

WHY WITHDRAW SUPPORT?

A Joint Review Panel EA is critical for the Cliffs and Noront projects. It is important to address the cumulative and regional environmental effects of both projects, and to bring together the First Nations, Provincial and Federal Governments to produce one EA for each project. There is no set timeline and there is more opportunity for public participation, allowing for oral hearings to be held in the communities and First Nation issues to be brought forward.

The mining projects include developing mines and infrastructure components such as roads, telecommunications and electrical transmission lines on the traditional territories. These developments will profoundly affect the Matawa communities and may impact other First Nations, as well as wildlife species, fish habitat, wetlands, waterways and forests. Many environmental impacts have already been identified for both projects.

OUR LEADERS SPEAK OUT:

“The government is failing in this whole Ring of Fire and northern development initiative...We need the Ontario Premier and the Prime Minister to intervene and come to the table. We need a government to government dialogue here.”

Chief Eli Moonias
Marten Falls First Nation

“We are pro-development as long as we are protecting our resources and traditional lands for the benefit of future generations.”

Chief Roger Oskineegish
Nibinamik First Nation

“Matawa Chiefs are lobbying the Ontario Government and Cliffs and Noront to support us in a Joint Review Panel EA.”

Chief Sonny Gagnon
Aroland First Nation

“We need to talk about the environment in a forum that respects our knowledge of the land, our oral tradition and our decision making process.”

Chief Peter Moonias
Neskantaga First Nation



**For more info talk to your
Community Communications Liaison Officer.**

**For more detailed info on environmental impacts
or EA process contact Matawa Four Rivers
Environmental Advisory Service at
1-807-344-4575.**

www.fourriversmatawa.ca/

www.matawa.on.ca

Nov. 18/11

Ring of Fire CURRENT EVENTS



A MESSAGE FROM THE MATAWA CHIEFS

- Chief withdraw support
- Chiefs go to Ottawa
- Comprehensive Study EA Announced for Cliffs Chromite Project & Noront Eagle Nest Project



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Matawa Chiefs Withdraw Support for ROF

On October 20 2011, the Matawa Chiefs met with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) in regards to the Ring of Fire developments. In early October the CEAA had announced a Comprehensive Study Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cliffs project. The Chiefs have been demanding a Joint Review Panel EA since May 2011.

On October 21, 2011, Matawa Chiefs held a media conference to announce they are withdrawing support for development in the Ring of Fire (ROF) because a Comprehensive Study EA is inadequate. A Joint Review Panel EA is critical for both the Cliffs and Noront projects.

The Chiefs sent a letter to Prime Minister Harper and Premier McGuinty "...offering to enter into negotiations towards a Memorandum of Agreement with Canada and the province that would establish a single coordinated EA process for the ROF developments." That would include appropriate consultation and accommodation of First Nations and timelines that reflect the needs of our communities.

CEAA Announces Comprehensive Study EA for Noront Eagle's Nest Project

On November 15, 2011 the CEAA announced a Comprehensive Study EA for the Noront Eagle's Nest Project and intends to proceed with the Comprehensive Study EA for the Cliffs project. The Chiefs and our people have been calling for a Joint Review Panel EA since last spring, but the government is still not listening.



Chiefs lobby for support in Ottawa

A Matawa delegation of Chiefs, accompanied by Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy and Mushkegowuk Grand Chief Stan Louttit, met in Ottawa November 1-3 with federal MPs and committees, as well as National Chief Shawn Atleo, Assembly First Nations (AFN), Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to lobby for a negotiated Joint Review Panel EA.

Chiefs File Judicial Review in Federal Court

On November 7, 2011 the Chiefs filed for a Judicial Review of the EA process in Federal Court. The lack of consultation and accommodation on the part of the government is in breach of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

The purpose of the Judicial Review is to force the government to initiate a Joint Review Panel EA. The case will most likely be heard in the Spring or Fall of 2012. In the meantime Chiefs are lobbying government and industry to move to the negotiated Joint Review Panel EA as soon as possible.

Chiefs hold National Press Conference in Ottawa on Parliament Hill

Matawa Chiefs held a joint media conference (*photo above*) with AFN, NAN, and COO to announce the Judicial Review and to raise public awareness about the need for a negotiated Joint Review Panel EA.