

Contact Information	
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Concerns and/or Questions	
<p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A was concluded in 2012 at the CNSC hearings for the Strateco advanced exploration project, uranium development has no social acceptability in our community. This position will not change. - As stewards of the land we have the responsibility to protect the greatest freshwater lake in the province, which behooves us to prevent uranium development from adding great and uncertain risk to the cumulative impacts from hydro, mining and road development on our traplines. - Uranium development and its implications in terms of nuclear energy production and weapons manufacturing, is incompatible with Cree culture and values. - It will be essential for the BAPE to afford great consideration to the perspective of the Cree of Mistissini in its recommendations to the government, as we are the only community that has had experience with uranium projects that have gone through the review process related to advanced exploration, and have first-hand insights it has had about uranium development's potential environmental, social and economic impacts and risks. - We consider that the risks related to uranium development are too great and the potential benefits to the community too uncertain to warrant our support. - One of our main preoccupations with uranium is that the residues from extracting and transforming the ore involve permanent management, yet no company can commit to being responsible for this waste beyond a human timeframe. - Our opposition to uranium must not be understood as a repudiation of the mining industry, which is a core pillar of our objectives in terms of economic development and job creation. Many of our community members are trained for mining work, and eager to participate in the emergence of a responsible mining sector in Eeyou Istchee. - Our decision to oppose uranium development has come from an extensive process of open and sustained community consultations, through which the men, women, elders, hunters & trappers, youth and leaders of our community have gathered knowledge and held the discussions necessary to make an informed decision. - The consultations regarding us have afforded us not only the opportunity to voice our refusal of uranium development, but also present our development strategy, based around responsible resource management, tourism development, and the development of local and Cree-owned service companies. - As Cree culture and livelihoods are both interdependent and based on the availability of uncompromised and uncontaminated land and traditional foods, the prevention of uranium development is also a questions of preserving our way of life, regional economy and identity. Our 	

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freedom to live off and with the land is the cornerstone of this culture.

- The precautionary principle prevents us from going forward with uranium development, as the risks to the health and safety of Cree workers and to the environment are ill defined and uncertain. This uncertainty must not be interpreted as an invitation to go forward in the absence of confirmed risk.

- The BAPE must take into account that this opposition to uranium development is not borne of Mistissini alone, but is the position of the Grand Council of the Cree and all Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee. We stand united as a Nation behind this position, which was also expressed at the BAPE hearings in Chisasibi.

- Our consideration of the potential impacts of uranium development are not focusing on the Strateco project specifically, but rather on the potential cumulative impacts from the several other extraction projects that could materialize from all of the exploration activity happening in the Otish Mountains.

- As the heads of many great rivers connecting the different Cree communities all stem from the Otish Mountains, any spill or leaching from uranium exploration or extraction activities could potentially contaminate a vast expanse of land and affect several communities.

- Recent floods along the Temiscamie river have illustrated some of the additional and unpredictable risk and potential devastation associated with climate change. We are not confident that the containment system for tailings could withstand extreme weather events over thousands and thousands of years.

- No development shall ever occur on Cree traditional land without our consent. These rights are granted to us by James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and its development project review process and shall not be denied.

- We regret the fact the DIVEX background document prepared for the BAPE on uranium has yet to be transmitted to the Cree Nation in a language that it can be comfortable with. Going forward it will be essential that the BAPE ensure that all documentation is available to the Cree in English, and in a timely fashion.

- As the Cree land-users and elders are the owners of the most specific, technical, integrated and wide-ranging data available on the environmental dynamics in the region of Eeyou Istchee. It is essential that the BAPE attribute great value to this information in the rendering of its recommendation to the government. Also, land-users should be engaged by the BAPE to coordinate the taking into consideration of this data with the BAPE and the James Bay Advisory Committee on the environment.

- As a First Nation, the Cree of Mistissini have aboriginal rights guaranteed by the Canadian constitution and international law. We also have treaty rights under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. This framework ensures that the Cree of Mistissini have the right to participate in decision making about issues impacting them. This right of free, prior and informed consent has been recognized by the Review Committee, COMEX, in its Environmental Review for the Matoush Uranium Exploration Project in July 2011.

Date:

July 10th, 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to a representative of the Cree Nation, is written over the signature line.