



Adams Mine Victory! New Legislation Outlaws Proposed Dump, Cancels Permits

The Adams Mine dump scheme is, once again, dead. But this time it looks like it might really stay that way, with new legislation introduced on April 5th that would repeal any previous approvals granted the controversial mega-dump, and make it illegal to place garbage in any lakes over 1 hectare in size. The Adams Mine, an abandoned open pit mine now filling with water, was first dubbed "Adams Lake" by residents of the region who have been fighting the various proposals to ship Toronto garbage to the mine site since 1989.

The announcement was made concurrently in Queens Park in Toronto and a crowded community hall in New Liskeard, south of the Adams Mine. Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky received a standing ovation as she introduced the proposed Adams Mine Lake Act, which if passed would permanently ban the on-again, off-again proposal to turn the abandoned open-pit mine near Kirkland Lake into a garbage dump.

"The endless proposals and challenges around Adams Mine have created too much uncertainty, and for too long have drained the energy and resources of local communities," Dombrowsky told a news conference. "It would be totally inconsistent and unacceptable, given our priorities, to ever allow garbage to be dumped in a lake."

At the news conference in New Liskeard, the room erupted repeatedly with cheers and ovations as the Liberal member for Timiskaming and long-time Adams Mine opponent David Ramsay delivered the news.

"There were two standing ovations, lots of hugging, and lots of tears," said Charlie Angus, who has devoted much of the last 14 years to fighting the plan. "We're getting our lives back. There's lots of other things we want to put our efforts into, and it's not just fighting, it's building."

Mine Claims in Attawapiskat Diamond Rush Staked Illegally

A massive mapping error on the part of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines left a candidate waterway park on the Attawapiskat River open for mineral exploration, despite a 1979 withdrawal order which removed a 200 metre band on either side of the river from staking. The error was discovered in early March, and MNDM scrambled to "protect existing claims and leases in the area and to legally confirm the validity of these claims and leases".

The story begins in the late 1970's, when areas bordering seven northern rivers were withdrawn from staking during a land use planning process. For the eastern end of the Attawapiskat River, the land use planning process was never completed, and the area continued to be withdrawn from staking, although a decision to regulate the park

The announcement was made as part of a package of related initiatives, including:

- C a commitment to release a discussion paper this spring to consult on options for achieving the 60 per cent waste diversion target, including greater recycling in the private sector, developing new markets for recycled materials, increasing organic diversion, and examining the expansion of central composting facilities and the role of new technologies to support waste diversion;
- C an expert panel to produce recommendations on improvements to the environmental assessment process; and
- C a draft framework agreement between Ontario and the federal government that would address duplication and overlap in the environmental assessment process.

The Adams Mine Lake Act, 2004 will prohibit the use of lakes as landfill sites through an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act, and will prevent the use of the Adams Mine site as a landfill, and void any approvals and permits related to the Adams Mine project issued by the Ministry of the Environment prior to the date the legislation coming into effect or currently under consideration. It will also extinguish any agreement of purchase and sale of the adjacent Crown land that may have been entered into between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the owner of the Adams Mine, and extinguish any related legal action against the Crown. The legislation requires the province to pay the owner of the Adams Mine compensation for expenses incurred, and for which receipts can be shown.

The Act went through First Reading in the provincial legislature on April 5th, and Second Reading was debated on April 20th and 22nd.

was never formally taken. Mineral exploration moved into the area in the mid-1980's, but government maps were never updated, and "a lengthy stretch of the Attawapiskat River was erroneously shown as being open for staking".

On April 20th, MNDM secured an Order-in-Council (a formal cabinet decision) which gives the Minister of Mines the "approval to validate" the more than 50 illegal mining claims, in effect making them retroactively legal. A new withdrawal order has been issued to prevent continued staking. The Ministry of Natural Resources has removed 33 km of the river from the candidate protected area.

INSIDE: Wind Power Projects, MNR's Water Power Site Release Policy, Foodshed Project, Superior Trap Rock Project, Nuke Waste Update, Insert on Forest Management Planning, Calendar ...

MNR to Make Crown Land Available for Wind Power Projects

A policy that directs how the Ministry of Natural Resources will make Crown Land available for wind power development was released last month.

The 11 page policy is motivated, according to the posting on the Environmental Bill of Rights electronic registry, by the Province's interest in promoting wind power development and an acknowledgement that commercial scale wind farms have the potential to occupy large areas of Crown land, including the beds of the Great Lakes. Commercially viable wind farm sites are generally known to be located along the north shore of Lake Superior, the James Bay lowlands and off-shore in the Great Lakes, with most of these sites on Crown lands. The policy is specific to Crown land and primarily addresses the process of allocation, tenure, pricing and environmental assessment review.

Applications for site release for exploration (the "options" period) will be subject to the screening process set out in MNR's Class Environmental Assessment for Resource Stewardship and Facilities Development Projects, and proponents will be required to develop and implement a "plan of stakeholder consultation and research to assess the impacts of the wind testing project". If requirements are met, a Land Use permit may be issued to allow exploration of a site's wind potential.

WATER POWER SITE RELEASE

A draft "Site Release and Development Review Policy for Waterpower" has been released for comment until June 1, outlining the procedure the Ministry of Natural Resources will use to make decisions about the disposition of crown land (and water) and the development of potential waterpower sites.

The policy focuses on the release of Crown land greenfield sites, and details the proposed procedure for the release of new development sites, the approval process, tenure, and rental rates and taxes. Greenfield sites will be released through either a competitive site release process, or a direct site release process.

Open houses will be held in Timmins and Sudbury. The draft is online at <http://204.40.253.254/envregistry/022737ep.htm>

Applications for final allocation (the "lease" period) will have to meet the environmental assessment requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for Electricity Projects and complete a Plan of Development. Based on those requirements being met, a decision will be made by the Ministry of Natural Resources on the issuance of a Crown Lease. If a lease is issued, construction of the wind turbines and related infrastructure can commence. Related infrastructure, such as roads and power lines, will require separate land grants.

Site release applications for "a small scale self supply applicant" will be processed through existing MNR disposition policy and procedures. A threshold of 1 MW or less is defined as small scale self supply. A small scale self supply system is one that would "meet the energy requirements of an individual dwelling, farm or cluster thereof". This system is a non grid connected system, allowing for net metering but excluding the third party sale of electricity.

The Policy and related Procedure will be reviewed annually, given the newness of the industry, to ensure that the documents reflect the best interests of the Province and other changes which may occur in the broader government energy portfolio.

The Wind Power Policy can be viewed at www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/EBR/wind_power

Draft Canada-Ontario Agreement on Environmental Assessment

The governments of Canada and Ontario have negotiated a draft agreement on environmental assessment cooperation, and have released it for a 30-day public comment period, ending May 14.

The proposed Canada-Ontario Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation will apply to all projects which are subject to both the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, and sets out how agencies of the two governments will share information and cooperate throughout the EA processes and upon reaching their respective decision.

The bilateral agreement includes requirements for a single point of contact in each of the Canadian Environmental

WIND POWER PROJECT NW OF THE SOO

A federal environmental assessment is underway of a wind power project, northwest of Sault Ste. Marie in Prince, Pennefather, and Dennis Townships. The Prince Wind Power Project is being developed by Superior Wind Energy Inc., which is 51% owned by Brascan Corp.

The project will consist of 111 to 134 wind turbines situated on 22,000 acres, each with a 1.5 to 1.8 megawatt (MW) capacity, for a total installed capacity of 200 MW. The project will be constructed in two phases of 100 MW each, with 55 to 67 turbines per phase. Turbine height will be between 75 - 85 metres. The scope of the project includes the construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind park and related activities, such as access roads, transmission lines, and stream crossings associated with the access roads and laying of transmission cables.

A federal EA is required because Natural Resources Canada may provide financial assistance. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is also participating.

According to Superior Wind Energy, the first phase of environmental studies has been completed covering resident / migrating birds, fish and sensitive species, archeological values and fauna, with no major issues identified to date.

For information about the federal EA, contact Eric Advokaat at 416 952-1585 or Eric.Advokaat@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Assessment Agency and Ontario's Environmental Assessment and Approval Branch, and clarifies how the two Acts work together, including how definitions, terms of reference, environmental hearings, and announcements of project decisions will be coordinated. Noticeably absent are details on how the public will be involved in the many decisions the agencies will make about how the EA process will be conducted.

Projects that are subject to both federal and provincial environmental assessment legislation include projects that require federal permits or involve federal funding, such as infrastructure projects.

View online at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/010/0001/0003/0001/0009/nr040414_e.htm

Coming Right UpCalendar of Events

April 30 - Workshop on Ecological Objectives in Forest Management Planning, St. Andrew's Place, Sudbury, 10-5. Contact Northwatch for details or visit www.northeastforest.net

May 4-6 - Recycling Council of Ontario Annual General Meeting, Markham, details are available online at www.rco.on.ca/intro/upcoming/conference.html

May 5 - Michael Moore gives keynote address at Recycling Council of Ontario Annual Meeting, 9:30 am

May 5 - Open house on water power site release in Timmins, 1-3 (story on pg 2)

May 5, 6, 7 - The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and The Ministry of Municipal Affairs 2004 FONOM Conference, Mindemoya

May 7-9 - "WildEarth Ontario Forest Defence Gathering", near Dorset; organized by Greenpeace, Earthroots and the Rainforest Action Network, contact wildearthontario@hotmail.com

May 13-15 - Our Waters, Our Responsibility: Indigenous Water Rights. The Indigenous Water Rights Steering Committee will be holding a national forum in Winnipeg, Manitoba. For info contact Chris Hiller or Millie Poplar (416-924-9199 701).

May 15 - "For the Love of Our Planet ...A Call to Action", 1:30 - 4:30 pm, McClure Hall, Bloor Street United Church, 300 Bloor St. W, Toronto, a strategy session on nuclear power, sponsored by the International Institute of Concern for Public Health

May 18 - Sudbury Soils Study Public Advisory Committee Meeting, for details or to be added to the agenda call 1.866.315.0228 or email questions@sudburysoilstudy.com, 6:30 p.m. meeting location tbc

May 19-22 - "Communities Creating the World We Want", 2004 National CED Conference, Congress Centre, Trois-Rivières, Québec, register by May 7, www.ccednet-rdec.ca/en/pages/conference.asp

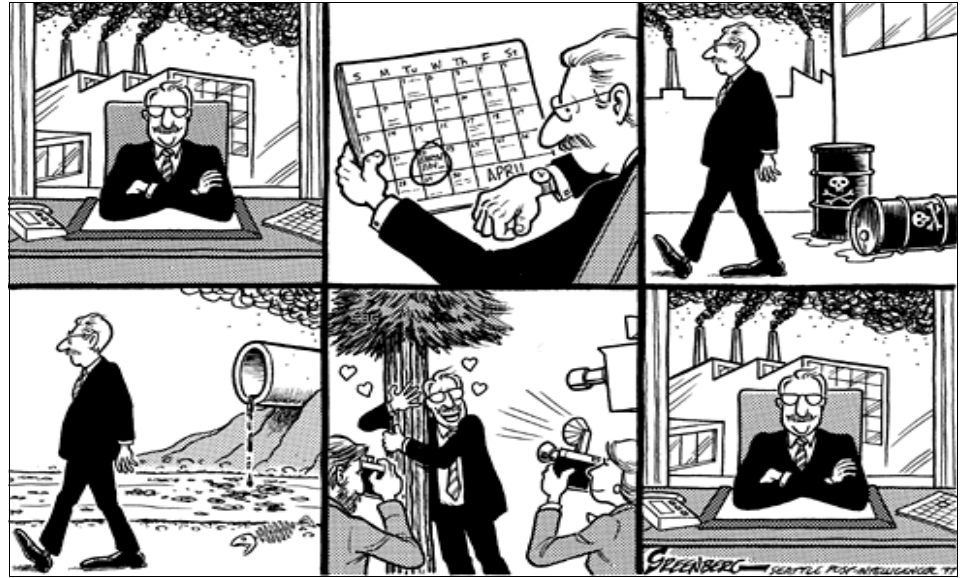
May 26 & 27 - Mine Environment Neutral Drainage (MEND) Program Workshop on mine Sludge Management and Treatment of Weak Acid or Neutral pH Drainage, Sudbury.

June 4-5 - Kyoto and Our Community - Sudbury Conference focussing on the day-to-day impacts of climate change and the Kyoto Accord. For more information call 675-7036, email kyoto@smtab.on.ca or visit www.kyotosudbury.com

June 4-6 - Great Lakes United Annual General Meeting and conference, Erie, Pennsylvania. Visit www.glu.org

June 15-16, 17-18 - Environmental Leadership Training Sessions on fundraising, communications and working with volunteers, offered by the Sustainability Network, in North Bay June 14-15 and Sault Ste. Marie June 16-17, more info at <http://sustain.web.ca>

August 13-15 - Northwatch Summer Meeting, Beaucage Park, Nipissing First Nation, near North Bay



The Foodshed Project - Sudbury Basin Looks at Food Security

A foodshed is an agricultural bioregion; it defines the eco-agricultural footprint of an urban area. It is similar in thinking to a watershed, and it defines the local food growing capacity and the way food flows in a region. Who is getting fed, and is it a healthy diet? Is farming economically viable and are we promoting urban agriculture (rooftop and community gardens)? How are resources being used? Are ecosystems impacted and is groundwater protected?

Identifying how these factors work together within the food system is all part of foodshed analysis and of developing a community foods security approach.

Ideally, the foodshed should be as local as possible - reducing the transport of food is one of the pillars of sustainable agriculture. Local food not only connects us to the land, but it sustains us economically by retaining dollars in the community. How do we begin to make those connections?

In Sudbury, the Sudbury and Manitoulin Food Security Network has begun the development of a Food Charter. The Charter is designed to link the food sectors, including health, economy, environment and the community. For instance, poverty is the systemic cause of food insecurity and job creation through the food system is one way to combat that. Another link that needs to be made is between farmers and consumers. Farmers can produce economically and sustainably, but have to bear the cost of bringing their products to market. This is a barrier to increased food production and reduces the level of local input into the food system. A Food Charter can promote a community food security approach and put the concept of local food first on the public agenda. The community food security approach is a true model of sustainable economic development.

For more information on the Foodshed Project, visit www.geodesudbury.org.

Wawa Town Council Launches Campaign Against Environmental Assessment of a Trap Rock Mine on Superior Shoreline

Michipicoten Township has launched a full-tilt campaign against the Ministry of the Environment requiring an environmental assessment of a trap rock mine on the shores of Lake Superior.

If allowed to proceed, the massive aggregate operation - Carlos Construction owns 1000 acres of shoreline - will see Superior Aggregates drilling, blasting and crushing ancient bedrock into aggregate, and washing and stockpiling the aggregate on the shores of Lake Superior before it is shipped by lake freighter to markets in the U.S. and possibly southern Ontario. The project will create 15 to 18 permanent jobs.

The municipality is crusading against any environmental assessment being done, in response to the Ministry of the

Federal EA Underway of De Beers' Victor Diamond Mine

A federal environmental assessment is now underway of De Beer's proposed Victor Diamond Mine in the James Bay lowlands. De Beers Canada Corporation has submitted a proposal to construct, operate and then close an open-pit diamond mine and related infrastructure and facilities at the Victor site, 90 km west of the community of Attawapiskat. The project is subject to a comprehensive study under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Comprehensive studies are a class of environmental assessment which consists largely of technical studies, with the public given the opportunity to comment. The federal Minister of the Environment can choose to refer the project to an environmental assessment hearing to address outstanding issues or significant environmental concerns.

Nuclear Waste Agency Using Web Site and Focus Groups to Hear from Canadians

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization is proceeding along its predictable path, generating positive reports summarizing initial feedback on their first discussion document "Asking the Right Questions", and launching a national advertising campaign of unspecified content.

Much of the NWMO focus continues to be on its web site, deemed by the agency to be its primary tool for "consulting with Canadians". New on-line are two

Environment's request for additional public input on a proposal to designate the project under the Environmental Assessment Act. If designated under the EAA, the project would be subject to an environmental assessment review, and possibly a hearing. Comments must be received by May 3.

The municipal campaign includes radio and newspaper ads, a letter-writing blitz, and a door-to-door canvas to get signatures on a letter from the Township opposing an EA. The letter has also been available for signing at the town hall and the Community Centre.

Concerns include potential environmental impacts, as well as negative social, cultural and economic effects. Environmental effects include potential for acid mine drainage,

A sixty day review of the Comprehensive Study commenced on April 16, with a June 15th deadline for comments. Both Attawapiskat 1st Nation and Mushkegowuk Council have requested an extension to 180 days, which the federal agency is considering in consultation with De Beers.

Key concerns include the potential for acid mine drainage, the effects of releasing saline groundwater into rivers and creeks, and the significant impacts related to access and power generation, including the shipment by ocean freighter or large volumes of fuel and subsequent transfer to a proposed main-land pipeline.

Information about the federal EA is available online at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/010/0003/0060/index_e.htm.

"deliberative surveys", with two more to be available soon.

Also available on the web site is a new report by Navigator, a consulting firm used by the NWMO in its start up phase to solicit from Canadians expressions of their lack of knowledge about nuclear waste and preference that such matters be handled by "experts". The most recent Navigator product is a good news story for the NWMO: given two hours to read the 88 page document and respond

leaching of heavy metals, spills and other pollutants related to the freighter movement, and dust and noise, as well as loss of habitat and impacts on the area's wilderness qualities.

Letters supporting the project being the subject of an environmental assessment should be received by the Ministry of the Environment no later than May 3rd. For more information, visit the web site for the Citizens Concerned for Michipicoten Bay at www.ccmb.ca. Letters should be sent to Heather Brown, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, 2 St. Clair West, Suite 12A, Toronto, M4V 1L5 or be sent by fax 416-314-8452 or email heather.brown@ene.gov.on.ca. All letters should quote EBR Registry Number: RA04E0001.

For more information visit www.ccmb.ca

Northwatch Summer Meeting

August 13-15

Beaucage Park

Nipissing First Nation

Off Highway 17, 10 minutes west of North Bay



\$20 per person or \$40 per family, includes camping, cornroast, childcare and registration.

Arrivals Friday evening, Sessions end mid-day Sunday.

Join Northwatch Today!

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