

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: Proposed Amendment to the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation
Addition of Ruby Creek as a Tailings Impoundment Area to Schedule 2

Date(s) held: January 26th, 2009

Location: Gatineau, Quebec

Delegate Name and Affiliation: Ramsey Hart

Number of ENGO Delegates at Consultation: 4

What was the purpose of the consultation?

The consultation session was one of two held to discuss proposed amendment to the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation with the addition of Ruby Creek as a Tailings Impoundment Area to Schedule 2. A consultation session was also held in Atlin, British Columbia the week previous.

What were the outcomes of the consultation?

Too soon to tell, the “consultation” is more of an information session with some questions asked but little time for engaged dialogue. No commitments or concrete, responses to input were made by the government or industry reps present.

What are the implications of the outcomes of the consultation?

If Ruby Creek is designated to Schedule 2 it will be another precedent for the use of natural water bodies as tailings impoundments, and for the flawed process used to assess this option over other mine waste management options. Given that this project is proposed for an already degraded watershed with limited ecological and cultural values the direct implications of this project are less worrying than it’s precedence for future projects.

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

Continue to demand improvements to both the ENGO consultation process and the broader mining-related EA process, specifically the approaches used to evaluate alternatives for tailings management.

Develop educational material on alternatives to water bodies for tailings and ensure communities affected by mine proposals have access to this info and receive good technical advice on the range of alternatives available.

Continue to question the government on the timeliness of proceeding with regulatory processes for projects with highly questionable viability.