

# **Project CLEANS News**

#### Winter 2020-21-ISSUE 9

# **Gunnar Remediation Project Update**

In June 2020, SRC successfully collaborated with all project stakeholders to move the Gunnar Remediation Project forward safely in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. SRC, in conjunction with the respective Project Contractors, developed and implemented a COVID-19 prevention and response plan (COVID Response Plan) that was reviewed by local authorities and Athabasca leadership, which allowed contractors and consultants to begin full operations at the site at the end of July.

As part of the COVID Response Plan, seven additional camp units were brought to the Gunnar Site to protect worker health and safety. The additional units increased the single occupancy accommodation to maintain proper social distancing. The units were barged to site and were operational in early September. With this addition, the Gunnar Camp was able to accommodate a full complement of site personnel.

# **Gunnar Tailings**

During the 2020 field season, Fond Du Lac Nuna Joint Venture (FDLNJV) focused on waste rock placement and cover construction. The Gunnar Main Tailings cover construction has progressed significantly. In addition, FDLNJV also completed the production of riprap (rocky material), which will be used for work on the Langley Bay Tailings cover and historical tailings dam.

# **Gunnar Other Site Aspects Remediation**

To date, QMPoints has completed preparation of the Landfill A and B foundations. All asbestos containing materials (ACM) were relocated to Landfill A and were covered by sand, low-grade waste rock and concrete debris. Placement of non-hazardous waste (concrete, steel, wood) to Landfill A is ongoing. The ACM warehouse was decontaminated and washed. Low-level radioactive waste was placed in the prepared areas in Landfill B and covered by treated pH-impacted soil, as per the approved design. Historical concrete caps were removed from two openings and will be replaced by engineered steel caps in 2021. While awaiting the new caps, the openings were fenced and temporarily covered to ensure worker and public safety. SRK Consulting provided the quality assurance and quality control services.



Waste Rock Placement at Gunnar Main Tailings



Additional Camp Units Were Setup

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Community Meetings**

SRC is working with community leaders to decide the best approach to holding community meetings in 2021, while following ongoing provincial health orders and guidelines. Stay tuned for more details!

You can view past meeting notes at <a href="mailto:src.sk.ca/project-cleans/communities">src.sk.ca/project-cleans/communities</a>

#### 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: <a href="www.qmpoints.com">www.qmpoints.com</a>

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## Satellite Sites

In spring 2020, SRC reported to the Ministry of Environment on the completed remediation at four legacy uranium mines: Cayzor, Cinch/Cenex, Nesbitt Labine Eagle and Rix-Athabasca Leonard. The four sites are now in a period of transitional monitoring to demonstrate they are safe and stable before they are transferred to the Government of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program.

The 2020 field season had a delayed start due to COVID-19, but a lot was accomplished in the shortened field season. Remediation was completed at Gulch Mine, which included closure of the adit with a stainless-steel grate, collection and burial of non-hazardous debris onsite, removal of hazardous waste from the site and other work.

Radiation surveys were completed at National Exploration Mine – Pat Claims, Strike Lake Mine and Gulch. The data collected will allow reporting on the completed remediation of the three sites. Radiation surveys were also carried out at select sites to support remediation plan development. Several mine openings were inspected and surveyed to support the design of closures to be installed during the 2021 field season. The site assessment for Nicholson Mine was initiated and consisted of sampling of soil, waste rock and water, test pitting, survey, hazardous materials assessment, and investigation of mine openings and bedrock quality.



Gulch Adit Stainless-steel Grate Closure (Photo Credit: Jonathan Lambert, McElhanney Consulting Services)

## 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. In 2020, site maintenance included closure of a sinkhole within the historical mill footprint, invasive plant control, installation of monitoring equipment, and collection of residual legacy debris. Monitoring activities in 2020 included water sampling, gamma surveys and site inspections. The monitoring data shows that the remediation was successful in mitigating hazards to the public and environment.

Once the long-term stability of the site is confirmed, the site will be transferred into the Institutional Control Program, which oversees the long-term management of decommissioned mine and mill sites on provincial Crown land.

# Meet Our Team: Elizaveta Petelina

Elizaveta, or Liza as most know her, has been with the Project CLEANS team since 2010. She obtained a master's degree in Soil Science from Moscow State University and another in Environmental and Sustainable Management from the University of Saskatchewan.

Liza has over 15 years of experience in environmental impact assessment monitoring and site remediation at oil and gas projects, as well as mining. Her current duties include radiation monitoring, revegetation and project management of the former Lorado Mill Site.

Liza received the Distinguished Agrologist Award from the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and the Women of Distinction Award from the Saskatoon YWCA for her community involvement and achievements in her career.



