



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 317TH MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE**

(Adopted)

DATE: June 15, 2023

PLACE: Videoconference

PRESENT: John Paul Murdoch, CNG, Chair
Lucas Del Vecchio, CNG
Geneviève Bélanger, Canada
Louis Breton, Canada
Nicholas Poirier, Québec
Daniel Berrouard, Québec

Sophie Cooper, Executive Secretary

1) Meeting 316 declared open and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

2) 2023-2024 Chair of the COMEV

The Chair of the for 2023-2024 will be assumed by the Cree Nation Government. The CNG has designated John Paul Murdoch as Chair of the COMEV.

3) Adoption of the minutes of the 316th meeting

The minutes of the 316th meeting were adopted as presented.

Action: Translate and post the minutes of the 316th meeting.

4) Correspondence and follow-up

Correspondence for the period from May 6 to June 15, 2023 is listed in Appendix A.

5) Reconstruction of a thermal plant and dryers by Barrette-Chapais Ltée

Ref. No.: 3214-24-001

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

On May 8, 2023, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information regarding the planned reconstruction of a thermal plant at the Barrette-Chapais site.

The Barrette-Chapais Ltée thermal plant, along with two bark silos and a wood dryer, were destroyed in a fire on December 23, 2022. The proponent wishes to proceed with the reconstruction of the thermal plant and the installation of wood dryers on the Barrette-Chapais site located on Route 113 east of the town of Chapais. The new thermal plant would be installed on existing facilities, about 100 meters northwest of the plant that was destroyed. There are no plans for new access roads or additional storage areas. The goal of the reconstruction is to maintain sawing and wood drying operations in Chapais. Additionally, the company will take advantage of the project to integrate more modern dryer technology that will allow continuous drying as opposed to the previous batch-based drying technology.

After reviewing the documents submitted by the proponent, the members of the COMEV agreed to recommend that this project be exempted from the social and environmental impacts assessment process.

Action: Send letter to the Provincial Administrator
Forward a recommendation of exemption

6) Expansion of an existing quarry and reopening of an old sandpit at km 58 of Route 19900 (formerly R-1005) by the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable

Ref No: 3214-03-022

- Preliminary information
- Additional information (responses to questions and comments)
- For recommendation on whether to exempt the project from the social and environmental review process, or on the scope of the impact study to be conducted

On December 17, 2021, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information regarding the planned expansion of a quarry and reopening of a sandpit on Route 19900. Additional information (responses to questions and comments) was received April 20, 2023.

The Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable (MTMD) wishes to expand the quarry and reopen an old sand pit on Route 19900, which connects the municipalities of Lebel sur Quévillon and Matagami. The granular materials from the two sites will be used for the maintenance and repair of Route 19900, which has several defects and needs major maintenance work. To improve the structural capacity and the general condition of the road, the proponent plans to correct the road deficiencies by regaveling the surface and carrying out maintenance work over a period of three years.

After reviewing the documents submitted by the proponent, COMEV recommends exempting this project from the environmental and social impacts assessment and review procedure. COMEV will encourage the proponent to maintain an open channel of communication with the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi and territorial users throughout the project and to inform them of the start of the work.

Action: **Send letter to the Provincial Administrator**
 Forward a recommendation of exemption

7) Construction of a new wastewater lagoon cell at Waskaganish by the Cree First Nation of Waskaganish

Ref. No.: 3219-12-004

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

ON March 16, 2023, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information about the construction of a new wastewater cell at the treatment plant in Waskaganish.

The proponent plans to build a new treatment cell to handle wastewater treatment needs for the community of Waskaganish for the next 20 years. Currently, the three existing cells are inefficient; the drains are clogged and the influx of water exceeds the plant's receiving capacity. As a result, water passes directly into the overflow of the first cell and is discharged without being treated. The new processing cell will be built directly southwest of the three existing cells. The plan for the project also includes the diversion of the treated water discharge from its

current route, a small nearby stream, to flow directly into the Rupert River estuary. An area of seven (7) hectares will have to be cleared for site preparation and an access road of approximately 100 meters will have to be built to provide access the new treatment cell.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the members of the COMEV decided they need more information from the proponent before continuing their analysis. The COMEV wants to be sure the proponent has taken all aspects of the project into consideration, and so will need the proponent to provide missing information and a description of how they plan to complete the project. The proponent will be sent a letter with a series of questions and comments so that it can provide answers to the issues created by the project.

Action: **Send a letter to the Regional Administrator**
 Forward questions and comments

8) Varia

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)
- Construction and operation of a remote landfill (LETI) at the Eastmain Mine by Benz Mining Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-16-081 (Waiting for responses from the proponent)
- Opening and operation of a sand pit near Lake Lardet by Les équipements J.V.C. inc. Ref. No.: 3214-03-048 (Waiting for responses from the proponent)
- Environmental rehabilitation of a former service station on the Trans-Taïga Road by the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles. Ref. No.: 3214-16-085 (under analysis)
- Construction of the Nadoshtin Residence by the Société Corporation Résidence Nadoshtin Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-06-031 (Waiting for responses from the proponent)
- Construction of forest roads in the Témiscamie sector by Chantiers Chibougamau Ltée Ref. No.:3214-05-086 (Waiting for clarifications)
- Sirmac Project - Bulk sampling of 50 000 tonnes by Vision Lithium Inc. (3214-14-068) (under analysis)
- Expansion and operation of a quarry at km 35.5 of the Billy Diamond Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation (3214-05-081) (under analysis)

9) Next meeting

The next meetings of the COMEV are scheduled for July 18, 2023 and August 24, 2023 by videoconference.

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up – May 4 to June 15, 2023					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Reconstruction of a thermal plant and dryers by Barrette-Chapais Ltée Ref. No.: 3214-24-001	Jean-Luc Bugnon Englobe	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Preliminary information – French version	Sent May 5, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Geneviève Bélanger COMEY		Sent May 8, 2023 Rec'd COMEV May 8, 2023	
Reconstruction of a thermal plant and dryers by Barrette-Chapais Ltée Ref. No.: 3214-24-001	Jean-Luc Bugnon Englobe	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister	Preliminary information– English version	Sent May 15, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Geneviève Bélanger COMEY		Sent May 16, 2023 Rec'd COMEV May 16, 2023	
Opening and operation of a new quarry in Nemaska by the Cree First Nation of Nemaska Ref. No.: 3214-03-050	Geneviève Bélanger COMEY	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent May 16, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt May 16, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Natasha M. Leroux Première Nation crie de Nemaska	Transmittal of attestation of exemption	Sent June 12, 2023 Rec'd COMEV June 13, 2023	
2023-2024 repair and maintenance work on the Billy Diamond Highway and Chisasibi Road by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-05-081	Geneviève Bélanger COMEY	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Request for additional information	Sent May 16, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt May 26, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Angelin Dossou SDBJ		Sent May 17, 2023 Rec'd COMEV May 18, 2023	

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up – May 4 to June 15, 2023					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Environmental rehabilitation of a former service station on the Trans-Taïga Highway by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts Ref. No.: 3214-16-085	Patrice Hébert MRNF	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Additional information – Responses to questions and comments	Sent May 18, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Geneviève Bélanger COMEY		Sent May 24, 2023 Rec'd COMEV May 25, 2023	
Sirmac project - Bulk sampling of 50 000 tonnes by Vision Lithium Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-068	Yves Rougerie Vision Lithium inc.	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Additional information – Responses to questions and comments	Sent May 16, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCCFP	Geneviève Bélanger COMEY		Sent May 30, 2023 Rec'd COMEV May 30, 2023	
Hub-and-spoke mining complex – Chibougamau by Doré Copper Mining Corp. Ref. No.: 3214-14-069	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Ernest Mast Doré Copper Mining Corp	Transmittal of impact study directive	Sent June 7, 2023 Rec'd COMEV June 7, 2023	
Expansion and operation of a quarry at 35.5 of the Billy Diamond Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No.: 3214-05-081	Catherine Dumais SNC-Lavalin	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Preliminary information	Sent June 2, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	John Paul Murdoch COMEY		Sent June 8, 2023 Rec'd COMEV June 8, 2023	