

Open letter: Uranium, social acceptability and sustainable development

MONTREAL, June 10, 2014 / CNW Telbec / - The seventy Quebec scientists and professionals from industry and academia who have signed this open letter are committed to using their know-how in an ethical, socially-responsible and environmentally-responsible manner. Exploration for and development of any mineral, including uranium, cannot go against the public interest.

It is possible for the uranium industry to gain broad public support. In Saskatchewan, about 80% of the population supports uranium mining, including 76% of people in the communities and reserves of northern Saskatchewan, where the uranium mines are found (*Fast Consulting, Intelligence Community, November 2013*). Saskatchewan has been mining the highest-grade uranium deposits in the world for 60 years.

Several places in the world, including Labrador, Greenland and Queensland in Australia, recently lifted moratoria that they now perceive as unjustified. The role that nuclear energy could play in combatting global warming was underscored in the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an organization established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and free from suspicion of complicity with industry.

In this context, the signatories question the relevance of the process established by the *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* (BAPE) on "Quebec uranium industry issues". We are heading into a process that was borne of uranium fear mongering fueled by an archaic and biased view of the mining industry.

The question, in this period of fiscal restraint, is whether this "generic BAPE", which will cost over \$2 million of public funds, should even be held. The choice of Louis-Gilles Francoeur to chair the commission is also perplexing. Throughout his career, Mr. Francoeur has tended to echo uranium industry critics. The BAPE is an institution founded on the principle of absolute neutrality. What would become of the BAPE's credibility if a former mining executive were appointed chairman of the commission?

We must not forget that all stages of the uranium industry, including its aspects of public health and environmental protection, are strictly regulated by federal and provincial legislation. It is impossible for any uranium deposit to be developed, and then mined, without the project meeting the most stringent standards and being subject to public hearings. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), a globally-recognized agency with no ties to industry, sets the standards and has permanent monitoring and, if needed, enforcement powers over all nuclear industry activities.

Source:

Jean-Marc Lulin: 450 646-3015
Philippe Cloutier: 819 874-1331
Robert Wares: 514 951-4235

Signatories:

David H. Albert, geologist, Montréal
Gail Amyot, engineer, Montréal
Paul Archer, engineer, Québec
Charles Beaudry, geologist, Toronto
Alain-Jean Beauregard, geologist, Val d'Or
Pierre Bérubé, engineer, Val d'Or
François Bissonnette, geologist, Longueuil
François Bouchard, geologist, Malartic
Christian Bourcier, engineer, Val d'Or
Guy Bourque, engineer, Longueuil
Simon Britt, CPA, CA, Saint-Lambert
Serge Bureau, engineer, Candiac
Eddy Canova, geologist, Montréal
Alain Carrier, geologist, Val d'Or
Gilles Carrier, engineer, La Sarre
Peter Cashin, geologist, Toronto
John D. Charlton, geologist, Montréal
Normand Champigny, engineer, Montréal
Rémi Charbonneau, geologist, Montréal
Philippe Cloutier, geologist, Val d'Or
Olivier Côté-Mantha, geologist, Val d'Or
Isabelle D'Amours, engineer, Brossard
Julien Davy, geologist, Montréal
Brigitte Dejou, engineer, Montréal
Jean Demers, geologist, Verchères
Eric Desaulniers, geologist, L'Ange-Gardien
Harold Desbiens, geologist, Saint-Lambert
Caroll Desormeaux, jr engineer, Montréal
Dominique Doucet, engineer, Montréal
Joël Dubé, engineer, Ottawa
Marc Ducharme, geologist, Val d'Or
Yan Ducharme, geologist, Val d'Or
Claude Dufresne, engineer, Montréal
Francine Fallara, geologist, Val d'Or
Ghislain Fournier, engineer, Val d'Or
Damien Gaboury, geologist, Saguenay

André Gaumond, engineer, Québec
Marie-José Girard, geologist, Montréal
Patrick Godin, engineer, Longueuil
Normand Goulet, geologist, Montréal
Danièle Héon, geologist, Whitehorse
Jean Hubert, engineer, Québec
Catherine Jalbert, geologist, Val d'Or
Vincent Jourdain, engineer, Val d'Or
Gaétan Lavallière, geologist, Val d'Or
Jean-Sébastien Lavallée, geologist, Val d'Or
Richard Lavallée, engineer, La Sarre
Gilles Laverdière, geologist, Montréal
Jérôme Lavoie, engineer, Québec
Marc Legault, geologist, Rouyn-Noranda
Eric Lemieux, geologist, Drummondville
Jean-Marc Lulin, geologist, Montréal
Mario Masson, geologist, Rouyn-Noranda
Patrick Mercier, engineer, Longueuil
Robert Oswald, geologist, Rouyn-Noranda
Jean-François Ouellette, geologist, Rouyn-Noranda
Vital Pearson, engineer, Québec
Pierre-Alexandre Pelletier, jr geologist, Boucherville
Ghislain Poirier, engineer, Longueuil
Michel Proulx, geologist, Val d'Or
Michel Rheault, geologist, Montréal
Isabelle Robillard, geologist, Montréal
Gino Roger, engineer, Rosemère
Mathieu Savard, geologist, Québec
Camille St-Hilaire, geologist, Rouyn-Noranda
Marjorie Simard, geologist, Val d'Or
Donald Trudel, geologist, St-Laurent
Simon Tshimbalanga, engineer, Québec
Denis Vaillancourt, geologist, Val d'Or
Robert Wares, geologist, Montréal