



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 291ST MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE**

(Adopted)

DATE: December 11, 2019

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

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

Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary

ABSENT: John Paul Murdoch, Chairman, CNG

1) Meeting declared open and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 290th meeting

The minutes of the 290th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and post the minutes of the 290th meeting.

3) Correspondence and follow-up

Correspondence sent and received between October 25 and December 10, 2019 is listed in Appendix A.

4) Restoration of the old Coniagas site by Galaxy Lithium Canada Inc.

Ref No: 3214-14-054

➤ 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 September 24, 2019, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the proposed restoration of the old Coniagas site by Galaxy Lithium (Ontario) Inc.

With this project, the proponent plans to restore the abandoned and contaminated Coniagas tailings site so that it is environmentally compatible and suitable for reuse.

After reviewing the information from the proponent, the members of COMEV agreed that they need additional information before completing their analysis. The proponent should answer the following questions:

Analysis of restoration scenarios

1. The proponent must provide an update on the data concerning the site characterization, and justify the value and adequacy of the work to be conducted.
2. In order to support the choice of restoration scenario chosen, the proponent must present the main elements of the comparative analysis it conducted, highlighting the advantages, disadvantages and risks associated with the different scenarios evaluated.

3. The proponent must provide a description of the chosen restoration scenario. It must describe the various restoration works to be carried out at the tailings site and the effluent area as well as the infrastructure that will be put in place (e.g. berms, drainage system, treatment tanks, etc.).
4. The proponent states that the performance of the restoration scenario has been validated using hydrogeological modeling. The proponent must present the main findings of this modeling. The proponent must indicate whether, in addition to this modeling, it used other studies (e.g. other technical studies, case studies, literature, etc.) to validate the effectiveness and reliability of the scenario chosen.
5. The proponent must specify how the concept of climate change was taken into account in the design of the planned restoration scenario.
6. The proponent must indicate how the site restoration project compares with other similar cases in Quebec in terms of restoration techniques used and expected results.

Expected impacts on the receiving environment

7. The proponent must provide a description of the impacts associated with the various restoration works (e.g. partial excavation of tailings, construction of berms, installation of covering materials, etc.) and the mitigation measures to be implemented when carrying out this work.
8. The proponent must specify the expected results of the restoration work in the short, medium and long term. It should specify its objectives for the site and the receiving environment in terms of surface water quality, groundwater level and quality, wildlife use, regrowth of vegetation, visual condition of the site, etc.
9. The proponent must specify whether, at the end of the restoration work, the site will contain final effluent within the meaning of Directive 019 on the mining industry. If necessary, it will describe the treatment planned for this effluent and confirm that it will allow the requirements of Direction 019 to be met.
10. The proponent states that tailings could be exposed to oxidation if they are altered by machinery or equipment work or following intense drought. The proponent must indicate how these risks were taken into account in the development of the restoration scenario and what measures will be implemented to avoid or limit these risks.
11. The proponent must specify what impacts are anticipated on wetlands affected by the restoration work (area of temporary losses, area of permanent losses, impairment of ecological functions, etc.). It should describe the measures that will be implemented to mitigate or offset these impacts.

Borrow pits

12. The proponent must provide details on the borrow pits it intends to use. For each of these sites, it must specify the location, the area stripped and mined, the type and quantity of material extracted as well as the routes for accessing the extraction sites. It must also indicate the general restoration measures planned for these sites at the end of operations.

13. The proponent must provide details on the roads used for the supply of materials, the number of round trips, and the frequency and timetables of the trucks transporting the materials. It should also describe the impacts associated with the increased truck traffic, particularly in terms of nuisance and road safety. It must describe the measures planned to limit these effects.

Monitoring

14. The proponent must present the environmental monitoring program that it mentions in its document. It must indicate the elements that will be subject to monitoring, the frequency of this monitoring and the analysis parameters. The environmental monitoring program should include the monitoring of surface water quality and groundwater quality so as to validate the effectiveness of the restoration work.
15. The proponent must describe the inspection and maintenance program it will implement in order to ensure the integrity of structures and the effectiveness of the restoration work.

Information and consultation activities conducted

16. The proponent must present the comments and concerns raised during the meetings held with the tallyman of the territory W-24A and, if applicable, specify how comments or concerns were taken into account in the analysis of the restoration scenarios and the development of the restoration plan. It must also indicate which mitigation measures have been included in the project in order to address these comments or concerns.
17. The proponent must contact the various users of the territory, in particular nearby lease holders, to obtain their comments and concerns about the project. It must describe its consultation and discussion mechanisms with territorial users of the territory and the communication methods that will be put in place in order to consult them and inform them of the progress of the work.

Benefits and labour

18. The proponent must indicate whether it plans promote the use of local labor and businesses, specifically, cree businesses in the region.

Project completion schedule

19. The proponent must provide an updated schedule for carrying out the project.

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

5) Development of a new landfill in Nemaska by the Cree Nation of Nemaska

Ref. No: 3214-16-079

➤ 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 October 23, 2019.

With this project, the Cree Nation of Nemaska would like to develop a new solid waste landfill (trench landfill) to serve the community, institutions and businesses of Nemaska. The proposed landfill will replace the existing landfill, which will eventually be closed and restored. It is expected that the new landfill will be ready for October 2021.

COMEV members reviewed a draft directive and made some modifications before agreeing that it can be forwarded to the Provincial Administrator.

Action: Send impacts directive to the Provincial Administrator.

6) Wastewater Treatment Plant in Wemindji by the Cree Nation of Wemindji

➤ 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 October 3, 2019, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the plan to install a wastewater treatment plant in Wemindji.

The Cree Nation of Wemindji would like to install a new wastewater treatment system comprising lagoons, a service building and a vehicle traffic area for the long-term treatment for at least the next 25 years of wastewater generated by the community. Construction is scheduled for 2020 and 2021, and operation is expected to start in winter 2021.

COMEV members reviewed a draft directive and made some modifications before agreeing that it can be forwarded to the Regional Administrator.

Action: Send impacts directive to the Regional Administrator.

7) Expansion of the lumber yard at the wood products processing plant by Chantiers Chibougamau Ltée

Ref No: 3214-23-006

➤ 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

On November 19, 2019, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information regarding the proposed expansion of the lumber yard at the Chantiers Chibougamau Ltée wood products processing plant.

With this project, Chantiers Chibougamau Ltée wishes to clear, backfill and level two areas adjacent to the plant facilities including wetlands, water areas and land. The purpose of this work is to enlarge the lumber yard at the wood products processing plant. The water flow will also be reconfigured as part of this project, notably by the creation of new streams.

After studying the document sent by the proponent, COMEV members decided that it needs additional information to continue its analysis. Thus, the proponent must answer the following questions:

1. The proponent must specify whether the zone planned for the extension will be modified to mitigate the impacts of water and wetlands.
2. The proponent must demonstrate the feasibility of carrying out the construction of the watercourses, and in particular of reversing the slope of a large part of the watercourse in order to make it flow in the opposite direction.
3. The proponent must consider carrying out the digging work of the T1 watercourse and changing the slope of the T3 watercourse during the winter season, when the ground is frozen.
4. The project must document the proposed compensation plan for the loss of fish habitat, particularly with regard to the creation of replacement habitat for brook trout. In this regard, the proponent must specify the hydrological characteristics of the watercourse concerned and determine its productivity in order to ensure that the compensation plan is feasible.
5. The proponent must consult the Cree community of Oujé-Bougoumou and the tallyman of the O55 site. The proponent states that it will work with the tallyman to trap beavers that could hinder the completion of the work. However, the proponent provides no evidence of consultation with the community and the tallyman to this end. The consultation should also cover the impacts of water diversion, water quality, impacted wildlife, and compensation for fish habitat and loss of wetlands.
6. The proponent must specify the monitoring to be carried out with regard to fish habitat, water quality (e.g. contaminants, flows, etc.) and wildlife.
7. The proponent must provide an updated schedule for completion of the project, taking into account its various phases.

Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator.
Forward questions and comments.

8) Varia

a) COMEV website

No new developments.

b) 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)*
- iii. Site development and excavation of an access ramp – Gladiator Project by Bonterra Resources Inc., Ref. No. 3214-14-065 *(On agenda for next meeting)*
- iv. Operation of a new quarry and hot mix asphalt plant at km 305 of the James Bay Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation, Ref. No. 3214-05-081 *(On agenda for next meeting)*
- v. Bulk sampling project – Lake Windfall (Triple Lynx sector) by Osisko Mining Inc., Ref. No. 3214-14-059 *(On agenda for next meeting)*
- vi. Operation of a new quarry and hot mix asphalt plant at km 35.5 of the James Bay Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation, Ref. No. 3214-05-081 *(On agenda for next meeting)*

9) Date and place of next meeting

Two dates have been proposed for the next meeting, January 22 or 29, 2020. Vanessa Chalifour will check with the Chairman for the final date. If the proposed dates are not suitable, members will be sent a Doodle survey to find a date for the meeting before the end of January 2020.

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up -- October 25 to December 10, 2019

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Repair of the Lake Waswanipi launch ramp in the territory of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government Ref. No: 3214-04-036	Philippe Gravel Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information	Sent October 25, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent October 25, 2019 Rec'd COMEV October 25, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Recommendation of exemption	Sent October 25, 2019 Acknowledgement of receipt October 28, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Johanne Morasse Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government	Attestation of exemption	Sent November 6, 2019 Rec'd COMEV November 6, 2019	
New landfill in Wemindji project	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	Transmittal of impacts directive	Sent October 25, 2019	
	Isaac Voyageur Regional Administrator	Rod Mamianskum Cree Nation of Wemindji		Sent November 13, 2019 Rec'd COMEV November 13, 2019	
Expansion of the lumber yard at the wood products processing plant by Chantiers Chibougamau Ltée Ref. No: 3214-23-006	Dave Lepage Chantiers Chibougamau Ltée	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent November 12, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent November 19, 2019 Rec'd COMEV November 20, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Site development and excavation of an access ramp – Gladiator Project by Bonterra Resources Inc. Ref. No: 3214-14-065	Pascal Hamelin Ressources Bonterra inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent October 31, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent November 26, 2019 Rec'd COMEV November 27, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Preliminary information – English version	Sent December 9, 2019 Rec'd COMEV December 10, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up -- October 25 to December 10, 2019

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Operation of a new quarry and hot mix asphalt plant at km 305 of the James Bay Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No: 3214-05-081	Anne-Marie Leclerc Norda Stelo / Stantec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent November 15, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent December 3, 2019 Rec'd COMEV December 4, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Bulk sampling project – Lake Windfall (Triple Lynx sector) by Osisko Mining Inc. Ref. No: 3214-14-059	Alexandra Drapack Minière Osisko Inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent November 20, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent December 4, 2019 Rec'd COMEV December 5, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>
Operation of a new quarry and hot mix asphalt plant at km 35.5 of the James Bay Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-05-081	Anne-Marie Leclerc Norda Stelo / Stantec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent November 29, 2019	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent December 5, 2019 Rec'd COMEV December 9, 2019	<i>For recommendation</i>