

WARNING - NEW MINING EXPLORATION

Who is definitely affected ?

If you live in, or close to, one of these 25 communes you are definitely affected:

Belle Isle En terre	Callac	Bourbriac	Grâces
Louargat	La Chapelle Neuve	Pont-Melvez	Ploumagouar
Plounévez-Moëdec	Lohuec	Maël Pestivien	Couadout
Loc Envel	Calanhel	Plésidy	Mousteru
Loguivy-Plougras	Plourac'h	St Adrien	Tréglamus
Plougras	Bolazec		Gurnuhel
Plougonver	Bulat Pestivien		

Who might be affected concerned ?

The VARISCAN mining company has just received a 'PERM' (Permis exclusif de Recherche de Mines – Exclusive Licence for research for mining) to explore and develop mineral resources in 411 km² spread over 34 communes around Mur de Bretagne and Ploeuc sur Lié, and have applied for a licence to explore around 14 communes around around Silfiac.

Why should you worry ?

- **Of all industries, mining is the one that has the greatest environmental impact.**
- The impact is greatest when the metals are extracted from close to the surface (open-cast mines).
- The extraction of the metals requires huge amount of water, and the use toxic chemicals (Cyanide, for example), which can seep in the nature (soils, stream, rivers,...).
- the pollution does not stop after the mine closes but remains for decades.

Metal prices are very high at the moment, and exploration is therefore viable even when the metals occur in low concentrations (less than 5 grammes per ton, in some cases)

What to do

- sign a petition
- get informed and inform others about what is going on the mining industry
- talk to your representatives on the local council
- attend meetings and protests

“ When the white man will have shot down the last tree, killed the last fish and polluted the last river, he will know the money cannot be eaten” Indian Cree saying

3 PROJECTS FOR PROSPECTING IN CÔTES d'ARMOR

Three areas have already been designated for prospecting for minerals in the Côtes d'Armor by the Variscan Mining Company. If we do not act this activity will lead to waste, deforestation, destruction, and large-scale excavation. In short, our living environment will be further degraded and polluted – just for a small quantity of minerals. For every 200 cubic metres of rock extracted, one can expect to get 1 gram of Zinc, or , Copper, or Molybdenum... (Noir Canada, Ed. Ecosociété, 2008).

One of the main uses of these metal is in the manufacture of digital devices (flat screens, smart phones, tablets, etc...), for which there are still no proper recycling facilities. The manufacture and use of these devices require huge amounts of energy, and the network of mobile-phone masts emit electromagnetic waves which many people believe to have major effects on health.

The authorities talk a lot about “sustainable development”, “economy of energy”, “energy transition” etc. Local politics (Conseil Regional, Conseil General, Com'Com'...) spend money on expensive media campaigns urging people to respect Nature and avoid waste, and have even paid actors to go round supermarkets to demonstrate how to recycle I-pod packaging and yoghurt pots into flowerpots and place mats! But when decisions have to be made, they still give their support to wasteful and destructive development projects.

We believe that in order to succeed, we have to be organised, like in Glomel and Rostrenen in 1982 (research for Uranium), in Plouezec in 1989 (nuclear power plan), and in Bégard and Quintin in 2001 (burying of nuclear waste). If faced by united opposition from the people of Brittany, the mining company will have no choice but to withdraw. Action is already being taken around Mûr-de-Bretagne and Silfiac, and also in the departments of Sarthe, Creuse, Loiret where there are similar projects.

It is necessary to act now because once a company gets a licence it has the right to not only explore, but also to exploit the resources that it finds (Article 54 of the mining code).

Generations of people have contributed to building up our environment of way of life. We should not allow this heritage to be lost for the sake of a small profit made from a toxic and destructive industry.

The best way to tackle pollution is to question our needs and our way of consuming, and to reduce our consumption of these metals.

The local Committee of *Notre-Dame-des-Landes* of Guingamp opposes useless, polluting and expensive projects, and aims to alert the local people against such a project, and of its impact on our soils and our health.

(A first meeting was organised in Plougonver (Salle des fêtes) on the 16th of December. The next, to establish a local Committee, has been organised for the 8th of January in the same place)

**No to Mining
Here or Anywhere Else !!**

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