



## Stony Rapids – January 30, 2023

### Attendees

- **Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)**
  - **Ian Wilson**
  - **Vince Zimmer**
  - **Bo Yun**
  - **Corey Burgess**
  - **Freddie Throassie**
  - **Jennifer Brown**
- **Sydney Nickolet (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC))**
- **Devon Brown (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC))**
- **Amy Rose (Aramark)**
- **Glen Strong (QMPoints)**
- **Keith Gonda (QMPoints)**

### Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Lunch
3. Gunnar
  - a. Other Site Aspects (Vince)
  - b. Tailings (Bo)
4. Lorado (Ian)
5. Satellite Sites (Ian)
6. QMPoints (Glen and Keith)
7. CNSC (Devon and Sydney)
8. Aramark (Amy)

## **Gunnar:**

Q: Is your timelapse video from the beginning of the project or just last year?

A: The timelapse is just the work done on Landfill B in the 2022 work season.

Q: How much longer will you (SRC) be in this project?

A: We do have an estimated timeline at the end of this presentation, but it will be a few more years.

Q: Do you know the effects on the community health from when the sites were left abandoned and unremediated?

A: SRC and its contractors and consultants do not have the expertise to answer health related questions. We continue to monitor the water, soil and creatures surrounding our sites and send those results along to Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) . We work with Dr. James Irvine from SHA. You could contact him.

Q: Is there fishing allowed in Zeemal or Langley Bay? There are usually some groups from the fishing camps seen around those waters fishing.

A: As per the Ministry of Environment mandate, fishing is allowed, eating what you catch is not (fish consumption advisory). While we do have some large signage up around those waters, the fishing camps may need more education as to “why” fishing should not happen in those areas (as owners may have changed hands). We will work with Freddie (Throassie) this summer and make time to visit the camps and talk to them.

Q: Are you going to cover the main tailings with vegetation?

A: We have already done so, and it is looking very healthy.

Q: What does 93 species of wildlife mean? Is that just last year, or over the whole project?

A: We have environmental monitors on site to watch for this exact thing. They have reported 93 different species.

Q: How much higher is landfill B than before?

A: We have three layers; one layer of waste rock and two layers of sand (6 meters each).

Q: According to your timeline, you will be done at Gunnar in 2025?

A: More or less. It will depend on the water levels at Langley Bay, plus any monitoring and maintenance. But you will be able to pull up by boat, get out and walk around.

Q: Do you have any more pictures from Gunnar (historic photos)?

A: We did only bring the one (in the presentation), but we can get more of them together and get some to you.

Q: Will the borrow areas (Gunnar) be re-vegetated?

A: Yes. As we remove sand and gravel from the borrow areas, we need to restore them. The revegetation at borrow areas will be more like a natural revegetation process, local tree slash will be

evenly spread at the borrow areas and the seeds from the slashed vegetation will fall the ground naturally.

## **Lorado**

Q: Did you use native plants when you did the re-vegetation?

A: Yes. We met with Elders and had them tell us what should and should not be planted based on their Traditional Knowledge. This information was added to the science we collected. We have done the same with Gunnar.

Q: Is Lorado going back to the province now that remediation is done?

A: Not yet. We have two to five more years of monitoring before we can write the report that shows the province the remediated site is performing as expected.

## **Satellite Sites**

Q: Is there a trench (in the photo shown in the presentation)?

A: There are a lot of “exploration trenches” dug around these mine sites. Some go into the holes and some go into a raise. The ones that go into the holes we can infill with waste rock then cover that waste rock. The ones that go into a raise are trickier as we are unsure of the stability of the ground underneath. We plan on putting a fence around those areas.

Q: How long do those fences last?

A: The stainless-steel caps are engineered for 200 years, and the fences are designed for 60 years. Once it goes into the Institutional Control Program (ICP) though, there is funding that goes with it. So, the government can use that funding to fix the fences should they require maintenance.

Q: What is the total cost of these projects compared to the actual?

A: Phase one of the Gunnar project in 2014 included demolition and cost \$66 million. Since then, the project costs are approximately \$200 million. COVID-19 pandemic, inflation and flooding in Langley Bay were unexpected. The Lorado project was completed for \$28 million and the satellite sites are still ongoing. They vary in size and complexity. The average cost for satellite site is roughly \$25 million but there are a variety of factors that can affect this.

Q: How is the amount (to spend) determined?

A: Based on risk to the community.

## **QMPoints**

Q: Where is QMPoints working right now?

A: We are currently at Gunnar.

Q: Your presentation said employees can move up in the ranks, the previous contractor kept employees at one job for the duration of the project.

A: Yes. The laborer is like the entry level position, and when we see them excelling at their current job, we will move them to a different position. We have moved several people up in ranks already.

Q: Where are the employees from?

A: All over, though it does depend on where they apply from. We can send the percentages of employed from each community after this.

SRC comment: QMPoints has done an amazing job in following the contract clause that states they need to pull equally from each of the seven communities in the Athabasca.

Q: After Gunnar goes into ICP, what happens to QMPoints?

A: We are hoping to get on to other projects.

Q: How can someone apply for a job at Gunnar?

A: You can either get in touch with me, (Glen) or send your interest to [apply@pointsathabasca.ca](mailto:apply@pointsathabasca.ca)

Q: Who can employees go see when they have a problem on site. A lot of folks were worried about dealing with the last contractor as they feared for their position.

A: I would hope you could go talk to your supervisor, but if you feel you cannot, contact me (Glen) directly and I will try and put you in touch with the appropriate people.

SRC comment: Freddie (Throassie) is our (SRC's) eyes and ears on site and can also be approached for such matters.

Q: When you promote folks to a "skilled labourer" position, do they also receive papers for that?

A: With enough hours on a certain position, for example if you had 1,000 hours on a dozer, QMPoints will fill out a "competency" for you. I do not believe it would transfer to other companies though.

## **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)**

Q: Your presentation mentioned Key Lake and McArthur (projects) are they back up and running?

A: Yes, they are. Cameco announced in November 2022 that Key Lake and McArthur River have restarted production and are transitioning back into normal operations.

Q: Are your IEMP (Independent Environmental Monitoring Program) result cards (on what was tested in the regions in the previous year) made available to the Communities?

A: Yes. When the cards are available, we bring them up with us when we are in the communities to distribute, and the results are also available on our website. We also provide the sampling cards to the Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resource Office and they distribute them to the community members.

Q: Is your IEMP program similar to the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP)?

A: They are different programs. The IEMP sampling program is specific to CNSC and coordinated by CNSC staff and community members. EARMP is a larger program which is run by the CNSC, the Province of Saskatchewan, Cameco and Orano.

Q: Are you involved in the agreement with Ya'thi Nene?

A: If you are referring to the collaboration agreement between Cameco, Orano and the northern communities in which case, no we are not involved in that.

Q: Where will your June hearing for the Cameco license renewals be held?

A: This year it will be held in Saskatoon, but we are still working through the logistics on where it will be

held in Saskatoon and which day each site will be discussed. Currently it is scheduled for June 7 and 8, 2023.

Q: Some companies are talking about applying for an “indefinite license”. The communities do not want this as we want these companies to remain accountable for work that happens here.

A: If the CNSC does ever grant an indefinite license, companies are still held to the same regulatory compliance standards. Additionally, the CNSC recommends license terms to companies based on what we have heard in the communities. There is a commission hearing coming up in June, I recommend you attend that one to voice these concerns.

Q: Is there any kind of tech support available to community members to attend these meetings?

A: While we cannot provide the physical equipment, we can schedule a few sessions prior to the meetings to make sure you can connect successfully, see and hear and vice versa. We also provide translation services if an intervener would like to speak in their language (Dene, Cree, French, Michif, etc.). We just ask that we are given plenty of notice in order to make sure a translator is available for the day of the hearing.

## **Aramark**

Q: Are all the jobs you have listed specific to Gunnar?

A: Yes.

Q: Why can't we have TVs in our rooms at camp?

A: SRC feels we provide adequate recreation and entertainment opportunities already. Starlink will be trialed at camp for the 2023 season with the goal of providing improved internet to all guests.

## Black Lake – January 31, 2023

### Attendees

- **Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)**
  - **Ian Wilson**
  - **Vince Zimmer**
  - **Bo Yun**
  - **Corey Burgess**
  - **Freddie Throassie**
  - **Jennifer Brown**
- **Sydney Nickolet (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC))**
- **Devon Brown (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC))**
- **Amy Rose (Aramark)**
- **Glen Strong (QMPoints)**
- **Keith Gonda (QMPoints)**

### Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Lunch
3. Gunnar
  - a. Other Site Aspects (Vince)
  - b. Tailings (Bo)
4. Lorado (Ian)
5. Satellite Sites (Ian)
6. QMPoints (Glen and Keith)
7. CNSC (Devon and Sydney)
8. Aramark (Amy)

### Gunnar

Q: Are you going to fill in the hole surrounding the covered main headframe?

A: No, it needs to remain open for inspection purposes.

Q: What is rip-rap?

A: Rip-rap is a blasted rock we are using to cover the tailings near and in the water. We do not want the tailings cover we created (sand and gravel) to be washed away over time. We place this borrow material over the tailings then cover with clean rock (rip-rap) that we have blasted to secure it.

Q: Who is involved in the Langley Bay contractor discussion?

A: SRC has a team of senior management that will sit down and discuss each proponent.



## **Lorado Mill**

No questions.

## **Satellite Sites**

Q: Will you also be cleaning up the many abandoned sites around Black Lake?

A: While they are not on our current list, we have spoken with the federal government regarding these sites to see how our expertise can help with cleaning them up. One issue is, these sites need to be mapped, so someone would need to go out with locals to find the sites and provide a location for them.

## **QMPoints**

Q: Out of all the folks working at Gunnar, a lot of them are from the west side of the Athabasca. We would like to see the employment rate in Black Lake rise up.

A: We do have the numbers (percentages of workers) from each community that we can send to you. We do try our best to hire from over here as it is less costly. Plus, we have started working on more of a “mentorship” approach rather than “apprenticeship”.

Q: Who is the current heavy-duty mechanic on site?

A: We are in the process of looking for one. We are finding this position hard to fill.

Q: What are your wages for carpenters?

A: We would start at \$20 an hour.

## **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)**

Q: When you are granting licenses, do you have any contact with the First Nations that are living around the sites?

A: Yes. Our team works very closely with the Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resource Office (YNLRO) on the sites within and around the Athabasca Basin including all licence renewals. We have recently signed a long-term Terms of Reference with the YNLRO and are currently meeting quarterly to discuss all license renewals as well as any other projects happening within the territory. We also attend community meetings such as these to gather and hear concerns from community members on upcoming projects. For example, our team was just up in the Athabasca Basin in November to talk about the upcoming Cameco license renewals.

## **Aramark**

Q: Does Aramark have an office in Saskatchewan?

A: No, our head office is in Toronto, and we have smaller office branches in Edmonton and Winnipeg.

Q: How can we find out what jobs you are offering?

A: SRC, Aramark and QMP host a job fair in each community. Resumes can always be sent to Glen. You



can also reach out to Shelagh, our HR Manager [wagar-shelagh@aramark.ca](mailto:wagar-shelagh@aramark.ca) for current job postings that come up.

## Fond du Lac – February 1, 2023

### Attendees

- **Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)**
  - **Ian Wilson**
  - **Vince Zimmer**
  - **Bo Yun**
  - **Corey Burgess**
  - **Freddie Throassie**
  - **Jennifer Brown**
- **Sydney Nikolette (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC))**
- **Devon Brown (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC))**
- **Amy Rose (Aramark)**
- **Glen Strong (QMPoints)**
- **Keith Gonda (QMPoints)**

### Agenda

1. Prayer
2. Lunch
3. Gunnar
  - a. Other Site Aspects (Vince)
  - b. Tailings (Bo)
4. Lorado (Ian)
5. Satellite Sites (Ian)
6. QMPoints (Glen and Keith)
7. CNSC (Devon and Sydney)
8. Aramark (Amy)

### QMP

Q: Why do we see more folks from the west side of the Basin employed at Gunnar?

A: Our last year's numbers tell us that our workforce was only 8 per cent from the west side of the Basin and 22 per cent were from Fond du Lac.

Q: I have seen the folks that get picked up and dropped off at the airport, there is only 3 or 4 of them, why can't you hire more?

A: The overall size of the Gunnar Other Site Aspects project is smaller than Tailings was, so we do not need as many workers. Additionally, while our mandate is to focus on hiring from the Athabasca Basin,

we sometimes cannot find what it is we are looking for (e.g., Heavy Duty mechanic) so we need to look outside of the Basin.

Q: When it comes to bidding on work, we have heard from other companies (Golder) that a contractor was already informed they had the job before the contract even goes on SaskTenders. Why are we not being given an opportunity to even bid?

A: Any work that SRC is managing and needs contractors for goes out on SaskTenders to make it as fair as possible. If one of our contractors has another job, separate from Project CLEANs, then it is outside of SRC's scope, they can assign that work however they choose.

Q: Why can't you provide on-the-job training?

A: A lot of the time we cannot find someone with the appropriate academic level to provide that training. We try and do "mentorships" with some skills rather than "apprenticeships".

### **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)**

Q: When talking about the new capacity fund, would it be able to fund the hiring of an Economic Development Officer?

A: No, because the CNSC does not regulate any type of economic activity and is not a part of economic discussions between proponent and community. However, CNSC would be able to fund a position for a community liaison to support CNSC-related projects.

### **Aramark**

No questions.

### **Lorado**

Q: Will you be planting trees at Lorado?

A: We will not, at least not yet. We do not want the tree root systems to go through the tailings cover system.

Q: Do the contaminants ever go away, permanently?

A: Sometimes. In the case of Nero Lake, there are heavy metals in it. When we add the solutions to it, we cannot physically destroy the heavy metals, we can only reduce the amount of damage they are doing to the lake.

### **Satellite Sites**

No questions.