Les enjeux de la filière uranifère au Québec

6211-08-012

Contact Information	
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Concerns and/or Questions

Questions

- What archaeological studies are required by the federal and provincial review processes under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement for uranium advanced exploration or extraction projects, or for the granting of claims?
- Does the JBNQA allow for the creation of historical or cultural sites of importance that could effectively prevent local uranium development in Eeyou Istchee?
- How do you prevent leaching or dust blowing from tailings pond?
- With the changing climate, we've seen a flood recently on the Temiscamie river that damaged several homes. How could it be possible to prevent a flooding of the tailings pond or damage to the tailings containment mechanism?
- Could travelling animals such as waterfowl, fish, moose, beaver, or bear visiting the mine site spread the contamination to other regions?
- We know that there are legal loopholes that companies can use to avoid their environmental responsibilities; how can we prevent uranium mine proponents from taking advantage of these?

Concerns

- It is essential that traditional knowledge of the land be transmitted to the youth so that they are able to understand the impacts of uranium mining in the long-term on the land.
- Traditional knowledge of the land must be documented more systematically to make decisions on uranium development projects in order to ensure a correct understanding of land-use by review bodies and promoters.
- The Cree must develop their mapping capacity to illustrate this traditional knowledge.
- The youth have been very involved in maintaining a community dialogue on uranium mining impacts, and as such it will be essential to keep them interested in the issues at hand.
- Archaeological studies have proven the Cree's presence on the land for 6000 years, and we cannot be pushed away for uranium development if it is not our will.
- Contamination from tailings could affect the resilience and resistance of the ecosystem on which we depend for sustenance.
- Uranium development could endanger the income security program, as it could affect the ability of the hunters and trappers to effectively provide traditional foods to their community and families. The income security program was negotiated as part of the JBNQA, and as such it makes no sense for the government to challenge this program by allowing uranium development.

BAPE Submission Form

- We believe that uranium mines would have a damaging effect on community health.
- There is no way to contain the air we breathe, so it will be impossible to contain radioactive dust from the mines.
- We cannot accept work that would prevent future generations from being able to live off the land.
- We have a duty to protect the last frontier of Quebec, where the water, animals, plants and land are still uncomprimosed enough for us to live off them, and that it is therefore our duty to prevent uranium development.
- We must protect Mistissini Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Quebec, from being contaminated, as we want to attract people from the south to come experience it and come to understand our culture.
- There are too many unknowns and uncertainties around uranium mining, and so the risk is too great.
- We will require the information on mining claims and which companies are exploiting them to be mapped and made more readily available to the community.
- The community members need much more detailed information on uranium mining and its potential impacts.
- The community members need more specific information on the differences between open pit and underground mining in terms of potential impacts.
- Any review process or strategic decision around uranium mining should take into account the elders' traditional knowledge, which is extremely deep and technically specific, in a much more systematic way.
- The headwaters of many of the great rivers of Eeyou Istchee are located in the Otish Mountains. Contamination of these waters would disseminate radioactive material through vast swathes of land, and to several Cree communities.

Date:	July 11 th , 2014
Signature:	Sant Hance ah buco