

NORONT FOI REQUESTS

SSM FOI 2020-5, 2020-8, 2020-57

ABSTRACT

A request to further clarify the documentation released and provided for SSM FOI requests related to the Noront Resources Ltd. Ferrochrome Production Facility (FPF) proposal submitted by The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

Selva Rasaiah

Submitted to: Mr. Jeffrey King
Solicitor/Prosecutor
Legal Department
City of Sault Ste. Marie ON

Submitted By: Selva Rasaiah

Date: January 07, 2021

Dear Mr. King,

Further to your letter dated December 17, 2020 regarding FOI request #2020-57, I would like to clarify the information required to satisfy my request. I have reviewed the contents of the information provided and I feel it does not sufficiently satisfy the documents requested for the FOI.

The purpose of the FOI request is to establish the specific criteria that the city used when considering the application (proposal) for the Noront Resources Ltd. Ferrochrome Processing Facility (FPF) bid. I have received information from a previous request (FOI 2020-5) which included information Noront provided to the city as a guide to their expectations and the information required for a proposal for the site selection of their ferrochrome processing facility.

The documents received in the package for FOI 2020-57 did not contain any information from the city's proposal or any of the supporting letters that were claimed to have been included with the proposal. The proposal was claimed to have garnered letters of support from many business and First Nations. Since the contents of the city's proposal was not made public and Sault Ste. Marie has now been selected for the FPF Facility, the public should be granted access to the contents of the proposal. The city initially claimed that the information would not be released in its entirety or in part due to reasons that included economic interest. I would like to acquire any material related to the technical, health and environmental considerations from experts and consultants who assisted in drafting the proposal.

Although Mayor Provenzano stated that it would be the responsibility of Noront to prove that FPF is safe, the city was a proponent who made a voluntary submission for the bidding process. As a proponent for the FPF facility, the city was responsible to demonstrate to the public that they investigated the potential health and environmental impacts before submitting the final proposal. The information in the proposal should be sufficient to assure the public that the consultations undertaken in preparing the proposal were effective in identifying potential negative impacts. The website saultfpfproject.com, initially created by the city for the FPF project, did not adequately inform the public of any potential negative impacts and cannot be viewed as a sufficient form of public consultation. The domain name for the site is currently no longer active for public access to any current information.

Information related to the luncheon held by the SSM COC/EDC on May 10, 2017 was requested because there was limited notice to the public, and it was only advertised on the COC website for a short time. Public attendance was also limited since many were unaware of the luncheon, unable to attend due to prior commitments due to short notice, and for financial reasons since tickets for "non-members" was higher than COC/EDC members. The luncheon was intended to be used as a venue to educate and encourage businesses to show interest in the Noront FPF coming to Sault Ste. Marie. Noront themed city street signs were presented to Noront executives as "gifts" at the luncheon.

There are many potential negative impacts to the community and health concerns raised by the public including local physicians. Since the city was selected by Noront for the FPF, there has been insufficient public consultation and opportunity for residents to receive answers to many concerns. A review of the information requested in the FOI and further documents would assist in assuring the public that the city has exercised due diligence by considering factors beyond the economic interests to our community.

Thank you,

Selva Rasaiah

INITIAL REQUEST FORM FOR SSM FOI 2020-5

Request Form

under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*/
Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Please Note: A \$5.00 application fee is required for all requests.

Request for:	Name of Institution request made to:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to General Records	The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Own Personal Information	Legal Department, 4 th Floor, 99 Foster Drive
<input type="checkbox"/> Correction to Own Personal Information	Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6

If request is for **access to**, or **correction of**, own personal information records:

Last name appearing on records: same as below, or: _____

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss	Last Name: <u>Rasaiah</u>
First Name: <u>Selva</u>	Middle Name: <u>Timothy Alexander</u>
Address: (Street/Apt. No./P.O. Box/R.R. No.) <u>162 Cathcart St.</u>	City/Town: <u>Sault Ste. Marie</u>
Province: <u>ON</u>	Postal Code: <u>P6A 1E4</u>
Telephone Number (Day): (<u>705</u>) <u>942-9179</u>	Telephone Number (Evening): (<u>705</u>) <u>942-9179</u>

Detailed description of requested records, personal information or personal information to be corrected. (If you are requesting access to or correction of your personal information, please identify the personal information bank or record containing the person information, if known.)

The entire contents of the Ferrochrome Production Facility Proposal and supporting documents submitted to Noront Resources Ltd. including the letters of support (approx. 73 letters) from businesses and organizations including The First Nations.

Document provided by Noront Resources Ltd. to all municipalities in the bidding process that discuss environmental and mitigation measures of a proposed facility.

The information and documents provided by Noront Resources Ltd. outlining the requirements and conditions for the ferrochrome production facility used for the framework of the proposal that was submitted by the City of Sault Ste. Marie to Noront Resources Ltd.

Note: If you are requesting a correction of personal information, please indicate the desired correction, and if appropriate, attach any supporting documentation. You will be notified if the correction is not made and you may require that a statement of disagreement be attached to your personal information.

Preferred method of access to records:	<input type="checkbox"/> Examine Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive Copy	Signature: <u>Selva Rasaiah</u>	Date: <u>01/27/2020</u>
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For Institution Use Only		
THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE	Request Number:	Comments
Date Received: <u>JAN 27 2020</u>	<u>2020-5</u>	PAID

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Personal information contained on this form is collected pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act/Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for the purpose of responding to your request. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Co-ordinator at the institution where the request is made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER FOR SSM FOI 2020-5

**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

January 30, 2020

Mr. Selva Rasaiah
162 Cathcart Street
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 1E4

Dear Mr. Rasaiah:

RE: FILE #FOI 2020-5 – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOR NORONT DOCUMENTS

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information request for the above noted matter. I have forwarded your request to the appropriate City Departments.

Under the Act the institution is allowed 30 days from the date of the request within which to respond. However we will attempt to provide you with a response before that time. You will be contacted when the records are available.

I confirm that you have paid the application fee of \$5.00. The cost of photocopying any material provided to you will be 20 cents per page and a fee billed of \$7.50 per 15 minutes of search and preparation time. Costs are expected to exceed \$25.00. You will be notified prior to your request being completed if costs are expected to be substantial.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey King'.

Jeffrey King
Solicitor/Prosecutor

JK/lv

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saultstearie.ca | Phone: 705.759.5400 Fax: 705.759.5405

PORTION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR SSM FOI 2020-5 REQUEST

2/25/2020

City and SSMEDC issue statement on Noront FPF project - City of Sault Ste. Marie

The FPF is the second major project proposed for the Ring of Fire development. Prior to any mining activity of chromite ore that would serve the FPF, the steps include the completion of the environmental assessment for the road to the Ring of Fire, construction of the road, completion of the environmental assessment for the Eagle's Nest Nickel mine (first project of the Ring of Fire), completion of the construction of the Eagle's Nest mine and the mine becoming operational.

Timeline

Fall 2016

- The SSMEDC reached out to Noront to explore opportunities for business development in Sault Ste. Marie related to the Ring of Fire development.
- Noront conducted a visit to the community which was reported widely in the media.

May 2017

- City Council unanimously passes resolution following Noront visit.
- The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce and the SSMEDC host a presentation on the Ring of Fire presented by Alan Couatts, President and Chief Executive Officer and Stephen Flewelling, Chief Development Officer, Noront Resources Limited.

November 2017

- The SSMEDC receives information package on the site requirements from Noront Resources. The package serves as a guideline from Noront Resources.
- On November 20, 2017 a presentation was made by the SSMEDC and City staff in open Council to provide an update on the project and submission process.

November 2017 - February 2018

- A project team, comprised of representatives from the City and the SSMEDC, gathers information on the community's competitive advantages and ability to host the FPF. A submission is ultimately made to Noront Resources. Submissions are also made by Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Timmins. **The submission from Sault Ste. Marie includes over 73 letters of support from local businesses and organizations.**

January 2018

- A website was launched by the SSMEDC and City as they were working on a proposal to have Sault Ste. Marie considered as a potential site to host a FPF. A media release was issued and the site provided details on this initiative, including frequently asked questions, a timeline and updates.

July 2018

- Noront shortlists Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins as the two remaining potential FPF sites.

May 2019

- Sault Ste. Marie is ultimately selected by Noront as the host location for a FPF based on locational factors and the city's competitive advantages.

September 2019

- Noront announces that it has reached land and engineering agreements with Algoma Steel and Hatch Engineering, along with a date for the introductory open house (October 23).

Share this page:

Contact Us

<https://saultstemarie.ca/Newsroom/October-2019/City-and-SSMEDC-issue-statement-on-Noront-FPF-proj.aspx>

2/3

Note: Statement regarding the submission of over 73 letters of support (highlighted)

AMENDED DECISION LETTER FOR SSM FOI 2020-5

The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

SENT REGULAR MAIL

March 12, 2020

Mr. Selva Rasaiah
162 Cathcart Street
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 1E4

Dear Mr. Rasaiah:

(AMENDED DECISION LETTER)

RE: FILE #FOI 2020-5 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST RE NORONT RESOURCES LTD.

Further to receiving the enclosed article from you, we conducted a further review and confirm that the only information deleted from your request was personal information relating to an individual other than the requester (s.14(1)). Any material that was not produced was not within the control of the City or subject to exemption 10 (1) (a) and (c) – Third party information and 11 (a), (d), and (g) – Economic and other interest.

You may request a review of this decision within 30 days of receiving this letter by writing to: **Registrar**, Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario, 2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8, Telephone: (416) 326-3333 or toll free 1-800-387-0073.

If you decide to request a review of this decision, please provide the Commissioner's office with the following:

- the file number listed at the beginning of this letter;
- a copy of this decision letter;
- a copy of the original request for information you sent to our institution; and
- the reasons why you believe the records exist (*if the decision was that no records exist*).

In addition, you must send an appeal fee to the Commissioner's office. If your request was for your personal information, the appeal fee is \$10.00. The appeal fee for all other requests for

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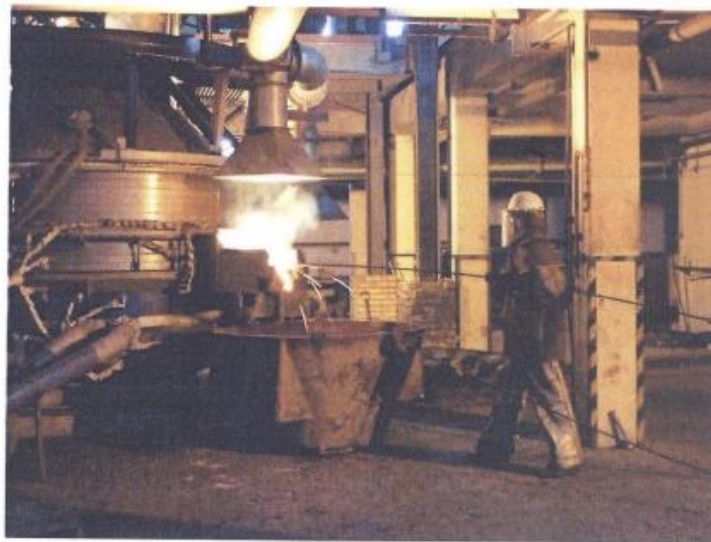


PAGE FROM A RELEASED DOCUMENT FOR SSM FOI 2020-5 REQUEST



Noront Ferrochrome Production Facility

October 2017



PAGE FROM A RELEASED DOCUMENT FOR SSM FOI 2020-5 REQUEST



**Guidelines for
Proposing Sites to Locate
Noront Resources Ltd's
Ferrochrome Production Facility**

October 2017

Noront Resources Ltd. 400-110 Yonge St. Toronto, ON M5C 1T4
www.norontresources.com

CORRESPONDENCE RELEASED FOR SSM FOI 2020-5 REQUEST

Andrea Viotto

From: Dan Hollingsworth
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2017 2:18 PM
To: Tom Vair; Al Horsman; Nevin Buconjic
Cc: Andrea Viotto
Subject: Noront - Project Management Team
Attachments: Noront Ferrochrome Production Facility 20171031.pdf;
Noront_FPF_SitingProposalGuidance_31Oct2017.pdf;
NorontFerrochromeProductionFacilityEnvironment_31Oct2017.pdf

Hello project management team:

I would like to have a meeting next Monday to map out a collective project management plan and the work that needs to get completed over the next 90 days. After reviewing the document, we may want to consider some of the work we collectively have the ability to gather and analyze as well as the work that will require a third party expert for further assessment. We can then begin to coordinate the organizations and individuals that we need to speak to in the coming days.

I would like to block two hours and work through a project management plan that I hope to get out on tomorrow.

Please advise if 1-3pm is available next Monday, November 13.

Please take the time to review the three attachments enclosed in this note.

Best,

Daniel Hollingsworth, MBA
Executive Director, Business Development
Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation
99 Foster Drive, Level 1
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6
Office: 705-759-5428
1-866-558-5144
www.sault-canada.com

Invest 
Sault Ste. Marie

 **Sault Ste. Marie
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

Note: The only piece of correspondence released as part of the request (SSM FOI 2020-5)

REQUEST FORM FOR SSM FOI 2020-8

Request Form

under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*/
Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Please Note: A \$5.00 application fee is required for all requests.

Request for:	Name of Institution request made to:
<input type="checkbox"/> Access to General Records	The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Own Personal Information	Legal Department, 4 th Floor, 99 Foster Drive
<input type="checkbox"/> Correction to Own Personal Information	Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6

If request is for **access to**, or **correction of**, own personal information records:

Last name appearing on records: same as below, or: _____

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss	Last Name: <u>Rasaiah</u>
First Name: <u>Selva</u>	Middle Name: <u>Timothy Alexander</u>
Address: (Street/Apt. No./P.O. Box/R.R. No.) <u>162 Cathcart St.</u>	City/Town: <u>Sault Ste. Marie</u>
Province: <u>ON</u>	Postal Code: <u>P6A 1E4</u>
Telephone Number (Day): (<u>705</u>) <u>942-9179</u>	Telephone Number (Evening): (<u>705</u>) <u>942-9179</u>

Detailed description of requested records, personal information or personal information to be corrected. (If you are requesting access to or correction of your personal information, please identify the personal information bank or record containing the person information, if known.)

58 page Ferrochrome Production Facility Proposal submitted to Noront Resources Ltd.

Note: If you are requesting a correction of personal information, please indicate the desired correction, and if appropriate, attach any supporting documentation. You will be notified if the correction is not made and you may require that a statement of disagreement be attached to your personal information.

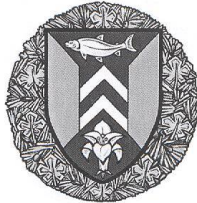
Preferred method of access to records:	<input type="checkbox"/> Examine Original <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive Copy	Signature: <u>Selva Rasnaiah</u>	Date: February 03, 2020
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For Institution Use Only		
Date Received:	Request Number:	Comments
	<u>2020-8.</u>	

Personal Information contained on this form is collected pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act/Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for the purpose of responding to your request. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Co-ordinator at the institution where the request is made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER FOR SSM FOI 2020-8

**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

February 4, 2020

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Selva Rasaiah
162 Cathcart Street
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1E4

Dear Mr. Rasaiah:

**RE: FILE #FOI 2020-08 – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOR FERROCHROME
PRODUCTION FACILITY PROPOSAL – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information request for the above noted matter. I have forwarded your request to the appropriate City Departments.

Under the Act the institution is allowed 30 days from the date of the request within which to respond. However we will attempt to provide you with a response before that time. You will be contacted when the records are available.

I confirm that you have paid the application fee of \$5.00. The cost of photocopying any material provided to you will be 20 cents per page and a fee billed of \$7.50 per 15 minutes of search and preparation time. Costs are expected to exceed \$25.00. You will be notified prior to your request being completed if costs are expected to be substantial.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey King'.

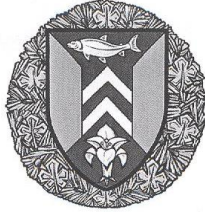
Jeffrey King
Solicitor/Prosecutor

JK/tj

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DECISION LETTER FOR SSM FOI 2020-8

The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

February 21, 2020

Mr. Selva Rasiah
162 Cathcart Street
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1E4

Dear Mr. Rasiah:

**RE: FILE #2020-08 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOR FERROCHROME
PRODUCTION FACILITY PROPOSAL**

Please be advised that this is a response to your request under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. m.56 (the "Act"). We have put your request to the Community Development & Enterprise Services Department to determine if the information exists and can be provided. We have been advised by the Community Development and Enterprise Services Department that the requested information does not exist, in their files.

Since no information is being provided, there are no fees associated with the request. The initial \$5.00 charge to begin the procedure is non-refundable.

You may ask for a review of this decision within 30 days of receiving this letter by writing to: **Registrar**, Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario, 2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8, Telephone: (416) 326-3333 or toll free 1-800-387-0073.

If you decide to request a review of this decision, please provide the Commissioner's office with the following:

- the file number listed at the beginning of this letter;
- a copy of this decision letter;
- a copy of the original request for information you sent to our institution; and
- the reasons why you believe the records exist (*if the decision was that no records exist*).

In addition, you must send an appeal fee to the Commissioner's office. If your request was for your personal information, the appeal fee is \$10.00. The appeal fee for all other requests for

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FILE #2020-08 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOR FERROCHROME PRODUCTION
FACILITY PROPOSAL
February 21, 2020
Page 2 of 2

information is \$25.00. Please include the fee with your letter of appeal – appeal fees should be in the form of either a cheque or money order, payable to the Minister of Finance.

Should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,



Jeffrey King
Solicitor/Prosecutor

JK/tj

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REQUEST FORM FOR RECENT SSM FOI 2020-57

Request Form

under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*/
Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Please Note: A \$5.00 application fee is required for all requests.

Request for:

- Access to General Records
 Access to Own Personal Information
 Correction to Own Personal Information

Name of Institution request made to:

The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
 Legal Department, 4th Floor, 99 Foster Drive
 Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5X6

If request is for **access to**, or **correction of**, own personal information records:

Last name appearing on records: same as below, or: _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Last Name: Rasaiah

First Name: Selva

Middle Name: Timothy Alexander

Address: (Street/Apt. No./P.O. Box/R.R. No.)
162 Cathcart St.

City/Town: Sault Ste. Marie

Province: ON

Postal Code: P6A 1E4

Telephone Number (Day): (705) 942-9179

Telephone Number (Evening): (705) 942-9179

Detailed description of requested records, personal information or personal information to be corrected. (If you are requesting access to or correction of your personal information, please identify the personal information bank or record containing the person information, if known.)

The Noront Ferrochrome Proposal submitted by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to Noront Resources Ltd entitled "Noront Ferrochrome Production Facility, The Path Forward in Sault Ste. Marie. This includes all correspondence, supporting documentation and power point presentations made to Noront by the Sault Ste. Marie delegation and who attended that presentation in Toronto ON in 2018 and any other date. The request also includes information regarding the presentation given at the COC/EDC lucheon in May 2017 and when the tickets were available by the SSM COC. Information requested should also include health and environmental considerations prepared by the City and EDC including the names of individuals and/or companies who were consulted on those aspects. The letter from Mayor Christian Provenzano to Alan Coutts and Stephen Flewelling in November 2016. Any letters or signed petitions provided to the city by citizens and/or environmental groups from 2016 to present regarding ferrochrome concerns.

Note If you are requesting a correction of personal information, please indicate the desired correction, and if appropriate, attach any supporting documentation. You will be notified if the correction is not made and you may require that a statement of disagreement be attached to your personal information.

Preferred method of access to records: Examine Original
 Receive Copy

Signature:

Date:

November 17, 2020

For Institution Use Only

Date Received:

Request Number:

Comments

Personal Information contained on this form is collected pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act/Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for the purpose of responding to your request. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Co-ordinator at the institution where the request is made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REQUEST FORM FOR SSM FOI 2020-57

The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

November 25, 2020

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Selva Rasaiah
162 Cathcart Street
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1E4

Dear Mr. Rasaiah:

RE: FILE # 2020-57 - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST RE NORONT FERROCHROME PLANT

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information request for the above noted matter. I have forwarded your request to the appropriate City Departments.

Under the Act the institution is allowed 30 days from the date of the request within which to respond. However we will attempt to provide you with a response before that time. You will be contacted when the records are available.

I confirm that you have paid the application fee of \$5.00. The cost of photocopying any material provided to you will be 20 cents per page and a fee billed of \$7.50 per 15 minutes of search and preparation time. Costs are expected to exceed \$25.00. You will be notified prior to your request being completed if costs are expected to be substantial.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey King".

Jeffrey King
Solicitor/Prosecutor

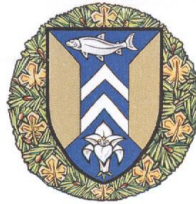
JK/lv

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LETTER FROM RELEASED DOCUMENTS - SSM FOI 2020-57 PACKAGE

The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

December 17, 2020

TO BE PICKED UP

Mr. Selva Rasaiah
162 Cathcart Street
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1E4

Dear Mr. Rasaiah:

**RE: FILE # 2020-57 - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST RE NORONT
FERROCHROME PLANT**

Further to our discussion this morning, please find enclosed material regarding Noront and the Ferrochrome Plant Proposal previously prepared by the City for a different FOI request. Should there be more material required that you wish to review and is not included herein, please contact the undersigned.

Should we not hear from you within 60 days from the date of this letter, we will consider your request satisfied and close the above noted file.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey King".

Jeffrey King
Solicitor/Prosecutor

JK/tj
Enclosure

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NORTHERN ONTARIO BUSINESS ARTICLE – NORONT VISIT (NOV. 2016)

Tom Dodds' new best friends dabble in the Ring of Fire Noront bigwigs making scouting trip to the Sault

Nov 11, 2016 1:04 PM By: Ian Ross



Sault EDC boss Tom Dodds greets Noront Resources' Al Coutts and Steve Flewelling

Al Coutts, president of Noront Resources, swooped into Sault Ste. Marie, Nov. 4, for a tour of the city, courtesy of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation.

It's not known if this is the start of a beautiful relationship with the Ring of Fire miner, but the nickel and chromite developer decided to tweet a photo of Coutts and his chief development officer, Steve Flewelling, with economic development chief executive Tom Dodds on the city's waterfront.

"He came out, we gave him a tour of the town," said Dodds, "we showed him possible areas...of industrial land that would make sense to them.

"We're walking into city hall and he says, let's take a picture. I said, if you're feeling inclined to publicize that you're here, far be it for me to say no. "

Dodds cautioned that the visit was very exploratory and doesn't want to build unrealistic expectations that the Toronto-based mine developer is in a position to target the Sault for a chromite processing operation.

"My sense of the meeting and the discussion was that it was really preliminary. He was just trying to get the lay of the land."

Before the visit was arranged, Dodds read media reports where Coutts was quoted as saying that he had been approached by "a number of parties" from Hamilton, Sudbury Thunder Bay, Timmins and the Sault to locate potential ferrochrome smelter sites in those communities, which was news to Dodds.

So he shrugged his shoulders and decided to cold call Coutts. Their discussion led to an invitation.

Dodds said he was briefed on Noront's mine development plans in the Ring of Fire.

The company's timelines are to develop its Eagle's Nest copper-nickel mine by 2018, followed by its Blackbird chromite deposit in 2021.

Getting a mine access road from Pickle Lake into the remote mining camp is chief among their infrastructure challenges.

Any decision on breaking ground for a chromite smelter – used in the manufacturing of stainless steel – could be five years out, said Dodds.

"Their head isn't there yet or they weren't in a position to discuss that with us. Their big priority is getting the road."

But Dodds said it was an excellent opportunity to showcase what the city has to offer by way of service and supply companies.

The visit included a tour of the Port of Algoma, the expansion of which is on hold until the creditor protection proceedings with Essar Algoma Steel and its port authority sister company are resolved.

"From an economic development standpoint, it's worth our while to make them aware of what we have in Sault Ste. Marie, and that's exactly what we did," said Dodds.

From a transportation standpoint, the Sault is well-equipped to handle Ring of Fire ore.

Past studies by the mining companies place the southern terminus of a possible chromite ore-haul railway near the village of Nakina, located on CN's main cross-Canada line in northwestern Ontario.

From there, ore cars could run east to Oba, then switch south onto CN track (the former Algoma Central Railway) to Sault Ste. Marie.

At the Sault, Essar Steel Algoma has more than 400 acres of brownfield land which tie into the city's regional port plans.


Before that ever happens, Dodd said a lot of things have to fall into place before selecting a site that's environmentally suitable and is cost-effective for Noront to operate.

"Regardless of whether the Sault is in a dire economic situation, as I said to AI, it's got to make good business sense. It's got to be cost-competitive and we have to be more competitive than any other jurisdiction on the big picture things like electrical costs."

No date was set up for a follow-up visit, but Dodds said the door remains open should Noront be in a position to make their next move.


Source: <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/tom-dodds-new-best-friends-dabble-in-the-ring-of-fire-461986>

SAULT STE. MARE COC WEBSITE ADVERTISING NORONT LUNCHEON (APR 26/2017)


April 26, 2017


Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors - Call for Nominations

The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce will open the nomination process to fill vacancies on its Board of Directors on Thursday, April 27th. Please watch your email for details on Thursday or visit the Chamber website at www.ssmcoc.com.



Join us for a special presentation on The Ring of Fire - May 10th

The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce and the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation are pleased to offer a special presentation on **The Ring of Fire** presented by NORONT President & CEO, Alan Coutts and CDO, Stephen Flewelling.



Please join us to learn more about:

- Current status of Noront's Eagle's Nest Project
- Scale of Eagle's Nest and future chromite projects
- Business opportunities
- Employment
- The impact and benefits to neighbouring and Ontario communities

When & Where: Wednesday, May 10th @ The Grand Gardens, 68 Dennis Street **Time:** Registration starting at 11:45am, Lunch at 12:00noon.

Tickets: Members \$28 +hst \$38+hst Non-Members. **Deadline:** Please register before May 3rd at brandi@ssmcoc.com or 705 949 7152 ext 5. 48 hours advance notice of cancellation is required.

Proudly sponsored by:




Photo 1: The intended topics and considerations of the presentation has been outlined in the yellow box

SAULT STE. MARIE COC WEBSITE FOR THE PRESENTATION ON MAY 10, 2017 (LUNCHEON)



May 24, 2017

Sault under consideration for ferrochrome facility as part of Ring of Fire development

On Wednesday May 10th, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce (SSMCOC) and the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC) played host to senior management from Noront Resources.



Noront President and CEO Alan Coutts and Chief Development Officer Stephen Flewelling were on-hand for a SSMCOC / SSMEDC luncheon to discuss the current status and scale of Noront's Eagle's Nest project and future chromite projects. Coutts noted that Sault Ste. Marie is one of a handful of communities under consideration for a ferrochrome smelter which would create approximately 350 direct and another 150 indirect jobs.

To read more about this opportunity, please see some of the related coverage provided by local and area media.

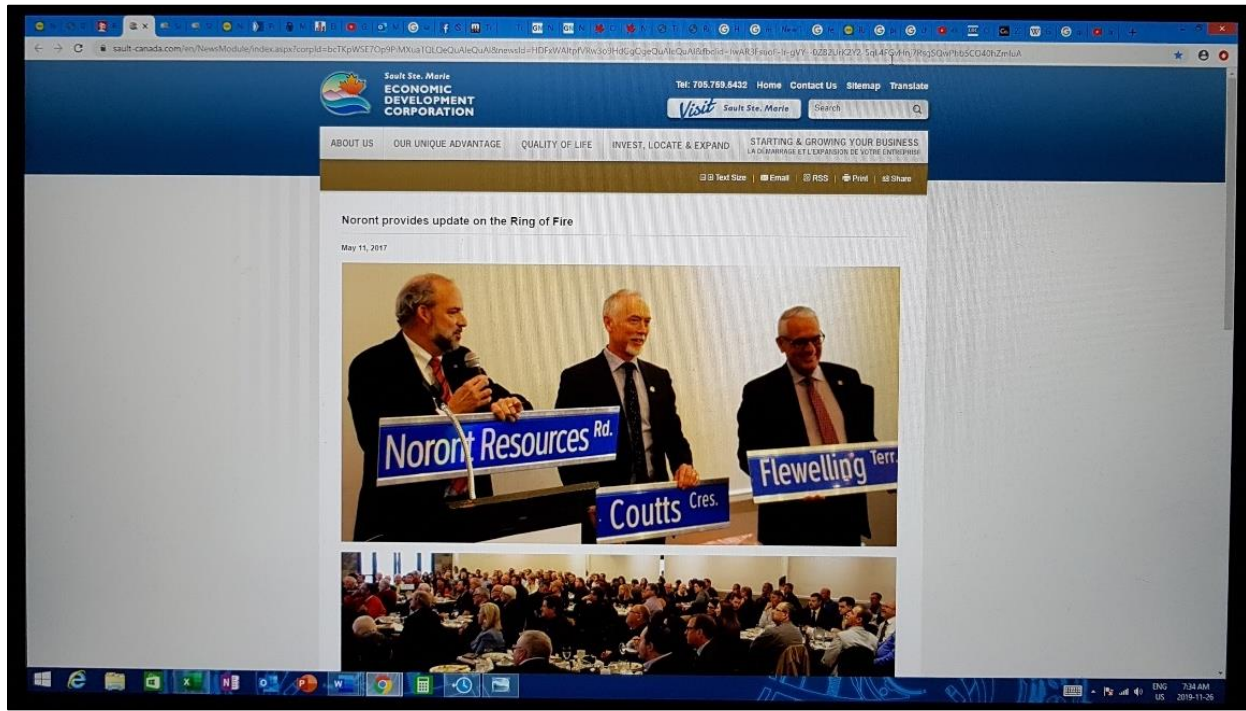
- [NorOnt: Support needed for ferrochrome plant](#) (Sault Star)
- [Gimme smelter](#) (Northern Ontario Business)
- [Sault courts Noront ferrochrome smelter](#) (Sootoday.com)
- [Province pushed to make roads decision holding up Ring of Fire...](#) (North Bay Nugget)

The luncheon presentation drew almost 150 local business people interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity for our community and was sponsored by the Port of Algoma.



Photo 2: SSM COC/EDC Noront presentation. Presentation slide outlined in the yellow circle

CITY OF SAULT STE. MARE STREET SIGNS PRESENTED ON MAY 10, 2017 LUNCHEON



Screenshot of SSM EDC website showing Noront “themed” SSM street signs (no longer an active link)



(L to R): Tom Dodds (Former CEO SSM EDC), Alan Coutts (CEO Noront), Stephen Flewelling (CDO Noront)

Photo 3: Photo of Noront themed SSM street signs presented to Noront executives at the luncheon.

SAULT STAR ARTICLE – M.P.P. ROSS ROMANO SUPPORT FOR NORONT FPF (DEC 02/2017)

Sault MPP goes to bat for ferrochrome plant

Author of the article:

Elaine Della-Mattia

Publishing date:

Dec 02, 2017 • Last Updated 3 years ago • 4 minute read



MPP Ross Romano says he will unveil a plan to educate the community on what a ferrochrome processing plant will mean to Sault Ste. Marie in the new year.

Romano said he is establishing a committee to focus on how to develop a proper education strategy to ensure the community understands what a processing facility would mean to Sault Ste. Marie and relieve residents' concerns on health and safety issues.

He plans on hosting a series of town hall meetings to create an educational awareness and develop a level of support in the community.

Romano made the announcement at the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce breakfast Friday where he was the guest speaker.

The declaration came as a surprise to Tom Vair, the city's deputy CAO of community development and enterprise services, who is one of the city-appointed leads on the project.

Vair said the committee is busy preparing the documentation in response to a request for information requested by Noront to meet a Feb. 2 submission deadline.

Sault Ste. Marie is one of four Northern Ontario cities (one is Sudbury) who want to be home to the ferrochrome plant and has been asked to submit documentation on a number of factors, including the availability and location of land, power services, transportation and workforce among other things.

The community engagement portion has been earmarked to follow after that documentation has been submitted, once Noront finalizes the type of plant with the specific component it wants to build, Vair said.

"We don't have all the information needed to have that conversation with the community, in part because Noront hasn't fully decided on all the components and the technology," Vair said.

The details, he said, will follow once the base requirements are established and Noront determines what it wants to build.

Vair said in fact, the city wants to work with the elected officials on the project. "I hope we can still do that."

He said a meeting had already been scheduled for next Friday with Romano and MP Terry Sheehan.

"I'm sure this will be part of that conversation," Vair said.

The city's drive to diversify the economy and bring a plant of this magnitude to Sault Ste. Marie will be incredibly important to create good paying jobs for the future, Romano said.

While recent work to submit a bid for the city to be a second headquarters to online retail giant Amazon garnered incredible recognition for the city, "this bid cannot be any less. In fact, we need to raise the bar, shoot higher," Romano said. "The time is now to develop our community awareness plan."

Romano said he's been building relationships with Noront executive since he was elected last June and has worked hard to bring parties together to create a level of assurance that they will be able to lease lands on Algoma property after the CCAA process is completed.

"We have an opportunity in front of us right now that can bring good paying jobs to our community. This is not a pie-in-the-sky opportunity," he said.

Romano said it's imperative to Noront that the community they choose to build the processing plant is supportive of it.

"This company cares a great deal about their reputation," he said. "Quite frankly, they want to be wanted."

But Romano said he's concerned the community support drive has not yet begun and believes it is a critical piece to be the successful proponent for the ferrochrome facility.

He said a grassroots committee has already started raising environmental and health and safety concerns.

While he applauds that group for asking the questions, Romano wants to make sure their concerns are alleviated and that can only be done if the community works together, he charges.

"We need to focus on how we can ensure we develop a proper education strategy and support we need," he said.

Vair said he understands that some residents will have concerns about the proposed processing facility and the city will do its part to reach out to them and answer their questions.

"We will reach out to them to let them know where we are in the process and engage with them," Vair said. "They will have an opportunity to learn more about it. At the end of the day, there are people that are against these things no matter what it is or no matter what you do and you're not going to change their minds but the responsible thing to do is to have the facts at the table and have the conversation about those facts."

Romano has faith in provincial environmental standards and believes the community deserves answers to questions, but noted Ontario is a highly regulated province with the highest environmental and health and safety thresholds.

"Do not let yourself be governed by fears of what we do not know," he said. The ferrochrome plant "will not happen anywhere if it can't be handled in a safe manner."

Romano said the PCs vow to develop the Ring of Fire and engage in discussions with the federal government to develop a cost-sharing formula to move that project forward.

"Our commitment is to build that road and we will find a way to do with or without (the federal government's) support," he told the Chamber.

Source: <https://www.thesudburystar.com/2017/12/02/sault-mpp-goes-to-bat-for-ferrochrome-plant/wcm/643b47ab-d0fe-0a95-7374-6296d3e4293b>

SUDBURY STAR ARTICLE - SSM FPF PROPOSAL DOCUMENT (FEB. 10/2018)

Bid for ferrochrome plant has all the pieces

<http://www.saultstar.com/2018/02/10/bid-for-ferrochrome-plant-has-all-the-pieces>

Bid for ferrochrome plant has all the pieces

By [Elaine Della-Mattia](#), Sault Star

Saturday, February 10, 2018 9:01:04 EST AM



Mayor Christian Provenzano says Sault Ste. Marie's bid for the Noront Resources ferrochrome plant has all the pieces - and more.

Sault Ste. Marie has the 'clear path forward' that Noront Resources wants to see for its ferrochrome processing facility, Mayor Christian Provenzano argues.

The mayor, along with MP Terry Sheehan, MPP Ross Romano, a city contingent and supporting experts, demonstrated that path forward in Noront's Toronto offices last Friday, the final day to submit bids to the Canadian mining company that has the largest land position in the Ring of Fire.

The two-and-a-half hour presentation addressed all areas of information requested in the bid process and any questions Noront's executives had were also answered by the Sault Ste. Marie team, Provenzano said in a recent interview.

"I'm confident we provided a substantive and professional submission and we made the best case we could to continue to have Noront continue working with us," Provenzano said.

Sault Ste. Marie's submission, titled A Path Forward, focuses on an opportunity for Noront in Sault Ste. Marie, Provenzano writes in his opening introduction of the document.

"Considering this history, the location of the site, the nature of the pre-existing infrastructure and the ability to move input/outputs to and from the site by rail and barge, we believe that Sault Ste. Marie offers the most compelling capital and operating cost considerations," the opening letter reads.

Provenzano explains that the document was designed in-house to demonstrate that Sault Ste. Marie has all the requirements needed to house the proposed \$1 billion ferrochrome facility and the city surpasses the requirements noted in the bid information document.

Noront Resources EO Alan Coutts told The Sudbury Star earlier this week that no submission is a slam dunk, but he expected the communities to submit compelling proposals.

With a long history in the metallurgical industry, Sault Ste. Marie also has the expertise in its workforce, supporting industries and industrial production facilities.

While the 58-page glossy document has proprietary information that Provenzano doesn't want to release at this time, he explained the city's submission in detail to The Sault Star. The bid is not a closed process and it is expected that Noront could return to the communities seeking more information or clarification during their review process.

Located at the heart of the Great Lakes and on an international border, Sault Ste. Marie has access to all the transportation networks needed to input raw materials and export products to market.

Provenzano said the team demonstrated the costs and logistics of operating from Sault Ste. Marie and a variety of options were examined.

Most importantly, Noront wants a serviced brownfield site compatible for heavy industrial use.

The city's largest employer, Algoma, has committed to negotiating the land Noront requires for its ferrochrome production facility and that land mass is even larger than the mining company's requirements. Additional industrial zoned land owned by the city sits idly nearby.

Algoma has also committed to allowing Noront to locate its production facility stacks within the identified zone of impingement and will share its already permitted raw material storage area.

The brownfield site itself couldn't be better located for a production facility of this kind. It's in close proximity to a multimodal facility, on a deep water port with roads and rail lines travelling east-west and north-south already in place and easily accessible. Proximity to the United States and the I-75 Interstate and the TransCanada Highway are also noted.

Even more importantly, Algoma's 400 ha of brownfield land is already properly zoned and serviced with gas, water and electricity. Additional electrical infrastructure needed to get sufficient power to the site can be achieved "and we showed them how it can be done. The city owns its utility and we have experience and expertise with energy and green energy," Provenzano said. "We believe we have a competitive advantage."

Letters of support, including from Algoma and the secured creditors, were included in the package, Provenzano said.

Now that the city has done the legwork, brokering any deal for a parcel of land, complete with terms and conditions, would be up to Noront and Algoma.

"We showed them the path forward," Provenzano said.

City council had unanimously passed a resolution last May supporting the project and Sheehan and Romano have offered to lead a group of volunteers to champion the project.

First Nation communities have also provided their support to submit the bid.

Provenzano said he believes he showed Sault Ste. Marie's progressiveness. He outlined the community improvement plan, explained the city's economic diversification fund and offered information on the local workforce situation.

It was also explained that a community engagement process has been launched with the development of a local website.

If Sault Ste. Marie is successful in its bid, concerns about the Environmental Assessment process, and the facility will move forward, Provenzano said.

"We were very open and honest with what we were hearing in the community and what needed to be done," he said. "We need to engage the community and we explained the importance of getting the support, the cooperation and engaging our First Nation communities and they understood that."

Provenzano said he's confident the submission was the best it could be.

"This was a big project and we put a lot of time and effort into this process," he said of the committee. "I think we represented our city very well."

Sault Ste. Marie's bid was one of four received by Noront by deadline time. Others included proposals from Timmins, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Noront expects their review of the submissions to take several months before making a final decision.

A consulting firm, Hatch, has been hired to review the bid documents and tabulate the information. That will include calculating indicative capital and operating costs, reviewing site appropriateness, environmental facts, available workforce and community and First Nation support.

Noront has said that near the conclusion of their analysis, the company will engage directly with the owners of the favoured site(s) to determine whether a mutually agreeable lease agreement can be reached.

It will announce its decision publicly, along with the criteria and rationale for the site selection, a company press release states.

Ferrochrome is created with iron, chrome and oxygen. The high-grade chromite ore extracted from the Ring of Fire area is ground and put through a processing plant that requires high levels of energy to melt the ore and add carbon to separate the oxygen from the iron and chrome. The completed iron and chrome project is called ferrochrome. Ferrochrome is used in most household stainless steel products.

The final product would be exported to the industrial regions in the northeast United States, such as Ohio and Pennsylvania, to make stainless steel. Currently companies get their ferrochrome from South Africa and Kazakhstan.

But any ferrochrome facility – the first of its kind in North America -- won't be built for years to come.

Infrastructure around the Ring of Fire, while slated to be the next mining giant for Ontario, will need to be built first, including access roads to the site.

Lengthy and arduous multi-year environmental assessments will ensure that the highest standards are met before any permits are issued for the facility to be built.

"We're committed to working with Noront on the project, and build relationships with them," Provenzano said.

Provenzano will also be accompany the Economic Development Corp at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada mining conference in March, which will feature a Northern Ontario pavilion highlighting local and regional companies.

Source:<https://stockhouse.com/companies/bullboard?symbol=t.not&postid=27538320&fbclid=IwAR3zuLnybIH1Od2piCrludPau0joYygZURmdcxJKlp9z3zBSEseYivjtmM>

SUDBURY STAR ARTICLE REGARDING THE SSM FPF PROPOSAL (FEB 10/2018)

Sault confident in bid for Noront plant

Author of the article: Elaine Della-Mattia

Publishing date: Feb 10, 2018 • Last Updated 2 years ago • 5 minute read



Sault Ste. Marie has the 'clear path forward' that Noront Resources wants to see for its ferrochrome processing facility, its mayor says.

Mayor Christian Provenzano, along with MP Terry Sheehan, MPP Ross Romano, a city contingent and supporting experts, demonstrated that path forward in Noront's Toronto offices last Friday, the final day to submit bids to the Canadian mining company that has the largest land position in the Ring of Fire.

The two-and-a-half hour presentation addressed all areas of information requested in the bid process and any questions Noront's executives had were also answered by the Sault Ste. Marie team, Provenzano said in a recent interview.

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“Considering this history, the location of the site, the nature of the pre-existing infrastructure and the ability to move input/outputs to and from the site by rail and barge, we believe that Sault Ste. Marie offers the most compelling capital and operating cost considerations,” the opening letter reads.

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Source: <https://www.thesudburystar.com/2018/02/10/sault-confident-in-bid-for-noront-plant>

CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE DELEGATION – SSM FPF PROPOSAL PRESENTATION (FEB 2018)



(L to R): Tom Vair, Mayor Christian Provenzano, Rob Brewer, Dan Hollingsworth, Al Horsman, unknown, unknown



Vair



Provenzano



Brewer



Hollingsworth



Horsman

Photo 4: The two individuals on the far right of the photo have not been identified. A large presentation document (proposal) can be seen on the conference room table (circled in yellow)

SUDBURY STAR ARTICLE – SSM FPF BID PRESENTATION (FEB 2018)

Sault presents its ferrochrome plant bid

Author of the article:

Elaine Della-Mattia

Publishing date:

Feb 03, 2018 • Last Updated 2 years ago • 3 minute read



Mayor Christian Provenzano said he's pleased with the city's presentation of its ferrochrome plant bid to Noront Resources.

Sault Ste. Marie's team met with Noront in their Toronto headquarters at 9:30 a.m. and completed their presentation by noon.

"It went well," Provenzano said after emerging from the presentation. "I think our committee represented the city very well and we were able to answer all the questions they had. They didn't ask anything that wasn't addressed in our presentation or our submission."

Provenzano said questions on the site, power needs, workforce and logistics were all answered for Noront.

The bid package, Provenzano said in a recent interview, came together nicely and should surpass Noront's expectations and requirements.

It included a slide deck, display boards and technical information from experts.

Sault Ste. Marie is one of four Northern Ontario cities competing to host the ferrochrome plant in the community.

The facility isn't expected to be built for many years. Ontario's stringent environmental regulations and obtaining proper permits for the plant will undergo an arduous process in whatever city Noront decides to build.

It's expected an environmental assessment could take five years after a site is chosen. If a permit is issued, building the plant would take several more years.

It's estimated that a ferrochrome facility would employ between 300-500 people directly and create more than 1,000 jobs indirectly through suppliers and other businesses.

Provenzano was accompanied by Sault MP Terry Sheehan, MPP Ross Romano, City CAO Al Horsman, Tom Vair, deputy CAO of community development and enterprise, Dan Hollingsworth, EDC's executive director of business development and PUC CEO Rob Brewer.

"We produced a compelling submission," Provenzano said. "Our submission includes detailed and thoughtful responses to the information requested by the company. We have determined a path forward for Noront in Sault Ste. Marie based on comprehensive research and analysis by the project team, in consultation with sector experts. I'm confident in the quality of our submission and I want to ensure the community that we put our best foot forward with a great effort."

Provenzano said the document won't be released in its entirety because it is in competition with those submitted by other communities.

However, he said, the city's chosen site is to have a smelter built on Algoma property, near both the Port of Algoma and on a rail spur. There would be no significant road or infrastructure construction needed in order to accommodate the ferrochrome plant. The site is supported by Algoma and it's expected that synergies could be created with the steel mill.

Provenzano said Noront would also realize significant cost advantages when shipping its products to market from Sault Ste. Marie because of its location as a transportation hub and access to the border. Barge transport from Sault Ste. Marie would provide Noront with the most cost-effective options, industry experts asked to analyze the data, concluded.

In addition, Sault Ste. Marie has a rich manufacturing and industrial history along with a skilled workforce, suppliers and post-secondary institutions able to provide services and workers to the facility.

The city also boasts a quality of life conducive to attracting and retaining talent from around the world.

"I am more than confident that the Sault has the knowledge, the people, the infrastructure and the enthusiasm to produce the very best products in a new ferrochrome production facility," said Sault MP Terry Sheehan.

MPP Ross Romano agreed. "It is my humble opinion that this process is the start of a very long and mutually beneficial relationship between Noront and the City of Sault Ste. Marie."

Noront Resources, a Canadian based mining company, has the largest land position in the Ring of Fire. It wants to build a ferrochrome facility in Northern Ontario. Ferrochrome is a key ingredient in stainless steel products.

The Ring of Fire is a massive planned chromite mining and smelting development project in the far North.

Other communities also bidding on the plant include Sudbury, Timmins and Fort William First Nations.

Noront said it will take three or four months to assess the bid proposals and they may require further clarity on some issues.

Source: <https://www.thesudburystar.com/2018/02/03/sault-presents-its-ferrochrome-plant-bid>



Photo 5: Sault Ste. Marie M.P. Terry Sheehan

RESPONSES TO RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS - THE SSM FPF PROJECT WEBSITE (MAR 28/2018)

- [Home](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [News & Updates](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

SaultFPFproject Team responds to citizen questions

By [Sault FPF Team](#) | March 28, 2018

The SaultFPFproject Team was asked a series of questions from local citizens regarding the proposed project and its impact on the Sault Ste. Marie area. To share the information with the public, the response is posted below:

It is important to the leadership of the community, and the community itself, that a broad and substantial effort is made to educate the public on the current technological process involved in a modern Ferrochrome Processing Facility (FPF). The SaultFPFproject Team is comprised of representatives from the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC). Its written submission and presentation to Noront Resources outlined concerns and sensitivities expressed to the City and the SSMEDC by local citizens and organizations. The project team raised these concerns and advised Noront of the importance of a proper outreach and consultation process to address the concerns and provide relevant and appropriate information.

The project team believes education, information sharing and a respectful dialogue are essential aspects of this project. If Noront decided to move forward with Sault Ste. Marie, a comprehensive community consultation will begin. In the meantime, the project team wanted to do its best to answer the questions posed by this petition.

Note: Questions are included in their original wording as submitted.

How a ferrochrome smelter will affect air and water quality? How it will impact human health (cancer rates, respiratory problems, etc)? How the smelter might affect food grown or harvested in the immediate area?

Both in the submission and during the project team's presentation, the concerns expressed regarding potential impact on air, water quality and human health were raised. Noront is committed to a comprehensive, multi-year environmental assessment and community consultation. The City is committed to participating in and supporting this process. Additionally, Noront is committed to an environmental mitigation strategy and following the best practice in environmental protection. It is important to note that prior to this project reaching the construction phase, it will first need to receive government approvals and pass environmental regulations.

What negative impact it could have on tourism – one of Algoma's biggest employers?

The project team does not expect the FPF will have a negative impact on the tourism industry. The proposed location for the facility is zoned for heavy industrial, and the development must undergo a rigorous environmental approval process prior to moving forward.

How it might negatively impact property values?

The project team does not expect the FPF will have a negative impact on property values. In fact, both the construction and operation will lead to job creation, which in turn should positively impact property values. Consumer confidence and job creation are important factors that affect property values.

What concessions and incentives are being offered by the city to attract NorOnt (the proponent)?

The submission outlined programs and opportunities that can be considered, relied upon or applied to for support. The project team is open to further discussion and consideration of incentives and/or support. Anything that is completed in that respect would need to be approved by City Council in open session, and as a result no specific offers or commitments have been made.

How have Batchewana First Nation, Garden River First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, Bay Mills Indian Community, and the Sault Tribe of Indians been consulted?

The project team sought input from Batchewana First Nation, Garden River First Nation and Missanabie Cree First Nation during the development of the proposal submission. The project team received letters of support from Batchewana First Nation, Garden River First Nation and Missanabie Cree First Nation. Those letters were included in the submission along with materials. The project team outlined the importance of meaningful First Nation consultation and involvement. The project team has not yet engaged the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Tribe of Indians, at this point.

How Chippewa County and The City of Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan have been consulted?

The project team has not formally engaged yet with Chippewa County, at this point. However, discussions have taken place with the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, which provided the project team with a letter of support that was included in the submission to Noront.

Will a smelter be a deterrent to people and businesses wishing to relocate to the Sault?

The project team does not expect the FPF to be a deterrent to people and businesses wishing to relocate to the Sault. This development will only move forward if it passes environmental regulations. Also, both the construction and operation will lead to job creation, and this is expected to attract new residents and potential businesses to the city.

What exactly is the nature of the jobs potentially being created and how many would go into our existing workforce?

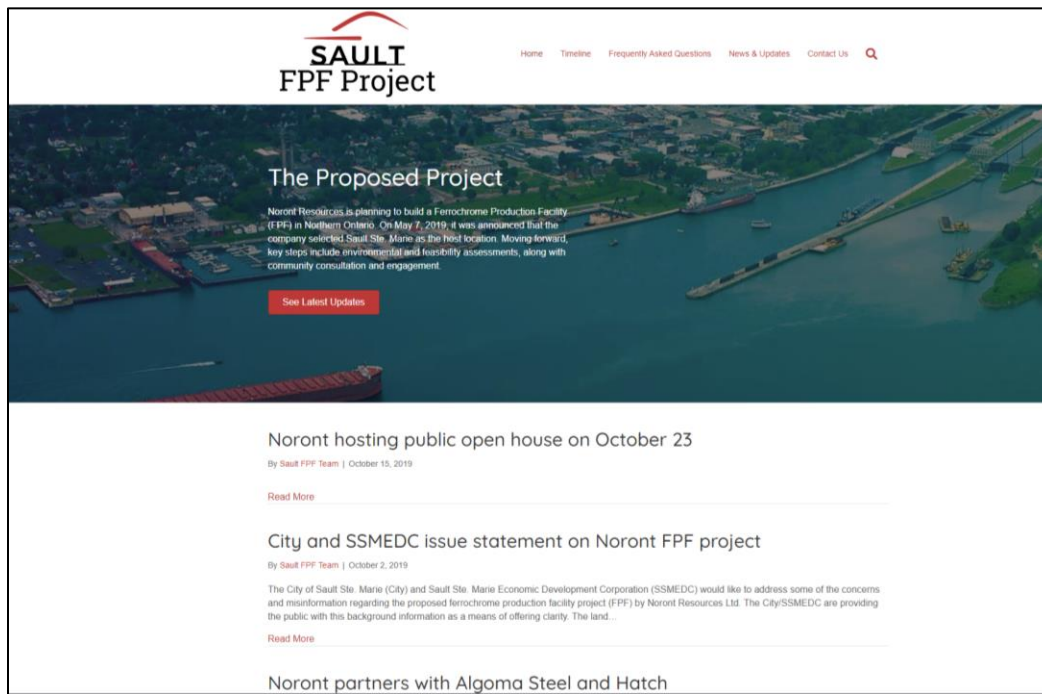
Once operational, the production facility is expected to employ between 300 and 500 people directly. This estimate is based on Noront's expectations for a facility of this size and scope. It is anticipated that more than 1,000 indirect jobs would also be created, mostly at local businesses that supply products and services. Hundreds of jobs would be generated during the construction phase of the facility. It is estimated as a \$600 to \$800-million project, and construction is expected to take between five to seven years.

How will a smelter affect our local energy sector? How will a smelter affect our local energy security?

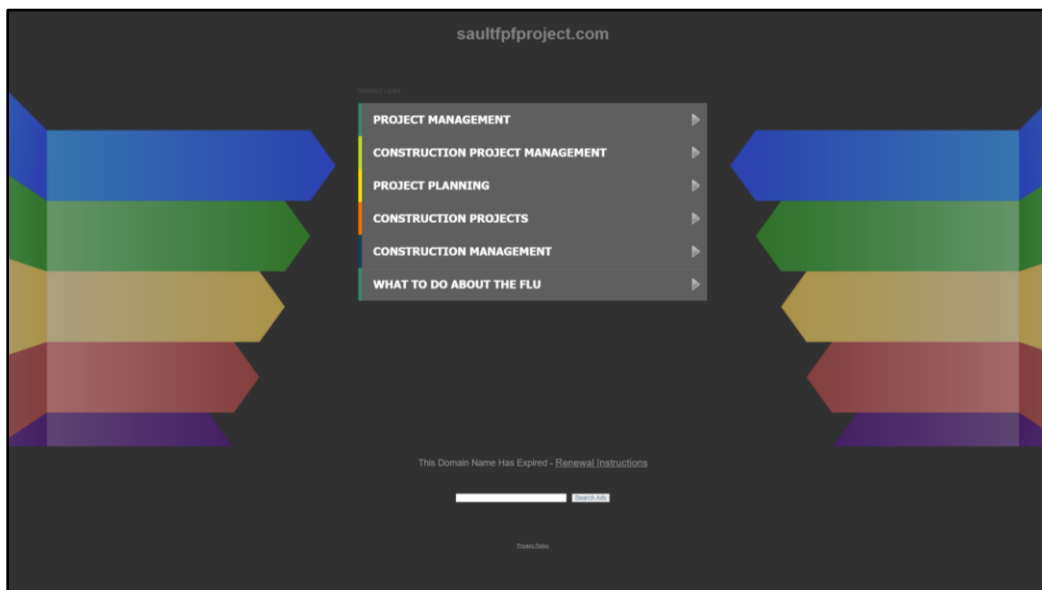
Power infrastructure will need to be constructed to facilitate the operation of the FPF. The project team has engaged PUC Services Inc. and a local electrical engineering firm to assess power needs, stability and the ability to satisfy the potential energy needs of the FPF. At this stage, the project team does not believe that our local energy supply or infrastructure will be negatively affected. In fact, within the region, there is an excess supply of renewable energy that would be beneficial to utilize in a facility such as this.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit www.SaultFPFproject.com for information about the submission, answers to frequently asked questions, a timeline, and details on community consultation and the environmental assessment. Questions to the project team can be submitted by emailing SaultFPFproject@ssmedc.ca.

SAULT FPF PROJECT WEBSITE - (SCREENSHOTS)



(2018-2020)



(2021)

Note: The website domain for the FPF, saultfpfproject.com is currently expired and no alternative site has been provided for public access to information on the project.

CANADIAN DIMENSION ARTICLE – BUILDING THE ROAD TO THE RING OF FIRE (SEP 13/2016)

Why We Shouldn't Pay \$1-Billion for the Ring of Fire

[Matthew Corbeil](#) / September 13, 2016



Photo by Alex Banner

Hyped as “Northern Ontario’s oil sands,” the Ring of Fire mineral deposit is inching closer to development. Noront Resources, which now holds 75 per cent of the active mining claims in the area 400 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, has recently announced plans to begin mine construction in 2018. Developing North America’s largest chromite deposit, the company claims, will create “jobs, growth and long-term prosperity for Northern Ontario.”

To help things along, the provincial government has pledged upward of \$1-billion in public funding for infrastructural development, including a permanent access road to the remote – and ecologically sensitive – James Bay lowlands site.

Nearby Matawa First Nation leaders, however, remain far from convinced that Noront has earned the “social license” to begin operations. Last month, Neskantaga Chief Wayne Moonias, whose community is in its *third consecutive year of a state of emergency over suicides*, not to mention a near-permanent boil water advisory, ordered the company to “cease and desist” from exploratory drilling on traditional Indigenous territory. While Alan Coutts, president of Noront, expressed his desire to “reach out” to Neskantaga and other surrounding communities, the company made no plans to delay the drilling.

And yet the government’s decision to provide such a massive subsidy to the mining industry has provoked little dissent from progressive circles in Ontario. Should we, in these times of austerity, really be doling out billions of dollars to big business? What can we expect from development in the Ring of Fire, anyway? Will the new mines really bring prosperity to the mostly Indigenous communities of the Far North?

There is, to be sure, good cause for skepticism. Successive Ontario governments have been remarkably accommodative to the mining industry's political agenda, and the province's mining policies have long prioritized company profits at the expense of community development and ecological integrity.

Undermining the Environment

The Wildlands League's [recent report](#) on De Beer's Victor diamond mine near Attawapiskat is a case in point. In reviewing De Beer's reports on water quality submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, the League found that all of the data from the reporting stations downstream from the mine were missing from official sources. When the League contacted the Ministry for clarification, its only response was an assurance from the company that its reporting was in full compliance with the Ministry's requirements. However, the missing data, which the League later acquired from a "concerned party," revealed a tripling of concentrations of methylmercury – a neurotoxin – in the river downstream from the mine. Despite this serious health risk to the residents of Attawapiskat, who rely on the river system's fish as a major food source, the Ministry of the Environment did not push De Beers for more thorough reporting – or action. Given the government's record in Grassy Narrows, this is alarming, to say the least.

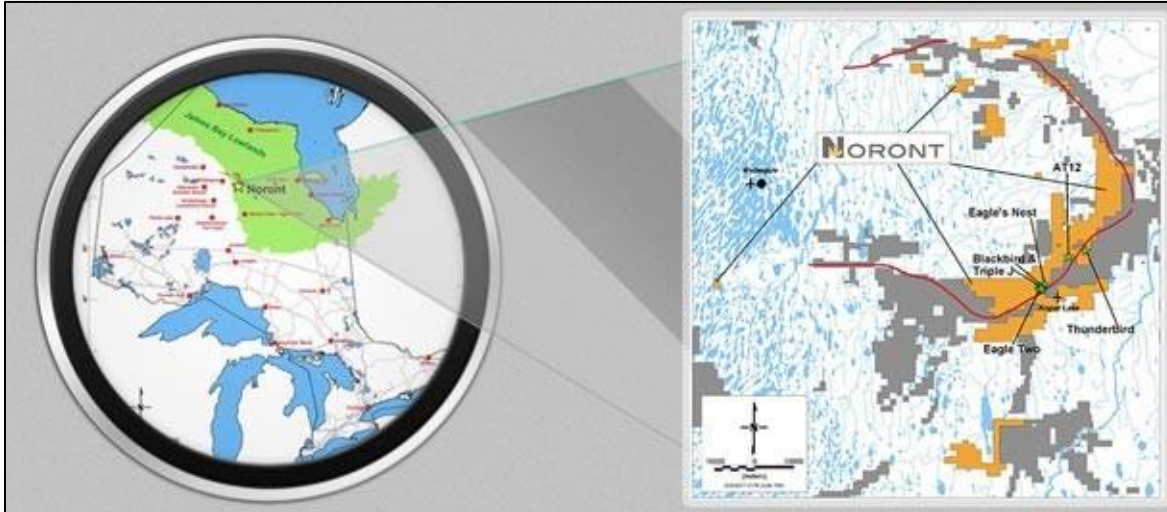
The Victor mine is not the only cause for concern. There are more than 4,400 abandoned mines strewn throughout the province. These abandoned mines, according to last year's [Auditor General's Report](#), "pose risks to public health and safety and the environment." However, the same report found that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines conducted only "minimal" inspections on abandoned mines, and has no long-term plan for their rehabilitation. In the five years leading up to the report, the Ministry inspected only 6 per cent of the abandoned mines, including only 142 of the 362 "high-risk" sites. Moreover, while the Ministry has estimated a total clean up cost of \$372-million for 56 of the most contaminated sites, it routinely allocates only \$4-million of its budget for this purpose. On top of that, it has no plans to carry out detailed cost estimates of the remaining "highest-risk sites."

In Pickle Lake, the risk became reality when the town's development plans were nixed by the Ministry of Mines and Northern Development because of the high levels of arsenic contamination at an abandoned gold mine site. While the Ministry has promised to initiate "a study to identify areas of concern," it will take "several years to get off the ground."

In Sudbury, the two mining giants, Vale and Glencore, have also benefited from lax environmental oversight. Just last year, residents of nearby Copper Cliff were [forced to stay indoors](#), and roads leading to town were closed after a plume of toxic nitrous oxide leaked from the Vale smelter. And yet, both companies have been granted exemptions to the province's "tough new air quality standards," which came into effect in July of this year. Vale's extension will run until 2021, while Glencore's, granted earlier this year, is good for ten years.

Full Article: <https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/why-we-shouldnt-pay-1-billion-for-the-ring-of-fire>

PORTION OF THE GLOBE AND MAIL ARTICLE - THE RING OF FIRE (OCT 25/2019)



Around the time Cliffs was giving up, the Ring of Fire got an unexpected boost from an unlikely source: James Franklin, a respected geologist. The former chief scientist for the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) mused that the Ring of Fire could contain \$60-billion worth of minerals.

But Mr. Franklin also readily admits the figure contained no analysis of costs or potential return, and no insight on whether any project should be developed.

"There might well be \$60-billion worth of metal sitting in the ground, but it might cost you \$80-billion to get it out," he said.

Mr. Franklin says about 70 per cent of his Ring of Fire estimate came from the inferred category, with the rest coming from measured and indicated. Now, he has second thoughts about including any of the inferred in his calculation.

The \$60-billion number does appear to have been dropped from most Ontario government statements in the past year or two, but officials haven't pulled back their estimates or added context.

Mr. Franklin says if he could do his PDAC talk over again, he would have made it much clearer what the potential downsides and risks are of trying to develop the Ring of Fire. As someone who has worked as a consultant for Noront, and been to its mining camp, he has no illusions about the harsh realities of operating there.

-- (Niall McGee, The Globe and Mail October 25, 2019)

Source: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-the-road-to-nowhere-why-everything-youve-heard-about-the-ring-of/>

ALAN COUTTS (NORONT PRESIDENT/CEO) CHANGES IN PERSPECTIVE - THE ROAD TO RING OF FIRE

“KWG is interested in developing infrastructure and I would say, we’re the miners, we control all the deposits. I don’t really care who builds the infrastructure. If it’s the provincial government, great; if it’s the Chinese, that’s great too.”

Coutts said he’ll only throw his support behind a plan that checks off all the boxes on environmental assessment, detailed engineering, financing, and has the support of area First Nations.

“I want to be the miner, I don’t want to be the infrastructure guy. I’m happy to pay to use it, but I won’t build it.”
– Alan Coutts (MineConnect September 06, 2016)

Source: <https://mineconnect.com/northern-cities-chasing-noronts-ferrochrome-smelter/>

“We are no longer leading the development of the road, nor are we involved in the environmental assessment of the road and allowed our Indigenous partners and the government to oversee that,” he said. “This road affects them, as it will be on their traditional lands, and the engineering required to build a road across muskeg.”
– Alan Coutts (Soo Today February 25 2019)

Source: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/noront-ceo-gives-confident-update-on-ring-of-fire-development-1259907>

“What we have decided to do is, instead of the typical model where the resource company like Noront, would develop the infrastructure, the road to access the Ring of Fire. We’ve chosen to push that back to the province who in turn has engaged the local First Nations to be the proponents of that infrastructure. --The province of Ontario is bankrolling the process.” - Alan Coutts (Financial Post March 05, 2019)

Source: <https://financialpost.com/commodities/mining/noront-resources-the-poster-child-for-all-thats-gone-wrong-with-ontario-resource-developments>

The role of government is important there. To build infrastructure to support that kind of development. now what we're talking about, though, is we're talking about a marriage between economic development and social development. -- I think the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada should be the entities that bankroll this kind of infrastructure development.

-- Alan Coutts (TVO September 24, 2019)

Source: <https://www.tv.org/transcript/2581210/hitting-reset-on-the-ring-of-fire>

NORONT RESOURCES LTD. PRESENTATION BOARD (2019)

FERROCHROME PROCESS FLOW SHEET

The flow sheet shows the process starting with 'CHROMITE AND SILICA SAND COVERED STORAGE' and 'ANTHRACITE & LIMESTONE FROM ALGOMA STOCKPILES'. These feed into a 'ROTARY KILN'. From the kiln, 'GAS CLEANING' (with 'TO STACK' and 'DUST COLLECTION' outputs) and 'FRESH WATER' feed into a 'DC ELECTRIC FURNACE'. The furnace also receives 'FUELS GAS RECYCLE' and 'EXCESS GAS FLARE'. The furnace produces 'FERROCHROME' and 'SLAG'. The 'FERROCHROME' goes to 'FERROCHROME SHOTTING', which uses 'FRESH WATER EVAPORATION' and 'TREATED WATER'. The 'SLAG' goes to 'SLAG GRANULATION', which also uses 'TREATED WATER'. The final products are 'FERROCHROME SHOT PRODUCT' and 'SLAG BY-PRODUCT'.

PROPOSED LAYOUT

An aerial map showing the plant's location near a body of water. A black outline indicates the proposed plant footprint.

PROCESS FACTS

- Process Design:**
 - Closest to source capture, capture, transport, storage, and disposal.
 - Process design to capture dust at the point of generation.
 - Water points, collection, and treatment.
 - Water points, collection, and treatment.
 - Water points, collection, and treatment.
- Water Protection:**
 - Prevention of pollution, spill, leak, and discharge.
 - Containment, monitoring, and treatment for surface water.
 - Prevention of pollution, spill, leak, and discharge.
 - Prevention of pollution, spill, leak, and discharge.
 - Prevention of pollution, spill, leak, and discharge.
- Environment, Health & Safety Management:**
 - Comprehensive EHS management system.
 - Prevention of pollution, spill, leak, and discharge.
 - Prevention of pollution, spill, leak, and discharge.
- Air Emissions Control:**
 - Dust collection and capture, transport, storage, and disposal.
 - Process design to capture dust at the point of generation.
 - Water points, collection, and treatment.
 - Water points, collection, and treatment.
- Solid Waste:**
 - All waste that is not reusable, recyclable, or otherwise managed.
 - Waste that is not reusable, recyclable, or otherwise managed.

CHROMIUM VI

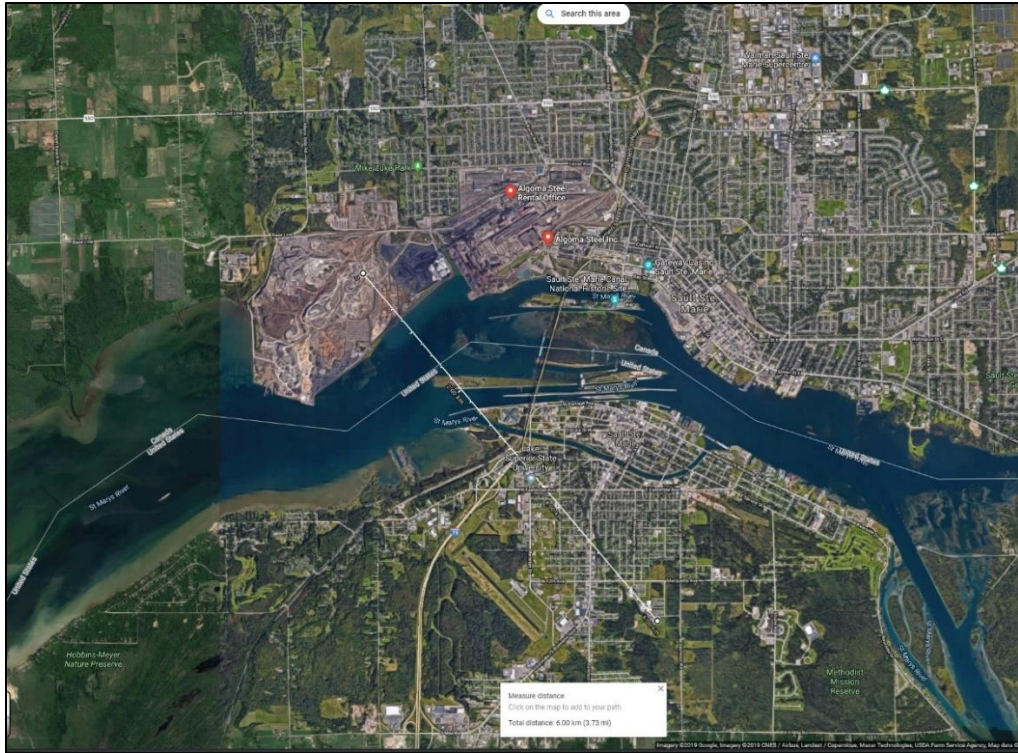
- Noront is not using or producing Cr(VI) directly.
- Manufacturing processes have been selected to avoid making by-product Cr(VI).
- Noront's focus is on controlling emissions at source, and recycling directly to process.
- Chromium dust emissions will be very low with the majority captured and recycled by appropriate technology.
- Amount of Cr(VI) in the chrome dust will be extremely low or none.
- Noront will not expose workers or the public to unsafe dust conditions.

PROPOSED LAYOUT OF THE FERROCHROME PLANT (2019)



Note: Noront FPF is the black outlines on the pale "grey/brown area" of the photo

THE FINAL TWO PROPOSED SITES AND THEIR IMPACTS WITHIN 6km (3.73 mi) Sault Ste. Marie (Algom Steel Inc.) vs. Timmins (Kidd Met Site)

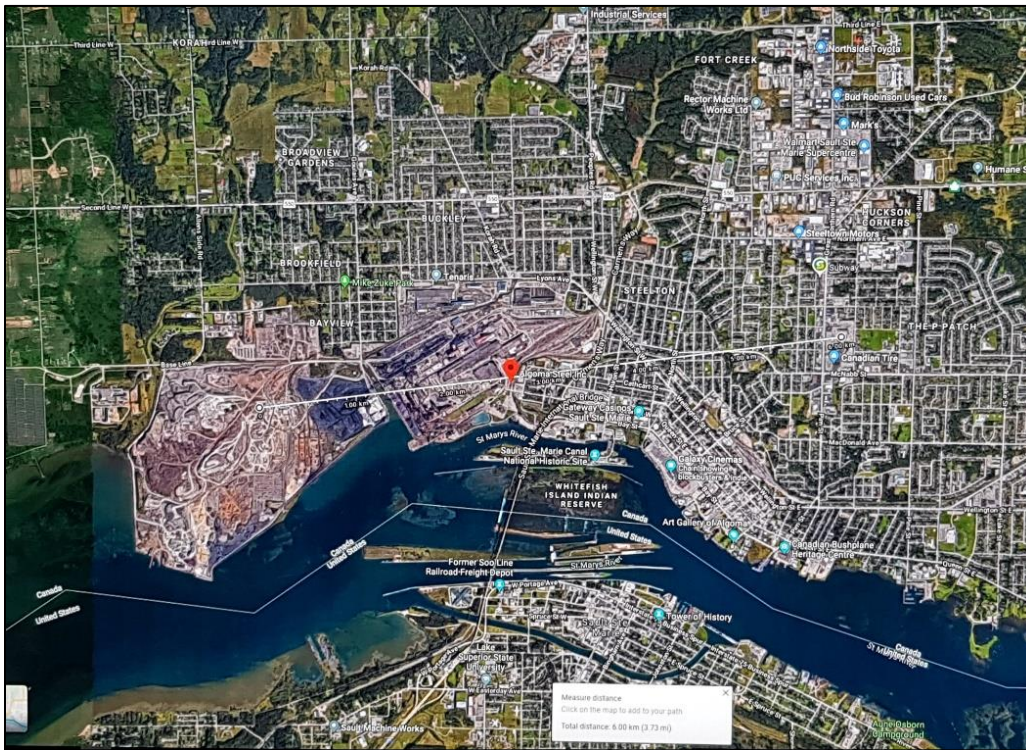


(SSM)

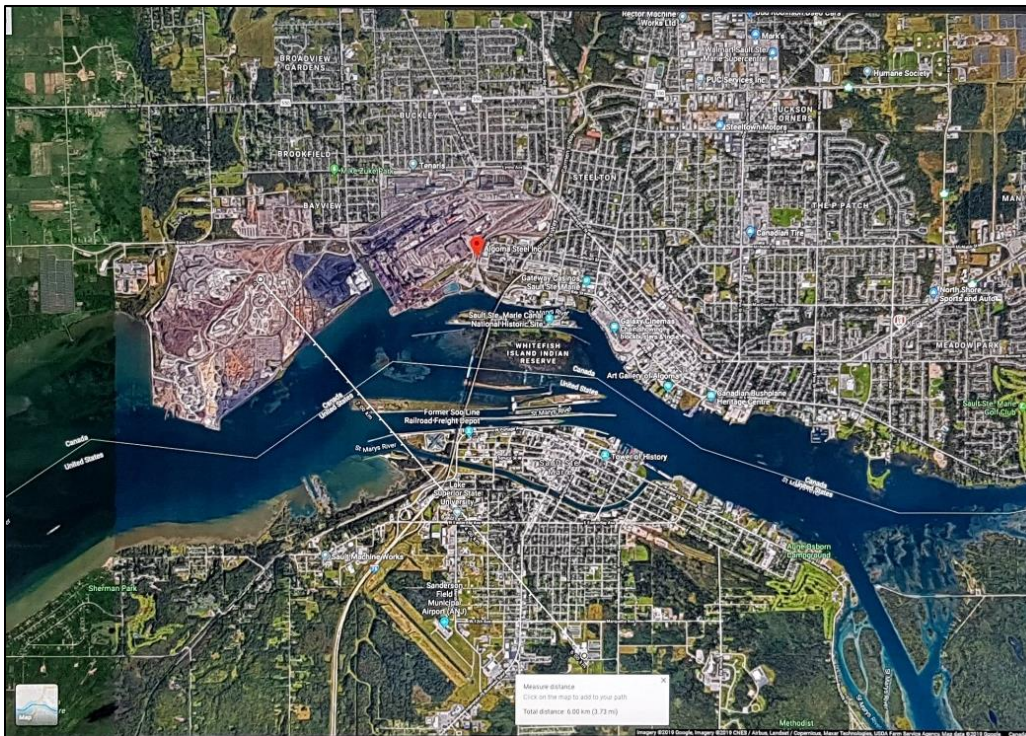


(Timmins)

GOOGLE IMAGES OF 6 km (3.73 mi) IMPACT RADIUS FROM NORONT FPF SITE



(1)



(2)

Note: Image (1) 6 km mark - Cambrian Mall (ON), Image (2) 6 km mark - Sault Area High School (MI)

FLYER LISTING LANDMARKS WITHIN 6km (3.73 mi) OF THE NORONT FPF SITE

ANY WAY THE WIND BLOWS... SO CAN CHROMIUM

A list of sites > 6 km/3.73 miles from the proposed SSM smelter...this distance is how far an industrial source such as a smelter can affect air quality via tiny particles carried by wind currents. (Distances are approx. from centre of proposed SSM site; the stacks would be closer.)

Kilometres

783 m St. Mary's River (ON)
847 m Bonney St. Bayview Neighbourhood (ON)
1.32 km Mike Zuke Park (ON)
1.73 km St. Francis Catholic School (ON)
2.65 km West Pier Place Apartments (MI)
2.70 km Korah Collegiate (ON)
2.73 km Anna Marinelli Park (ON)
2.90 km from Whitefish Island (ON)
3.01 km Royal Conservatory of Music (ON)
3.04 km Marconi Hall (ON)
3.45 km Lake Superior State University (MI)
3.51 km Mill Market (ON)
3.72 km Fishing Pier on Boardwalk (ON)
3.76 km James Norris PE Center (MI)
3.8 km War Memorial Hospital (MI)
3.90 km Station Mall (ON)
4.24 km Delta Hotel (ON)
4.67 km Valley Camp (MI)
4.80 km Tower of History (MI)
4.95 km Superior Heights (ON)
5.40 km Centennial Library (ON)
5.50 km Quattro Hotel (ON)

Miles

0.49 mi St. Mary's River (ON)
0.53 mi Bonney St. Bayview Neighbourhood (ON)
1.07 mi Mike Zuke Park (ON)
1.64 mi St. Francis Catholic School (ON)
1.64 mi West Pier Place Apartments (MI)
1.68 mi Korah Collegiate (ON)
1.70 mi Anna Marinelli Park (ON)
1.80 mi from Whitefish Island (ON)
1.87 mi Royal Conservatory of Music (ON)
1.89 mi Marconi Hall (ON)
2.14 mi Lake Superior State University (MI)
2.18 mi Mill Market (ON)
2.31 mi Fishing Pier on Boardwalk (ON)
2.34 mi James Norris PE Center (MI)
2.36 mi War Memorial Hospital (MI)
2.42 mi Station Mall (ON)
2.63 mi Delta Hotel (ON)
2.90 mi Valley Camp (MI)
2.98 mi Tower of History (MI)
3.08 mi Superior Heights (ON)
3.36 mi Centennial Library (ON)
3.41 mi Quattro Hotel (ON)

Note: Information compiled by Selva Rasaiah. Flyer created by Abby Obenchain (2019)

SOO TODAY ARTICLE REGARDING PHYSICIAN' S LETTER - HEALTH CONCERNS (OCT. 18/2019)**LETTER: Local doctors concerned about ferrochrome want you to know about our current cancer rates**

52 local doctors want to know exactly what Noront plans to do to protect Saultites from Chromium VI should they commission a ferrochrome smelter in the city

Oct 18, 2019 10:01 PM By: SooToday Staff



Stock image

SooToday received the following letter from Dr. Rob Suppes on behalf of doctors concerned about a proposed ferrochrome smelting plant:

Should Sault Ste. Marie have a ferrochrome smelter built in the city? This is a critical question facing our community.

A smelter would provide direct economic benefit to several hundred people and to associated businesses. We physicians are very concerned about the risk of contamination of the surrounding environment with chromium VI, a by-product of smelting that is a known cancer-causing agent.

The smelter is to be located next to the Steel Mill, within the city and next to a major waterway, increasing the risk to our population.

Such an important decision requires that our community understand these risks so they can better assess the costs and benefits of bringing this smelter to Sault Ste. Marie. Citizens need to be made aware of several facts.

As such, after considerable research, we present a number of these facts here:

1. Compared to other cities in Ontario, Sault Ste. Marie has increased rates of lung, bronchus, bladder, kidney, renal pelvis, and esophageal cancers (1,2).
2. A 2019 study showed that the rate of Acute Myeloid Leukemia was 50 per cent higher in Sault Ste. Marie than in the rest of Canada. The rate was more than double the Canadian average for those living in the P6C area code around Algoma Steel (3).

3. Chromium VI, a known cancer-causing agent, is produced even in the cleanest ferrochrome smelting production (4). Research demonstrates that exposure increases the risk of multiple cancers: liver, kidney and female genitourinary, lung, lip, oral cavity, pharynx, stomach, female breast, female colon, prostate, and leukaemia (5).
4. These cancers were the result of exposure to both welding fumes and contaminated drinking water.
5. Chromium VI is dangerous for humans and increases the risk of cancer and subsequent death with increased exposure over time (6).
6. Much of chromium VI waste is contained in slag ponds (4); there are no data on how safe such ponds would be in Sault Ste. Marie's unique climate. Many of the health risks of chromium VI show links to airborne contamination (4, 7, 8, 9).
7. Noront has released details of the proposed smelter for Sault Ste. Marie stating that the basis for the design will be the ferrochrome smelter in Tornio, Finland (10,11). This smelter, which is currently the most advanced in the world, has significant documented pollution of the surrounding environment with carcinogenic chromium VI (7,8, 9).
8. There is currently no ferrochrome smelter in the world that doesn't contaminate the surrounding environment; even the most technologically advanced smelter releases some chromium VI (4).
9. Current Ontario law requires self-reporting by heavy industry, but many of these industries circumvent these regulations by paying relatively small fines for infractions or applying for exemptions from environmental regulations (12,13).

At this time, we have no idea if or how Noront plans to address the above issues.

Before citizens can make an informed decision, Noront must answer difficult questions with detailed explanations and plans. Noront must provide scientific evidence to back up any claims that are not substantiated by scientific research or evidence from other ferrochrome smelting facilities.

Noront is hosting a consultation on Oct. 23 from 3-8 p.m. at the Delta Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront. We hope the information provided here better prepares the citizens of this city to demand answers

Signed,

Dr. Suppes	Dr. Jenkins	Drs. Baath	Dr. Bowen
Dr. Skelton	Dr. Joseph	Dr. Lee	Dr. Fera
Dr. Parsons	Dr. Ghosh	Dr. Kuntz	Dr. Keuhl
Dr. Kelly	Dr. Buehner	Dr. Jarrett	Dr. Antunes
Drs. Schamp	Dr. Wytsma	Dr. Bouchard	Dr. Mohammadi
Dr. Hirvi	Dr. Babik	Dr. Kargbo	Dr. Trusdale
Dr. Dawson	Dr. Micomonaco	Dr. Stevenson	Dr. Hemy
Dr. Shafiee	Dr. Webb	Dr. Apostle	Dr. Rawn
Dr. Kobelka	Dr. Cassalman	Dr. Bruni	Dr. Rebelo
Dr. Coccimiglio	Dr. Bragaglia	Dr. Landry	Dr. Jenkin
Dr. Opryszczko	Dr. O'Brien	Dr. Fam	Dr. Culina
Dr. Vance	Dr. Booth	Dr. Tull	Dr. Mozarowski
Dr. Chow	Dr. Sharp	Dr. Leahy	Dr. Barbeau

- (1) Cancer Care Ontario. Cancer Statistics by Public Health Unit. 2018
- (2) Algoma Public Health Unit. Algoma Cancer Report 2015
- (3) Ghazawi, F.M., et al. Analysis of Acute Myeloid Leukemia Incidence and Geographic Distribution in Canada From 1992 to 2010 Reveals Disease Clusters in Sarnia and Other Industrial US Border Cities in Ontario. *Cancer* 2019;125:1886-1897
- (4) Beukes et. al. Review of Cr(VI) environmental practices...Relevance to development of the Ring of Fire. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 165 (2017) 874-889
- (5) Linos et. al. Oral Ingestion of Hexavalent Chromium through drinking water and cancer mortality...*Environmental Health* 2011, 10:50
- (6) Gibb H. et. al. Lung Cancer among workers in chromium chemical production. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 2000;38(2):115-126
- (7) M. Vanhanen, Finnish Environmental Institute Report 1999
- (8) Poykio et. al. Heavy Metals...and assessment of human exposure in two industrial areas in the Kemi-Tornio region... *Arch. Environ. Contam. Toxicol.* 48, 338–343 (2005)
- (9) Outokumpu Annual Report 2018
- (10) <http://norontresources.com/projects/ferrochrome-production-facility-2/>
- (11) Keown, M. Can't compare smelters, Sudbury crowd told. *The Sudbury Star*, March 22, 2018.
- (12) Bruser, McLean and Bailey. Dirty Dollars. *The Toronto Star*, November 30, 2017.
- (13) Crawley, Mike. Eight companies that won't have to meet Ontario's new pollution limits. *CBC News*, February 4, 2016.

Source: <https://www.sootoday.com/letters-to-the-editor/letter-local-doctors-concerned-about-ferrochrome-want-you-to-know-about-our-current-cancer-rates-1756979>

"Everything they use is made out of chrome. From the bedpans to the scalpels, everything is stainless and it contains between eight and 20 per cent chrome. I wonder if they ever thought about where that chrome comes from?" – **Alan Coutts (CEO Noront Resources) Oct.2019**

Source: <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/ring-of-fire-developer-faces-tide-of-opposition-to-sault-ferrochrome-plant-1751243>

PRESENTATION BY DR. SUPPES SHOWING INCREASED CANCER RATES IN P6C AREA CODE

Local Importance

- Higher incidence of Follicular Lymphoma within 5 km of industry (22)
- Acute Myeloid leukemia rate significantly higher for Sault Ste. Marie (23)
 - National average rate 30.61 per 1,000,000 persons/year
 - Sault Ste Marie's rate was 44.91
 - ✕ P6C area code had a rate of 65.1

P6C area code has higher rates of acute myeloid leukemia than local and national rates (*Slide 25)



Boundary of the P6C area code (*Slide 26 - Modified)

* Ferrochrome in Sault Ste. Marie, Dr. Robert Suppes (Contributors: Dr. Geoff Skelton, Dr. Pedro Antunes), 2019.

SOO TODAY ARTICLE – NORONT ANNOUNCES FPF OPEN HOUSE (OCT 15/2019)

Noront announces time and place for first ferrochrome open house

Much-anticipated session will be at the Delta Waterfront

Oct 15, 2019 8:14 PM By: [David Helwig](#)



stock image

Noront Resources today announced the venue and time for an introductory open house about its proposed \$1 billion ferrochrome smelter in Sault Ste. Marie.

"Join Noront on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019, at the Delta Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. to meet their team and learn more about the proposed ferrochrome facility."

The announcement comes just eight days before the session, just as local citizens were starting to complain that they worried they wouldn't be able to clear their calendars on such short notice.

"Noront has committed to a comprehensive, multi-year environmental assessment process along with community and First Nation consultation, and to utilizing best-in-class technologies and environmental practices," said the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corp. in a statement released 13 days ago.

"Noront will be hosting an introductory public session on October 23, 2019, where anyone with an interest in learning more about the project can attend the session and hear directly from the company. This meeting will be followed by many more public meetings over the next five years with more detailed information being provided to the public as it becomes available," the Oct. 2 statement said.

Among other things, Noront says it chose Sault Ste. Marie as its preferred location for its ferrochrome production facility because of our "demonstrated level of community support."

However, significant opposition to the project has arisen since a [group of local doctors](#) expressed concern late last month.

Source: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/noront-announces-time-and-place-for-first-ferrochrome-open-house-1749806>

SAULT STAR ARTICLE FOLLOWING NORONT'S ONLY PUBLIC CONSULTATION (OCT 23/2019)**Residents raise concern about health, environment at Noront open house**

An open house Wednesday led by Noront Resources drew hundreds of area residents. The informal setting allowed visitors to mingle, ask questions and have group conversations.

Author of the article:

Elaine Della-Mattia

Publishing date:

Oct 24, 2019 • Last Updated 1 year ago • 7 minute read



Noront Resources CEO Alan Coutts is seen here May 7, 2019 speaking during the announcement that Sault Ste. Marie has been selected as the home for a new ferrochrome processing plant. Elaine Della-Mattia/Sault Star jpg, SM

Sault Ste. Marie and area residents are concerned about the environment and their health.

Many wanted to receive assurances from Noront Resources Wednesday that the proposed ferrochrome plant will protect the air, water and earth, and not increase cancer rates in the region any further.

Some wanted to learn more about the process and proposal to alleviate any concerns while others just wanted the company to pack its bags and move elsewhere.

The range of emotions and comments are not new to Noront Resources. In fact, they are expected, company officials have said.

That's why Noront launched the meet-and-greet, the first of many community open houses it expects to host as the proposed process, development of technology and proposal for the plant on Algoma Steel property unfolds, Noront CEO Alan Coutts told a group at the downtown event.

Hundreds of Sault and area residents attended the open house Wednesday asking a range of questions about the proposed plant about potential harm to the environment, to public health and about the process, among other things.

Devin Herrington, a student-teacher at White Pines Collegiate, brought some of his Grade 12 environmental management/geography students to the event so they could understand that there are many parts involved and that the issue can be divisive.

"I told them that they need to come here with an open mind. They need to listen, they need to ask questions and they have to hear what others have to say," he said. "It's useful for them to hear both sides of the issue and why people are taking those sides."

Herrington said he believes that the process needs to occur and the process needs to evolve before individuals can give a definitive yes or no.

He'll take the student trip experience back to his class to look at the geography and environmental science, weighing the costs of the development, how it affects the environment and looking at the sustainability of it while also examining the economic impact and jobs.

"It's not a cut and dry issue and I really want them to see that," Herrington said.

Dr. Robert Suppes, the chair of a local physician group that has raised concerns about the detrimental effects of a ferrochrome facility on the health of residents and the environment, met with Noront in a special morning session.

To date, there are about 40 doctors and 10 professors who have signed letters of concern about the proposed plant.

Suppes said he saw a presentation made to council and the group received much information, some of which has alleviated some concerns and some of which has heightened concerns.

While the proposed technology is expected to be state-of-the-art, there is no data to prove that it works, he said.

Essentially, Suppes would like Noront to produce data and test results from the technology and make that available to public scrutiny.

Suppes said he was impressed by the presentation from Noront and its forthright answers.

"As long as they are open and forthcoming, we are willing to play ball," he said.

But he warns that “unforeseen events” have happened in other plants around the world “and that is very concerning to me.”

Suppes said the physician group wants to continue the dialogue with Noront. He also wants to see some independent process in place to develop and assess the scientific data associated with the proposed technology.

“Some people in town say we’re against it. I’m not against it. We just want to see and review the data. I’m open to the process and I want to see the data and an independent process so we can make an informed decision as a community so that we’re not doing something that is going to harm us,” he said.

Suppes said it’s not a case of a “not in my backyard syndrome.” “It’s about wanting to do things in an appropriate environmentally sound fashion and recognizing that if there is a risk, creating a plant in the heart of a city near the Great Lakes, may not be the best place for it to be located.”

But others don’t want the process to evolve.

Jasmine Syrette, of the Rankin First Nation, told Coutts that she has a duty to the tribal people to respect and protect the land.

“You shouldn’t be here in town talking to people. You should be on the reserve talking to band members,” she said. “And all of us will come out and say, ‘No, we don’t want you here.’ We have a duty to protect this land.”

Syrette didn’t leave the discussion feeling any sense of confidence that Coutts or his company will protect the water, air or land, that her and her young daughter “dance” on.

“No matter how many promises they make us, they will not be able to guarantee that this plant will not hurt the land,” she said. “It will be another steel plant. My mother lives near there and she can’t open her windows.”

Syrette says the steel plant was likely built without the permission of First Nations people but reconciliation and treaty rights are a lot more prevalent now and need to be abided to. Syrette said she wants her chief and council to contact Noront Resources and have them host a meeting on the reserve first.

Carol Garson, a Sault Ste. Marie resident, said she spends time in her garden over the summer and wants to eat healthy vegetables, not ones that become toxic from any leeching from the proposed plant.

“I value my house, I value my community,” she said.

Garson agreed that while technology may have developed from the time the steel plant was built, she hasn’t heard any guarantees that the black dust she finds in her Korah Road house won’t get worse with another industrial plan nearby.

“These are the only Great Lakes and fresh water lakes we have,” she said. “If there are no guarantees, and something happens, where is our clean water going to come from?”

With family members working in various skilled trades, she applauds the fact that a ferrochrome plant will create jobs, but the greater fear of what could happen to the community outweighs the prospect of increased employment.

“We’re just starting this process,” Coutts said. “We have the site and we have our engineering firm who is going to design it, but the house hasn’t been built yet. The plans are not complete.”

For Robert Lefave, the importance of the Great Lakes waterways is top of mind.

“No matter what type of technology you have, if you have an employee like (Homer) Simpson, the Great Lakes are done,” he said. “It’s the largest freshwater body on the planet. We already have enough pollution. Go someplace else, not on the Great Lakes,” he said.

Mary-Lynn Murphy, of Goulais, focused her questions on the technology that will be implemented at the plant.

Michael McCaffrey, global director Ferroalloys Associate with Hatch, told a crowd that only conceptual drawings have been completed and much work still needs to be done.

There will be no tailing ponds at the proposed plant and the slag will be shipped offsite and sold using the same infrastructure and facilities as Algoma Steel. Any chromium in the slag will be measured, he said.

“The ferrochrome industry is very mature. Yes, it has had a checkered history and it has had its hazards but those are well known and we have the mechanisms to address them,” he said. “We are not performing an experiment on Sault Ste. Marie.”

Murphy remains concerned. “I don’t think anything is fail-safe,” she said carefully. “He wasn’t really telling us that it will be fail-safe, but he does have a lot of confidence in what they’re doing. I’m not sure I have as much confidence as them.”

Murphy said the most difficult part is that there are no comparators. The Finland plant has much older technology and different processes and it’s unclear whether the monitoring results or release of chromium 6 will be released to the public and environmental standards of plants elsewhere can’t be compared to Canada’s.

“I haven’t made up mind,” she said of the proposed plant. “I want to get more data. I need to do more research.”

McCaffrey said Noront needs to be responsible wherever it decides to build its plant and is committed to a full and complete environmental process. He agreed that the Sault Ste. Marie site is more challenging because of its proximity to neighbourhoods.

And that is what has Murphy concerned.

“Environmental laws are only as good as their enforcement,” she noted.

Another Sault Ste. Marie resident, who would only identify herself as S. Greenwood, said she's willing to let the process play out, but will do her part to stay informed along that path.

The environment plays a huge factor in any future decision she makes, especially since she resides near a sewage treatment plant, she said.

While some are advocating for the jobs and skilled trades a ferrochrome facility will bring to the Sault, Greenwood said that's not good enough a reason for her to support it. "The environment is number one."

Bill Cole, a Sault Ste. Marie resident proposed that a comprehensive environmental assessment be created by a group of community members so that all the questions of the community can be asked, answered and quantified.

A representative panel of the community could right the terms of the assessment so that it is unbiased and above minimum standards.

Coutts appeared interested in the idea and Cole was pleased with his response.

As a scientist himself, Cole said he is skeptical of a profit-motivated company. Balancing public health, the environment and the economy all has to be factored into the equation.

"I'm concerned the process is going ahead without evidence and I'm concerned that we have community leaders who have thrown us in because of the prospects of jobs," he said.

Noront Resources has committed to a thorough community engagement process and has said it will not establish a ferrochrome facility in Sault Ste. Marie if the community does not want it.

Source: <https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/residents-raise-concern-about-health-environment-at-noront-open-house>

SAULT THIS WEEK ARTICLE – OPPOSITION BY NO FERROCHROME GROUP (NOV 05/2019)

Ferrochrome protesters hit the street

Author of the article:

Sara McCleary

Publishing date:

Nov 05, 2019 • Last Updated 1 year ago • 5 minute read



A small but passionate group of ferrochrome smelter protesters gather Saturday along Great Northern Road. SARA McCLEARY/SPECIAL TO SAULT THIS WEEK jpg, SH

A small but passionate group of protesters took to the street on Saturday, Nov. 2, to show their opposition to the planned ferrochrome smelter in Sault Ste. Marie.

Taylor Dereski organized the protest. It drew about 15 individuals carrying signs with slogans such as, “This is our home, no ferrochrome” and “Ferrochrome + Sault Ste. Marie = Cancer.” The group gathered outside the Cambrian Mall, a location chosen because “It’s a high traffic area, especially on a Saturday, which was ideal for getting information about the ferrochrome smelter to as many people as possible,” she told Sault This Week.

Dereski was happy with the results of the protest, she said. Several people showed up with signs, others stopped to sign their petition and many more honked in support as they passed by in their vehicles. This was the third smelter-focused protest to date and Dereski plans to make them a regular occasion. She feels the protests are

needed because “It had become clear that there was not enough basic information about the incredible risks the ferrochrome plant poses to the city and we wanted to help,” she said

Since a group of 22 doctors released a public letter in late September outlining their concerns about the smelter, public opposition to the proposed plant has grown. One of the more vocal opponents to the smelter, Abby Obenchain, said she hadn’t really paid attention to the issue until the doctors released their letter.

“I retire next month and I am pushing 60,” Obenchain said. “I cannot stay here if doctors leave. I need access to healthcare, and building a ferrochrome smelter is clearly something that could cause our doctors to move on and stop others from moving here.” Obenchain has a young friend who grew up in the Sault and is married to a doctor, but her husband is not willing to move here with the prospect of the smelter being built, she said.

Leslie Dafoe, another opponent of the smelter, said her graduate education focused on environmental toxins such as PCBs, PBBs, and dioxin, so she is “highly aware” of the carcinogenicity of chromium VI, a known pollutant from chromium smelting. “There will be emissions of chromium VI in slag, air, water in tailings ponds, etc.,” Dafoe said. “We are very concerned about the possibility of a ferrochrome smelter within city limits. I cannot overstate how very, very dangerous such a proposition is to our health.”

Many in favour of the smelter argue its opponents are fear mongering by bringing up the prospective health costs of building it here. Obenchain and Dafoe dispute that argument. “It’s factual, not fear mongering, to say that ferrochrome smelting can produce chromium in dust, sludge, contaminated water, slag, etc.,” said Obenchain, “and that if it does get into the environment as chromium VI, it can cause cancer. That is well documented.

“Given that Sault Ste. Marie already has a high cancer rate, it makes sense to be cautious and avoid doing anything that will push our cancer rate even higher,” she said. Though much of the opposition is based on prospective health issues for Sault residents, that’s not the only concern expressed by protesters. Obenchain said she fully expects doctors and others who can afford to leave to do so if the smelter is built in the Sault.

“I am also very concerned about how adding a ferrochrome smelter to our industrial landscape will affect tourism, fishing, and small business,” added Obenchain. “I worry that people will not want to visit or set up shop in a city with a smelter that could be producing chromium VI.”

Dafoe said it is extremely important that independent third parties with nothing to gain from the construction of the smelter complete both financial and environmental assessments of the project.

She wants to see the financial assessment completed because as it stands she has no confidence that Noront will be able to design, build, and maintain the smelter to the highest standards built to date, and set aside funding to provide for the cleanup costs of a potential leak. Those pushing for the smelter do so because of the

promise of 300 to 500 new, well-paying jobs, but not only has Noront never promised those jobs would be filled by Saultites, those jobs “will not save Sault Ste. Marie,” Dafoe said.

“The MNR moved about 220 families here in 1988, yet that did not save Sault Ste. Marie. Algoma Steel’s workforce has declined by thousands since 1988, and yet that did not kill Sault Ste. Marie.

“We have so many opportunities to expand our ecotourism and clean-energy jobs; we do not need a highly dangerous chromium smelter within city limits.” And if the smelter is built within the Sault’s borders, “We would be the guinea pigs,” Obenchain said.

“The smelter in Finland that this one is most often compared to is not inside a city, and it produces a lot of pollution,” she said.

Many opponents of the smelter take issue with the fact that none of the decision-makers involved in bringing the smelter to the Sault made an effort to consult with residents.

The first open house was held on Oct. 24. Noront committed at that time to a public consultation process to hear residents’ concerns and to discuss aspects of the new plant, says a report by The Sault Star.

Dr. Robert Suppes, the chair of a local physician group of about 40 doctors that raised concerns about the facility, met with Noront in a special morning session, the newspaper says. The group received much information, some of which has alleviated some concerns and some of which has heightened concerns, he told The Star. Suppes was impressed by the presentation from Noront and its forthright answers. “As long as they are open and forthcoming, we are willing to play ball,” he is quoted in the report, but he warns “unforeseen events” have happened in other plants around the world “and that is very concerning to me.”

Dafoe said, “The doctors’ letter made me aware of just how far along this process had already progressed without our city council seeking to inform us, let alone obtain our consent.”

That’s been a motivating factor for many of the protesters. “It will be too late once it’s here,” said Dereski.

“We are trying to inform as many people as possible about the ferrochrome smelter and the extreme dangers that it will bring to the Sault. Knowledge is power and your life is going to depend on it.

Source: <https://www.saultthisweek.com/news/local-news/ferrochrome-protesters-hit-the-street>

SOO TODAY ARTICLE – SAULT ON AND SAULT MI RESIDENTS OPPOSING FPF (NOV. 23/2019)**Rallies in Twin Saults protest plans for ferrochrome plant (4 photos)**

Protesters not sold on Noront's consultation process, new technology

Nov 23, 2019 5:20 PM By: [Darren Taylor](#)



Groups of environmentally concerned citizens gathered in the Twin Soos Saturday afternoon for coordinated rallies to protest Noront's planned ferrochrome production facility for Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

"I know of people in Marquette, all over the state of Michigan, who are concerned about the building of this facility," said James McCall, Sault Michigan resident, speaking to SooToday.

About 20 protesters gathered at the corner of Ashmun Street and Portage Avenue at 1 p.m., intending to stay at that location until 6 p.m., the group including professional environmentalists and members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

"Today's event is all about the U.S. side's opposition to the building of the ferrochrome smelter. The probability of it being built is high at the moment. From my understanding of ferrochrome and the smelting process, it's worse than asbestos and lead put together," McCall said.

"It's a major carcinogen. It's bad. There shouldn't be any processing plants on the St. Marys River, bordering any water source on the Great Lakes."

"We're people from all walks of life, coming together for this purpose. We're going to be standing here to raise awareness, because I was surprised at the number of people (in Sault Michigan and area) who had no idea of what is being planned over there in Sault, Ontario," said Tomantha Sylvester, a Sault Michigan resident, Sault Tribe member, LSSU grad and cafe employee.

"People are free to ask us questions as they walk by. That's what we're here for, and to stand in solidarity with our friends in Sault, Ontario."

“I think it’s very powerful (that people from the Twin Soos are banding together to protest Noront’s plans),” Sylvester said.

“I think it goes to show we have strength in numbers, that there are people aware of it and don’t agree with what’s being planned. It’s harmful for our water sources. It’s been proven chromium contaminates everything it touches...we should be listening to the scientists and the doctors who say this is bad. I’m not perfect. I drive a car, I add to pollution, but this is on a different level.”

Both Sylvester and McCall said they are skeptical of Noront’s consultation process.

In Sault, Ontario, a group of approximately 30 people gathered to protest on the boardwalk next to the Delta Hotel, intending to get their message across between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

“We’re concerned about the water, the air, the soil and the pollution that can come with this. They’re telling us there’s new technology, but it hasn’t been tried before and there are no guarantees with this kind of stuff and we’re very worried about it,” said Yvette Leonard.

“We’re not opposed to business but we are opposed to business which is going to be detrimental to our health and our environment.”

“I don’t want the smelter here. We’re like guinea pigs (for Noront). That’s not acceptable. This is a beautiful area. We can bring other businesses here that don’t cause damage,” Leonard said.

As for the Sault Michigan protest, Leonard said “it shows it scares a lot of people. It’s international. They don’t want it, we don’t want it, so we’re standing in solidarity to oppose it.”

Noront Resources announced May 7 it had chosen Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario to be its site of choice for a ferrochrome production facility.

The facility, to be located near Algoma Steel, will process chrome ore from deposits Noront will be drawing from the Ring of Fire region, to be converted into ferrochrome for the U.S. stainless steel market.

Noront estimates construction of the ferrochrome production facility will begin in 2025, the plant up and running by 2028

During construction, the project will employ up to 1,500 people, and once in operation, employ 300 to 500 people.

Source: <https://www.sootoday.com/sault-michigan/rallies-in-twin-soos-protest-plans-for-ferrochrome-plant-4-photos-1878706>

NORTHERN ONTARIO BUSINESS ARTICLE – BATCHEWANA DENIES SUPPORT (MAY 09/2019)**Batchewana First Nation denies it supported Sault's ferrochrome proposal**

'Reading yesterday's announcement definitely came as a shock to us:' Chief Dean Sayers

May 9, 2019 9:30 AM By: [David Helwig](#)



Batchewana First Nation Chief Dean Sayers. (file photo by Darren Taylor/SooToday)

Batchewana First Nation is denying a claim by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corp. that it wrote a letter of support for Noront Resources Ltd.'s ferrochrome processing facility.

The claim was made May 7 in written materials handed by city representatives to reporters at Noront's announcement it had selected a site at Algoma Steel as location for its billion-dollar smelter.

"Noront has had an introductory meeting with Chief Sayers of Batchewana First Nation and Chief Syrette of Garden River First Nation," the materials said in a section titled: "Have First Nations communities been consulted?"

"The submission from Sault Ste. Marie included letters of support from Batchewana First Nation, Garden River First Nation and Missanabie Cree First Nation. Noront outlined the importance of meaningful First Nation consultation and involvement and is committed to engaging in meaningful First Nation consultation," the materials stated.

Chief Sayers and Chief Syrette of Garden River First Nation were conspicuously absent during the announcement.

Now, Batchewana is disputing the city's claim that it submitted a letter of support.

The following news release was issued on May 8 by Batchewana First Nation:

Consent not garnered for ferrochrome facility

It was announced yesterday that Noront Resources Ltd. chose Sault Ste. Marie as the future home of its ferrochrome processing facility.

The announcement was held at city hall with various speakers, including Mayor Provenzano and city council representatives.

Absent from the event was leadership from Batchewana First Nation. The reason was lack of consultation.

Chief Dean Sayers of Batchewana First Nation (BFN) acknowledged that discussions had been initiated back in January of 2018 with the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corp., but noted that they didn't go far beyond a simple introduction to the project.

After that meeting, BFN leadership issued a letter to the city detailing the First Nation's inherent jurisdiction to the territory (outlined for the proposed project) and specified the necessary steps forward to secure consent for the project.

Those steps included adhering to BFN's permitting processes and ensuring that economic gain would not supersede the integrity of the environment and its protections.

There were no further discussions following the initial meeting and there was no response to the letter issued from BFN leadership.

"Reading yesterday's announcement definitely came as a shock to us," said Chief Sayers.

"Our First Nation prides itself on forging a positive path forward with resource developers, governments and stakeholders as long as our principled approach is applied and meaningful engagement is maintained throughout the entirety of the project. The City of Sault Ste. Marie, Noront and other governments are well versed with our notice of assertions which details BFN's position on our rightful jurisdiction."

Source: <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/batchewana-first-nation-denies-it-supported-saults-ferrochrome-proposal-1436576>

SOO TODAY ARTICLE – ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SAULT WAS SELECTED FOR NORONT FPF**‘The community earned this,’ mayor says of ferrochrome facility (4 photos)**

After lengthy consultations, environmental studies, new plant to employ up to 500 people in Sault by 2028

May 7, 2019 7:00 PM By: [Darren Taylor](#)



Dan Hollingsworth, Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC) executive director, Sault MP Terry Sheehan, Sault MPP Ross Romano, Alan Coutts, Noront Resources president and CEO, Sault Mayor Christian Provenzano and Michael McQuade, Algoma Steel CEO, May 7, 2019. Darren Taylor/SooToday

After a long and hopeful sales pitch process, Sault Ste. Marie will get a ferrochrome production facility.

“After a lengthy and very thorough process which involved four northern Ontario communities, I’m pleased to announce Noront Resources has selected Sault Ste. Marie to be the site of its ferrochrome production facility,” said Alan Coutts, Noront Resources president and CEO, to a loud round of applause from a large group of private and public sector figures gathered at the Civic Centre Tuesday.

The plant, to be located west of Algoma Steel, will process chrome ore from deposits Noront will be drawing from the Ring of Fire region, to be converted into ferrochrome for the U.S. stainless steel market.

Ultimately for Noront, it came down to a choice between the Sault and Timmins.

Next steps, Coutts said, include a full pre-feasibility study on the selected site and a public consultation process with the community, along with an environmental assessment, all of which will take three years to complete.

A crucial all-season access road to the Ring of Fire region is underway, advanced by the provincial government and First Nations communities.

Coutts said Noront estimates construction of the ferrochrome production facility will begin in 2025, the plant up and running by 2028.

During construction, the project will employ up to 1,500 people, and once in operation, employ 300 to 500 people.

“The real tipping point for Sault Ste. Marie was the operating cost advantage of being on the Great Lakes where the Sault is situated,” Coutts said, speaking to SooToday.

“That was really important because we’ll be bringing a lot of materials such as coal and other goods, and it’s an advantage to bring them in over the lake, and also being able to share the infrastructure to unload coal and other materials Algoma Steel provides was the real determining factor which reduced the operating costs the other bidding sites had.”

“It’s an opportunity for us to use some brownfield property and use it gainfully. It’s an opportunity for Sault Ste. Marie as a city to grow, and that has a benefit to us as an employer and attract more families and more infrastructure. It’s all on the upside as far as I’m concerned,” said Michael McQuade, Algoma Steel CEO.

“Diversification of the economy is an important part of this,” McQuade told us, adding he is looking forward to having Noront as a geographical neighbour for Algoma.

“It feels good when hard work pays off,” said Sault Mayor Christian Provenzano.

“I want to recognize the whole team. We believe Sault Ste. Marie is a great place to do business and we proved that to Noront. I worked with the city and the EDC and I think we did a good job representing our community.”

“This is just the end of the first stage,” Provenzano added.

“There’s a tremendous amount of work to do. We can’t get ahead of ourselves. There will be years of permitting processes here, environmental and economic assessments, community engagement, First Nations consultation, so the work has just begun and we have to do that work properly.”

“There are hundreds and hundreds of really high quality good paying jobs, a billion dollar investment involving our community and it shows us a brighter future. I think the community deserves it. We’ve had a tough number

of years here but we stuck together and we worked hard through those years, and we're rounding the corner, and the community earned this," Provenzano said.

"We're extremely excited. We've been working with the team at Noront for three years. We put an excellent proposal together. There are some really good cross features such as work force and location that makes Sault Ste. Marie an ideal fit for this project," said Dan Hollingsworth, Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC) executive director.

"When we went to Toronto the pitch was amazing and I think we can accomplish anything in this community when we act united, all levels of government, private sector, community at large, First Nations, there is nothing we cannot do," said Sault MP Terry Sheehan, addressing Tuesday's audience.

"I set out on a mission when I decided to seek this office and part of that mission was accomplished today. There's still a long road ahead and I will not rest until I can see us accomplish all the goals I set out to do," said Sault MPP Ross Romano.

Source: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/the-community-earned-this-mayor-says-of-ferrochrome-facility-4-photos-1433418>

BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR ARTICLE (Jun 27/2019)

Sheehan says government working to help business

Sault MP Terry Sheehan was the guest speaker at Thursday's Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce fireside chat luncheon.

Author of the article:

Elaine Della-Mattia

Publishing date:

Jun 27, 2019 • Last Updated 1 year ago • 2 minute read



Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce

Sault Ste. Marie MP Terry Sheehan says the federal government is working hard to ensure that businesses of all sizes have the tools they need to be successful.

He was speaking at the Chamber of Commerce fireside luncheon Thursday.

Sheehan said the Trudeau government has gotten rid of antiquated laws and created clear guidelines to help pave the way for new development and enterprise like Noront Resources proposed ferrochrome facility and the Canadian steel and tube industry by approving the TMX project.

It's also developed a National Trade Strategy designed to create "multiple tools in the tool box" to help business and industry succeed.

Sheehan pointed to the government's investments in a pilot project immigration plan that includes Sault Ste. Marie, skilled training and apprenticeship programs funding and new programs such as the Professional Aboriginal Testing Organization Inc. (PLATO) funding announced earlier Thursday to train 76 Indigenous people as software testers in Sault Ste. Marie.

"We have a number of programs designed for the new economy and I've always said it's important to pull together as a team – businesses, unions, educators and the chamber of commerce."

Sheehan said that while unemployment is at the lowest rate it has been for some time, it's also imperative to reach out to those who have left – and newcomers – to show them why Sault Ste. Marie is a great place to live.

Sheehan, a former Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities employee, said the federal government's decision to double its summer job funding also helps return students to their home community so they can network and make contacts they need in their home communities to return after school to find jobs in their chosen fields.

Sheehan was also quizzed on the climate change debate and whether businesses would suffer as a result of the federal carbon tax.

He said the fall economic statement addressed a number of ways the government would invest in industry and put more money into the pockets of Canadians.

"It should have come as no surprise that our government was going to put a price on pollution," Sheehan told chamber members.

To help Canadians, the government has issued families rebates of \$307, plus an additional 10 per cent to those who live in rural area, which will eventually increase to \$700.

Small- and medium-size businesses can access funding programs that will help them retrofit and purchase new equipment to reduce their carbon footprint.

Larger businesses can write off the costs of machinery and equipment used to help upgrade facilities.

Algoma Steel Inc. has received \$90 million in grants and loans from the federal government to help modernize its plant, Sheehan said.

"Modernization means new equipment and less pollution," he added.

The federal government is also committed to seeing development at the Ring of Fire, Sheehan said. The province has to commit to its part, something Sheehan said it may find difficulty doing as a result of the province's fiscal tightening.

Source: <https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/sheehan-says-government-working-to-help-business/wcm/3b0e8de2-4165-454a-8fb6-102d94524b60>

Whereas, development of this chromite deposit would require a smelter operation to refine chromite ore and produce ferrochrome for export to Asian markets; and

Whereas, Noront Resources, a Canadian mining company, wishes to create a ferrochrome processing facility (smelter) in northern Ontario, and after considering four cities has come to an agreement to develop a smelter operation on lands currently occupied by Algoma Steel in the Canadian Sault; and

Whereas, ferrochrome processing has a track record of environmental pollution affecting people, in all places globally where this has taken place, so that most such developments in recent decades have been located far from population centers; and

Whereas, one of the significant pollutants emitted by ferrochrome processing plants is Chromium VI, also known as hexavalent chromium, a known human carcinogen in minute exposures; and

Whereas, the tribe has a stewardship role over the land, air, water and all the natural resources within its reservation boundaries; and

Whereas, the tribe has a treaty responsibility for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the waters of the St. Mary's ecosystem.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians opposes the building of a ferrochrome processing facility anywhere near the Great Lakes or our traditional homelands.

Source: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/sault-tribe-opposes-ferrochrome-processing-facility-1750029>

SAULTONLINE ARTICLE – BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION OPPOSITION TO FPF (DEC 20/2019)**Batchewana First Nation Asserts Jurisdiction, Oppose Ferrochrome Development**

By: [Content Team](#)

December 20, 2019



After months of discussions the Chief and Council of Batchewana First Nation has reached a decision not to endorse the proposed Ferrochrome development.

The decision did not come lightly and was reached in accordance with Anishnabek law, inherent jurisdiction, culture and traditions. The Council feels as the caretakers of the land and waterways that they must prohibit the construction of a ferrochrome smelter plant to be built within the BFN territory. Furthermore, the Council feels that as caretakers of the lands and waterways there are environmental concerns that are not clear-cut and defined and the First Nation leadership must have safeguards for any impacts to the lands and people in the area.

The Chief and Council of Batchewana First Nation adhere to a number of policies that helped formulate their decision. Policies such as the Chiefs of Ontario Water Declaration, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and BFN's own, Notice of Assertions.

The Water Declaration developed in 2008 states the following:

“First Nations in Ontario through the teachings of women have the responsibility to care for the land and the waters by our Creator and; First Nations in Ontario know that we need to respect, honour, and share the spirit of the waters in the ceremonies given to us by the Creator and;

First Nations in Ontario have a direct relationship with all water – fresh and salt that must be taken care of to ensure that water provides for humans on a daily basis and; First Nations in Ontario have the laws and the protocols to ensure clean waters for all living things and; First Nations in Ontario have ceremonies from birth to death that related to the care of the waters.”

Article 26 of the UNDRIP which is consistent with the custom of BFN states that:

“1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the land, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership of other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.”

Batchewana’s Notice of Assertions states:

“BFN by its Chief and Council, gives formal notice to other governments, to resource users and developers, to its neighbors and to the general public of the rights and interests it asserts and will continue to assert in its original, traditional and historic territory... BFN maintains and asserts its rights to resources, resource-sharing and resource management within its traditional territory. In addition to substantive rights to manage and conserve, BFN asserts its right to be engaged about development, exploitation or proposals that will impact these resources, the environment or the rights and interests of BFN. The object of these consultations would be the free, prior and informed consent of BFN.”

Batchewana First Nation Chief and Council will continue to monitor the project to ensure the protection of the lands and waters.

Source: <https://saultonline.com/2019/12/batchewana-first-nation-asserts-jurisdiction-oppose-ferrochrome-development/>

NARWHAL/EHN ARTICLE - INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST HILARY BEAUMONT (APR 07/2020)

ON THE GROUND

‘Them plants are killing us’: inside a cross-border battle against cancer in Ontario’s rust belt

Two communities — one in Canada, one in the U.S. — share both a border along the St. Marys River and a toxic legacy that has contributed to high rates of cancer. Now the towns are banding together to fight a ferrochrome plant planned to process chromite from Ontario’s Ring of Fire, in turn generating the so-called ‘Erin Brockovich contaminant’ hexavalent chromium

From across from St. Marys River, Selva Rasaiah observes the visible emissions emanating from the Algoma Steel plant, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on Sunday, Jan., 19, 2020. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

[Hilary Beaumont](#)

Apr 7, 2020

37 min read

This investigation is a cross-border collaboration between The Narwhal and Environmental Health News.

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — A January storm has covered the bungalows here in sparkling snow. Men wearing gloves and hats pulled over their ears steer snow-blowers in and out of driveways, launching powder into the air.

This small city in Michigan's Upper Peninsula is where the state kisses Ontario. An international bridge connects them across the St. Marys River that flows between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The river marks the international border between the U.S. and Canada.

Photographer Christopher Katsarov Luna drives slowly. I turn around in the passenger seat to watch Torry Ruddell in the back, her brown hair falling as she hunches over hand-drawn maps of the area. Many houses are coloured red, indicating that at least one person there has or had cancer.

"Down there my great-grandparents lived," Ruddell, 44, points.

"It's got a red circle," I notice.

"Yeah, my great grandmother, my grandmother, my great aunt and all of my aunts had breast cancer," she says in a matter-of-fact tone. "My great grandfather had skin cancer." Her mother also survived uterine and cervical cancer.

We keep driving. "Those people right here, their son had brain cancer," she says. "He passed away when we were young, still in high school."



Ruddell holds a homemade map depicting incidences of cancer and other serious or rare illness in households surrounding the Northwestern Leather Company tannery, which dumped toxic chemicals, including chromium-6, into the local environment for half a century in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

There are other serious illnesses on the map, too, including heart and autoimmune diseases and deformities. But the homes in red are what we focus on.

Many things can increase one's risk of developing cancer — genetics, smoking, exposure to the sun or radon gas — but there's no doubt in her mind what's making people sick.

Ruddell grew up across the street from the Northwestern Leather Company tannery that once stood in this area. From 1900 until it closed in 1958, it dumped toxic chemicals on site. Testing in the late 1970s by Sault Ste. Marie State College and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources found especially high levels of hexavalent chromium in the soil and groundwater.

Hexavalent chromium, or chromium-6, is a chemical made infamous by the film *Erin Brockovich*, which tells the true story of how Pacific Gas & Electric contaminated drinking water with chromium-6 in the town of Hinkley, Calif., causing people to develop cancer. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified it as carcinogenic to humans, and studies have shown that workers exposed to chromium-6 have a higher instance of lung cancer. Even at low levels, chromium-6 can cause dermatitis and skin ulcers.



A man clears snow after a winter storm, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

The Michigan tannery site was remediated in 2007, but data obtained by non-profit organization the Environmental Working Group shows the area still has unhealthy amounts of chromium-6 in its drinking water.

As a kid, Ruddell played on the former tannery site, wading in the mud up to her neck. She picked and ate berries that caused rashes doctors couldn't explain. There were no signs or fencing warning people to stay away.

Today, a six-foot chain-link fence surrounds the site. On the other side of the fence, there's a sign covered in snow. I climb over and brush away the snow. It warns against digging wells for drinking water: "Buried tannery waste located on site."



Ruddell is photographed near the site of a closed tannery where she used to play in mud contaminated with chromium-6 in the community of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Sunday, Jan.,19, 2020. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

But the tannery isn't the only source of pollution here. There's a scent in the Michigan air that's familiar to people on both sides of the river. It smells like burning tires and rotten eggs.

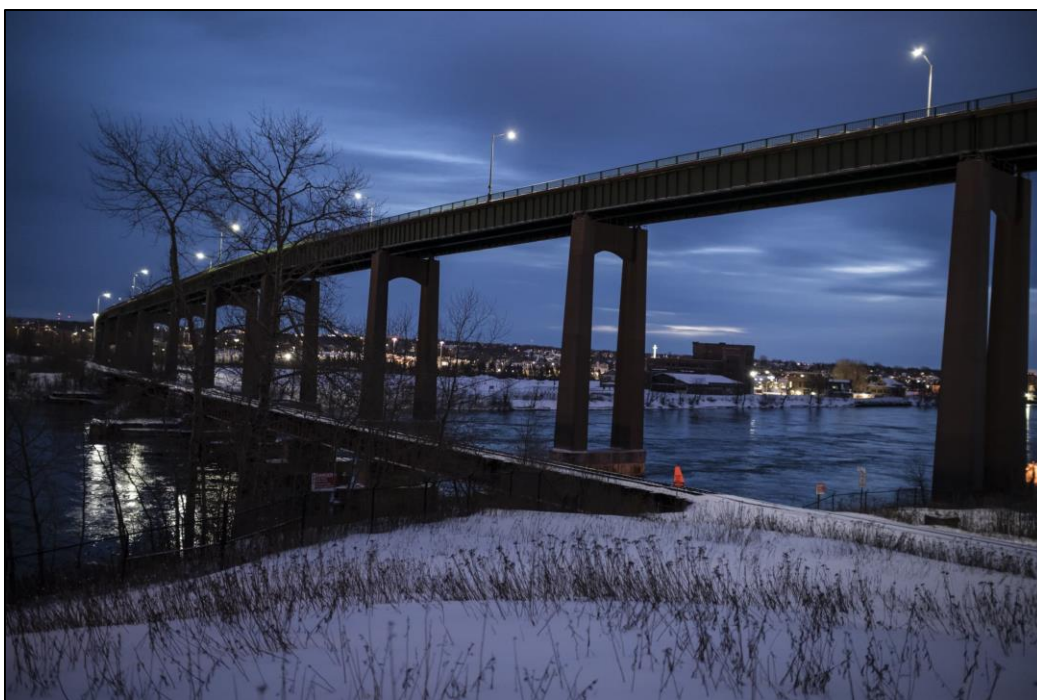
I ask Ruddell where it's coming from. "That'd be from across the water there," she says.

On the other side of the river, a brown steel plant with tall chimneys sticks out against the white landscape. Algoma Steel, the second-largest steel plant in Canada, has stood there since 1902. It belches fumes every day of

the year, including Christmas, and has a special exemption from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks allowing it to emit benzene and benzo(a)pyrene, both cancer-causing pollutants, well above provincial health standards.

It's too late to do anything about the legacy pollution from the tannery or the steel plant, but Ruddell is part of a growing movement of people in the U.S. and Canada organizing against what they perceive as a new threat.

I remember Ruddell's words when I first called in December: "Them plants are killing us, and they want to put another one in there."



The Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge photographed from St. Mary's Island, Ont. Photo: Christopher Katsarov Luna / The Narwhal

Full Article: <https://thenarwhal.ca/them-plants-are-killing-us-inside-a-cross-border-battle-against-cancer-in-ontarios-rust-belt/>



NO Ferrochrome Protest sign