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Department of Environment News Release*

Public review process begins for Xstrata Canada Corp

FREDERICTON (CNB) - The 180-day public participation process to renew the air quality operating approval for the Xstrata Canada Corp. smelter in Belledune has begun, Environment Minister Rick Miles announced today.

The facility operates as a primary lead smelter with a production capacity of 120,000 tonnes per year. Its current air quality operating approval expires June 30, but it will be extended to allow sufficient time to complete the public participation process.

"The Public Participation Regulation under the Clean Air Act calls for a public participation process to be conducted prior to the issuance or renewal of approvals to operate for Class 1 sources of emissions," said Miles. "This process provides the public with an important opportunity to learn more about this facility. Good air quality is a priority for the provincial government. It is an important aspect of protecting health, promoting environmental sustainability, and keeping New Brunswick well-positioned to be self-sufficient by 2026."

The process includes a number of information requirements along with minimum time frames, including a 120-day public comment period, scheduled to conclude Aug. 12. All comments should be submitted in writing.

The process covers air-quality-related issues, including questions or comments about air emissions, pollution-control equipment, conditions proposed in the draft approval, monitoring and reporting requirements, and information on compliance and enforcement.

Information on how to get documentation or to submit comments is available online or at any Department of Environment regional office.

MEDIA CONTACT: Jennifer Graham, public affairs, Department of Environment, 506-453-3700.