



Sierra Club Canada Reply to Cameco

Sierra Club Canada continues to oppose the relicensing of Cameco's application to the CNSC to expand by 33% three mines in Northern Saskatchewan. Cameco released a response to the Club's detailed submissions but failed to establish its claim that it is in full compliance with federal and provincial law regulating uranium mining.

Aside from the generalizations that it is in compliance with the law, no new evidence was presented to substantiate that claim.

Cameco does not dispute that there are no environmental protection standards for air and water emissions of radioactive materials. Nor that there are huge gaps between the test results of Cameco's emission levels compared to what standards exist. In other words, Cameco does not provide any evidence to show that there are not huge exceedences in emission from their operations.

Even where no standards exist, as in the case of uranium contamination of groundwater, Cameco does not dispute that thee are no relevant standards.

Importantly too, Cameco does not dispute that it is not required by either level of government to report mercury or cadmium air emission levels.

Despite the Club's assertion otherwise, Cameco does not provide any evidence to support its conclusion that uranium levels in sediment and in Lichen at Rabbit Lake is declining. Sierra Club shows, based on Cameo's own data, that the uranium concentrations in sediment at Hidden Bay increased 9,233 percent between 1992 and 2007 and in Lichen by 3,400 percent.

Contrary to Canadian obligations both to the Arctic region and to the Global community, Cameo does not dispute that it fails to report mercury and cadmium releases from the Yellowcake drying stacks at Key Lake. Despite repeated disclosure requests, the Club has not been provided with the mist recent stack reports from Cameo's drying equipment at Rabbit Lake.

And despite repeated requests, the CNSC has failed to produce the environmental impact assessment of Cameo's application to expand production at that mine an mill even though the hearings at La Rouge is the public's opportunity to assess the impact on the environment and public heath of the company's expansion request.

Cameo says it is in full compliance with the law but does not dispute that current Canadian regulations do not provide a limit to the release of radiation to the air and to the water. What Canadian water effluent standards that exist, do not set limits to waterborne mercury, uranium and cadmium, these contaminates are merely describes as effluent characterizes, they are not limited.

It is easy to say one is in compliance with the law when thee are no standards as in the case of the failure of the Canadian or Saskatchewan regulation.

Further and finally Cameo say its operation are not a pathway of pollution to the north or the south. Sierra Club has filed ample evidence to the contrary. The Arctic Monitoring Program as well the United Nations Environmental Program continue to advise that uranium mining is the second largest mercury source in arctic counties and the first major source of arsenic and cadmium.