Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources

Consoledated Respan Buch Island project.

letter set to Shelly 1/18.

My Minute Out 4/18.

1837 Fort St., Victoria, B. C.

004819 September 27, 1978

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Dr. J. T. Fyles, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources. BUILDINGS.

Dear Dr. Fyles:

#### Re: Radiation Survey of Proposed Birch Island Project

A request has been received from Mr. Robert E. Skelly, M.L.A., for a copy of a report on a radiation survey of the proposed Birch Island Project conducted last spring by Mr. Elias of our Division.

A copy of this report is enclosed and it will be noted that radiation levels about the Birch Island area proposed mining site were found to be no higher than the background levels about Little Fort or Kamloops, B.C. There was no radiation hazard under the permissible limits established by the Atomic Energy Board Regulations.

However, due to lack of ventilation in "dead-end" underground workings, readings above the permissible level were found in these headings. Any radon gas and daughters that reach the outside atmosphere from these headings are quickly diluted by natural air currents to levels well below the established permissible levels. (In the meantime the District Inspector has ordered that all mine entrances be closed to protect against inadvertent access).

A Dr. McKenzie of the Brookfield Medical Centre at Clearwater had requested a copy of this report earlier, and on June 29, 1978 the results of the radiation survey were sent to him. It would, therefore, seem to be in order that the same results be sent to Mr. Skelly, and I would recommend that this be done. However, it would be appreciated if you would consider this matter, and possibly receive the views of the Minister, and advise concerning your opinion on the release of the aforementioned information to Mr. Skelly.

Yours very truly,

W. C. Robinson, P. Eng., Chief Inspector of Mines

WCR/tr

c.c. E. R. Macgeegor

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R. REC'D JAN 9 - '78 REFERRED TO / DATE A.D.M. INITIAL A.S. M.R.

June 20, 1978

Mr. P.M. Osberg
Canadian Scientific Pollution
and Environmental Control Society
1603 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 1L8

Dear Mr. Osberg:

This will acknowledge your letter received
June 12, 1978, outlining the views of your society
on uranium mining in British Columbia. In responding
to your letter, I would like to review for you the
status of the Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals
Ltd. project and the position of the Provincial Government
in general.

As you know, a public meeting regarding the project was held at Clearwater in December, 1977. I am not aware that any environmental or engineering studies are currently being undertaken, but can indicate that prior to any proposed activity, the Uranium Steering Committee will meet with the company to outline the necessary requirements for Stage II.

Mining activities for metallic minerals, including uranium, must comply with the Mines Regulation Act which is administered by my Ministry. For uranium and other radioactive materials, mining and processing activities must also comply with the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations which are administered by the Atomic Energy Control Board. This Federal agency administers the requirements laid out in licencing guide no. 31. In British Columbia, a number of professional engineers on the staff of the Inspection and Engineering Division of my Ministry have received special training sponsored by the Board at Elliot Lake, Ontario, and have been given authority by the AECB to enforce all laws and regulations issued by the Federal Government in this Province. Thus, all exploration, development and potential mining and milling activities in British Columbia must conform with both Provincial and Federal Statutes.

Recently, there have been a number of commissions and inquiries concerning uranium mining and processing held by various jurisdictions. The report of the Bayda Commission in Saskatchewan was released last Thursday, and we are currently awaiting its receipt in Victoria. An inquiry is also in progress at Elliot Lake, Ontario, and the results of

this review will be made available to us when it is completed. In addition, Bill C-14 is before the Federal Parliament, which proposes to replace the Atomic Energy Control Act with the Nuclear Control Act. It is anticipated that some revision of the Regulations for uranium mining will result from these hearings and inquiries which will be taken into account as we review proposed uranium mining development in British Columbia.

I have consistently stated that no uranium mining will be allowed to proceed in this Province until the Government is satisfied it is absolutely safe to do so. The review processes now in place can satisfactorily ensure that this position will be upheld, and therefore I do not consider that a judicial inquiry is required.

I appreciate the concern that you have expressed, and thank you for bringing your views to our attention.

Yours sincerely

James R. Chabot Minister

ERM/blm

### - DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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| For your approval. | $\prec$ | Prepare reply for my | signature |
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- $\square$  For your information.  $\square$  Prepare draft of reply.
- ☐ For necessary action. ☐ Return to me.
- ☐ Send me copy of reply. ☐ Return to file.
- ☐ For your comments. ☐ For signature.
  - ☐ Wish to discuss.

REMARKS:

No Judicial inguing

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R

Canadian Scientific Pollution & Environmental Control Society 1603 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 148 REC'D

Telephone 736-5601 2

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Mr. J. Chabot, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources. Legislative Building. Victoria, B.C.

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

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MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Chabot:

On May 19, 1978, at the annual meeting of the B.C. Medical Association (BCMA) a resolution was passed demanding a "full, open, and impartial" provincial judicial inquiry into the uranium mining industry. This resolution is a reiteration of the position taken by the B.C.M.A. during a public meeting, sponsored by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd. There was in fact unanimous support from all participants in this meeting for the establishment of a provincial judicial inquiry into the uranium industry.

Forty-five briefs were submitted at the public meeting in Clearwater and the hardest hitting rejections of the proposal came from the two Unions which have the most to gain in terms of jobs from uranium mining and the medical profession which is tremendously concerned about the impact of low-levels of ionizing radiation on human beings.

On March 3, 1978, your office announced that there would be no uranium mining in B.C. until the government is satisfied that it's absolutely safe. SPEC publicly endorsed this position which you had taken. On March 13, 1978, is a letter to SPEC you suggested that there would be hearings before any specific uranium mining proposals were considered and that in your view there wasn't as yet any proposal existing which represented a firmly established development intention and consequently there was no need for an inquiry.

The time to hold a Province wide, full, open, and impartial judicial inquiry, to determine whether or not the people in B.C. want to allow the nuclear industry to establish itself in this province is before any serious development intentions are present; before the industry spends several million dollars exploring for uranium (later using this spent capital as an excuse to allow them to mine).

In the United States, governments, industry and environmental organizations have found that it is tremendously expensive, time consuming and energy consuming to continually fight "environmental bush fires." It is much wiser to discuss these issues openly and from a broader policy perspective.

> ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

REC'D JUN 1 4'78



For example, there is growing opposition to the nuclear industry, (every aspect of it from the front end to the back end) and it may be that the overwhelming majority of people in B.C. do not want to take the environmental risks associated with uranium mining. If this is the case it does not make any sense to spend large sums of money or to committ considerable energy to establishing the feasibility, profitablity and acceptability of each and every proposal presented by the industry. This latter procedure has historically only served to polarize the community to an unbearable degree and should be avoided.

We have the time to establish a Province wide judicial inquiry into the uranium mining industry and we should do so at the earliest possible date. We are very interested in your response to these ideas.

Sincerely

P.M. Osberg

SPEC

June 16, 1978

MRACLE TOR

Mr. P.M. Osberg
Canadian Scientific Pollution
and Environmental Control Society
1603 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 1L8

Dear Mr. Osberg:

This will acknowledge your letter received June 12, 1978, outlining the views of your society on uranium mining in British Columbia. In responding to your letter, I would like to review for you the status of the Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd. project and the position of the Provincial Government in general.

There has been no activity on the Clearwater project since a meeting was held in that community in December, 1977. I am not aware that any environmental engineering studies are currently being undertaken, but can indicate that prior to any proposed activity, the Uranium Steering Committee will meet with the company to outline the necessary requirements for stage II.

Mining activities for metallic minerals, including uranium, must comply with the Mines Regulation Act which is administered by my Ministry. For uranium and other radioactive materials, mining and processing activities must also comply with the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations which are administered by the Atomic Energy Control This Federal agency administers the requirements laid out licencing guide no. 31. In British Columbia, a number of professional engineers on the staff of the Inspection and Engineering Division of my Ministry have received special training sponsored by the Board at Elliot Lake, Ontario, and have been given authority by the AECB to enforce all laws and regulations issued by the Federal Government in this Province. Thus, all exploration, development and potential mining and milling activities in British Columbia must conform with both Provincial and Federal Statutes.

Recently, there have been annumber of commissions and inquiries concerning uranium mining and processing held by various jurisdications. The report of the Bayda Commission in Saskatchewan was released last Thursday, and we are currently awaiting its receipt in Victoria. An inquiry is also in progress at Elliot Lake, Ontario, and the results of this review will be made available to us when it is completed. In addition, Bill C-14 is before the Federal

Parliament, which proposes to replace the Atomic Energy Control Act with the Muclear Control Act. And it is anticipated that this will result in some revision of the Regulations pertaining to uranium mining. With these processes in progress, it is to our advantage to wait for the information to be available so that it may be taken into account during the review of proposed uranium mining development in British Columbia.

I have consistently stated that no uranium mining will be allowed to proceed in British Columbia until the Provincial Government is satisfied it is absolutely safe to do so. The review processes now in place can eatisfactorily ensure that this position will be upheld. And therefore I do not consider that a judicial inquiry is required.

I appreciate the concern that you have expressed, and thank you for bringing your views to our attention.

Yours sincerely

James R. Chabot Minister

ERM/blm

Radiation Protection Services Community Health Programs 828 West 10th Avenue Vancouver British Columbia V5Z 1L8

Phone: 874-2331

File - Consolidated Rexispan Minerals & Co April 13, 1978 - Buch pland project.

Dr. R.E. MacKenzie Brookfield Medical Centre Box 2576, R.R. #2 Clearwater, B.C. VOE 1MO

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Dr. MacKenzle:

Your letter of tarch 30th, 1976 to Dr. John Garry concerning drill-holes In the proposed uranium mine site at Birch Island has been forwarded for my comments.

Radon 222 results from the alpha-particle decay of radium 226. Radon is a noble gas and therefore does not react chemically with other elements. As a result it is not metabolized by the body. When radon is inhaled it is ejected by the body very rapidly. In fact even when radon gas, absorbed In water, is ingested the biological half life is 35 minutes.

Radon 222 is however radioactive with a half life of 3.82 days. This radioactivity in an open environment is of Tittle consequence, e.g., the period of breathing is very short compared to the radioactive half life and as a result the actual radiation exposure of an individual due to radon 222 would be extremely small. With this in mind the international Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) has not established a maximum permissible body burden. However, they have established a maximum permissible concentration in air for workers continuously breathing air containing radon 222. This maximum permissible concentration (MPC) is 30 pCi/l. This is a relatively small amount of radioactivity. However one must remember we are talking about a chronic exposure for 40 hours per week.

The situation you described in your letter where there has been occasional visits to a remote area does not constitute a chronic exposure. Even in areas of Canada where there are large deposits of naturally occurring uranium the emination of radon is relatively low. In those situations where a small hazard was identified the solution was improved ventilation. The primary hazard is not the radon 222 but the decaying daughter products which become attached to dust particles and may in turn be inhaled. Again even in these situations we are talking about chronic exposures and not an occasional walk-by.

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I hope this information will assist you in answering questions posed by your patients and other members of your community. Should you have further questions regarding detail dosimetry of radon and radon daughter products please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely yours,

12. 16 clane

M. WAYNE GREENE, Ph.D. Head Radiation Protection Service

MWG/ah

cc: Dr. John D. Garry, Medical Director Kamloops, 3.C.

bcc: Hon. James A. Nielsen Minister of Environment

Hon. James R. Chabot
Minister of Mines & Pet. Resources

Dr. R. E. MacKenzie Brookfield Medical Centre Box 398 Clearwater, B.C. VOE 1NO

Dear Dr. MacKenzie:

Thank you for your letter of March 30, 1978 concerning the possible emanation of Radon gas from boreholes at Birch Island.

I understand that Mr. S. Elias, our Environmental Inspector of Mines in Vancouver, has contacted you by telephone today and that access to the drilling site is not too good at the present time. Mr. Elias tells me that you will get in touch with him when conditions are more suitable for a site inspection and that you will point out the location of the drill holes at that time. A survey of the whole area will be made for Radon gas and if any further action is necessary it will then be taken.

Your concern in this matter is recognized and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

VED:1r

B. M. Anderson, M.D. R. J. Woollard, M.D.

C. A. Lam. M.B., Ch.B. R. E Mac Kenzie, M.D.C.M.

## / Brookfield Medical Centre

BOX 2576, R.R. #2 CLEARWATER, B.C. VOE 1NO

**TELEPHONE 674-3319** 

D. March 28, 1978 T. March 30, 1978

The Hon. James R. Chabot Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources c-o The Parliament Buildings Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Chabot:

On occasion, members of the Yellowhead Ecological Association have walked on the site of the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island. We have seen drill-holes and core samples in some number, as well as a shaft which has been sunk in one area.

This seemed to be of little or no consequence until we received anecdotal evidence that test-drilling in a farming area of Dakota may have released significant quantities of Radon gas from the ore body that was tested.

There was no study conducted at that time regarding an increase in nausea, vomiting or dysentery, but word-ofmouth from farm to farm seemed to indicate that the farmers were encouraging those whose land was not drilled to refuse any exploration. The reasons given were that livestock and families would become ill. We do know that when Senator McGovern was made aware of the situation, these test holes were capped.

We feel that because of the number of these drillholes, and their proximity to the community, an evaluation should be made now of the level of Radon gas in the vicinity of the test-holes and mine shaft.

We would further suggest that, until the enquiry is under way, and until there are more definite plans surrounding the development of Birch Island, these test-holes and the mine shaft itself should be covered or filled by the company.

Thank you for your attention and concern in this

matter.

Sincerely, Jo GTF "for sig"

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P. M. COLLEGIAN D.

R.E. MacKenzie, M.D.

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B. M. Anderson, M.D. R. D. Woollard, M.D.

## Brookfield Medical Centre

BOX 398 CLEARWATER, B.C. VOE 1NO

**TELEPHONE 674-3319** 

Originals, carbon copies or photocopies of this letter are being sent simultaneously to:

Dr. John D. Garry, Medical Director (original)
South Central Health Unit, Kamloops, B.C.

Mr. Ken Christianson, c-o the above address (c. copy)

The Hon. Len Marchand
Minister of the Environment (Canada) (photocopy)

The Hon. James A. Nielsen

Kinister of the Environment (B.C.) (original)

The Hon.James R. Chabot

Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources (8.C.)

(original)

Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited P.O. Box 40, Royal Bank Plaza (Cennison Mines) Toronto, Ontario M5J 2K2

(photocopy sent via registered mail)

Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited Calgary, Alberta (Dennison Mines)

(photocopy sent via registered mail)

Kilborn Engineering (8.C.) Ltd. 1199 West Pender Street Vancouver, 8.C. V6E 2R1 (photocopp) Gordon F. Gibson, M.L.A., Leader of the Liberal Party, 104, 1515 Pemberton Avenue, North Vancouver, B. C. V7P 283

Dear Mr. Gibson:

#### Re: Uranium Mining in British Columbia

With reference to your request about the Birch Island Project and the regulations related to uranium mining, I am pleased to provide the following information.

- 1. Birch Island Project There has been no activity on this project since the Clearwater Meeting in December 1977. There are no environmental or engineering studies being done at present. It would appear that the project has been put on the shelf for the present. Prior to any proposed activity the Uranium Steering Committee will meet with the Company to outline the necessary requirements. I attach copies of recent statements regarding the organisation responsible for Provincial controls.
- 2. Licensing and Regulations The Atomic Energy Control Board issue permits subject to the requirements laid out in Licensing Guide No. 31 (attached). Six of our Inspector-Engineers have taken the A.E.C.B. course at Elliot Lake and have been given authority by A.E.C.B. to enforce all laws and regulations issued by the Federal Government. In addition, a company is required to meet all conditions of Provincial statutes.
- 3. Provincial Guidelines Prior to setting out Provincial requirements the Government will review the final reports of the judicial inquiries in Saskatchewan and Ontario. In addition, Bill C-l4 is before Parliament which changes the Atomic Energy Control Act to the Nuclear Control Act and this will change some of the present requirements (attached). With these pending revisions it is to our advantage to wait for this information before developing Provincial Guidelines.
- 4. Public Hearings Will be required under Bill C-14, Nuclear Control Act.

I trust that these points have clarified some of your areas of concern.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot Minister

## DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM SOURCES

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| For your comments.       | ☐ For signature.                |
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REMARKS:

GORDON F. GIBSON, M.L.A. 104, 1515 PEMBERTON AVENUE NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. V7P 253 TELEPHONE 980-0557



February 9 1 9 7 8

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REFERRED TO DATE INITIAL A.D.M.

A.D.P.

A.S.

M.R.

Hon. James Chabot Minister of Mines Parliament Buildings Victoria, B. C. V8V 1X4

#### Dear Jim:

I am getting an increasing amount of correspondence with respect to the Birch Island uranium mine. I know that this has been a subject of personal concern to you, and would be grateful to know exactly what provincial mining regulations, investigations and public hearings must be satisfied before such mining could proceed?

Yours sincerely,

Gordon F. Gibson, M.L.A. Leader of the Liberal Party in British Columbia

cc: Hon. James Neilsen

| ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES |  |  |  |
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FEB 14 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

February 9 1 9 7 8

Hon. James Neilsen
Minister of the Environment
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B. C.
V8V 1X4

Dear Jim:

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Yours sincerely.

Gordon F. Gibson, M.L.A. Leader of the Liberal Party in British Columbia

cc: Hon. James Chabot

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

FEB 14 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Gordon F. Gibson, M.L.A. Leader of the Liberal Party 104, 1515 Pemberton Avenue NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. V7P 2S3

Dear Gordon: Mu Hilison

Re: Uranium Mining in British Columbia

With reference to your request about the Birch Island
Project and the regulations required in uranium mining, Sam pleased the following is submitted. To provide the following information.

1. Birch Island Project - There has been no activity on this project since the Clearwater Meeting in December 1977. There are no environmental or engineering studies being done at present. It would appear that the project has been put on the shelf for the present. Prior to any proposed activity the Uranium Kining/Committee would meet with the Company to outline the necessary requirements. It was a state of the project has been put on the with the Company to outline the necessary requirements. It was a state of the project has been put on the with the Company to outline the necessary requirements. It was a state of the project has been put on the with the Company to outline the necessary requirements. It was a state of the project has been put on the shelf with the Company to outline the necessary requirements. It was a state of the project has been put on the shelf wa

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  to meet all the requirements under Provincial statutes.
- 3. Provincial Guidelines Prior to setting out Provincial requirements the government wishes to wait for the wall remain the final reports of the judicial inquiries in Saskatchewan and Ontario. In addition, Bill C-14 is before

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  - 4. Public Hearings Will be required under Bill C-14, Nuclear Control Act.

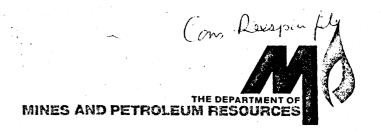
I trust that these points have clarified some of your areas of concern.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. James C. Chabot

cc: Hon. James Neilsen

| MEMORANDUM FROM. | J.D. McDo  | ld, P.Eng. |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| TO E.R. Macgreg  | or.        |            |
| Assistant De     | puty Minis | ster       |



DATE 4 April 1978

#### Re: Birch Island Project - Federal Fisheries

Following are a few points in relation to the above project.

- Subsequent of the Clearwater meeting in December 1977 there
  has been no activity on the part of Consolidated Rexspar.
  B.C. Research is doing no environmental studies and
  Kilburn Engineering has done no work on the project.
  Mr. DeBastiani has advised no further work will be done
  on the property at this time.
- 2. If studies are re-activated a considerable amount of monitoring will be required as well as additional studies for a Stage II Report.
- 3. The Uranium Mining Steering Committee has remained relatively inactive because of the dormant situation at Birch Island. To date Mr. B. Heskin has not been requested to join the Committee but will be asked in the near future.
- 4. A bibliography on Uranium Mining and Milling and associated subjects is in the process of being put together.

Yours truly

J.D. McDonald, P.Eng,

Senior Reclamation Inspector

JDM/bm

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

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Ministre Environnement Canada

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MAR 21 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

March 20, 1978

The Honourable James Chabot, M.L.A., Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Government of British Columbia, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia. V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Chabot:

As you would expect, I have been hearing a great deal from a large number of people concerned about Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited's proposal to open a uranium mine at Birch Island.

Although my Department is not a member of the Uranium Mining Steering Committee established by your Ministry to coordinate the review of plans for the development, Environment Canada has nonetheless been closely involved in assessing environmental aspects of the proposal.

In a public statement last December, I expressed my concern about the merits of this plan, which poses environmental risks which I believe are out of proportion to the expected benefits it might bring. I have instructed my officials, as I said in my December statement, to subject this proposal to the most rigorous possible scrutiny under Federal statutes, particularly the Regulations relevant to mining activities under the Fisheries Act.

I have also made it clear that I am giving this proposal my closest personal attention, and I would like to be assured that you are also placing a personal priority on the Birch Island situation.

| ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTE<br>MINERAL RESOURCES |      |        |  |
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Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

House of Commons Chambre des communes Ottawa. Canada K1A 0A6

As you are aware, present technology does not permit abandonment of such developments without continued treatment and maintenance in perpetuity to prevent seepage of contaminants from tailings ponds. This fact alone seems sufficient reason to question the wisdom of allowing this mine to proceed.

I am sending a copy of this letter to your colleague, the Honourable James Nielsen, with whom I discussed this matter in Victoria last December.

Yours sincerely,

Len Marchand

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URANIUM MINING STEERING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING: CLEARWATER, B.C.

BIRCH ISLAND PROJECT: CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR
MINERALS AND CHEMICALS LTD.

The Steering Committee would like to make the following statement at the beginning of this Public Meeting. After a review of the Stage I Report and the review by government agencies, the Committee decided that it was necessary for the project to be outlined to the citizens in Clearwater and surrounding area, and their concerns on the technical aspects of the project would be taken into account. The Committee requested the Company to hold a public meeting in Clearwater to explain their project and answer questions relating to the project. The concerns of the residents in the area would be taken into account by the Committee and would request the company to cover this aspect in the Stage II Report.

### Role & Planning Process

The Committee's main function is to co-ordinate government agency reviews of environmental impact assessments and to ensure that all standards and specifications set out in various Federal and Provincial statutes are met before a decision to develop the mine is taken.

The Committee is composed of representatives from Federal and Provincial Governments agencies with a direct involvement in the environmental, regulating and technical aspects of

the development.

- A. B. Dory, P.Eng., Atomic Energy Control Board.
- J. D. McDonald, P. Eng., Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Senior Engineer and Inspector, Reclamation, Stability pits dams, Environmental impact assessments, co-chairman Coal Guideline Steering Committee.
- Dr. J. O'Riordan, Environment Land Use Committee, Secretariat, Assistant Director, Special Projects, chairman, Coal Guidelines Steering Committee.

The Secretariat reports to the ELUC, a 9-member Cabinet Committee which administers the Environment and Land Use Act. This Act requires that all aspects of environment and land use are considered before any decision on major resource development is undertaken. The Secretariat is therefore responsible for ensuring that impacts on land use, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, forests, communities and heritage resources are identified and evaluated.

#### Process

The Steering Committee has requested the Company,

Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Cehmicals Ltd., to follow

a four-stage planning process, similar to the established

process of Guidelines for Coal Development. This process is

applied to all major coal developments in the province.

Uranium mining being new to the province, that established

process used for coal would be followed for uranium mining.

1. Prospectus. A short document describing the location and design of the mine and related facilities. This was

prepared in 1976 and most of the information is contained in the Information Brochure prepared by the Company in November 1976.

2. Stage I Report: Preliminary Environmental Analysis This report was completed in April, 1977 and outlines in more detail the minesite, development proposal and the preparation plant together with information on control of liquid and solid The main intent of the Stage I Report is to identify impacts on the natural and social environment and to discuss alternative approaches to reducing and managing these impacts, e.g., locations of waste materials, general design of tailings In addition, the developer is expected to establish a monitoring program to determine the base-line quality of the waters and atmosphere surrounding the mine. It is not the purpose of the Stage I report to detail the pollution control facilities and other measures required to reduce environmental impacts as the final engineering and feasibility is not complete at this stage. This is the primary function of the Stage II report.

This report has been reviewed by the various government regulatory agencies with an interest in the project, the technical concerns expressed at today's meeting will be part of the review process. The comments and advice of all the agencies and public concerns will be reviewed by the Steering Committee, and as a result, a set of specific directives will be issued to the developer to ensure that the Stage II report

adequately covers those concerns. The Steering Committee has already met with the Company to discuss the comments received from the government agencies and these will be incorporated in the Stage II Report. The meeting with company was held on August 16th, 1977. A summary of comments reviewed at the meeting can be obtained by respresentatives of interested groups, from the Steering Committee.

#### Stage III

If the project is given "approval-in-principle" then the developer must prepare final detailed plans for the approval of specific license and permits.

#### Provincial Government

- (1) Pollution Control Act: Permits for discharge of air emissions and effluents.
- (2) Water Act and Regulations: Licenses for use of water.
- (3) Mines Regulation Act:

Section 10: Approval of the mining plan by the chief inspector of mines. This includes tailings dam stability, dumps and pit.

Section 11: Reclamation Permit Authorizing Surface Wash:
The Act governs the health and safety of the workman,
in safety regulations, dust and gas exposures, radiation
exposures.

(4) B.C. Land Commissioners Act: Authority to remove land from the Agricultureal Land Reserve.

- (5) Forestry Act: Timber Removal.
- (6) Land Act: Issuance of land leases on crown land and issues for right-of-way development.

#### Federal Government Permits & Approvals

The Atomic Energy Control Board has jurisdiction over all operations where there is radioactivity. In Uranium mining, the AECB has a review process for issuing permits. The Steering Committee will co-ordinate the Federal and Provincial review process to avoid duplication.

1. AECB -- permits

Exploration
Construction and Development
Operational
Post operational

2. Environment Canada

Approval of project by fisheries.

#### Stage IV: Project Implementation

Various Provincial Government agencies have specific and continuing responsibilities during development of the project into a producing mine and will continue to monitor specific aspects of the project. The developer is responsible for conforming with government regulations in such key areas as air and water quality and surface reclamation. The same applies to offsite facilities. Most intensive monitoring can be anticipated through the development phase, during which accepted guidelines to mitigate construction impacts are

enforced. Once operational, normal regulatory functions related to adequacy, safety, etc., are implemented.

f. D. McDonald, P.Eng.

Julitaliale!

Chairman

Uranium Mining Steering Committee

Con Rq. January 26, 1978, Miss P. M. Handford, 2925 Mathers Avenue. West Vancouver, B. C. Dear Miss Handford: Thank you for your letter of December 6, 1977 concerning the issue of Uranium mining at Clearwater, B. C. and the subject of a public hearing. Arrangements were made by the company, Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, to hold a public meeting at Clearwater, B. C. in order that interested citizens of the community and of other areas in the Province would have an opportunity of learning first hand about their project. This meeting was held on Sunday, December 18th in the community of Clearwater. The meeting was well attended and representatives of the company, their consultants and members of the Uranium Steering Committee were in attendance. The event was widely covered by the media and I am sure you are aware of some of the accounts. Should you wish to obtain information that was presented by the company at the meeting to those in attendance, I would suggest that you write to their consultants, Kilborn Engineering Limited in Vancouver. Yours sincerely, James R. Chabot, MINISTER ERM/ph

## DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM—SOURCES

Date: Dec 30/77 minister's Office De Fyles.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

| ☐ For your approval.    | Prepare reply for my signature.  |
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| ☐ For your information  | n. Prepare draft of reply.   |
| ☐ For necessary action. | ☐ Return to me.  |
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MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED DEC 28 1977 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

REC'D JAN 3 - '78

REFERRED TO DATE INTERNAL A.D.M.

A.D.P.

125 Anothers Quenus, West Vancouver, B.C. VIV 257 DECEMBER 6, 1977

Thon. James Chabot. minister of mines and Petroleum Perouves Partiament Buildings.

3

Victoria, B.C.

Deak Sik,

Having whiten a letter to your dated Oct. 20. on this issue of whancim mining in B.C., I necessed in neply dated bet. 28, from your department.

at clear water hear the site of the proposed mine. They desire a feublic hearing.

statement " a part of the newier phocess you will note that the news beloces you will note that the news hearing which will provide any concerned citizen the opportunity to make presentations. It is expected that this public hearing will be held that this public hearing will be held this I all at as suitable location close to the phoposed mine."

We are drawing to the end of the year yet no public hearing has

We are I drowing to the end of the year yet no public hearing has been held. ho specific date has been published in the news papers for such a healing. Why?

Yours sincerely,

Freda Handfoud Copies to Premier w. R. Bennett, and the Federal minister of the Environment morchand.

Miss F. M. Handford 2925 Mathers Avenue West Vancouver, B. C. Canada V7V 2J7

#### January 23, 1978,

Mrs. B. Kane, Chairman, Mission and Outreach Committee, Queen's Avenue United Church, 529 Queen's Avenue, New Westminster, B. C. V3L 1K2

Dear Mrs. Kane:

Your letter to the Premier regarding the Birch Island mine has been passed to me and I appreciate your interest.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Ragulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

I do not feel that a full judicial enquiry with public participation into the proposed development of the Birch Island mine and uranium mining in general in British Columbia, would serve any useful purpose. All the issues have been fully aired in similar developments in other parts of Canada. British Columbia will benefit from policies developed in other Provinces, will be subject to all Federal controls for development and export, will not repeat mistakes that have been made in Ontario, and can opt to limit nuclear development if we are not satisfied that the interests of British Columbia and its citizens are being served by any particular development.

. . 2

January 23, 1978

An information meeting was held by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited in Clearwater on December 18, 1977 to advise the public of their plans and to answer questions.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

20-1

# Queen's Abenue United Church

529 Queen's Avenue, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 1K2

O G Closure W

MINISTERS:

REV. JOHN M. CASHORE
REV. CHARLES G. RAYMONT

CHURCH SECRETARY:
MRS. J. HANCOCK
CHURCH TELEPHONE: 522-1606



REC'D JAN 3 - 78

REFERRED TO DATE RETTIAL A.D.M.
A.D.P.
A.S.
M.R.

The Honourable: Premier W. Bennett, Parliament Buildings Victoria, B. C.

Sir:

Enclosed please find copy of a letter to Len Marchand, Minister of the Environment regarding the concern of members of Queens Avenue United Church regarding concern about health and cological hazards from the proposed uranium mine on Birch Island.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER
MINERAL RESOURCES

REC'D JAN 9,78 07

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D.M.
E. & P.

Yours respectfully,

(Mrs. B. Kane)

Chairman, Mission & Outreach Committee

ENC: 1

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

DEC 23 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

ACKNOWLEDGED BY
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PREMIER'S OFFICE

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PREMIER'S OFFICE

## Queen's Abenue United Church

529 Queen's Avenue, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 1K2

MINISTERS:

REV. JOHN M. CASHORE

REV. CHARLES G. RAYMONT

CHURCH SECRETARY:
MRS. J. HANCOCK
CHURCH TELEPHONE: 522-1606

December 8, 1977

Hon. Len Merchand, Minister of the Environment, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Members of the congregation of Queens Avenue United Church, New Westminster, are concerned about the development of the proposed ugranium wine on Birch Island.

de are concerned about the health and ecological aspects of an open pit mine and strongly urge a moratoriam on development of this mine until a judicial inquiry can be held.

We are enclosing a petition requesting such a moratorium signed by some 125 persons following Sunday service.

Yours respectfully.

Howity Kane (Mrs. B. Bene)

Chairperson, Cutreach Committee.

Copy to Fremier Bennett

| MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES TO: La Figlis |                                 |  |  |
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| Wish to discuss   | Prepare reply for my signature. |  |  |
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| DATE: Jan   | 3/18                            |  |  |

January 23, 1978,

Mr. Michael Lewis, The British Columbia Conference, The United Church of Canada, 505 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B. C. V6B 1Y5

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for your letter of December 28, 1977 concerning the information meeting held December 18, 1977 in Clearwater, B. C.

I appreciate your interest and thank you for keeping me advised of your correspondence with Denison Mines Limited.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

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### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM ACSOURCES

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REMARKS:

### The British Columbia Conference

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



#### PRESIDENT

REV. R. GEORGE A. MORRISON 7591 GRAY AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C. V5J 3Z4 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

REV. ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

505 DUNSMUIR STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 1Y5 - 682-7556

December 28, 1977

Mr. James Chabot, M.L.A. Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Chabot:

Thank you for your letter of December 13, 1977 to Rev. Glen Betts. We call your attention to the questions that were not answered by Denison Mines at the December 18th meeting. Needless to say, we are pursuing our questions and expect answers will be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Lewis

Outreach Consultant

ML:S Encs.

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MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED DEC 29 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

**CONFERENCE STAFF** 

### The British Columbia Conference

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



#### PRESIDENT

REV. R. GEORGE A. MORRISON 75:91 GRAY AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C. V5J 3Z4

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
REV. ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

505 DUNSMUIR STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V68 1Y5 - 682-7556

December 28, 1977

Denison Mines Ltd. 3900 South Tower Box 40 Royal Bank Plaza Toronto, Ontario M5J 2K2

Attention:

Mr. M.J. de Bastiani

Vice-President, Finance

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to inform you of the continuing concern of our Department regarding the questions put forward in our correspondence of November 25, 1977, particularly questions 1-a & b and 2b. While these questions were raised at the December 18 meeting in Clearwater, we did not receive any answer to these very important questions.

Given this situation, we wish to advise you of our recommendation to the department we are responsible to. In short, we are advising our principals to extend an invitation to yourself and company representatives in order to facilitate a more personal exchange of information related to the previously cited questions.

It is our view that such an exchange will be extremely helpful if conducted as an open, honest dialogue.

Sincerely,

Michael Lewis Outreach Consultant

ML:S

cc. James Chabot

**CONFERENCE STAFF** 

November 25, 1977

Denison Mines Ltd. 3900 South Tower Box 40 Royal Bank Plaza Toronto, Ontario M5J 2K2

Attention: Mr. M.J. de Bastiani Vice-President, Finance

Gentlemen:

### Re: Proposed Rex Spar Uranium Mine

A considerable amount of concern has been directed to our committee relative to the reference uranium mine proposed for Birch Island. It would be appreciated if you would provide answers to the following questions to us, prior to our next meeting on December 8th:

- 1. Tailing Pends, which we understand are to be located approximately 800 ft. from the Thompson River
  - a) do you propose to recycle, clean up or reuse the effluent?
  - b) for how many years would your company be prepared to pay the cost of monitoring and safeguarding these tailing ponds?
  - c) do you post a performance bond, and for how much?

### 2. Air Pollution -

- a) what control equipment do you plan to install in the plant?
- b) what health insurance would you provide for your employees? their families?
- c) transportation of yellowcake how will yellowcake be shipped from Birch Island? what measures are planned to protect the public? e.g., if by truck, would there be a convoy?

Your cooperation in providing us with the above information before our December 8th meeting will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Lets Carson Boyce Chairman of the Environment Committee Ontreach Reportment

LB:S

CC. Honourable Len Marchant Minister of the Environment

> Monourable William Rennett Premier of the Province of B.C.

Also to: Rev. Peter Rolston and B.C. Conference Outreach Committee

Ministry of
Mines and
Petroleum Resources

Parliament Buildings
Victoria
British Columbia
V8V 1X4

42 8

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

December 13, 1977.

The Reverend Glen J. Betts, The British Columbia Conference, The United Church of Canada, 505 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, British Columbia. V6B 1Y5

Dear Reverend Betts:

The Honourable Premier W. R. Bennett has asked me to respond to concerns which you have raised in your letter to the Honourable Len Marchand, Federal Minister of the Environment, concerning a proposed uranium development near Clearwater, B.C. I am not aware of any previous request by you of my Ministry for information on this project but shall be glad to comment.

I have enclosed a copy of a news release that I made jointly with my colleague, the Minister of Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen on Janury 20, 1977 which outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. You will note that my Ministry is represented on a Uranium Steering Committee which reviews the developers proposal at each step of a staged review procedure. To date, Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited have submitted a prospectus and a preliminary Stage One Environmental Impact Assessment concerning their Birch Island project. These initial submissions have been reviewed by this committee and comments and evaluation have been made known to the company. These comments will be taken into account by Consolidated Rexspar during the preparation of their Stage Two Report.

I understand that the company plans to hold a public information meeting to review the project and to answer any questions of interested individuals or groups. The date for this meeting has now been set for December 18, 1977 in Clearwater, B.C. Additional information concerning the company's plans for this meeting may be obtained from Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Limited, 1199 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6E 2Rl. This company has been retained by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited as their consultants on the Birch Island Project.

You should be aware that no decision has been made by either the Federal or Provincial Governments to approve the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company nor have either the Federal or Provincial Governments received applications to this effect. The staged review procedure established by the Federal and Provincial Governments is in place to ensure that any uranium development will be properly designed to satisfy all public safety and environmental concerns. I would hope that the company's public information meeting will answer many of the questions that you may now have.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

January 23, 1978,

Mr. Len Guy, B. C. Federation of Labour, 210 - 517 E. Broadway, Vancouver, B. C. V5T 1X4

Dear Mr. Guy:

Eng.

Your telegram to the Premier regarding the Birch Island mine has been passed to me and I appreciate your interest.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

I do not feel that a full judicial enquiry with public participation into the proposed development of the Birch Island mine and uranium mining in general in British Columbia, would serve any useful purpose. All the issues have been fully aired in similar developments in other parts of Canada. British Columbia will benefit from policies developed in other Provinces, will not repeat mistakes that have been made in Ontario, and can opt to limit nuclear development if we are not satisfied that the interests of British Columbia and its citizens are being served by any particular development.

2

The Rexspar mine at Birch Island is still in an early stage of the approval process and will be allowed to go ahead only if it meets the standards required under Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations. In the approval process, reports produced by the developer are available for review by the public as well as by all Government agencies affected by the development.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot, MINISTER

Inclosure

ERM/ph

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MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES TO: W

INSTRUCTIONS

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Prepare reply for my signature.

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PREMIER W A C BENNETT

PARLIAMENT BLDGS VICTORIA BC

DEC 15 1977

PREMIER'S OFFICE

BT

THE BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR ON BEHALF OF 240,000 TRADE UNIONISTS IN THIS PROVINCE URGES YOU TO SET A MORATORIUM ON URANIUM MINING IN BC UNTIL A JUDICIAL INQUIRY HAS BEEN HELD INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS THE WORKERS AND RESIDENTS OF BIRCH ISLAND REGION HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT DANGERS FACE THEM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CITIZENS OF BC TO ENSURE THAT THE ELLIOTT LAKE EXPERIENCE IN ONTARIO WILL NOT BE REPEATED HERE THE COST OF AN INQUIRY SURELY IS INCONSEQUENTIAL IN RELATION TO THE POTENTIAL COST IN LIVES UNTIL SUCH AN INQUIRY HAS BEEN COMPLETED A MORATORIUM ON URANIUM MINING IN BC MUST BE **ESTABLISHED** 

LEN GUY BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

NNNN

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

DEC 23 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

ACKNOWLEDGED BY

SIGNATURE

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER

REC'D JAN

January 23, 1978,

Mr. L. Kuehn, President, K.D.T.A., Suite 205, 421 St. Paul Street, Kamloops, B. C. V2C 2J7

Dear Mr. Kuchn:

Your letter to the Premier regarding the Birch Island mine has been passed to me and I appreciate your interest.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

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. . 2

The Rexspar mine at Birch Island is still in an early stage of the approval process and will be allowed to go ahead only if it meets the standards required under Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations. In the approval process, reports produced by the developer are available for review by the public as well as by all Government agencies affected by the development.

I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in this development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

Enclosure

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### Province of British Columbia

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. S. REFERRED TO

SP.M. 1 L

A.D.P. A.S.

M.R.

FILE

DATE

INITIO

File No:

December 29, 1977

Mr. L. Kuehn President, K.D.T.A. Ste. 205 421 St. Paul Street Kamloops, B.C. V2C 2J7

Dear Mr. Kuehn,

MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Prépare reply for my signature. Wish to discuss

Prepare draft of reply. [ ] For your information.

Return to me. [ ] For necessary action.

Send me copy of reply. For your comments.

DATE:

In the absence of the Premier, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter.

Please be assured that the Premier will see your letter upon his return to the office. In the meantime, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Honourable James Chabot, Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources, as this matter comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister's porfolio.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and make the Premier aware of your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Paulsen, (Mrs.) Administrative Officer

cc: Honourable James Nielsen Minister of the Environment MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

> JAN 5 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESUURCES REFERRED TO DATE ! INIT!

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia V8V 4R3

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# Kamloops District Teachers' Association 205-421 St. Paul Street, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 2J7

372-9361

December 19, 1977

REGEIVED

Premier W. R. Bennett The Parliament Buildings Victoria, B. C. V8V 1X4 DEC 22 1977

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Dear Premier Bennett:

The proposed uranium mine at Birch Island is a matter of concern to members of the Kamloops District Teachers' Association, both as citizens of the Kamloops area and as teachers who have responsibility for the care of children.

As a result of this concern, the Staff Representative Council of the K.D.T.A. - made up of representatives from schools throughout the Kamloops District - has passed a motion calling for a moratorium on the Birch Island uranium mine development until a judicial inquiry declares that the project is not a threat to the health of the people.

We hope that you will give serious consideration to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

L. Kuehn, President, K.D.T.A.

LK:ps

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

JAN 5 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

January 23, 1978,

Mr. Fred Braun, Secretary, North Thompson Teachers' Association, Box 1314, Clearwater, B. C. VOE 1NO

Your letter to the Premier regarding the Birch Island mine has been passed to me and I appreciate your interest.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

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. . .

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Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot, MINISTER

Enclosure

MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES-

& In Feles

NORTH THOMPSON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Send nic copy of reply. [1] Far your comments.

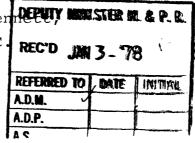
DATE: Jan3/78

Fred Braun, Secretary, Box 1314, Clearwater, B.C.

VOE INO

December 9, 1977.

The Honorable Mr. Bill Ben Retty Premier, Province of B.C Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.



MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

DEC 23 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The North Thompson Teachers Association wishes to express concern regarding the proposed uranium mine in Birch Island. From the information we have been able to gather, there are no guidelines or regulations regarding uranium mining in B.C. Since there seems to be very little information and technology for the safe disposal of the uranium mine tailings, and since the tailings pond is in such close proximity to the Birch Island School, we fear for the high risk of radiation, and its effects upon, not only ourselves and our students, but also upon the off-spring of those who would be exposed to this radiation.

The North Thompson Teachers Association therefore urges you to do whatever is necessary to curtail any further development of the proposed mine, until a judicial inquiry has been held.

Yours truly,

RECEIVED

DEC 12 1977

PREMIER'S OFFICE

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

REC'D JAN .9'78

REFERRED TO DATE D.M.

SIGNATURE

ACKNOWLEDGED BY

### January 23, 1978,

B. Sykes, Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital, R. R. #2, Clearwater, B. C. VOE 1NO

Dear Ms. Sykes:

Thank you for your letter of December 28, 1977 outlining your concern for the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island, B. C.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

The Rexspar mine at Birch Island is still in an early stage of the approval process and will be allowed to go ahead only if it meets the standards required under Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations. In the approval process, reports produced by the developer are available for review by the public as well as by all Government agencies affected by the development.

I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in this development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot, MINISTER

Enclosure.
ERM/ph

TELEPHONE (604) 674-9244

Achardy letter, (1), (5)

### Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital

R.R. 2 CLEARWATER, B.C. VOE 1NO

December 28, 1977

Hon. Jim Chabot Minister of Mines and Resources Victoria, B. C.

|                        | AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES         |
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Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a statement presented at a meeting of concerned citizens and representatives of Denison Rexspare Limited in Clearwater, B. C. on December 18, 1977.

I would like to ask you to make our concerns your concern and do everything in your power to ensure a safe environment, both now and in

the future, for B. C. residents.

Yours truly,

B. Sykes Nurse/Administrator.

BS/bas B. Ofkes.

c.c. Hon. J. Chabot Mon. R. McClelland Hon. R. Mair.

Hon. Len Marchand

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MENISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

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MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

JAN 3 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

January 23, 1978,

Mr. H. E. Richardson, 3028 Quadra Street, Victoria, B. C. VST 4G3

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Dear Mr. Richardson:

Your letter to the Premier regarding the Birch Island mine has been passed to me and I appreciate your interest.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

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I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in this development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot, MINISTER

Enclosure

g.tu. (0,(3),(3) DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R. REC'D .IAN 9-78 Province of British Columbia OFFICE OF THE PREMIER REFERRED TO DATE IN THE A.D.M. A.D.P. File 148: 20-1 MENISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES December 29, 1977 FILE INSTRUCTIONS Wish to discuss Prepare reply for my signature. For your information. Mr. H. E. Richardson Prepare draft of reply. 3028 Quadra Street [] For necessary action. Return to me.

Victoria, B.C. V8T 4G3

Dear Mr. Richardson,

In the absence of the Premier, wish to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter.

Send me copy of reply. For your comments.

DATE:

Please be assured that the Premier will see your letter upon his return to the office. In the meantime, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Honourable James Chabot, Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources, as this matter comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister's porfolio.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and make the Premier aware of your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Paulsen, (Mrs.) Administrative Officer

cc: Honourable James Nielsen Minister of the Environment MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

JAN 51978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES REC'D JAN 11'78 36 REFERRED TO DATE INITIAL D.M. E. & P.

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia V8V 4R3

## RECEIVED

DEC 23 1977

H. E. Richardson 3028 Quadra St Victoria, B. C. V8T 4G3 December, I9, I977

PREMIER'S OFFICE Hon. William Bennett, Premier Legislative Buildings Victoria, B. C.

Dear Mr. Premier ;

A few nights ago a program on the CBC, TV, showed us a picture of the Elliott Lake area of Ontario and the guge waste deposits from the unanium workings in that area. We were shown some views of the river of that area into which the "Plutonium" wastes finds way into the nearby river. Picture were also shown in connection with the new housing development in the area and the elaborate precautions that are being carried out in the basements of the new houses to carry out the escaping gases from that plutonium wastes.

Tonights TV report, gave us a very brief and vague report on a meeting to be held in the area of Clearwater, on the North Thompson River. With that very vague report concerning the proposed development of a uranium mine on the North Thompson River, I, as a concerned Citizen, wish further information on this proposed development.

The Thompson River, a tributary of the geat Fraser River, which is also one of our KNAKXENIMAKKIKHEN great Salmon Rivers would be poluted with leaching plutonium from the waste products from such a development.

As Citizens, we have a number of elected servants in our various Governments whose duties it is ( in the opinion of this Citizen 7 to keep us fully informed on such potentially dangerous developments which can have detrimental effects on large areas of our environment. We have in this Province, an elected representative (Mr. James Chabot ) who at present holds the position as Minister of Mines, and whose duty it is ( in my opinion ) to keep us fully informed on all projects which might, in the future, have a detrimental effects on the people of the area or on the general environment on some of our irreplacable resources.

Our Provincial Minister of Mines reports from time to time in some of the Provinces newspapers with a "Report From Victoria". As a Citizen, I suggest that our Minister of Mines, in his next report from Victoria give us a complete report on just what is taking place regarding the proposed uranium development at Birch Island on the North Thompson River. As our servant, it is his duty to keep us fully informed on all developments which may have detrimental effects on our environment and resources for many years into the future.

MINISTER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED

JAN 5 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Yours Truly Grandson

January 23, 1978,

Ms. Lydia Tompson, Little Fort, B. C. VOE 2CO

Dear Ms. Tompson:

Your letter to the Premier regarding the Birch Island mine has been passed to me and I appreciate your interest.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

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I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in this development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot, MINISTER

Enclosure.

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### Province of British Columbia

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December 29, 1977

Ms. Lydia Tompson Little Fort, B.C. V0E 2C0

Dear Ms. Tompson,

In the absence of the Premier, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter.

For your information. Prepare draft of reply.

Send me cupy of raply. For your comments.

For necessary action. Return to me.

Please be assured that the Premier will see your letter upon his return to the office. In the meantime, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Honourable James Chabot, Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources, as this matter comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister's porfolio.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and make the Premier aware of your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Paulsen, (Mrs.) Administrative Officer

cc: Honourable James Nielsen Minister of the Environment

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LittleFort, B.C. VOE-2CO Dec. 18, 1977

## REGEIVED

DEC 23 1977

The Honourable W.R. Bennett Premier, British Columbia, Parliament Buildings, Victoria. B.C.

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Re: Proposed Tranium mine at Birch Island

I attended the meeting held in Clearwater on Sunday afternoon by Dennison Mines, and I am really concerned regarding the possibility of a mine opening at Birch Island.

The feeling of the people in the whole North Thompson Valley is that they do not wish this beautiful valley to be polluted with possible radio active dust.

When a large mining company can call a meeting and cannot give any assurance that a uranium mine will be safe, I believe it is up to the people where are represented by you to show concern.

We all realize that money talks and the common people do not have much say in Government in most places, but we look forward to you to take a stand for us in this valley, and to say an emphatic NO to Rex Spar Mining company. They promise jobs for ten local people! Local people do not want jobs at a uranium mine, and as for the operation of the mine, the life would be at the most, five years!

It is now up to you, -- will you save our valley from this unwanted mine? The New Democratic Party stated at that meeting that if they were voted in at the next election NO uranium mine would be allowed to operate in British Columbia. Yes, it is up to you, and as a strong Socred supporter I, myself do not want to be forced into voting N.D.P.

Yours, truly,

CC: The Hon. Raef Mair

y dia Tompson

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

JAN 5 1978

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

January 23, 1978,

Mr. Dave Williamson, Sicamous, B. C. VOE 2VO

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Your letter to the Premier regarding the Birch Island mine has been passed to me and I appreciate your interest.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

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I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in this development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot, MINISTER

Enclosure

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| Si             | r. Dave Williamson<br>icamous, B.C.<br>0E 2V0 | For your information. Prepare draft of reply.  For necessary action. Return to me.  Send me copy of reply. For your comments.                             |  |
| D              | ear Mr. Williamson,                           | DATE: Xa 8-28   |  |
|                | n the absence of th<br>our recent letter.     | ne Premier, I wish to acknowledge a   | nd thank you for                                     |
| to<br>co<br>Pe | the office. In thopy of your letter           | nat the Premier will see your letter<br>ne meantime, I am taking the liberty<br>to the Honourable James Chabot, M<br>, as this matter comes within the ju | of forwarding a inister of Mines &                   |
| <b>T</b> 1     | hank you again for                            | r taking the time to write and make   | the Premier  |

Thank you again for taking the time to write and make the Premier aware of your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Paulsen, (Mrs.) Administrative Officer

cc: Honourable James Nielsen
Minister of the Environment

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RECOURCES

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PREMIER'S OFFICE

Sicamores RC. Dec 16/77 VO E2 VO

Premier Bennett

You would be wise to delay the uvanium mine at Clearwater.

Clearwater.

I talk a lot with many people in the interior & the general consensus is. - "proceeding before the next election would be very costly, in votes"

Sincerely Dave Williamson



Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources Parliament Buildings Victoria British Columbia V8V 1X4

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Chairman of Environmental Cluster,

The British Columbia Conference,

The United Church of Canada,

VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 1Y5

1835 Fort Street,

Victoria, B.C. V&R 1J6.

January 18th, 197

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R.

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REFERRED TO DATE INITIAL A.D.M. A.D.P. A.S. M.R.

Dear Ms. Boyce:

Ms. Lois Carson Boyce,

505 Dunsmuir Street,

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Ltd.

Thank you for your letter of January 9th, 1978 requesting additional information. I enclose a copy of my written presentation from the Clearwater Meeting, December 18th, 1977. In addition, a copy of a letter to Mr. Mike Lewis, Outreach Consultant of The United Church of Canada, from Mr. A. Dory, P. Eng., is enclosed for your information.

Mr. Dory's letter will answer some of your questions in relation to the Stage I Report. The A.E.C.B. fully concurred with the written statement presented at the Clearwater Meeting as Mr. Dory represents the A.E.C.B. on the Steering Committee. Environment Canada was informed of the statement at a meeting prior to the Clearwater Meeting. I should point out that Stage I Report went out to all government agencies in June 1977 concerned both federally and provincially. The majority of agencies replied and a meeting was held in August with the company and their consultants. The many concerns expressed by the agencies were discussed and information was requested to be provided in a Stage II Report. Environment Canada did not submit their report until early December and many of their concerns had already been submitted to the company as early as August.

The Stage Reports are submitted to provincial departments for their comments and this includes Health, Parks, Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, and six copies are forwarded to the A.E.C.B. for the appropriate federal agencies.

I trust this information will be of value to you.

( ) 111 Oll

J. D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Chairman.

Uranium Mining Steering Committee.

JDM: jau Encls.

copy: Dr. J. O'Riordan

Mr. A. Dory

Fr. J. T. Fyles file

### The British Columbia Conference

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



#### PRESIDENT

REV. R. GEORGE A. MORRISON
7591 GRAY AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C.
V5J 324
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
REV. ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

505 DUNSMUIR STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 1Y5 — 682-7556

January

Dr. Jake MacDonald, Chairman
Uranium Steering Committee
Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

|       | <b>恐PT. O</b> F<br>PETROLEUM | MINES<br>I RESOURCES |
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Dear Sir:

We would very much appreciate receiving a copy of the written presentation you delivered at the public meeting arranged by Denison Mines in Clearwater on December 18th, to answer the public's questions relating to the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island. Does the Atomic Energy Control Board and the Department of Fisheries and the Environment and/or other jurisdictions concur with your presentation?

During the question period it became obvious from the answers to my questions re providing additional information that is missing from the Stage I report (as outlined by Department of Environment commentaries) that there is a difference of interpretation regarding the requirements of the Stage I report. What action is planned by your committee to ensure that the data required in Stage I is provided by the developer or the departments of the environment, before the developer is permitted to proceed to Stage II? We are convinced this additional information needs to be made available to the public, with a government-sponsored public hearing, before Consolidated Rexspar is permitted to proceed to Stage II reporting and certainly before a pollution control permit is being considered.

We would appreciate your informing us how your committee involves other departments (tourism, recreation, health, etc.) that have legitimate concerns re the development of any uranium mine (see our written submission, copy of which was provided to you at the hearing).

Your early reply will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Lois Carson Boyce

Chairman of Environment Cluster

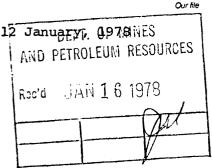
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Directorate of Licensing/ Direction des permis

Your file Votre référence

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Mr. Mike Lewis
Outreach Consultant
The British Columbia Conference
The United Church of Canada
505 Dunsmuir Street
VANCOUVER, British Columbia
V6B 1Y5



Dear Mr. Lewis:

### BRIEF TO THE PUBLIC MEETING ON CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR MINERALS & CHEMICALS LTD. PROPOSED BIRCH ISLAND PROJECT

Thank you for your letter of 29 December, 1977 and the enclosed material.

We wish to inform you that it is the policy of the regulatory agencies concerned (one of them being the Atomic Energy Control Board) that before the siting of any Nuclear Facility is approved, the possible environmental and socio-economic impacts on the health and safety of employees and the general public be studied in detail and that any negative impact arising from such a study be minimized by the application of proper siting, design and operating policies.

As stated in the undersigned's replies to some of the questions asked at the public meeting held on 18 December, 1977, the AECB definitely considers a meaningful public information process an important part of the decision-making process. As a result, a recommendation was put forth to the company (and this recommendation was agreed to by all regulatory agencies) that they hold a public information meeting at the stage when the proposed facility's impact would be studied. This would ensure that public concerns would be studied and addressed in depth at an early opportunity.

We agree with you that all impacts must be studied and assessed thoroughly before a decision is made to allow any industrial project to go ahead. After all, any mine tailings (and not necessarily those from uranium mines) and industrial plants which create liquid and/or gaseous wastes, have the potential to release contaminants into the environment; these impacts should be assessed.

At present, we are fortunate to have a well-coordinated regulatory process in action involving all concerned federal and provincial regulatory agencies, allowing a detailed assessment of any proposed Nuclear Facility before a site approval is authorized.

P.O. Box 1046 C.P. 1046 Ottawa, Canada K1P 5S9 Cttawa, Canada K1P 5S9 In addition to the initial public information meeting and after the Phase II (detailed impact statement) Report is completed, the Report will again be made accessible to the public for study and the public will be afforded an opportunity at that time to voice any concerns or questions which may have arisen. Approval of the facility site will be considered only after all concerns have been taken into account.

Specifically, we wish to point out that results of tests so far indicate that there is no acid generation problem with the Birch Island ore and waste material; therefore, acidic water should not occur. However, more testing will be conducted during the second phase of the study.

With respect to collection of detailed baseline data, please note this is one of the main requirements of any environmental impact study. As a result, you may rest assured that before the Birch Island project (or any other possible project) gets off the ground, the baseline data on ground and surface water in the area will have been collected and analysed.

In the case of surface exploration work, there is no likelihood that such work would result in any significantly increased release of radionuclides and/or other pollutants from the explored orebodies.

The question of the morality involved in proceeding with the development of the nuclear industry is beyond the scope of the Atomic Energy Control Board's mandate. However, you must surely realize that the great number of professionals involved in the regulatory assessment of any project are human beings and must reconcile their decisions with their moral standards and professional ethics. These standards and ethics are bound to be reflected in their decisions. It should be kept in mind that any human activity will leave a legacy to future generations. As previously mentioned, uranium mill tailings are not the only source of pollutants; other pollutants are not measured in thousands of years, they do not decay, and thus will remain forever.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Atomic Energy Control Act and Regulations, and a copy of Licensing Guide No. 31, "Guide to the Licensing of Uranium and Thorium Mine-Mill Facilities", for your perusal. The Licensing Guide should give you a better understanding of the regulatory requirements and mechanics of approval for proposed uranium mine/mill facilities.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at Ottawa (telephone: 613/995-3181).

Yours sincerely,

aladar B. Dory

Mine, Chemical & Waste Management

Facility Licensing Division

ABD: jsm

c.c. Mr. J. McDonald, Chairman
 Uranium Mine Steering Committee

# URANIUM MINING STEERING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING: CLEARWATER, B.C.

BIRCH ISLAND PROJECT: CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR
MINERALS AND CHEMICALS LTD.

The Steering Committee would like to make the following statement at the beginning of this Public Meeting. After a review of the Stage I Report and the review by government agencies, the Committee decided that it was necessary for the project to be outlined to the citizens in Clearwater and surrounding area, and their concerns on the technical aspects of the project would be taken into account. The Committee requested the Company to hold a public meeting in Clearwater to explain their project and answer questions relating to the project. The concerns of the residents in the area would be taken into account by the Committee and would request the company to cover this aspect in the Stage II Report.

### Role & Planning Process

The Committee's main function is to co-ordinate government agency reviews of environmental impact assessments and to ensure that all standards and specifications set out in various Federal and Provincial statutes are met before a decision to develop the mine is taken.

The Committee is composed of representatives from Federal and Provincial Governments agencies with a direct involvement in the environmental, regulating and technical aspects of

the development.

- A. B. Dory, P.Eng., Atomic Energy Control Board.
- J. D. McDonald, P. Eng., Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Senior Engineer and Inspector, Reclamation, Stability pits dams, Environmental impact assessments, co-chairman Coal Guideline Steering Committee.
- Dr. J. O'Riordan, Environment Land Use Committee, Secretariat, Assistant Director, Special Projects, chairman, Coal Guidelines Steering Committee.

The Secretariat reports to the ELUC, a 9-member Cabinet Committee which administers the Environment and Land Use Act. This Act requires that all aspects of environment and land use are considered before any decision on major resource development is undertaken. The Secretariat is therefore responsible for ensuring that impacts on land use, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, forests, communities and heritage resources are identified and evaluated.

### Process

The Steering Committee has requested the Company,

Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Cehmicals Ltd., to follow

a four-stage planning process, similar to the established

process of Guidelines for Coal Development. This process is

applied to all major coal developments in the province.

Uranium mining being new to the province, that established

process used for coal would be followed for uranium mining.

1. Prospectus. A short document describing the location and design of the mine and related facilities. This was

prepared in 1976 and most of the information is contained in the Information Brochure prepared by the Company in November 1976.

2. Stage I Report: Preliminary Environmental Analysis This report was completed in April, 1977 and outlines in more detail the minesite, development proposal and the preparation plant together with information on control of liquid and solid The main intent of the Stage I Report is to identify wastes. impacts on the natural and social environment and to discuss alternative approaches to reducing and managing these impacts, e.g., locations of waste materials, general design of tailings In addition, the developer is expected to establish a monitoring program to determine the base-line quality of the waters and atmosphere surrounding the mine. It is not the purpose of the Stage I report to detail the pollution control facilities and other measures required to reduce environmental impacts as the final engineering and feasibility is not complete at this stage. This is the primary function of the Stage II report.

This report has been reviewed by the various government regulatory agencies with an interest in the project, the technical concerns expressed at today's meeting will be part of the review process. The comments and advice of all the agencies and public concerns will be reviewed by the Steering Committee, and as a result, a set of specific directives will be issued to the developer to ensure that the Stage II report

adequately covers those concerns. The Steering Committee has already met with the Company to discuss the comments received from the government agencies and these will be incorporated in the Stage II Report. The meeting with company was held on August 16th, 1977. A summary of comments reviewed at the meeting can be obtained by respresentatives of interested groups, from the Steering Committee.

### Stage III

If the project is given "approval-in-principle" then the developer must prepare final detailed plans for the approval of specific license and permits.

#### Provincial Government

- (1) Pollution Control Act: Permits for discharge of air emissions and effluents.
- (2) Water Act and Regulations: Licenses for use of water.
- (3) Mines Regulation Act:
  - Section 10: Approval of the mining plan by the chief inspector of mines. This includes tailings dam stability, dumps and pit.
  - Section 11: Reclamation Permit Authorizing Surface Wash:
    The Act governs the health and safety of the workman,
    in safety regulations, dust and gas exposures, radiation
    exposures.
- (4) B.C. Land Commissioners Act: Authority to remove land from the Agricultureal Land Reserve.

- (5) Forestry Act: Timber Removal.
- (6) Land Act: Issuance of land leases on crown land and issues for right-of-way development.

### Federal Government Permits & Approvals

The Atomic Energy Control Board has jurisdiction over all operations where there is radioactivity. In Uranium mining, the AECB has a review process for issuing permits. The Steering Committee will co-ordinate the Federal and Provincial review process to avoid duplication.

### 1. AECB -- permits

Exploration
Construction and Development
Operational
Post operational

### 2. Environment Canada

Approval of project by fisheries.

### Stage IV: Project Implementation

Various Provincial Government agencies have specific and continuing responsibilities during development of the project into a producing mine and will continue to monitor specific aspects of the project. The developer is responsible for conforming with government regulations in such key areas as air and water quality and surface reclamation. The same applies to offsite facilities. Most intensive monitoring can be anticipated through the development phase, curing which accepted guidelines to mitigate construction impacts are

enforced. Once operational, normal regulatory functions related to adequacy, safety, etc., are implemented.

J. D. McDonald, P.Eng. Chairman Uranium

Uranium Mining Steering Committee

December 20, 1977,

Sheila M. Moss, 205 Columbia Street, Kamloops, B. C. V2C 2S7

Dear Ms. Moss:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 1977 outlining your concern for the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island, B. C.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter which I believe you have already seen. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

The Rexspar mine at Birch Island is still in an early stage of the approval process and will be allowed to go ahead only if it meets the standards required under Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations. In the approval process, reports produced by the developer are available for review by the public as well as by all Government agencies affected by the development. You are also undoubtedly aware that the company has recently held a public meeting in Clearwater, B. C. to outline their project and to answer any questions of interested individuals or groups.

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I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in this development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

Enclosure

ERM/ph

205 Columbia St. Kandaoges, B. C. Dec 7, 1977.

Mr James Chabet Merister of menes, Petroleum Resources Parliament Buildings Victoria, S. C.

| DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R. |       |         |  |  |
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Dear Du Chabat:

I prolect strongly the government project and there to build a craneum mine at Buch Island There is two much danger to The environment and to the health of the project through wranium processing. Blease do not give your suggest to this project.

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| MINISTER OF MINES AND PERFELLUM RESOURCES         | Sheila                        |
| TO: Il Mocgregor                                  | Ť                             |
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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

December 20, 1977,

Jeanne Jodouin, 205 Columbia Street, Kamloops, B. C. V2C 2S7

Dear Ms. Jodouin:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, 1977 outlining your concerns for the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island, B. C.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter which I believe you have already seen. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

I do not feel that a complete moratorium on the project at Birch Island will serve any useful purpose. The proposed Rexspar Mine is still in an early stage of the approval process and will be allowed to go ahead only if it meets the standards required under Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations. approval process, reports produced by the developer are available for review by the public as well as by all Government agencies affected by the development. I believe the standards established through the Atomic Energy Control Act ensure that uranium mining will be permitted only where all concerns for public safety, health and environmental protection are fulfilled. Further, British Columbia will benefit from policies developed in other Provinces and will be subject to all Federal control for development and export, will not repeat mistakes that have been made in other jurisdictions, and can opt to limit nuclear development if we are not satisfied that the interests of British Columbia and its citizens are being served by any particular development.

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I am sure that you are aware that Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited held a public meeting in Clearwater, B. C. on December 18, 1977 to outline the details of their Birch Island project and to answer any questions that interested individuals or groups had. I would expect the company to continue to inform the public of their progress and plans for this project.

I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in the Birch Island development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

Enclosure

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### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM SOURCES

Date: 16/12/17

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**REMARKS:** 

### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

From: FC 15-77

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#### REMARKS:

DEPU. MINISTER M. & P. R. REC'D 0€C1577 € 2787 REFERRED TO DATE INITIAL 205 Columbia St. A.S. Landorps, B.C. VZC ZST Dicember 10, 1977 Hon Mr. James Cholol, Minuter of Mires MINISTER'S OFFICE Parliament Buildings RECEIVED 0EC 13 1977 Victoria, B.C. PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS Dear Mr. Chalot, VICTORIA, B.C. I am writing to request that there be a moratoriim on the proposed wanium mine at Birch Island, B.C. I don't think we are prepared for such a dangerous mine. Lask that strong consideration be given for environmental protection from the proposed mine. I understand that there are as yet no laws in BC. regarding the disposal of radioactive material. as our elected representative, I hope you see to it that there is a dequate prolection from pollution and radiation, also that the residents of the Clearwater area be listered to and given a fair hearing. Seaple are nove important than money. Mours truly ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES Jeanne Jodouin REFERRED TO DATE INTERES

Line of All Line of

Mrs. Domini Stewart, 225 West St. Paul Street, Kamloops, B. C. V2C 1G2

Dear Mrs. Stewart:

Thank you for your letter of December 9, 1977 indicating your concern for the development of an open pit uranium mine at Birch Island, B. C.

The policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter which I believe you have already seen. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reclamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long background of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and regulations, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

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I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in the Birch Island development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

Enclosure

ERM/ph

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FILE

-225 New St. Pen (St. CRANTON 42.8) Kennlegts B.C. V2c 162. 9 December 1976. Mr. James Chaliot. Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources. Parliamentary Blags.,

Assistant Deputy Minister RECEIVED

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DEC 12 1977.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C. Dear Sir. This letter is to ask you to use your influence to prevent the development afe an open set uranium mine at Buch Island. Failing a complete moratorium an the project I ask you to with hold support for this development until proper legislation is in place to protect the health of the numers, the environment and the seaple who live there and downstream from Buch Island.

From all I have read an heard on the subject, there are no safe wramium in Canada there appears to have been great reluctance in the part to even admit that such mining poses qual dangers to present and future generations and surrounding environments.

I recognise that most mining and industrial endeavours carry risks of all Kinds. Over the years measures have been taken to overcome them, or at least minimine them. Even Britain has managed to clean up much of the pollution which began with the Endustreal Revolution Southon with wramium mining these measures have been slow in coming even though the difficulties how apparent in banada were, I delieve, documented in kurope as far back

at the 1930's.

Thank you for your kind attention

James truly. Somewin Stewart (Mus).

STEWART.



## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL MECHANICAL and ALLIED WORKERS

5648 IMPERIAL STREET — BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V5J 1E9 — TELEPHONE (604) 438-6211

The Hon. James Chabot,
Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, 7015
Parliament Buildings,
VICTORIA, B.C.

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ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

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December 7, 1977
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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Chabot:

Our union represents the majority of open pit metal miners in the province of British Columbia. Representatives of our 2,000 miners have taken a firm decision to oppose the mining of uranium in our province. The recent B.C./Alberta Regional Conference was made fully cognizant of the adverse effects on the health of the Elliot Lake uranium miners.

The Ham Report clearly pointed out that one of the contributing factors to the high rate of lung cancer among Ontario uranium miners was the failure of provincial and federal government authorities to agree on a standard, and enforcement policy. We are convinced that the same jurisdictional problem exists in British Columbia. The standards proposed by the provincial Ministry of Mines merely propose incorporating into provincial legislation existing federal standards which we feel are inadequate. The proposed provincial standards include no mention of the monitoring of radon gas or radium 226. Most importantly, not only have the proposed standards not become law, they have not yet been seen by the legislature.

If these inadequate standards become law, what effect will they have on the health of uranium miners? We are convinced that the health of uranium miners will suffer as we are skeptical that even these standards will be met. There is only one environmental inspector who will be able to conduct monitoring. Yet he is unable to keep up with even his present workload. There are supposed to be two environmental inspectors. However, inspectors who leave the mines inspection branch are not being replaced. The inspection branch is presently short five inspectors.

If the environmental inspector is able to find the time to inspect the uranium mine, what will be the reaction if air contamination levels are found to exceed the proposed inadequate standard? The answer is unfortunately that probably nothing will happen to the company but the workers' health will suffer. The enforcement powers of the mines inspectors are extremely limited. They have the right to close an operation (rarely used) and the right to prosecute. However prosecution is a reactive, not a

preventive approach. Many miners will have to be found to be ill before a prosecution is likely to be successful. The mines inspectors have no power to impose a penalty assessment as the Workers' Compensation Board is empowered to do for violations of its health and safety standards. This is a preventive approach designed to correct problems before they are allowed to produce sick or injured workers. And most regretably, in spite of numerous violations of existing air contaminant standards, to our knowledge there has never been a prosecution involving a violation of an environmental standard. If this pattern of lax enforcement were to continue with a uranium mine in our province, the result would be tragic.

We are extremely distressed by the callous disregard of the Consolidated Rexspar company for the health of workers. Company Vice-President De Bastiani is quoted on November 26, 1977 as attempting to discredit the findings of the Ham Commission and is quoted as saying that "if federal and provincial controls imposed upon uranium open pit mining are too stringent, the Birch Island proposal will not be economically feasible and Rexspar will abandon the site". In our opinion, any company which fails to admit it made tragic errors in its Ontario uranium mines and which puts forth no proposals to correct those errors in its proposed development in B.C., is not needed by the people of British Columbia. They offer us a handful of jobs for a short period of time, in exchange for exposures to dangers which are only beginning to be understood.

It has not been demonstrated that there is any safe way to mine uranium at the present time. The onus to show that a safe procedure exists is a heavy one. Neither the companies that wish profit from production nor the governments who have acquiesced in uranium development have discharged this onus.

We therefore urge you to use your good offices to prevent the initiation of uranium mining in B.C., until the mining of uranium is proven to be safe.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Walker,

Staff Representative.

CW:mp

### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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**REMARKS:** 

INITIAL

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. W REC'D DEC7 - 772703 REFERRED TO DATE Dec. 1/72 A.D.M. A.D.P. A.S. Dear Mr Chabot M.R. Please insist on a full public inquiry before resking the lives of present and future people connected with manuin mining. I realize that you will feel it important to serve the interests of the investors These must sign fly term short-term not long-term interests Sincerely Mary Thomson

> MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

> > DEC 6 **1977**

PAKLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

M. Thomson
4107-West 13th ave.
Vanconner B.C.
VGR 275



James R. Chahot Minister of Mines Legislative Blags. Victoria B. C.

### December 16, 1977

Mrs. M. Thomson 4107 West 13th Avenue Vancouver, British Columbia V6R 2T5

Dear Mrs. Thomson:

Thank you for your letter of December 1st requesting a public enquiry into uranium mining.

The Policy of the Government respecting exploration and mining for uranium is the same as that for other mineral development in the Province, recognizing of course the special precautions made necessary by the radioactive nature of the substance. Comprehensive review procedures are in place for all new mine developments and in the case of uranium, a special Steering Committee has been set up as indicated in the press release attached to this letter which I believe you have already seen. Provincial standards for safe mining practices, dust and noise control, air and water quality, reflamation of the mine site and other facets of mine development, have been in place for some time and we have a long backgroun of experience in working with them. For uranium, the Federal Government through the Atomic Energy Control Act and requires, sets standards and requires approvals which the Provincial Government can exceed and cannot overrule.

I do not feel that a public enquiry into uranium mining in British Columbia would serve any useful purpose. All the issues have been fully aired in relation to similar developments in other parts of Canada. British Columbia will benefit from policies developed in other Provinces and will be subject to all Federal Control for development and export, will not repeat mistakes that have been made in Ontario, and can opt to limit nuclear development if we are not satisfied that the interests of British Columbia and its citizens are being served by any particular development.

The Rexspar mine at Birch Island is still in an early stage of the approval process and will be allowed to go ahead only if it meets the standards required under Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations. In the approval process, reports produced by the developer are available for review by the public as

well as by all Government agencies affected by the development. I understand that recently the Rexspar people have arranged a public information meeting in Clearwater to be held on December 18th and have prepared a brochure outlining preliminary details of the proposed development.

I appreciate your interest and I am sure you will retain an active concern in this development throughout the review period.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES R. CHABOT Minister

Encl.:

112703 77F/VR.

MEMORANDUM FROM J. D. McDo d, Chairman, Uranium Mining Steering Committee. TO Dr. J. O'Riordan, Mr. J. Brodie, Mr. A. Dory, Dr. J. T. Fyles, Mr. E. Macgregor and Mr. W. C. Robinson.





MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8V 1X4

DATE Dec. 12, 1977.

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited-Birch Island--"A Commentary on The Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Ltd. Birch Island Uranium Mining Proposal based on the Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project".

Enclosed is a copy of the above-mentioned Commentary for your information and comments.

J. D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Chairman,

Uranium Mining Steering Committee.

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Encl.

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December 2, 1977

DEPT. OF MINES
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES
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You file Votre référence
Our file Notre référence

6010-5-1-1

Mr. J. D. McDonald, Chairman, Uranium Mining and Steering Committee, Senior Reclamation Inspector, 1834 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1J6

136

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I enclose a copy of the final version of the DFE review report on the Proposed Uranium Mine at Birch Island, which has been prepared by the Regional Screening and Co-ordinating Committee for the Environmental Assessment and Review Process of the Government of Canada. This document supersedes all previous drafts and if you have any copies of such drafts I would request that you destroy them.

The Department of Fisheries and the Environment has no objection to the public release of this report through the Uranium Mining Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

R. W. Stewart,

Acting Chairman, Pacific & Yukon

Regional Board.

RWS/tvd

Attach.

cc: Mr. D. S. Lacate.

# A COMMENTARY ON THE CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR MINERALS & CHEMICALS LTD. BIRCH ISLAND URANIUM MINING PROPOSAL

based on the

Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project '

Department of Fisheries & Environment November, 1977

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

This document is an appraisal of the information contained in the "Prospectus" and "Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project" prepared by Kilborn Engineering for Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd. and is not an independent impact assessment. Requirements for additional information are identified.

The Birch Island Project is viewed as the first of several uranium properties that may be developed in south central British Columbia, including sites near Kelowna and Nelson. The level of environmental protection incorporated in the Birch Island project will, in a very direct way, set the standard for any subsequent uranium development which may be established in the region. Therefore, herein are expressed the specific concerns of the Department of Fisheries and Environment for those aspects of the environment which, by federal legislation, it is empowered to protect; i.e., air, land and water quality of the region which support a fish and wildlife resource.

All new base metal and uranium mines must comply with the National Metal Mining Liquid Effluent Regulations and Toxicity Guidelines. Effluent parameters were not presented in the Preliminary Study, therefore the mine could not be evaluated against specific regulations. The proposed development has been examined in the broad sense of environmental protection. General comments on environmental considerations beyond our legislative mandate are also provided for consideration by regulatory bodies such as the Uranium Mining Steering Committee and are based on a recent reconnaisance of the site, as well as referenced material.

The 1st stage report presents a very limited picture of the biological baselines and hydrogeology of the development area. Both Clay Creek and Foghorn Creek, the two drainage basins of importance to the operation, are inadequately characterized with respect to physical, chemical and biological features. Impacts on Foghorn Creek may result from mine site activity, runoff diversion, waste dump drainage, mine water seepage, crushing plant activity and water use. Clay Creek may be affected by tailings pond seepage, proposed diversion, beneficiation plant activities, and plant site drainage. All of the above may have long term impact on the local hydrology relative to the Birch Island community domestic water supplies and groundwater quality entering the Thompson River System.

The limited biological data presented is insufficient for the establishment of baseline conditions or for the assessment of possible impact. Various components, such as, benthos, fish, plankton, and periphytic algae should be collected to determine preproduction species diversity, as well as radionuclide and heavy metal content. The fishery potential of Foghorn and Clay Creek has not been adequately assessed. Instead the report speculates on the probability of its use on the basis of Thompson River fish data.

The water quality data presented in the 1st stage study is very cursory in nature and lacks depth with respect to characterizing seasonal variations (Page III-8). The data also contains a large number of anomalies such as in the case where sulphate levels from adits are of some concern and may indicate the possibility of leaching (Page IV-11) which would indicate that more extensive examination is required (Page IV-62, 63). The report does not discuss in a satisfactory manner the impact of contamination on domestic water supplies, biological components of the watershed (Page IV-55) (Page IV-63) or the action and consequences of radioactive substances in the environment (Page IV-14, Page IV-63, Page IV-72).

The 1st stage study does not take advantage of data from a number of other climatological stations in the area besides those referred to in the study (Barriere, Vavenby, Blue River). These data are available from the Atmospheric Environment Service and should be reviewed in estimating the local climatology. British Columbia Snow Course data are also available and should be considered in assessing snow depth and its variation with elevation.

The report does not address in adequate detail the impact of air emissions on the local environment. Potential air pollutants resulting from the proposed mining operations include dust generated during mining and transport of the ore to the comminution plant. This subject is not addressed in the 1st stage study. Particulates generated during the first stage of comminution - jaw and cone crushing, both of which are carried out dry are not discussed in adequate detail. For example no mention is made of the concentration of dust that penetrates the dust control system (Page V-2). Ammonia and leach liquor vapors from the beneficiation process are not discussed in sufficient depth to determine if an air pollution condition can be anticipated. Particulates in the drier stack are addressed on Page V-2, but no indication is given of the concentrations that may be expected to penetrate the dust control system. Anticipated SO, drier stack emissions are not referred to in the report nor is the sulfur content of the drier fuel to be used. No reference to fugitive dust from the tailings and waste dump areas can be found in the report. The proponent should state whether a problem is anticipated and the expected impact. If a problem is expected the 2nd stage report should outline what abatement measures are planned.

Application of the best practicable technology to the mining-beneficiation of non-radioactive minerals results in dust emissions no greater than 40 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>. Because of the radioactive nature of the the dust in the proposed Birch Island Project, the Atomic

Energy Control Board may require more stringent limits, particularly with respect to the dust in the drier stack whose radioactivity is 1000-fold greater than that in the ore. Technology for control of other dusts is in the development stage and we cannot yet provide a limit that can be achieved at acceptable cost. Use of a fuel with a sulfur content no greater than 0.5%w will ensure that SO<sub>2</sub> emissions are acceptable.

Available wind data are sparse in this area and we assume that the dispersive capability of the atmosphere is of relevance both during construction, and operation of the mine/mill facility. For your information, we have appended a summary of wind and inversion considerations that may be expected for this location. It concludes that for much of the year the dispersive capability of the air volume at Birch Island is poor. Only during the daytime in spring and summer are horizontal and vertical parameters of dispersion effective. Furthermore during times when the katabatic flow down Foghorn Creek is active fugitive dust from the mining and crushing operations could be carried down into Birch Island. For this reason attention should be made to monitoring of all radionuclide dispersion in the vicinity of the project.

### ORE EXTRACTION AND CRUSHING

The mine will incorporate three open pits, a comminution plant and a waste rock dump at 4,000 foot elevation. As noted (Page II-4), when portions of the disturbed area become inactive (pits 'A' and 'B') they will be filled with the waste rock from pit 'BD' and revegetated. It is understood that if ore reserves are located which are uneconomical to recover by conventional open pit methods, then underground methods may be undertaken by the original developer or later by other mining companies. Thus, if future underground reserves are a possibility, pit areas may not be available for waste rock disposal and the waste rock dump will include material from all three pits.

The report speculates on the feasibility of mining a fluorite deposit located adjacent to the uranium ore deposits which would extend the operating life of the mine. Since this possibility would significantly alter the total impact of the project (i.e. size of pits, tailings facilities, etc.) the 2nd stage report should, in more definite terms, discuss this possibility by providing more detailed information as to what modifications would be required. The open pit/comminution plant/waste rock areas are some of the most critical in terms of potential environmental damage. They are located in an area described as "very steeply to extremely steeply sloping topography ... erosion and sedimentation potential are expected to be moderate to high compounded by the steep topography (Page IV-24)". Since the lower reaches of Foghorn Creek may be spawning and/or salmonid rearing habitat, plans for ensuring the stability of the development area both during and after construction and for preventing siltation of the creek are essential.

Questions arise as to the amount of contamination from the waste rock piles and pit areas after abandonment. Monitoring of all seepage waters, groundwaters, etc. in the vicinity of these areas must be carried out and all contaminated waters should be utilized as process make-up water, or directed to the tailings treatment facilities.

It has not been determined for the 1st stage study if the ore, overburden and wasterock have an acid generating potential (Pages III-10, IV-44, 47, 49, 50 and 64) or what possible impact this problem may have on wastedump drainage, open pit water, Foghorn Creek, or Clay Creek water quality. Geological survey of Canada Map 48, 1963 (Geology-Adams Lake B.C., Campbell, R.B., 1963) indicates lead and zinc have been identified with the uranium deposits. An assessment should be made as to whether the uranium mining and leaching process will release these minerals and contaminate either surface or groundwater. Where references are made to acid generating potential of rock these studies must be performed and the 2nd stage report should address the treatment of such a problem.

Little information is given on the management of the waste rock dump. The 'A' and 'B' pits after removal of uranium ore will (pending acceptance by Mines Department) be filled with waste rock from 'BD' pit which is a "higher contaminated material" (Page IV-10). Waste rock from 'A' and 'B' pit will be stockpiled. The development of stockpiles by dumping short and dozing over (Page III-8) does not enable the process of reclamation to proceed immediately. Mention should be made of an alternate method of waste dump'construction whereby dumping starts from the toe of the dump limits and succeeding levels of waste are stepped back allowing for the immediate establishment of a biological angle of repose and early revegetation.

Although the report implies that a reclamation program will be started immediately the report neglects to address this aspect in any detail. For example the table (Page II-2) indicating the sequence of events does not include reclamation phases of the project. The report does not specify whether it is the intention to bring final pit contours, either the refilled pits 'A' and 'B' or the 'BD' pit, to the biological angle of repose before revegetation. The report should also address the possibility of stockpiling topsoil and suitable overburden for future reclamation purposes.

It is noted (Page IV-50) that "the comminution plant will be built on gently sloping terrain of moderate erosion". Although developments are not proposed for map areas 7a and 8a (above the pit area) the report cites the area as having "high material instability" and is in an area of "avalanche tracks" (Page IV-26). It therefore appears that there is a definite possibility of serious damage to the comminution plant with releases of slurry unless measures are taken to protect the mine site from such events. Further study should address the possibility of damage to the upper areas from avalanches.

The 2nd stage report should discuss the possibility of utilizing contaminated seepage waters, wasterock runoff, etc. for slurry transport. It is also not clear from the report as to the intended source of water for the communition plant (i.e. deep wells or Foghorn Creek).

### 5 MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

### 5.1 Pipelines

It is understood that a total of five pipelines will be constructed along the present tram right-of-way: four slurry lines (2 operating and 2 back-up) and a possible line to provide water from the lower wells to the comminution plant. In addition, the power lines for the comminution plant will be located along the tram right-of-way. In view of the steep grade, the probable instability of slopes, and the fact that it is in an area of 'avalanche tracks', more detail is required on how these lines will be constructed; i.e. will they be above ground or buried? It appears that some consideration has been given to emergency breakage of individual slurry lines but measures do not appear to consider the possibility of all lines being cut by land or snowslides.

### 5.2 Water Usage

Overall, there seems to be some confusion as to water needs. On page III-25 the total water supply (process and domestic) is estimated at 500 U.S. gal/min. (720,000 gal/day) to be supplied by one or more deep wells. On page IV-31 the report notes that the company has obtained a 20,000 gal/day water licence for domestic and mining use which will be drawn from Foghorn Creek. As well, the report mentions "water from either Foghorn Creek or Clay Creek would not be used for processing at the hydrometallurgical plant". Therefore, it is assumed the 20,000 gal/day would be drawn from the upper Foghorn Creek area.

Further to this, however, it is noted (Page III-25) that water may be pumped through a pipeline paralleling the slurry transport lines, presumably for use in the comminution plant. It seems rather uneconomical to pump water 10,000 feet from the wells at 1,400 feet elevation to the pit area at the 3,900 foot level when a licence has

been obtained for water use at the point of use. If water is indeed drawn from Foghorn Creek, maintenance of a minimum flow in this system may be necessary, since the creek may be a spawning and/or rearing area for salmonids. Finally, on page IV-32 it is noted that "Consolidated Rexspar has a water licence for a total of 1 million gallons per day".

In a view of the confusing references to water needs, it is suggested that a total balanced water budget be presented, which includes such considerations as use of mine seepage water, evaporation, rainfall, tailings pond storage, etc.

### 5.3 Roads

We also have concerns with the upgrading of the winding, steeply graded road connecting the beneficiation plant and the comminution plant. As mentioned in various parts of the report, the terrain over which the road traverses is steep to extremely steep with unstable ground and possibilities of excessive erosion. Thus, any road work must be conducted in such a manner as to prevent excessive sedimentation reaching Foghorn Creek. Detailed plans of the construction methods and measures to be provided for the protection of fish bearing waters must be given.

The tailings pond is the most critical part of the development from this Department's point of view. Unlike other mines where most heavy metals and contaminants are either removed in the mineral extraction processes or discharged to a tailings pond which can be reasonably well isolated, the uranium mine removes only uranium while the remainder of the contaminants consisting of all heavy metals. including any residual radioactive material are directed to the tailings impoundment. This situation is further aggravated because the radioactive materials exhibit long-term effects. Some of the more obvious effects have been documented in a report by Anderson et al (1963). They found that bottom fauna were less abundant below a uranium processing mill and the reduction of food supply and the direct toxic effect of the mill waste reduced numbers of fish below the mill. Furthermore, there was a prolific growth of algae extending a considerable distance below the mill. However, it was also found that a radium concentration factor (concentration of radium in tissues divided by concentration measured in water) of 500 to 1,000 was indicated for filamentous algae and the factor for aquatic insects was similar. Fish also tended to concentrate the radium, mainly in bone tissue, but also to some extent in the flesh. Although, these results were obtained from a mine with direct discharge of tailings to the river, similar effects would be expected from contamination of groundwaters or spillage of tailings into the North Thompson River.

The tailings impoundment and water wells are in the same vicinity near the mouth of Clay Creek and both "are fed by gravel forming part of the North Thompson River Basin" (Page III-25).

According to the maps (Figure 4-5) the tailings pond may be within the floodplain of the North Thompson River, and certainly on the alluvial fan of Clay Creek. It is felt that, in view of the long-term instabilities of radioactive material (Ra 226 half-life of 1620 years) in the tailings impoundment, construction based on 100 year return flood event of the North Thompson River may not be adequate.

Flood protection should be designed against a probable maximum flood, a flood perhaps 5 to 10 feet higher than the 100-year flood. There is some confusion as to the bed elevation of the pond site. The "Concentrate and Tailings Pond Site" map locates it between the 1400 and 1500 foot contours but the cross section drawings show it at 1384 feet. Relocation of the tailings pond site away from the flood plain and alluvial fan of Clay Creek would be desirable. Such a relocation may also avoid possible groundwater aquifer contamination which we refer to later. However, slope stability may determine the feasibility of locating the tailings pond at a higher elevation. It is noted that "Clay Creek is intermittant and probably subgravel near the mouth" (Page IV-7). For this reason, we have doubts as to the stability of the tailings impoundment base.

The tailings pond should overlie the least permeable units in the area. A soils investigation, if not already conducted, should be used to determine the suitability of the alluvial fan for the siting of the tailings pond. Alternate sites should be considered. In addition, emphasis should be placed upon developing a safe, long-lasting, watertight seal for the pond. It is proposed by Kilborn Engineering that if necessary PVC lining will be provided to control seepage to the groundwater (Page III-27). Questions arise about the long term stability of PVC and the possibility of damage to the lining during construction. These are extremely critical factors, for any seepage emanating from the base of the pond will enter the groundwater and the North Thompson River, thus contaminating fish and public water supplies. A detailed plan for perpetual maintainance of the tailings pond, including return of seepage water, after operations cease should be included in the 2nd stage report.

Inland Waters Directorate's Hydrology Research Division used geologic data supplied by Pacific Water Wells Ltd. and Water Investigations Branch (Victoria) in determining the site geology at the 1400 ft. elevation. This information was collected by water well contractors during drilling operations in the Birch Island area. Of the four avaiable well records, two are upstream (Birch Island School and G. Knies) and two are downstream (Ripley and Madland) from the proposed site. The records identify at least four geologic units which are used locally for groundwater supply. Groundwater is developed from fractured bedrock (Unit I) silty sand (Unit II), subtill sands and gravels (Unit III), and sands and gravels (Unit IV) overlying the till unit. A fifth water bearing unit is inferred at the mouth of Clay Creek where air photos indicate an alluvial fan, probably consisting of sand and gravels, protrudes onto the valley floor. Groundwater movement in these units is unkown but likely suspect to local contamination. A detailed hydrologic investigation is necessary to determine such flow patterns and the continuity and permeability of the till unit.

The provincial Water Rights Branch have not issued licenses for communal surface water usage in the Birch Island area. It is therefore assumed that this community uses groundwater. Residents probably have shallow dug wells, well points and a few drilled wells. The only drilled well record available at Birch Island is at the school, located less than one-half mile down-gradient from the proposed tailings pond. The limited data available would indicate that a good potable groundwater is presently developed at shallow depth in the Birch Island region.

Available geologic data does not indicate coarse materials at depth which could supply the proposed facilities with their groundwater needs of 500 US gpm. This should be examined more closely.

Further consideration should be given to the leakage effect of a tailings pond dyke constructed with local gravels and to the adequacy of the tailings pond capacity. It is also not clear from the report as to the adequacy of the tailings pond volume in the event of fluorite mining or if the pond capacity is to be expanded. Confusion

is also added due to the lack of reference in the text of the report to the proposed Clay Creek diversion shown in Drawing No. 7154-13-04 or to the pond extension which covers the proposed Clay Creek re-location.

Page III-27 refers to maximum practicable recycle, however it is not clear from the various references to recycling (Pages IV-32, 58 and V-5) as to what is meant by "maximum practicable" in terms of anticipated percentage of recycle.

It is also not clear why barium chloride is added to the seepage water to precipitate Ra<sup>226</sup> prior to recycle back to the tailings pond. Is the precipitated radium also sent back to the pond? It is not understood why the seepage is not just returned to the pond or process plant without barium chloride precipitation. Details of this treatment and the ultimate fate of the sludge formed are not described. It is recommended that this subject be thoroughly covered in the 2nd stage report.

Excessive rain or run-off volumes into the tailings pond should be provided for by additional freeboard on the pond and/or diversion around the impoundment.

Another concern regarding the tailings impoundment is related to the long-term reclamation and stabilization of the site.

Because of the sensitive nature (fisheries and public concern) of the area and the type of mine, a feasibility study of vegetating the tailings pond should be carried out before the mine goes into production. The Fisheries Service also has concern for the possibility of mine tailings being spread by wind action. The Clearwater area is relatively arid (16 inches precipitation per year - Page IV-4) and unless vegetation is provided contamination could occur from this source.

Although the area is not significant in terms of wildlife value, concern is raised as to the possibility of contaminating these resources. The 2nd stage study should address the possibility of isolating the tailings pond from migratory birds (particularly Canada geese which utilize the area during seasonal migration) and ungulate wildlife. It would be impossible to isolate wildlife and migratory birds from contaminants entering the North Thompson. This possible impact should not be ignored.

## STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF CONCENTRATE

7

It is not specified in the report how concentrate will be managed other than that it will be contained in 55 gallon drums and probably shipped to Port Hope, Ontario. In light of the incidences of derailment that can occur on railways in British Columbia, it is of interest to know the hazards involved with the storage of these drums, the safeguards for transportation, and the volume to be stored and transported at any given time.

In general terms the data contained in the reports was found to be very preliminary and rudimentary in nature and inadequate to conduct a comprehensive impact assessment. It is recommended that the following preproduction monitoring and data collection be performed for inclusion in the 2nd stage report:

## (a) Hydrology

- documentation of groundwater movement of the Birch Island site, groundwater recharge rates, and subsurface movement of water in Clay Creek,
- permeability of the soil underlying the tailings pond site, and soil suitability for tailings empoundment dyke construction,
- susceptability of local well water to groundwater contamination.

## (b) Climatology

- collection of available climatological data and British Columbia Snow Course data,
- assessment of evaporation and rainfall data and inferrences on tailings pond adequacy, total expected runoff, groundwater re-charge and pit drainage,
- dispersive capability of the local environment and inferrences on all mining and milling air emissions,
- an assessment of wind on the spread of contaminants, particularly into watercourses, should be considered.

# (c) Water Quality

- additional water quality data to delineate seasonal
   variations, and confirmation of anomalous conditions,
- list of parameters to be measured to include fluorite.
- additional water quality data on domestic water supplies,
- toxicity assessment of anticipated tailings
   supernatent to fish, invertebrates and algae,
- details of the acid leach process and the resultant

effluent makeup, the components toxicity, residuals, persistence, and consequences with respect to effects on recycle,

 acid generating potential of waste rock, overburden and ore.

## (d) Biological

- documentation of seasonal wildlife utilization of the area; to include all birds,
- characterize the adjacent water course with respect to fish utilization, benthos and periphytic algae diversity and abundance,
- provide baseline data on metal levels in fish, benthos and algae,
- provide baseline data on background levels of radium in fish, benthos and algae.

The 2nd stage report should include a proposal for an ongoing monitoring program which would facilitate surveillance of surface and subsurface water quality. Such a program should include the biological components of the environment as well, as the metal and radionuclide content of those components.

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# APPENDIX I

ATMOSPHERIC DISPERSIVE CAPABILITY

- 1. The hydrometallurgical plant will be located at 1400 feet MSL in the valley of the North Thompson river at Birch Island, and the open pits and comminution plant will be located at 4000 feet MSL in the north/south valley of Foghorn Creek. The Thompson valley is orientated northwest/southeast and is approximately three miles wide at the 3000 foot MSL level with ridges in excess of 5000 feet within three miles of the river. The narrow, very steep valley of Foghorn Creek slopes downward to the north from Granite Mountain at 7400 feet, seven miles south of Birch Island,
- 2. There is no anemometer record available for Birch Island. however, the attached analyses for Kamloops and Blue River, both in the Thompson Valley, are in good agreement, and may be used to deduce the probable wind flow at Birch Island. These show that winds prevail either up-valley, down-valley, or are calm. Mean wind speeds are much lighter in all seasons at Blue River than in the much broader and shallower valley at Kamloops, and those at Birch Island would be in agreement with the Blue River data. Calm winds are quite frequent, particularly over the winter. The diurnal displays of calm winds show that there is little diurnal change of these in winter months, but that they are very frequent overnight and in the early morning, and occur rarely in late morning and afternoon in spring, summer and fall. The diurnal displays of the prevailing directions show that up-valley winds occur principally through mid-day and in the afternoon in spring, summer and fall, while down-valley winds occur in these seasons in the morning following the maximum in calm frequency. There is only a small diurnal change in up-valley or down-valley circulation in winter. A similar diurnal circulation pattern is likely at Birch Island.
- A separate, local circulation will affect the operation in the Foghorn Creek valley at times. During months when snow cover is confined to the upper slopes of Granite Mountain, and on clear nights in all seasons, a katabatic or down-slope wind will occur. This is known to be quite violent in some locations. The summer daytime anabatic or up-slope wind will likely not occur due to the northern exposure of the valley.
- 4. The seasonal percentage frequency of ground-based inversions at Birch Island at two times of day (mid-afternoon and early morning) is as in the following table:

|       | ·Winter | Spring | -Summer | Fall |
|-------|---------|--------|---------|------|
| P.M.  | 40      | 20     | 10      | 25   |
| A, M. | 60      | 65     | 75      | . 65 |

Thus ground-based inversions are frequent in all seasons overnight and in the early morning and quite frequent through the day, as well, in winter.

- 5. The Climatological Summary for Vavenby, just east of Birch Island, indicates that with approximately seventeen inches of precipitation annually, and measurable precipitation on 33% of days, the effect of rainout and washout of airborne pollutants would be only slight.
- frequent ground-based inversions and quite constraining topography, the dispersive capability of the air volume at Birch Island is poor for much of the year. Only during the daytime in spring and summer are horizontal and vertical parameters of dispersion effective. At other times any air emissions from the operation of the plant would tend to increase in concentration locally, Additionally, during times when the katabatic flow down Foghorn Creek is active, fugitive dust, etc., from the mining and crushing operation could be carried down to Birch Island.

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Blue River, B.C. - Percentage Frequency Wind Direction (and Calms) and Mean Wind Speed by Months (Dec. 1969 - December 1976).

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| MAY  | 34 39 37 40 48 49/27 7 3 1 1 2 1 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 3 19 31 25                 |
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| OCT. | 23 28 27 28 27 24 27 26 21 11 8 9 7 5 5 10 11 19 24 26 31 22 25 27        |
| NOV. | 20 43 40 29 29 34 29 37 29 29 33 29 27 28 23 27 38 38 43 45 38 38 36 35   |
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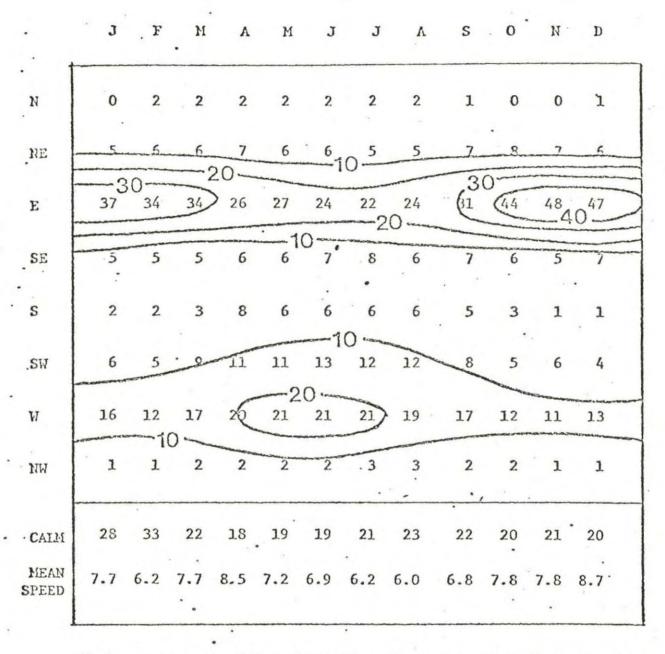
Blue River, B.C. - Percentage Frequency Calm Winds by Hour and Month (December 1969 - December 1973).

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Blue River, B.C. - Percentage Frequency Northeast Winds by Hour and Month (Dec. 1969 - Dec. 1973).

| 1    |     |    |    |    |     |     |     |    |    |     |    |      |    |     |      | -    |    |     |    |     |     |    |    |      |    |
|------|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|------|------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|------|----|
| JAN. | 11  | 9  | 15 | 14 | 14  | 13  | 9   | 10 | 11 | 11  | 11 | 10   | 14 | 8   | 7    | 8    | 9  | 15  | 11 | 10  | 5   | 13 | 15 | . 8. | 3  |
| FEB. | 8   | 12 | 12 | 15 | 11  | 5   | . 9 | 6  | 10 | 12  | 11 | . 14 | 13 | 11  | 7    | 8    | 10 | 7   | 9  | 9   | 7   | 12 | 9  | 10   | ٠. |
| MAR. | 8   | 8  | 9  | 11 | 11  | 7   | 7   | 13 | 7  | 10  | 5  | 12   | 18 |     | 19   | 13   | 14 | 15  | 19 | 9   | 13  | 7  | 7  | 9    |    |
| APR. | :13 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 12  | 9   | 11  | 8  | 13 | 19/ | 23 | 23   | 21 |     | 20 - | 23   | 28 | 26  | 16 | 18  | 19  | 13 | 14 | 17   |    |
| MAY  | 18  | 10 | 9. | 11 | . 8 | . 5 | 10  | 9  | 9  | 16  | 28 | 21   | 22 | 21  | 23   | 23   | 39 | 26  | 18 | 15  | 11  | 11 | 17 | 14   |    |
| JUN. | 18  | 13 | 11 | 11 | 14  | 9   | 11  | 16 | 16 | 15  | 18 | 25   | 26 | 36  | 32   | 33   | 24 | 24  | 17 | 14  | 8   | 12 | 12 | 13   |    |
| JUL. | 16  | 12 | 11 | 10 | 11  | 6   | 3   | 9  | 10 | 16  | 15 | 16   | 21 | 27  | 32   | 31   | 28 | 27  | 23 | 17  | 15  | 9  | 11 | 16   |    |
| AUG. | 14  | 11 | 10 | 18 | 12  | 13  | 13  | 6  | 7  | 10  | 11 | 14.  | 28 | (32 | 32   | 29   | 39 | 36) | 17 | 11  | 8   | 15 | 13 | 19   |    |
| SEP. | 10  | 9  | 13 | 12 | . 8 | 7   | 10  | 8  | 5  | . 6 | 4  | 11   | 17 | 15  | 13   | -20- | 17 | 14  | 7  | 8   | . 9 | 13 | 18 | 12.  |    |
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| NOV. | 13  | 10 | 10 | 13 | 11  | 13  | 13  | 9  | 12 | 11  | 8  | 7    | 7  | 5   | . 8  | 11   | 7  | 10  | 9  | 8   | 10  | 11 | 13 | 14.  |    |
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Blue River, B.C. - Percentage Frequency Southwest Winds by Hour and Month (Dec. 1969 - Dec. 1973).



Kamloops Airport, B.C. - Percentage Frequency Wind Direction (and Calms) and Mean Wind Speed by Months (January 1966 - December 1972)

|        | 00   | 01  | 02 | 03 | 04  | 05       | 06  | 07  | 80  | 09 | .10 | 11   | 12  | 13   | 14   | 15  | 16   | 17  | 18  | 19   | 20  | 21   | 22   | 23   |
|--------|------|-----|----|----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|------|-----|------|------|-----|--|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|
| JAN.   | 20   | 32  | 27 | 27 | 24  | 21       | 20  | ZI  | 18  | 18 | 18  | 16   | 18  | -56- | 19   | 19/ | 23   | 25  | 26  | 31   | 36  | >2   | 25   | 35   |
| FEB.   | 38   | 37  | 35 | 36 |     | 27       | 26  | 25  | 22  | 21 | 25  | 26   | 27- | 19   | TY   | 90- | 22   | 24  | 25  | 34   | 34  | 37   | 20   | 38   |
| MAR.   | 28   | 30  | 28 | 23 | 28  | 22       | 22  | 19  | 18  | 17 | 19  | 11   | 20  | 9    | 9    | 8   | 13   | 30  | 12  | -202 | 21  | 21   | 25   | 24   |
| APR.   | 31   | 34  | 37 | 36 | 36  | 303      | 28  | 27  | 22) | 16 | 16  | 17   | 4   | 4    | 4    | 3   | 4  | 4   | 5   | 9)   | 11  | 19   | 13)  | 28   |
| MAY    | 27   | 34  | 39 | 36 | 39  | 37       | 32  | 22/ | 17  | 1  | 30  | 6    | 4   | . 3  | 3    | 3.  | 4  | 4   | 6   | (12  | 15  | 18   | (21  | (31) |
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| . JUL. | 32   | 38  | 41 | 48 | 46  | 43)      | 36  | 3   | p   | 12 | 13  | 7    | 3.  | 3    | 3    | 4   | 5  | 4   | 5   | 8/   | 12  | 1/4  | 19   | 22   |
| AUG.   | 10   | 34  | 44 | 44 | 42  | 37       | 34  | 129 | 25  | 17 | 14  | 7500 | 6   | 6    | 6    | 4   | 5  | 7   | 9   | 18   | 16  | 18   | 22   | 29   |
| SEP.   | JE / | 34  | 32 | 38 | 314 | 20       | -56 | 26  | Jo. | 18 | 18  | 11   | 8   | 6    | 8    | 6   | 9  | 1/  | 12  | 0    | 76  | الند | 21   | 23 . |
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| NOV.   | - 23 | 21  | 22 | 23 | 22  | 18       | 18  | 18  | 19  | 17 | 16  | 13   | 13  | 10-  | -20- | 13  | 14   | 17  | 15/ | 22   | 16  | 19   | 29   | 23   |
| DEC.   | (19) | 019 | 24 | 22 | 21  | 17       | 19  | 19- | -59 | 17 | 19  | 15   | 14  | 14   | 13   | 15  | 18   | 7.0 | 21  | 24   | 15  | 17   | أوته | 22 . |

Kamloops, B.C. - Percentage Frequency Calm Winds by Hour and Month

| _      |   |    |      |     |     |       |    |        |     |    |       |      |    |     |       |      |      |           |     |      |     |       |        |                   |  |    |
|--------|---|----|------|-----|-----|-------|----|--------|-----|----|-------|------|----|-----|-------|------|------|-----------|-----|------|-----|-------|--------|-------------------|--|----|
|        |   | 00 | 01   | 02  | 03  | 04    | 05 | 06     | 07  | 08 | 09    | 10   | 11 | 12  | 13    | 14   | 15   | 16        | 17  | 18   | 19  | 20    | 21     | 22                | 23   |    |
| JAN.   |   | 13 | 14   | 16  | 15  | 12    | 12 | 14     | 14  | 14 | 14    | 16   | 17 | 16  | 15    | 15 - | 14   | 14        | 13  | 1    |     |       | 14     | Married Alexander | 13   | 1  |
| FEB.   |   | 9  | TI   | 10  |     | 14    | 15 | 13     | 12  | 13 | 14    | 18   | 17 | 17  | 18    | 17   | 17   | 17        | 14  | 15   | 10. | مداما | man To | JII               | 9  |    |
| MAR.   |   | 14 | 14   | 16  | 17  | 13    | 15 | 14     | 17  | 17 | 19    | 21   | 24 | 21  | m2:0m | 21   | 21   | J. 1.     | 1.9 | 17   | 16  | 15    | 15     | 13                | 14   |    |
| APR.   |   | 18 | 16   | 17  | 15  | 15    | 14 | 17     | 18/ |    |       | 27   | 31 | 29  | 27    | 27/  | 31   | 128<br>30 | 27  | 21   | 19  | 17    | 16     | 16                | 18   | -  |
| MAY    |   | 13 | 13   | 17  | 10  | .16   | 17 | 18     | 27  | £1 | 32    | 32   | 20 | 28  | 28    | 29   | -62m | 2         | 27  | 22   | 17  | 19    | 16     | 14                | 15   | 1  |
| JUN.   |   | 9  | 11   | 11  | 14  | 13    | 14 | 17     | 26  | 31 | 32    | - 32 | 28 | 28  | 27    | 27   | 28   | 26        | 23  | 22   | 20  | 15    | 12     | 14                | 13   | 1. |
| JUL.   |   | (2 | 13   | 15  | 100 | 14    | 13 | 16     | 23  | 31 | 34    | 32   | 31 | 26  | 25    | . 26 | 26   | 28        | 24  | 22   | 15  | 30    | 13     | 15                | 13 .   |    |
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| SEP.   |   | 11 | 11   | 20  | 9   | 12    | 13 | 14     | 15  | 20 | 24    | 24   | 25 | 24  | 27    | 25   | 500  | 28        | 23  | 28   | 14  | 0     | (13    | 13                | 12   |    |
| OCT.   |   | 1] | 9    | 9   | 7   | 9     | 10 | - Burn | 9   | 8  | 0,0   | 11   | 14 | 14  | 17    | 15   | 14   | 14        | 10- | -100 | 10' | 9     | 7      | 6                 | 8 .  | 1  |
| NOV.   |   | 8  | 7    | 9   | 20  | -010- | 2  | TI     | 11  | 11 | 12    | 15   | 15 | 14  | 14    | 14   | 12   | 11        | 13  | 9    | 8   | 15    | 11     | 9                 | 9  | -  |
| DEC.   | 1 | 12 | -10- | 11  | 11  | 10    | 11 | 11     | 11  | 11 | 12    | 10   | 13 | 11  | 13    | 12   | 11   | 16        | TI  | -40° | TI  | -16   | 12     | 10-               | The state of the s | 1  |

Kamloops B.C. - Percentage Frequency of West Winds by Hour and Month (Jan. 1953-Dec. 1971)

Kamloops, B.C. - Percentage Frequency of East Winds by Hour and Month (Jan. 1953 - Dec. 1971)

APPENDIX II

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

## Socio-Economic Impacts

.1

Island project and relative to the environmental component are not weighted in the report in terms of accrued benefits to the Thompson-Nicola Region or to the Province as a whole. In view of the disbenefits of possible long term economic losses to the Province in commercial, sport and Native Indian food fisheries, the report does not fully appreciate the trade-off of short term economic stimulus to the local region. For example, an estimated ten locally created jobs are not balanced with the possible loss to the tourist sport fishery and related activity including dollars generated for the local economy. Therefore, it is hoped that the 2nd stage report would discuss the potential socio-economic impacts on the environmental component and explore in broad terms the following concerns:

- Is there presently or within the next 5 years a demand for Uranium, and where is the projected market.
- 2. If such a market exists, what, if any, benefits to British Columbia as a whole and the Thompson-Nicola region specifically can be expected.
- What quality of land is expected to be removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve, and what regional priorities have been considered.
- 4. To what extent will the resident sport fishery, including the value to local people connected with existing opportunities for fishing in the area, be affected.
- What utilized fishing streams, lakes and fish rearing areas are to be disturbed by the project.
- How will any subsistence fishery or Native Indian food fishery be affected.
- How will present levels of tourist sport fishery including dollars generated for the local economy be affected by the development.
- 8. What are the possibilities of economic loss to the commercial

- salmon fishery as a result of damage to rearing and breeding
  streams in the project area.
- 9. What are the possibilities that contamination of fish by waste products from the development, will render them useless for sport, Indian food, or commercial sale.
- How much increased pressure on fish populations can be expected as a result of improved road access.
- 11. What are the anticipated impacts of construction camps and maintenance yards etc. on the local community and environment.

December 14, 1977,

M. Shipley, 2079 Viewlynn Drive, North Vancouver, B. C. V7J 2W7

Dear Mr. Shipley:

Premier W. R. Bennett has asked me to respond to your letter of November 25, 1977 in which you have expressed concerns for the potential development of a uranium mine at Birch Island, B. C.

On January 20. 1977 I issued a news release jointly with my colleague the Minister of Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen which outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development in British Columbia before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. You will note that my Ministry is represented on the Uranium Steering Committee which reviews the developers proposal at each stage of a staged review procedure. To date Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited have submitted a prospectus and the preliminary Stage One Environmental Impact Assessment concerning their Birch Island project. These initial submissions have been reviewed by this committee and comments and evaluations have been made known to the company. These comments will be taken into account by Consolidated Rexspar during the preparation of their Stage Two report. date no approvals have been granted by either the Federal or Provincial Governments to establish a uranium mine at Birch Island. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company, nor have either the Federal or Provincial Governments received applications to this effect. The staged review procedure, established by the Federal and Provincial Governments, is in place to ensure that any uranium development will be properly designed to satisfy all public safety and environmental concerns.

. . 2

I understand that the company plans to hold a public information meeting to review the project and to answer any questions of interested individuals or groups. The date for this meeting has now been set for December 18, 1977 in Clearwater, B. C. Additional information concerning the company's plans may be obtained from Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Limited, 1199 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B. C., V6E 2Rl. I would hope that the company's public information meeting will answer many of the questions that you may now have.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

# DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM-RESOURCES

| REPARIMENT OF MINE        | O VIID I FINOS         |           |               |
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ACKNOWLEDGED BY
PREMIER'S OFFICE

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SIGNATURE

Premier Bill Bennett Legislative Bldgs. Victoria, B. C. 2079 Viewlynn Dr. North Lancouver, B.3 November 25, 1977

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# REGEIVED

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PREMIER'S OFFICE

Dear Sir:

I am most distressed that there is any consideration to mine uranium on Birch Island. I would urge you to use all your influence to prevent such a development which can have such a detrimental effect on our beautiful province and its people.

The tailings from uranium mining are radioactive and are dangerous for thousands of years. The radioactive dust pollutes the soil and the river wich I understand is nearby. The dust also will float throughout the air and threatens us all in 3. C., your own family included. Miners are known to have had cancer after working in uranium mines. Studies also are showing that low-radioactive radiation can be far more dangerous than one high dosage of radiation.

For all these reasons, I protest any uranium development.

Thease downat you can to stop it. Thank you most sincerely.

Yours truly,

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

DEC 9 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

### December 12, 1977,

Reverend Glen J. Betts,
The British Columbia Conference,
The United Church of Canada,
505 Dunsmuir Street,
Vancouver, B. C.
V6B 1Y5

#### Dear Reverend Betts:

Premier W. R. Bennett has asked me to respond to concerns which you have raised in your letter to the Honourable Len Marchand, Federal Minister of the Environment, concerning a proposed uranium development near Clearwater, B. C. I am not aware of any previous request by you of my Ministry for information on this project but shall be glad to comment.

I have enclosed a copy of a news release that I made jointly with my colleague, the Minister of Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen on January 20, 1977 which outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. You will note that my Ministry is represented on a Uranium Steering Committee which reviews the developers proposal at each step of a staged review procedure. To date, Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited have submitted a prospectus and a preliminary Stage One Environmental Impact Assessment concerning their Birch Island project. These initial submissions have been reviewed by this committee and comments and evaluation have been made known to the company. These comments will be taken into account by Consolidated Rexspar during the preparation of their Stage Two Report.

I understand that the company plans to hold a public information meeting to review the project and to answer any questions of interested individuals or groups. The date for this meeting has now been set for December 18, 1977 in Clearwater, B. C. Additional information concerning the company's plans for this meeting may be obtained from Kilborn Engineering (B. C.) Limited, 1199 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B. C., V6E 2R1. This company has been retained by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited as their consultants on the Birch Island Project.

. . 2

You should be aware that no decision has been made by either the Federal or Provincial Governments to approve the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company nor have either the Federal or Provincial Governments received applications to this effect. The staged review procedure established by the Federal and Provincial Governments is in place to ensure that any uranium development will be properly designed to satisfy all public safety and environmental concerns. I would hope that the company's public information meeting will answer many of the questions that you may now have.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

## DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Date:

☐ Prepare reply for my signature.

From: JTF

To: ERM.

☐ For your approval.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

| For your information.  | ☐ Prepare draft of reply. |
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| For necessary action.  | ☐ Return to me.           |
| Send me copy of reply. | ☐ Return to file.         |

☐ Wish to discuss.

REMARKS:

Stadard upy!

☐ For your comments. ☐ For signature.

# DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM-RESOURCES

Date: Daco /7

From AK To: Types

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#### REMARKS:



### Province of British Columbia

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

November 30th, 1977

File No: 20-1

The Reverend Glen J. Betts, The British Columbia Conference, The United Church of Canada, 505 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 1Y5.

Dear Reverend Betts,

In the absence of the Premier, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for the copy of your letter, dated November 25th, directed to the Honourable Len Marchand.

The Premier is expected back in the office early next week and your correspondence will be drawn to his attention at that time.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Paulsen (Mrs.) Administrative Officer

bc. Hon. J. Chabot

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ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

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MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

UEC 5 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

# The British Columbia Conference

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



PRESIDENT

REV. R. GEORGE A. MORRISON 7591 GRAY AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C. V5J 324 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REV. ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

505 DUNSMUIR STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 1Y5 — 682-7556

November 25, 1977

REGEIVED

NOV 28 1977

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Honourable Len Marchand Minister of the Environment Parliament Buildings Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Marchand:

I am writing to you as Co-Chairman of the Outreach Department of B.C. Conference, United Church of Canada.

We understand that Rexspar Mineral and Chemical Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Dennison Mines, is planning a uranium development near Clearwater, at Birch Island, north of Kamloops, B.C.

We further understand that there are some serious questions as to whether this company has provided adequate safeguards for the handling of the uranium and for the disposal of potentially radio-active wastes.

We have written to the Provincial Government for specific information regarding this matter and to date have received none. Therefore, as a department, we have been unable to take or recomment any action. I am concerned that this development be delayed long enough for various interested public groups, including ourselves, to receive and respond to information on this mine. If there are adequate safeguards then there should be no problem, and there should be no reason for Rexspar to fear the public's reaction.

In this regard, we hear by this morning's news that your department has issued a report containing some criticism of Rexspar's plans. I would very much like a copy of this report immediately for the use of our department.

Yours truly,

Rev. Glen J. Betts

cc: Premier William Bennett, Legislative Bldgs., Victoria B.C. cc: Rev. Arthur M. Anderson, Exec. Secretary, B.C. Conference

CONFERENCE STAFF

20-1

## The British Columbia Conference

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



#### PRESIDENT

REV. R. GEORGE A. MOARISON
7591 GRAY AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C.
V5.J 324
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
REV. ARTHUR M. ANDERSON

505 DUNSMUIR STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 1Y5 - 682-7556

November 25, 1977

Denison Mines Ltd. 3900 South Tower Box 40 Royal Bank Plaza Toronto, Ontario M5J 2K2

Attention:

Mr. M.J. de Bastiani

Vice-President, Finance

Gentlemen:

RECEIVED

NOV 28 1977

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Re: Proposed Rex Spar Uranium Mine

A considerable amount of concern has been directed to our committee relative to the reference uranium mine proposed for Birch Island. It would be appreciated if you would provide answers to the following questions to us, prior to our next meeting on December 8th:

- 1. Tailing Ponds, which we understand are to be located approximately 800 ft. from the Thompson River
  - a) do you propose to recycle, clean up or reuse the effluent?
  - b) for how many years would your company be prepared to pay the cost of monitoring and safeguarding these tailing ponds?
  - c) do you post a performance bond, and for how much?

# 2. Air Pollution -

- a) what control equipment do you plan to install in the plant?
- b) what health insurance would you provide for your employees? their families?
- c) transportation of yellowcake how will yellowcake be shipped from Birch Island? what measures are planned to protect the public? e.g., if by truck, would there be a convoy?

..,2

Your cooperation in providing us with the above information before our December 8th meeting will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Lois Carson Boyce Chairman of the Environment Committee Outreach Department

LB:S

CC. Honourable Len Marchant Minister of the Environment

Honourable William Bennett Premier of the Province of B.C.

December 7, 1977.

Robert E. Skelly, M.L.A., Alberni, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C.

Dear Mr. Skelly:

In response to your letter of November 28, 1977 I enclose a copy of the news release that I made jointly with my colleague the Minister of Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen on January 20, 1977 which outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. In the case of Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, a prospectus and preliminary environmental impact statement has been submitted which you have referred to. In addition, the company has indicated its plans to hold a public information meeting in Clearwater and I attach a notice of that meeting. I understand that the date has now been set for December 18, 1977 in Clearwater, B. C. The purpose of this meeting is for the company to outline their proposed project at Birch Island and to answer any questions that interested individuals or groups may have. I am sure that this meeting will satisfy many of the concerns of people who are interested in the uranium mine proposal.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

## DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Date:

From:  $\rightarrow F$ To:  $\rightarrow F$ 

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☐ Wish to discuss.

**REMARKS:** 

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# DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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**REMARKS:** 



MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

NOV 30 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

November 28, 1977

The Honourable J. Chabot, Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Chabot,

ASSISTANT DEPUTA MANUSCAR
MINERAL INSTITUTIONS

REC'D DEC 577

S D 3

REFERRED TO DATE INSTITUTE

D.M.

E. & P.

During the past several months I have received a flood of letters in the Clearwater-Birch Island area seeking more information and public input to the proposed development of a Uranium Mine by Consolidated Rexsbar Limited, a subsidiary of Dennison Mines.

After many requests through your department and through the management of Dennison Mines, I finally obtained a copy of the preliminary environmental impact statement for the mine. However, preliminary statements do not appear to be helpful in any way to the concerned citizens of the Clearwater-Birch Island area who wish to keep informed of the uranium mine proposal on a continuous basis. At the present time it is both unfair to the citizens and to the mining companies that the only information which seems to be available is based more on rumour than on documented fact.

I urge that you instruct your department to ask that the mining company set up a store-front information centre in the Clearwater-Birch Island area so that citizens can obtain information on the mine and on the subject of uranium mining and its health and environmental impact generally. I would urge, also, that your department commission an inquiry similar to that being conducted in Saskatchewan by Justice Bada into the proposal to mine uranium at Cluff Lake in north western Saskatchewan. If you have already had proposals for input along these lines I would appreciate hearing about them. I am sure that a public announcement of your proposals would go along way towards satisfying the concerns of the people who will be affected by the uranium mine proposal.

(more)

I look forward to your early reponse.

Yours sincerely,

Robert E. Skelly, M.L.A.

Alberni

c.c. Mrs. Anne Bauer, Box 555, Clearwater.

| DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R. |      |         |    |  |
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December 7, 1977,

Mrs. R. D. Lockhart, Secretary, Zion United Church, United Church of Canada, Armstrong, B. C. VOE 180

Dear Mrs. Lockhart:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 1977 concerning the proposed development of a uranium mine by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited at Birch Island, B. C.

May I first point out that there has been no secrecy by my Ministry concerning this mine. On January 20, 1977 a news release that I made jointly with my colleague, the Minister of Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen outlined the proposed development at Birch Island and the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. You should be aware that no decision has been made by either the Federal or Provincial Governments to approve the establishment of a uranium mine at this location. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company, nor have either the Federal or Provincial Governments received applications to this effect.

To date the company has submitted a prospectus, which is a general description of the proposed development, and more recently a preliminary environmental study of the Birch Island project. The latter report has been reviewed by officials of my Ministry and by members of the Uranium Steering Committee referred to in the news release. The specific concerns that you indicate in your letter are included in the review process between the company and the Uranium Steering Committee and the company will be required to further review these areas in the preparation of their Stage II submission.

It is understood that the company is planning a public information meeting in Clearwater on December 18, 1977 in order to describe the project and to answer questions that

. . 2

interested groups or individuals may have. I would suggest that you write to Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, P. O. Box 40, Royal Bank Plaza, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2K2 for further details of the meeting and for any informational materials that they may have.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

### ZION UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R.

INITIAL

ARMSTRONG, B.C.

VOE 1BO

MINISTER:

Rev. Bruce Wartman.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER

MINERAL RESOURCES

DATE

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REFERRED TO

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R.

M.R.

FILE

REC'D NOV 28 '77 26 10

P.O. Box 337

PHONE 546-4756

INITIAL DATE REFERRED TO A.D.M. A.D.P. A.S.

Box 291, Armstrong, B.C., November 22, 1977.

Mr. Jim Chabot, Minister of Mines, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

We have learned of the proposed small "open pit" Uranium mine on the Dennison Mining's Rexpar Property at Birch Island, B.C.

I have been asked by the Zion UNited Church Council to voice our concern about the proposed development. Why the secrecy by your department on this mine? Are the controls on Uranium mines adequate? Is this the beginning of Uranium mining in B.C.? What guarentee is there that the waters of the North Thompson will not be contaminated?

We are most interested in you stand on this matter.

Yours truly.

Mrs. R.D. Lockhart

Secretary.

MINISTER OF MINES AND PLYTOLEUM RESOURCES Wish to discuss Prepare reply for my signature. For your information, Prepare draft of reply, ☐ For necessary action. ☐ Return to me. Sand me copy of reply. For your comments. DATE: Mo2/ 25/27

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

NOV 25 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

December 8, 1977,

Janet McDonald, 3064 St. Kildas Avenue, North Vancouver, B. C. V7L 2A9

Dear Ms. McDonald:

Thank you for your letter of November 24, 1977 indicating your concern for the proposed development of a uranium mine on Birch Island by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited. I have enclosed a copy of a news release that I made jointly with my colleague the Minister of Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen on January 20, 1977 which outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. You will note that my Ministry is represented on a Uranium Steering Committee which reviews the developer's proposal at each step of a staged review procedure. To date the company has submitted a prospectus and a preliminary Stage One environmental impact assessment which has been reviewed by this committee and whose comments and evaluation have been made known to the company. These comments will be taken into account by the company during the preparation of their Stage Two report.

I understand that the company plans to hold a public information meeting to review the project and to answer any questions of interested individuals or groups. The date for this meeting has now been set for December 18, 1977 in Clearwater, B. C. Additional information concerning the company's plans for this meeting may be obtained from Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Limited, 1199 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B. C. V6E 2Rl. This company has been retained by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited as their consultants on the birch Island Project.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

# DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

| From: | Andre | Date:  | 3/17 |
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| in your approvar.        | Prepare reply for my signature. |
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#### REMARKS:

| ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES |      |         |
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McDonald, 3064 St. Kildas Ave., North Vancouver, B. C. V7L 2A9



Mr. James Archibald,
Minister,
Mines & Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

November 24, 1977.

AN OPEN LETTER TO:

Mr. Allister Gillespie, Minister Energy Mines & Resources, Ottawa

and

Mr. James Archibald, Minister Mines & Petroleum Resources, Victoria

and

Mr. Gordon Gibson, Member Legislative Assembly, Victoria

Gentlemen:

| DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. K. |     |      |         |
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I have just read an article in the Province newspaper of November 24th and would like to express my concern over the proposed development of a uranium mine on Birch Island near Clearwater by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd.. I have property not far from the area and have spent many, many days XXXXXXXX in the area just north of Birch Island. I would be very angry if a mining company was allowed to move into here for a short period and destroy much of what is beautiful about the place and indeed the most important heritage of this province - unspoiled land and space. If a uranium mine is allowed to make this area unsafe for recreation in order to provide only four years of resources it will be a crime for all generations to remember. Please use your power and conscience to prevent any unnecessary rape of the area. I understand that we can not stop progress. etc. but there must be a system of priorities and I would like to add my voice to those who value such areas as Birch Island.

Thank you,

Janet McDonald.
3064 St. Kildas Ave.,
North Vancouver, B. C.
V7L 2A9

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

NOV 28 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Mr. E. R. Macgregor
Assistant Deputy Minister
Honourable James R. Chabot,
Ministry of Mines and
Petroleum Resources,
BUILDINGS.

December 7,1977

Attached is a draft copy of a letter for Mr. Nielsen's signature as requested in his note of November 21, 1977.

p

E. R. Macgregor Assistant Deputy Minister

ERM/ph

December 7, 1977,

Mrs. Hilda Kellington,
Solar Alternatives to
 Nuclear Energy,
Box 56,
Crofton, B. C.

Dear Mrs. Kellington:

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 1977 requesting further clarification of the review of uranium developments in British Columbia.

The Uranium Steering Committee, referred to in my letter of October 24, 1977, is made up of officials of the Ministries of Mines and Petroleum Resources and Environment as well as the Federal Atomic Energy Control Board. The mining companies are not represented on this committee but rather submit information in a staged process to this committee for review and comment prior to the granting of the requisite approvals and permits.

A public information meeting is being planned by the company to present to interested individuals and groups an outline of their proposed Birch Island project and to answer any questions that may be of concern. I understand that this meeting will be held in Clearwater, B. C. on December 18, 1977. I would suggest that you may write to Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, P. O. Box 40, Royal Bank Plaza, Toronto, Ontario, M4J 2K2 for details of the meeting and for any information which they will be submitting to the public at that time.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Nielsen, MINISTER

#### MEMORANDUM

| TO Honourable James Chabot      | MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT  RE: M.O. 767 - Mrs. H. Kellington |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Minister of Mines and           |  |
| Petroleum Resources - BUILDINGS | November 21, 1977  |

With regard to the attached correspondence, would you please prepare a suitable reply to Mrs. Kellington's further enquiries, for my signature.

Thank you.

James A. Nielsen

James A. Nielsen
Minister of the Environment REC'D

DEPUTY MINISTER M. & P. R.
ent REC'D NOV 24 '77 25

REFERRED TO DATE INTERIOR A.D.M.
A.D.P.
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M.R.

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

NOV 23 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

REC'D TOV 25'77



Bex 56, Crofton, BC November 14, 77

Mr. J. Nielsen, Minister Dept. of the Environment Parliament Bldgs. Victoria, BC

Dear Mr. Nielsen,

NOV171977

Thank you for your letter regarding your government's plans to mine uranium in BC. I would appreciate clarification on one point, though; is it accurate to say that the Uranium Steering Committee is composed of officials of the Mines and Environment departments, the mining company (Denison), and the Atomic Energy Control Board?

You mentioned in your letter also that you are planning a public hearing on the issue. Which of the agencies involved will hold, and have jurisdiction over, this hearing?

The press release you enclosed refers to public information meetings that are required before the necessary AECB permit is granted. Are you referring to these information meetings as the public hearing you mention?

If not, would you be specific as to what sort of hearing this will be? Will it accept briefs from the public? And will it be close enough, at least for several sessions— to allow input from concerned citizens here in the SW population centes, as well as from those communities immediately affected? You may know that radionuclides from uranium mining travel large distances, and that they are also taken up by vegetation and animals, and so make their way into the food chain, and present risks to all the people of BC.

In conclusion, would you please give us a projected date for these hearings, and tell us whether you will hear expert witnesses? Thank you.

Sincerely,

H. Kellington

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

October 24, 1977

M.O. 767

Mrs. Hilda Kellington, Solar Alternatives to Nuclear Energy, Box 56, Crofton, B.C.

Dear Mrs. Kellington:

Thank you for your letter regarding the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island, and your concern and opposition to it.

I would like to review for you the position the Government has taken with respect to the project and to indicate its current status.

May I first point out that no decision has been made by either the Federal or the Provincial Government to approve the establishment of a uranium mine. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company, nor have either the Federal or Provincial Government received applications from the company to this effect.

The project is in the proposal stage and requires a full evaluation and assessment before such approval will be granted. A copy of the news release that I made jointly with my colleague the Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Honourable James Chabot, on January 20, 1977, outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. To date, the company has submitted a prospectus which is a general description of the proposed development and, more recently, a preliminary environmental study of the Birch Island project. The latter study, which is of a preliminary nature, is currently under review by the Uranium Steering Committee.

As part of the review process you will note that the news release makes provision for a public hearing which will provide any concerned citizens the opportunity to make presentations. It is expected that this public hearing will be held this Fall at a suitable location close to the proposed mine.

The procedures outlined require a broad review of any uranium proposal prior to the granting of approvals and stringent safeguards will be mandatory to ensure that the public safety is protected.

Yours sincerely,

OCT 25 1977

James A. Nielsen Minister of the Environment

Encl.

Solar Alternatives to Nuclear Energy Box ## 56 Crofton, BC

Mr. Jim Nielsen, Minister Dept. Of the Environment Parliament Bldgs. Victoria, B.C.

SEP 26 1977

Dear Mr. Nielsen,

We are very concerned about your government's proposals to open the province to uranium mining. We realize it is a lucrative material on the world market right now, and economic troubles we are facing make it tempting to exploit.

However, the hazards of the nuclear industry are well-documented, and the public health of the people of BC must be our priority consideration.

Uranium mining has caused lung cancer at exraordinary rates in uranium miners for decades. The tailings are radioactive, and have caused severe problems with public exposure to them in Ontario and Saskatchewan as well as in all other parts of the world where it has been mined.

Would you please inform us as to what sort of environmental impact hearing your department is planning preceding the possible opening of such mines? We would also like to know what your department has in mind for protecting the health of the workers and the general public should such mines be allowed. And have you any specific plans for avoiding the particular problems that have been encountered in other parts of Canada?

You may know that the Saskatchewan government is now conducting an inquiry into all aspects of uranium mining, which could provide us in this province with a great deal of pertinent information.

Would you also please detail for us the locations where uranium has been found, and what steps your department is taking to inform the local people of possible environmental and health consequences?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Haria Keilington

# Nuclear waste debate urgent

By Robert Steklasa

WHAT DO YOU do with 50,000 metric tons (55,118 short tons) of radioactive wastes from

That's a problem that will probably be facing Canadians by the end of the century, says a preliminary report on management of nuclear wastes released recently by the Department of Energy, Mines & Resources. It recommends we

move speedily to find a permanent disposal site.

"Canada needs a consolidated plan for management of radioactive wastes now — a piecemeal, hesitant approach to this challenge will not be in the national interest."

Looking at various methods of getting rid of highly radioactive waste — including shooting it into space or burying it in the ocean floor — the report recommends that we place the waste deep into igneous precambrian rock formations, preferably in Ontario where most radioactive waste is produced.

The site will have to be carefully chosen. The rock shouldn't be weakened by heat from the

radioactive material.

Nor should it contain any potentially valuable minerals man may someday want to mine. It must also be deep enough to be unaffected by falling or rising sea level and the weight of glaciers and the deposits they may leave.

There's a sense of urgency in the report. It says the federal government should start drafting a national nuclear waste management plan immediately for discussion with provincial governments, industry, scientific and technical communities and citizen groups.

The first shafts into hard-rock sites should be sunk by 1985, construction of spent fuel handling facilities started by 1988 and the site ready to receive wastes from reactors by the end of the

And the cost? Probably \$200 million to build and \$100 million annually to run if Canada has 75,000 megawatts of nuclear power by the end

the century.

"The cost of building and operating central storage and disposal facilities should be recovered through charges against the organizations producing and supplying the radioactive waste," the report says.

While the image of Port Hope, Ont., and the problems it has had with low-level radioactive wastes is firmly imprinted on the minds of many Canadians, the report says we have no reason to worry about wastes being buried deep into solid

"We expect or health no environmental impacts once the wastes and irradiated fuel have been emplaced in the repository. The slight risk will be associated with the preparation, tran-

If there is to be a debate over waste disposal it will most likely centre on shipping wastes to the disposal site. About 500 shipments have already been made in Canada using shielded containers. They weigh about 50 tonnes, and hold three to four tonnes of material. They can be shipped by rail or truck.

The report estimates that by the end of century eight shipments of irradiated fuel will be

made daily.

As new, more efficient fuel cycles for the Candu reactor are developed, recovery of plutonium from irradiated fuel will also be pushed. The plutonium will be used to increase the energy extracted from natural uranium — or to convert thorium, a radioactive metal more plentiful than uranium, into suitable reactor fuel.

For the time being, however, the report says no commercial waste fuel processing plant should be allowed in Canada.

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO W. C. Robinson

FROM THE

### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Mddokld, B.C., November 29 , 1977 Kamloops

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER

TO FILE No.....

Birch Island Uranium Mine Proposal

Attached please find photocopy of press clipping from recent editions of local newspaper concerning the above proposal.

B.M. Ducks

B. M. Dudas

BMD:1c Enclosure

cc: Dr. J. T. Fyles

E. R. Macgray

| ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES |      |         |
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# Gas exposure danger exists, report claims

#### By TERRY WEINS Sentinel Staff Writer

There is danger of Birch Island residents being exposed to toxic radon gas if a proposed uranium mine there goes through.

That statement is contained in the official reply of the federal environment department to a preliminary environmental study prepared for Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, which proposes to develop the open pit mine.

"The report from environment and fisheries Canada confirms the belief of the people who are opposed to the mine that Rexpar's plans are totally unacceptable," said Yellowhead Ecological spokesman Peter Jensen, an Ottawa-appointed special prosecuter of the pollution sector of the Fisheries Act.

Jenson told The Sentinel this morning that he received a copy of the government report Tuesday from Mario de Bastiani, a mining company official who arrived in Clearwater Monday to talk to residents about the proposed mine.

The Environment Canada commentary says that Rexpar's environmental study has failed to determine the effect of radioactive waste on air and soil quality, salmon spawning grounds in two local creeks, the North Thompson River system and the domestic water supply for area residents, said Jensen.

The commentary, he said, also states the proposal by Consolidated Rexpar to isolate radioactive wastes in a platic-lined tailings pond 800 feet from the North Thompson is inadequate and unsafe.

The tailings pond, said Jensen, would be only 300 feet from a nearby community centre and 450 feet from the Birch Island public school.

As well as danger from radon gas, he said, there is also the possibility that radium 226 could escape from the tailing pond and reach the North Thompson River.

The plastic liner that Rexpar says will contain the dangerous radioactive waste, he said, will be only 15 milimetres thick, the same type of material used to line children's swimming pools.

Radium 226, he said, collects in the bones and flesh of fish. As two area creeks are prime spawning grounds for salmon for the whole Thompson and Fraser river systems, "everyone who eats salmon will be eating fish which has radium 226 in it," he said.

Environment Canada's report expresses concern that spawning grounds in Foghorn and Clay creeks, both to be used heavily by the mining company, will be damaged permanently, said Jensen.

Quoting from the government commentary, Jensen said that "the report (Rexpar's) does not discuss in any satisfactory way the impact of water contamination on the domestic water supply, biological components of the watershed or the consequences of radioactive substances in the environment."

More than 1,600 local residents presented a petition Monday to federal environment minister, Kamloops MP Len Marchand, calling for a moratorium on the mine until a full-scale judicial

Inquiry is held.
Marchand was unavailable for comment this morning.

# Mine pond Nov. 25/77 P.1. Worries feds

The preliminary environmental study for the proposed Birch Island uranium mine fails to answer many concerns about the project, says a Dept. of Fisheries and Environment report.

The report has been submitted to the federal provincial steering committee responsible for overseeing a two-stage study of the proposed mine.

Addressing itself to the completed first-stage study, the Environment Department calls the tailings pond "the most critical part of the development from this Department's point of view.

"Unlike other mines where most heavy metals and contaminants are either removed in the mineral extraction processes or discharged to a tailings pond which can be reasonably well isolated, the uranium mine removes only uranium while the remainder of the contaminants consisting of all heavy metals, including residual radioactive material, are directed to the tailings impoundment.

"This situation is further aggravated because the radioactive materials exhibit long-term effects."

The report says "protection against a maximum possible flood would require relocation of the tailings pond to an elevation perhaps 30 feet higher than presently proposed."

Doubt is expressed as to the ability of the pond to contain leakage.

Atmospheric environmental effects

are also a concern to the Environment officials.

"The report (first stage environmental study) does not address in adequate detail the impact of air emissions on the local environment. Potential air pollutants resulting from the proposed mining operations include (dust generated during mining and transport of the ore to the comminution plant. This subject is not addressed in the first stage study."

It says the "dispersive capability of the air volume at Birch Island is poor."

# Len concerned p.3. Concerned p.3. Cobout mine plan

Kamloops-Cariboo M.P. and Environment Minister Len Marchand says he is taking a keen interest in the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island.

"I'm very concerned about it, and as representative for Kamloops-Cariboo and Minister of the Environment, I've been watching it closely," said Marchand.

"There are some studies that are yet to be submitted to my department, as well as approval by the Atomic Energy Control Board, so there are a lot of processes that have to be gone through related to the federal government."

Marchand said he "has a good handle on it," and is watching it very closely. He also said a public information meeting must be held, to be sponsored by Rexspar, a subsidiary of Denison Mines.

"I hope to be present at that meeting and hear the opinions of the people of Clearwater and the Thompson Valleys" said Marchand.

The M.P. said the company is being asked to present information, and people will be able to voice their opinions.

Marchand said he is concerned about the small amount of uranium that would be obtained from the mine.

"It would have a life of about four years or so, then the mine would close, he stated. "And I've been told that the open pit concept will give a good return in relation to the amount spent to process the raw material."

He said it is probably an economic windfall in relation to the effort and cost of obtaining the uranium.

He also said first reports from Environment Canada expressed concern about the tailings pond. "This is also my concern, and I expect reports from this mine, and other mines in Canada, any day now."

He said word has been received from residents who are concerned about possible contamination of ground water supplies in the community, which uses a great deal of well water and the supply is fairly close to the surface.

"Im reserving my opinion on this until I've received technical data. Yet I'm very concerned about the proposed location of the tailings pond being so close to the North Thompson River, and the problem of Radium 226, which is a deleterious substance which has a danger-to-health life of some 1600 years."

Marchand said residents also expressed concern over the amount of dust that could be discharged into the air during the milling process.

# EDITOR J.E. CARTER (Ext. 38)

# COMPANY VS. ENVIRONMENTALISTS Fight over uranium mine peaks

By JAMIE BOWMAN Reporter, The News

Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals, the mining company proposing to put in a uranium mine at Birch Island near Clearwater, may have to reconsider the idea, according to company representative Mario deBastiani.

The company official, who is also a vice-president of Rexspar's parent company Denison Mines, said Tuesday the mining concern "may be forced to reconsider our decision in view of the opposition."

However, he took a strong stand against statements by the ecological opponents of the proposed mine and mill, saying he cannot understand how they can pretend to look ahead 1600 years to the date when the radioactive material to be dumped in the tailings pond will lose about half of its

"I'm amazed at people who can project 1600 years from now," he exclaimed. "To go ahead and be emotional about the half-life of these materials is ridiculous." he told The

He pointed out there are other materials such as arsenic that never break down and lose their toxicity.

DeBastiani brushed aside concerns expressed by the environmentalists that the North Thompson River would be polluted to the point where it would not be useable as drinking water. "There would be no damage at all."

"I can assure you that in the lake area (Ontario) we do drink the water in the area that has been used as an example (Elliot Lake ecological disaster)," he continued. "I did it for 20

The mining rep said stainless steel lining could be used "if it would make



CONFRONTATION Rexspar Minerals rep Mario deBastiani gesticulates to irate uranium mine protesters who were on hand to greet him at the airport with a placard-waving demonstration Tuesday. deBastiani is a vicepresident of the parent company, Denison Mines, and is looking after the technical problems associated with the establishment of the proposed mine at Birch Island near Clearwater.

anyone happier" as a lining for the tailings pond.

Currently, drawn plans call for 15 mil PVC liner to be stapled to a wooden frame and covered with sand.

"The industry has advanced a lot in the past 25 years (since the days of the problems with uranium mines and mills in Ontario)," deBastiani went on. "Government regulations have changed and have been made stricter."

He said much metallurgical study has taken place since the information the environmentalists have, was made public.

"We happen to know our business."

By JAMIE BOWMAN Reporter The News

Kamloops will suffer dire repercussions if a uranium mine and mill is allowed to locate on Birch Island near Clearwater, a consortium of concerned groups and citizens has warned.

The mine, proposed by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals, and controlled by Denison Mines, plans to set up a refuse pond for the waste material from the mill only 800 feet from the North Thompson River.

The Yellowhead Ecological Association, the United Church, the World Development Educational Committee, along with some lawyers and doctors and concerned citizens, have banded together in an attempt to "avoid a repeat of the Elliot Lake and Port Hope ecological disasters in Ontario where Denison was a major offender," said a statement released by the opponents Tuesday.

According to the group, the water in the river below the mill will be unfit to drink. Provincial Fisheries officials have confirmed to the group they would not feel safe drinking, from the river downstream from the proposed

The radioactive material dumped into the tailings pond will take 1,620 years to lose only half of its radioac-

DeBastiani was in Kamloops

Tuesday on a stopover before going on

to Clearwater to announce a public

information meeting to be held by the

company at the residents' convenience.

Company officials and technicians will

be on hand to answer any questions on

the mine or mill.

tivity, yet the company proposing the mine has laid plans which call for only 15 mil PVC (vinyl-plastic) to be laid as a liner for the pond. This liner is to be stapled to a 2 x 4 wooden frame and covered with a layer of sand about one foot deep.

The environmentalists emphatically assert such a container can hardly last 50 years, never mind 1,620.

"The young unstable North Thompson River presents real dangers flooding (1948 and 1972), mud slides and changes in the course of the river which make this danger even more immediate," the group declared.

Kamloops and the North Thompson area will suffer a serious lag in development of new businesses because of the uranium mine, contends the alliance of concerned people and

They have called for a moratorium on development of the uranium-rich earth on Birch Island "until there has been a full judicial inquiry with full public participation."

A petition containing 1,577 signatures to that effect has been sent to Len Marchand, Minister of the Environment and Kamloops-Cariboo MP and to Premier Bill Bennett at the provincial government level.

# MONDAY SPORTS: The complete local sports report

# Birch Island uranium issue 'heats

By TERRY WIENS Sentinel Staff Writer

e Birch Island uranium issue is heating up, with onents and opponents exging blows via the media. oponents are saying that mation coming from ennmental groups ughly misleading, while nents are saying that ination from the mining any is non-existant.

in Scott, who was manager expar during the feasibility y for the proposed mine

during the 1950s, told The Sentinel Saturday ecological groups opposed to the mine "don't want to hear any adverse Radon and radium 226 is based opinions."

"Anyone who expresses what I call the sensible viewpoint is not listened to," he said.

several meetings of the completely different kind of ore Yellowhead Ecological body. Association concerning the proposed mine, and it appears to Elliot Lake operations began, he him the group has already made said, "there was a tremendous up its mind on the issue "for all demand for uranium and they the wrong reasons."

"The basic thing that nobody seems to understand," he said, "is that all the information on on Elliot Lake.

"It's like comparing an old lemon to a big fat melon."

Scott said conditions in Elliot He said he has attended here at all, we're dealing with a

During the 1950s when the taining over one per cent opened those mines as fast as

possible. They were pretty damn careless."

Now, he said, advances in technology have solved the pollution problems. Besides, he said, the very nature of the ore deposits and methods of extraction at Elliot Lake are different than at Birch Island.

Elliot Lake is an underground operation on an ore body conuranium, he said, while at Birch Island, the operation will be open-pit on a body containing .07 per cent uranium.

"The radiation has to be directly proportional to the percentage of radioactive material that is in there," he

"Anything that is going to be plenty of opportunity to express dangerous has to come out of his point of view," said Rev. that ore body and the whole Peter Rolston, whose United game for the company is to extract as much of that material against the mine. as possible."

He said if the company did not extract at least 90 per cent of the radioactive material, "they're not going to be running an efficient operation."

Meanwhile, environmentalists opposed the uranium mine have denied they refused to listen to Scott at their meetings.

"That's not true at all, he had Church has taken a stand

"The first person I recognized the other night was him," added Laverne Isert, chairman of the Kamloops chapter of the Yellowhead Ecological Association, "We're trying to be

can.

Both men complained of difficulty getting information on the proposed mine from Con-solidated Rexpar. They said that none of their letters requesting information had been answered by the parent company, Denison Mines of Toronto.

"If you're going to try to prepare the people," said Rolston, "you've got to desseminate information to

"I think that this is a clear situation where the technicians

as open and fair as we possibly have to go much slower an explain things to the people," h said. If this isn't done, he added "that creates cynisism.

"I'm not convinced that th mine is going to be in our in terests because of the history a Elliot Lake," he said Watch th CBC program "Fifth Estate" of Tuesday night to "see what mean." he said.

"They're (Denison' recor is so bad (at Elliot L ," sai Rolston, "that we have n reason to believe it won't happe

# KAMLOOPS DAILY SENTINEL

Vol. 98 No. 276 40 Pages



The Home Newspaper for Kamloops and South Central British Columbia

KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1977



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# Mine company has strange logic

The uranium mine war is heating up. A few months ago, some Clearwater area residents were complaining that opponents of the mine should wait until there was more information available about its potential effects.

That information is now starting to come in, with the release of data from the federal-provincial environmental committee's report, and a report from the federal Fisheries and Environment Dept. in reaction to that.

It's very easy to talk about uranium mines in a manner that scares hell out of you with visions of ecological disaster. That's because the potential harm is, indeed, very great.

Radium 226 and 222, waste products of the uranium mining operatical remain lethal for hundreds of years. With the flooding potential of the North Thompson River, and possible leakage from the tailings pond contained in the Consolidated Rexspar proposal, people are naturally worried.

Rexspar representative, Mario deBastiani shrugged off those concerns last week during his visit to this area. He came up with the intriguing but convoluted logic that people should not worry about dangers which are going to last for several hundred years because people don't live that long.

"I'm amazed at people who can project 1600 years from now," stated deBastinani. "To go ahead and be emotional about the half-life of these materials is ridiculous."

To the contrary, deBastiani's kind of reasoning is not only ridiculous, but callous and dangerous. It's the kind of reasoning that has resulted in the destruction of so much of our environment, to the point of endangering the very existence of this planet as a place capable of sustaining life.

DeBastiani's assurances that great strides have been made in uranium mining technology don't really impress, considering the company's plans to put a plastic liner and a pile of sand between the deadly wastes and the North.Thompson River.

Neither is it cheering to know that, while the mine would employ only a handful of people, the company profits would be extremely high.

The profits may be high, but the consequences could be extreme.

# JOHN CARTER

# Nov. 28 177 THE KAMLOOPS NEWS

# Fight undermined?

The controversy over Denison Mines' proposed sod-turning in the Birch Island area north of Clearwater broke surface last week with the visit of a company official to the region. And from the look of things the issue will be taking even a higher profile in the weeks to come.

A Denison vice-president, Mario deBastiani ('Iron Fist' to the workers at Elliot Lake), visited Kamloops and Clearwater to do a preliminary "testing of the water" before a proposed Dec. 18 public information meeting on the prospective uranium mine. DeBastini met with vocal, organized opposition locally spearheaded by Kamloops branch of the Yellowhead Ecological Association (YEA) and helped by such diverse groups as the United Church and SPEC.

Apparently general reaction in the Clearwater area, especially in Birch Island itself, has also been hostile. However, there was an element in the town that was warm to the idea of a mine being developed.

This support has waned somewhat because of the possible dangers and the short life of the mine. The venture may help Clearwater boom for four years, but what happens when all the Profitable uranium is gone? Who rents the empty accomodation and buys the extra consumer goods then?

In the past when the economy was booming, there was always the hope new developments would crop up. But now, when existing industries are struggling to stay alive, odds are high that Clearwater would follow the deadend road of many other B.C. mining towns when their booms were over.

Although mine protesters are getting substantial support, at least some of them are pessimistic the mine will be stopped. As one of the local YEA members said, the only thing that will determine whether the mine goes ahead or not is the uranium market.

If the uranium price is high, no matter what the protesters or governments feelings are, the mine will become reality and the residents will be shafted, he said. However despite doubts the governments will not take much credence in their opposition, the mine's opponents are continuing to push the matter.

And in the same vein, they're taking deBastiani's threat (promise) the

project will be grounded if opposition continues with a grain of salt.

Meanwhile Denison has offered to fly Birch Island residents to its uranium town on Elliot Lake, Ont. to view what it calls a model town. However, the United Steelworkers have diluted the worth of that move, with a counter-offer. They want residents to visit the graves of miners who have died from lung cancer and view a hospital ward of retarded children, who are victims of radiation poisoning, says the union.

'Although the early problems of Elliot Lake are not applicable to Birch Island because of new technology and attitudes, it says something when a union expresses concern about a project which would provide jobs for its members.

The Birch Island proposal has been the subject of news features from both CTV and CBC and has been bantered about on the local talk-show. Monday the topic appears again when mining engineer John Scott gives the other side of the story with Doug Collins.

Tuesday at 9:30 p.m. CBC's Fifth Estate will look at environmental damage done to a northern Ontario town by an uranium mine. And in the U.S., controversy has broken out over a report which under certain interpretation indicates hundreds of millions of people could die in future years as the result of increased uranium mining and milling.

A U.S. congressman, using a disputed report, claims emissions of cancercausing radiation from the mining and milling uranium is 100,000 greater than previously estimated. Rep. Clifford Allen uses a study which says people can die as the result of breathing radon from tailings left over from uranium mining and milling.

With the increase in the use of uranium as a common fuel, the effect will skyrocket, Allen speculates.

The "millions facing death" angle may be somewhat sensationalist, but it does get a point across. Uranium mining isn't as straight-forward as other forms of industrial development.

As the mine's opponents say, the government better be absolutely certain all dangers have been closely looked into before any approvals are given.

|    | FROM | B. M. | Jas |  |
|----|------|-------|-----|--|
| го |      |       |     |  |
|    |      |       |     |  |



DATE December 5, 1977

#### Re: Proposed Birch Island Uranium Mine

Attached are recent press clippings from local newspapers and a copy of a leaflet circulated in the North Thompson area.

B. M. Dudas

B. M. Duolas

BMD:so Enclosures

cc: Dr. J. T. Fyles
E. R. Macgregor,
J. D. McDonald

| ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES |      |       |  |
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IRCH

WILL BE DESTROYED
WITH B.C'S FIRST
"OPEN PIT" URANIUM
MINE

WHY THE SECRECY BY DENNISON MINES, B. C.'S DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT?

THIS SMALL MARGINAL URANIUM MINES AT BIRCH ISLAND ONLY A 'TEST SITE' FOR LARGER URANIUM MINES ELSEWHERE IN "BEAUTIFUL B.C.?"

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE NEARLY NON-EXISTANT B.C. CONTROLS WEAK FEDERAL CONTROLS ON URANIUM MINING?

HOW CAN WE RESIDENTS OF THE THOMPSON VALLEY ENSURE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS?

DON'T RISK THE LEACHING OF RADON AND OTHER LETHAL ELEMENTS INTO THE NORTH THOMPSON! RADIO ACTIVITY IS RELEASED AT EVERY POINT ALONG THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE!

AVOID ANOTHER

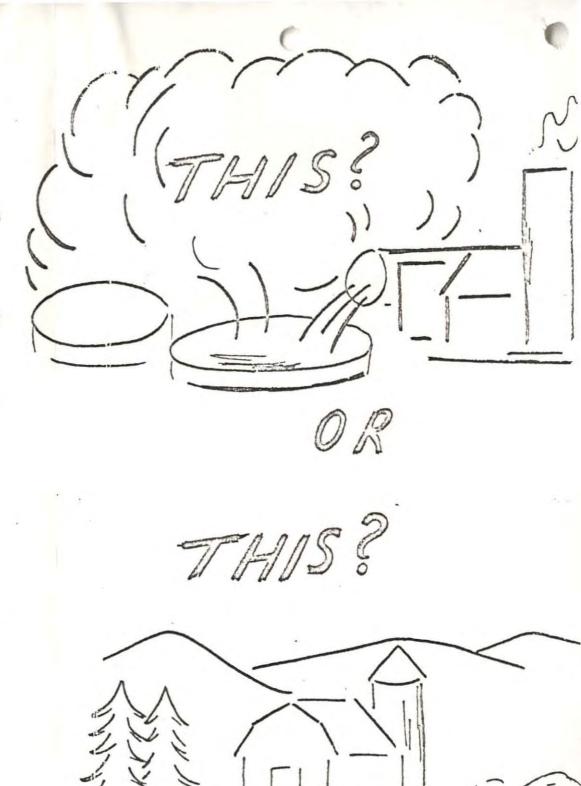
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PROTEST TO: MP LEN MARCHAND
MLA RAFE MAIR

PREMIER BILL BENNET MAYOR MIKE LATTA

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# The Regional

# 'PEOPLE MUST BE PROTECTED'

# Steelworkers want gov't mine inquiry

Len Stevens, director district 3 United Steelworkers of America, sent a telegram to Premier Bennett today calling for a judicial inquiry into the proposal for an open pit uranium mine at Birch Island near Clearwater north of Kamloops.

Stevens issued the following statement:

"Our union which represents uranium miners in

Northern Saskatchewan and Elliot Lake, Ontario, is extremely concerned that the people of B.C. be adequately protected in any new uranium development.

"The lung cancer deaths of uranium miners in Ontario makes such an inquiry justified. As this is a proposed open-pit operation, the first of its kind in Canada, the government should satisfy the people of the province that the mine is safe both for workers and residents of the area.

"Our union will work in cooperation with government agencies and those groups that have expressed concern in this project. I will make the services of experts in our National Health and Safety Department and Research Department available to the study of the feasibility of the mine from the safety and environmental point of view and our union will play an active and constructive role in making presentations to the judicial inquiry.

"This is just as important to the people of B.C. as was the MacKenzie Valley pipeline to the people of the North. The federal government appointed Judge Thomas Berger to investigate the pipeline and this project merits such an

# Former Rexsparchief chews out protesters

By JAMIE BOWMAN

Ex-Rexspar mine manager John Scott has come dashing to the aid of the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island against what he calls "slanted" media reports.

Scott, a mining engineer by trade and the overseer of much of the preliminary work

on the mine-site from 1954-1962, said the amount of radioactive dumpings in the North Thompson River would

be so miniscule as to not harm the ecology in the least.

Estimating the river flow at 9,000 cubic feet per second, he questioned "just how much damage is it going to do if it all goes in?"

"That's a real little bit going into a real large amount," he testified.

According to him, Foghorn Creek runs past the richest uranium ore in the area, yet people using water from it have suffered no ill in many years.

"When they talk about all the terrible things that were supposed to happen at Elliott Lake, there have been people

using water from Foghorn Creek for years...I should know, I lived there," he ranted.

Scott expressed concern Denison Mines will not go ahead with the mine if too much public opposition is shown.

"They'll drop it like a hot rock if Denison thinks there is too much against it."

While claiming not to be "crusading" for the company because he has "definitely no interest in the thing at all," Scott said he felt "someone

better speak against this propaganda" being fed the media by environmentalists.

TRAIL BLAZING

# larchand rejects inquiry into uranium

By TERRY WIENS Sentinel Staff Writer

Birch Island uranium

necessary.

is very far away from director of the Steelworkers, and the residents of the area." approved," environment made the call for an inquiry in a er Len Marchand said this telegram to B.C. Premier Bill Stevens said his union would Bennett this morning.

orkers of America for a the press the lung cancer al inquiry into the deaths of ura h miners at ion is "premature," he Elliof Lake, Ont. make such an national health and safety ALREADY TWO inquiry justified.

ere are still so many "As this proposed open pit department available to study s it (the mine) has to go operation is the first of its kind the feasibility of the mine from

through, that at this stage I don't in Canada," said Stevens, "the the safety and environmental Bayda commission in Saskat- pletely safe for both the en- it would be too close to the North of the Steelworkers. think it (a judicial inquiry) is government should satisfy the points of view. people of the province that the Len Stevens, district three mine is safe for both the workers

cooperate with government kind of inquiry conducted by call by the United Stevens said in a statement to agencies and concerned citizens

pups and "will make the vices of experts in our department and research

He said the mine is as important to the people of B.C. as the MacKenzie Valley pipeline was to people of the north and that this project merits the same judge Thomas Berger into the pipeline.

already two commissions in-

mission in Ontario and that his carefully at their reports.

inquiry into the proposed mine is of them.' necessary at this time.

He said that in order for his Marchand said there are ministry to approve the Birch Island project, "we'd have to the proposed location of the environmentalists opposed to

chewan and the Powers com- vironment and human health." Calling the whole issue "very

government will be looking very complex," Marchand said that arefully at their reports.

as the environment minister, he said "you have to really treat coming," said Laverne Isert.

"I understand the anguish of "I've got to try to understand it with great care. You're local chairman of the the Steelworkers and the people the technicalities. I know how I up at Birch Island," he said, but feel emotionally about uranium still doesn't feel a judicial and uranium mining. I'm afraid

> He said the environment department was very critical of

Thompson River.

Referring to the uranium 226 that would be held in the pond, as the environment minister, he said "you have to really treat penning it up for several generations (half life of U226 is 1,620 years) and you have to make sure it will never, ever escape until it is harmless.'

Meanwhile in Kamloops, local vestigating uranium mining, the pe convinced that it was com-

"We have always felt as a group that we had to bring the information out and now it's Yellowhead Ecological Association.

"Initially that was our first position, that we want a moratorium and a judicial inquiry," he said, "Obviously we're glad to receive some

Vol. 98 No. 278 26 Pages



The Home Newspaper for Kamloops and South Central British Columbia

KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1977



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### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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28/11/77 Dec 6,7,8 (Ko temp)

28/11/77

... Dec 5in 9th Jake McDonald.

- JTF + Minister re: Dec 18th Sulay Clearwater Hyph School Anditorner Moderators: Jacop from Kambogs
Per May ! Claumok McDonald Dord AECB O'Rinda : Brokie P.C.B. - flet som strategy - get inget from Nicha i Chalot.

Repspan le

Dr. J. T. Fyles,

Deputy Minister,

Ministry of Mines & Petroleum Resources.

November 30th

77.

Attached is a copy of a news release by Environmental Services Pacific
Region concerning "Environment Canada Commentary on Rexspar Preliminary
Environmental Study", which was forwarded to me by Mr. B. A. Heskin, P.Eng.,
Director General, Pacific Region, Environmental Protection Service, Fisheries
and Environment Canada, Kapilano 100, Park Royal, West Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1A2.

J. D. McDonald, P.Eng., Senior Reclamation Inspector.

JDM: jau

Attach.

Assistant Deputy Minister.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES

REC'D MOV 3 0 '77

REFERRED TO DATE INITIAL D.M.
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NEWS RELEASE

NOVEMBER 25, 1977

AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Rec'd NOV 3 0 1977

OTTAVA- ENVIRONMENT CANADA COMMENTARY ON REXSPARAPRELIZINARY

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY ONLY PART OF THE ASSESSMENT MROCESS. SAYS

LEN MARCHAND

THE COMMENTARY BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA SCIENTISTS ON A PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY RELEASED TO THE MEDIA ON NOVEMBER 24TH IS ONLY ONE STEP IN THE PROCESS LEADING TO A FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED URANIUM MINE PROJECT IN THE CLEARVATER AREA. ENVIRONMENT MINISTER LEN MARCHAND SAID TODAY.

THE PRELIMINARY STUDY WAS PREPARED BY KILBORN ENGINEERING LIMITED AND B.C. RESEARCH, OF VANCOUVER FOR CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR, THE COMPANY PROPOSING TO BUILD THE MINE.

#### QUOTES

BASICALLY, THE PAPER RELEASED TO THE PRESS THURSDAY WAS AN INITIAL, TECHNICAL COMMENTARY BY OUR OFFICIALS, AND WAS DESIGNED TO ASSIST CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR IN PREPARING A FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC HEARINGS THAT WILL BE HELD, "MR. MARCHAND SAID.

OUR OFFICIALS PROVIDED THE COMMENTARY IN ORDER TO POINT OUT TO CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR. ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PRELIMINARY STUDY WHAT ENVIRONMENT CANADA SAY AS DEFICIENCIES HAD ALREADY BEEN RECOGNIZED BY CONSOLIDATEDMD REXSPAR AND WERE POINTED OUT BY THE COME TO THE JOINT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH IS OVERSEEING THE PROCESSING OF THE COMPANY'S APPLICATION MR. MARCHAND SAID.

• THE COMMENTARY BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA SCIENTISTS WAS STRICTLY A WORKING PAPER INTENDED FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE PROCESS OF PUTTING TOGETHER A PROPER. COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. IT DOES NOT REPRESENT THE FINAL VIEW OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA ON THE PROJECT.

MR. MARCHAND SAID THE COMMENTARY WAS SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL STERING COMMITTEE WHICH HAD RECEIVED THE KILBORN-B.C. RESEARCH STUDY AND WHICH HAD ASKED THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT FOR TECHNICAL COMMENTS.

- \* THIS IS ALL PART OF THE STRINGENT SCREENING PROCESS THAT THE COMPANY WILL HAVE TO SATISFY BEFORE ANY MINE DEVELOPMENT COULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED. THE COMPANY WILL HAVE TO MEET ALL THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL OARD AND THE METAL MINING LIQUID EFFLUENT REGULATIONS OF THE FEDERAL FISHERIES ACT. AS WELL AS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROVINCE OF B.C. OR THE MINE WILL NOT GO AHEAD. \* MR. MARCHAND SAID.
- IN ADDITION, ONCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS COMPLETE, THE MATTER WILL BE EXAMINED IN A PUBLIC HEARINGS, SO THAT EVERYONE CONCERNED WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A FULL PUBLIC AIRING OF THE RELEVANT ISSUES. BEFORE THESE PUBLIC HEARINGS, THE COMPANY'S FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WILL BE RELEASED'.

MR. MARCHAND ADDED THAT IF THE PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY HAD BEEN THE FINAL STATEMENT. THE MINE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE OF BEING APPROVED.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MATT HUGHES- OTTAWA - 997-1441

EPSPPACIFIC VCR

CORRECTION: PAGE 2 - THIRD PARAGRAPH - ATOMIC ENERCY CONTROL BOARD.

EPSPACIFIC VCR

Consalidated
Revope



November 30, 1977,

MEMO TO:

A. Sutherland Brown

J. S. Poyen E. J. Bowles

FROM:

E. R. Macgregor

Assistant Deputy Minister

Re. Public Information Meeting - Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited

The attached notice was received from Mr. J. D. McDonald. Arrangements have now been made for the meeting to be held on Sunday, December 18, 1977 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clearwater High School Auditorium. Two independent moderators are being considered to conduct the proceedings. For your information.

E. R. Macgregor

ERM/ph

cc: Dr. J. T. Fyles

Enclosure.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

November 22, 1977

consolidated rexspar minerals & Chemicals Limited are presently making arrangements for a public meeting to be held in the Clearwater area in late 1977 or January 1978 to answer questions that may arise from interested citizens.

As soon as the meeting date is set, it will be advertised in the local media.

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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

November 22, 1977

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As soon as the meeting date is set, it will be advertised in the local media.

TO Mr. E. R. Macgregor

Mr. B. Dudas

ΰ

Dr. J. O'Riordan

Mr. J. Brodie

Inspector of Mines & Resident Engineers.

FROM THE

# DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

VICTORIA, B.C., November 22nd, 19 77.

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER
TO FILE No.....

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals
Limited Birch Island Project.

Please find enclosed for your information, the booklet

entitled, "Information on the Proposed Birch Island Project".

| ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES  REC'D NOV 23'77  § 93 |  |  |
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J. D. McDonald, P.Eng., Senior Reclamation Inspector.

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Encl.

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

November 22, 1977

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As soon as the meeting date is set, it will be advertised in the local media.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER MINERAL RESOURCES
REC'D NOV 25'77

REFERRED TO DATE INITIAL D.M. E. & P. GEOL. INSP. TITLES

October 31, 1977,

Mr. John Hillian, President, Kelowna SPEC, Box 673, Kelowna, British Columbia.

Dear Mr. Hillian:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 17th concerning potential development of the uranium resource in the Hydraulic Lake and Birch Island Areas. The Premier, the Honourable W. R. Bennett, has also referred your letter of September 18th on the same subject to me for my consideration and response.

I am enclosing a statement dated January 20, 1977 which I made jointly with my colleague the Honourable J. A. Nielsen, Ministry of Environment, concerning the exploration and development of the uranium resource in British Columbia. Although this statement makes reference directly to the proposed development of a uranium mine by Denison Mines Limited near Clearwater, British Columbia, it also sets out in some detail Government policy with respect to the development of uranium anywhere in the Province. You will note that the Atomic Energy Control Act enacted by the Pederal Government controls the exploration, development and production of uranium in Canada. The Atomic Energy Control Board has jurisdiction over all uranium activities related to this mineral resource. Denison Mines Limited, as well as companies prospecting for uranium in the Kelowna area, have been authorized to do so through permits issued by the Atomic Energy Control Board. The Province of British Columbia is co-operating closely with the Federal Government in the administration of the act and regulations concerned with the uranium resource and a Uranium Steering Committee has been established composed of officials from the Atomic Energy Control Board, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources, and the Ministry of Environment. In addition a number of members of our Inspection and Engineering Division have received special training provided by the Atomic Energy Control Board and are authorized to act for both the Federal and Provincial Governments in the administration of the Atomic Energy Control Board Act and Regulations in this Province.

The enclosed news release outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. Each development must follow a staged approval process, and at each stage the requisite reports will be reviewed by the Uranium Steering Committee and consultations will be held between the company and interested Government Ministries. As part of the process leading to approval, there is provision for public hearings which will provide any concerned citizen the opportunity to make presenta-In the case of Denison Mines Limited proposed development at Clearwater, British Columbia a Stage One report has been received and has been reviewed by the Uranium Steering Committee. Should the company wish to continue investigating the project, the company has indicated that they will arrange a public meeting in the Clearwater area to discuss the project with interested citizens. This would be in the form of an information meeting and would be preliminary to any formal public hearings to review the project prior to the granting of approvals. Projects in the Kelowna area have not advanced to this stage and to date only prospecting permits have been issued.

I believe you will agree that the Government of British Columbia has taken effective steps to monitor and regulate the development of the uranium mining industry in British Columbia. Prior to any development taking place, there is a rigid schedule of review and opportunity for public involvement in the review process. I appreciate your concern about uranium development in the Province and I thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

CC: The Honourable W. R. Bennett, Premier

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES RESOURCES INITIAL DATE INSTR Legare reply for my signature. ☐ For your approval. ☐ For your information. ☐ For necessary action. **TirketS**rn to me ☐ Send me copy of reply. Return to file ☐ For your comments. FFPr signature ☐ Wish to discuss. Another area for deplomater comes pondera cc! for W. R. Bernett Premier cc! REMARKS:



Canadian Scientific Pollution & Environmental Control Society

Mr.James Chabot, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings,

Dear Mr. Chabot:

Victoria B.C.

ptember 17th 1977

J.Hillian(Prestdent)
Kelowna SPEC,
Box 673, Kelowna B.C.

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

SEP 21 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

we have been getting very concerned lately about the prospects of uranium being mined near Kelowna in the Hydraulic Lake area. Not many people know very much about the hazards surrounding the mining of uranium and there is very little information being divulged about the company or companies involved in the explorations.

We have heard however of plansfor the development of uranium mines in the Clearwater and Nelson areas. In fact a group called the Yellowhead Ecological Association has been formed by the citizens of Clearwater for the purpose of finding out more about the plans of a company there (Denison Mines Ltd.) who are trying to gain a permit to start a mile at Dirch Island near Clearwater. They are arging that safe mards be established dealing with potential hazards to human habitations through the leaching of mine tailings and wind borne uranium particles.

In the existing "Guidelines for Coal and Mineral Exploration" in B.C. published by the provincial Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources, there are no references to uranium mining or the special qualities of uranium.

Another disturbing aspect of uranium mining is the technology that it serves. All around the world people are probesting against nuclear proliferation. Since uranium and its by-products fuel both unsafe nuclear reactors and destructive nuclear weapons, then there is reason to be concerned about the mining of that fuel anywhere, let alone 20 miles from home.

Hydraulic Lake and the surrounding area are of great importance to the Mission Creek watershed which is the major watercourse that feeds Okanagan Lake.

THIS IS A RECYCLABLE PRODUCT

page 2...

In the event of Okanagan Lake becoming contaminated, residents of the central Okanagan would have to draw there water from areas like Hydraulic Lake. It would seem prudent to keep the area clean!

In both Saskatchewan and Ontario the governments have initiated commissions or inquiries to explore the safety and overall wisdom of uranium mining, and in both provinces the public was invited to participate. SPEC and the Yellowhead Ecological association are urging the B.C. government to follow the lead of Saskatchewan and Ontario and begin a full scale public inquiry into uranium mining, so that the people living in the potentially affected areas have the oportunity to ask questions and find out more about this very important issue. We are fortungate in B.C. since there are as yet no operating uranium mines. Now is the time that safety guidelines can and should be established, and not after the companies receive uncontested permits to mine.

Yours truly,

John Hillian
(President, Kelowna SPEC)

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| For your information.  | Prepare draft of reply.          |
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### Province of British Columbia

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

October 7th, 1977

File No: 31-2

Mr. J. Hillian, President, Kelowna S.P.E.C., Box 673, Kelowna, British Columbia, Vly 7P4. MINISTER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED

OCT 11 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mr. Hillian,

Your letter received while I was leading an economic mission to Europe has now been brought to my attention.

I am passing it along to the Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, the <u>Honourable James Chabot</u>, for consideration by his Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

W. R. Bennett Premier

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER
MINERAL RESOURCES

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Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia V8



Canadian Scientific Pollution & Environmental Control Society

VIY 784

September 18th 1977 J.Hillian (President) Eox 673, Kelowna B.C.

ReceiveD

SEP 21 1977

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Mr.Bill Bennett, M.L.A.

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr.Bennett:

We have been getting very concerned lately about the prospects of uranium being mined near Kelowna in the Hydraulic Lake area. Not many people know very much about the hazards surrounding the mining of uranium and there is very little information being divulged about the company or companies involved in the explorations.

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page 2...

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Yours truly, ...

John Hillian
(President, Kelowna SPEC)

| MINISTER OF MINES      | AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES         |
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| ☐ Wish to discuss      | Prepare reply for my signature. |
| For your information.  | Prepare draft of reply.         |
| For necessary action.  | Return to me.                   |
| Send me copy of reply. | For your comments.              |
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| THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA |
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DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES VICTORIA V8V 4S2

1835 Fort Street,

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MET Victoria, B.C. V8R 1J& PETROLEUM RESOURCES

September 13th, 1977. C'D

FERRED DATE D. M. D. P.

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i. R. & P.

D.

LE.

Mr. Bill Storey, West Coast Environmental Law Association, 207 West Hastings, Suite 1012, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 1H7

Dear Sir:

#### Re: Proposed Uranium Mine at Birch Island, B.C.

This will acknowledge with thanks your letter of September 1st,enquiring about the proposed public meeting concerning the Birch Island Project, to be held this fall.

The Uranium Steering Committee has requested that the company, Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, hold a public information meeting to outline the project to all those concerned in the Clearwater area. This meeting would be an information meeting only at which the company would outline the project and processes and be in a position to answer questions. The company has set this meeting up and it will be chaired by a neutral chairman. There will be no submissions requested from the public or associations or individuals as this will be taken into consideration at a later date, both in the Pollution Control Board and Agricultural Land Reserve hearings requested by the Regional District. The tentative date for the public information meeting is the last week in October. Advertisements will be placed in the appropriate newspapers advising the time and location and date of the public meeting.

If there is any further assistance requested in this matter, please advise.

Yours very truly,

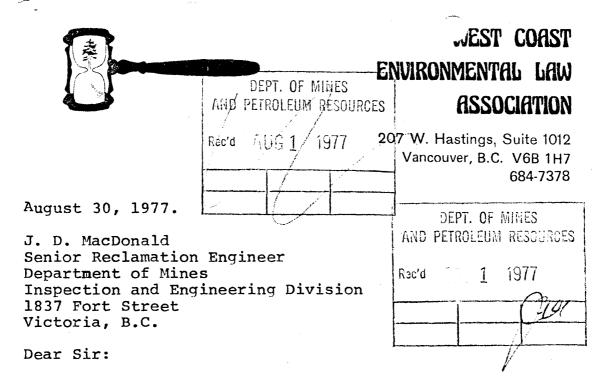
J. D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Chairman,

Coal Guidelines Steering Committee.

JDM: jau

√copy: Dr. J. T. Fyles, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Victoria, B.C.



Re: Proposed Uranium Mine at Birch Island, B.C.

Our Association has been consulted by several groups of citizens who are concerned about the uranium mine which Denison Mines is planning to establish at Birch Island. We have received information that the uranium steering committee, of which we understand you are a member, is planning to hold a public meeting concerning this mine in September in the Clearwater-Birch Island area. We would be very grateful if you could give us some information about this meeting, such as whether you will be accepting submissions from the public and, if so, what form you would like these submissions to take.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

WEST COAST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Bill Storey

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER
MINERAL RESOURCES

REC'D SEP 1977

FILE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

VICTORIA

V8V 4S2

1835 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINISTER OF

September 13, 1977.

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Ms. Donna Coleman, Box 4064, R.R. #2, CLEARWATER, B.C. VOE 1NO

Dear Ms. Coleman:

Re: Birch Island Project - Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited.

This will acknowledge your letter of August 31st, 1977 requesting information on the proposed public information meeting in October.

The Uranium Steering Committee consists of three people:

- J. D. McDonald, Chairman, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources
- J. O'Riordan, Ministry of Environment
- A. Dory, Atomic Energy Control Board, Ottawa

It should be noted that the Ministry of Environment consists of Lands, Pollution Control Branch and Water Resources.

The public information meeting which is tentatively scheduled for the last week in October, is a meeting which is organized by the company at which time the company will outline the total project and answer questions on the project from those attending the meeting. This is not a meeting to approve the Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited Birch Island project, and before any permit can be issued both Federally and Provincially they must submit to Ottawa a Stage II Environmental Impact report and meet the requirements of both Federal and Provincial statutes such as Pollution Control Board Permits, Water Licences and the Atomic Energy Control Board Permits.

I trust that this answers the questions which you have outlined in your letter.

Yours very truly,

J. D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Chairman,

Coal Guidelines Steering Committee.

JDM: jau

copy: Dr. J. T. Fyles, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

Box 4004 RR2 Clear water BC VOE INO August 31,1977

| Mr JD McDonald          | DEPT. OF MINES              |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Uranium Steering Commit | the AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES |
| 1835 Fort Street        | Rac'd SEP 3 1977            |
| Victoria BC             | ,                           |
|                         | NIV                         |

Dear Sir:

Could you pluse tell me the names of the three agencies represented on your committee?

Could you also tell me the purpose of the public meeting to be held here in October? Is this the final meeting before Dennison is issued a permit? None of these questions hour bein answered in the Meus Release of the Dept of Mines issued in January.

Sincerely Donna Coleman

| MEMORANDUM FROM J. D. McDonald, P.Eng., |  |
|---|--|
| TO see distribution below.              |  |
|   |  |



DATE. Sept. 13/.77.....

RE: Birch Island Project - Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited.

Attached for your information is the following:

- 1. Letter from Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd. answering the questions raised by the various agencies which were reviewed at a meeting held August 16th, 1977.
- 2. Letter from the Chairman, Mr. G. G. Runka, of the British Columbia Land Commission.

J. D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Chairman,

Coal Guidelines Steering Committee.

#### Distribution:

J. T. Fyles

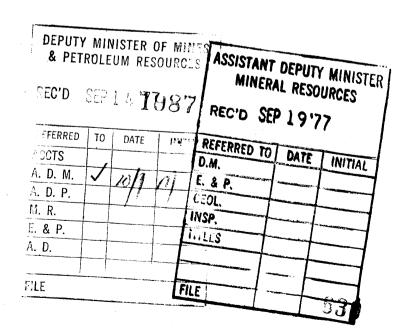
Dr. J. O'Riordan

Mr. A. Dory

Mr. J. Brodie

Mr. B. Dudas

Mr. D. Smith



# **British** Columbia Land Commission 4333 Ledger Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V5G 3T3

22 August 1977

DEPT. OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Rec'd AUG 2 5 1977

Mr. J. D. McDonald Uranium Steering Committee Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources Parliament Buildings Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Preliminary Environmental Study of the proposed Birch Island Project

Please excuse the delay in writing to you with respect to the above proposed project. I will combine my remarks to the effects of the project on agriculture within the Agricultural Land Reserve. First of all, it should be indicated that the agricultural capability rating of the area immediately affected by the proposed tailings pond and plant site falls within 60% class 2 and 40% class 5. However, with the application of water to the land the class 2 land can be increased to 60% class 1. The acreage indicated in the study for exclusion from the Agricultural Land Reserve is approximately 52 acres. However, it appears that 75-80 acres would be involved if the immediate area surrounding the plant and tailings pond are to be considered.

Because of the predominantly fine textured and highly perimeable soils of the area it is of concern that any high consentrations located in the tailings pond of the various elements (e.g. anguescobalta and nickel) plus other more toxic chemical compounds and possible gases could have on the surrounding agricultural land. Perhaps even more important is the possibility of a leaching effect through these fine textured soils into the North Thompson River system and the subsequent use of the downstream waters for irrigation purposes for crop production. The above must be explored in detail.

continued...

The area surrounding Birch Island indicates approximately 17 inches as an average precipitation. In order to have adequate water available and at the right time for crop production, the Commission would like to see explored in detail the provision of an irrigation water supply system for the land within the Agricultural Land Reserve surrounding the proposed project. In other words, with the irrigation waters made available crop production particularly for forage crops could be intensified to a greater degree than at present.

It should be made clear to the company involved that an application under the Land Commission Act would have to be made through the Regional District.

I trust the above observations will be of assistance to you.

Yours very truly

G. G. Runka Chairman

GA/js



Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd. / 1199 W. Pender, Vancouver, Canada V6E 2R1. Telex: 04-507734, Tel: 6

(604) 669-8811

August 23, 1977

Mr. J.D. McDonald, P. Eng. Senior Inspector of Mines - Reclamation Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources AUG 25 1977 Inspection and Engineering Division 1835 Fort Street Victoria, B.C. V8R 1J6

DEPT. OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Dear Sir:

Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited Birch Island Project

This letter is in response to the letters from the various governmental departments which you had forwarded to Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited and were reviewed at the meeting in your offices on August 16, 1977 with your department representatives.

The comments were made to the "Preliminary Environmental Study of the Birch Island Project" which was issued to the Deputy Minister of Mines on June 1, 1977. We have taken each letter and its' related item number in sequence.

### Pollution Control Branch letter of July 24, 1977

- 1. Mr. Barker of A.H. Ross & Associates stated that the process was not finalized as yet and indications are that there will be a negative solution balance. The overall balance depends on the precipitation - evaporation figures which are to be collected. The results will appear in the Stage II Report.
- 2. Consolidated Rexspar does not feel that a liner is necessary, however, further acid generation tests will be conducted by Lakefield Research to confirm favourable B.C.R. results.
- 3. Design and location of the barium chloride treatment works will be outlined in the Stage II Report.
- 4. An engineering analysis of tailings management liners will be summarized in the Stage II Report.
- 5. No problems are anticipated as this is an open pit mine. Water will probably be re-used in the process.

Continued Page 2 . . .

### KILBORN

#### Page 2

- 6. It was agreed that vanadium should be monitored, however, both nickel and cobalt are below detection limits.
- 7. A.H. Ross & Associates are recommending MgO precipitation rather than ammonia (which appeared on drawing 7154-10-2).
- 8. More acid generation testswill be conducted.

#### Atomic Energy Control Board letter of July 13, 1977

- Mr. Dory explained that this item related to preventing public access. This point is to be reviewed and reported in the Stage II Report.
- 2. Calculations will appear in the Stage II Report.
- 3. This is covered under another letter.
- 4. Maximum spillage would be 1800 gallons. A more detailed description of the monitoring would be covered in the Stage II Report.
- 5. Lighting of the pits is covered by the B.C. Mines Regulation Act.
- 6. This will appear in the Stage II Report.
- 7. As 6 above
- 8. As 3 above
- 9. As 6 above
- 10. A monitoring schedule would be submitted for approval by PCB and Environment Canada.
- 11. As 6 above
- 12. As 3 above
- 13. As 3 above
- 14. Mr. Allen stated that B.C.R. used the Saskatchewan method. Mr. Dory suggested Environmental Canada's Edmonton Branch be contacted. Mr. Allen is to review with Mr. Jim Rowley of that office.

Continued Page 3 . . .

# KILBORN

#### Page 3

- 15. Mr. Barker stated that conventional wisdom is that organics report with solids. Mr. Mitchell will check with U.S. source for research results. When this information is received, he will forward it to your department.
- 16. As 6 above
- 17. This is to be defined later when the process has been firmed.

#### Provincial Archeologist Office letter of July 11, 1977

B.C. Research will include this department comments and results in the Stage II Report.

#### Planning Division letter of July 8, 1977

No comment

#### Department of Labour letter of June 30, 1977

The steering committee is to meet with this department in an attempt to understand their position. Mr. de Bastiani stated that a 200 man work force is working at Denison Mines under a B.C. Contractor.

### Reclamation Advisory Committee letter of July 18, 1977

The Stage II Report will include engineering design regarding the 200 year flood level.

Further discussions were carried out regarding the reclamation of the tailings. Mr. McDonald stated that work would have to be carried out on revegetation. Suggested plot size was 20'x50'.

Mr. Brodie on the PCB recommended that application for permits should be made to his department at an early date. Mr. de Bastiani stated that the process was not final and Mr. Brodie reiterated that approval would take about one year and changes to the permits could be made at any time.

## KILBORN

Page 4

Mr. McDonald stated that comments from other governmental departments will be forthcoming and copies will be forwarded to Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited when they are received. These will be responded to upon review by Rexspar.

If you require any further clarification on any of the points noted above, please do not hesitate to contact. We wish to thank all the departments present and Mr. Dory of the AECB for the time which was given us to discuss the project.

Yours truly,

KILBORN ENGINEERING (B.C.) LTD.

R.C. Getty, P. Eng.

RCG/kw

cc: Mr. J. de Bastiani - Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited

Mr. Barker

- A.H. Ross & Associates

Mr. I. Allen

- B.C. Research

1



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8V 1X4

101, 2985 Airport Drive, Kamloops, B. C.

DATEAugust 18, 1977

#### Re: R.M.C. & Rexspar Meeting, Aug. 18/77.

As per our conversation of August 17, 1977 I attended the above meeting which was hastily called on August 16.

The following persons attended the meeting.

Jim Ryder--Agriculture
Don Smuin--Water Rights
Al Dixon--Forestry
Al Stephens--Pollution Control
Denis Podmore--Parks
Doug Snider--Lands
Bill Dudas--Mines
M. J. de Bastiani--President, Cons. Rexspar
Ron C. Getty--Manager, Kilbourn Eng. (B.C.) Ltd.

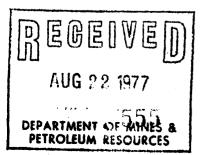
The informal meeting was chaired by B. M. Dudas.

Mr. de Bastiani reviewed the history of Birch Island and explained that the proposed project is in its infancy and perhaps it was premature to talk about tentative start up.

At present it looks more like 1979 or 1980, if the economics are favourable. Apparently to bring the property into production the capital requirement is in the neighbourhood of \$25,000,000 and the total anticipated  $\rm U_3O_8$  is only 2,000,000 lbs.

Mr. de Bastiani was not sure when an information hearing should be held. The persons present suggested that he should proceed with a public information meeting in the <u>Clearwater area</u> as soon as possible. Mr. de Bastiani questioned the role of the R.M.C. vs the Regional District. He was wondering if he will have to deal with five governments or only four in addition to the various agencies of each governmental department. The answer he received was non-committal.

Later in the day I introduced Mr. de Bastiani to the Assistant Planner of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. Unfortunately, the chairman of the Regional District, Mr. Winters and the Director of Planning, Mr. Virdi were out of town. It would appear certain rezoning may be required in the Birch



W. C. Robinson August 18, 1977 Page 2

Island area from rural to industrial if and when the majority of the problems are solved.

On the afternoon of August 18, 1977 Messrs. de Bastiani and Getty had a meeting with the local news media and were hoping to interest either Mr. Blakey from the NL station or Mr. Carter from the CFJC station to chair the anticipated public information meeting of Clearwater in September or October.

B. M. Dudas

B.M. Ludos

1c cc: E. R. Macgegor

19/8/77 De Bastiani Fexspar file re: meeting in Kamloops with RRMC personnel. John Andersa - met with de fastioni + descured After project. Some public jefo mtg, the bette. before end of October -have Thompson - Nicola Regional Statuict.

Break franklin

Agreed Coarware was place to # found out CBC will be around Kantops - taped interies with the radio - project status - notall Will bediseum project with their people week on moving to met stage of investigation.

# Consolidated Rexspar Ltd. Meeting August 16, 1977

| John Brodie       | Pollution Control Branch    | 387-5321     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Aladar B. Dory    | Atomic Energy Control Board | 613-995-3181 |
| J. O'Riordan      | E.L.U.C. Secretariat        | 387-5709     |
| John Davenport    | Kilborn                     | 669-8811     |
| Ron Getty         | Kilborn                     | 669-8811     |
| M. J. de Bastiani | Consolidated Rexspar        | 416-865-1991 |
| Jack Mitchell     | Kilborn                     | 669-8811     |
| Vern Barker       | A.H. Ross & Associates      | 416-366-1653 |
| Ian Allen         | B.C. Research Council       | 224-4331     |
| J. D. McDonald    | Ministry of Mines           | 387-3179     |
| W. C. Robinson    | Ministry of Mines           | 387-3781     |
| J. T. Fyles       | Ministry of Mines           | 387-6242     |
| E. R. Macgregor   | Ministry of Mines           | 387-5489     |

August 17, 1977,

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Ronacher, Box 432, Clearwater, B. C. VOE 1NO

Dear Nr. and Mrs. Ronacher:

Thank you for your letter of August 2, 1977 expressing your concern for the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island. I would like to review with you the steps this Government has taken in establishing conditions for the development of uranium mines in British Columbia and to indicate the current status of the Birch Island project.

May I first point out that no decision has been made by either the Federal or Provincial Government to approve the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company nor have either the Federal or Provincial Government received applications from the company to this effect.

The project is in the proposal stage and requires a full evaluation and assessment before such approvals will be granted. A copy of the news release that I made jointly with my colleague the Minister of Environment, The Honourable James Nielsen, on January 20, 1977 outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. To date the company has submitted a prospectus which is a general description of the proposed development and more recently, a preliminary environmental study of the Birch Island project. The latter report is currently under review by officials of my Ministry and by members of the Uranium Steering Committee referred to in my news release. Many of the concerns that you have raised will be under discussion by these groups.

. . 2

In your letter you have made reference to Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Limited as the author of the Environmental Study of the Birch Island project. It should be noted that the report clearly states that the environmental and socio-economic impacts as described in Sections 4 and 6 of the report were prepared by B. C. Research and not by Kilborn Engineering. The latter firm was concerned with the technical aspects of the project and the proposed environmental control that would be installed.

As part of the review process you will note that the news release makes provision for public hearings which will provide any concerned citizen the opportunity to make presentations. I expect that following the review of the Uranium Steering Committee and assuming that the company wishes to continue investigating the project, that public meetings will be arranged at which such presentations may be made.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

bcc: M. J. De Bastiani

URANIUM 45.

REGISTERED NO HIL # 502 Mr. John S. Ronacher Box 432 Clearwater, B.C. VOE INO August 2, 1977.

Mr. James Chabot Dept. St Mines & Resourses Parliement Buildings Victoria, B.C.

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

AUG 3 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Jim,

I am making a personal plea to you as Mines Minister, to stop the Uranium wire at Birch Island.

We have just moved to Clearisater after looking all over B. C. For the Utopia." It our dreams, We feel we have found it here in Clearwater, it is so peaceful, quiet and slow as compared to the higher populated areas IT B. C. It is perhaps much like Inservere was when you first moved there. We love it here and don't want the wanium wine to chase us away.

If the proposed mine did go ahead we would have to move because we don't want to subject ourselves and our 3 boys to radiation. There are so many health hazards involved and so little known about mining manium sately that I can't understand why any responsible government would allow this mine to go ahead.

How would you feel about a slag pile of radiation, that will be active for 16,000 years, sitting five miles away from your home in Inservere? Would you not be concerned about your taking and friends and try to have it stopped? What if one of your grand children was born with no arms because his nother had been exposed to radiation, many times above the "sale" level when she had been a child. We are concerned we don't want to when she had been a could. We are concerned we don't want to see this idylic country setting spoiled by the ugly wess of mining wranium. We don't want to watch all the beautiful trees die, the cattle become contaminated, the wildlife disappear, all for 21/2-5 years of mining and a few dollars in the pocket of one large multi-national company. national company.

It definitly is folse economy to say clearwater will benifit, as a very small proportion of the prolits will stay in clearwater. The local people of clearwater won't

get the employment, it will be imported. We won't even get toxes from the wine as wines don't pay toxes. The benifits are winimal but the dangers are so great that I think you must ask "Is it worth it?" and if you've got the people, the common every day person in mind, then it is simply is not.

There is no sake way to mine wranjum as is seen in Ontario with Port Hope and Elliott hake. There can be no good from mining it, the health rists are high it is extremely dangerous to use it to create energy and to use it as nuclear weapons will lead us to destruction. The best thing is to leave it in the ground, the satest place for it.

for the people and as a purson in a position of power, don't let this mine go ahead. It just is not worth it

Could you tell us why kilbourn Engineers did the Environmental study and are then given the task of drawing up the plans for the mine? Why, if the mine does go

न।

ahead will a public meeting be held in hamloops instead of clearwater? clearwater? We hope you will consider the our foliops in this matter the majority of people in this area majority of people in this area feel the same as we do.

Sincerely,

In S. Rinach

Judy Ronacher

| MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES  TO: TO: TO: INSTRUCTIONS |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Wish to discuss   | Prepare reply for my signature. |  |
| For your information.   | Prepare draft of reply.         |  |
| For necessary action.   | Return to me.                   |  |
| Send me copy of raply.  | For your comments.              |  |
| DATE: Aug   | 3 77.                           |  |
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DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES
& PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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#### August 17, 1977,

Mr. and Mrs. James Therres, Box 3402, R. R. #2 Clearwater, B. C. VOE 1NO

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Therres:

This will acknowledge your recent letter to Premier W. R. Bennett concerning the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island, B. C. I would like to outline this Government's position concerning the current status of the Birch Island project.

May I first point out that no decision has been made by either the Federal or the Provincial Government to approve the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company, nor have either the Federal or Provincial Government received applications from the company to this effect.

The project is in the proposal stage and requires a full evaluation and assessment before such approvals will be granted. A copy of a news release that I made jointly with my colleague the Minister of Environment, The Honourable James Nielsen, on January 20, 1977 outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. To date the company has submitted a prospectus which is a general description of the proposed development and more recently, a preliminary environmental study of the Birch Island project. The latter study is currently under review by officials of my Ministry and by members of the Uranium Steering Committee. Many of the concerns that you have raised in your letter are being considered during this evaluation.

As part of the review process you will note that the news release makes provision for public hearing which will provide any concerned citizen the opportunity to make presentations.

It is expected that following the review by the Uranium Steering Committee and assuming that the company plans to continue investigation of the project, provision will be made for a public meeting where your concerns will be registered.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

bcc: M. J. De Bastiani

### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM-OURCES

Date: (Sug 8-7)

#### INSTRUCTIONS

|                   | For your approval.     | Prepare reply for my signature |  |  |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
|                   | For your information.  | ☐ Prepare draft of reply.      |  |  |
|                   | For necessary action.  | ☐ Return to me.                |  |  |
|                   | Send me copy of reply. | ☐ Return to file.              |  |  |
|                   | For your comments.     | ☐ For signature.               |  |  |
| □ Wish to discuss |                        |                                |  |  |

**REMARKS:** 

### PREMIERE BILL BENNETT. He are concerned with the effects of set up in Birch Island, G. C. This valley all of canada that is still a wilderness ared. The health hazards are enormered to say the least. saftey procedures in mining waniers. This lue the Insurance companies with not insuste against radiation so why play with such i destructive force. It hat about the tailing from the ment; the will be with me til the end of my left time and in generations to come. They can only be termed a trability tooms life for 2-5 years of economic. Money and continue cannot bring back what we well too in the long telm lease of destruction to the environment and The people. Inflation, land speculation increased taxes and much more expense and a runed vally is what we have to look forward In a some data on transum Mining and who know so little about Unanium Thing I Tell The people the truth and they may begin to respect you . I he don't will a foreinment that only such for big busines; it's time the people who considered. , on you All a transmither MP's got bedend the people and did Parishment wite. If here did the profit is not jo there. It is not convened to it the runs is beneficial and we are to talked water was an arrangement more and nuclear grower.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT.

CC HON. BUB MCLELLAND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE,

PRESIDENT NOP KAMLOOPS CONSTITUENCY.

MLA KAMLOOPS, B.C.

& PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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alice theres

James H. Thorner

RR# 2 BOX SYOZ CLEAKWATER, 13.C. VOE INO.

TTTUNES OF COUNTY

MR & MRS. JAMES THERRES

RR#Z, BOX 340Z

CLEARWATER, B.C.

VOE INO.

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

AUG 8 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
VICTORIA, B.C.

August 17, 1977,

Miss Marcia L. Wedeking, General Delivery, Clearwater, B. C.

Dear Miss Wedeking:

Thank you for your letter of July 31, 1977 outlining your concern and opposition to the establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island, B. C. I would like to review for you the position the Government has taken with respect to the project and to indicate its current status.

May I first point out that no decision has been made by either the Federal or the Provincial Government to approve the extablishment of a uranium mine. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company, nor have either the Federal or Provincial Government received applications from the company to this effect.

The project is in the proposal stage and requires a full evaluation and assessment before such approvals will be granted. A copy of the news release that I made jointly with my colleague the Minister of Environment, The Honourable James Nielsen, on January 20, 1977 outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. To date the company has submitted a prospectus which is a general description of the proposed development and more recently, a preliminary environmental study of the Birch Island project. The latter study which is of a preliminary nature is currently under review by the Uranium Steering Committee. It is expected that a meeting between the company and the Uranium Steering Committee will be held following completion of this review to discuss in more detail various aspects of the project.

. . 2

#### Miss Marcia L. Wedeking

August 17, 1977

As part of the review process you will note that the news release makes provision for a public hearing which will provide any concern citizens the opportunity to make presentations. I believe you will agree that the procedures outlined require a broad review of any uranium proposal prior to the granting of approvals and that stringent safeguards will be undertaken to ensure that the public safety is protected.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

bcc: M.J. De Bastiani

#### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM SOURCES

Prepare reply for my signature. ☐ For your approval. ☐ For your information. ☐ Prepare draft of reply. ☐ For necessary action. Return to me. ☐ Send me copy of reply. ☐ Return to file. ☐ For your comments. ☐ For signature. ☐ Wish to discuss. REMARKS:

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED DEPUTY MINISTER OF & PETROLEUM RESOURCES AUG 3 1977 REC'D 1694 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS REFERRED VICTORIA, B.C. DAFE ACCTS A. D. M. uly 31, 1977 A. D. P. M. R. E. & P. A. D. FILE

Hon. James Chabot
Minister of Mines and Petroleum
Parliament Bldg.
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I AM AGAINST THE PROPOSED BIRCH ISLAND URANIUM MINE. As a resident of East Blackpool, which is only ten miles south of Birch Island, I am horrified that the population of this area will be directly exposed to radioactive dust and to the lung cancer-producing gas radon-222 blowing from the mine. In addition, radioactive materials from the ore refining process will be leaking into our ground water and thence into the Thompson River. We will be left with a radioactive tailings pond, which the engineering firm building the mine has admitted in its report cannot be made 100% leak-proof. Again, this means the leakage of radioactive wastes into the Thompson River. This tailings pond, such as it is, will have to be maintained FOREVER by the people of this province. This mine will be dangerous to the entire population of B.C.

Since you are not opposed to the mine and are not actively fighting to stop it, I can see that you care nothing about the health of the people of this province. You should be removed from office.

| MINISTER OF MINE   | S AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES   |
|--|---|
| INS  Wish to discuss  For your information.  For necessary action. | ☐ Prepare reply for my signature. ☐ Prepare draft of reply, ☐ Return to me. |
| ☐ Send me copy of reply.  DATE:                                    | For your comments,  |

Marcia L. Wedeking
Marcia L. Wedeking
General Delivery
Clearwater, B.C.

Refspar file

والمراجع والمتاب والمراجعين

UJUL 20. 1711

Denison mines, in cooperation with the Department of Mines of British Columbia, plans to build B.C.'s first uranium mine and processing plant at Birch Island just north of Clearwater in the North Thompson valley. This project has been shrouded in secrecy. To date very little information has been made available and no public debate, let alone participation, has been provided for by the B.C. government. In the meantime recent statements made by officials of the Thompson Nicola Regional District indicate that the project may have already been given approval. If this mine, and any future uranium mines, are in the best interests of the people of B.C. why is there no public disclosure and debate?





We live in a world where more and more decisions about the future well-being of our communities are made not by the people directly affected and living in those communities, but by governments and large corporations acting in their own interests. The time is long overdue when the people who ultimately must live with the consequences of these decisions should

- (1.) be provided with <u>more</u> than enough information about the alternatives available and the personal, social and environmental costs and benefits associated with each alternative and
- (2.) be given the right to participate in the decision making process, that is to actively decide on the direction the future development of their community will take.

#### WHY BIRCH ISLAND?

The uranium deposits at Birch Island are relatively small with a life of only five to seven years. Why do Denison Mines and the B.C. government want to exploit this deposit when there are much larger ones elsewhere in B.C. Are the people of the North Thompson area being used as environmental and political guinea pigs?





#### WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC COSTS?

With such a short life will this mine provide a sound base for the kind of development that the people of the greater Clearwater area desire? The miners, technicians, and others will of necessity be imported and these people will move on when the mine runs out. In the meantime the Clearwater area will ride the crest of a short boom period then suffer a prolonged depression afterwards. The results will be inflated land and house prices with speculators as the main beneficiaries. While ordinary people will find it harder to obtain homes and other necessities. There will be increased taxes to relieve pressures on the area's schools, water supply, recreation facilities, roads and sewage disposal. When the mine runs out the town will be left with expensive services without the people or tax base to support them. The quality of life in the Clearwater area could be permanently harmed.

4

#### ARE THERE HAZARLS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH?

There are dangers because radioactivity is released at every point along the nuclear fuel cycle from mining the uranium ore to ultimate disposal of the wastes. As a result uranium mines take their toll on miner lives every year. Over the years miners have breathed radioactive dust and radioactive gas (radon) which seeps from the decaying natural uranium. It took the Ontario government 16 years to implement internationally accepted safe levels of radiation exposure. It is still too early to measure fully the cost in human lives of what might be termed wilful negligence. Many miners have suffered lingering, gruesome deaths from various kings of cancer and silicosis.



### TO DATE B.C. HAS NO LEGISLATION REGARDING SAFETY AND HEALTH IN URANIUM MINERS!

Do we want another Elliot Lake where Denison Mines has an abominable record in protection of human health?

At the very least we should be provided with answers to the following questions:

- 1. What are the dangers associated with mining uranium?
- What impact will this mine have on its employees and the people generally living in the Clearwater area?
- 3. What impact will this mine have on the environment?
- 4. The processing plant and settling ponds will be located very near the North Thompson River. How will waste disposal from the mine and mill affect the river?

#### IS NUCLEAR POWER OUR ONLY ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCE?

明治の大きに、これの あけるちょう

Obviously not but it is the most dangerous and most expensive source. There are other alternatives such as wind, solar power directly from the sun, using the power of the ocean tides, and also a serious programme of conservation. All of these are much cheaper than nuclear power and, more importantly, infinately safer. At present, research into them is woefully under financed and far down on government priorities. We must as a community protest the dangers of nuclear power from mining uranium to reactors to waste dis-



posal, and urge the provinical and federal governments to seek other non-polluting and non depleting energy sources.

We should also consider that uranium is not a fuel like any other. Nuclear reactors and their waste products constitute a danger far beyond anything yet devised. Waste materials remain toxic or highly dangerous for thousands of years. No one can guarantee the safety of such materials for this length of time.

Canada is also engaged in selling uranium and reactors throughout the world. Canada then, along with the United States, must bear the major responsibility for the proleferation of nuclear weapons.

Kin and in

Political View

Ron Anderson President Kamloops New Democratic Party Constituency Association

E. R. Macgregor Assistant Deputy Minister The Honourable James R. Chabot J. T. Fyles, Deputy Minister J.E. Merrett/W.C. Robinson, Inspection Div. J.D. McDonald, Inspection Div. The attached articles from two Kamloops newspapers on the proposed Denison Uranium Mine at Birch Island were forwarded by Bill Budas, of our Kamloops Inspection Office for your information.

August 12, 1977

E.R. Macgregor

Assistant Deputy Minister

ATTACHS.

/99

2 copied orly

To: E.R. Maffgregor

FR: B.M. Dudes

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Ed - Thought you would

like to see our Legional aistrict's wiew on "Vanimi Surprisingly, at The TPC meetings There is no interest concerming Brich Island or The question of radiation. I am on my vacation until neet week and well call when back ni the office.

Regnols Bill.

NO. 182 20 PAGES



The Home Newspaper for Kamloops and South Central British Columbia

KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1977

UNION CAN LAND

SINGLE COPY 20° HOME DELIVERY 85° PER WEEK

# Uranium petition endorse

By BEVERLEY DALTON

Sentinel Staff Writer
A petition demanding a judicial inquiry be held into all aspects of uranium mining in Canada gained the support of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District directors Friday.

The petition was endorsed at a TNRD meeting and will be sent to Jim Nielson, minister of the environment and Rafe Mair, minister of consumer and corporate affairs.

The petition originated in Clearwater, after a public information meeting was held there July 16.

The proposed Dennison mine is scheduled to open in 1978 at Birch Island. Because part of the property is on crown land and the remainder is zoned heavy industrial, directors learned the TNRD would legally have no lever to get in on development. The mining company doesn't require regional district approval for crown land. "We would not be involved unless a smelter was constructed. Then we would have to change the zoning," said Director Walter Winter.

Director Karl Simmerling said he was "alarmed" at the feasibility study prepared by Kilborn Engineering Ltd., and B.C. Research, of Vancouver. "I am convinced the implications and repercussions will be felt throughout the province and the regional district," he said.

Stringent rules were imposed in 1950 when the first mine started in Canada. Simmerling argues that new insight is needed because there is "more evidence of danger."

Director Don Couch said he agrees with calling for aninquiry but is not sure the region is taking the right route. He said the Afton Mines procedure worked out well. "The people's interests were protected." A public inquiry was held.

The petition also gained the support of alternate Director Lois Hollstedt who said the implications of a uranium mine were province wide.

Director Herb George said the federal government couldn't come up with a policy on uranium mining in Canada. "There isn't much chance with the provincial government," he added.

One area that concerns

added.

One area that concerns Simmerling is that the tailing ponds which will hold the residuals need to be water tight. The report indicates a means must be found to protect cattle for 1600 years. "The monitoring cost would be incredible." He claims the dust would blow all over.

over.
With underground uranium mining, conditions can be controlled by sealing it off and



WALTER WINTER ... regional chairman

pressurizing it, Simmerling explained. This can't be done with an open area, he pointed out. "There is more danger of inhaling gas. You can't control emmision in an open pit operation, it goes into the air."

Uranium waste is stored in concrete. "The trouble is there is no technology available explain how long concrete will last,' he said.

The total life expectancy of the mine is four years as outlined in the report. A further 11 years is possible. Simmerling said it is expected the local economy will be boosted by 1 mill.

mill.

mill.

The report also calls for 17 additional local people to be hired, bringing total employment to 86. One reason for the low employment, said Simmerling is the company is not interested in training people. "The reason for this is that there is no time, the mine is slated to open next year."

Ten extra houses will be constructed as a result of the mine.

Simmerling stressed the

simmerling stressed the importance of implementing legislation before the mine is operational and it "kills" the tourism.

## The Regional

EDITOR NENA JOY (Ext. 41)



# TNRD alarmed by Birch Island mine implications

A petition circulating in Clearwater wants a "full judicial inquiry" into uranium mining in B.C. and the Thompson Nicola Regional District voted to back the demand at the monthly Read of the circulating in biased document" with "highly alarming" implications.

As an example Simmerling circled Kilborne's recomdemand at the monthly Board of Directors' meeting Friday.

impassioned plea by Area A director Karl Simmerling asking the Board to make itself heard "before the area is contaminated" and "hun-

400 page report on the effects of the proposed uranium mine and smelter at Birch Island near Clearwater. He said he years. found the report, com-missioned by Rexspar and carried out by Kilborne "How can somebody with a lifespan of 70 years make this commitment?"

As an example Simmerling cited Kilborne's recommendation that "stringent mendation that "stringent controls" be put into effect to keep the tailings pond at the mine site "water tight." Then he said the report went on to imply that modern technology is incapable of carrying out the recommendation.

future committed."

Simmerling said he has spent many hours reading a 400 page report on the office.

Simmerling said the best known material can guarantee a water tight tailing pond for a maximum pond f years yet Kilborne maintains the ponds will require monitoring for at least 8,000



WALTER WINTERS TNRD Chairman

proposed mine Board proposed at Birch Island are chairman Walter Winters new. "They don't know the pointed out the TNRD "seems implications," he said. powerless" to affect the decision of whether or not the mine will be approved. The site is located partially on site is located partially on the site is located partial parti crown land and partially on land owned by Rexspar and already zoned heavy industrial. The Board's only involvement would come when zoning changes were required for the smelter.

Kambana and partially on tension to 11 more years under favorable circumstances.

According to the report 17 local people would be employed during this period and ten new houses would probably be built in Clear-

probably be built in Clear-

Ramloops alderman Don Couch questioned the need for a full judicial inquiry and was told "a public inquiry can be ignored," and "wouldn't affect provincial legislation," Simmerling also pointed out although underground uranium mining has been probably be built in Clearwater.

Simmerling said although he realized the TNRD has no legal right to get into the "fray", the "people have a natural right to know" how the mine will affect their area.

uranium mining has been The report lists the start-up going on for many years, open date for the mine as May 1978.

Parliament Buildings Victoria British Columbia V8V 1X4

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

July 29, 1977.

Mr. Dan Coleman, P.O. Box 364, CLEARWATER, B. C. VOE 1NO

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Thank you for your letter of July 17th, 1977 expressing your concern about the proposed establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island, British Columbia.

In your letter you have made reference to a number of points arising from your review of the Preliminary Environmental Study of the proposed project, prepared by Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd., and B.C. Research. should be noted that the report clearly states the Environmental and Socio-economic impacts as described in sections 4 and 6 of the report were prepared by B.C. Research and not by Kilborn Engineering. The latter firm was concerned with the technical aspects of the project and the proposed environmental control that would be installed. It must be recognized that this is a preliminary assessment only and no commitments have been made by either the Provincial or Federal Government with respect to granting the requisite permits, nor has the company indicated that it will proceed to the point where permits and approvals are required.

On January 20th, 1977, I and my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen, issued a News Release which states British Columbia's policy concerning the conditions under which exploration, development, and mining of uranium will be permitted. I have attached a copy for your information. You will note that a Uranium Mining Steering Committee has been established which is currently reviewing the preliminary environmental assessment and is co-ordinating the responses of the various Government agencies to which this report has been referred. Included in their list of concerns will be the disposal of wastes from the milling and mining operations and the location and design of suitable tailings disposal areas. This assessment will then be discussed with the company and their consultants in order

**QRIGINAL SIGNED** BY MINISTER

James R. Chabot, MINISTER.

Enclosure

MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

TO: Charles

INSTRUCTIONS

Wish to discuss

Prepare reply for my signatures

For your information.

Prepare draft of reply.

For necessary action.

Return to rise.

Send me copy of reply.

For your comments,

Marker of Marks,

Parliament Building,

Victoria, B.C.

Mr Chabot

As you a aware, there is a

Dan Coleman, Box 364, Cleauvater, July 17, 1971.

MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Mr Chabot

Co you a aware, there is an effort being made to establish a working Unanum mini in Brich Woland. The will be an effort, a concerted effort, made to ensure the mine is never established.

The mine is never established.

Several disturbing facts have been revealed there the environmental timpact study conducted by Kilbern Engineering. Jone of their concerns an listed below.

obviously, when it is obstained that the same Engine Company that canad out the Enveronmental Impact St. as the same Company that will carry out the slisingning a construction of the mine. It is obsticall to belove that they (kilborn) would come up out has destructed to the discount to the discount of the mine and this destriment of the mine and this destriment and the same of the same and the destriment and the same and the destriment of the mine and the destriment of the same of the same and the destriment of the same of the same and the same

of wanuum in Canada or elsewhere, of the safe landle of rediractive wastes. In the open pit mining operation proposed at Birch Island there will be radio active dust, tailings and gas (Radon zer) that will have to be controlled at the time of the mining and for 80 thousand years (thomas afterwards. What will Denison do at Birch Elsbad?

pond seven feet about the 100 -year flood level. The so concluded that the flood level inight use more than so feet in the next few thousand years. Since the radioach comains in the tailings for thousands of year thur is the district possiblity of disasterior, flood. Ut is also amore leverate that within the Commater Simprovement District, resident and businessmen are not primited to build below the 200 right flood level.

A Bitch Columbia has no policy concurring health and carety Handards to be used in the divelopment of Granum minimal set seems incredible that a meaning ment development could have proceeded this far without the establishment of policy. In establishment of policy it would be highly distrible to restellish a board of signing similar to that being carried out in Sarkatchen under the name of the Chiff hake Enginery.

that this mine will serve no worful peopose. Huclear power, by the everwhelming danger presented in its development, wa totally unfeasible long range on short range engergy source. Apart from the potentially neighnaid dangers surrounding the production of muclear power, there are semply too many unsolved problems associated with the mere mining of Marium one. While there were known to be learned at third lake and Port Hope, the mustake made there have made it clear that we cannot afford to learn to make mining Manum sefe. It is a sefety that cannot be achieved economically if at all. The cost in lives wa denied of past afor standards and their effectivines.

The people of Buil Usland and Cleanate donet intente to allow the Buch Estand name to be a stopping store to the establishment of sope scramming production. Conceill not suffer the cest of the indoneum of sofe manimum mining technology. There will be more in our time and me mane a community should have to endenge the risks and istablish tiesers, that are part and parcel of warming and our concentration, in order to make it safe.

Dinnison Mine and be left with the hazard, fear and potential duth for generations

a footsuite which may make more sense to you as a keen politician concerns the survival of your party as a political entity in Kambops and the Thompson Valley.

Should your party be so shortsighted as to allow the establishment of this mune in Burch Usland, the first nothing of the drilling sig will sound the death nellog the Social Credit party in this valley. Ohile attistine claim associated with no political while attistine claim associated with no political while myself party it can assure you that it and many other like myself will do everything possible, should themine goin, to ensure will do everything possible, should themine goin, to ensure will do everything possible, should the mine goin, to ensure will do everything possible, should the mine goin with valley. Social Credit party is never clated to pour in this Valley.

Social Credit party is never clated to pour in this Valley.

We will not stand able and be used as pawns in this we will not proguest game when we have finished with the said your will know when the north Thompson Valley is; Domit which Man seems to have fougotten.

Since you will seems to have fougotten.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINISTER & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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Mr. Don Ellsay, President, Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society, Box 244, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 2E9

Dear Mr. Ellsay:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 18th 1977 requesting assistance in obtaining copies of the Prospectus and Preliminary Environmental Impact Study on the Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd., project at Birch Island, B.C.

As I indicated to you in my letter of July 8th 1977, information is available for public inspection and review at this Ministry's offices on Airport Road in Kamloops. You must recognize that this is a preliminary study and a limited number of copies has been supplied by the company for distribution to various Government agencies. In addition to the copy in the Kamloops office, there have also been copies supplied to Mr. W. Winters, Chairman of the Regional District of Thompson-Nicola and to Mr. Robert A. Cochlan, Chairman of the Clearwater Improvement District. Perhaps you may arrange to borrow a copy of these reports from either of the latter two sources. I am also forwarding a copy of your request to Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd., for their consideration.

A copy of Chapter A-19, Atomic Energy Control Act and the relevant regulations are enclosed as you have requested. Should you require further information concerning this Act or regulations, I would suggest that you direct your enquiry to Mrs. N.S. Blackman, Atomic Energy Control Board, Directorate of Licensing, Safeguards and Nuclear Materials, Licensing Division, P.O. Box 1046, Ottawa, KIP 589.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. CHABOT Minister

Encl:

ERM!bq

C.C. Mr. M. de Bastiani, Denison Mines Ltd., Royal Bank Plaza, P.O. Box 40, Toronto, M5J 2K2 with copy of L.I. 1621

# SPEG

CANADIAN SCIENTIFIC POLLUTION & ENVIRONMENTAL

The Hon. James R. Chabot

VICTORIA, British Columbia

Parliament Buildings

Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources

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Box 244 Kamloops, V2C 2E9 July 18, 1 LALIERO OFFICE
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☐ Wish to discuss

repare reply for my signature.

For your information.

Prepare draft of reply.

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Return to me.

Send me copy of reply.

For your comments.

DATE: Lee

Dear Sir:

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FILE

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of  $J_{\bullet}$  8, 1977 in response to my request for all information presently available on the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island.

Your advice that the Prospectus and the preliminary environmental impact study are available for review by the public at Fulton Field Airport is a thoroughly unsatisfactory arrangement. Our plans require the possession and retention for an extended period of time of these documents and I would specifically request your personal assistance in providing copies to SPEC at the above address within the next few days. If this requires that you reproduce the documents then I would ask that you do so because I believe you have a responsibility to make them freely and conveniently available to citizens and their representative organizations. I can assure you of a very high level of public interest in this matter throughout this part of the province.

In addition, at the same time will you please forward a copy of the Atomic Energy Control Board Regulations concerning exploration, development and production of uranium.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Don Ellsay President

Scientific Pollution &

Environmental Control Society

Mrs. Donna Coleman, Box 364, CLEARWATER, B.C. VOE 1NO

Dear Mrs. Coleman:

Thank you for your letter of July 17th 1977, expressing your concern for the possible establishment of a uranium mine at Birch Island by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd.

May I first point out that no decision has been made by either the Federal or the Provincial Government to approve the establishment of a uranium mine. In addition, no such decision has been made by the company nor have either the Federal or Provincial Government received applications from the company to this effect.

The project is in the proposal stage and requires a full evaluation and assessment before such approvals will be granted. A copy of a News Release that I made jointly with my colleague the Minister of Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen, on January 20th 1977, outlines the stringent requirements that must be met by any uranium development before the requisite permits and approvals can be granted. To date, the company has submitted a Prospectus, which is a general description of the proposed development and, more recently, a preliminary environmental study of the Birch Island project. Both of these reports are available for public inspection and review at the Ministry's offices, 2985 Airport Drive in Kamloops. In addition, copies of the reports have been sent to Mr. Robert A Cochlan, Chairman of the Clearwater Improvement District. You may wish to contact Mr. Cochlan for review of the reports.

I must reiterate that this project is in the proposal stage only and any timetables indicated in either of the two reports previously mentioned are to illustrate the steps necessary, leading to the establishment of the project. As part of the review process you will note that the News Release makes provision for public hearing which will provide any concerned citizens the opportunity to make presentations.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. CHABOT Minister

Encl:

Box 364 Clearwater BC

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Minister of Mines Parliament Blogs Victoria BC

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July 17, 1977 MINISTER'S OFFICE LECEIVED

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Mr. Chabot: The

Kegarding the proposed uranium mine at

Birch Islamo:

There is everysunding concern here, now that radioactivity threatens our backgard; concern that shales The Catizen out of accustomed apathy; apathy that stems from thinking you carriet fight city half. I am not alone light a housewife and mother I am willing to devote every ounce of my energy to inform people not yet award of the imminent and worldwide canger of would could happen here if we let it. Some of our Community has been informed with books, Silms, speakers and pamphlets. The facts speak for themselves. Other communities have been able to prevent nuclear projects from happening. You, as minister of mines, must be aware of the facts by withe of your position. From them, there is only one conclusion to be drawn: the vianium most Stay in the ground. Any view that suggests nuclear

posser can be made safe is a view that is hiding from the thath. The article in the Vancouver Sun, pb Thurs July 14, 1977 by Lille d'Easum gives a comprehensive picture.

This is not the time to be thinking ey short term political goals. What you're dealing with is a Pandora's box that an never be closed exply again. To keep radioactive waste tailings safe for that amount of time implies rigid and costly searrily measures. This is only one part of the reasons for not tampeting with nucleor power. They reasonable economist would agree that it is more expensive in the long run than fossil fuel energy, with while cliphant reactors hulking on the landscape, having to be accommissioned in 75 years.

Can you, in all conscience, okay the construction of a mine for the spring of 18, for which no safety policy is legislated because there really can be no such safety policy and no insurance company can touch nuclear power claims.

among those informed is strong, completely against cevelopment, and organized. Cold-bloodedly organized in fact, cefter being by turns topaless then anary.

The government has told the public nothing after phase one is almost completed. What are gon going to tell me? I honestly and sincerely hope that you one considering the harm of nuclear power and uranuum mining for our community, B.C., and in a broader scope, Canada and even the world. Let's have BC become a forerummer for affectivate uses of power, not a dumping ground of radioactive waste.

Yours Huly, Donna Coleman

| TOI PR                                       | AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES                    |
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| ☐ Wish to discuss                            | TRUCTIONS  Prepare reply for my signature. |
| For your information.  For necessary action. | Prepare draft of reply.  Return to me.     |
| Send me copy of reply.                       | For your comments.                         |
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WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.....

July 26, 1977

Mr. W. N. O'Brien
Vice President
Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and
Chemicals Limited
20th Floor, 4 King Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 1C2

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

#### Re: Birch Island Uranium Property

Recently I inspected the above property, particularly the BD, B and the A zone areas where exploration work was carried out last fall.

I telephoned your office yesterday and was advised that you will not be back until next week. I am interested to find out who is your company's official representative in British Columbia and to whom I should address my correspondence with regard to my recent inspection of your mineral property. Perhaps I shall call you again next Tuesday or Wednesday (August 2 or 3).

In case you do not have a current copy of the B. C. Mines Regulation Act and Guidelines for Coal and Mineral Exploration, a copy of each is enclosed.

REGEIVEN

JUL 271977 465

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Yours very truly,

Mr. B. M. Dudas, P.Eng.

Inspector of Mines and Resident Engineer

BMD:1c

Enclosures (2)

cc: E. R. Macgregor, Assistant Deputy Minister of Mines

J. E. Merrett, Acting Chief Inspector of Mines

#### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Date: JULY 26/77 BILL DUDAS ED MACENTHOR To: INSTRUCTIONS ☐ Prepare reply for my signature. ☐ For your approval. For your information. ☐ Prepare draft of reply. ☐ For necessary action. ☐ Return to me. ☐ Send me copy of reply. ☐ Return to file. ☐ For signature. ☐ For your comments. □ Wish to discuss. REMARKS: RE: (BIRCH ISLAND IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT THE ATTACHED. Regards Bill

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES &

PETROLEUM RESOURCES

TO: Distribution - See attached list.

RE: Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project Prepared by: Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd., and B.C. Research, dated March, 1977.

.

DATE: June 9, 1977.

Ottawa.

Enclosed is a copy of the above mentioned report, which has been forwarded to provincial government agencies listed in the attached distribution list. Six copies of the report have been forwarded to the Atomic Energy Control Board in

It is requested that each office review the report and forward their comments to this office by July 15th, 1977 for review by the Uranium Mining Steering Committee.

The proposed uranium mine must meet all the provincial requirements as well as the regulations issued by the A.E.C.B. Prior to issuing a permit to start construction, public meetings must be held to discuss the project as laid down by the A.E.C.B.

To co-ordinate the provincial and federal agencies, a "Uranium Mining Steering Committee" was appointed, consisting of the following members:

Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources - J.D. McDonald, P.Eng.

Ministry of Environment - Dr. J. O'Riordan

Atomic Energy Control Board (Ottawa) - A.B. Dory, P.Eng.

A copy of the report is on file in the Kamloops office of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources and can be viewed by citizens or groups at that location. The office is located at 2985 Airport Drive, Kamloops, B.C., telephone number 376-7201.

J.D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Uranium Mining Steering Committee

Wellowald

JDM: jau Encls.

copy: Dr. J.T. Fyles, B. Marr, A.B. Dory, J. O'Riordan, R. Getty.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8V 1X4

FILE NO.....

#### MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH

#### DISTRIBUTION LIST

Preliminary Environmental Study

of the

Proposed Birch Island Project

Prepared by:

KILBORN ENGINEERING (B.C.) LTD.

AND

B.C. RESEARCH

DATED MARCH 1977

| MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES   | -        | Dr. J.T. Fyles (Deputy Minister) Dr. A. Sutherland-Brown (Chief Mineralological Division) D.M. Dudas |
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| ENV IRONMENT  | - '      | Dr. J. O'Riordan (Asst. Director, ELUC Secret-<br>ariat)   |
|   | _        | A.N. Boydell (R.A.U.)  |
|   | -        | F. Hodgson (P.C.B.)  |
|   | -        | T. Leach (Water Resources)   |
| FORESTRY  | _        | H. Bancroft  |
| HIGHWAYS  | _        | D. Readshaw, Director  |
| RECREATION AND CONSERVATION   | -        | B. Simonsen, Archaeological  |
| •   | -        | J. Anderson, Fish and Wildlife   |
|   | -        | B. Rice, Parks Branch  |
| HEALTH  | -        | Dr. H. Richards - Public Health  |
| LAND COMMISSION   | -        | G. Runka - Director  |
| HUMAN RESOURCES   | -        | R. Willems - Community Program Branch  |
| LABOUR  | -        | J. Schuyff - Research & Planning   |
| MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS   | _        | G. Harkness - Planning Services  |
| PUBLIC WORKS  | -        | D. Youngson - Programming Branch   |
| CHAIRMAN - Regional Resource Mar<br>CHAIRMAN - Regional District - M<br>CLEARWATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT | ir. W. W |  |

July 7, 1977,

MINISTRY OF MINES
AND PEIROLEUM RESOURCES
REC'D. HIM 15 1.77

Reverend Peter Rolston, Mount Paul United Church, 140 Laburnum Street, Kamloops, B. C.

Dear Peter:

#### Re. Denison Rexspar Property

Thank you for your letter of June 24, 1977 and your expression of good wishes. I would agree that the mining industry is an important one to the Province of British Columbia which is meeting the challenge of extracting our mineral resources subject to environmental safeguards we have established in the public interest.

Following my January 20th news release on the Rexspar Uranium Property of Cenison Mines at Birch Island, the company submitted a prospectus which outlines in general terms their plan of development. Very recently the company submitted their stage one report outlining a preliminary environmental impact study of the proposed mine. These are both fairly substantial reports and therefore we have not undertaken to reproduce them, however, they are available for review by the public at our offices in Kamloops at 2985 Airport Drive. I would suggest that you contact Mr. David Smith, our District inspector and Resident Engineer at that office. Mr. Smith will be pleased to permit you to examine these documents. In addition, this office will have copies of the Atomic Energy Control Board Regulations concerning exploration, development and production of uranium which you may also wish to review. After having perused these requirements, I think you will agree that very stringent conditions must be satisfied before the production of uranium will be permitted.

Thank you for your invitation to visit your home. Perhaps I can take such an opportunity on one of my future visits to Kamloops.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Chabot

MINISTER

Dank 1

BCC. Mr. David Smith

bcc: J. D. ! onald

B. M. Dudas B-Soder



WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO

101 - 2985 Airport Drive Kamloops, B. C. V2B 7W8 July 20, 1977

Mr. Gordon F. Gibson, M.L.A. Leader of the Liberal Party in British Columbia Room 229 Legislative Buildings Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

As requested in your letter of July 18, a copy of the Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project will be sent to you as soon as possible.

I will also be sending further information on this subject, which was prepared by the Atomic Energy Board and the uranium mining industry.

Yours truly,

David Smith, P.Eng. Inspector of Mines

and Resident Engineer

DS:so

# Uranium mine plans KAM LOOPS NEWS 'shrouded in secrecy'

If the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island is in the interests of the people of British Columbia, why has the "project been shrouded in secrecy," asked Ron Anderson, president of the Kamloops NDP Constituency Association recently.

Anderson says recent statements by members of the Thompson Nicola Regional District indicate that the project "may have already been given approval."

Anderson said the people who will be affected by the mine should be given "more than enough" information about the project and its alternatives, including the "personal, social and environmental costs and benefits" of each method. He added they must have the "right to participate" in the decision which will affect the future development of their community.

Anderson said an important

question is why Birsh Island would be chosen as a site for a uranium mine and processing plant at all, He claims the deposits are small in the area and would result in a mine life of no more than five to seven years.

"There are much larger ones elsewhere in B.C.," he said and added that it's possible the people of this area are being used as "guinea pigs" by the provincial government and Denison

Mines.

Anderson said the miners, technicians and other skilled personnel at the uranium mine would not be Clearwater residents. Their presence will cause a short-lived boom and "inflated land and house prices with speculators as the main beneficiaries," he predicted.

Anderson foresees an increase in taxes to cover pressure on area schools, water supply, recreation

facilities, roads and sewage disposal followed by a "long depression" when the mine wears out and the workers leave. The town "will be left with expensive services without the people or tax base to support them," he said.

He added that B.C. has "no legislation" protecting the safety and health of uranium mine workers and "no one can guarantee the safety of such materials (highly toxic wastes) for years."

# More facts needed - Simmerling

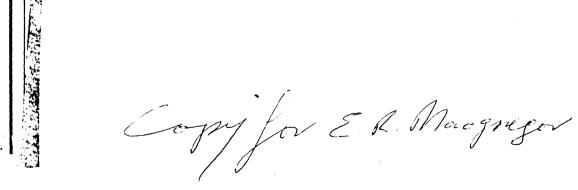
By MARINA DENEEF

CLEARWATER — Karl Simmerling, Regional District representative for the Clearwater area, stated Tuesday that although the facts presented at the recent public meeting on the uranium mine issue were well explained, he felt that further meetings must be held to discuss both sides of the issues.

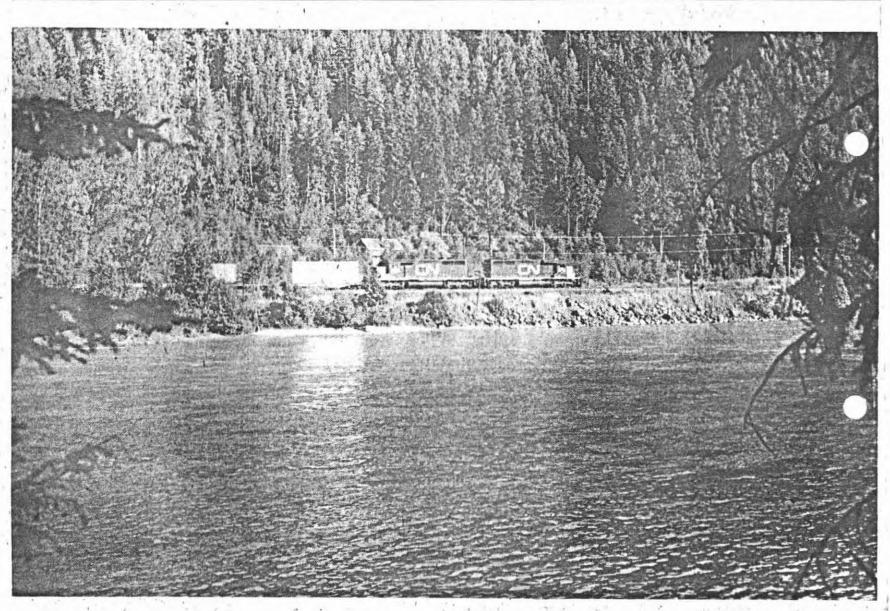
People must become involved he said, as too much is at stake for the residents of the area not to be well informed.

He stated firmly, to those present at the meeting, that he did not believe in civil disobedience and would not become involved or condone any such type of action.

He said he had only started to absorb the lengthy preliminary report on the proposed mine which he received earlier.



# The Regional EDITOR



"THE LONGEST MORTGAGE ever taken out" is the way one opponent of the proposed

Clearwater uranium mine expressed his opinion at a recent meeting of the Yellowhead Ecological Society. Advocates say the Clearwater area will

benefit economically but adversaries, claim the environment could be

damaged for thousands of years and economic benefits would be shortlived.

MINES AND PETROLEUM RESO PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8V

R.C. Setty

Killon Engung (BC.) feet. 669-8811

#### MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH

1835 Fort Street. Victoria, B.C. V8R 1J6. July 25, 1977.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF I 2 PETROLEUM RESOL

TERROOD TO I DATE I TO

Mr. M. de Bastiani, Denison Goal Limited, Royal Bank Plaza, P.O. Box 40, TORONTO, Ontario. M5J 2K2.

Dear Sir:

Birch Island Project - Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited.

We are in receipt of comments from some of the Government agencies which are attached for your perusal. I have not summarized these to take out what might be considered irrelevant, I trust that we can review these at a later date.

It would be very desirable to meet with the officials of Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited at an early date. I would suggest that we tentatively set a date of Tuesday, August 16th at 9:00 o'clock, in this office, at the above-noted address. Present at the meeting would be your company representatives and consultants with the government agencies being represented by the Uranium Mining Steering Committee, myself, Dr. J. O'Riordan of the Ministry of Environment, Mr. A. Dory of the Atomic Energy Control Board, Ottawa, a representative of the Pollution Control Board and our Deputy Minister. At the meeting the concerns expressed by the government agencies would be reviewed and discussed, the program and schedule proposed by Consolidated Rexspar and the time and date and procedure of a public meeting which we believe should be held in September 1977.

If there are any questions or changes in meeting dates, please advise this office at an early opportunity. If we receive further comments from government agencies, these will be forwarded on to you on receipt.

J. D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Chairman,

Uranium Uranium Mining Steering Committee.

JDM: jau

copy: Mr. B. Marr, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Jr. J. T. Fyles, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Dr. J. O'Riordan, Mr. A. B. Dory, Mr. J.E. Merrett, Mr. B. Dudas.

#### **MEMORANDUM**

| то Е, | Sadar, D. Smith, |
|-------|------------------|
| J.    | , Thomson        |

FROM THE

## DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Kamloops WAXXXXB.C., July 20 , 19 77

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER

TO FILE No.....

#### Re: Acts and Regulations on Uranium Mining

I have assembled various information on Acts and regulations concerning uranium mining and radiation hazards in Canada. The booklet is being kept with the preliminary study on Birch Island with our secretaries. A copy of the index on the above is attached and if you have any additions, please let me know.

B. M. Dudas

B.M. Dudos

BMD:so

Enclosure

cc: E. Macgregor /

J. E. Merrett

J. D. McDonald

Consolidated Reppar Minerals and Chemical Std. P.O. Box 40 Royal Bank Plaza Formto, Ontares M55 2K2

Noel 0' Brien M. Ne Bastiani

V.P.

(416) 865-1991 Telex 065 24135

# INDEX TO CANADIAN ACTS AND REGULATIONS ON URANIUM MINING AND RADIATION HAZARDS

- 1. Atomic Energy Control Act: Atomic Energy Control Regulations SOR/74-334, 4 June 1974.
- 2. Chapter A-19, Atomic Energy Control Act, R. S., c. 11, s. 1.
- 3. Atomic Energy Control Act: Atomic Energy Control Board Orders.
- 4. Chapter 29, Nuclear Liability Act (1969-70, c. 67).
- 5. AECB, Licensing Guide No. 31: Guide to The Licensing of Uranium and Thorium Mine-Mill Facilities, August 27, 1976.
- 6. AECB-1106, Atomic Control Board and the Uranium Mining Industry, by R. M. Duncan, April 1977
- 7. AECB: Brief to the Royal Commission on the Health and Safety of Workers in Mines in Ontario, 3 June 1975
- 8. AECB 1098: The Role of the Atomic Energy Control Board in Uranium Exploration and Mining, 16 November 1976

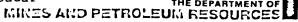
#### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLED RESOURCES

From: Bill Audas To: Erl Maffiney INSTRUCTIONS ☐ For your approval. ☐ Prepare reply for my signature. For your information. Prepare draft of reply. ☐ For necessary action. Return to me. ☐ Send me copy of reply. Return to file. ☐ For your comments. ☐ For signature. ☐ Wish to discuss. REMARKS: DE: Birch Island et Jolan

bcc: J. D. McDonald

B. M. Dudas

E. Sadar



WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO

101 - 2985 Airport Drive Kamloops, B. C. V2B 7W8 July 20, 1977

Mr. Gordon F. Gibson, M.L.A.
Leader of the Liberal Party
 in British Columbia
Room 229
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

As requested in your letter of July 18, a copy of the Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project will be sent to you as soon as possible.

I will also be sending further information on this subject, which was prepared by the Atomic Energy Board and the uranium mining industry.

Yours truly,

David Smith, P.Eng. Inspector of Mines and Resident Engineer

DS:so

## BIRCH ISLAND

KAMILORPS NEWS

# Mine will leave a million year '

By MARINA DENEEF

CLEARWATER — About 100 people attended an informational meeting sponsored by the Yellowhead Ecological Association Saturday afternoon. Although the meeting was called to discuss the pros and cons of the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island, the speakers were definately one sided.

The meeting was moderated by Ross Smith, personnel manager of the Weverhaeuser mill at Vavenby. Guest speakers were Dr. Peter Walford, Reimar Kroecher and Dorothy Rosenburg.

Dr. Walford gave a short resume of the unhappy history of uranium mining in Canada and the U.S. He challenged the residents of Clearwater on their responsibilities in supporting a mine which will last only about 2.5 years and will give off radiation for a million years. Is this the legacy we will leave for future

generations?

Contrary to earlier information, he stated there is no safe level of radiation. Standards set 16 years ago have now been cut by onefourth.

Radon radiation will last 6400 years and thorium radiation will affect children's and young adults' internal organs and cause serious genetic defects, Smith said. Ontario already has four radioactive water systems including the Serpentine River he added.

Dr. Walford stated there had been over-use of X-Rays in medicine and he personally had cut the use of X-rays by one-tenth in his practice.

He said the use of nuclear energy is the longest mortgage ever taken, a liability against all future generations of man.

Dr. Walford's address was followed by a short question and answer period and a film

about one man's stand against the installation of a nuclear water plant in Connecticut.

Reimar Kroecher, professor of economics, discussed the economics of the proposed mine. He suggested that the miners employed by the mine will not be local. people but unionized miners from other parts of Canada. About two-thirds of the 80 people employed by the mine will not be from this area, he said. The presence of a uranium mine would cause a strong decline in the tourist industry, Kroecher felt. He stated the government and industry argues the mine will create jobs, help balance the payments for export and create needed energy.

However, he pointed out in 1973 we were told Canadians would never run out of natural gas and we had enough to sell at a low cost for export. We are now locked into long term contracts. In 1976, a complete reversal of this line of thought was announced, and we were told we have only sufficient oil to last until 1982 and natural gas to 1985.

The economics of nuclear power are terrible he said. The loss on one reactor sold to Argentina was \$180 million. This amounts to \$9. for every Canadian. Kroecher stated we pay for atomic energy three times, through our utilities, through taxes and through the cost of containing the nuclear wastes. He suggested that no matter how we look at the problem, locally or broader, the economics don't add up. There is no insurance company in the world which will insure against a nuclear accident.

He closed his remarks with

the question "Do we have the right to jeopardize the lives of all future generations?"

Dorothy Rosenburg covered the way different areas are attempting to force the government to launch a full inquiry into the effects of uranium mining. She stated that our local names, Clearwater and Birch Island, spoke of a natural environment which will be forever lost if the mine goes ahead.

The YEA group is sponsoring a petition to be sent to the provincial government requesting a full judicial inquiry, with public par-ticipation, into the proposed development of the Birch Island uranium mine and uranium mines in B.C. in general.

They request a moratorium be placed on the development of the Birch Island mine until ah inquiry is held and the report released to the public.

# ura

By BEVERLEY DALTON Sentinel Staff Writer

CLEARWATER --- Over 100 people signed a peotion requesting the provincial government hold a full public inquiry into the proposed Birch Island uranium mine.

The petition also calls for an inquiry into F all aspects of uranium mining in Canada.

Thompson-Nicola Regional District director Karl Simmerling said there is no legislation in B.C. concerning uranium mines and safeguards. "If they don't hurry with the legislation, the mine could be here

He believes the government should hold an inquiry or a moratorium." They responsible to find out what happens.

Simmerling said "we were told that in insurance company will honor a claim related to any accident concerned with uranium mining or radioactivity." He described this as being "unfair."

It's the purpose and duty of the govern-

ment to protect individuals with the strongest safeguards against any hazards, according to the director.

Leverne Isert, chairman of the Yellowhead Ecological Association Kamloops chapter, said, "The trouble is they w. don't know the limits of the problems that can

aspects of uranium mining in Canada. Life created with radioactive material."

At a meeting held here saturday, it is said the people are expected to have a uranium mine in their district and on the ther side they refuse to give people a real say in what is going on. PROTECT US

e Isert said all mines could't continue to operate if they had to assume full responsibility for insurance. He added that if there is a problem the government is supposed to "protect us." 'The trouble is its been a hands off policy since uranium mining came to Canada," he said.

Another area of concern is the lack of information made available to the public. "Some people don't realize the ramifications

of having a uranium mine." The world market makes it an economic reality," he

Isert explained in the long term there are no economics involved for Clearwater people. "The people promoting the mine are in a position to make money," he said. About 60 to 80 jobs will be available.

Isert predicts that Clearwater will have a stigma attached to it if the mine goes through and will destroy the tourist industry. "The mine will depress the whole area," he said.

Simmerling described governments across the country as being sensitive to the possible dangers connected with uranium. He obtained a copy of the feasibility study prepared by Kilborn Engineering Ltd., and B.C. Research of Vancouver. The report was commissioned by the provincial government. DOCUMENT

He said the report mentions a second document dated May 1977 to be released. He described the preliminary study as being

very objective. "There is no whitewashing and it's very factual," he said.

Simmerling said some people don't realize there will be a drastic affect on everything going on in the vicinity. He criticized the government for being too "secretive."

He stressed the overall need for people be informed, "Public meetings ar necessity." He added that the starting date for the mine is May 1978 which was indicated in the document.

Trustees of the Improvement Distict fear the mine will have a serious impact on their community.

At a meeting that was held Thursday. trustees indicated the operation of the mine would seriously affect the community if all possible security precautions aren't abided

"We see no definite impact in regard to work for the area and it won't help the community that much." a statement released indicates.

### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM ESOURCES

| Prom: B.M. DUDAS  To: E.R. MACGREGION  INSTRUCTIONS |                                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| ☐ For your approval.                                | Prepare reply for my signature. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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346 Oak ROSEPARTMENT OF MINES & Kamloops BEFROLEUM RESOURCES
V23 IK8
July 22, 1977

AUG 4

J.D.MacDonald,
Chairman, Uranium Mining Steering Committee,
Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources,
I835 Fort Street,
VICTORIA, B.C.
V8R IJ6



Re: Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project

Dear Sir:

A number of concerned persons have asked me to write to you on their behalf because we are experiencing difficulty obtaining a copy of the above report for study.

Since the document is lengthy and we are anxious to obtain an intelligent assessment of the problems identified in the report we feel that the casual perusal available to us at the Office of the Inspector of Mines in short sessions is unsatisfactory. The copy sent to the Regional District is not readily available to the general public and other copies are in equally inaccessible offices.

Would you please send our group a copy at your earliest convenience.

Would you please advise me as to where and when the public hearings will be held. Also what the terms of reference are. Can anyone speak or are "expert " opinions required? Is there a place for the layman? Must briefs be filed in advance and if so to whom should they be sent.

Are there any funds available for groups such as ours to obtain the expertise we require to research our concerns?

Respectfully,

Margaret E. Chpman

Ad Foc Committee to Study the

Proposed Uranium Mine at Birch
Island.

cc. Fon. V. Bennnett, Premier

Fon. Rafe Mair, Minister of Consumer Affairs

3.M. Dudas, Inspector of Mines, Kamloops

Fon. Dave Barrett

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# Opposition

#### By MOIRA FARROW

Planning is continuing for a uranium mine and mill near Clearwater, but the mining company behind the development is not anxious to talk.

And opposition to the mine is growing in the B.C. Interior.

The project, which would be the first uranium mine in B.C., has been proposed by Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd., of which Denison Mines Ltd. of Toronto is the major shareholder.

The company submitted a prospectus to the provincial government last November for a mine at Birch Island about eight miles north of Clearwater.

The mine would employ about 80 people and produce 1,000 tons of ore a day.

Representatives of Denison, the provincial government and the federal Atomic Energy Control Board met in January to discuss the project.

But when Denison public relations officer C.D. Parmelee was asked Thursday about the progress of the project, he said all announcements must come from the B.C. government.

"There was a big furore from all the dogooders in B.C. when news of the mine first came out," he said. "This is such a sensitive subject that the government has said it wants to make all announcements."

But Parmelee said the company is continuing with its technical, metallurgical and economic research on the project "in the hopes that we can try to push it shead"

Added Parmelee: "We're hopeful that we can bring Consolidated Rexspar to B.C. one day."

Deputy mines minister Dr. J.T. Fyles said in Victoria on Thursday that he was surprised at Denison's attitude because the company was supposed to be in charge of public relations for the project.

He said the government has heard nothing from Denison since receiving the prospectus on the mine.

"The prospectus was approved and now the company has to prepare a stage one

# growing

report which identifies all possible problems and indicate how these problems can be mitigated," said Fyles.

"That stage one report will be reviewed by a government steering committee which consists of representatives of the mines ministry, the environment and land use secretariat and the Atomic Energy Control Board. At the same time, all interested government agencies will be given the company's report and will make comments on it for the steering committee."

But, said the deputy minister, the government has not yet received this stage one report and has no idea when it will be delivered.

"But we've had a shower of letters from people who are upset about the mine and we've sent copies of them to the company," he said.

"Actually, this will be a very small open pit mine with a limited life and mining conditions won't be hard to control. We will be very severe with our restrictions because we don't want to go down the same route as this company went in Ontario."

The deputy minister was apparently referring to uranium mining at Ellict Lake, Ont., where Denison is one of the companies involved.

A recent royal commission report found that 81 uranium miners had died of lung cancer by the end of 1974 and the United Steelworkers of America claim that at least 10 more have died since then.

Silica, a component in the dust inside all mines, has always been considered the miner's enemy. At Elliot Lake, the ore bodies have some of the highest silica content of any mines in Ontario.

Opposition to the proposed uranium mine at Clearwater is being coordinated by the Yellowhead Ecological Association, which has chapters in both Clearwater and Kamloops.

"The mine is our main concern at the moment," association spokesman Colleen Foster of Clearwater told The Vancouver Sun on Thursday.

# piopoci mino

When we looked at Elliot Lake and other uranium mines we found they had terrible records for negligence in controlling pollution."

She said the association held a public information meeting about uranium mines about a week ago and 70 people attended.

"There is a lot of local concern about this mine, but we haven't decided on our future tactics yet," said Foster. "We understand the company has to apply for re-zoning of its property here, apply to the pollution control branch for a permit and hold public meetings. Also, the Atomic Energy Control Board will have to hold meetings.

"So, until all this happens, we will be gathering information and informing people about the project."

A government statement earlier this year said the Rexspar deposit has been known for many years and contains a variety of valuable minerals in addition to the avanium. A reserve of 1.22 million tons is indicated and the company says that operating at a capacity of 750 to 1,000 tons of ore to the mill a day would keep the mine operational for five to nine years.

Denison is also one of the companies involved in the multi-million dollar coal development under study by the federal

and provincial governments for northeastern B.C.

A government announcement on this project has been expected for several months.

Parmelee told The Vancouver Sun he has "reason to believe" negotiations between Ottawa and Victoria are "proceeding well and Ottawa is taking the whole thing very seriously."

He said Denison will be interested in developing its northeastern B.C. coal only if the federal government agrees to pay about 50 per cent of the costs of the infrastructure — railways, roads and townsites — needed for the project.

"The B.C. government can't finance the project all by itself because the socialist government you had didn't leave the new government with any money for projects like this." said Parmelee.

He said Denison must also be sure of its markets in Japan before going shead with coal mining in B.C. and the company is still having discussions with the Japanese steel industry.

"The money for the infrastructure and the long-term contracts with Japan — everything depends on those two things," he said. "The earliest time we can expect those answers is this fall, but 1978 is more likely."

File Perpar

ME''O DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETRO Kanloops office for info for July 7, 1977,

Reverend Peter Roiston, Mount Paul United Church, 140 Laburnum Street, Kamloops, B. C.

Dear Peter:

#### Re. Denison Rexspar Property

Thank you for your letter of June 24, 1977 and your expression of good wishes. I would agree that the mining industry is an important one to the Province of British Columbia which is meeting the challenge of extracting our mineral resources subject to environmental safeguards we have established in the public interest.

Following my January 20th news release on the Rexspar Uranium Property of Denison Mines at Birch Island, the company submitted a prospectus which outlines in general terms their plan of development. Very recently the company submitted their stage one report outlining a preliminary environmental impact study of the proposed mine. These are both fairly substantial reports and therefore we have not undertaken to reproduce them, however, they are available for review by the public at our offices in Kamloops at 2985 Airport Drive. I would suggest that you contact Mr. David Smith, our District inspector and Resident Engineer at that office. Mr. Smith will be pleased to permit you to examine these documents. In addition, this office will have copies of the Atomic Energy Control Board Regulations concerning exploration, development and production of uranium which you may also wish to review. After having perused these requirements, I think you will agree that very stringent conditions must be satisfied before the production of uranium will be permitted.

Thank you for your invitation to visit your home. Perhaps I can take such an opportunity on one of my future visits to Kamioops.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Chabot MINISTER

BCC. Mr. David Smith

#### MANISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED

JUN 27 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

Mount Paul United Church 140 Laburnum Street Kamloops, B. C. June 24 1977

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MEDIES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

REC'D UN3(74482

EFERRED

The Honourable Jim Chabot, Minister of Mines, Parliament Buildings, VICTORIA, B. C.

Re: Denison Rexspar Property (Buch bland, BC)

Dear Jim:

Greetings! I hope you are enjoying your term as Minister of Mines. It is an important industry and I hope that there will be discoveries and greater production — as long as it doesn't seriously damage the environment and also mean selling off a non-renewable resource at too low a return to the people of B. C.

Would you kindly send this Church up-dated information from your January 20th News Release on the Rexspar Uranium Property of Denison Mines that might be developing. United Church has made several public comments over the last couple of decades on uranium mining and I enclose one of its more recent issues which I think is well researched and authoratative.

In that I have had no answer from Denison's Offices in Calgary I wondered if I could get a copy from your offices of the prospectus and preliminary impact statement by Denison.

Our anxiety here is not so much the mine but the safety control and very real potential hazards for handling of radioactive materials and the byproducts such as radon gas and others getting leaching from the tailing ponds eventually over to the North Thompson River and hence into our water system. The people of the North Thompson don't want anything approaching the disaster of Elliot Lake in Ontario:

I send this with best personal regards - come and visit us sometime. We have a nice house near the Kamloops airport.

Sincerely

Peter Roiston Minister

P.S. This Rexspar property seems small and marginal with a very brief life and hardly worth Denison's heavy development costs.

Not Kno Cour

PETROLEUM RESOURCE

#### Consolidated Rexspar MINERALS & CHEMICALS LIMITED

20TH FLOOR 4 KING STREET WEST TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 1C2

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MITTE

DATE

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(416) 363-4991 A7.7.1.2.7.

& PETROLEUM RESOURCES 9 الزال

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REC'D

June 8, 1976.

Dr. James T. Fyles Deputy Minister Department of Mines and Petroleum Parliament Buildings VICTORIA, B.C. V8V 1X4.

EFERRED/ CTS D. M. D. P. . R. . & P. A. D. FILE

Dear Dr. Fyles,

As you know, Consolidated Rexspar holds uranium and fluorspar properties near Birch Island and has undertaken extensive exploration work on the properties over the years. The depressed price of uranium in the 1960's and early 1970's made it uneconomic to undertake development of the uranium deposits; however improvement in uranium prices and a strong, continuing demand confirm that further detailed evaluation of the Rexspar properties is timely and desirable.

Our 1975 Annual Report, recently issued, and an Information Circular to shareholders concerning rights to purchase additional Rexspar shares are enclosed. Information Circular describes the properties, recent work by consultants, and known uranium reserves.

We are most anxious to keep your department informed of the extent and type of work we propose to undertake this year and, of course, will want to meet with your officials concerning British Columbia requirements on various aspects affecting development of the properties. A production decision will be dependent on the detailed evaluation this year and the arrangement of suitable financing.

In our recent telephone conversation I advised you that Kilborn Engineering, B.C., of Vancouver and A.H. Ross & Associates (metallurgists) are consultants for Rexspar in the studies. advice as to the officials in Victoria with whom initial discussions should be arranged is much appreciated. Also the district office of your department in Kamloops will be contacted very soon by Kilborn Engineering concerning activities planned on the properties this year.

Page... 2 I will look forward to meeting with you and your associates in the near future and will be writing to you to propose a date in July for the meeting. Your advice on appropriate initial procedures in this matter is much appreciated. Yours very truly, CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR Minerals & Chemicals Limited NOW O'Sirn Noel O'Brien Vice President NOB/jp Encl: (2)

## **CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR**MINERALS & CHEMICALS LIMITED

NEW ADDRESS

P.O. BOX 40 ROYAL BANK PLAZA TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA M5J 2K2

June 17, 1977

Dr. J. T. Fyles
Deputy Minister
Dept. of Mines & Petroleum Resources
Parliament Bldgs,
VICTORIA,
British Columbia,
V8V 1X4

Dear Dr. Fyles,

The Annual Report of Consolidated Rexspar, recently issued, describes to shareholders the present status of the studies being undertaken on Rexspar's mineral properties in British Columbia.

Several copies are enclosed for your reference and additional copies are available.

Kind regards.

Yours very truly,

CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR
MINERALS & CHEMICALS LIMITED

Norl O'Sum

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

SEC'D JIN 2 '77 1419

EFERRED TO DATE IN TO COCTS
A. D. M.
A. D. P.
G. R.

E. & P. A. D. Noel O'Brien Vice-President.

NOB/jp Encl: (3)

cc: M. J. de Bastiani

R. Getty.

FILE HI Coms Person

June 7th 1977

Dr. Peter Walford, Research Consultant, P.O. Box 34307, 2108 W. 4th Avenue, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6K 1N6

Dear Dr. Walford:

Thank you for your letter of May 27th requesting information regarding the development of the Rexspar property near Birch Island.

The questions you list can be answered best by the developer - Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Ltd. As with other significant mine developments, we are requiring the company to follow a staged approval process. A Prospectus - the first part of this process - was submitted last November and a Stage I report has very recently been received. The report will require review and consultation between the company and interested Government Ministries before being made available to the public. This process may take a few weeks, after which time the report may be read in the offices of the Inspection and Engineering Division of my Ministry at 1837 Fort Street in Victoria, or at the office of that Division at Fulton Field, 2985 Airport Drive, in Kamloops.

Stage I reports normally contain answers to all the questions contained in your letter and should provide complete background information on the Rexspar development.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES R. CHABOT Minister

JTF:bq

L.I. 1298 refers

Corresp. to E. H.

# DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUX ESOURCES Date: 3/6 From: Operative of fice To: 9. T. Faylor INSTRUCTIONS Prepare reply for my signature. Propare draft of reply. For necessary action. Return to me. Send me copy of reply. Return to file. For your comments.

☐ Wish to discuss.

#### MINISTER'S OFFICE RECEIVED JUN 1 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS



DEPUTY MINISTER OF MIETS & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

REC'D JUN 6 '77 1298

EFEMALD TO 1, DATE T INTIAL 100TS △. D. M. . D. P. & P. A. D. FILE

VICTORIA, B.C.

Hon. James Chabot. Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources R. R. Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Chabot:

The Greenpeace Foundation has been requested by the Yellowhead Ecological Society, of Clearwater, B.C, to assist in obtaining information on the proposed Birch Island uranium mine.

We would like to obtain as much information as possible, however, specific areas of concern are as follows:

- a) What is the ore content of non-marketable substances, such as thorium, arsenic, and so on.?
- b) How will the ore be reduced in milling, and specificly will large quantities of water be required for the lubrication of crusher mills or other refining processes?
- c) What are the company's plans for tailings management both during and subsequent to the mine's operation?
- d) What are the company's plans or alternative plans designed to limit hazarus to the environment and present and future populace?

We understand that Denison Mines Limited has submitted a preliminary report on the proposed develop--ment of the Rexspar property, and if possible we would like to obtain a copy of this document or as full an excerpt as possible. Your early reply will be appreciated.

Dr. Peter Wallford

Yours trul

Research Consultant

P.O. Box 34307 • 2108 W. 4th Ave. VANCOUVER B.C. V6K 1N6 Ph. 738-7134

June 1, 1977,

Mr. Ken Rivkin, 771 West 23rd Avenue, Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Rivkin:

Thank you for your recent letter outlining your concerns about the proposed uranium mine at Birch Island. Unfortunately, you are apparently not aware of a recent statement that I made jointly with the Honourable J. A. Nielsen, Minister of the Environment, which addresses the Issues you have raised. I enclose a copy of this statement for your information.

To date, the developer of the Rexspar property at Birch Island, Denison Mines Limited, has submitted a prospectus outlining the general nature of the proposed project, which is summarized in the fourth paragraph of the News Release. You will also note Denison Mines Limited now holds an exploration permit, issued by the Atomic Energy Control Board. However, the developer has not submitted a first stage report nor has application for a Pollution Control Permit been sought. Before production may begin, a staged approval process must be completed, and public hearings and information meetings will be conducted prior to the granting of Pollution Control and AECB permits. I am sure these stringent requirements will provide the necessary safeguards to protect the public, mine workers and the environment.

Yours sincerely.

James R. Chabot MINISTER

ERM/ph

43.8

Sir;

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed wranium mine at Birch Island. The operation of such a more would produce radioactive and other toxic tailings and wastes, which would have to be disposed of. Improper disposal would have a damaging effect on the invironment of the area, either by destruction of part of the salmon fishery through pollution of the North Thompson, or by destruction of farmland because of contamination of verigation water, or both.

It is my opinion that the present permit system does not quarantee that the economic implications of such a mine operation will be bully considered, nor does the public have a proper

chanic to see the fits and dair its mour. . In the light of this, I wrose you to hold public hearings before the permit-process is post the point-of-no. return, so that the people of B.C., and in particular the residents of the Birch Island area, can fully judge the casues and express its concerns.

> Sincerely, Ken Rivkin

MINISTER'S OFFICE

RECEIVED

MAY 20 1977

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C.

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINISS
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| MINISTER OF MINES       | AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES         |
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| INST                    | TRUCTIONS                       |
| ☐ Wish to discuss       | Prepare reply for my signature. |
| ☐ For your information. | Prepare draft of reply.         |
| For necessary action.   | Return to me.                   |
| Send me copy of reply.  | For your comments.              |
| DATE: MA                | 424-77                          |

April 27th 1977

L.W. Sakals, B.A. Sakals, R. R. #2, Box 1959, CLEARWATER, E.C. VOE 1NO

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to your letter of April 13th I have attached a press release that I made jointly with the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable James Nielsen, concerning the Birch Island uranium property. The description of the development proposals under consideration by Denison Mines, which is included in this release, essentially summarizes the information submitted to my Ministry by the company. You will note that stringent regulations administered by the Federal Atomic Energy Control Board in co-operation with appropriate Provincial Government Ministries, control uranium exploration, development, mining, and milling activities. In addition, provision for public hearings prior to approval of uranium mining and processing operations is mandatory. Thus, public safety and environmental protection concerns will be fully reviewed and considered at all stages in the development of this and other uranium properties.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES R. CHABOT Minister

Att:

Press Release No.1/77

L.I. 977 refers

MINISTER OF MINES AN TROLEUM ISOURCES RR 2 Bax 1959 INSTRUCTIONS Clearwater DE VOE INO Prepare reply for my signature. For your information. Prepare draft of reply. DEPUTY MUNISTERIOR MILES, 1977 For necessary action. Return to me. & PETROLEUM RESOURCES Send me copy of reply. For your comments. Minister of Mines, B. REC'D APR 25'77 977 Parliament Building ACCTS MINISTER'S OFFICE A. D. M. Victoria, Bl. A. D. P. 1 101/ M. R. E. & P. PANLIAMENT BUILDINGS VICTORIA, B.C. Dear Sir, A spokesman for Denison Mines has said on radio that his company has filed a report with your office concerning the pollution and radioactivity hazards and control of same for the proposed pranium mine at Birch Island. He says the information is there for those who wish I have it. Would you please lit us know how & obtain a copy of this report. We would also like to know what Can be done by government & ensure our safety and that of our environment. Sincerely, h H Sakals , + BA Sakals



#### MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8V 1X4

FILE NO.....

#### MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MACE & PETROLEUM RESOURCES

1835 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1J6.

April 4, 1977.

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FILE / 1

Mr. R.C. Getty, P.Eng., General Manager, Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd., 1199 West Pender Street, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 2R1.

Dear Mr. Getty:

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals
Ltd. - Birch Island Project - Stage I Report.

In general the Stage I Report is acceptable to the Steering Committee. If possible, an addendum would be useful to indicate the monitoring and environmental programs proposed for this year.

There are several items which must be considered immediately but should not be included in the Stage I Report:

#### General:

- 1. A climate station should be established on site. The longer local climatic monitoring is in place the greater the reliability on exterpolation with neighbouring stations.
- 2. A program of monitoring, if not already underway, should commence immediately - the flows of surface, groundwater, mine water from adits and the flows on Foghorn and Clay Creeks. Two days of monitoring is sparse even for a Stage I and some attempt should be made to capture this year's freshet such as it is.
- 3. It is recognized that the tailings pond is the major impact in this project and the design meet all the requirements laid down by the A.E.C.B., Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources.
- 4. Stage I Report should be distributed by the Company to Thompson-Nicola Regional District and Clearwater Improvement District.

#### Socio-Economic

1. The date of data collection is December 1975, which could make some of the data on zoning and Regional District plans out of date.

Updated data on zoning should be sought immediately.

- 2. More attention should have been paid to assessing impacts of new housing and services on the community services (water, sewer) in Clearwater. Even though this impact may be relatively small, it should be identified in view of the short time frame to complete Stage II studies.
- 3. Development on the 200 year flood plain is disallowed at present unless there is flood proofing. A careful land use plan of proposed construction camp and operations work force should be prepared with the flood hazard in mind.
- 4. With a 4 year life span; we are looking at a very short-term development. Relatively more responsibility should therefore lie with the developer to finance service improvements that have no long-term benefit to the community.

The number of copies required will be thirty to the Steering Committee for distribution to Provincial Government agencies and six to A.E.C.B. care of Mr. A.B. Dory in Ottawa.

Comments on the Stage I Report are required to be submitted to the Steering Committee within thirty days from distribution. A summation of the comments will be forwarded within the following two weeks.

Yours very truly,

J.D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Millocal

Chairman,

Uranium Mining Steering Committee.

JDM: jau

copy: / Dr. J.T. Fyles

Mr. B. Marr

Mr. M.J. Bastiiani

Dr. J. O'Riordan

Mr. A.B. Dory

CC-Dr. Fyles.

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RESS YOUR REPLY

#### Mining Recorder



**DEPUTY MINISTER OF MITTING & PETROLEUM RESOURCES** 

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7 W. Seymour Street Kamloops, British Columbia V2C 1E5 March 31, 1977

APR - 4 77 AM

Mr. E. J. Bowles

Chief Gbld Commissioner

Ministry of Mines and

Petroleum Resources Parliament Buildings

VICTORIA, B. C.

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DEPT. OF MINES

AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Dear Mr. Bowles:

#### Re: Uranium Property - Birch Island

Further to my previous submission I enclose copies of newspaper clippings which reflect the growing dissatisfaction with the proposed operation in the Clearwater area.

Yours truly

N. R. Blake Mining Recorder

NRB/ww

Encl.

cc: Mr. P. F. Ramsay Victoria, B. C.

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& MLOOP'S

Input on uranium mine 'thwarted'

complete public accountability regarding its past actions and accompanied by a full disclosure of all pertinent information. future plans for a uranium mine in the Clearwater area. SPEC This includes a host of unanswered questions. also asked the Provincial Government to involve the public Idecision-making process involving mine approvals.

In a statement released today, SPEC charged that so far there have been "many indications of efforts to thwart public input until it is too late to be of significant influence,"

Several area groups will co-ordinate in the campaign to seek information on the mine and the many concerns expressed about it, the SPEC release indicated. An Interior Investigative Committee is in the process of being established to look into the speculators or the provincial government." mine issue.

The release states that because of SPEC's "deep concern for the potential for harm in developing an open-pit uranium mine in the Birch Island area, it is initiating action to secure a therough public investigation of the whole matter.

"SPEC is calling for a complete public accountability."

EC Kamloops has called for Denison Mines to give a regarding Denison's activities to date and plans for the future

#### **UNANSWERED QUESTIONS**

"Questions of safety, economy, energy requirements, social impact, health, pollution and most important of all the decision making process. SPEC is particularly concerned because of the lack of public awareness as to the pollution and radioactive hazards involved and because of the complete absence of regulations for the proposed development from mining

SPEC president Don Ellsay that something as potentially hazardous as a uranium mine requires government and developer initiative to involve the public from the earliest stage. It is doubly important in this case, for as B.C.'s first uranium mine, its guidelines will set a precedent, said Ellsay.

However the decision making process has not been very

promising so far, he declared. "There has been many opportunities for the government to involve the public, but to date this has not happened."

#### **ONE-SIDED**

A committee recently set up to co-ordinate uranium mine approvals will likely request "inadequate" controls predicted Ellsay because the company is operating in a vacuum at the moment building up its case with no opposition,

"It's a far cry from complete public input."

He said SPEC is planning to co-operate with a number of provincial and national organizations including the International Development Education and Research Association (IDERA), the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, Pacific Life Community and the Greenpeace Foundation in the campaign.

At the moment we're only "seekers of information" said Ellsay. "We want to be able to find out about the problems and contribute positive suggestions."

THE DEPARTMENT OF
MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8V 1X4

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#### MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH

DEPUTY MINISTER OF METERS 1835 Fort Street, & PETROLEUM RESOURCE VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 1J6.

March 29, 1977.

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COCTS
A. D. M.
A. D. P.
M. R.
E. & P.
A. D.

Dr. A.T. Prince, President, Atomic Energy Control Board, P.O. Box 1046, OTTAWA, Ontario. KlP 5S9.

Dear Dr. Prince:

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemical BILE Line Rex

Recent meetings in Victoria discussed the Consolidated Rexspar Project at Brich Island. It became evident that a committee should be set up to co-ordinate federal and provincial jurisdictions as well as the development itself.

The Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Ministry of Environment requested that a steering committee be set up for uranium mining in British Columbia. Following is the composition of the committee with the representative of A.E.C.B. to be named:

J.D. McDonald - Chairman, Ministry of Mines and

Petroleum Resources

J. O'Riordan - Ministry of the Environment
To Be Named - Atomic Energy Control Board

It is requested that you appoint a representative to the committee. We have established an excellent working relationship with Mr. A. Dory of your staff and would suggest that his appointment would be a welcome addition to the committee.

Yours very truly,

J.D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Chairman,

Uranium Steering Committee.

JDM: jau

copy: J.T. Fyles, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum Resources
Mr. J.W. Peck, P.Eng., Chief Inspector of Mines, Ministry of Mines and
Petroleum Resources.



MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8V 1X4

**MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH** 

1835 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1J6.

March 15, 1977.

Mr. R.C. Getty, P.Eng., Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd., 1199 West Pender Street, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 2R1.

Dear Sir:

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals
Limited - Birch Island Project.

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 10, 1977 and the three copies of the "Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project".

The Steering Committee, consisting of myself, Mr. A.B. Dory of the A.E.C.B., and Dr. J. O'Riordan, Ministry of Environment, will review the report at an early date and will advice if further information is required and will also advise on the number of copies required.

Yours very truly,

J.D. McDonald, P.Eng.,

Senior Reclamation Inspector.

JDM: jau

copy: Fr. J.T. Fyles

Dr. J. O'Riordan

Mr. A. Dory

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO

DEPUTY MIRISTER OF MITS.

& PETROLEUM RESOURCES

EC'D

A. D. M.
A. D. P.
III. R.
E. & P.
A. D.

FILE LEL COM PORC

## KILBORN

Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd. / 1199 W. Pender, Vancouver, Canada V6E 2R1. Telex: 04-507734, Tel: 604,688-8361

March 10, 1977

Dr. J.T. Fyles, P. Eng.
Deputy Minister of Mines
Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Dear Sir:

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited
Birch Island Project

DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINISTER OF

On behalf of Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited, we have forwarded to Mr. J.D. McDonald, P. Eng., Senior Reclamation Inspector, three copies of the "Preliminary Environmental Study of the Proposed Birch Island Project."

We understand that after review by Mr. J.D. McDonald and Mr. A.B. Dory of the A.E.C.B., additional copies will be required.

If you require any further information at this time, we would be pleased to assist you.

Yours truly,

KILBORN ENGINEERING (B.C.) LTD.

R.C. Getty, P. Eng.

RCG/bn

c.c. Mr. J.D. McDonald, P. Eng.

January 24th 1977

Mr. Noel O'Brien, Vice-President, Denison Mines Limited, 4, King Street West, TORONTO, Ontario

41- Con Pexs.

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

This note is to thank you for 'phoning in your concern regarding the error in the recent news release of January 20th in which we referred to Denison Mines Limited and should have kept strictly with Consolidated Rexspar and Chemicals.

I was aware of the relationship of the two companies but felt that it was preferable, from our point of view, to refer to Denison Mines as all our contacts had been with Denison people and all the public comment that we had heard referred to Denison and the Rexspar property.

I have not corrected the error and we have had no criticism for it. Had I been able to discuss it with you before the news release went out I would have made the necessary correction.

I apologise if this has caused you any embarrassment but do not feel it serious enough from our point of view to send out an amendment.

Yours very truly,

JAMES T. FYLES Deputy Minister

JTF:bg

Mr. Noel O'Brien 'phoned from Denison Mines in Toronto. re the telex.

He says this is wrong (and so of course is the Press Release). The reference to Denison in 3rd and 7th paras. and in the last para. should read "Consolidated Rexspar & Chemicals".

He says this is a technical point but should be corrected in the interests of accuracy. He is V.P.of Denison and also of Rexspar. Mr. M.J. deBastiani is also a V.P. of Denison Mines and also manager of the Rexspar feasibility work. Address 4 - King Street West, Toronto.

MENTYWMX He said you might like to add a paragraph to any correction to the effect that Denison Mines is the principal shareholder of Consolidated Rexspar and Chemicals and manager of the Rexspar property.

### BEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Date:

☐ Prepare reply for my signature.

☐ Prepare draft of reply.

Return to me.

From: To: Brenda

☐ For your approval.

☐ For your information.

☐ For necessary action.

### INSTRUCTIONS

| ☐ Send me copy of reply. | ☐ Return to file. |
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| ☐ For your comments.     | ☐ For signature.  |
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### BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT

| PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES | MESSAGE FORM                             | FILE NUMBER 41 (Rexspar)   |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------|
| TO:               | FROM:                                    |                            |
| 065-24135         | DR. J. T. DEPUTY MIN MINES AND VICTORIA, | NISTER PETROLEUM RESOURCES |
| ACTION PRECEDENCE | ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER                      | DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN    |
| IMMEDIATE         | A/C 168641                               | JAN. 20th. 10.30 a.m.      |

THE FOLLOWING JOINT STATEMENT IS MADE BY THE HON. J.R. CHABOT, MINISTER OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES AND THE HON. J.A. NIELSEN, MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

BECAUSE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS, INTEREST IN EXPLORATION FOR URANIJM DEPOSITS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF URANIUM MINES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS RECENTLY ACCELERATED. TO ENSURE A HIGH LEVEL OF SAFETY BOTH FOR MINE WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC, AS THIS VALUABLE MINERAL RESOURCE IS DEVELOPED, YOUR GOVERNMENT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD OF CANADA.

RECENTLY, DENISON MINES LIMITED, PRODUCERS OF URANIUM IN FASTERN CANADA, HAVE SUBMITTED A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE REXSPAR PROPERTY AT BIRCH ISLAND, 65 MILES NORTH OF KAMLOOPS, AND ON JANUARY 13th 1977 COMPANY OFFICIALS ATTENDED MEETINGS IN VICTORIA TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT WITH TECHNICAL OFFICERS OF OUR TWO MINISTRIES AND THE AECB.

THE REXSPAR DEPOSIT IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS AND CONTAINS A VARIETY OF VALUABLE MINERALS IN ADDITION TO THE URANIUM. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS A SMALL OPEN PIT MINE PRODUCING AT A RATE OF 1,000 TONS PER DAY AND EMPLOYING APPROXIMATELY 80 PHOPLE. A RESPRES OF 1.22 MILLION TONS, GRADING 1.539 POUNDS U303 / TON IS INDICATED AND THERE IS SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL TO EXTEND THESE RESERVES.

TO CO-ORDINATE GOVERNMENT APPROVALS FOR MEW URANIUM MINES, A STEERING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FROM OFFICIALS OF THESE THREE AGENCIES. A STAGED APPROVAL PROCESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS REQUIRED, SIMILAR TO THAT NOW IN PLACE FOR OTHER MINES BUT PLACING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE

| DRAFTER'S NAME | OFFICE                  | TEL. NO. | RELEASING AUTHORITY SIGNATURE |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| BRENDA GOODE   | ROOM 406, DOUGLAS BLDG. | 6058     |                               |

### FOR COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL USE ONLY

DATE AND TIME OF DISPATCH:

SYSTEM:

FORM DCT 10-75

| PAGE OF PAGES     | MESSAGE FORM FILE NUMBER 41 (Rexspar)                                       |
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| TO:               | FROM:   |
| 065-24135         | DR. J.T. FYLES DEPUTY MINISTER MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES VICTORIA, B.C. |
| ACTION PRECEDENCE | ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN                                 |
| IMMEDIATE         | A/C 168641 JAN. 20th. 10.30 A.M   |

PRIENTIAL HAZARDS FROM THE HANDLING OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.

THE STAGED PROCESS REQUIRES DEVELOPERS TO SUBMIT A PROSPECTUS;
A FIRST STAGE REPORT WHICH IDENTIFIES THE PROBLEMS; A SECOND STAGE REPORT
WHICH PROPOSES SOLUTIONS, AND A THIRD STAGE REPORT IN PREPARATION FOR THE
APPLICATION FOR VARIOUS PERMITS UNDER PROVINCIAL STATUTES. EACH STAGE REQUIRES
THE APPROVAL OF ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

AT THIS TIME, NO APPLICATION FROM DENISON MINES HAS BEEN MADE FOR A POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT.

HOWEVER, INDUSTRY HAS BELL WARNED THAT SUCH AN APPLICATION MUST MEET' STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING:

A COPY OF ANY APPLICATION UNDER THE POLLUTION CONTROL ACT, WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AECB AS WELL AS AGENCIES NAMED IN THE ACT AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC;

ANY PUBLIC HEARING UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ACT TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATION FROM AECB ON THE TECHNICAL PANEL;

ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE AECB WILL BE CONTAINED IN ANY PERMIT ISSUED IN ADDITION TO PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE POLLUTION CONTROL ACT.

THE AECB HAS JURISDICTION OVER ALL URANIUM PRODUCTION IN CANADA.

BEFORE ANY WORK ON URANIUM PROPERTIES CAN BE UNDERTAKEN, AN AECB PERMIT IS

| DRAFTER'S NAME          |                 | OFFICE  |       | TEL. NO. | RELEASING AUTHORITY SIGNATURE |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| BRENDA GOODE            | ROOm 406,       | DOGGLAS | BLDG. | 6058     |                               |
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### BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNME

| PAGE 3OF_3_ PAGES           | MESSAGE FORM FILE NUMBER 41 (Rexspar)                             |   |
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| 065-24135                   | DEPUTY MINISTER MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES VICTORIA, B.C.      | _ |
| ACTION PRECEDENCE IMMEDIATE | ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN JAN. 20th. 10.30 A.M. |   |

DENISON MINES NOW HOLDS AN EXPLORATION PERMIT FOR THE REOUIRED. REXSPAR PROPERTY AND WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER PERMIT BEFORE PRODUCTION CAN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING THE AECB PERMIT NECESSITATES THE HOLDING BEGIN. OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS.

RELEASING AUTHORITY SIGNATURE DRAFTER'S NAME OFFICE TEL. NO. BRENDA GOODE Room 406 Douglas Bld. 6058

FOR COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL USE ONLY

DATE AND TIME OF DISPATCH:

SYSTEM:

Uranium rine

Once again my conscience is prodding me into becoming involved in another protest, and as a resident of Clearwater I can truthfully say we've had more than our share of controversial issues within the past six years or so. This one, though, will have to be the largest in scope that I, and I will go so far as to say all British Columbians, will be faced with.

Let me tell you that I am very tired and weary of becoming involved in protests and fights, which some of them became. It would be so much easier and less energy draining just to ignore it all and bury one's head in the sand. I really don't enjoy this sort of thing, but I seem to have a strong conscience and sense of duty that won't leave me be.

The issue is British Columbia's first uranium mine! Denison Mines Ltd. announced recently that they will be developing their Rexspar property at Birch Island, a small community seven miles north of Clearwater, for the purpose of extracting uranium ores. What is uranium used for? That is the big question!

The moral and ethical decision to be made here concerning this issue is whether we want to be involved in supplying the very fuel that may be used sometime in the future for our

destruction and the destruction of our environment, or the destruction of the life systems on this planet.

What better way to begin stopping the insanity of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and radioactive wastes than by going to the very source—the extraction of uranium ores? and putting a stop to it.

Canada is selling Candu reactors and nuclear materials to unstable third world countries. Is this not another good reason for protesting this mine. Robert Bonner declared recently that B.C. would have a nuclear power plant in 10 years — does this have something to do with this uranium mine? One other question that must be asked is whether this mine will be polluting the North Thompson, Thompson and Fraser Rivers?

As far as I'm concerned, this one issue takes precedence over any other that mankind has ever been faced with. It is the epitome of issues! Because it can mean the total destruction of this planet.

Although all I crave is peace and serenity, how can it be achieved unless one can say that they have done all they can to have earned it? I feel I am forcing myself into another situation where I am made to feel like a Don Quixote going around tilting at windmills. But if I don't follow the dictates of my conscience and my reverence for life, I feel I will become something less than a human, and that I may possibly have forfeited my children's rights to a future.

So I ask myself what does it matter if I appear as a kook to some people, just as long as I retain my integrity and values? At least I will not have sold my soul to the gods of the babbits — the chamber of commerce types — who bow down and worship the false gods of profit, economics and progress, who never consider the future consequences of their actions.

I am appealing to all individuals to become involved in this issue, and to such organizations as SPEC and the Sierra Club. We will be seeking the help of the Greenpeace Foundation also, as they have been heavily involved with this issue in other cases, and on the general principle.

NAME WITHHELD, Clearwater ot. Of MINES
AND PERROLEUM RESOURCES
Rec'd JAN 19 1977

# Nothing great on mine

No great announcements are expected from a meeting Thursday in Victoria dealing with a proposed uranium mine near Clearwater, says a Toronto mining official.

Consolidated Rexbar, controlled by Denison Mines, plans to operate an open pit mine and mill at Birch Island. Ore reserves have been estimated at 1.5 million tons.

A meeting will be held between representatives of the company, Federal Atomic Energy and province to lay out guidelines for development and operation of the only B.C. uranium mine.

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4. Com Rossi

## NEWS RELEASE

1 - 1977 British Columbia January 20th 1977

The following joint statement is made by the Hon. James R. Chabot, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Hon. J.A. Nielsen, Minister of the Environment.

Because of the energy crisis, interest in exploration for uranium deposits and the development of uranium mines in British Columbia has recently accelerated. To ensure a high level of safety both for mine workers and the public, as this valuable mineral resource is developed, your Government is working closely with the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada.

Recently, Denison Mines Limited, producers of uranium in eastern Canada, have submitted a preliminary report on a proposed development of the Rexspar property at Birch Island, 65 miles north of Kamloops, and on January 13th 1977 company officials attended meetings in Victoria to discuss the project with technical officers of our two Ministries and the AECB.

The Rexspar deposit is one that has been known for many years and contains a variety of valuable minerals in addition to the uranium. The proposed development is a small open pit mine producing at a rate of 1,000 tons per day and employing approximately 80 people. A reserve of 1.22 million tons, grading 1.539 pounds  $\rm U_3O_8$  /ton is indicated and there is significant potential to extend these reserves.

To co-ordinate Government approvals for new uranium mines, a Steering Committee has been established from officials of these three agencies. A staged approval process of environmental assessment is required, similar to that now in place for other mines but placing particular emphasis on the potential hazards from the handling of radioactive materials.

The staged process requires developers to submit a prospectus; a first stage report which identifies the problems; a second stage report which proposes solutions, and a third stage report in preparation for the application for various permits under Provincial statutes. Each stage requires the approval of all interested Government agencies.

At this time, no application from Denison Mines has been made for a Pollution Control Permit.

However, industry has been warned that such an application must meet stringent requirements, including:

- A copy of any application under the Pollution Control Act, with supporting documents, to be made available to AECB as well as agencies named in the Act and to the general public;
- Any public hearing under section 13 of the Act to include representation from AECB on the technical panel;
- All requirements of the AECB will be contained in any permit issued in addition to Provincial requirements under the Pollution Control Act.

The AECB has jurisdiction over all uranium production in Canada. Before any work on uranium properties can be undertaken, an AECB permit is required. Denison Mines now holds an exploration permit for the Rexspar property and will require another permit before production can begin. The process of issuing the AECB permit necessitates the holding of public information meetings.

### **MEMORANDUM**

| TO Dr. J. T. Fyles,                             | FROM                             |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Deputy Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources, | .DeputyMinisteroftheEnvironment. |
| Buildings.                                      | December 1 19.76                 |
| SUBJECT. Proposed Birch Island Uranium Mine     | our file0290650                  |

At a meeting on October 28, 1976 held by the Atomic Energy Control Board, various agencies described their interests in a proposed uranium mine-mill operation.

An evaluation of such a proposal raises special concern of an environmental and public health nature and I am sure will generate a great deal of public concern as well. It may be that the normal assessment and review procedures should not apply to such an operation.

I suggest that we arrange a meeting including officials of our two Ministries to discuss this matter.

B. E. Marr, Deputy Minister of the Environment.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF M. & PETROLEUM RESOURCE

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M. R.

E. & P.

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YOUR FILE.....

Week of January

phone

Weeks Jan 10th

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# KILBORN

Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd. / 1199 W. Pender, Vancouver, Canada V6E 2R1. Telex: 04-507734, Tel: 604,688-8361

November 18, 1976

Dr. J. T. Fyles, P. Eng. Deputy Minister of Mines Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources Parliament Building Victoria, B. C. V8V 1X4

Dear Sir:

Re: Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited

Report his

On behalf of Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited, we are pleased to submit one copy of the Prospectus for the uranium property at Birch Island, B. C.

We have forwarded this date, thirty (30) copies to Mr. J. McDonald, P. Eng., Senior Inspector of Mines - Reclamation.

If you require any further information at this time, we would be pleased to assist you.

Yours truly,

KILBORN ENGINEERING (B. C.) LTD.

R. C. Getty, P. Eng.

RCG: jmi

cc:

Mr. J. McDonald

Mr. M. De Bastiani

Enclosure

DEPUTY MINISTER OF METTS
& PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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| A. D.         |    |      |             |
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November 24th 1976

Mr. R. C. Getty, P. Eng., Kilborn Engineering (B.C.) Ltd., 1199 West Pender Street, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6E 2R1

Dear Mr. Getty:

This will acknowledge and thank you for the Prospectus report of Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, Birch Island Project.

Mr. McDonald will circulate copies to affected Government agencies and you will be hearing from him when their comments have been received.

Yours very truly,

JAMES T. FYLES Deputy Minister

JTF:bg



Mr. James T. Fyles,
Deputy Minister,
Department of Mines &
 Petroleum Resources,
VICTORIA, B.C.

September 23, 1976

CL Gundy
CE Medland
JR LeMesurier
JN Abell
DCH Stanley
IS Steers
RE Beale
JMG Scott

Dear Jim:

I much appreciated the opportunity to spend a very interesting hour with you last week.

There now appears to be an interesting degree of cautious optimism emerging in the Vancouver mining community. I hope that your Department will find ways to offer as much encouragement as possible to those companies which have properties which might be developed into production.

As I suggested, whenever you and John Poyen are in Toronto, please feel absolutely free to give me a call. We would be delighted to see you.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

pR. H. Sclater

RHS/pp

DEPUTY MINISTER OF METTS
& PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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OCTS

A. D. M.

A. D. P.

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FILE

| Manomanden     | FROM Gordon | White |
|----------------|-------------|-------|
| To Dr. E. W. G | rove        |       |
|                |             |       |



DATE. July 15, 1976

### Re: Birch Island--Rexspar U<sub>3</sub>0<sub>8</sub> Fluorite--Celestite.

Bruno Hildebrand of Kilborne Engineering, retained by Rexspar (Dennison Mines), was having 11 drill site locations put in during July. On Friday, July 9 the first hole was started on the "A" zone, supervised by Werner Gruenwald under contract to Kerr and Dawson, the latter retained by Kilborne. The holes were located "geologically" by a geologist from Quebec who consults for Dennison. Total footage is to be 1300' or less.

The vertical holes are HQ size to obtain material for further metallurgical testing and Kilborne have plans with the open pit benches laid out. A 5 year life is considered and a grade of 0.1 U<sub>3</sub>0<sub>8</sub> contemplated. Tonnage questions were avoided but they are drilling three zones, the A, B & BD all reported to be relatively flat lying (5°-30°) of a porphry (B.C.D.M. Annual Report 1954) or a trachyte sill or flow (Jack Scott, et al).

The host rock is often a grey, schistose pyrite bearing limonite weathering rock, occasionally showing a fine to medium grained granular texture. 100 M east of the B zone banded purple fluorite and celestite occur close to a breccia with aligned fragments up to 4 cms long diameter.

Rocks in the area away from the radioactive zones are phyllites and black mica schists of Shuswap age.

Radioactive "hot" spots are along shears containing fine grained banded pyrite, usually pyrolusite, an odd looking pearly grey mica (Mg-rich) and probably uraninite. Fluorite is often in purple disseminated blebs or in more massive concentrations.

Most of the radioactive zones are confined to these dark, sheared zones and strike mostly EW with northerly dips.

Using the Exploranium GRS-101 background off the property is 5 to 10 cps, and increases to 30 cps on the property. Over the area to be mined the background averages 300 cps. Over the "richer" areas, counts up to 4000 cps were recorded. The highest readings were on the BD zone.

| DEPUTY MINISTER OF |    |      |         |  |  |
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| M. R.  |    |      | 1/      |  |  |
| E. & P.  |    | 87   |         |  |  |

Dr. E. W. Grove July 15, 1976 Page 2

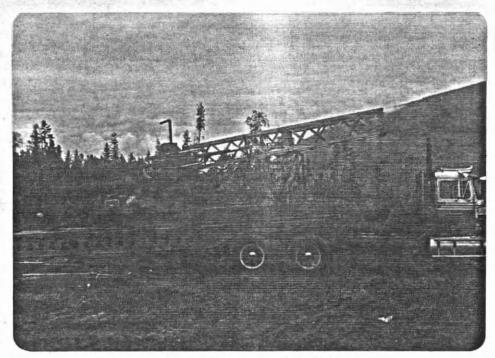
There are 5 known radioactive areas on the property. Thin section work is described in the 1954 B.C.D.M. report.

It would appear that Dennison are quite serious about placing this property in production, subject to further metallurgical testing.

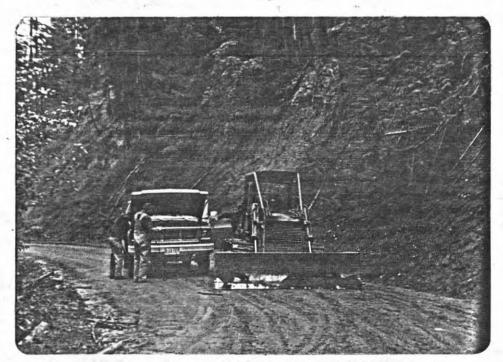
GPEW:1c

cc: J. Thomson

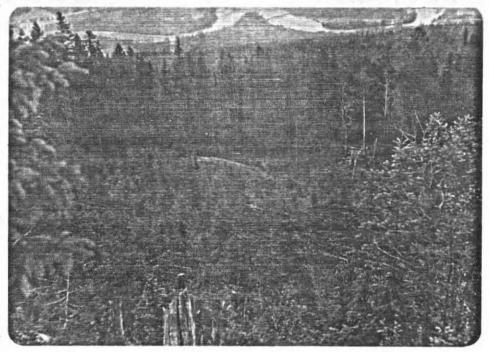
Gordon P. E. White



Connors HQ in transit, Birch Island. July 7, 1976, Rexspar



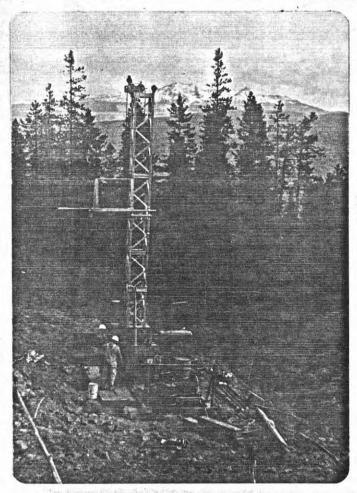
Mechanical problems, July 7, 1976, Birch Island.



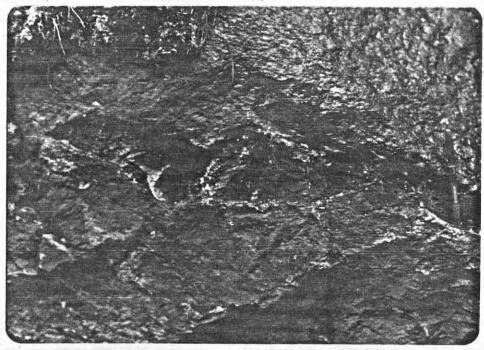
Drill site preparation, July 6, 1976, "A" zone Rexspar, view to SE.



Same location as above, road **Gut**, view east.



HQ (all vertical) commenced a.m. July 9, 1976 on "A" zone.



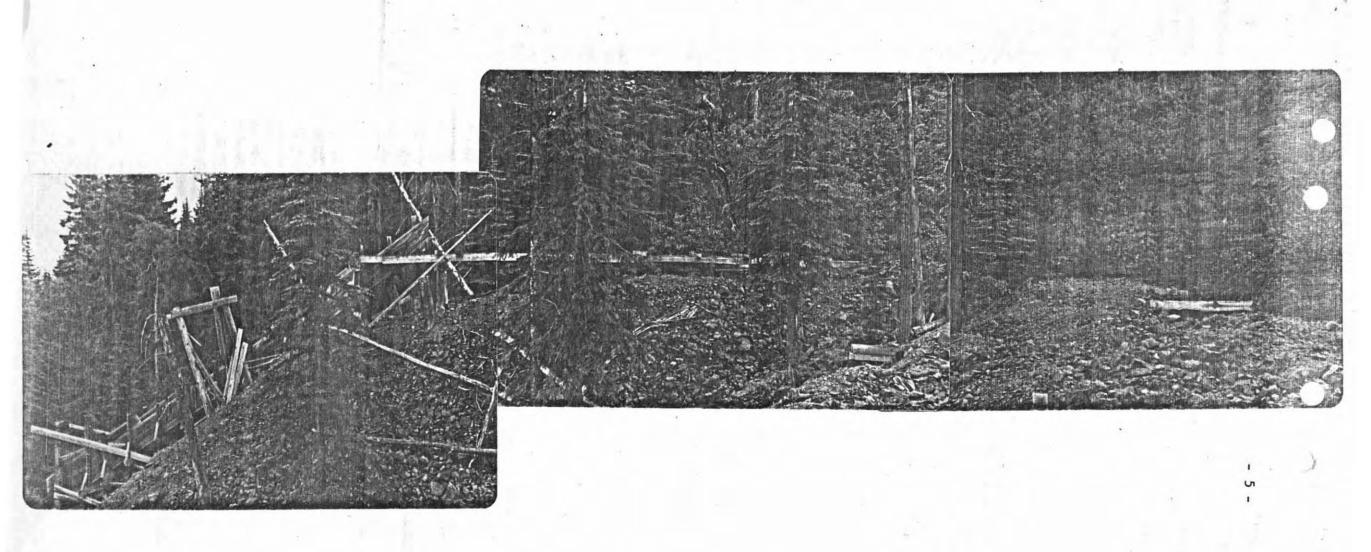
Predominately  $MnO_2$  in porphyry.



Rexspar. "A" zone adit.

Adit No. 2, "A" zone. Face is visible as adit is only about 5 M.





"A" zone adit area; adit to right.

Mr. Noel O'Brien, Vice President. Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, 20th Floor - 4 King St. West, Toronto, Ontario. M5H 1C2.

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Thank you for your letter of June 8 regarding proposed work at your Birch Island property. I have passed copies to the Geological and Inspection Divisions here in Victoria and to the Kamloops Office.

J. D. McDonald (387-3630) and/or P. E. Olson (387 6254) of the Inspection and Engineering Division (1837 Fort Street). I plan to be away from the office during carrange to visit Dr. A. Sutherland Brown and J. A. Garnett of the Geological Division (387-5975) and J. D. McDonald (387-3630) and/or P. E. Olson (387-

James T. Fyles, Deputy Minister.

JTF:DB

# URANIUM MINE MEET

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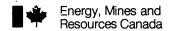
KAMLOOPS (CP) — A meeting is to be held Jan. 13 in Victoria which may decide the future of British Columbia's only uranium mine.

Representatives of Denison Mines will meet with officials of the Atomic Energy Board and the province to lay out federal and provincial guidelines that would govern development and operation of the mine.

Denison, through a subsidiary, Consolidated Rexbar Ltd., has plans to operate an open-pit uranium mine and mill at Birch Island, near Clearwater. Ore reserves in the area have been estimated at 1.5 million tons.

A company spokesman said today that operating at a capacity of 750 to 1,000 tons of ore supplied to the mill a day would keep the mine operational for between five and nine years.

In its initial stages, the mine would employ up to 200 persons, with between 60 and 80 retained on the payroll when it is fully operational, he added.



Énergie, Mines et Ressources Canada

Science and Technology

Science et Technologie

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

December 11, 1975

Dr. James T. Fyles, Associate Deputy Minister, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

41. Com Reco

Dear Dr. Fyles:

Further to our recent correspondence concerning the ore reserves at Consolidated Rexspar Minerals and Chemicals Limited, a submission has been received from the company and a visit by a technical team was made to Toronto.

We must conclude that the mining company's assessment of the ore reserves is a fair one for that particular deposit. A copy is enclosed for your use.

Historically, the cost of establishing uranium plants in Canada has averaged \$38,000 per ton of daily raw ore capacity. With cost escalation, a fairer figure to use today for low grade deposits would be in the neighbourhood of \$50,000. If we assume conventional mining and processing, the property could not operate at \$20/1b  $\rm U_3^{0}_8$ .

An alternative may have been direct shipping of the ore to an acidleach plant, say in Elliot Lake. The small volumes involved would not justify favourable freight rates so this plan would also be uneconomic.

In summary then, we must conclude that an isolated small deposit of modest grade cannot be operated when the price of  $\rm U_3O_8$  is \$20 or less per pound. The picture could change if some current test leaching projects are successful. It could also change if additional deposits of higher grade should be discovered in the district. The situation will be reviewed annually and you will be kept informed.

Yours sincerely.

Any comments you may wish to make would be welcome.

Encl.

Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology, 555 Booth Street, Ottawa, Canada. K1A 0G1

Centre canadien de technologie des minéraux et de l'énergie, 555, rue Booth, Ottawa, Canada. K1A 0G1

Amil Dubnie,

Senior Assessor, Uranium Reserves

### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PLULLESOURCES

Date:

#### INSTRUCTIONS

| ☐ Fo  | your approval.      | Prepare reply for my signature. |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| For   | your information.   | Prepare draft of reply.         |
| ☐ For | necessary action.   | Return to me.                   |
| ☐ Sen | d me copy of reply. | Return to file.                 |
| ☐ For | your comments.      | For signature.                  |

☐ Wish to discuss.

### **REMARKS:**

its too bad the technical Team didn't visit the Delanousled 17/75 property!

DEPARTMENTAL

SECRETARIAT

September 30, 1975

H Little

Mr. Gordon MacNabb, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Energy, Mines and Resources, 580 Booth Street,

OTTAWA, Ontario,

KIA OE4.

Dear Mr. MacNabb:

In reply to your letter of September 18, 1975 to Mr. John Kostuik concerning Rexspar's uranium ore reserves, I am glad to confirm that we will cooperate fully with your department.

I enclose a statement of Rexspar reserves in the form requested. We have just recently completed an independent review of reserves, comparing results to earlier studies done by others. You will note that no reserves are shown in under - \$20 range and that none are shown in the probable and possible categories. An earlier report (Robertson - 1967) showed an undiluted tonnage of 1,561,000 tons grading 1.762 lbs./ton. The present reserve, however, now reported by us includes open pit recoverable ore only and excludes high grade lenses which are too narrow or too deeply buried to justify increased stripping ratios.

Correspondence and arrangements for a visit by a technical team should be referred to me. I expect Dr. E. L. Evans will be our technical representative for detailed geological discussions.

Yours sincerely,

CONSOLIDATED REXSPAR MINERALS & CHEMICALS LIMITED

Noal O'Arian wid Woel O'Brien Vice-President

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### Company Consolidated Rexspar Minerals & Chemicals Limited

### Property Birch Island, British Columbia

Summary of Uranium Reserves and Resources in Canada as of September, 1975

Classification of Reserves\*

(A)
Recoverable at less
than \$20/1b U<sub>3</sub>0<sub>8</sub>

(B)
Additional recoverable at between \$20 and 40/1b U<sub>3</sub>0<sub>8</sub>

| the control of the co |            |                                      |                         |              |                                      |                                     |
|--|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | Short Tons | Av. 1b U <sub>3</sub> 0 <sub>8</sub> | Av. 1b ThO <sub>2</sub> | Short tons   | Av. 1b U <sub>3</sub> 0 <sub>8</sub> | Av. 1b Th <sup>O</sup> <sub>2</sub> |
| Measured (Proven)  | -          | -                                    | -                       | 1,620,000 ** | 1.504                                | •                                   |
| · Indicated (Probable)   | -          |                                      | •                       | -            | -                                    |                                     |
| Inferred (Possible)  | -          | <b>-</b>                             | <b></b>                 | •            |                                      |                                     |

- \* Current definitions used by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
  - (A) This category will be "ore" reserves in the usual mining sense.
  - (B) This category provides for an appreciation, as a resource, of uranium deposits the mining of which depends on improved prices, improvements in mthods of mining or treatment, etc.
- \*\* reserves mineable by open pit; cut-off grade 0.8 lbs.  $v_{30}$ /ton; average dilution of 7% includes

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES MINISTÈRE DE L'ÈNERGIE DES MINES ET DES RESSOURCES

Mining Research Laboratories Labratoires des recherches minieres, 555 rue/Booth/Street Ottawa, KIA OG1



ON HER MAJESTY'S SENVICE

SERVICE DE SA MAJESTÉ

CONSERVE ECONOMISEZ
ENERGY L'ENERGIE
KIA 0E4

Dr. James T.Fyles,
Associate Deputy Minister,
Mines and Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4



December 18th 1975

Mr. Amil Dubnie, Senior Assessor, Uranium Reserves, Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology, 555 Booth Street, OTTAWA, Canada KIA OGI

Dear Mr. Dubnie:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 11th containing an estimate of the uranium reserves at Rexspar. It is a valuable record for our files.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES T. FYLES Associate Deputy Minister

JTF:bg