Les enjeux de la filière uranifère au Québec

6211-08-012

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Concerns and Questions

Questions

- 1. What amount of uranium is likely to be extracted in an advanced exploration process?
- 2. How are core samples transported?
- 3. Which claims in the Otish Mountains could be most likely to become advanced exploration or exploitation sites?
- 4. How many projects in total could there potentially be in the Otish Mountains?
- 5. How could promoters ensure that safety measures are effectively followed by Cree workers at the exploration and extraction sites?
- 6. Will radioactive material be extracted at the Stornoway site, or at other active, past or potential mine sites? How is or would this material be managed?
- 7. How is the uranium market likely to evolve in the following years and decades?
- 8. Are there ways to ascertain how the uranium extracted at eventual mines be marketed and where it could be sold? How can we prevent the uranium to be used in weapons manufacturing?
- 9. Once the mine lifespan is over, what is left for the Cree in terms of opportunities for economic development?
- 10. To what extent will regional fish populations be affected by the operation of a uranium mine?
- 11. Where would waters contaminated by mining projects in the Otish Mountains eventually flow?
- 12. If a uranium mine is put into operation, would we still be able to eat traditional foods from the land, including fish?
- 13. Are the trappers and hunters being well informed about the potentially cancerous effects from exposure to uranium?
- 14. How secure would the vehicles transporting uranium waste and ore be?
- 15. Are there other areas in Eeyou Istchee where uranium mines could likely be developed if one project is authorized in the Otish Mountains?
- 16. Where would the waste from uranium mining be transported? Leaving it on the land is unacceptable.

Concerns

- 1. Uranium exposure from exploration sites could be contributing to perceived increases in occurrence of cancer among community members and trappers.
- 2. An independent firm should be hired to assess impacts from exploration site.
- 3. The community needs maps of the distribution and typology of uranium in the different active

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claims.

- 4. Eeyou Istchee is the last frontier. No one else will protect it, it is the responsibility of the Cree, and we must ensure that no effort is spared to prevent the authorisation projects that can have deleterious effects on the Cree way of life.
- 5. All the rivers in the region flow from the Otish Mountains, and so contaminating the area would bring contamination to the entire region.
- 6. Quebec's southern population does not seem to understand the fact that we live off the land, and that hunting, trapping and fishing is a question of survival.
- 7. Even working members of the community sometimes have to go back to the land in hard times to provide for their families. The impacts of uranium mining could prevent them from being able to do so.
- 8. Hunters and trappers would likely get little compensation from the uranium mines, beyond the families of the tallymen of traplines that are directly affected by projects.
- 9. The job opportunities for Cree workers are always less numerous and interesting than what is announced by the proponents, and it would be the same for uranium mines.
- 10. The effects of uranium mining are not yet well understood by community members. We require more information about all phases of project development.
- 11. The land, the water and the animals are already affected by hydro and mining development, as well as from the construction of road 167. Contamination from radioactivity would add a level of risk that is unacceptable to the Cree.
- 12. Few hunters and trappers have been invited to the Strateco mine site, and so we do not have a good visual understanding of exploration sites.
- 13. As the southern population does not understand our language, they cannot understand the great depth and specificity of our knowledge of the land, and the way that this knowledge is passed on to the next generations.
- 14. If the land, waters, animals and fish are contaminated from uranium mining, we will not be able to live our traditional way of life for many, many years.
- 15. If our lands are contaminated from uranium mining, it will affect future generations as well as the present population.
- 16. Southern populations promote the development of mines for employment, but the Cree people cherish the land, animals and fish and depend on them for food.
- 17. We are teaching our youth about the Cree way of life and survival. We have to make sure the land they go to will not be polluted from uranium mining.
- 18. Tree plantations in the forest, which animals need for food, will be contaminated by uranium mining.
- 19. We are afraid that we will lose our culture and hunting and trapping practices if uranium mines are authorized.
- 20. Uranium will cause cancerous effects on our people, as well as other health problems.
- 21. Uranium mining will affect the tourism industry in our lands.
- 22. The loss of our culture would cause social problems in our communities, as we would no longer pursue our traditional lifestyle.
- 23. Uranium mines will increase health problems for our people, including the problems of pregnant women.
- 24. Other uranium mines will be authorized if one is granted permission to operate.

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- 25. Spillage of contaminants is a big concern of hunters and trappers.
- 26. We are already experiencing negative impacts from other developments, including forestry.
- 27. Rivers on Cree territory run right across our lands, which could transmit contaminants from uranium mining to other areas.
- 28. Uranium may be extracted as a by-product in other types of mining activity that are currently occurring on Cree Territory. We need more information on how this uranium is managed and handled, and on the impacts it can have on the land, water and animals. We need a better understanding of how these impacts compare to those from actual uranium extraction activities.
- 29. The Cree hunters & trappers, both at the local and regional level, are against the development of uranium mines. **OUR POSITION WILL NOT CHANGE**.

Date:	July 25 th , 2014
Signature:	agred Count Zi R