



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 296TH MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE**

(Adopted)

DATE: October 28, 2020

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Daniel Berrouard, Chairman, Québec
Isabelle Auger, Québec
Brian Craik, CNG
John Paul Murdoch, CNG
Louis Breton, Canada
Geneviève Bélanger, Canada

Vanessa Chalifour, Executive Secretary

1) Meeting declared open and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 295th meeting

The minutes of the 295th meeting were adopted as written.

Action: Translate and post the minutes of the 295th meeting.

3) Correspondence

Correspondence and follow-up for the period between September 19 and October 27, 2020 is presented in Appendix A.

4) Whapmagoostui Kuujjuaraapik Hybrid Power Plant Project

a) Preliminary information

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

On August 10, 2020, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the Whapmagoostui Kuujjuaraapik hybrid power plant project so that it can prepare its recommendation for the Regional Administrator.

Through this project, Kuujjuaraapik Whapmagoostui Renewable Energy Corporation plans to replace the existing power supply to the communities of Whapmagoostui and Kuujjuaraapik, which currently comes from a diesel power plant. The aim is to replace the current power supply, at least in part, with a local renewable energy source, in this case a park of three wind turbines of 800 kW each, the installed capacity of which will total A 2.4 W. 25 kV power line approximately 9.1 km long, will be built to connect the wind turbines to a control and maintenance centre which will include a connecting station. A 4 kV interconnection line, 500 metres long, will link this substation to the Hydro-Québec station located within the limits of the northern village of Kuujjuaraapik. In addition, approximately 3.4 km of access roads will be built.

Given the expected impacts of this project, the COMEV is of the opinion that it will need to undergo the social and environmental assessment and review procedure for northern regions, in compliance with the provisions of Article 158 of the Environment Quality Act and Article 22.5.14 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

However, the members agreed that given the value of the information in the document submitted by the proponent, this document could take the place of the impact study to be sent to the COMEX (Examining Committee), as long as it is expanded to include appropriate responses to the questions outlined in the directive.

Action: Recommendation to the Regional Administrator that this project undergo the review procedure and send the directive

5) Tamaani Internet project Phase 5

- a) Preliminary information
- b) Additional information
 - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the review process, or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

On May 1st, 2019, the Evaluating Committee received a description of Phase 5 of the Tamaani Internet Project for recommendation to the Federal Administrator. Additional information arrived on August 12, 2020.

This project aims to install a fibre-optic network to increase the connectivity of the 14 Inuit communities of Nunavik by using a network comprised of a submarine cable along the Hudson Bay coast, land-based fibre-optic infrastructure, and microwave towers in the communities. The project will be implemented over a 4-year period, and part of the project will be located in Eeyou Istchee territory, affecting the communities of Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui in particular.

After reviewing the documents transmitted by the proponent, the COMEV decided to recommend that this project be exempted from the review process. The members also agreed to pass on to the Federal Administrator the various comments they received during their analysis of the project.

Action: **Send a letter to the Federal Administrator**
 Recommendation of exemption from the review procedure

6) Operation of a gravel pit at km 305 of the James Bay Highway by Trimix Béton Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-03-043

- a) Preliminary information
- b) Additional information
 - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the review 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 August 6, and additional information on September 29, 2020.

Trimix Béton Inc. wants to operate a gravel pit covering 10 hectares at km 305 of the James Bay Highway, for the purpose of providing the materials necessary for the repair of 31 culverts at 28 sites located between km 271 and 320 of the James Bay Highway.

The COMEV understands that it will receive further correspondence in the coming weeks in connection with this project. Thus, members decided to await this correspondence and to postpone the analysis of this project until the next meeting of COMEV.

Action: **This project has been postponed to the next meeting.**

7) Operation of a gravel pit at km 291.4 of the James Bay Highway by Trimix Béton Inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-03-043

- a) Preliminary information
- b) Additional information
 - For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the review 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 August 6, and additional information on September 29, 2020.

Trimix Béton Inc. wants to operate a gravel pit covering 10 hectares at km 291.4 of the James Bay Highway, for the purpose of providing the materials necessary for the repair of 31 culverts at 28 sites located between km 271 and 320 of the James Bay Highway.

The COMEV understands that it will receive further correspondence in the coming weeks in connection with this project. Thus, members decided to await this correspondence and to postpone the analysis of this project until the next meeting of COMEV.

Action: This project has been postponed to the next meeting.

8) Varia

a) Projects pending

- i) Stripping of 12 overburdens at the Sirmac site, Ref. No.: 3214 14-063 *(Waiting for responses from proponent)*
- ii) Construction of a road for the installation of a wind measuring mast by Projet éolien Oujé-Bougoumou Skakeegun S.E.C., Ref. No.: 3214-05-082 *(Waiting for responses from proponent –2016 project)*
- iii) Site preparation and excavation of an access ramp – Gladiator project by Bonterra Resources Inc., Ref. No.: 3214-14-065 *(Waiting for responses from proponent)*
- iv) Operation of a quarry and hot mix asphalt plant at km 393.9 on the James Bay Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation, Ref. No.: 3214-05-081 *(On the agenda for the next meeting)*
- v) Quarry of greater than 3 ha near the La Grande-3 hydroelectric complex by Hydro-Québec, Ref. No.:3214-03-045 *(On the agenda for the next meeting)*
- vi) Underground exploration ramp, underground drilling and bulk sampling in Sector 51 of the Fenelon project by Wallbridge Mining Company Limited, Ref. No.:3214-14-064 *(On the agenda for the next meeting)*

9) Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2020 by videoconference (Teams).

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up – September 16 to October 27, 2020

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Thank you letter for her involvement in the Evaluation Committee	Daniel Berrouard COMEY	Alexandra Roio	Thank you for her involvement in the Evaluation Committee	Sent September 16, 2020	
Restoration of the Coniagas tailings pond by Galaxy Lithium (Ontario) Inc. Ref. No.:3214-14-054	Daniel Berrouard COMEY	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent September 16, 2020 Acknowledgement of receipt September 16, 2020	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium (Ontario) inc.		Sent October 7, 2020 Reç'd COMEV October 13, 2020	
Quarry at km 298 by the James Bay Energy Corporation (SEBJ) Ref. No.:3214-03-032	Daniel Berrouard COMEY	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Acknowledgement of receipt	Sent September 16,2020 Acknowledgement of receipt September 16, 2020	
Operation of a quarry and hot mix asphalt plant at km 393.9 of the James Bay Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No.:3214-05-081	Catherine Vallières Norda Stelo/Stantec Consortium	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent September 8, 2020	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEY		Sent September 14, 2020 Rec'd COMEV September 18, 2020	<i>For recommendation</i>
Operation of a gravel pit at km 291.4 of the James Bay Highway by Trimix Béton Inc. Ref. No.:3214-03-044	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEY	Additional information	Sent September 29, 2020 Rec'd COMEV le 30 septembre 2020	<i>For recommendation</i>
Operation of a gravel pit at km 305 of the James Bay Highway by Trimix Béton Inc. Ref. No.:3214-03-043	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEY	Additional information	Sent September 29, 2020 Rec'd COMEV September 30, 2020	<i>For recommendation</i>
Quarry of greater than 3 ha near the La Grande-3 hydroelectric complex by Hydro-Québec Ref. No.:3214-03-045	Guy Côté Hydro-Québec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent September 16, 2020	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEY		Sent October 2, 2020 Rec'd COMEV October 6, 2020	<i>For recommendation</i>
Underground exploration ramp, underground drilling and bulk sampling in Sector 51 or the Fenelon project, by Wallbridge Mining Company Limited, Ref. No.:3214-14-064	François Demers Wallbridge Mining Company Limited	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent October 5, 2020	
	Dominique Lavoie MELCC	Daniel Berrouard COMEY		Sent October 22, 2020 Rec'd COMEV October 23, 2020	<i>For recommendation</i>