

Canadian Environmental Network

CONSULTATION REPORT FORM

(a cautionary note – the information you provide in this report may be posted on the CEN website and will NOT BE treated as CONFIDENTIAL)

Title of Consultation: EC- MMER Schedule 2 – Ruby Creek Mine

Date(s) held: Jan 20, 2009; Jan 26, 2009

Location: Atlin, BC., Gatineau, PQ

Delegate Name and Affiliation:Andre Gagne, Rivers Without Borders
Number of ENGO Delegates at Consultation: 1 in Atlin, 4 in Gatineau (1 over phone)

What was the purpose of the consultation?

To discuss specifics related to Ruby Creek – TIA proposal, specifically the component of the project that would list a natural body of water to Schedule 2 of the MMER.

What were the outcomes of the consultation?

For delegates, the consultations were not as fulfilling as they could have been. Participants did not receive documents package from EC until just before the consultation sessions, or in one case, not at all.

The consultations themselves did not seem to generate any significant outcomes. Felt like mostly due process. The Atlin session was very poorly attended, and 3 individuals besides myself attended the full session.

What are the implications of the outcomes of the consultation?

The consultations seemed rushed, poorly planned and the outcome for delegates was a feeling of being involved in a process that did not have the outcomes that they were intended to have – to have delegates have adequate time to prepare, to assimilate relevant information, and to be able to provide comprehensive feedback in time for the consultation sessions.

There is a risk that EC's handling of the process could lead to unfavourable feedback from those involved.

What action, in your opinion, should be taken by the ENGO community in the aftermath of this consultation?

Raise awareness about Schedule 2 reclassification of natural bodies of water;
Raise awareness about federal government's increasing tendency to project split, in other words to shy away from comprehensive EA reviews and move towards scoping projects very narrowly – in this case, looking at exclusively the TIA and not the mine as 'the project.'

The ENGO community should demand from EC that future consultations be undertaken differently. Delegates should be given all the tools necessary to contribute in a meaningful way to a public participation process. Materials should be in hand at least 30 days in advance of consultation dates. EC or whatever federal body that schedules consultations should make more significant efforts to notify local community members, FNs, other stakeholders of the consultation. In short, to try and make the local session meaningful with the federal government showing they understand the community, however far flung from Ottawa, to contact the appropriate bodies in the most appropriate way.