



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 308TH MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE (COMEV)**

(Adopted)

DATE: 308 A: April 20, 2022
308 B: May 4, 2022

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: Geneviève Bélanger, Canada, Chair
Louis Breton, Canada
John Paul Murdoch, CNG
Daniel Berrouard, Québec
Nicholas Poirier, Québec (308 A)

Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary

ABSENT: Nicholas Poirier, Québec (308 B)

1) Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion hydroelectric project – Permanent residential complex on the site of the Eastmain-1 temporary camp by Hydro-Québec
Ref. No.: 3214-10-017

Representatives of Hydro-Québec (Natalie Nicole and Luc Duquette), the James Bay Energy Corporation – SEBJ (Nourredine Mouncef), the Nadostin Residence Corporation (Davey Bobbish) and the Cree First Nation of Eastmain (Greg Williams) presented a brief description of the project for a permanent residential complex on the Eastmain-1 workcamp site. The project will include a new residential building, a community center and the updating of existing infrastructure. They also presented a summary review of the application for exemption that the proponent, the Corporation Résidence Nadoshtin, plans to file in May of 2022.

Hydro-Québec will be the sole user of the new residential complex, which will accommodate up to 100 people. Hydro-Québec will retain a right to monitor any installation on the periphery of the complex.

2) Meeting 308 A declared open and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

3) Adoption of the minutes of the 307th meeting

The minutes of the 307th meeting were adopted as written.

Action: Translate and post the minutes of the 307th meeting.

4) Correspondence and follow-up

Correspondence sent and received between March 17 and April 20, 2022 is listed in Appendix A.

5) Expansion of borrow pit GD-17 at Nemaska by the Cree First Nation of Nemaska
Ref. No.: 3214-03-046

- Preliminary information
- Additional information (responses to QC01)
- For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the impact assessment process, or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

On June 16, 2021, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received preliminary information regarding the borrow pit project in Nemaska. Additional information (responses to questions and comments) was received February 16, 2022.

The proponent wishes to enlarge an existing borrow pit as the existing pit is located close to the village and has existing road access to and from the village. The expansion would meet the short- and medium-term sand and gravel needs of the Nemaska community for road construction and municipal works.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the COMEV recommends that this project be exempted from the social and environmental impacts assessment process.

The COMEV suggested that before starting the excavation work, the proponent check for the presence of avian species, such as the bank swallows, that may be nesting in the gravel/sand, and contact the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs to find out about methods for protecting these species.

Action: **Send letter to the Provincial Administrator**
 Recommendation of exemption

6) Opening and operation of a quarry in the Chibougamau sector by Dynamitage TCG inc.

Ref. No.: 3214-03-047

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

On February 21, 2022, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) the preliminary information concerning the opening and operation of a quarry by a Dynamitage TCG Inc.

The proponent would like to open a quarry of fewer than 3 hectares to extract granular materials that will be used to manufacture concrete, bitumen and ballast for construction needs in the region. Surface mineral processing will include crushing, drilling, and blasting. The proponent indicated that access to the quarry will be provided via an existing road and that developing the quarry will require the deforestation of the extraction area. There are also plans to build areas for stockpiles and material storage as well as construction trailers about 500 meters from the quarry.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the members of the COMEV agreed that additional information is required before continuing their analysis. The proponent will be sent a letter with a request for responses to various questions and comments.

Action: **Send letter to the Provincial Administrator**
 Transmittal of questions and comments

7) Rehabilitation of a site on the Mid-Canada radar surveillance line by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques

Ref. No.: 3214-16-082

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

Note: Nicholas Poirier left the meeting during this discussion.

Before the COMEV could issue a recommendation on this project, it needed to verify certain details regarding the possible addition of a second site to the application for exemption. The COMEV decided to await additional information from the proponent to clarify the number of sites that will be included in the application. This discussion continued at a later meeting (Meeting 308 B).

8) Varia

a) Projects pending

- 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 the proponent*)
- Champion Lake Shoreline protection project by the Cree First Nation of Nemaska, Ref. No: 3219-01-002 (*Waiting for responses from the proponent*)
- Opening and operation of a sand pit near Lac Lardet by Les équipements J.V.C. inc. Ref. No.: 3214-03-048 (*Under analysis*)
- Restoration of the Coniagas tailings site by Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-054 (*Under analysis*)
- Expansion of an existing quarry and reopening of the old sand pit at km 58 of Route 19900 (formerly R-1005) by the Ministère des Transports du Québec. Ref. No.: 3214-03-022 (*Waiting for responses from the proponent*)
- Environmental rehabilitation of the Mirabelli site at km 324 of the Billy Diamond Highway by Hydro-Québec (3214-16-083) (*Under analysis*)

9) Next meeting

Analysis of the rehabilitation of one or two sites on the Mid-Canada radar surveillance line (3214-16-082) will take place May 4, 2022 at 9 a.m. (Meeting 308 B).

The 309th meeting of the COMEV is planned for May 27, 2022 at 9 a.m.

The 310th meeting of the COMEV is planned for June 15, 2022 at 9.am.

10) Meeting 307 B – held May 4, 2022 via videoconference

Rehabilitation of two sites on the Mid-Canada radar surveillance line by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques

Ref. No.: 3214-16-082

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

Note: Nicholas Poirier was absent for this discussion.

On February 22, 2022, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the first information about a project to rehabilitate a site on the Mid-Canada line from the MELCC. On April 25, the COMEV received more information concerning the addition of a second site to the application for exemption.

The MELCC's environmental liability department would like to undertake with the rehabilitation of sites 403A and 406A of the Mid-Canada radar surveillance line. The Mid-Canada Line was built in the 1950s at the 55th parallel and was abandoned in 1965. Many of the 45 sites along the radar surveillance line have never been rehabilitated and old infrastructure and equipment, such as empty fuel drums, are still present. These sites are contributing to the deterioration of environmental quality and pose a risk to the health and safety of territorial users. The planned rehabilitation work includes the removal of residual hazardous materials, the dismantling of infrastructure and the removal of existing equipment, as well as the removal of contaminated soil. Dismantled materials and contaminated soils will be transported to authorized storage or treatment sites. If ground transport is required, it would be carried out during the winter period. The rehabilitation work should be carried out in the spring or summer of 2023.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the COMEV recommends that this project be exempted from the social and environmental impacts assessment process.

The COMEV encourages the proponent to maintain open channels of communication with the recipients and the local authorities responsible for the management of the residual hazardous materials, dismantled materials, and contaminated soils.

Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator
Recommendation of exemption

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up – March 17 to April 20, 2022					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Restoration of the Coniagas tailings site by Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-054	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmittal of questions and comments	Sent March 25, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt March 25, 2022	
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium Inc.		Sent March 31, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Expansion of the existing quarry and re-opening of the old sand pit at km 58 of Route 19900 (formerly R-1005) by the Ministère des Transports du Québec. Ref. No: 3214-03-022	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmittal of questions and comments	Sent March 25, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt March 25, 2022	
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	Phillipe Lemire MTQ		Sent April 4, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Environmental rehabilitation of the Mirabelli site at km 324 of the Billy Diamond Highway by Hydro-Québec Ref.No: 3214-16-083	Nicolas Morin Hydro-Québec	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Preliminary information	Sent March 1, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent March 25, 2022 Rec'd COMEV March 29, 2022	
Bulk sampling at the Caribou and Lynx 4 zones –Windfall project by Osisko Mining Inc., Ref. No.: 3214-14-059	Alexandra Drapack Osisko Mining	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information	Sent March 25, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent March 29 mars 2022 Rec'd COMEV March 31, 2022	
Gladiator project/ Site development and excavation of an access ramp by Bonterra Resources Inc. Ref.No: 3214-14-05	Maud Ablain MELCC	Marc-André Pelletier Bonterra Resources Inc	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent April 12, 2022 Rec'd COMEV April 12, 2022	<i>For information</i>
Bulk sampling at the Caribou and Lynx 4 zones –Windfall project by Osisko Mining Inc., Ref. No.: 3214-14-059	Geneviève Bélanger COMEV	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent April 13, 2022 Acknowledgement of receipt April 13, 2022	
Bulk sampling project at the James Bay Mine site by Galaxy Lithium Inc Ref. No.: 3214-14-054	Maud Ablain MELCC	Gail Amyot Galaxy Lithium Inc.	Transmittal of attestation of exemption	Sent April 12, 2022 Rec'd COMEV April 13, 2022	<i>For information</i>

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Restoration of the Coniagas tailings site by Galaxy Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-054	Denis Couture Galaxy Lithium Inc.	Marc Croteau Deputy Minister MELCC	Additional information (responses to questions and comments)	Sent April 7, 2022	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCC	Geneviève Bélanger COMEV		Sent April 12, 2022 Rec'd COMEV April 14, 2022	
Eastmain-1-A hydroelectric and Rupert diversion project – Permanent residential project on the site of the temporary camp at l'Eastmain-1 by Hydro-Québec Ref. No.: 3214-10-017	Natalie Nicole Hydro-Québec	Sophie Cooper COMEV	PowerPoint presentation of permanent housing project by the Corporation Résidence Nadoshtin	Sent April 19, 2022 Rec'd COMEV April 19, 2022	<i>For information</i>