

BAPE Submission Form

Les enjeux de la filière uranifère au Québec

6211-08-012

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Concerns and/or Questions	

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Questions

- Can uranium deposits be close enough to the surface to contribute to perceived increases in occurrences of cancer in trappers and hunters?
- Were the managers of the Strateco exploration project aware of the dangers of manipulating samples? They did not inform the Cree workers of potential hazards to their health.
- Which of the active claims in the Otish Mountains could potentially become active mines?
- Are there significant variations in potential hazards associated with different types of uranium deposits?
- Will contamination from uranium mining contribute to the difficulties the elders have in predicting weather patterns in the spring, and from transmitting this knowledge to the youth in order to maintain the Cree livelihood in the long term?
- How would a uranium mine affect the hunting grounds of the families that are downstream from the site?

Concerns

- There could potentially be a significant waste of valuable minerals (gold, rare earth, etc.) contained in the tailings and waste rock of uranium mines.
- It is hard for the elders to believe or trust experts from the south, as they have no knowledge of the Cree livelihood or of the extent and depth of the traditional ecological knowledge of elder hunters and trappers.
- The benefits from uranium mines would mostly benefit the families of the affected trapline tallymen, and not the community as a whole.
- The community is not convinced that the proponents of uranium exploration and exploitation projects, as experience with past mining projects have shown that mine operators have avoided responsibilities in terms of protecting the environment and worker and community health and safety.
- The concerns of women are often set aside in consultation processes and political decisions, it is essential that the BAPE consider the women's perspective on uranium development.
- The contamination of land, traditional foods and traditional medicines from uranium contamination could cause depression in community members by affecting the Cree quality of life.
- For most Cree families, the majority of the food consumed is not store-bought, but traditional. Supermarkets and restaurants are simply too expensive for most families.
- Our community needs jobs, but we cannot afford to take jobs that would rob us the freedom to go back to the land in times of need.
- It is not realistic to think that companies are able to ensure the safety of the site and the containment of the dust from the tailings indefinitely.
- With the changes in weather patterns and the floods we've seen recently on the Temiscamie River, it is hard to believe that the tailings ponds in uranium mines would never overflow or degrade and leach into the ground and water.
- The Matoush project has already afforded us the opportunity to say 'No' to uranium.
- Much of our traplines have already been destroyed for mining projects and hydroelectric development.

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Date:	July 9 th , 2014.
Signature:	Christine Stawickband President MNWA