



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité d'évaluation
Evaluating Committee

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**MINUTES OF THE 321ST MEETING
OF THE EVALUATING COMMITTEE**

(Adopted)

DATE: November 1, 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 declared open and adoption of the agenda

The minutes were adopted as written.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the 320th meeting

The minutes of the 320th meeting were adopted as written.

Action: Translate and most the minutes of the 320th meeting.

3) Correspondence and follow-up

Correspondence for the period September 28 to November 1, 2023 is listed in Appendix A.

**4) Opening and operation of a quarry at km 440 of the Billy Diamond Highway and operation of a hot mix asphalt plant by Blais & Langlois
Ref. No.: 3214-05-081**

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

On September 8, 2023, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information on the plan to develop a quarry on the Billy Diamond Highway. Additional information was received on October 2, 2023.

Since 2015, the James Bay Development Corporation (SDBJ) has undertaken various projects aimed at improving the safety and comfort of users of the Billy Diamond Highway. Its requirements for clean aggregate and stone are supplied by local quarries located near the highway and the following proposed work sites. The proponent wishes to open and operate a new quarry, covering an extraction area of 2.99 ha, at km 440 along the Billy Diamond highway in the objective to repair the roadway and replace substandard culverts. The site will be redeveloped and restored at the end of quarry operations, which are estimated to last 2 years.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the COMEV decided additional information is needed before members can complete their analysis. Accordingly, the proponent will be sent the committee's questions and comments for its response.

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

**5) Construction of an ecocentre in Whapmagoostui by the Cree Nation Government
Ref. No.: 3219-16-004**

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

On August 29, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information concerning a proposed ecocentre on Category I lands in the community of Whapmagoostui.

The project consists of the construction of an ecocentre on a site currently occupied by scrap vehicles, metal waste and tires. A site cleanup has been planned, as well as soil decontamination, if necessary, to remove these materials from the site and free up space. The ecocentre will consist of four loading docks with container -- two docks for construction residue and bulk waste, one dock for metal and one dock for wood. The project also includes a site for the storage of hazardous waste (e.g. batteries, paints, used oils, etc.) and a site for reusable waste. A 1,500 m² platform will also be set up for large loads of waste wood, aggregates, cement, asphalt, and other materials.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the COMEV decided additional information is needed before members can complete their analysis. Accordingly, the proponent will be sent the committee's questions and comments for its response.

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

6) Borrow pit (PK 0.6) for the restoration of the Coniagas tailings site by Allkem/Galaxy Lithium

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 impacts study to be conducted

On August 25, 2023, the Evaluating Committee (COMEV) received the preliminary information concerning the development of a new borrow pit for the restoration of the Coniagas tailings site.

The proponent submitted a first application for a certificate of exemption for restoration work on the Coniagas tailings site in 2011. Subsequent applications for exemption concerning opening borrow pits as a source of supply for carrying out this work were filed in September 2019 and November of 2021. Certificates of exemption were issued on April 29, 2015 for the initial project and on October 7, 2020 and June 21, 2022 for the opening and operation of borrow pit 2 and borrowing source 2 (PK 0.5) respectively. In this application, the proponent asks to open and operate a new borrow pit (PK 0.6) for the restoration work at the Coniagas tailings site since borrowing source 2 (PK 0.5) does not contain the quantity of till necessary for the project.

After reviewing the documents from the proponent, the COMEV decided additional information is needed before members can complete their analysis. Accordingly, the proponent will be sent the committee's questions and comments for its response.

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

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 responses from the proponent*)
- 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*)
- Mont Sorcier mining project by Voyager Matals inc. (3214-14-071) (*under analysis*)

8) The next meeting of the COMEV is scheduled for November 28, 2023.

Appendix A
Correspondence and follow-up -- September 28 to November 1, 2023

Project	From	To	Document	Date	Action - comments
Opening and operation of a quarry at km 440 of the Billy Diamond Highway and operation of a hot mix asphalt plant by Blais & Langlois inc. Ref. No.: 3214-05-081	Charles Delisle Blais & Langlois	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Additional information sent	Sent September 22, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent October 2, 2023 Rec'd COMEV October 2, 2023	
Moblan Lithium mining project by Sayona Nord inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-070	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Transmittal of impacts study directive	Sent October 3, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt October 3, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
Compensation for damages to wetlands and water bodies: Evaluation of the situation in territories covered by the Agreement	John Paul Murdoch COMEV	Mélissa Gagnon MELCCFP	Transmittal of comments	Sent October 6, 2023 Acknowledgement of receipt October 6, 2023	
Mont Sorcier mining project by Voyager Metals Inc. Ref. No.: 3214-14-071	Robert E. Girardin Voyager Metals	Marie-Josée Lizotte Deputy Minister MELCCFP	Preliminary information sent	Sent September 26, 2023	<i>For recommendation</i>
	Maud Ablain MELCCFP	John Paul Murdoch COMEV		Sent October 17, 2023 Rec'd COMEV October 18, 2023	