

October 17, 2006

**A CALL TO ACTION:
TOWARDS A JUST RESOLUTION FOR
COLOMBIAN COAL MINE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS NB Power recognizes the value of human life, human rights and the natural environment;

WHEREAS NB Power consumes coal produced in the Cerrejón Zona Norte mine in La Guajira, Colombia;

WHEREAS since the development of the Cerrejon mine in 1982, the indigenous Wayuu people of La Guajira have been displaced from their lands and have had their traditional means of livelihood destroyed by loss of land and industrial contamination;

WHEREAS in August 2001, the Afro-Colombian village of Tabaco was bulldozed by Exxon Mobil, then half owner of the mine, which included the destruction of many homes, the town's church and school to make room for expansion of the mine;

WHEREAS Tabaco residents appealed to the Colombian Supreme Court for the relocation and reconstruction of their towns;

WHEREAS the Colombian Supreme Court ruled in May 2002, in favor of the villagers and their request for relocation and reconstruction of their town, and ordered the Mayor of Hatonuevo to oversee the reconstruction;

WHEREAS Mr. José Julio Pérez from Tabaco visited Fredericton and other towns and cities in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Massachusetts in March 2006 to ask for support including NB Power's in expressing solidarity with and demanding justice and relocation for the people who live in the mining area;

WHEREAS more communities are facing displacement and a similar fate as the Tabaco community for the coal mine's expansion;

WHEREAS in November 2006, the National Union of the Coal Industry "SINTRACARBON" is preparing to present a negotiating proposal for the health, education, and welfare of the communities in the mining region, and the workers' lack of economic resources.

THEREFORE, WE CALL ON NB POWER TO:

1. Urge El Cerrejon and the Colombian government to respect and uphold internationally recognized labour norms and human rights, and the collective rights of the communities of Tabaco, Tamaquitos, Chancleta, Roche and Patilla to collective negotiation, collective relocation, and reparations.
2. Urge El Cerrejon and the Colombian government to ensure that further mine expansion is conditioned on peaceful and just negotiations that guarantee residents in the mining area basic human rights: right to live, right to subsistence by one's own labor, the right to a healthy environment, and the right to human dignity;
3. Urge El Cerrejon and the Colombian government to negotiate in good faith with the union and affected communities, and to not militarize the negotiations.

IN THE FORM OF A LETTER TO BE SENT BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 2006 TO:

1. León Teicher,
El Cerrejon President
Cerrejon Coal Company,
Riohacha, La Guajira,
Colombia
c/o andres.soto@cerrejoncoal.com

2. Álvaro Uribe Vélez
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