

BAPE Submission Form

Contact Information	
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Concerns and/or Questions	
<p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It will be important for the BAPE to take note of the fact that the Mistissini Youth Council ran a poll on uranium in 2012, which showed that 78% of the population wanted a moratorium or outright ban in regards to uranium development. 382 youth responded to this poll. - It will be essential that the BAPE consultations not only focus on uranium exploration, but also on exploitation and site closure, as these themes were not considered throughout the review process for the Strateco advanced exploration permit request. Many of the key considerations and preoccupations of the Cree community of Mistissini failed to be addressed, including health and safety risks for mine workers and risks related to leaching and dispersion of radionuclides from tailings. - There have been reports indicating elevated levels in selenium found downstream of uranium mine sites in Saskatchewan, having the potential to cause reproductive impairment in fish. - Many community members still live on their traditional traplines. The Cree Nation Government indicates that up to 30% of the Cree families are registered on the income security program, which allows hunters and trappers to provide economically essential traditional food to their families and communities. The development of the uranium sector could prevent hunters sustaining the community, effectively annulling the program. - Many families living under the poverty level still rely on hunting and fishing to ensure nourishment for their families. At certain points in the year many families will not have enough money to purchase groceries, and will be reliant on abundant and uncontaminated traditional foods. - It is important for the BAPE to recognize that Cree culture and spirituality have practical implications in terms of community and family economics and social organization. There is no strict boundary between Cree culture and livelihood, both based on the harvesting of traditional foods. - In the event that the Quebec moratorium on uranium would be lifted, there is no trust in the Cree community that the CSNC would be able to fulfill its mission of protecting Cree workers and communities from the harmful long-term impacts of uranium mining. - The key difference between other types of mining and uranium exploitation is that uranium involves the management of risks beyond a human timeline, which passes the Cree threshold for acceptability. - Uranium development in the Otish Mountains would pose a direct challenge to the development of the tourism sector and the Albnel-Temisgamie-Otish National Park. - Many other North-American First Nations approached to share their experiences with uranium development (the Soo, the Navajo and the Cheyenne) are dealing with deleterious public health and ecological impacts from the uranium mines located on or near harvesting grounds or sources of 	

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potable water.

- With the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, the uranium market will be affected significantly, further minimizing the sustainability of the industry.
- The growing unpredictability and intensity of regional and global weather patterns, which involve heavy rain and increasing forest fires could greatly reduce the safety, stability and effectiveness of eventual mines' safety and emergency response mechanisms, and increase negative impacts from uranium mining.
- Mistissini Lake and the rivers that flow to and out of it are the home of the Mistissini Cree. If the waters are contaminated it could devastate our livelihood.
- Uranium mining has been linked with increased rates of thyroid cancer and leukemia in adjacent communities.

Date:

July 10th, 2014

Signature:

