Project CLEANS News

WINTER 2021—ISSUE 11

Gunnar Tailings Remediation Project Update

After many years of hard work, Fond du Lac Nuna Joint Venture (FDLNJV) finished the construction of the cover systems for Gunnar Main Tailings, Beaver Pond and most of Gunnar Central Tailings in 2021. The upstream portion on the main drainage channel that will direct surface water from the Gunnar Main Tailings Cover to Langley Bay was also complete. The completed portions of the covers were seeded with a custom seed mix to promote vegetation growth on the new landforms and prevent erosion.

Remediation activities for the Langley Bay Tailings and a portion of the Gunnar Central Tailings channel were not complete due to high water levels in Lake Athabasca. Planning is underway to determine when the remaining work will be completed.

Completed Beaver Pond cover system and drainage channel

Completed Gunnar Main Tailings cover

Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation

The Gunnar Other Site Aspects team concluded the 2021 field season safely in November, adhering to all plans and site-specific procedures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

QMPoints completed the construction of the Borrow 22 access road and began development of the Borrow 22 area in order to source borrow material for gamma cover placement. The work was supervised by independent environmental monitors. QMPoints also completed site-wide regrade work across multiple areas, including the west town site, old barge dock, peripheral regrade areas and gamma-impacted areas. Borrow material was excavated, hauled and placed in those areas with high gamma levels. In addition, QMPoints started regrading work on the waste rock piles and began soil cover placement over the completed graded sections.

Construction of Landfill B continued according to design specifications. The previously discovered low-level legacy radioactive waste from the 2020 cleanup was characterized and placed into Landfill B as per the approved design.

Placement of non-hazardous waste to Landfill A also continued as outlined in the approved design. SRK Consulting continued to provide quality assurance, quality control and engineering services throughout the 2021 season.

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Meetings

Due to the uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, SRC has consulted with community and provincial leaders and decided not to hold community meetings in January.

We will share a project update video in the new year and distribute it to the communities. If you have any questions about the project, please email us at cleans@src.sk.ca.

Aramark

If you are interested in camp employment opportunities for the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project, please contact Gary Schwandt:

Email: Schwandt-gary@aramark.ca

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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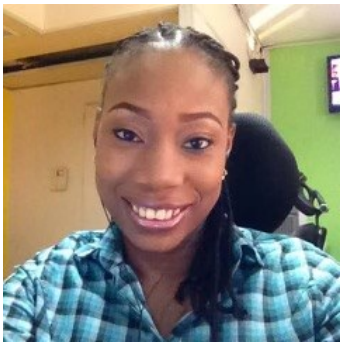
STAY IN TOUCH

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

Search for **Saskatchewan Research Council**.

Meet our Team—Marian Igwe



Marian joined the Gunnar Remediation Project in 2019 as an administrative assistant. She has a master's degree in Energy and Environmental Management from Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland. She has over 12 years' work experience spanning a number of areas, including administration, client services and project management across various industries.

She is very passionate about environmental conservation, restoration and sustainable development. Marian is currently one of the Project Coordinators for the Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation Project, which involves coordinating the day-to-day management of project operations.

Satellite Sites

The Satellite Sites were a hive of activity in the 2021 work season, with remediation activities focused on closing mine openings. SRC successfully and permanently closed a total of 11 openings:

- Two adits were backfilled
- One raise was secured with a reinforced bulkhead
- One adit was closed with a stainless-steel grate
- Seven mine openings (six raises and one shaft) were covered with stainless-steel caps.

Remediation is now complete at Nesbitt Labine Uranium Mines, ABC Mine and Pitch Ore Uranium Mines, Beaverlodge Lake. Activities also included mitigation of gamma hot spots, annual monitoring and gamma surveys, as well as delineation and treatment of hydrocarbon-contaminated soils.

The 2021 field season also saw the completion of Nicholson Mine's Phase 2 assessment (started in 2020). Once the information collected during Phase 2 is compiled, we will use it to determine what's next for the site, such as a risk assessment or designing the remediation plan. Remediation of Nicholson is not scheduled to start for a few years.

A risk assessment and a study of local wetlands were initiated at Lorado Mine, Uranium Ridge and Rix-Athabasca Smitty Mine to better understand the risks and environmental impacts of past mining at, and adjacent to, the sites. Once the information is available, SRC will consult with local communities to determine the

Stainless-steel grate installed at Meta Uranium Mines, Beaverlodge Lake, Umisk Island. The larger gap at the top of the grate is designed to allow bats in and out of the mine.

Adit 2 backfilled with rocks at Nesbitt Labine ABC Mine. The coarse material will allow drainage of mine water and prevent it from accumulating inside the mine.

Lorado Mill

Remediation of the Former Lorado Mill Site was completed in 2016. Since then, SRC has focused on monitoring and maintenance of the site. During the 2021 field season, annual monitoring activities were completed, including water sampling, visual surveys of the tailings cover and land bridge, water level monitoring for Nero Lake and invasive plant species inspection. The site continues to be stable and revegetating as anticipated.

Nero Lake's water level was high in 2021 and the spillway flowed for the first time since its construction in 2006. SRC is monitoring for caragana, an invasive and unwanted plant species originally found in the organic debris placed on the tailings cover. The caragana was eliminated and is no longer present at site.

Congratulations to **Denise Powder** for winning the Lorado Mill photo contest with the above photo!

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