

Gunnar Remediation Project Update

The 2022 construction season was full of accomplishments for the Gunnar Mine and Mill Site Remediation Project. SRC continued to cover areas with local borrow material to reduce radiation hazards.

All hazardous waste was placed in Landfill B, which was then sealed off with a layer of compacted clay and a thick layer of material to protect the waste from frost and erosion. This completes Landfill B construction and the disposal of all legacy hazardous waste on site!

Non-hazardous legacy debris around the site continued to be collected and placed in Landfill A. There was also substantial progress on re-establishing the historic drainage channel through the waste rock piles (Picture 1). Seeding occurred in the fall on all areas where cover was completed.

The completed tailings covers were inspected during Summer 2022. They are performing as anticipated: the vegetation established well and there is little sign of erosion on the covers' surface (Picture 2). We are currently developing a transitional monitoring plan and will continue monitoring the tailings cover performance in the long term.



Picture 2: Gunnar Main Tailings Cover Surface

This past summer and fall, the Gunnar team developed alternatives for the Langley Bay tailings cover design considering the current high water level of Lake Athabasca. A cost-benefit analysis was completed to compare the approved design with alternatives. The results were presented to the Ministry of Energy and Resources and the Ministry of Environment. The approved design remains the preferred option for Langley Bay and SRC is currently determining the next steps for this work.

Over the winter, the Gunnar team will report on the 2022 season activities and plan for the 2023 work season. Materials, supplies and equipment will be transported in and out on the winter ice road and there may be some work on the historic drainage channel while the ground is frozen.

During the 2023 field season, the Gunnar team plans to finish constructing the historic drainage channel, collect all remaining legacy waste debris, complete all remaining gamma radiation cover placement and complete most of the remaining seeding. Construction of the Langley Bay Tailings cover may start in 2023, depending on contractor selection and the lake's water level.



Picture 1: Gunnar Other Site Aspects Historic Drainage Channel

Community Meetings

SRC is happy to announce its team will be back to meet with community members in person from January 30 to February 1, 2023. More information will be provided to the communities soon.

Watch our latest project update videos:
English: <https://src.nu/cleans22eng>
Dene: <https://src.nu/cleans22dene>

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 Shelagh Wager.

Email: wager-shelagh@aramark.ca

QMPoints

If you are interested in employment and supplier opportunities for the Gunnar Site 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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Meet Our Team: Vince Zimmer



Vince joined the Gunnar Other Site Aspects team in December 2020. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in geological engineering from the University of Saskatchewan and is a registered Professional Engineer. He has four years of experience in construction management and many years of experience on environmental projects.

Vince is happy to contribute his knowledge and experience to a project that supports the environment and the province. He loves visiting northern Saskatchewan and seeing Project CLEANS' positive impact. His current duties include managing project contractors and consultants, ensuring deliverables are achieved within the constraints of environmental regulators and monitoring project costs to keep the project within budget.

Vince was born and raised in Saskatoon but loves travelling and spending time in the mountains snowboarding during the winter. In the summer, you can find him having fun at the beach, fishing, hiking or just hanging out around a fire.

Satellite Sites

The Satellite Sites team had an active field season with remediation completed at two sites: Jesko and Meta Uranium Mines. This involved closing the mine shafts at both sites, burying/removing historical site debris and mitigating gamma hot spots.

Underground assessments, pre-remediation gamma surveys, environmental sampling, wildlife and vegetation surveys took place at seven remote Satellite Sites. Two sites are accessible by boat, on the shores of Lake Athabasca (Tena Claim) and Beaverlodge Lake (Murmac). Five sites are accessible by float plane: Caba and New Mylamaque (Tazin Lake), Territorial (Coe Lake), Pitch Ore (Augier Lake) and Don Henry (Gatzke Lake).

Transitional monitoring, radiation surveys, sampling and assessments were completed at multiple sites, and will continue at other select sites next field season. The risk assessment and study of local wetlands at Lorado Mine, Uranium Ridge and Rix-Athabasca Smitty Mine was also finished.

SRC has completed remediation at 20 sites, with varying levels of assessment for the remaining 15 sites. Of the 20 completed sites, five sites have received the Ministry of Environment's Release from Decommissioning and Reclamation, and four have been transferred to the provincial Institutional Control Program.



Stainless-steel closure installed at the remediated Jesko Mine Site.



Bat-friendly stainless-steel cover installed at Meta Uranium Mines, Beaverlodge Lake and Umisk Island. The closure is designed to allow bats in and out of the mine, as the opening provides a habitat for endangered bats.

Lorado Mill Site

Remediation of the Former Lorado Mill Site was completed in 2016. Since then, SRC has monitored the site and performed maintenance as needed. The site continues to be stable and is revegetating as anticipated.

In 2022, transitional monitoring will continue to support the eventual transfer of the remediated site to the Government of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program.



Lorado Mill tailings cover is revegetating as anticipated.

