



ENVIRONMENTAL | DEFENCE

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Doris Millan
Submissions on Enforcement Matters Unit
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
393 St-Jacques Street West, Suite 200
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9

April 20, 2010

Dear Ms. Millan:

We wish to submit a point of clarification regarding our submission SEM-10-002 (Alberta Tailings Ponds).

It has come to our attention that a quote attributed to Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice in our submission was misreported by the media source we cited. Following a water conference at McGill University, the Minister did not use the words "garbage science" to refer to a report of tailings leakage, as the newspaper article claimed. On reviewing video tape by CPAC, this is what the Minister said in response to the relevant question:

"I'm happy to respond to your question, it was a fairly long question. The tailings ponds that you referred to are governed and regulated by the Province of Alberta. I have met with our officials, I have met with our scientists. The information that you've just forward, that there's leakage from those tailings ponds into the Athabasca River is completely unsupported by our science, by our monitoring of the Athabasca River, and is simply not the case."

We regret this error, but believe that the correct quotation equally supports the point that the appropriate authority is refusing to accept the evidence and to enforce the law.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Price
Policy Director
Environmental Defence

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04 / 23 / 2010

Cc Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment