



CHIEFS COUNCIL

Minister Peter Kent
Minister of Environment (Canada)
10 Wellington St,
25th Floor, Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere
Gatineau, PQ K1A 0H3

Minister John Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment (Ontario)
77 Wellesley Street, West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

May 31, 2011

Dear Minister Kent and Minister Wilkinson,

Please see the attached Resolution calling for a Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment (EA) for Mining and Enabling Infrastructure in the traditional territories of First Nations within the Matawa First Nations.

This resolution was passed in support of the Letter from Chief Eli Moonias of Marten Falls and other First Nations who are seeking a Joint Review Panel EA on projects in the Ring of Fire. The Matawa First Nations Chiefs know both Cliffs Natural Resources and Noront have submitted Project Descriptions to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA). Our First Nations were not consulted in these Project Descriptions, and as per Supreme Court of Canada Decisions (Mikisew, Haida, Taku River Tlingit, etc.) the Crown is to consult with First Nations.

The Matawa First Nations Chiefs also know that this development will have a significant impact on both their communities and the environment. The cumulative effects of these mining and infrastructure projects (road, rail, hydro, and telecommunications) on the traditional territories of our First Nations will profoundly affect our communities and the future of all of Northern Ontario. First Nations and our people since time immemorial have used this area for hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering for food, medicines and commercial hunting. There are sacred burial sites in this region and First Nations people have a monitoring responsibility for them, along with the board environment. The sensitive aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of this area, with its high water table and many rivers and streams will be significantly impacted by these developments; this is especially true for those remote First Nations closest to the Ring of Fire and infrastructure areas.





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As such, the First Nations leadership has reviewed the EA options and a Joint Review Panel was seen as the only and best option to help address the environmental and community concerns on development within their traditional territories. A Joint Review Panel will have to be negotiated with the First Nations leadership in terms of time frame, structure, nominating panel members, community involvement, and information and funding required to participate therein.

We look forward to working with your Departmental and Ministry staff, plus industry proponents, in initiating this process.

Sincerely,

Chief Arthur Moore,
Matawa Chiefs Spokesperson

Cc: Matawa Chiefs
Chief Connie Gray-McKay, Mishkeegogamang First Nation
Grand Chief Stan Louttit, Mushkegowuk Council
Grand Chief Stan Beardy, Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Christine Kaszycki, ADM, MNDMF
Leigh Jessen, ARDG, INAC Ontario North
Louise Knox, Director, CEEA Ontario Region





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RESOLUTION 07 – 20/05/11

Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment for Mining and Enabling Infrastructure Development in the Matawa First Nation Traditional Territories

Whereas, a number of mineral developments are anticipated in the traditional territories of First Nations with Matawa First Nations; and

Whereas, there will be other enabling infrastructural (roads, rail, transmission, telecommunications, energy developments) accompanying these mineral developments through-out the region; and

Whereas, these developments will likely have a significant impact on the First Nations in the area who use these lands for hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and other traditional activities; and

Whereas, these developments will likely have profound socio-economic and cultural effects on the First Nations people in this area, as well as the overall development of northern Ontario; and

Whereas, these developments are likely to have significant adverse effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems (fish, fauna, flora, and water quality and quantity) and human health in northern Ontario; and

Whereas, the First Nations with the Matawa First Nations will experience the majority of adverse effects, including cumulative effects of multiple developments over time;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs call for a Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act for the Cliffs' Chromite Project and Noront's Eagle's Nest Project and enabling infrastructure in our traditional territories; and





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Be It Further Resolved that the Matawa First Nations Chiefs call for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) to negotiate a joint panel agreement with the Matawa First Nations Chiefs on the implementation of the Joint Review Panel process, including timelines, panel member appointments, community based processes and funding to participate therein.

Moved by: Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation

Dated in Thunder Bay, Ontario, the 20th day of May, 2011.

Chiefs Present:

Chief Celia Echum, Ginoogaming First Nation
Chief Sonny Gagnon, Aroland First Nation
Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake First Nation
Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation
Chief Roger Oskineegish, Nibinamik First Nation
Chief Veronica Waboose, Long Lake # 58 First Nation
Chief Cornelius Wabasse, Webequie First Nation
Chief Eli Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation
Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation

