilities for 80 people and 2) an expansion of the camp to house 162 workers including the modification of the wastewater treatment system and the drinking water distribution system.

After reviewing the documents provided by the proponent, the COMEV determined that it needs additional information before it can continue its analysis. Therefore, the proponent must provide answers to the following:

1. The proponent must specify whether the proposed permanent camp is likely to be used for purposes other than the housing of workers at the Fenelon mining project.
2. The proponent must specify how residual materials will be managed on the site.
3. The proponent must provide a report on consultations held with communities near the project including any concerns raised with respect to the bulk sampling project, if applicable. It will also evaluate the impact of the project on the human environment.
4. The proponent will report on its process for the hiring of Aboriginal workers and its relationships with local businesses (agreements and outreaches) for the construction of the permanent camp.

**Action: Forward questions and comments to the Provincial Administrator.**

**5) Bulk sampling of 25 000 TM (Fenelon project) by Wallbridge Mining Company Limited**

**Ref. No.: 3214-14-064**

b) Preliminary information

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

The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the bulk sampling of 25 000 MT (Fenelon project) on February 11, 2019.

Wallbridge Mining Company Limited would like to continue underground development in order to conduct an underground exploration drilling campaign and the bulk sampling of 25,000 metric tonnes to confirm the potential for new mineralized zones and to define future development potential and the detailed engineering for the Fenelon deposit.

After reviewing the documents provided by the proponent, the COMEV determined that it needs additional information before it can continue its analysis. Therefore, the proponent must provide answers to the following:

1. The proponent states that the new bulk sampling phase does not alter the surface footprint of the project compared to the current footprint. In addition, several sectors will be investigated in depth and laterally. The figures in Appendix B were sent in a resolution that does not allow them to be read. The proponent will have to send figures that are legible and only those figures that are relevant to the sampling program outlined in this application.
2. In connection with the figures presented in Appendix B, the proponent must provide a more detailed description of the project, including but not limited to the following: depth and underground lateral expansion of the exploration by sector, extension of excavation of the underground tunnel compared to the current situation, description of the surface drilling program, surface area, location in relation to the current footprint, etc.
3. In connection with the figures presented in Appendix B, the proponent must specify the location of the proposed drilling and determined if it will be done within the limits of mining lease number 864. If necessary, the proponent will indicate the steps it intends to take with the MERN.
4. The proponent must expand on the project rationale and, in particular, specify the following :
  - a. If a second bulk sampling of 25 000 MT is conducted, the proponent will have to demonstrate that the project will still be viable and for how long.
  - b. The proponent must explain why the continued acquisition of knowledge on the deposit could not be done in tandem with the deposit exploitation phase.
  - c. The proponent must explain why the metallurgical tests to be carried out require the extraction of 66% of the identified resources.
5. The planned bulk sampling is in the order of 25 000 MT and would take place over a period of 9 to 12 months. The proponent must specify when it expects to complete the sampling phase.

6. The proponent must evaluate the impact of the project on wildlife.
7. The proponent must report on consultations with communities in the vicinity of the project and indicate any concerns raised with respect to the bulk sampling project. It must also evaluate the impact of the project on the human environment.
8. The proponent must describe its process for the hiring of Aboriginal labor and its relationships with local businesses (agreements and outreaches) for the bulk sampling project.

**Action: Forward questions and comments to the Provincial Administrator.**

**6) Installation and operation of a hot mix asphalt plant by Pavage Wemindji Inc.**

**Ref. No.: 3214-08-019**

- Preliminary information
- Additional information
  - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the above hot mix asphalt plant on February 19, 2019 and additional information on April 2, 2019.

Pavage Wemindji Inc. Would like to install and operate a hot mix asphalt plant in the existing gravel pit belonging to the Cree Nation of Nemaska. The plant would be installed about 200 meters from the Route du Nord.

After reviewing the documents provided by the proponent, the COMEV has decided that this project can be exempted from the assessment process.

In addition, COMEV wishes to make it clear that the proponent must take all necessary measures to avoid the risk of a spill associated with the operation of the plant and that residual materials and hazardous residual materials must be managed and disposed of in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

**Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator recommending that this project be exempted from the assessment process**

**7) La-Grande-1 community center wastewater treatment system replacement project by Hydro-Québec**

**Ref. No.: 3214-10-008**

- Preliminary information
  - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the project to replace the wastewater treatment system for the La-Grande-1 community centre on March 5, 2019.

Hydro-Québec wishes to replace the sanitary wastewater treatment system at the La-Grande-1 community center, since the current septic field has reached its useful life. The installation of a bioreactor is preferred since this system is simple to install, inexpensive and effective. .

After reviewing the documents provided by the proponent, the COMEV has decided that this project can be exempted from the assessment process.

**Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator recommending that this project be exempted from the assessment process**

**8) Installation of three new hydrometeorological stations and completion of installation work for seven hydrometeorological stations by Hydro-Québec**

**Ref. No.: 3214-28-006**

- Preliminary information
  - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the above project on March 5, 2019.

Hydro-Québec plans to install 3 hydrometeorological stations spread over the territory of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Government, all located south of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel. The hydrometeorological stations will be used to collect data that will be used by Hydro-Québec for operations, production planning, environment, safety and civil engineering. In addition, Hydro-Québec will complete the installation of seven hydrometeorological stations. After reviewing the documents provided by the proponent, the COMEV has decided to recommend that this project be exempted from the assessment process.

However, the COMEV asks to be provided with the minutes of consultations with the tallymen, as soon as possible.

**Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator recommending that this project be exempted from the assessment process.**

**9) Application for exemption for the Eleonore, Wabamisk and Olga properties by Opinaca Mines Ltd.**

**Ref. No.: 3214-14-061**

- Preliminary information
- Additional information (responses to questions)
  - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on February 5, 2019 regarding the application for exemption for exploration work on the Eleonore, Wabamisk and Olga properties, and additional information on February 26.

This application concerns only the Eleonore property because the proponent has suspended its application for the Wabamisk and Olga properties.

Opinaca Mines Ltd. would like to carry out exploration work (stripping and trenching) on the Eleonore property in 2019 and 2020.

After reviewing the documents provided by the proponent, the COMEV has decided to recommend that this project be exempted from the assessment process.

However, the COMEV would like to remind the proponent that it is important to ensure that the burial sites, sites of legends and other sites of interest mentioned by the tallyman are properly inventoried and identified prior to the commencement of work to ensure that they are not affected by the project.

Finally, COMEV wishes to inform the proponent that this recommendation only concerns the exploration work planned for the Eleonore property. If additional exploration work is planned on the Wabamisk and Olga properties, a new application for exemption will have to be filed.

**Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator recommending that this project be exempted from the assessment process.**

**10) Construction of a structural steel arch at km 19.8 of the LA1 road leading to the Laforge 1 dam (Phase 2) by the James Bay Development Corporation**

**Ref. No.: 3214-05-085**

- Preliminary information
  - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the assessment process or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

The Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on March 13, 2019 regarding the proposed construction of a structural steel arch at km 19.8 km of the LA1 road leading to the Laforge 1 dam (Phase 2).

A battery of three culverts was present in the stream under the LA1 path at km 19.8. An exceptional flood in the late spring of 2018 resulted in the culvert bank being completely washed away, and the road collapsed. A temporary emergency bridge was built in the days that followed, and in the fall of 2018, another temporary bridge of greater capacity was built on the LA1 road axis.

Due to technical and operational constraints, the James Bay Development Corporation decided to split the construction contract into two phases spaced over time. The lifespan of the temporary bridge was extended to cover the period from the fall of 2018 to the summer of 2019 and the construction of the permanent structure was postponed until the summer of 2019.

After reviewing the documents provided by the proponent, the COMEV has decided to recommend that this project be exempted from the assessment process.

**Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator recommending that this project be exempted from the assessment process**

**11) Varia**

**a) COMEV website**

No new developments regarding the website.

**b) COMEV Chair 2019-2020**

The nomination process to appoint a new chair of the COMEV is underway. For 2019-2020, the chair of the committee will be from the Cree party. The CNG will inform COMEV members as soon as an appointment is official.

**c) Tamaani internet project Phase 5**

An underwater fiber optic cable will be installed in Nord-du-Québec that will pass through Chisasibi to reach Salluit. Work should begin in 2019. However, given that part of the project is south of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel, COMEV will have to examine this project.

Therefore, the Selection Committee will send a communication on this project to COMEV via the Federal Administrator. COMEV will then be able to review the project and recommend whether or not it is subject to the assessment process.

**d) Climate change and environmental authorizations – Guide for project proponents**

Members of the COMEV discussed the guide for project proponents on climate change and environmental authorizations. Given that members had already submitted their comments via their respective employers, no specific comments from the COMEV have been sent to the MELCC.

**e) Projects pending**

- i. Project – stripping of 12 overburdens at the Sirmac site, Ref. No.: 3214-14-063  
*(waiting for responses from the proponent)*
- ii. Construction of a road for the installation of a wind measuring mast by the Projet éolien Oujebougoumou Skakeegun S.E.C., Ref. No. 3214-05-082 *(waiting for responses from the proponent – 2016 Project 2016 )*

**12) Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 from 9h00 to 12h00 in Montréal. The precise location will be determined within the next few weeks and communicated to members of the COMEV.



**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up -- February 27 to April 10, 2019**

<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - comments</b>
Quarry development at km 298 of Route du Nord to extend operating life Ref. No.: 3214-03-032	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent February 27, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt February 28, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Noureddine Mouncef James Bay Energy Corporation	Attestation of exemption	Sent March 28, 2019 Rec'd COMEV April 2, 2019	
Operation of a quarry near km 598 of the James Bay Highway by Carrière Taïga, Ref. No.: 3214-03-040	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent February 27, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt February 28, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Martin Paré Carrière Taïga Inc.	Attestation of exemption	Sent March 28, 2019 Rec'd COMEV April 2, 2019	
Project to develop a northern landfill (LETI) in the Albanel-Mistassini-and-Waconichi-Lakes Wildlife Reserve by the Nibiischii Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-16-078	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent February 27, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt February 28, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Mireille Gravel Nibiischii Corporation	Attestation of exemption	Sent March 28, 2019 Rec'd COMEV April 2, 2019	
Moblan Lithium project by Lithium Guo Ao Ltd Ref. No.: 3214-14-062	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Jin Gao Lithium Gua Ao Ltd	Transmittal of directive	Sent March 6, 2019 Rec'd COMEV March 12, 2019	
Replacement of the sanitary wastewater treatment system at the La-Grande-1 community centre by Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-008	Rubens Durocher Hydro-Québec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent February 19, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent March 5, 2019 Rec'd COMEV March 6, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Application for exemption for mining exploration work at the Eleonore, Wabamisk and Olga properties Ref. No.: 3214-14-061	France Trépanier GoldCorp Éléonore	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information	Sent February 18, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent February 26, 2019 Rec'd COMEV February 28, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>

**Appendix A**  
**Correspondence and follow-up -- February 27 to April 10, 2019**

<b>Project</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action - comments</b>
Construction of a permanent camp (Fenelon project) by Balmoral Resources Ltd Ref. No.: 3214-06-030	François Demers Wallbridge Mining Company Limited	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information	Sent February 27, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent March 13, 2019 Rec'd COMEV March 14, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Installation of three new hydrometeorological stations and completion of work on the installation of seven hydrometeorological stations by Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-28-006	Rubens Durocher Hydro-Québec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent February 19, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent March 5, 2019 Rec'd COMEV le 6, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Construction of a structural steel arch at km 19.8 on the LA1 road leading to the Laforge 1 dam (Phase 2) by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-05-085	Anne-Marie Leclerc Norda Stelo	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent March 1, 2019	
	Mireille Paul MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent March 13, 2019 Rec'd COMEV March 13, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Installation and operations of a hot mix asphalt plant by Pavage Wemindji Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-08-019	David Fortin Pavage Wemindji Inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information	Sent March 27, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent April 2, 2019 Rec'd COMEV April 2, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Guide on climate change and environmental authorizations – Guide for project proponents	Mireille Paul MELCC	COMEV	Guide on climate change and environmental authorizations – Guide for project proponents	Sent March 5, 2019	<i>For information</i>