

# Member Inquiry

## Uranium Exploration and Mining

Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection  
Committee

February 7, 2008

# Mineral Exploration

- Potential impact of diamond core drilling
  - Aquifers highly vulnerable
  - Connected to surface water
  - Complex geology
  - Risk of contamination uncertain
    - Further investigation required
  - Access routes/overburden removal
    - Interference with streamflow/wetland function
    - Sedimentation
    - Sensitive habitat

# Mineral Exploration

- Applicable legislation
  - Municipal
    - Official Plans/Ontario Building Code
  - Conservation Authority Regulations
  - Public Lands Act/L&RIA
  - Environmental Protection Act
  - Clean Water Act
    - Prescribed list of activities
  - Federal Legislation
    - Fisheries Act/Species at Risk Act

# Mineral Exploration

- Best Management Practices - assessment phase
- Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
  - Environmental best management practices
  - Voluntary compliance
  - Subject to legislation/regulation

# Uranium Mine Development

- Clean Water Act
  - Clusters
  - Assessment Report
- Mine development sequence
  - Advanced Exploration
  - Part VII of Mining Act
    - Public notice
    - Information session
    - Closure plan

# Uranium Mine Development

- Atomic Energy Control Act
  - Licensing by Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
  - Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
  - Environmental Assessment required
  - Comprehensive Study Process
    - Public concerns
    - Adverse environmental effects
    - Ability of process to address issues
  - Minister of Environment decides on significance of adverse environmental effects

# Recommendations

1. That the MRSPC receive the staff report
2. That staff be directed to request the Ministry of Environment to further examine this issue and potential impacts to source water protection efforts in the MRSPR with other relevant provincial ministries.
3. And, that the Ministry of Environment be requested to report back to the MRSPC through a joint presentation of the other relevant provincial ministries.

# Additional Recommendations

4. That staff be directed, subject to funding support from MOE, to develop an information and awareness campaign in cooperation with local Health Units regarding naturally occurring uranium in drinking water for dissemination to local residents in conjunction with local municipalities.