Project CLEANS News

SUMMER 2021—ISSUE 10

Gunnar Tailings Remediation Project Update

The Gunnar Tailings project was managed safely throughout the 2020 field season in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, SRC achieved considerable progress on the Waste Rock Placement at Gunnar Main Tailings.

By the end of March 2021, SRC completed the winter road and mobilized equipment, material and fuel to site for the field season. In early May, Fond du Lac Nuna Joint Venture (FDLNJV) has started full project operation.

The main focus in the 2021 field season is to complete the borrow materials placement for the tailings cover at Gunnar Main Tailings, Gunnar Central Tailings and Beaverpond. Remediation activity planned for Langley Bay Tailings is dependent upon the water level of Athabasca Lake.

Winter Road Construction

Transportation via Winter Road

Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation

To date, QMPoints has completed preparations for the 2021 field season, including updating plans and site-specific procedures to address the COVID-19 pandemic. QMPoints and SRC have begun on-site vegetation removal and building an access road to a new Borrow Area 22(B 22). The work is supervised by independent environmental monitors.

The Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) warehouse will soon be demolished. Some low-level legacy radioactive waste discovered during the 2020 cleanup will be properly characterized and placed into Landfill B and covered, as per the approved design. Historical concrete caps over all three mine openings are to be replaced by engineered steel caps. SRK Consulting will provide the quality assurance, quality control and engineering services.

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Meetings

Working with community and provincial leaders, SRC has created a back-to-work plan for the 2021 season that ensures the safety of both on-site workers and their respective communities. SRC has met and exceeded all federal expectations towards COVID-19 restrictions and continues to work on strengthening its partnership with the Prince Albert Grand Council and the Athabasca region.

SRC was unable to hold community meetings in January due to COVID-19. We've created a video to share our updates with you:

- **English**: https://src.nu/cleans21eng
- **Dene**: https://src.nu/cleans21dene

Fond du Lac Nuna Joint Venture

If you are interested in employment and supplier opportunities for the Gunnar Tailings Remediation Project, please contact FDLNJV:

Toll Free: 1-877-499-9114
Fax: 1-780-434-7758
Email: hr@nunalogistics.com
Website: www.nunalogistics.com

QMPoints

If you are interested in employment and supplier opportunities for the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project, please contact QMPoints:

Fax: 1-306-652-4652
Email: apply@qmpoints.com
kyle.remus@qmenv.com
Website: www.qmpoints.com

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If you would like to receive this newsletter as an email, please send your contact information to cleans@src.sk.ca to be added to our email list.

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow SRC on social media! We post photos, RFP notices, project updates, videos and more.

Search for **Saskatchewan Research Council**.

Satellite Sites

Activities during winter 2021 consisted of reporting on the previous field season activities, design and fabrication of stainless-steel closures, shipping of supplies over the ice road, regulatory application, and preparation for the upcoming field season. Reports on the completion of remediation at Strike Lake Uranium Mine and National Exploration Uranium Mine – Pat Claims were submitted to the Ministry of Environment. We have also initiated risk assessments and other studies at Lorado, Rix-Smitty and Uranium Ridge Mines.

In 2021, the following remediation work is planned: closure of 11 mine openings; investigation of mine openings and design of closures; continued Phase 2 site assessment of Nicholson Mine; transitional monitoring of select sites; vegetation, wildlife and archeological surveys; debris and hazardous materials management; addressing small areas with elevated radiation at select sites; treatment of hydrocarbon-impacted soil; and maintenance of public safety features. By the end of the season, remediation should be complete at Nesbitt Labine ABC Mine.

Adit that will be closed with a stainless-steel grate at Meta Uranium Mines, Umisk Island, Beaverlodge Lake

Lorado Mill

Remediation of the Former Lorado Mill Site was completed in 2016. SRC is now focused on the monitoring and maintenance phase of the project. Analysis of 2016-2020 monitoring data shows that the remediation was successful in mitigating public and environmental hazards.

In 2021, site maintenance will be limited to invasive plant control and monitoring will be focused on surface and ground water and general site conditions. Once the long-term stability of the site is confirmed, the site will be transferred into the Government of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program (ICP), which comprises long-term management of decommissioned mine and mill sites on provincial Crown land.

Lorado Mill Site Photo Contest

SRC's Project CLEANS team is gathering photos of the Former Lorado Mill Site to document ecosystem recovery following remediation completion. We'd like your help!

Email up to 5 of your best photos of the Lorado Mill Site to cleans@src.sk.ca for your chance to win one of three $100 Visa gift cards and SRC branded gear. Contest closes September 30, 2021. Visit www.src.sk.ca/loradocontest for full contest details and rules. Open to Athabasca Basin residents only.

Meet Our Team: Alexey Klyashtorin

Alexey has been with the Project CLEANS team since 2009 as a senior scientist and project manager. He has a PhD in biogeochemistry and a master's degree in soil science from Lomonosov Moscow State University. Alexey has over 35 years of experience in environmental assessments and remediating radioactive sites, including research in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accidents.

Alexey's current duties include managing the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project and ensuring radiation safety for Project CLEANS. He is a part of the International Atomic Agency Expert Mission to Fukushima.

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