

# Vermilion River Stewardship



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5 November 2012

Jennifer Mihalcin  
Public Affairs Representative  
Cliffs Natural Resources  
Cliffs Chromite Ontario Inc.  
1159 Alloy Drive, Ste. 200  
Thunder Bay, ON  
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Email: [Public\\_Affairs@cliffsnr.com](mailto:Public_Affairs@cliffsnr.com)

Dear Ms. Mihalcin:

**Re: Cliffs Chromite Project – Open House – 25 October 2012, Capreol  
Ferrochrome Processing Facility (FPF)**

Vermilion River Stewardship (VRS) acts as a voice for the Vermilion River and its Watershed, and our mission is to work to build partnerships and strategic alliances with all other interested parties, communities, stewardships, organizations, agencies and industry to ensure clean and healthy water quality, and a balanced and sustainable ecosystem and natural habitat.

VRS attended the Cliffs Chromite Project Open House on Thursday, 25 October 2012, in Capreol, and wishes to provide our comments.

1. VRS heard about the Open House by your notice on 25 September 2012.
2. The information as presented did not meet our expectations.
  - a. This type of open house is never as effective or useful for the public as an open public meeting where everyone has an opportunity to hear the concerns of others. A lot of vital information is missed in this type of format. In future, VRS requests a public meeting format so everyone can hear the concerns of others, and discussion can take place.

3. VRS requests more detailed information regarding:
  - a. The amount of water that will be taken from the Vermilion River during all flow regimes - in spring, summer, fall and winter; and
  - b. The location of the intake where water will be removed from the Vermilion River.
4. VRS has the following additional comments:
  - a. The information regarding Cliffs' plans for taking water from the Vermilion River did not come from Cliffs representatives, or from the Information Panels, but instead came from a local resident, and was later confirmed by Cliffs' consultants. This critical information should have been provided by Cliffs on the information panels.
  - b. Cliff's staff/consultants informed that they would not be conducting their environmental assessment studies with a Watershed approach, but instead would only study within a small radius surrounding the proposed project site. VRS requests the zone of influence and corresponding studies for the Cliff's Chromite Smelter include the entire Vermilion River Watershed just above the project site, and right out to the confluence of the Vermilion River with the Spanish River.
  - c. Cliffs must take into account the cumulative effects of their proposal on water quality and water quantity, considering all of the following:
    - i. 5 proposed modified peaking hydroelectric dams on the Vermilion River
    - ii. 9 downstream wastewater treatment facilities releasing effluent into the Vermilion River Watershed
    - iii. Vale's mining/processing operations
    - iv. Any other water taking activities on the Vermilion, and
    - v. Climate change
  - d. Cliffs must take into account the hundreds of private downstream water intakes, as well as the Vale public water intake which services over 13,000 Sudbury citizens, when considering water taking limits, water quality, water quantity, and environmental impacts.
  - e. VRS requests a Stakeholder Advisory Committee be formed, made up of stakeholder organizations, the public, and First Nations.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Linda Heron  
Chair, Vermilion River Stewardship

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