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NUNATSIAQ ONLINE

NEWS: Nunavut September 02, 2014 - 5:55 am

Nunavut review board staff to hold uranium meetings in Saskatchewan

"Our land and environment is priceless and necessary for our way of life"

NUNATSIAQ NEWS

Nunavut Impact Review Board staff will head to northern Saskatchewan at the end of this month to hold public meetings in three Dene communities whose residents have expressed concerns about Areva Resources Canada's proposed uranium mine in the Kivalliq region.

Those meetings will follow a Baker Lake community meeting on the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine this week. That meeting, Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m., will be held at the community hall.



Workers haul equipment at Areva's Kiggavik project site near Baker Lake. Hundreds of kilometres south, Saskatchewan Dene say they want more input into the mining project. (FILE PHOTO)

The Athabasca Denesuline Né Né Land Corp. has voiced concerns for years over the uranium project saying transportation of the milled uranium — called yellowcake — by plane over their traditional territory poses a potential risk in the case of a plane crash.

"The risks and impacts associated with a transportation accident are far greater than what we are willing to risk," says an Aug. 18 letter from the Athabasca Dene.

"Our land and environment is priceless and necessary for our way of life. Therefore, the AD do not support the transportation of yellowcake from Kiggavik mine to Points North."

Areva proposes to fly some 5,000 tonnes of yellowcake each year to a community called Points North, Sask. From there, it would be transported further south by truck or train.

The Dene say they have not been properly consulted and in 2010, received modest intervener funding — \$5,000 — from the Indian Affairs and Northern Development department to cover the cost of correspondence and involvement in the review process.

Other organizations receiving intervener funding included:

- Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board — \$90,000
- Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization — \$80,000
- Hamlet of Baker Lake — \$10,000

The project proposal, which includes two properties — Kiggavik and Sissons — consists of an ore mining and milling operation roughly 80 kilometres west of Baker Lake.

The Saskatchewan-based Areva — part of the Areva Group of Companies headquartered in France — first submitted the uranium mine proposal to the NIRB in 2008.

In 2009, the NIRB decided a full public hearing was necessary. That complex process has been unfolding ever since.

General correspondence listed on the NIRB's website on the review runs more than 60 documents long and includes letters sent back and forth between the company and various stakeholders, including the Athabasca Dene.

The Dene of Wollaston Lake, Black Lake and Fond du Lac, Sask. are not only concerned with the transport of yellowcake, but also the impact the mine might have on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq

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caribou herds whose populations straddle Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The NIRB plans to visit those communities from Sept. 22 to Sept. 24, to "provide information about the NIRB's environmental assessment of the Kiggavik proposal to date and the next steps in the review process," an Aug. 27 NIRB letter states.

"The NIRB hopes that holding public meetings in these communities of northern Saskatchewan will help ensure that all interested parties are aware of our process and are informed of the ways they may participate."

Board staff intend to hold afternoon open houses which will serve as an "informal discussion" and evening meetings with formal presentations.

According to a Government of Nunavut map, the Kiggavik project is located at the intersection of several caribou herd ranges including the Wager Bay, Qamanirjuaq, Ahiaik and Lorillard herds.

But the mine site appears to be at least 60 km from the nearest official calving grounds.

The Athabasca Denesuline have also been active participants in the Nunavut Planning Commission's drafting of its proposed [Nunavut land use plan](#), again raising concerns about how mining exploration in the Kivalliq might affect barrenland caribou.

The Kiggavik project includes two properties: Kiggavik and Sissons. The Kiggavik site is composed of 17 mineral leases covering 9,808 acres of territory in the Kivalliq and the Sissons site is composed of 22 mineral leases and covers 36,371 acres.

The mine, if it gets approval, is expected to operate for 17 years and employ 400-600 people, according to documents filed with the NIRB in 2009.

The NIRB expects Areva to submit its [final environmental impact statement](#) by the end of September 2014. This means final public hearings would likely go forward in 2015, with final public hearings on the project scheduled for 2015.

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(2) Comments:

#1. Posted by Look Out on September 02, 2014

The Dene have already gotten to know AREVA's processes and tactics - we should pay attention to what they have to say.

600 Years for Yellowcake to break down and dissolve. No wonder they are worried.

#2. Posted by Gena on September 02, 2014

60 km is only 37 miles! surely caribou walk further than that? don't calving grounds alter locations over years?

60 km downwind of radioactive material doesn't make me feel very safe. NIRB, you should consult the food sources too.

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Le ministre responsable du Conseil d'examen des taxes des services publics (CETSP) le premier ministre Peter Taptala, invite les candidats à soumettre des demandes de révision au Conseil d'examen des taxes des services publics.

The Minister Responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council (URRC), Premier Peter Taptala is seeking interested individuals to be appointed to the Utility Rates Review Council.

Le CETSP est un organisme de réglementation indépendant du gouvernement territorial du Nunavut, mandaté à la loi par le CETSP et son conseil d'administration.

The URRC is an arm-length regulatory council of the Government of Nunavut, operating under and administering through the URRC Act.

On peut obtenir une description détaillée des fonctions des membres du Conseil sur demande ou en consultant le site Web du CETSP.

A detailed description of duties of council members is available upon request or on the URRC website.

Les mises en candidature doivent être reçues au plus tard le 30 septembre 2014.

Applications must be received no later than September 30, 2014.

Pour de plus amples renseignements sur le Conseil, visitez le site Web du CETSP ou contactez le CETSP au 867-975-6664.

For more information on the Council see the website of the CETSP or call 867-975-6664.

Envoyez vos candidatures par courriel à :

Mail: Nunavut Utility Rates Review Council c/o Executive Director P.O. Box 1040, Ste 200 Igloolik, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Or par courriel: URRC@mun.ca

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The closing date for applications is September 12, 2014.

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http://www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674nunavut_review_board_staff_to_hold_u... 9/3/2014