



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 287TH MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV)**

(Adopted)

DATE: June 5, 2019

PLACE: COMEX Offices
800 Square-Victoria St., Suite 25.30
Montréal (Québec) H4Z 1J2

PRESENT: John Paul Murdoch, Chairman, CNG (via telephone)
Brian Craik, CNG
Louis Breton, Canada
Geneviève Bélanger, Canada (via telephone)
Alexandra Roio, Québec
Daniel Berrouard, Québec

Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary

1) Meeting declared open and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 286th meeting

A few minor corrections were made to the minutes of the 286th meeting and the minutes were adopted.

Action: Translate and post the minutes of the 286th meeting.

3) Correspondence

Correspondence sent and received between April 11 and June 3, 2019 is listed in Appendix A.

4) Dewatering of pits J-4 and F-87 at the old Troilus mine site

Ref. No.: 3214-14-025

➤ 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

On April 25, 2019 the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information about a project to dewater pits J4 and 87 at the old Troilus mine site.

According to this proposal, Troilus Gold Corp. wants to carry dewater the J-4 and F-87 pits at the old Troilus mine, which has been undergoing restoration since 2011. This work would provide access to the deposit at depth of the old mine so the company can continue exploration work from the pit floors. The gold and copper deposit shows continuity in depth and towards the north, along the axis of pits J-4 and F-87. The drilling conducted in 2018 seems to show that there is still mining potential. After some local improvements have been made, the water would be discharged into the "unnamed" stream located to the west of the pits.

Given the project's scale, the expected release duration, and some associated uncertainties, the COMEV believes it is necessary for this project to undergo the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Review Procedure for projects in the North, in accordance with the provisions of Section 158 of the Environment Quality Act and Article 22.5.14 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

However, taking into consideration the usefulness of the document filed by the proponent, the COMEV is of the opinion that this preliminary information could be improved and take the place of an impact study that could be submitted to the Review Committee (COMEX), as long it includes the answers to the following questions and comments.

1. *Analysis of project alternatives*

In addition to the information presented in section 3.4 of the application for a certificate of exemption, the proponent must present the rationale for the project and the possible alternatives to dewatering. In addition, the proponent will need to provide a timeline and a description of the subsequent phases of their project.

2. *Information and consultation procedures*

Sections 4.0 and 5.0 of the application for a certificate of exemption contain information about the information and consultation activities carried out by the proponent.

In addition to the comments raised by all stakeholders consulted, the proponent will, where appropriate, describe the modifications made to the project during the planning phases and the mitigation measures planned in response to the comments raised during this process. The proponent must also indicate any questions and concerns of the stakeholders consulted, including aboriginal communities and tallymen, that the proponent was unable to respond to, and explain why these elements were not addressed.

The proponent must also submit a preliminary plan outlining the information and consultation procedures it plans to implement when dewatering the pits.

3. *Description of the receiving environment*

The description of the receiving environment presented in section 2.2 of the application for an attestation of exemption is general in nature and needs to be updated because it relies on reports produced more than 10 years ago, and which in addition were written before the restoration of the mine site. In order to complete the description of the receiving environment, i.e., the unnamed stream and lake A, the proponent must present the following elements:

- A description of the riparian zone:
 - ✓ The geomorphology of the different types of shorelines and banks (transverse profile, slopes and slope heights);
 - ✓ The nature of the soils, loose deposits and rock, granulometry, stratigraphy, lithology, type of slope (natural or anthropogenic [eg embankment]);
 - ✓ The configuration of the watercourse or body of water at the site (eg meander or linear);
 - ✓ The drainage;
 - ✓ The topography and bathymetry.

- The dynamics of the watercourse or the water body:
 - ✓ Fluvial morphology, fluvial style and erosion zone;
 - ✓ The sedimentary regime (source, transport, sediment accumulation zones).

- Characterization of the hydrology of the site:
 - ✓ The hydrological regime, including stream flow magnitude, average daily and monthly flows, low and high flows, and flow-duration curves, ie the flows measured at the project site or transposed from a hydrometric station (the flow series used must cover a period of at least 30 years, otherwise the study must indicate the statistical reliability of the series and the reasons for choosing a series of less than 30 years). These characteristics must be provided for all affected streams;
 - ✓ The low flows in the receiving streams ($Q_{2,7}$, $Q_{10,7}$ and $Q_{5,30}$ summer and winter) using the methods from the Direction de l'expertise hydrique at the MELCC¹;
 - ✓ The area of the watershed upstream from the effluent discharge point.

- The physicochemical characteristics of the water of streams affected on an annual basis.

¹ Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, 2018. Débits d'étiage. [<http://www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca/debit-etiage/cartes/debits-etiage.htm>].

4. Description of the dewatering project

All activities likely to cause the release of contaminants into the environment and to generate nuisance must be indicated, described, localized and quantified, as well as the means and mechanisms planned to mitigate their impacts. In order to complete the project description, the proponent will have to include the following elements:

- A description of the power line to be built around the pits;
- A report on the monthly variability of effluent flows ;
- An assessment of the project's duration;
- A description of the mine water treatment process and of the design flow for the project. Specify the expected average flows and, if necessary, include these assessments in for various phases of the project;
- Identification of the expected contaminants at the effluent. To the extent possible, evaluate these concentrations for all identified contaminants to establish EDOs. Expected concentrations should be comparable to EDO concentrations;
- In addition to the precise location of the discharge point, a description of the system for transporting the effluent from the treatment system to the receiving environment (pipe, ditch, rip rap, etc.).

5. Description of the issues

The proponent will have to consider the following issues:

- Protection and conservation of the groundwater and surface water resources (quantity and quality);
- Preserving the integrity of the hydrographic network and its processes;
- Maintaining the quality and quantity of plant and animal habitats.

6. Description of impacts

Section 5 of the proponent's application is not sufficiently detailed to be able to comment on the acceptability of the impacts of the dewatering project. The proponent will need to consider the following to improve the impact description section:

- The impacts on the flow and hydrodynamic regimes (speed, water levels, currents, drainage), the ice regime, sediment regime, and water quality;
- Modifications to the affected watershed and their consequences (eg, the capacity of rivers to absorb rising flood flows, changes to the sediment regime, loss of littoral and aquatic habitats, modification of fish communities);
- The impact of the project of wildlife and birds downstream from the effluent discharge;
- Analytical or numerical modeling of the pit and its depression cone;
- The impact of groundwater drawdown at the mine site on wetlands and water bodies and on mine infrastructure (tailings and waste rock dumps) ;

- The impacts surface water quality, which the proponent will have to evaluate based on the dewatering activities, the detailed description of the receiving environment and the potential discharges carried out beforehand. The proponent will also be required to assess the impacts by comparing the expected quality of liquid effluent with the EDOs calculated by the Department. If the proponent has not already applied for and obtained the EDOs for their project, they must ensure that they submit all the required information at this stage so that the Department can establish EDOs. The proponent is encouraged to refer to the document Calcul et interprétation des objectifs environnementaux de rejet pour les contaminants du milieu aquatique².

7. Mitigation of impacts

No mitigation measures were presented in the proponent's application. Accordingly, the proponent must present the mitigation measures planned so as to avoid or reduce expected impacts, including the following mitigation measures:

- The effectiveness of minewater treatment systems must be established in accordance with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations and supplemented, where appropriate, based on the particular characteristics of the receiving environment as well as the best available and economically feasible technologies. The management of these systems must aim for reduction at source and the attainment of minimal discharge, and include a program for continuous improvement;
- Choosing the best period for discharging dewatering water into the receiving environment in order to avoid sensitive areas and periods for terrestrial, avian and aquatic fauna, limit the introduction of suspended sediments and not compromise the practice of traditional activities;
- The revegetation of altered sites, giving preference to native species;
- Safety measures for users of affected lakes and rivers during the dewatering.

Action: Send a letter to the Provincial Administrator recommending that this project undergo the assessment process.

² Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, 2007. Calcul et interprétation des objectifs environnementaux de rejet pour les contaminants du milieu aquatique – 2e édition.
[http://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/oer/Calcul_interpretation_OER.pdf].

5) Installation of an asphalt plant at km 254 of the James Bay Highway as part of the highway rehabilitation project, by Construction Norascon Inc. on behalf of the Development Corporation

Ref. No.: 3214-08-020

➤ 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

On May 1, 2019, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information concerning a plan to install an asphalt plant at km 254 for the James Bay Highway repair project from Construction Norascon Inc on behalf of the James Bay Development Corporation.

As part of this project, Construction Norascon Inc plans to temporarily operate an asphalt plant at km 254 of the James Bay Highway.

The COMEV understands that the asphalt plant will be installed at a distance from wetlands, in accordance with existing regulations.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the members of the COMEV decided to recommend that the project be exempted from the assessment process.

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

6) Varia

a) COMEV website

No new developments concerning the COMEV website.

b) 2019-2020 Chair

Members were informed that the Cree Nation Government has adopted the resolution naming John Paul Murdoch as the new chair of the COMEV for 2019-2020.

c) Tamaani Internet project Phase 5

The goal of this project is the installation of an optical fiber network to improve the connectivity of the 14 Inuit communities in Nunavik by using a network consisting of a submarine cable along the Hudson Bay coast, terrestrial fiber in the communities and microwave towers. The project will be carried out over a period of 4 years and a part of the project will be located in Eeyou Istchee territory, affecting the Cree community of Chisasibi in particular.

After reviewing the document submitted, COMEV members decided they needed additional information before completing their analysis. The proponent must provide responses to the following:

1. The proponent must indicate whether it has already consulted with the Cree community of Chisasibi on this project or if it plans to do so, so that it can take into consideration any concerns and identify any mitigation measures that may be appropriate to mitigate the impacts of the project on the community.
2. The proponent must provide a list of mitigation measures that will be put in place.
3. The proponent must specify whether the planned works in the La Grande River or at the Chisasibi site are likely to disturb or have impacts on the practice of traditional activities in the area.
4. The proponent must identify which other organizations may make recommendations or decisions regarding environmental protections related to this project.

Action: Send a letter to the Federal Administrator with questions and comments.

d) Projects pending

- i. Project – stripping of 12 overburdens at the Sirmac site, Ref. No.: 3214-14-063 *(waiting for responses from the proponent – 2018 project)*
- 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)*
- iii. Construction of a permanent camp (Fenelon project) by Balmoral Resources LTD, Ref. No.: 3214-06-030 *(On agenda for next meeting)*
- iv. Bulk sampling of 25 000 MT (Fenelon project) by Wallbridge Mining Company Limited, Ref. No.: 3214-14-064 *((On agenda for next meeting)*

7) Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday, July 15, 2019 from 10h30 to 13h00 in Quebec City at the Édifice Marie-Guyart, 675 boulevard René-Lévesque Blvd. E., Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7, room 7A (7th floor).

Appendix A
Correspondence from April 11 to June 4, 2019

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Construction of a structural steel arch at km 19.8 of the LA1 road to the Laforge 1 dam (Phase 2) by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-05-085	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent April 12, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt April 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Raymond Thibault James Bay Development Corporation	Attestation of exemption	Sent May 22, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 22, 2019	
Construction of a permanent camp (Fenelon project) by Balmoral Resources LTD Ref. No.: 3214-06-030	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmittal of questions and comments	Sent 12, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt April 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Darin Wagner Balmoral Resources LTD		Sent April 18, 2019 Rec'd COMEV April 18, 2019	
	François Demers Wallbridge Mining Company Limited	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information (responses to questions)	Sent May 17, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent May 30, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 31, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Bulk sampling of de 25 000 MT (Fenelon project) by Wallbridge Mining Company Limited Ref. No.: 3214-14-064	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmittal of questions and comments	Sent April 12, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt April 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	François Demers Wallbridge Mining Company Limited		Sent April 18, 2019 Rec'd COMEV April 18, 2019	
	François Demers Wallbridge Mining Company Limited	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information (responses to questions)	Sent May 17, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent May 30, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 31, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>

Appendix A
Correspondence from April 11 to June 4, 2019

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Installation of three new hydrometeorological stations and completion of the installation of seven hydrometeorological sta by Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-28-006	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent April 12, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt April 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Rubens Durocher Hydro-Québec	Attestation of exemption	Sent May 22, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 22, 2019	
Replacement of the sanitary wastewater treatment system at the La-Grande-1 community centre by Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-008	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent April 12, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt April 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Rubens Durocher Hydro-Québec	Attestation of exemption	Sent May 22, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 22, 2019	
Application for exemption for exploration work on the Eleonore, Wabamisk and Olga properties by Opinaca Mines Ltd. Ref. No.: 3214-14-061	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent April 12, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt April 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	France Trépanier Opinaca Mines Ltd.	Attestation of exemption	Sent May 1, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 9, 2019	
Installation and operation of an asphalt plant by Pavage Wemindji Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-08-019	Louis Breton COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent April 12, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt April 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	David Fortin Pavage Wemindji Inc.	Attestation of exemption	Sent May 1, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 1, 2019	
Dewatering of pits J-4 and 87 at the old Troilus mine site Ref. No.: 3214-14-025	Jacqueline Leroux Troilus Gold	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent April 10, 2019	
	Marie-Michelle Vézina for Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent April 25, 2019 Rec'd COMEV April 26, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Installation of an asphalt plant at km 254 for the James Bay highway repair project, Construction Norascon Inc. for the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-08-020	David Fortin Construction Norascon Inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent April 9, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Louis Breton COMEV		Sent May 1, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 10, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Tamaani Internet project Phase 5	Anne-Marie Gaudet Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency	Louis Breton COMEV	Preliminary information	Sent May 1, 2019 Rec'd COMEV May 1, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>