



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 319TH MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE**

(Adopted)

DATE: August 24, 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) 319th meeting declared open and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as written.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 318th meeting

The minutes of the 318th meeting were adopted as written.

Action: Translate and post the minutes of the 318th meeting.

3) Correspondence and follow-up

Correspondence and follow-up for the period July 19 to August 24, 2023 is listed in Appendix A.

4) Sirmac Project- Bulk sampling of 50 000 tonnes par Vision Lithium

Ref. No: 3214-14-068

- Preliminary information
- Additional information (responses to questions and comment)
- For recommendation on whether the exempt the project from the assessment procedure, or on the scope of the impacts study to be conducted

On December 6, 2022, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information regarding a bulk sampling project by Vision Lithium. Additional information was received May 30, 2023.

The proponent intends to carry out bulk sampling of 50,000 tons of ore for metallurgical testing. The project will involve rock blasting and digging with an excavator. The proponent indicates that the rock collected will be transported off-site for processing.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the members of COMEV agreed they need more information before continuing their analysis. The proponent will be sent a letter including questions and comments for response.

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

5) Moblan mining project by Sayona Nord Inc.

Ref. No: 3214-14-062

- Preliminary information – Project update
- For recommendation on the scope of the impacts study to be conducted

On July 5, 2023, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information concerning an update of the Moblan Lithium mining project.

The proponent, Sayona Nord Inc., plans to construct a mine and a lithium concentrator at the Moblan Lake site, for which it acquired the mining rights in December of 2021. The proponent plans to make significant modifications to the project compared to its initial proposal. Some elements of the original project and design remain in place, such as open-pit mining, the location of the ore processing plant, and the use of combined piles for tailings and waste rock.

The modifications proposed by the proponent include: expanding the study area (from 443 ha to 2000 ha); expansion of the pit (from 26 ha to 85 ha) into a new watershed and the complete destruction of a lake; a new route for the construction of the power line; and the extension of the operating mine's life (from 15 years to 25 years).

Due to the significant modifications the proponent proposes for the project and given the time that has passed, the COMEV recommends that a new impact study directive be issued. This will provide the proponent with the clarity necessary for them to take into consideration the new rules and guidelines from the Government of Quebec that were not included in the 2019 directive. A new directive will be drafted and approved at a later meeting.

6) Compensation for damage to wetlands and water bodies – Evaluation of the situation in territories covered by the Agreement - Request for consultation

- For opinion and comments

On August 9, 2023, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received a request from the MELCCFP for consultation concerning the compensation of water environments and wetlands (MHH) in territories covered by the JBNQA.

The MELCCFP and the working committee on compensation for damage to wetlands and bodies of water north of the 49th parallel would like to receive COMEV's opinions and comments regarding compensation for damages in the James Bay region. COMEV members will draft comments and continue the discussion on this subject at the next meeting.

7) 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)
- 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)
- 2023-2024 maintenance and repair work on the Billy Diamond Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation. Ref. No. 3214-05-081 (Waiting for responses from the proponent)
- Construction of a new wastewater lagoon cell at Waskaganish by the Cree First Nation of Waskaganish Ref. No. 3219-12-004 (Waiting for responses from the proponent)

8) Next meetings

The next meetings of the COMEV are scheduled for September 27, November 1, and November 28, 2023 by videoconference.

Appendix A Correspondence and follow-up – July 19 to August 24, 2023					
Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Expansion and operation of a quarry at km 35,5 de of the Billy Diamond Highway by the James Bay Development Corporation Ref. No: 3214-05-081	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent July 24, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt July 24, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Angelin Dossou SDBJ	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent August 16, 2023 Rec'd COMEV August 16, 2023	
Environmental rehabilitation of a former service station on the Trans-Taiga Road but the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts Ref. No: 3214-16-085	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmittal of recommendation of exemption	Sent July 24, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt July 24, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Stéphanie Morin MRNF	Transmittal of attestation of exemption	Sent August 16, 2023 Rec'd COMEV August 16, 2023	
Compensation for damage to wetlands and water bodies in territories covered by the Agreement – Evaluation of the situation in Agreement territories	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Request for consultation	Sent August 9, 2023 Rec'd COMEV August 14, 2023	<i>For opinion and comments</i>