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Communities Ask SETENA To Speed Up Crucitas Resolution

- Inhabitants traveled more than 200kms to reiterate their support towards the mining project.

After five months since the public hearing of the Crucitas Project was held in Coopevega, Cutris, fifty inhabitants from those marginalized communities, decided to go to San José this Monday. They wanted to personally request the SETENA, Secretaría Técnica Nacional Ambiental, “not to delay the mine’s approval anymore, because they are only postponing the so longed-for development they have been expecting for so much time”.

The delegation, lead by the presidents of the Development Associations gave SETENA a formal request so that they will get involved with the project’s approval. They also reminded them that the support of most of the communities and SETENA’s commitment to take a prompt decision were made clear at the massive hearing, on July 31st; but SETENA has not made a decision yet.

“We are very grateful with this spontaneous goodwill gesture on the part of the inhabitants. Today more than ever, we should reiterate that we have a commitment with them and with the development opportunity that our company is providing these communities”. Jesús Carvajal, Industrias Infinito’s General Manager, indicated.

“I think that Cutris communities are calling SETENA to order, to be more effective when it comes to their responsibilities. Nothing can justify taking almost three years to review the same Environmental Impact Study”, Carvajal added.

Carvajal also said that in spite of a recent vote of the Constitutional Court that could annul the decree that granted the mining exploitation concession for the Crucitas Project, SETENA has to finish the environmental evaluation process that started in March 2002; and, in accordance with another judgment of the Court, this situation is considered an excessive term that violates the most basic rights of prompt and completed justice.

“As long as we have legal options to revert the last vote from the Court, even if we still do not know what the complete sentence will be, and as long as we have the unconditional support that was shown today by the inhabitants, we will carry on. We are sure that the Crucitas mine will be a national reality, an opportunity of development for these impoverished communities and an international example of a new way of eco-mining”, the Manager concluded.