

**Schroeter, Tom EMPR:EX**

**From:** Schroeter, Tom EMPR:EX  
**Sent:** Tue, June 13, 2006 10:44 AM  
**To:** Lefebure, Dave EMPR:EX  
**Subject:** RE: \_Meeting Today: Some Background

*Bob Hart (MOE)  
 Minister Penner-III  
 Joan Hesketh ADM (EAO)  
 Minister Neufeld  
 Minister Bennett  
 Shane Mills (Exec. Ass)  
 Anne Currie  
 Tom Schroeter*

Dave - a brief update:

Minister Neufeld seemed very comfortable with the proposal. He did ask Joan H./Bob Hart if there was any way of 'documenting' the \$ given/spent by the various First Nations on mining projects (they will look at). Minister Bennett had some specific enquiries e.g. importance/impact of selenium levels in coals. Also, a reporter is questioning how/why Trend "got away" with permitting the (larger/amended) operation without a full EA review. After discussion, it appears the simple answer is (will be) that if that if the company had been required to enter the full EAO, the gov't would have had to shut down the (smaller) operation, while it reviewed the larger project. Obviously, this would have had a significant negative impact, on both the proponent and the government. We recognize there is a bit of a loop hole, but steps are being taken to deal with it in the future.

Review took 182 days (2 days longer than 'stated' = a great stat for our 'Explore BC' discussions, especially wrt permitting).

July 24th = decision date.

**Tom**

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**From:** Lefebure, Dave EMPR:EX  
**Sent:** Tue, June 13, 2006 7:31 AM  
**To:** Schroeter, Tom EMPR:EX  
**Subject:** \_Meeting Today: Some Background

Tom:

Thanks for agreeing to go to the meeting in Vancouver with the Ministers today on short notice.

Joan Hesketh and Anne Currie will carry the show as it is about an EAO approval for the Brule deposit in the northeast and discussion about changing the EAO regulations.

In the latter there have been instances when a company develops a coal mine that is below the EAO threshold, and then once it has started operations, moved to expand it almost right away beyond the EAO threshold. This is a problem when there is a significant expansion of the area of disturbance. I attach an almost final copy of their briefing note. Please keep it confidential. We (MEMPR) support the modification strongly.

I doubt that you will need to say anything much as it is the EAO event. We are comfortable with the Brule application.

Call me on my cell before you go if you get a chance (250) 889-5353.

Dave

<< File: 95571 EAo Reviewable Projects Decision Note-June 8 DVL edits.doc >>

David Lefebure  
 Acting Assistant Deputy Minister  
 Mining and Minerals Division